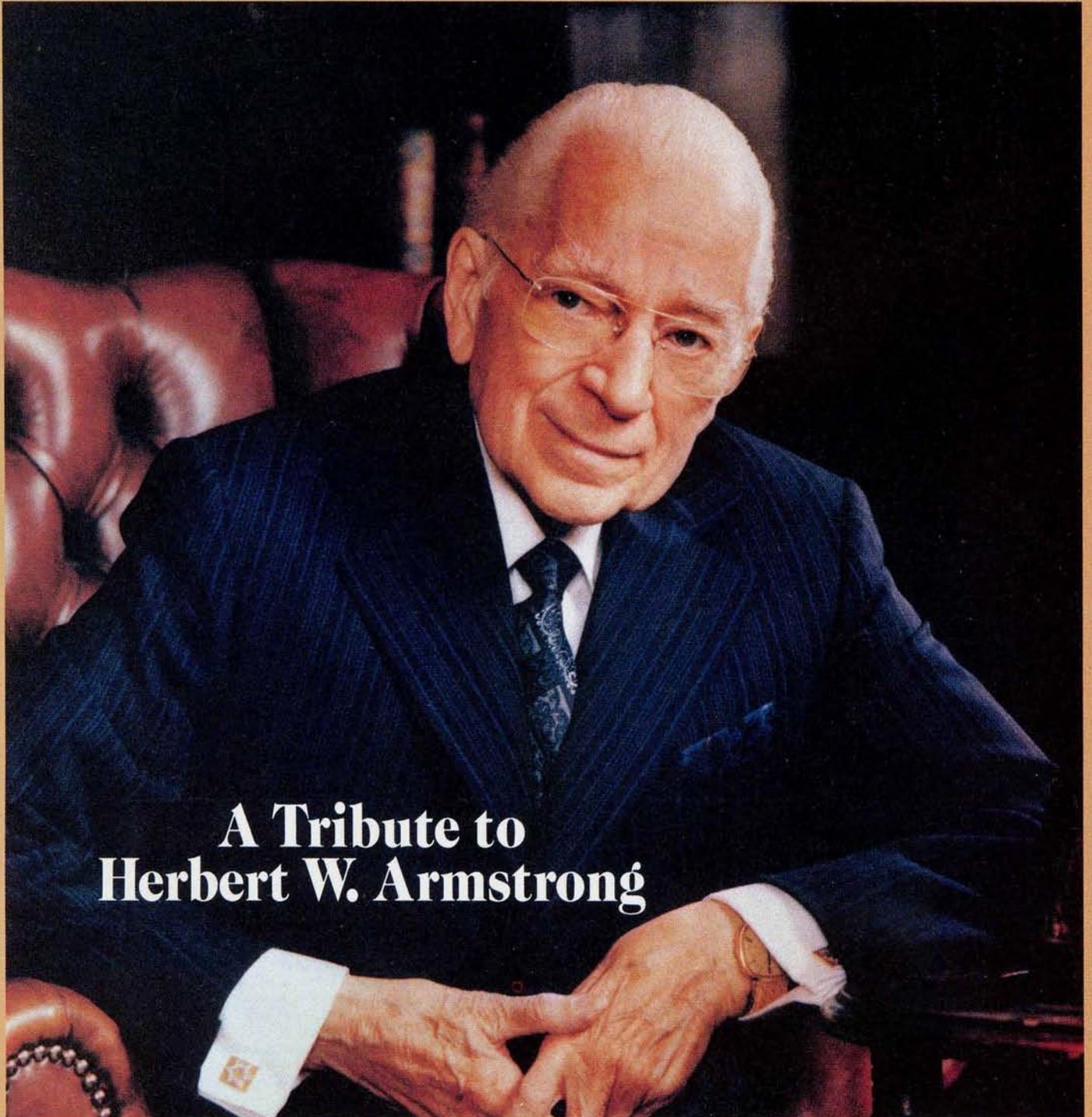


MAY 1986

The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW



**A Tribute to
Herbert W. Armstrong**

The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

MAY 1986

CIRCULATION: 840,000

VOL. XXXIII, NO. 5



**Milestones
in the Life of
Herbert W.
Armstrong**
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COVER: Herbert W. Armstrong, the Apostle and Pastor General of the Worldwide Church of God, died peacefully at his home in Pasadena, Calif., on Jan. 16, 1986. Right up until his death, he actively led God's worldwide Work of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations. This special tribute issue of *The Good News* focuses on the life and work of Mr. Armstrong and on the continuing Work of God's Church.

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Herbert W. Armstrong
1892-1986

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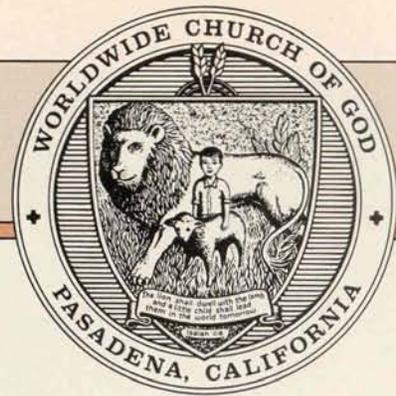
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GOOD NEWS PERSONAL



Our Work Is Cut Out for Us

By now you all will have heard of the death of Herbert W. Armstrong on January 16, 1986.

God's ways are higher than ours, and He sees what we are *incapable* of seeing. He knows our needs and He *does* take care of them, though not always in the way we might expect.

I learned long ago, when my own father died in the faith, that although God does give us His faithful and unbreakable promise to *heal*, upon repentance and *faith*, He reserves the decision as to *how* and *when*. If indeed God does choose to allow the faithful to die, that death is not *permanent*, but



only a temporary state of peaceful rest from the suffering of this present evil world, awaiting the *redemption* of our bodies into the glorious liberty of the sons of God!

God mercifully granted us what Mr. Armstrong considered several additional years of his leadership. God used him powerfully to get the Church to a dedicated, concerted *unity* carrying out the *purpose* of our calling, the proclaiming of Christ's Gospel of the *soon-coming* Kingdom of God, and feeding the flock that is the Body of Christ.

I am personally, of course, deeply sobered and humbled by the responsibilities God has placed on my shoulders as Pastor General of the Worldwide Church of God. The apostle Paul stated that he was the "least of the apostles" (I Corinthians 15:9). In another passage he said he was "less than the least of all the saints" (Ephesians 3:8). Like Paul, I am also the least of the brethren. Yet I know, as Paul did, that "I can do all things through Christ who

strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Jesus Himself set us the example. He did not speak on His *own* authority. He spoke the words and did the works of His Father, *who dwelt in Him* (John 14:10). He and His Father were ONE! They were (and are) in perfect *unity*. That same *godly* unity must be the binding of God's Church.

Our Work is cut out for us. God has called us to *unitedly* and *wholeheartedly* carry on till Christ returns.

We must make *overcoming* the priority. The time for this world's civilization is *short*. But there is *much* yet to do. As we submit to God, carefully and diligently seeking His will in our lives, and **FORSAKING THE WAYS OF THIS WORLD**, God will continue to bless His Work. He will lead us, direct us, guide us. But we must follow His lead *together*, as ONE BODY. Jesus is not fragmented and *never will be*.

After Jesus was crucified and buried, several of the disciples decided to go fishing — back to their old trade. Maybe they thought the work was over. But what they didn't realize was that the greatest work was *yet ahead!*

Pray as *never before* — for God's people, for one another, for the Work, and please pray for me. My prayers are with you. I deeply appreciate and love each one of you members and co-workers. Keep reading *The Good News* and *The Plain Truth*. They will continue to be what we believe are the finest magazines on earth. And keep growing spiritually.

Will Christ find us doing His Work when He returns? I intend to be. And I'm calling on all of you to stand with me in Christ's service, *holding fast* to the great commissions He has given us, enduring *patiently* and *faithfully* to the end.

Joseph W. Tkach

Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God



Herbert W.
Armstrong

1892-1986

Herbert W. Armstrong, the Apostle and Pastor General of the Worldwide Church of God, died peacefully at his home in Pasadena, Calif., at 5:59 a.m. on Jan. 16, 1986, while resting in the favorite chair of his late wife, Loma. He was 93 years old.

Mr. Armstrong had appointed Joseph W. Tkach, the Director of Church Administration and a longtime minister, to assume the office and title of Pastor General of the 80,000-member Church. Mr. Armstrong, at a board meeting shortly before his death, spoke of "passing the baton" to ensure the continued, unabated human leadership of God's Church under Jesus Christ.

Until his death, Mr. Armstrong remained active in the day-to-day leadership of God's worldwide Work. He was founder and chancellor of Ambassador College, founder and chairman of the Ambassador Foundation and founder and editor-in-chief of the *Plain Truth* magazine, which is published in seven languages and has a worldwide circulation of more than eight million. Mr. Armstrong was also founder and editor-in-chief of *The Good News* and *Youth 86*.

Mr. Armstrong was widely known for his appearances on the *World Tomorrow* television and radio broadcasts, carried by 374 television and 30 radio stations worldwide.

He was the author of several books, including *Mystery of the Ages* (1985), *The Wonderful World Tomorrow* (1979), *The Incredible Human Potential* (1978), *The Missing Dimension in Sex* (1969), *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* (1967) and his *Autobiography*. In addition, he wrote hundreds of magazine articles, booklets and pamphlets.

Mr. Armstrong was born July 31, 1892, in Des Moines, Iowa, the eldest son of Horace and Eva

Armstrong. His parents were respected, hardworking people whose ancestors emigrated from England to Pennsylvania around 1680. Mr. Armstrong was a descendant of King Edward I of England.

In July, 1917, Mr. Armstrong married Loma Dillon, an Iowa schoolteacher. Mrs. Armstrong died in April, 1967.

Mr. Armstrong became the leader of the present era of the Church of God, then based in Eugene, Ore., in 1933. Mr. Armstrong produced the first *World Tomorrow* broadcast in January, 1934, and followed it in February with the first printing of *The Plain Truth*, which he offered free to the listening audience. *The Plain Truth* and all other literature published by the Worldwide Church of God are still offered free today.

As author, radio and television broadcaster and editor-in-chief of several magazines, Herbert W. Armstrong was well versed in world events. His travels included numerous visits with world leaders, especially during the past two decades. These meetings with emperors, kings, presidents and prime ministers gave him a unique perspective on world affairs and were a continual focus of his writing and broadcasting.

Among those with whom he had personal meetings are Their Majesties King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit of Thailand, the late King Leopold III of Belgium, Emperor Hirohito of Japan, Deng Xiaoping of the People's Republic of China, King Juan Carlos of Spain, the late King Mahendra and Their Majesties King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya of Nepal, the late Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, King Hussein of Jordan, the late President Allende of Chile, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain, the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India, the late Prime Minister Golda Meir and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel, the late President Anwar El-Sadat and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, President

Suharto of Indonesia and all of the Japanese Prime Ministers since 1970, including Prime Minister Nakasone.

Many honors were bestowed on Mr. Armstrong, including Japan's Order of the Sacred Treasure, Commander of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand and the Order of the White Elephant, the Presidential Medal of Merit from President Marcos of the Philippines, a special peace award from Belgium's King Leopold III and honorary doctorates in humanities from both Iloilo University and Angeles University in the Philippines, all in recognition of his work for world peace.

On March 24, 1985, Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand, by special appointment of King Bhumibol, conferred on Mr. Armstrong the Ratanaporn II Class for his assistance with humanitarian projects of King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit. This decoration is normally reserved for members of the royal Thai family and in special cases is given to close friends of the royal family.

Mr. Armstrong often discussed the particular problems faced by each ruler he visited, explaining the paradox of awesome technological and scientific progress in the midst of appalling evils. Through the Ambassador Foundation, Mr. Armstrong cooperated with many leaders in providing needed assistance in numerous humanitarian and cultural projects. The Foundation continues to be involved in projects in Israel, Egypt, Syria, England, Thailand, Japan, China, Belgium, Kenya and other parts of the world.

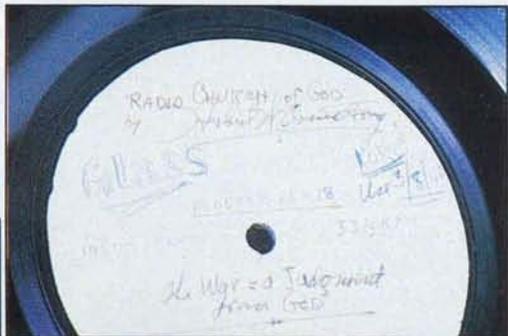
Mr. Armstrong was recognized by members of the diplomatic corps as an unofficial "ambassador for world peace" and a "builder of bridges between people everywhere."

This special tribute issue of *The Good News* focuses on the life and work of Herbert W. Armstrong, and on the continuing Work of the Worldwide Church of God. □

4 Years— till Ahead of His Time!



Early issues of The Plain Truth (above); the magazine has always focused on the real meaning of world events, in the light of Bible prophecy. Right, the I.O.O.F. Building in Eugene, Ore., housed the Work's growing publishing and mailing facilities from 1941 to 1947, when these functions were moved to the Ambassador College campus in Pasadena. Below left, Don Hunter sits in the basement recording studio of his Eugene home, where he engineered the first recordings of Mr. Armstrong's radio broadcasts. Mr. Hunter is now a retired director of audiovisual services for the University of Oregon. Mr. Armstrong's messages were cut into discs by the machine at bottom right.



year, Mr. Armstrong was able to speak on a local 100-watt radio station. Listener response was so outstanding that the station manager suggested Mr. Armstrong do a regular broadcast. Therefore, and purely on faith, what would become the *World Tomorrow* program went over the airwaves for the first time in January, 1934.

In February of that year, the first number of the *Plain Truth* magazine — all 250 copies — was run off a borrowed mimeograph.

With those humble beginnings the Gospel of Jesus Christ was once again being proclaimed publicly as it had not been since the days of the original apostles. The true way to happiness, success and eternal life was once again being vigorously preached and practiced.

Restoring true Christianity was pioneering in the truest sense of the word. The spirit of pioneering has never ceased to characterize the Work God has blessed and multiplied through the years. It has grown like a grain of mustard seed.

In 1947 Ambassador College was founded in Pasadena, Calif., to provide trained personnel to assist Mr. Armstrong in the Work. As laborers became available, the number of local churches began to increase rapidly, and so did all other facets of the Work.

In 1953 the doors opened

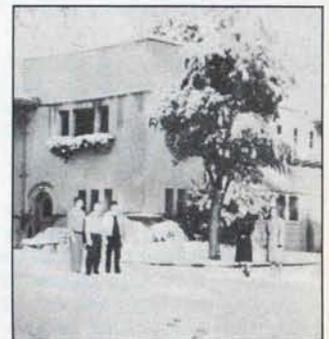
Belknap Springs, Ore. (right), an early Feast site in the Philadelphia era of God's Church.



Mail outside Eugene office (above). Mr. Armstrong at the microphone in Eugene (right); his wife Loma is at left.



Mr. Armstrong attended the San Francisco Conference in 1945 (below), where the U.N. charter was written. Right, his portrait from the first Ambassador College catalog.



Early photo shows Ambassador students hard at work in college library in Pasadena.

After a 1947 trip to Europe, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong published a collection of letters describing their journey and their impressions of the post-war world.

While on our trip abroad during February and March, 1947--our first time away from The North American continent--we wrote as many letters as time afforded to our children, grandchildren, and brethren at home in Eugene, Oregon.

Travel is education. It is an experience--and experience also is education. The record of our most unusual experiences, day by day, we feel may prove not only interesting reading, but helpful to many of our friends and co-workers.

Most writers, it seems, who write of Europe are veteran world travelers. And always they seem to neglect to write about those many little things that appear so strange and different to an American in foreign lands for the first time. We believe you will read here many of those interesting little things of other countries you've always wondered about. Also recorded are our impressions of this post-war WORLD in which we live.

Upon assembling these letters, we find they make up a sizeable volume. But we feel it is worth while to publish them --- so here they are, just as we wrote them --- the personal, private, intimate family letters to our own children--and we invite you to steal a look over our shoulders, and read them with our own family.

Harold Armstrong
Lorna D. Armstrong

Ambassador campus after a rare snowfall in January, 1949 (left); Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong during a 1956 visit to Israel (right).



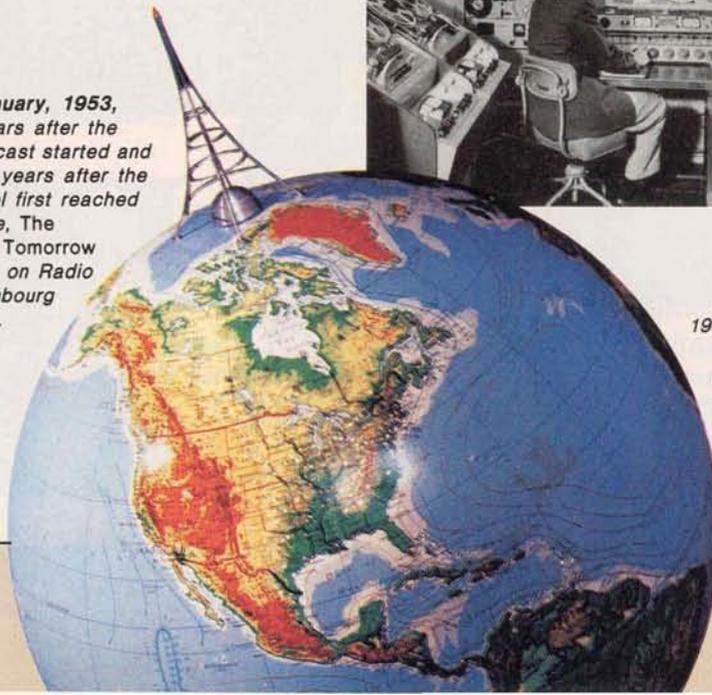
In January, 1953, 19 years after the broadcast started and 1,900 years after the Gospel first reached Europe, The World Tomorrow began on Radio Luxembourg (right).

Beginning in 1934, Christ's apostle broadcast Christ's Gospel, which had been suppressed from the world for nearly 1,900 years. Picture at right is from early 1950s.

Mr. Armstrong on the World Tomorrow television program in the mid 1950s (below); Circulation Department as it appeared about 1951 (right).



Broadcasting from the college studio in the mid 1950s, with Norman Smith at the controls (above).





Groundbreaking ceremonies in 1972 (left) for the Ambassador Auditorium, capstone of the Pasadena campus.



On Ambassador's former campus in Bricket Wood, England (opened in 1960), is Memorial Hall (above). Left, the Grand Hall of Memorial Hall.

to preach the Gospel to Europe by radio. Then in 1955, the *World Tomorrow* program, well on its way to becoming the largest radio program on earth, went on television for the first time. Meanwhile, the *Plain Truth* magazine increased in size and quality.

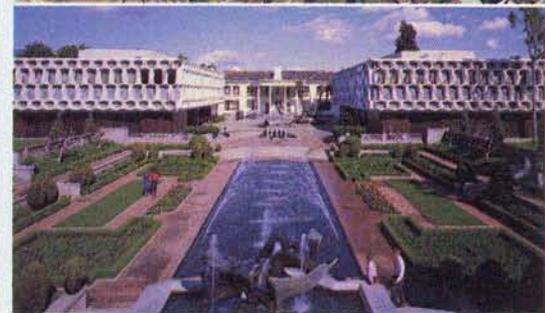
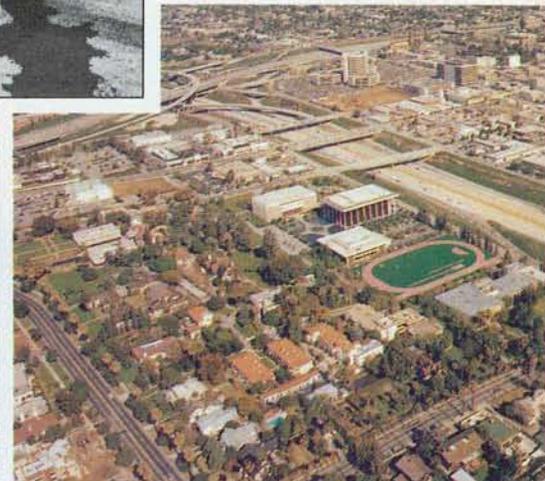
A man of vision and foresight, Mr. Armstrong constantly adapted and used any workable means available to proclaim God's truth as a witness to the world.

These means have included, besides radio, television and *The Plain Truth* and other magazines, including *The Good News*, meetings with world leaders, advertisements in national and international publications, public lectures, the publishing of books as well as free booklets and articles and the sponsoring of selected cultural and humanitarian programs.

Never before have such channels of communication been so effectively used for good!

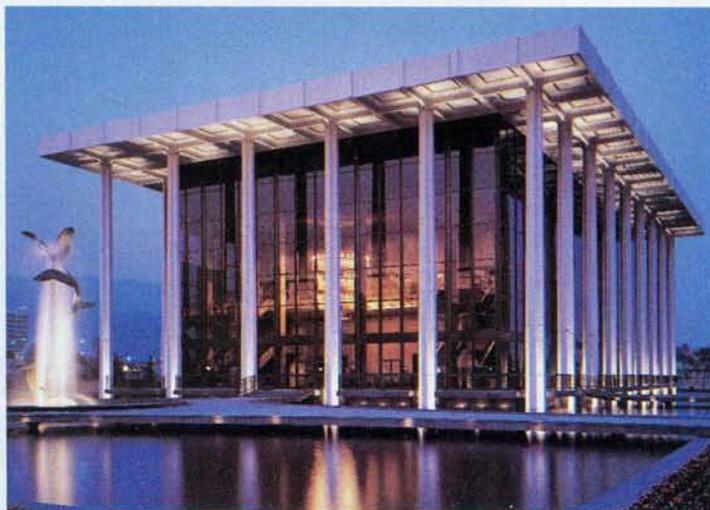
Right up until his death on Jan. 16, 1986, Mr. Armstrong continued to provide dynamic and vibrant leadership to the growing Work God built through him.

During the last year of



Ambassador's Pasadena campus has won several awards for its beauty. Above, breaking ground for the Academic Center; an aerial view of the campus; Mr. Armstrong on bulldozer at Hall of Administration construction site; and finished Academic Center. Right, the college library on Ambassador's Big Sandy, Tex., campus.





The Ambassador Auditorium is world renowned as a performing arts center. Upper left, the Auditorium under construction and, right, finished. Center left, Carlo Maria Giulini conducted the Vienna Symphony at the Auditorium's inaugural concert April 7, 1974. Other celebrities who have appeared in the Auditorium include tenor Luciano Pavarotti, Bob Hope and Sammy Davis Jr. and pianist Arthur Rubinstein.



Belgium's King Leopold and Mr. Armstrong met in 1968 and developed a warm friendship.



Preaching Christ's Gospel, Mr. Armstrong came in contact with numerous world leaders, including, above, Spain's King Juan Carlos, South Vietnam's President Nguyen van Thieu and Japan's Prince Mikasa. Left, Mr. Armstrong met Indonesia's President Suharto, Jordan's King Hussein and Kenya's President Jomo Kenyatta.



his life, Mr. Armstrong made extensive trips to Asia and Europe to preach and oversee Church-sponsored projects. He participated in the 40th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations charter in San Francisco, Calif.

Mr. Armstrong also completed the writing of what may be the most important book in the past 1,900 years: *Mystery of the Ages*. This book, offered free to the general public, takes the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle that is the Bible and puts them all together in clear, understandable form to explain the vital truths that so few today grasp. Requests from readers for *Mystery of the Ages* broke all records for distribution of Mr. Armstrong's writings in such a short time.

On Jan. 10, 1986, Mr. Armstrong appointed longtime minister Joseph W. Tkach, director of Church Administration, to succeed him as Pastor General upon his death.

After more than half a century, God's Work still looks beyond today's troubled world and points the way to the peaceful world tomorrow, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to humanity and training those God calls for positions of leadership and service in that soon-coming Kingdom.

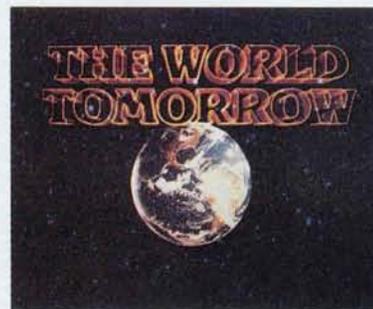
Here, in pictures, are some of the highlights in God's Work over the past 54 years. □



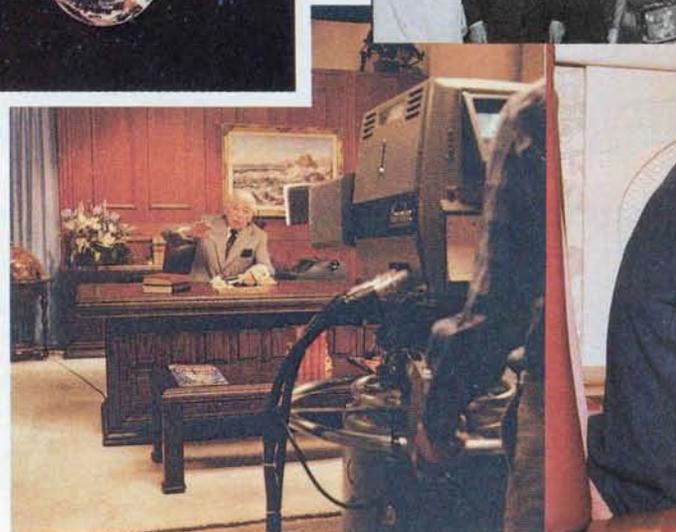
Public campaigns (above, in the Philippines) remained important in preaching the Gospel. Right, Mr. Armstrong (with China's Deng Xiaoping) was the first Christian leader to officially visit top leaders inside China.

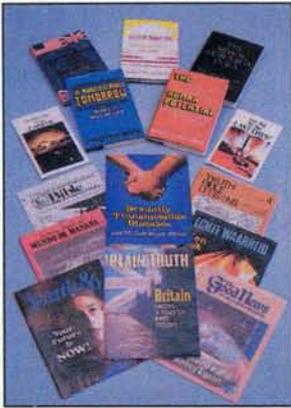


Queen Sirikit, Mr. Armstrong and aide Aaron Dean among hill tribes in Thailand. Right, from top, in Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone's office; speaking to Egypt's President Anwar Sadat; and with Sri Lanka's President Jayewardene.



Though he didn't begin regular television broadcasting until he was in his 80s, Mr. Armstrong was a skilled communicator and built the World Tomorrow program into the top broadcast of its type in the United States in markets reached. Right center, Mr. Armstrong often wrote articles in his "office in the sky" aboard the Church's Grumman jet.

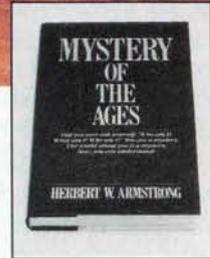
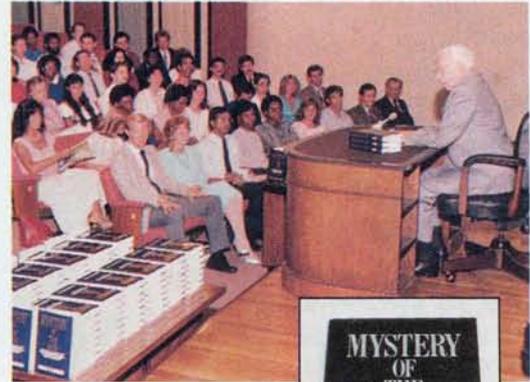




God's Church publishes much helpful, free literature (left). Mr. Armstrong with 50th anniversary Plain Truth (below).



Last summer Mr. Armstrong traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, his hometown, to help celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Worldwide Church of God's congregation there.



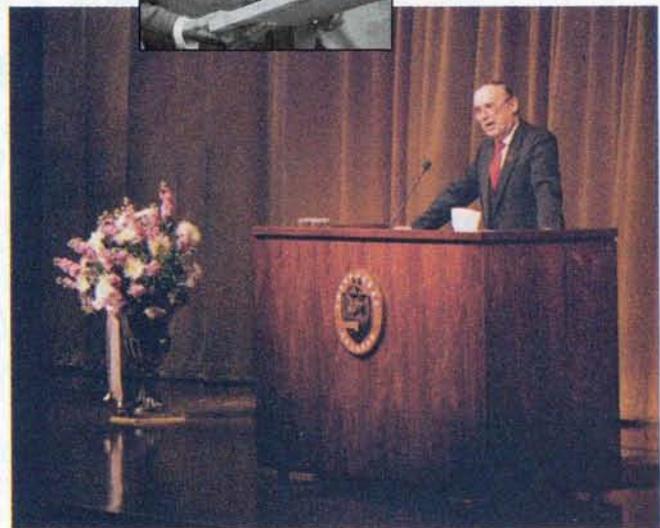
Mr. Armstrong presented his last book, Mystery of the Ages, to Ambassador students (above). The book is offered free to all readers.



The positive development of young people was among Mr. Armstrong's chief interests. Clockwise from above left: Mr. Armstrong frequently visited the Church's youth camps around the world; with China's Little Ambassadors from Shanghai at the White House (Nancy Reagan is at right); greeting young campers; Ambassador students at Mr. Armstrong's home.



Joseph W. Tkach, Mr. Armstrong's designated successor as human leader of God's Church, visits with Mr. Armstrong at the airport after another trip (above right), and speaks in the Ambassador Auditorium.



Though God has chosen to take the life of Herbert W. Armstrong, the first human leader of God's Church during this Philadelphia era (Revelation 3:7-13), both the Church and the Work of God continue on unabated.

Jesus said the gates of the grave would never prevail against God's Church (Matthew 16:18). The announcement of God's coming Kingdom must still be made to all the world (Matthew 24:14). Disciples must still be made of all nations (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus Christ, the living Head of the Church (Ephesians 1:22-23), is at the right hand of God the Father in heaven. He continues to actively lead and govern the Church through Mr. Armstrong's designated successor, Joseph W. Tkach.

Mr. Armstrong termed his appointment of Mr. Tkach "the passing of the baton." It's interesting how a baton is passed. It is not passed to end a race, but to continue a race, with a temporary readjustment as the baton is handed from one runner to the next. Once the baton is received by the next runner,

there is a speeding up. That's what's going to happen in the Work today! Readjusted, we're going to go on running with the baton that was given to Mr. Arm-

strong before us, with the teachings God revealed through him, using what has already been accomplished, building on the foundation and continuing toward the finish line.

The Bible shows smooth and orderly transfers of human authority under God's government throughout history.

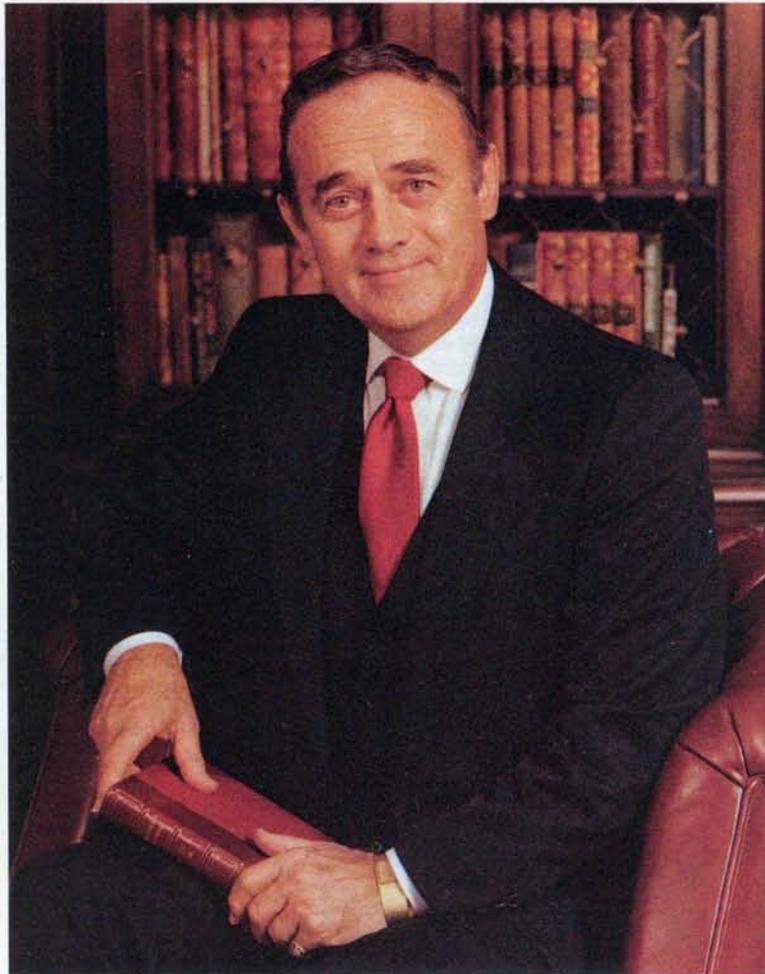
Moses and Joshua

Moses was a unique man called by God for a special job. He led the children of Israel out of Egypt to the brink of the Promised Land. Knowledgeable and qualified (Acts 7:20, 22), Moses did his job successfully, and yet God did not choose to let him lead Israel into Canaan.

There was a passing of the baton — the job of leading Israel into the land passed to Joshua.

Moses spoke to all Israel about this transference of power, just as Mr. Armstrong informed God's Church of his appointment of Mr. Tkach (Deuteronomy 31:1-3). Christ led Moses to select a successor to continue the job.

How did Moses know he ought to select Joshua? God revealed it (verse 14)! In the same way, God led Mr. Armstrong to see leader-



Joseph W. Tkach

'Passing the Baton'

Mr. Armstrong's appointment of his successor was the latest example of how God has provided leadership for His people throughout history.

working in the ministry for years. He has valiantly supported Mr. Armstrong and the Church.

Did God bless Joshua? He led Israel through the Jordan River and to Jericho. They circled the city once a day for six days and blew trumpets. On the seventh day they circled the city and blew trumpets seven times — and the walls came tumbling down!

Do you see a parallel between that event and what will take place before Christ returns? Seven trumpets will be blown and seven last plagues will descend. Then this evil world will collapse. (For more information write for our free booklet *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last!*)

God used Joshua in a powerful way to lead Israel. Joshua remained faithful to what he had learned under Moses, just as Mr. Tkach is determined to remain faithful to what he has been taught under Mr. Armstrong (Joshua 24:31).

Elijah and Elisha

God used Elijah to witness to Israel that they ought to reject false Baal worship (I Kings 18). Likewise, Mr. Armstrong made people aware of the true God.

But Elijah had a successor, as Mr. Armstrong did. His name was Elisha. Elijah put his mantle, symbolizing his office and authority, on Elisha (I Kings 19:19). Mr. Armstrong trained Mr. Tkach in the use of power and designated him to positions of responsibility in God's Work.

II Kings 2:9 states that Elisha wanted a double portion of the Holy Spirit that had worked in Elijah. Why? So he could be like Elijah and do the work of Elijah. Elisha received the power of God and went on to perform a greater work (verses 13-14). God transferred the power and blessing of the office to Elisha.

Christ and Peter

Jesus selected Peter to be the leading apostle (Matthew 16:13-18). Peter was to be the physical head of God's Church on earth, to carry the baton on after the death of Jesus, who laid the foun-

dation and trained those Peter would use to proclaim the Gospel to the world.

Mr. Armstrong trained many men, too, and now he has given the responsibility to Mr. Tkach to use these men to finish the Work.

In John 14:12 Christ said those who believe in Him would do greater works than He did. A greater Work is yet ahead for the Church of God today!

The common elements in the cases we have covered are: 1) God transferred the power from the original leader to a new leader. 2) The new leader built his leadership on the teachings of his predecessor. 3) God always blessed the work of the new leader.

And now — a new human leader

Joseph William Tkach, 59, served in the U.S. Navy, receiving a certificate in basic engineering in 1945. He then attended the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, studying industrial management.

In 1950 Mr. Tkach was hired by Hupp Aviation. Before resigning in 1963 to serve in the ministry of God's Church, he advanced to supervisor and obtained journeyman credentials.

He was once fired by Hupp Aviation for keeping God's Sabbath, which falls on Saturday. (Readers interested in the true Sabbath should request our free booklet *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?*)

"I was threatened if I didn't come in on that Sabbath for a special meeting that I would be fired," Mr. Tkach recalls. "Upon coming home from church services there was a telegram waiting for me stating that I was fired.

"Monday morning I received a telephone call from the personnel manager saying, 'Management would like you to come in immediately, as fast as you can get here. I didn't know what to expect,'" says Mr. Tkach. "But after arriving at the plant, out in the parking lot there were almost

2,000 people milling around on a wildcat strike because they heard I was fired.

"You see, we serve a God who fights our battles for us. My job was given back to me."

March 31, 1951, Mr. Tkach married Elaine Apostolos, a native of Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Tkach have a son and two daughters. Mr. Tkach was baptized on March 1, 1957, in Chicago, Ill., and began to assist the ministry in the Chicago churches. He was ordained a deacon Jan. 7, 1961, and a local elder June 3, 1963.

The pastor general helped establish churches in South Bend, Fort Wayne and Indianapolis, Ind.; Rockford and Peoria, Ill.; Davenport, Iowa; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Cincinnati, Ohio; and St. Louis, Mo.

In 1966 Mr. Tkach entered Ambassador College, where he attended for three years before being assigned to serve in congregations in Southern California. In 1970 he began working in Ministerial Services. In 1974 he was raised in rank to preaching elder.

Mr. Tkach was named director of Ministerial Services (now Church Administration) in July, 1979. That same year, Mr. Armstrong ordained Mr. Tkach an evangelist and named him associate pastor of the Pasadena Auditorium P.M. church, pastored by Mr. Armstrong. A personal assistant to Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Tkach was appointed by Mr. Armstrong to the Advisory Council of Elders in 1981.

"He taught us the importance of why we were called," Mr. Tkach says, referring to Mr. Armstrong. "We are here to be trained. Now is not the time to throw up our hands and to quit. Now is the time to stand up and be counted to do God's Work. Remember, this is our life.

"So as the chapters are increased in the living book of Acts, there should be no gaps, but merely a marker of faithfulness to help us start where Mr. Armstrong left off. This is the legacy that has been left to us, to carry on with the Work. We have an awesome responsibility." □

Friends Remember Mr. Armstrong

In the course of fulfilling the great commissions God gave to him, Herbert W. Armstrong developed warm friendships with dozens of leaders in government, educa-

tion and industry around the world. At his death, dignitaries showered God's Church with condolences paying tribute to Christ's apostle. Long-time ministers and leaders within God's Church also offered personal glimpses into

how their lives were affected by Mr. Armstrong and what it was like to work with him. Here, through the eyes of many of those who best knew him, is a retrospective look at the memories and messages left by Herbert W. Armstrong. We have included as many condolences and reminiscences as space allows us to print in this issue of *The Good News*.

Mr. Armstrong's whole life was sharply focused around one thing — the Work of God. He lived, ate, slept and breathed Christ's commission to the Church. All his conversations and discussions were either directly about or soon got around to God's plan, the Gospel, the Church, the Work or the Bible.

The joy of his life was doing the will of God. And he carried right on doing it until the end of his long and eventful life.

Joseph W. Tkach
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

I have often been asked, "How was Mr. Armstrong received?" For those who already had met him the reception was warm and often affectionate. To those meeting him for the first time, they quickly saw him as a man of understanding and wisdom. As Mr. Armstrong would say,

"It makes sense, and it is the only explanation that does."

Although they often didn't want to admit it, and didn't believe it would happen, the Gospel was given as a witness to them. It was clear that God was guiding him in what to say.

Aaron Dean
Mr. Armstrong's
Executive Aide

I was greatly saddened to learn of the passing away of Mr. Armstrong. From the time of the San Francisco Conference which he attended as a journalist, Mr. Armstrong took a strong and supporting interest in the United Nations. With his wide ties throughout the world, he pursued the cause of peace and harmony among all peoples.

Javier Perez de Cuellar
Secretary General
United Nations

Grieved and shocked to learn the passing away of Mr. Herbert Armstrong, chairman of Ambassador Foundation, a good friend to the Chinese people. His contribution to mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of China and the United States will remain forever in our hearts. Please convey my condolences to his family and relatives.

Tang Shubei
Consul General of China
San Francisco

Their majesties instructed me to convey their heartfelt sympathies and condolences on the passing away of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and their hope that the life of benevolence, altruism and the drive for better understanding among peoples which Mr. Armstrong led will continue to be the inspirational path for others to follow.

Adnan Abu Odeh
Minister of the
Hashemite Court of Jordan



The queen and I are grieved to hear of the sad demise of Herbert Armstrong. He was a man truly dedicated to the cause of serving humanity. May his soul rest in peace.

Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev
King of Nepal

tion and industry around the world. At his death, dignitaries showered God's Church with condolences paying tribute to Christ's apostle. Long-time ministers and leaders within God's Church also offered personal glimpses into



The queen and I have learnt with deep sorrow and profound sadness the news of the passing away of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, the founder and chairman of Ambassador Foundation who, through his understanding, wisdom and humanitarianism, has sought to give encouragement and assistance to people all over the world, particularly to Thailand where he has devoted much of his time and resources thereby becoming a close and valuable friend of our country.

We hasten to express to the members of Mr. Armstrong's family, his colleagues at the Ambassador Foundation and Ambassador College our sincere sympathy and heartfelt condolences for this sad and irreparable loss, which will be felt not only in the United States of America but also in Thailand.

**Bhumibol Adulyadej
King of Thailand**

I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing away of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. He was a great master who preached for world peace, and who sacrificed his life and wealth to further the cause of bringing everlasting peace to this world.

The students, staff and administration of our institute in Mt. Lavinia, Sri Lanka, wish to convey their regret at the loss of this loving man.

Mapalagama Wipulasara
Maha Thera
Director

Parama Dhamma Chetiya Pirivena

Please accept our condolences upon the death of our neighbor and your leader. His long and productive life leaves a lasting benefit for many.

John and Andrea Van de Kamp
Attorney General
California

The one reason Jesus Christ could use Mr. Armstrong as an apostle in this century was that he never wanted to be an apostle — even though his ordination papers said he was ordained to that office.

Over the years Mr. Armstrong not only came to understand Church government but also learned to live it.

Herman L. Hoeh
Editor, *The Plain Truth*

Please accept my belated but sincere expression of condolence in the passing of Dr. Herbert W. Armstrong. His loss will be felt by all those who shared in his tireless dedication toward world peace and especially by those whose lives have been enriched by the outstanding cultural programs presenting world renowned

artists at Ambassador College over the past many years.

Hazeltaizo Watanabe
Consul General of Japan
Los Angeles

Very saddened to hear of the death of Herbert Armstrong, a tireless worker for the brotherhood of

*To the congregation,
Worldwide Church of God:
Nancy and I join all those
mourning the loss of Herbert
W. Armstrong. As founder and
leader of the Worldwide
Church of God, Mr. Armstrong
contributed to sharing the
word of the Lord with his
community and with people
throughout the nation. You
can take pride in his legacy.
Our prayers are with you.
God bless you.
Ronald Reagan
President of the United States*



Photo by Kennerly, Gamma/Liaison

Deeply shocked by news of the death of unforgettable Herbert W. Armstrong. Am with you all in prayers and hopes for successful continuation of his life's work.

**Otto von Habsburg
Member of the
European Parliament**



man and an inspiring religious and public and educational personality, whom Israel regarded as a true friend.

Our sincerest condolences.

Meir Rosenne
Israeli Ambassador
to the United States

Nearly 40 years of success — of rich fruits — of Ambassador College are the result of the far-seeing vision of its late founder, Herbert W. Armstrong. . . .

Mr. Armstrong set the college on the proper course from the beginning. He dared to make Ambassador different — a unique institution of higher learning in a world where the missing dimension in education had been sadly neglected.

Raymond F. McNair
Deputy Chancellor
Ambassador College

Members of the Royal Thai Embassy's staff join me in sending our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the Armstrong family on the passing away of Mr. Herbert Armstrong, a great friend of Thailand and a truly fine human being.

It was a privilege to have known and worked with Mr. Armstrong and we will always be thankful for the fine efforts and contributions that Mr. Armstrong has made to the betterment of understanding and friendship between the peoples of Thailand and the United States.

Kasem S. Kasemsri
Thai Ambassador
to the United States

As a very longtime friend of Mr. Armstrong I send my sincere condolences to you and the entire Worldwide Church of God.

Mr. Armstrong and I first met in

1939 or 1940 (neither of us could ever pinpoint the exact date) and from that time until now we enjoyed a warm and trusting friendship.

As you and the members know, one of Mr. Armstrong's finest traits was his loyalty. Add to that his love of perfection in everything he came in contact with.

His was a life lived fully and unselfishly — truly God's servant in every way. I consider his passing as a great personal loss and my memories of our many years together will never grow dim. I wish you every success in the challenging years ahead. May God guide you and richly bless you.

Art Gilmore
World Tomorrow announcer

Mr. Armstrong was a seasoned professional communicator, widely recognized for his outstanding ability in writing and advertising. While millions around the globe tacitly recognized this brilliance in the clarity of Mr. Armstrong's writings, we here in Editorial Services were privileged to receive an inside view of a master communicator at work. . . .

Mr. Armstrong wasn't interested in what Herbert Armstrong wanted in the publications — he was interested in what God wanted in the publications. And he insisted that every headline, every article, every advertisement bring this world a little closer to God's Kingdom.

Dexter H. Faulkner
Editor, *The Good News*

A Man Like No Other

By Dibar K. Apatian

Herbert W. Armstrong often used the word *unique* in his speaking and writing. Thirty years ago, when I first met him, I heard him use that word several times. In his unique way of expressing his thoughts, he would not even hesitate to use the phrase "*most unique*."

But why? Perhaps one of the reasons was that he himself was unique — or rather, "*most unique*"! Just about everything he taught and wrote — the way he conveyed his ideas and thoughts — everything about Herbert W. Armstrong was unique. But above all, the message he boldly proclaimed to the world for several decades certainly was — and still is — "*most unique*."

Herbert W. Armstrong knew how to capture people's attention. You

could not help but listen to what he had to say, whether you agreed with him or not. He challenged you to think. In his inimitable style, he made things simple and clear — plain to understand.

Plain? Yes, indeed. But I doubt whether most people had any idea what "plain" meant in Mr. Armstrong's mind. For instance, why did he give the title *The Plain Truth* to the magazine he started to publish more than 52 years ago — a unique magazine that today has a circulation of more than eight million copies in seven languages?

Early in 1963, when he gave me the green light to undertake the publication of the French version of that magazine, he was most concerned about the exact title I would

give it in French. "Do you really understand just what 'plain truth' means?" he asked.

I thought I did. But I was wrong. "Well, hardly any of our readers understand it," he added. "No, I don't believe they know what 'plain truth' means." Then he sat at his typewriter and wrote almost three full pages to explain it!

Thus we started, in June, 1963, the French version of the "magazine of understanding." Today *La Pure Vérité* has a circulation of more than 300,000 copies and is read in more than 100 countries. Its subscription price — just like the price of the *Good News* magazine you are now reading — is unique: free for the asking.

As a reader of *The Good News*,

I want you to know that Claire and I share a great sense of loss upon the death of Herbert W. Armstrong. He was a giant of a man who provided leadership of good will and principle.

William J. Bogaard
Mayor, Pasadena, Calif.

From its beginning in the mid-1970s, the Ambassador Foundation

provided the late Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong with a forum to show that God's way of life is one of quality and concern for humanity.

Through the foundation's projects worldwide, Mr. Armstrong aptly demonstrated that God's Church backs up its words with deeds.

Ellis La Ravia
Vice President
Ambassador Foundation

We were very sorry to receive the sad news of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's death. During the years of our association with him, all of us developed the highest regard for [his] wonderful personality and qualities. His deep devotion to the ideals of peace and justice in the spirit of the biblical prophets was appreciated by his friends in Israel.

His feeling for Israel and

He Stroved to Please God

By Jack R. Elliott

During the 24 years that I worked with Herbert W. Armstrong as he developed the Ambassador College campus at Pasadena, he taught me many valuable lessons about job attitudes, quality and resourcefulness.

He never forgot that he was building important structures necessary to support the Work God gave him to do. He was always careful to see that everything was done in a manner pleasing to God, and which glorified God's name.

It disgusted Mr. Armstrong to see people going about their work in a disinterested, lackadaisical, slipshod manner. He often told the old story of two men working together on a building project. When asked what they were doing, one answered indifferently, "I am laying bricks in a wall." The other answered, "I am

helping to build a beautiful edifice that will serve the needs of our people and adorn this city for many generations."

Mr. Armstrong wanted everyone to see the big picture. All employees soon learned that they were not just putting in hours of work for a wage, but were building a beautiful campus to the service and honor of God.

New workers soon learned the phrase *Ambassador quality*. That meant doing the best work one could do and using top-quality materials in the most tasteful manner possible. What *Ambassador quality* really boils down to is the quality Mr. Armstrong asked of others and always stroved to produce himself.

He not only required top quality materials but he also used the best architects and builders available, and he insisted that they design and

build to the peak of their abilities. I think you will agree, if you have seen the Ambassador College campus, that those architects somehow got the message. Many of our visitors tell us that it is the most beautiful, most uplifting campus they have ever seen.

Visitors always seem to notice, too, the bright, happy faces of our students, and comment on their helpfulness and their purposeful, busy lives — but that is another story, though based on obeying the same laws of the same great God.

Working with Mr. Armstrong every day, I learned many valuable lessons, lessons I will always remember. With much appreciation and fondness, I will always remember Herbert W. Armstrong, too, as a man who was like a father to me. □

you undoubtedly are aware of the unique message Herbert W. Armstrong proclaimed. "The Gospel of the coming Kingdom of God has not been preached to the world by others for 19 and one-half centuries," he often said and wrote.

Some listeners and readers were shocked by that bold statement. Others made fun of it. However, no one could refute it or find him wrong. The true Gospel he proclaimed was — and still is — unique.

Herbert W. Armstrong did not preach what necessarily pleased men; he preached what pleased God. Before meeting him, I myself had no idea of the true meaning of the Kingdom of God. Nor did I know what it meant to inherit the Kingdom. Like most Christians, I "believed in" Jesus Christ without understanding His message, the true Gospel. To me the return of

Jesus Christ was symbolic, not literal. I couldn't see any real need for it. How wrong I was!

In his last book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Armstrong wrote: "Present world turmoil, escalating wars and contentions will climax in world trouble so great that, unless God intervenes, no human flesh would be saved alive (Matthew 24:22). At its very climax when delay would result in blasting all life from off this planet, Jesus Christ will return" (page 305).

Today, no sensible person dares to challenge Mr. Armstrong's statement that man has reached the end of his rope!

Last September, Mr. Armstrong called me into his office for a private meeting. As usual his mind was focused on God's Work! He wanted to know how some of us "old-timers" would work together if something happened to him. He

sensed that he would not be with us much longer. I told him what we all had repeatedly said — that no one could ever replace him. "God is on His throne!" he said, his voice full of confidence. "Jesus Christ is the living Head of His Church!"

A few days before his death, Mr. Armstrong chose Joseph W. Tkach to be his successor. What an awesome task for anyone to succeed this "most unique" individual! Mr. Tkach was very much aware of it. "God doesn't intend me to fill the shoes of Herbert W. Armstrong," said Mr. Tkach in the Ambassador Auditorium only hours after Mr. Armstrong died. "But I aim to follow in his footsteps — to follow his example."

This is exactly the way all of us feel. With God's help, we shall faithfully follow in Mr. Armstrong's footsteps until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ! □

Jerusalem was manifested in his true interest in the archaeological excavations near the temple mount and in the City of David. His name will always be attached to this most im-

portant undertaking carried out in Jerusalem.

Benjamin Mazar
Joseph Aviram
Israel Exploration Society

strong who will always be remembered by us.

Somdej Praputhajarn
Director



It is with great sorrow that we learned of the passing of President Herbert W. Armstrong. One could only be deeply impressed by his vast efforts to promote understanding and peace among peoples. His good deeds were felt in many corners of the world.

In Jerusalem his care and concern can be seen in the many projects he undertook: the archaeological excavations uncovering the history of millennia, the children's playground and activities he helped sponsor, the dedicated work of the Ambassador College students.

His visits to Jerusalem were always very special and I was privileged to share these with him. He helped foster the goals we set to ensure the future of Jerusalem, King David's city.

**Teddy Kollek
Mayor, Jerusalem**

Mr. Armstrong had a natural gift for communication. Although he did not begin to make regular television broadcasts until he was in his 80s, he quickly adapted to the medium. . . . Mr. Armstrong showed a keen interest in every aspect of the telecast. . . .

Many people never adjust to speaking to a camera, but Mr. Armstrong knew that the camera lens represented a world that needed the message he had to deliver. That, I think, is what made him such a compelling speaker. He did not speak *at* his audience — he spoke *to* them.

Mr. Armstrong made his telecast seem so natural and easy that many people do not realize how hard he had to work. Toward the end, when his vision had almost totally failed, so that he could hardly read, and the bright lights hurt his eyes, he would still find ways to overcome the problems and make the program. All of us in the studio will not forget those recording sessions.

Mr. Armstrong had a way of making you want to work hard for him. His determination and courage to fulfill the commission that God gave him was a genuine inspiration to all of us.

Larry Omasta
Director of Media Services
Worldwide Church of God

Deeply shocked and grieved at the sad report of the passing away of Dr. Armstrong, I wish to express my profound sympathy and sincere condolence to you and through you to the bereaved family.

Bunsei Sato
Minister of Posts and
Communications
Japan

The Board of Directors of Maha Chulalongkorn Buddhist University mourns the loss of Dr. Herbert W. Arm-

I was saddened to learn of the death of our good friend Herbert Armstrong. It has been a great shock to members of my family and I am sure also to the numerous friends he had in Jordan. He was truly a great man of vision and his campaign for understanding and coexistence are very much valued.

I am confident that his colleagues will carry on with his mission and his great work.

Mohammed Kamal
Jordanian Ambassador
to the United States

He did not speak as if speaking to a huge crowd, even though thousands were listening. He knew people listened alone or perhaps two or three in a family. . . .

Having this concept in mind, he had the ability to look directly at the microphone and be so personal that listeners thought he was talking directly to them. This same ability was evident in the telecast. . . .

He would often explain that he wasn't turning the world upside down. The world was already upside down, and he was turning it right side up.

Norman A. Smith
Engineer on early *World
Tomorrow* radio broadcasts

We deeply mourn the passing of our great friend and outstanding personality whose life was devoted to world peace, Herbert W. Armstrong.

Moshe Kol
Zvi Dagan
International Cultural Center
for Youth

The Tucson Community Center wishes to extend its condolences to the family and congregation of Herbert W. Armstrong.

It has been our privilege . . . to annually serve as the conference site for the Worldwide Church of God. Mr. Armstrong's presence will sadly be missed.

Robert J. Sullivan
Director

No one I have known has had such singleness of thought and purpose. Most of his thoughts and conversation related to God's Work and God's Word. . . .

I found him to be the most gener-

ous person I have ever known. His generosity to many people over the years has been evident.

L. Leroy Neff
Treasurer
Worldwide Church of God

Shocked [to] learn [about the] unfortunate passing away of President Armstrong. Please accept my sincere condolences and convey my solicitous sympathy to his family.

Lin Qing
Vice President of the
Friendship Association and
former Chinese Ambassador
to the United Nations

The late Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong's greatest attribute, apart from his desire to do God's Work, was his clarity of vision. He had the rare ability to think far in the future and envision not only what God was leading him to do, but its ultimate outcome. Mr. Armstrong was a visionary. . . . He was incapable of thinking small.

If God was to be served, only the best was acceptable, and certainly



I am deeply shocked and grieved at the news of the sudden demise of Mr. Armstrong. Recalling his valuable contribution to the enhancement of cordial relations between our two countries, my colleagues and I share the deep grief of your organization and his family. Please accept my deep condolence and convey my profound sympathy to you, your organization and to his family.

Eisaku Sato
House of Councillors, Japan

the legacy that Mr. Armstrong left us is that quality is a necessary ingredient in anything built to God's glory and honor. . . .

Those of us in the Church today are all incomparably richer for having a part in Mr. Armstrong's vision

and reality of the future. He was loved. He will be missed.

Frank Brown
Regional Director of God's Work
in Britain, Scandinavia,
East and West Africa
and the Middle East

A Celebration of Life

By Roderick C. Meredith

Of all the dozens of funerals I have attended, the one honoring Herbert W. Armstrong stood out.

In a hushed but expectant — one could almost say vibrant — atmosphere, the group of about 4,700 people waited outdoors for the graveside service to begin.

Suddenly, their attention was commanded by an honor guard of clean-cut young Ambassador College men marching on either side of the hearse as the body arrived at the burial site.

Then came the masterful address by Herman L. Hoeh. He outlined the big picture of the Creator's dealings with mankind — from the patriarch Abraham to the congregation of Israel to the New Testament Church of God, down through the years to His servant, Mr. Armstrong. Dr. Hoeh's address set the tone of the occasion — a celebration of the magnificent life and accomplishments of a modern-day apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong.

Even those outside the Worldwide Church of God were obviously inspired and moved by the remarkable atmosphere. Puzzled at first by

the lack of worldly grief, they realized that the members of God's Church were grateful for the outstanding life of Mr. Armstrong, and thankful that he did not have to suffer long at the end.

What more could we ask?

For the Church of God really believes in the resurrection from the dead (I Corinthians 15:22-23). We know that in a very few years — in the next split second of his consciousness — Mr. Armstrong will be resurrected in awesome glory at the Second Coming of Christ.

You could almost feel the deep faith and quiet confidence in God among the Church members attending the funeral. Some visitors remarked afterward that they had never experienced anything like it.

That's good. Because the atmosphere of faith and love at Mr. Armstrong's funeral gave many a tiny foretaste of the reality of the message Mr. Armstrong preached.

Soon, deep within the bowels of the earth, a seismic cataclysm will begin — finally shaking every mountain and every island out of its place (Revelation 16:20). For those

who will not acknowledge God, there will then be a stupendous hailstorm, with hailstones weighing up to 130 pounds (verse 21)!

Finally, at the piercing blast of a trumpet, the living Jesus Christ will descend from heaven in magnificent glory, surrounded by His angelic armies, prepared to rule all nations with a rod of iron and bring about an era of true peace and joy at last.

Then, millions of people from all over the earth will remember and understand. They will remember that they were told by this man, Herbert W. Armstrong, that these events were coming and that they should prepare.

As final preparations for the glorious coronation ceremony of the King of kings get under way, we will all understand why the funeral ceremony of Herbert W. Armstrong, who did so much to prepare the way, was, indeed, a celebration of life. For it was life well lived. It was a life that really counted for something. It was a life keyed to the most awesome event in the long history of humanity — the Second Coming of the Son of God. □



Of the hundreds of articles Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, the one reprinted here stands out. It brilliantly sums up the wonderful way of life the Bible teaches — the way of life Mr. Armstrong lived and preached to millions.

Why do religious people often seem to feel that their religious life must be one of giving up all the fun and the enjoyment of living — that in order to please God, they must endure a life of morbid gloom?

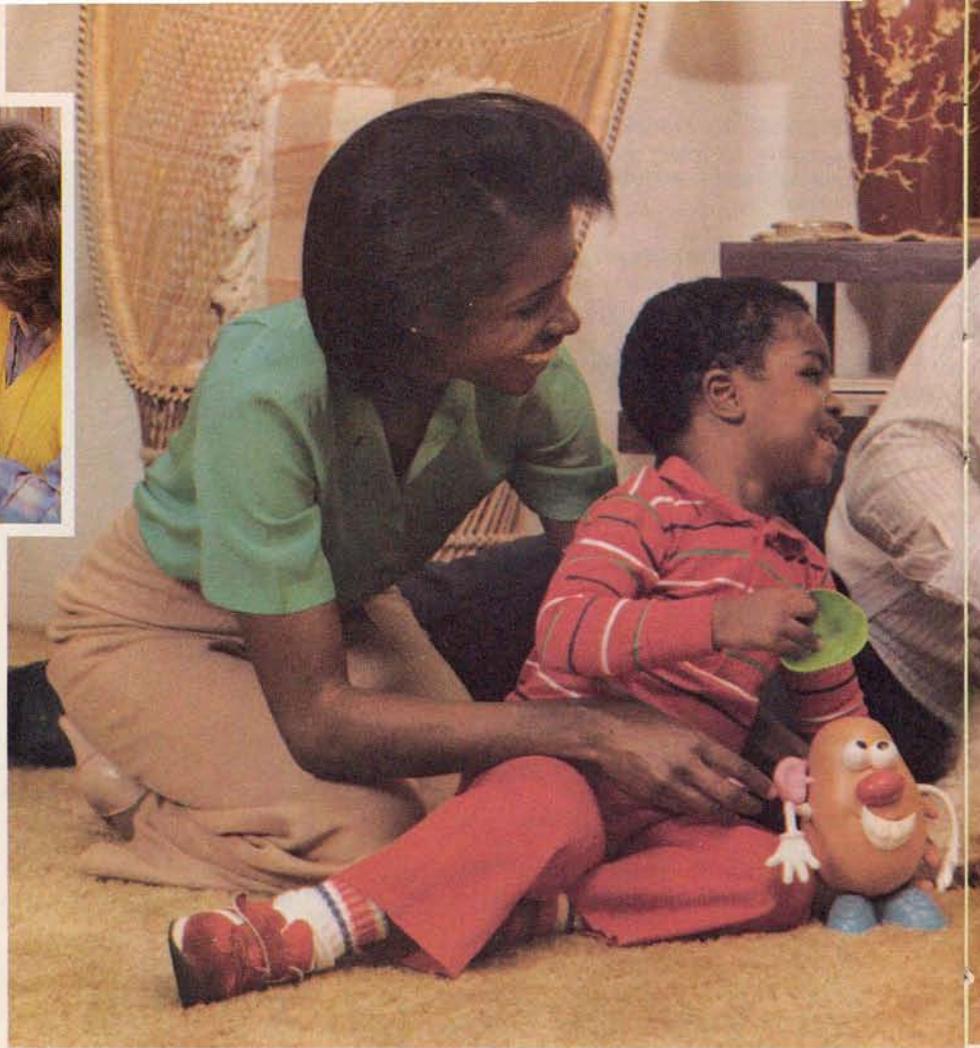
Sin to many of these people consists of things that many other people consider to be most desirable.

To them, sin is going contrary to a number of "don'ts." "Don't smoke." "Don't dance." "Don't play cards." "Don't go to the theater." "Don't ever touch a drop of alcoholic beverage." "Don't do this!" "Don't do that!"

What's wrong with religion?

A prominent lawyer's wife once said to me: "I couldn't ever become a Christian. Why, if I had to give up smoking, dancing, cardplaying, the theater and all the pleasures of life, what would there be left to live for anyway?"

A world-famous philosopher, editor and lecturer whom I knew — and who also had no use for religion — said that he did not desire to be repressed or to live a life of painful penance. "I desire," he said, "to be radiant,



This Is the Life! Real Abundant Living

*Do you know how to live fully — abundantly?
In this article you will learn how you
may taste the joys of real abundant living.*

By Herbert W. Armstrong

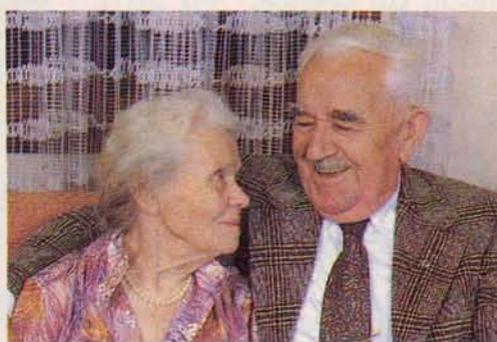


and the price is too high. It isn't good business.

God forbids those things that are bad for us, the things that are going to bring on unhappiness and bring on a life of emptiness and gloom.

But never does God Almighty forbid one single thing that is for your happiness, your welfare, your real well-being.

I'm reminded of an elderly man who was of the "shouting kind" of religion. He rose up one time in a church meeting and he shouted out a question to those



assembled. He said, "Brethren, are you enjoying it, or are you only enduring it?"

Some people endure a solemn, stiff and formal church service. And some, emotionally inclined, will go to the kind of church meeting where there is much shouting and much emotional response, merely to have a good time during the meeting. The rest of the week religion doesn't seem to have a great part in their lives. Others feel that if they become, as they call it, "saved," they must forever after live a gloomy life of giving up everything that they formerly enjoyed, and that their solemn, unhappy lives of self-denial will somehow please their Creator. Of course, that kind of religion is more or less a superstition!

Christ brought abundant living

Let's get this matter straight. The founder of the Christian religion, Jesus Christ, said that He came to this earth for a purpose. "I have come," said Jesus, "that they may have LIFE, and *that they may have it more abundantly*" (John 10:10). Jesus

Christ came to bring us the "ABUNDANT LIFE." Do you know what that is?

God Almighty intended the real Christian life to be one of joy.

Do you know that if you have the real Christian life, if you have the Spirit of God within you, it's going to bring about this result? It's going to, as we say, "produce fruits."

Now what kind of fruits will be produced in a real Christian life? Not the morbid, unhappy life. Here is the fruit. Here is what will emanate from a real Christian life. It is found in Galatians 5, beginning with verse 22. "The fruit of the Spirit" — this is the Spirit of God. This is the Holy Spirit that God imparts only to those who are truly converted. "The fruit of the Spirit is LOVE" — first of all is love — and the second is "JOY." Joy is happiness, brimful and running over.

That doesn't sound like an unhappy, empty, morbid life, does it? Here's love that will just flow, spontaneously, out from you!

The first "fruit of the Spirit" of God is LOVE. Love will mean that your face is beaming. It's going to mean that you are really giving out. It's going to mean that you are radiant and happy. Love results in JOY, the second product of the Spirit of God. The third is "PEACE." Instead of going around quarreling, resentful, bitter, unhappy and arguing — that's not peace, that's a kind of war — you'll be at peace in your mind and with your neighbor, and with your God!

And the next is "longsuffering," which in more modern English is "PATIENCE." Impatience makes more people unhappy than almost anything else! If you can really learn the lesson of patience, you're learning one of the things that will make you happy, and make life worth living.

The next is "kindness," and then "goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." That is the fruit of the Spirit. It will spontaneously spring forth from you. That, you will be emitting from

cheerful, friendly and to meet people with a smile."

Apparently he assumed that such a happy life could not be a religious life.

But strangely, none of these people KNEW HOW TO LIVE.

Very few have ever found or tasted the true abundant life.

Now the Creator, who gives you the breath that you breathe, does not desire for you to live an empty, depressed or an unhappy life.

You never please the Eternal by giving up happiness or anything that is good for you.

God wants you to be happy

God Almighty has never given you a single "don't," except those things that are going to harm you, tear you down, bring on unhappiness later.

Oh, of course, some of these things give you a thrill or a little kick out of life temporarily, but there is always a boomerang. They exact a great penalty later,

yourself, radiating from yourself, all the time, if you are a real Christian.

But most people are not Christians

You read in Romans 8:9 that unless you have received, from *without*, the Holy Spirit of God, you are not any of Christ's! You are not a Christian.

There are millions of people who profess Christianity who are not Christians according to God's definition. They're not Christians at all!

Of course, in a Christian life, there are troubles. There are going to be even persecutions. Jesus Christ was persecuted. He said, "If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:20). That comes from *without*. That's something that comes from other people. That doesn't necessarily need to disturb you inwardly.

And the person who does have this inward peace, the person who has this joy and this love and this patience — and who has this tolerance for other people — isn't going to be too much disturbed because other people don't agree and perhaps persecute.

Yes, you're going to face problems and trials. Those things are good for us. They come upon us for a purpose — to help us develop character. And a real Christian understands. It doesn't make him unhappy.

We all have trials

We are going to have troubles, problems and trials just like everybody else. They come to test us. They come to strengthen, to build our character. And that's the very purpose of our being — to make us like God. We, like Jesus Christ, can be born into the Kingdom of God. Notice I Peter 4:12-13:

"Beloved [this is speaking to real Christians], do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you."

Some people, when some of these trials and these problems come, think nobody else has ever

had anything come upon them like that. It's some strange thing that is peculiar to them. That is not true!

Every other person on earth is having problems. Everyone is having troubles. They have things to meet and to overcome, solutions to work out, the same as you do. It's not strange. And so here is the teaching of God. He says: "But REJOICE," yes, rejoice inwardly in these things, "to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings."

Christ suffered, but Christ also said to His apostles, "My joy I leave with you." "I have come," He said, "that you may have life, and that you may have it more abundantly."

He came to give us THE ABUNDANT LIFE. He had that kind of life. He was happy. He was filled with joy, even though at the same time He was a man of sorrows — and why?

Because He LOVED all human beings, and He saw the way they were going. He saw how they were destroying themselves, how they were bringing unhappiness and emptiness, fear and worry, poverty, sickness, disease and sufferings on themselves. He thereby shared their sufferings. He was a man of sorrows. He was sorrowful for them.

But He was a man who was happy *inside*. He was setting us an example of the kind of life that we should live. So we read here: "*Rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings*, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy."

Why we can always be happy inside

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled" (I Peter 1:3-4).

There isn't one person in 10,000 professing Christians who really knows and understands

what that incorruptible inheritance really is. It is far greater — filled with far more splendor and glory, and far more happiness — than you probably ever imagined. That is what is in store for you if you will surrender your life to God.

It's up to you!

Peter continues, saying that we are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, "ready to be revealed in the last time" (verse 5).

That means a time yet future, ahead of us just now, only a few years future in our time, at the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth once again!

"In this," continues this scripture (verse 6), "you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials" or trials and troubles that come upon us, "that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes" — because this trial of our faith is developing character that will never perish. It's more valuable than gold.

What do you do when troubles come?

When a trouble comes upon you, instead of griping, grumbling, moaning and being unhappy and miserable about it, realize that something is come upon you to try you, to develop character, to develop something in you that you will carry with you for all eternity.

But when troubles come, do you rejoice in them? Do you realize that something is come that is more valuable to you than a great sum of gold?

Or do you grumble and complain and wish that such things had never come?

Jesus Christ came so that our lives should be *changed* from what they are. They are to be changed from drifting, going the easy way, acting according to impulse — which builds no character, which is putting nothing into us that we can take with us, nothing that is real, that is lasting and

permanent — to the life that finds the true values.

He gives us a life that does meet and overcome obstacles and temptations, a life that is just filled with happiness, brimful and running over with joy, the real abundant life. We realize what is being accomplished, where we're going.

You have a goal if you are Christ's. You have an objective. You know where you're going; you see the progress you're making. It gives you a thrill of happiness.

Material blessings, too

And, incidentally, if your life is the right kind that God desires, which is for your good, if you seek first the Kingdom of God, which is your objective in life — or should be — and His righteousness, the right ways of life, He says that all these material things shall be added.

God, perhaps, may not add material things early in life. He may not add them right away. It may be some little time, but He will give you all the material goods and necessities that you really need, and even a great many of the luxuries, if your life pleases Him. Yes, you can have those things when you know how to possess them and use them.

What is an abundant life? What is abundance? Here is the definition: "possessing an overflowing fullness." It means great plenty — great plenty of life and real living. It means exuberance. It means abounding. That's the kind of life that Jesus Christ came to reveal that we could have.

Not very many people understand it. Not very many people understand what real Christianity is. Not very many professing Christians know what a real Christian life is. They're making themselves so unnecessarily unhappy.

The true Christian life, then, possesses an overflowing fullness of the things that are the fruits of the Spirit of God — an overflowing fullness of LOVE (it's *God's* love — it's a genuine, spiritual

love), a fullness of JOY, and of PEACE, and of *faith*, of *meekness*, of *temperance*. Does YOUR life possess those things? Have those things come into your life to fill you?

I know that you fall a great deal short of all of that. Everybody does. *We all* still fall short. But that's our goal! That is the life that we shall live in the Kingdom of God. That is the life that we should strive for, and with God's help we can gradually grow more and more into it.

That is the challenging life we grow into, the life of God's Spirit within us — *that* is the HAPPY life, *that* is the JOYOUS life, and the ABUNDANT life.

The abundant life must be a life that has abundant RESOURCES. If you have these resources, they have to come from somewhere, because if you look within, you will find that they are not there! We have some resources within, but they fall far, far short from the kind of abundant living that Christ reveals and I'm telling you about. You don't have these kinds of resources within and you can't obtain them from the "around."

Look around you. You can't obtain them from other people because they don't possess these resources either.

God above is the source

We can have abundant resources if we know where to go to obtain those resources. But material wealth does not give anyone those resources. It can only add to them.

You don't have them *within*. You can't get them from the *around*.

But you can receive them only from the above, from God Almighty.

God Almighty is the great Giver, not only of life, but of life more abundantly. God is the Giver of the great resources. He

is the Almighty. God Almighty has a great deal of power to give you, to impart into you. You can receive from Him abundant FAITH, the resource of POWER, faith to drive out fear and worry, faith to drive out discouragement before obstacles, to know that it's going to work out every problem, *power* where you are now weak, to give you love to cover up and to drive out bitterness and resentment when others do you wrong.

The LOVE of God will cover all of that and drive it out. God will give the resource of WISDOM that you now lack. God has all knowledge and all wisdom. God says if any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to all men liberally. And if you really believe, it *shall be given*, and *understanding*, too! And then *zeal* and *energy* — real living, driving energy that is needed to do the work that you must accomplish.

I am going to mention something personal. To conduct this



Work I lead a very busy, driving life, and expend a great deal of energy. A physician friend of mine once asked me: "Mr. Armstrong, I don't see how you do it. Where do you get this energy? How do you keep going so long and under so many hours of strain and stress, and still have that driving energy?"

I told him, "It's one of the resources that I get from above."

Of course, I find it necessary

to observe the laws of health and practice moderation in all things. It requires self-discipline.

It can happen to you, too

You, too, can have these resources that make you happy. These are the things that we all need. These are the resources that can come only from God. And these are the resources that will produce those fruits of love, and joy, and of peace, and of patience.

Most lives today are empty, absolutely *empty!* They are filled with boredom, with frustrations and fears. It is as you read in Isaiah 55:1: "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Everyone is really thirsty for the good things of life, for the happiness, the pleasant things and, to some extent, even exciting and thrilling things in life that we could and should have. But most lives seem empty. The well is dry, and they're thirsty.

"Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy?" (verse 2).

What do you drink in? Jesus said that if you drink of Him, "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart [innermost being] will flow rivers of *living water*" — not stagnant water, but living water, sparkling water. "*But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, which those believing in Him would receive*" — the Holy Spirit of God (John 7:38-39).

You need God's Spirit

The Holy Spirit of God is pictured as living water. It comes into you. You go to Christ to receive it. You don't bottle it up and put a cork on it. It flows out from you. The Holy Spirit flows out in love, peace and joy, radiating *from* you. There is no other way to find these resources. There is no other way to live a happy life.

The laws of God are a way of

life. The Bible in its whole is a way of life. Jesus Christ said that we must live by every word of God. If you live by every word of God, you will live according to the way of life that God has laid down in His Book, the Holy Bible.

It is the way of life that is the *abundant* life. It's the way of the happy, the cheerful life that simply *radiates*. It radiates sunshine and happiness, and it's always happiness within. The well is not dry. It's filled!

Now here is what this kind of life will mean. It means that you will be **RADIANT**. It means that God's Spirit in you will radiate cheerfulness and smiles, friendliness toward others, love, sincerity, calm courage, goodwill and interest in others, instead of being so self-conscious, with so much overinterest in your own self.

If the Spirit of God is *in* you, you will be plain and simple. You will put on no airs. There will be no posing, as most people do in the world. You will be natural, and not pretending. You will be honest and frank and unaffected, clean in mind and in body. You will be humble. There won't be *self-confidence*. There will be *faith in God*, instead.

You will be humble, but you will have **THE FAITH** and **THE POWER OF GOD**, whose power is unlimited. You will be strong through this faith of God. There will be no weakness, but great strength. You will have wisdom, and you will have courage. You will have everything, every resource you need.

You will be ready always to say, "I don't know," if so it be. You will be ready, always, to admit error when it is so proved, to confess wrong and to *change* to what is right, wherever you are wrong.

You will be ready to accept correction and reproof, and to act upon it no matter how humiliating or painful. You will diligently study to learn the right way and to live it, and you will study the Bible to find it.

You will face every obstacle

that comes along — every difficulty, every problem and trouble — unafraid, in the full faith of God, looking to Him for wisdom and knowing that He will guide you and deliver you out of it.

The attitude of a Christian

Here is the kind of attitude you will have. You will wish others to live their lives, too, up to their highest, their fullest, their best. You will be concerned for their welfare. You'll try to help others every way you can, never to hurt or to injure.

You will never meddle. You will never dictate, interfere or give unwanted advice, or speak ill of, nor give gossip about others. Never will you go around griping, complaining and murmuring things that make you and others unhappy.

You will always be willing to help others by giving them a chance, and mainly you can help others by helping them to help themselves, by encouragement, by setting a good example, by thus inspiring and uplifting others, giving advice only when it's welcomed, and when they want it and are willing to open their minds to receive it.

You will hew to the line of the one supreme goal of life, which should be to inherit the Kingdom of God, to be born of God into the very Family of God. You will relentlessly pursue this goal with zeal, with enthusiasm, with drive and with energy fired by godly ambition, with hope, with faith, living by every word of God.

The Bible will be the authority that you obey, the authority that you look to for everything in your life. You will be overcoming your own human nature and the world, resisting Satan, drawing nearer to God by constant daily Bible study and by prayer, and by occasional fasting and prayer. *That* is the Christian life. It's the *happy*, the *abundant life*.

It's yours for the asking. It's yours for the willingness to confess your sins to God and to repent of breaking His laws. It's yours if you're willing to **DO** what He says. □

**FREE
Book**

Solve the Mystery!

**Time may prove this to be the most
important book written in almost 1,900 years**

During the final year of his life, Herbert W. Armstrong completed his most significant book, *Mystery of the Ages*. This volume clarifies the most important knowledge ever revealed from the supreme source of understanding — knowledge that has always mystified man.

Today, man is unable to solve his problems or answer the perplexing questions about life. The world about us is a mystery. We ourselves are a mystery. Who and what is man? What is the purpose of human life?

Almost 60 years ago Mr.

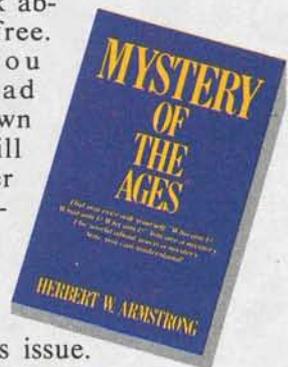


Armstrong was forced into an in-depth research into the Bible. He was determined to prove the existence of God and the authority of the Bible or to reject both. After months of night-and-day study, the positive, sure answers were revealed to him.

Mr. Armstrong found that the mysteries facing humans were

long ago explained in the Bible — but in a coded message that could not be revealed to the world until this crisis period at the end of the 20th century! He learned that the Bible is like a jigsaw puzzle — thousands of different pieces that will properly fit together in only one way.

Mystery of the Ages puts together all the pieces of the puzzle so that they can be clearly understood. You may have a copy of Mr. Armstrong's last book absolutely free. Once you have read it, your own Bible will no longer be a mystery to you!



Request your free copy NOW!

Call toll free 1-800-423-4444* or mail the reply envelope in this issue.

*In Alaska call collect 1-818-304-6111.

July 31, 1892 — Herbert W. Armstrong is born in Des Moines, Iowa, the eldest son of Horace and Eva Armstrong.
Summer, 1908 — An employer's encouragement stimulates ambition and the will to succeed in 16-year-old Herbert W. Armstrong.
July 31, 1917 — Mr. Armstrong

ordained to the ministry of Jesus Christ.
July, 1933 — Mr. Armstrong gives a series of lectures in Eugene, Ore., that leads to the formation of God's worldwide Work.
Oct. 1, 1933 — *The Bulletin* reports that "with the Fisher and Ellis families, more than 20 sig-

Oct. 16, 1960 — Ambassador College opens its Bricket Wood, England, campus.
August, 1961 — *The Plain Truth* appears in German.
June 18, 1962 — The first regular Church service is held in Canada.
June, 1963 — *The Plain Truth* appears in French.

Jan. 14, 1972 — Mr. Armstrong breaks ground to begin construction of the Ambassador Auditorium.
March 15, 1972 — Mr. Armstrong meets with 10 of the most powerful men in Japan's government, including a 40-minute meeting with Prime Minister Eisaku Sato.

Milestones in the Life of Herbert W. Armstrong

and Loma Dillon are married in Chicago, Ill.
August, 1917 — In a dream during their first week of marriage, Loma Armstrong sees an angel descend from heaven, put his arms around the Armstrongs



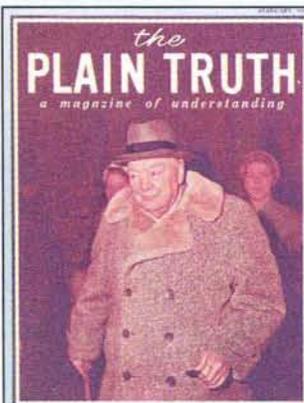
Early photo of Herbert W. Armstrong and Loma Dillon in Iowa.

and announce that Jesus Christ will return in this generation, saying that Christ has work for them to do.
Fall, 1920 — A flash depression wipes out Mr. Armstrong's advertising business.
Fall, 1926 — Mr. Armstrong is challenged into a diligent study of the Bible.
May or June, 1927 — Mr. Armstrong is baptized.
August, 1927 — Mrs. Armstrong recovers from a combination of quinsy, blood poisoning, a dog bite and several other ailments, proving God's promise to heal is sure.
Summer, 1928 — Mr. Armstrong gives his first sermon, in a vacant country store building south of Salem, Ore.
June, 1931 — Mr. Armstrong is

nified their desire to establish a new Sabbath-keeping Church of God in this district [Eugene, Ore.]."
Oct. 9, 1933 — Mr. Armstrong preaches on KORE, a 100-watt radio station in Eugene.
Jan. 7, 1934 — *The World Tomorrow* radio program goes on the air.
February, 1934 — *The Plain Truth* begins publication.
February, 1939 — *The Good News* is published as a mimeographed bulletin.
Oct. 8, 1947 — Ambassador College in Pasadena begins with eight faculty members and four students.
January, 1953 — *The World Tomorrow* program, broadcast from Radio Luxembourg, reaches Europe.
Oct. 25, 1953 — *The World Tomorrow* goes on the transcontinental ABC network in the United States.
Sept. 17, 1954 — As a result of Mr. Armstrong's evangelistic campaigns in Britain, the first British member of the Church in this era is baptized.
July, 1955 — *The World Tomorrow* appears on television.
April 14, 1956 — Eight radio stations begin broadcasting *The World Tomorrow* in Australia once a week.
June, 1956 — The first regular church service is held in London, England, with 16 people in attendance.
Jan. 30, 1960 — The first regular church service is held in Sydney, Australia, with 30 people in attendance.

Sept. 8, 1964 — Ambassador College in Big Sandy opens.
February, 1965 — The first *Plain Truth* with a full-color cover is published.
April 15, 1967 — Mrs. Armstrong dies, three months before she and Mr. Armstrong would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.
June 7, 1967 — *The World Tomorrow* is first aired from Jerusalem.
1968 — Mr. Armstrong meets Belgium's King Leopold III, who is instrumental in arranging many of Mr. Armstrong's meetings with heads of state.
February, 1968 — *The Plain Truth* appears in Spanish.
September, 1968 — *The Plain Truth* appears in Dutch.
October, 1971 — Invited by Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, Mr. Armstrong travels for the first time to a communist country.

The Plain Truth's first full-color cover: unusual Churchill photo.



September, 1972 — Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos declares martial law. Though other media are closed down, *The Plain Truth* and the *World Tomorrow* program are favorably known and are allowed to continue in all phases.
June 19, 1973 — Mr. Armstrong meets with Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie.
May 6, 1974 — Mr. Armstrong officiates at the dedication of the Ambassador Auditorium.
May 17 to 19, 1974 — Mr. Armstrong conducts a campaign in Manila, Philippines, with 24,000 in attendance. It is his first overseas personal appearance campaign.
June 23, 1974 — Mr. Armstrong meets Jordan's King Hussein.
Jan. 21, 1975 — Mr. Armstrong addresses 400 guests in Bombay representing the government of India.
March 18, 1975 — Mr. Armstrong starts the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation to conduct cultural, humanitarian, charitable and educational activities of the Church.
April 27, 1975 — Mr. Armstrong speaks to 4,000 delegates attending a Lion's Club convention in Bombay, India.
Nov. 21-22, 1975 — In Kingston, Jamaica, Mr. Armstrong lectures on the incredible human potential.
February 17, 1976 — Mr. Armstrong meets with Sir Milo B. Butler, Governor General of the Bahamas.
May 29, 1976 — Mr. Arm-

strong speaks for the first time to the brethren in South Africa at a combined Sabbath meeting for all races.

August, 1977 — After a grueling overseas trip and an extended period of writing, Mr. Armstrong suffers congestive heart failure at his home in Tucson, Ariz. God intervenes to bring Mr. Armstrong back from death.

May 18, 1978 — Mr. Armstrong announces his decision to return to regular broadcasting on *The World Tomorrow*.

Jan. 3, 1979 — Representatives of the attorney general of California attempt to take control of the Worldwide Church of God.

January 22 to 24, 1979 — Nearly 5,000 Southern California Church brethren pack the Hall of Administration and college grounds to prevent a court-appointed receiver from entering Church facilities.

December, 1979 — Mr. Armstrong becomes the first church leader from the world of Christianity to officially visit and speak with top leaders inside the People's Republic of China.

Dec. 17, 1979 — Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek arranges a special inauguration of Liberty Bell Park to honor Mr. Armstrong's role in making the facility possible.

Sept. 25 to Oct. 2, 1980 — For the first time, brethren at all Feast of Tabernacles sites in North America and Britain view the same services, including messages from Mr. Armstrong, by microwave and satellite transmission. God moves Mr. Armstrong to start the *Youth* magazine for young people.

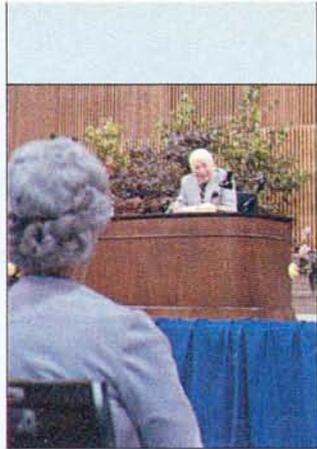
Oct. 14, 1980 — Attorney General George Deukmejian announces the dismissal of the State of California's suit against the Church.

Nov. 15, 1980 — Mr. Armstrong appoints a special Sabbath of thanksgiving worldwide in celebration of the State of California's dismissal of its suit against the Church.

January, 1982 — *The Good News* appears in French, German, Spanish and Dutch.

Jan. 1, 1982 — The *World Tomorrow* television program appears with French subtitles.

July, 1982 — Mr. Armstrong meets Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Prince



Mr. Armstrong visits Eugene, Ore., Feast site in 1983.

Charles. *The Plain Truth* appears in Italian.

Oct. 14, 1982 — In his Hall of Administration office, Mr. Armstrong has a "warm and friendly meeting" with the 18th Supreme Patriarch of the Buddhist religion of Thailand, Ariawangsatayana.

November, 1982 — Mr. Armstrong visits Kenya to meet President Daniel Arap Moi and conduct a *Plain Truth* lecture.

Nov. 19, 1982 — Mr. Armstrong meets Spain's King Juan Carlos I.

July 10 to 13, 1983 — Otto von Habsburg, a member of the European Parliament and a proponent of European unification, visits the Pasadena Ambassador College campus.

Aug. 17, 1983 — The Church receives its 50 millionth letter.

September, 1983 — During the Feast of Tabernacles, Mr. Armstrong visits the Feast site in Eugene, Ore., where the Philadelphia era of the Church was raised up, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Philadelphia era.

November, 1983 — Mr. Armstrong visits southern Asia and the Far East, meeting officials and conducting business in China, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Japan.

Jan. 1, 1984 — The *World Tomorrow* television program appears with Italian subtitles.

February, 1984 — *The Plain Truth* appears in Norwegian.

Nov. 6, 1984 — Mr. Armstrong meets Deng Xiaoping, top leader of the People's Republic of China.

Feb. 13, 1985 — The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce gives Mr. Armstrong its Civic Achievement Award. Chamber President Cy Graph remarks,

"In his own quiet way Mr. Armstrong has done more to promote positive relations between countries than has the State Department."

March 19 to 26, 1985 — Queen Sirikit of Thailand visits Ambassador College in Pasadena.

May, 1985 — Mr. Armstrong makes a 24-day trip to England, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, West Germany, France, Syria, Jordan and Israel.

May 29, 1985 — Mr. Armstrong videotapes a segment with the Young Ambassadors for the 1986 Festival film.

June 23 to July 5, 1985 — Mr. Armstrong participates in the 40th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations charter in San Francisco, Calif.; he attended the original conference. He takes part in the 20th anniversary celebration of the Des Moines, Iowa, congregation.

July 29, 1985 — Mr. Armstrong's last book, *Mystery of the Ages*, goes to press. Mr. Armstrong began writing it in January, 1985, and worked hundreds of hours on it, calling it

"one of the most important books of our day." The volume, nearly 400 pages long, was originally intended as a textbook for the second-year Bible class at Ambassador College. Some 96,721 readers request the book in just 10 days after Mr. Armstrong offers it to 480,000 *Good News* subscribers. One reader states: "It seems to capsule the purpose being worked out here below in the most meaningful and profound way. It is the most amazing book I have ever read."

By the end of December, 1985, 740,000 copies of *Mystery of the Ages* are requested, the largest response in such a short period for any of Mr. Armstrong's books.

August, 1985 — Mr. Armstrong tapes his final two *World Tomorrow* broadcasts. He becomes ill.

Aug. 4, 1985 — The *World Tomorrow* television program appears with Norwegian subtitles.

Aug. 19, 1985 — Mr. Armstrong tapes a message for the 1985 Feast of Tabernacles.

Sept. 30, 1985 — Mr. Armstrong suffers a setback in his illness and is unable to speak live to Feast of Tabernacles audiences. He directs that videotapes of his 1984 first Holy Day and Last

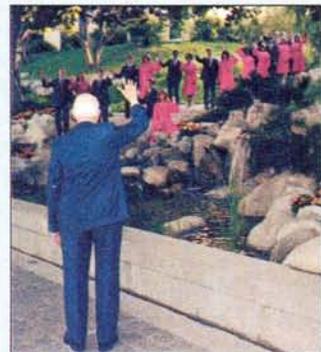
Great Day messages be transmitted instead.

Nov. 18, 1985 — Mr. Armstrong addresses a regional directors conference in Pasadena by a telephone hookup from his home, reporting that in spite of his illness, "I'm keeping in daily touch with the work constantly and doing what I can."

December, 1985 — Five all-time response records to the Church's message are set: highest weekend telephone response (26,020); average calls per week for a single year (14,100); one million calls received in a year; six million letters received in a year; more than 150,000 pieces of mail received in a single weekend (Dec. 7-8).

Jan. 10, 1986 — Mr. Armstrong appoints Joseph W. Tkach, director of Church Administration, to the office of deputy pastor general, to succeed him as pastor general should God choose to take his life.

Jan. 16, 1986 — Mr. Arm-



Mr. Armstrong appears with Young Ambassadors in Feast film.

strong, at 93, dies at 5:59 a.m. at his home in Pasadena, while resting in the favorite chair of his late wife, Loma.

Jan. 18, 1986 — Mr. Tkach announces his decision to rename Mr. Armstrong's Pasadena home, formerly called the Campus Social Center, as the Herbert W. Armstrong Memorial Hall.

Jan. 19, 1986 — Mr. Armstrong is buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena, Calif., next to his wife, Loma, his son Richard and his mother, Eva.

Jan. 26, 1986 — A memorial tribute to Mr. Armstrong, broadcast on the *World Tomorrow* program, draws more than 100,000 responses when Mr. Armstrong's book *Mystery of the Ages* is offered. □

PROVE ALL THINGS

Government in God's Church

Which form of government is proper for the Church?

Incredible as it seems, while most thinking people have at least paused to ponder the merits of various civil governments, hardly anybody stops to notice the type of government in the church he or she attends, or to ask if it is indeed biblical.

This ignorance is dangerous! For how can a church claim to be true unless its very foundation — its government — is patterned after the heavenly plan rather than the earthly? You need to understand how the government of God's true Church is designed, and how it must operate.

The basic doctrine

God's government in His Church is a theocracy, with Christ at the helm and God's chosen ministers fulfilling responsibilities under Christ in the form of a pyramidal hierarchy. It is a government of faith, in which the leaders submit their wills to Christ and the members trust God to administer His Church through those leaders.

The usual teachings of this world

It takes no great thought to see that the governments of the churches of established Christianity find themselves far afield of the biblical model.

Many churches are democracies, in which the members elect their officials to run the church and even hire and fire the ministers. Others are partial democra-

cies, in that their prime leader is voted into office, although lesser officials may then be appointed. Some churches have independent local governments that send representatives to larger councils to decide important matters, while others have religious patriarchs who make the decisions by themselves. Still other churches seem to be governed by a sort of "survival of the fittest" rule, in which those who have the necessary political savvy vault themselves into top leadership positions.

Just what is the proper government for God's true Church? How does it work? How are its leaders appointed? Who keeps the leaders on the right track?

The Bible teaching

No serious Bible student could successfully argue, based upon the Scriptures or upon the laws of logic, that the Bible propounds any governmental structure except that in which God is the living head. Thus it is a theocracy, which means a government by God.

Indeed, God the Father is supreme commander of all things, including the Church;

even Christ stated, "My Father is greater than I" (John 14:28). Even so, the Bible directly states that Jesus Christ has been delegated the overall direction of the affairs of the Church. Read Ephesians 1:22, 5:23 and Matthew 16:16-18.

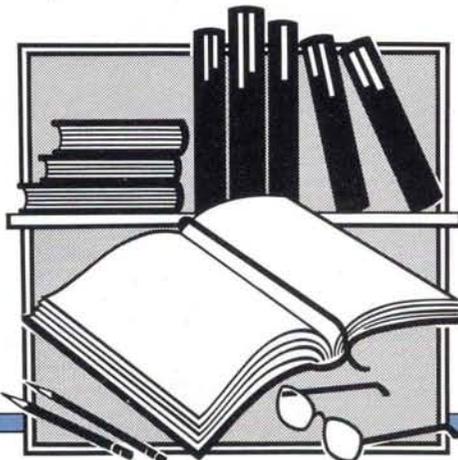
Although the Scriptures clearly pronounce Jesus to be the Church's Head, the government of the Church does not cease with Christ. To the contrary, while Christ is the cornerstone of the government, He appoints men to official positions under Him as parts of the governmental foundation. In Ephesians 2:19-20 Paul states the Church is "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone."

In the New Testament, the offices of government are primarily those of the ministry, with other administrative offices being filled by qualified lay persons as necessary. See Ephesians 4:11: "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers."

I Corinthians 12:28 mentions other unordained offices that fill administrative functions.

And it is plain from these verses that although all ministers are "elders" (a general term roughly equivalent with "minister"), all ministers are not of equal rank or responsibility.

Other verses, such as I Timothy 5:17 ("Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor") and I Corinthians 5:1-5 (which shows the power of the ministry to discipline), all prove that God has given the



ministry authority to govern and not merely to preach truth without being able to enforce it within the Church.

Hence we see that the Church is governed through its officers, the ministry, according to their individual ranks and function, under the direction of Jesus Christ, who Himself is subject to God the Father.

But of supreme importance are two remaining questions regarding proper government in the Church. First: Who appoints the ministers in the Church and how? Second, since the leaders of the Church are appointed and not elected, who keeps the leaders on track and guides their actions to ensure they remain steadfast?

To begin with the first question, ministers are appointed to their posts and ordained to their ranks by the Church, through the other ministers who are already ordained. This is in accordance with clear biblical directives.

Christ told His disciples that they had not chosen Him, but that He had chosen them (John 15:16). They were not voted in nor did they volunteer. Further, the apostles were commanded by God to ordain others (Acts 13:1-3), and Paul directed that qualified men be ordained (Titus 1:5).

This process of ordination is not capricious, at the whim of either the individual who does the ordination or the one to be ordained. The person considered for ordination must first meet the qualifications of the position, as described in I Timothy 3:1-7. In addition, proof must exist that he is called to the job by God. That proof must be found in the form of the fruits of his life, which exhibit themselves to the existing ministry of the Church (Matthew 7:15-16). These important decisions may be accompanied by much prayer and fasting (Acts 13:3).

As can be seen, the office of the ministry is not something for

which one can volunteer or something one can choose for himself in the traditional sense.

Because ministers are appointed by those above them in the chain of authority, one might wonder how the chief minister of the Church, the pastor general, is chosen, and by whom.

In the case where an existing pastor general anticipates his own death or disability, he may, after prayer and wise counsel, himself appoint a qualified successor. If he dies or becomes disabled without having appointed a successor, the ministers of highest rank in the Church would appoint a successor according to God's will after prayer. If no such appointment were made, God would by circumstances of His own design thrust the man of His choice into the forefront of His Work (even against the man's own will if necessary — see Jonah 1 and 2).

It must be stressed that God chooses the man appointed to the job of pastor general. The individual does not choose himself. It is not something for which a man can volunteer. Neither is it the choice of the man or men who may appoint him, although they might be used as human agents to discover God's will and then implement it. The choice is God's.

He places each member of the Church into whatever responsibility in the Church pleases Him (I Corinthians 12:18).

All that has been said thus far about government in the Church highlights the need to understand the second question posed above: Since Church leaders are appointed and not voted into office, and since, therefore, the members are not watchdogs over the leaders, who is responsible for keeping these leaders on track spiritually and administratively?

The answer is that God's government in His Church is a government of faith. Simply put, this means members believe that behind the physical, outward ap-

pearance of the Church is the unseen hand of Jesus Christ, who directs its affairs. True Christians today trust Christ to direct the Church, bless it, correct it or its officers if need be and steer its general course.

From the time of Moses and the rebellion of Korah (a leader in the congregation who was killed by God for insubordination — Numbers 16), through the age of the apostles and the rejection of Judas Iscariot from his apostleship, to the present day, Christ has demonstrated His ability to run His Church, place capable men in their proper positions, discipline those who need it and reject from His Church those unfit to wear the Christian mantle. The very existence of the Church and the Church's continuing vitality prove this beyond dispute!

Key verses

Here are some important scriptures to specially note: Ephesians 1:22, 5:23 — Christ is the Head of the Church. Ephesians 2:19-20 — the foundation of Church government is key men upon the cornerstone of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 4:11 and I Corinthians 12:28 — offices of the ministry are listed in terms of rank. I Corinthians 5:1-5 and I Timothy 5:17 — ministers have authority to rule. Acts 13:1-3, Titus 1:5, I Timothy 3:1-7 — ministers are appointed by God's will according to their qualifications. I Corinthians 12:7-10, 18 — Christ places men into various offices as it pleases Him.

Yes, though men through the millennia have struggled to form effective governments for their nations, they have left virtually unnoticed the question of proper Church government. But God has not neglected His Church, and has put within it the cornerstone of His Son Jesus, and the foundation of those He has called to serve as leaders in His Church with power and vigor. □

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