

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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EVANGELIST RANK IS DESIGNATION OF
RANK--AREA OF OPERATION

by Herbert W. Armstrong

I hope it is understood that designation of ordination as Evangelist, Pastor, etc., refers--and always has--to rank, rather than assignment of activity.

As I recall at the moment, none who have held Evangelist rank have devoted themselves to holding evangelistic campaigns--preaching to public audiences regularly in proclaiming the Gospel Message to the world.

The nearest exception to that, as I now recall, is that Mr. Rod Meredith held two or three campaigns, with public invited, in England more than twenty years ago. My son Garner Ted held occasional two-or three-night abbreviated campaigns a number of times, taking along on some of them singers, M.C., etc. He also held an evangelistic campaign of some weeks at Springfield, Missouri, in the late 50s. A few others of Evangelist rank have held a few occasional one-or two-night campaigns.

But none has been occupied regularly in holding evangelistic campaigns preaching to the outside public.

For years Mr. Norman Smith, of Evangelist rank, was occupied in supervision of radio and TV production. For years Al Portune was occupied in the Business Office, handling finances. For years Mr. Les McCullough, ranked Evangelist, was executive in charge of the Big Sandy campus of Ambassador College. For years Mr. Raymond McNair was occupied as Deputy Chancellor of Ambassador College in England, as he is on the Pasadena campus now. And so with the others--none has been occupied in evangelizing the outside world, though many have spoken more or less often, on the Sabbaths, to our own congregations.

In I Corinthians 12, the various functions in Church organization are explained. "There are differences of administrations, but the same Lord" (verse 5). Different administrations require administrators--and that is listed first in the designation of duties within the organized Church. Most of our administrators have been ranked Evangelist.

Next, "And there are diversities of operations" (verse 6). This can include all other specially designated operations within the Church, devoted full time (not laymen necessarily). For these many varied functions in a united, organized, cohesive Work, God has given various ones special spiritual gifts--dividing to each as GOD wills.

Then, same chapter, God has set in the Church, apostles, prophets, teachers...governments. In Ephesians 4 this is amplified a little further: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers. It is apparent these are intended to be ranks, rather than definite occupations. AND THAT IS THE WAY GOD HAS SET IT IN HIS CHURCH TODAY!

When I ordained Mr. Rader, I specifically ordained him as "Evangelist, in the area of finance, legal affairs, and advisor to me," as all present distinctly heard. Yet it has come to my attention that reflection was cast on this ordination in at least one instance, saying Mr. Rader does not conduct evangelistic campaigns. No, nor did God call him to that, but God gave him special talents and abilities in the fields of finance and legal affairs, such as none other in the Church has.

At the same time, I ordained Mr. Joseph Tkach Evangelist as a rank commensurate with his exceptional value to the Work, though he has been placed in the office of Ministerial Services. But he had been doing a large share of the real spiritual work at Pasadena.

I have decided to ordain one more as Evangelist, and raise one from Preaching Elder to Pastor rank by or before the Conference--and more ordinations may be recommended to me.

THE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

We have decided that the Ministers' Conference early next year will provide for bringing in the same rank of ministers as last January at the Tucson meeting.

I hope wives may come too--depending on finances--decision a little later on that.

The date and place of meeting will be decided shortly, but I did want to let you know that all of the ministry, as last year, will be coming.

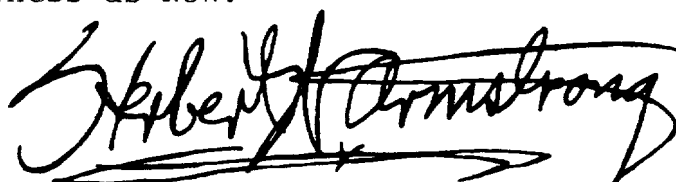
There may be reason to hold the Conference a month or two later this year, and I cannot decide until a little later whether we can hold it in Pasadena or Tucson. Will get this information to you as soon as possible.

U.S. SUPREME COURT DID N O T RULE AGAINST CHURCH

The Supreme Court HAS MADE NO RULING against God's Church. What it did do was decide the case must go through the California State Courts to the California Supreme Court, before it can be heard or even considered by the U.S. Supreme Court.

However, yesterday (10-22-79), a FEDERAL Circuit Court (for the 9th Circuit in Los Angeles) DID make a ruling IN OUR FAVOR.

God is still on His Throne. This is the Church of GOD, not of embittered MAN. NEVER, for the past 15 years has this true Church of God had such harmony, unity, togetherness as NOW!



FEDERAL APPEALS COURT COMES TO OUR AID!

On Monday morning, October 22, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals stepped in at the last moment and stayed Mr. Rader's scheduled deposition at the California Attorney General's Office. Several hundred members were already gathered outside the Attorney General's office in Los Angeles to show support for God's Church when Mr. Rader appeared and announced that two federal judges had just issued an order preventing the Attorney General from questioning him.

This was the first time the Church had gained access to this level of the federal court system. Apparently we have found a judiciary sensitive to religious rights and with the foresight to see where the state's unprecedented actions were leading. (It is interesting to note the concern of this court since the signature of only one judge on this order was necessary to stay the deposition.) In addition to the ban on Mr. Rader's deposition, this federal court set November 19 as the date when motions will be heard as to why all discovery proceedings (pretrial information gathering activities) should be barred until our appeals have been considered in the state and federal appellate courts.

Mr. Rader reminded the brethren that "God is on His throne" and that "He has heard our prayers on this occasion!" He thanked everyone for their support and then asked Mr. Helge to say a few words. The only additional thing Mr. Helge felt moved to say at that point was to ask everyone to "pray twice as fervently in giving thanks to God for answering our prayers

On the following day at an employee/student meeting, Mr. Helge commented further about the dramatic turn of events. He said: "When the Attorney General learned of the federal order denying them the deposition/they have so determinedly sought⁷, their faces dropped! But more than disappointed, they're scared. Why? Because as we have been saying from the time this case was filed--they are wrong. They have committed the wrongs. They didn't follow the law. They had false information from the dissidents who were out to destroy this church. They were duped and they bought it lock, stock and barrel. And now they are standing there like a pack of fools.

"And now the door is cracked. The light began to shine through. And if there is one thing they are afraid of, it is to have their acts exposed... I'll tell you what scripture applies: 'They love darkness.' They don't want light. They don't want truth. That is why the Attorney General is so afraid now. Because his conduct is coming to light now.

But Why Resist a Deposition?

"'But wait a minute, Helge,' one of my friends said, 'How come you're not willing to testify?' 'Because I didn't bring a charge against anybody. If I charged you with stealing, if I charged you with wrongdoing, I should be willing to come forward. I would have a duty to come forward and tell what my story is, what my charge is. That's different.'

"The people who brought the charges should come forth, it says in Leviticus 5, and tell their story--instead of running off to other states to avoid having to answer questions under penalty of perjury! Perjury charges may be brought against some of these people--that is pending.

"The reason we are not talking is because we are trying to protect the very right we say the Attorney General doesn't have. The right to come in and then dominate the church. There is a difference....

"Maybe God is going to use it /the lawsuit/ to get our name around the world. Maybe He has used it already. But then /when we get this case wrapped up/ we can really go ahead and put more time in getting the gospel out. And when I say 'more time,' I mean directly through TV, radio, the Plain Truth and whatever other means we are going to use. I say in addition to this case because this case is getting the gospel out! Just remember to thank God for the help He has given us already and pray that we can have more and more of an opening here and more of His help."

A House Cleaning In Government

(Editor's Note: The following comments are excerpts from Mr. Rader's brief talk which actually preceded Mr. Helge's comments at the employee/student meeting. Then after Mr. Helge, Mr. Michael Ravid, former Consul General in Los Angeles for the nation of Israel, was the featured speaker. Mr. Ravid spoke glowingly of Messers Armstrong's and Rader's friendship and efforts in aiding Israel through various A.I.C.F. projects over the past ten years. Coverage of Mr. Ravid's talk will be presented in the upcoming Worldwide News.)

"As we carry the gospel of Jesus Christ, we are also going to help, as much as we can, expose corruption in government. This is going to be something that--as long as the battle has been started--we feel would be a good job to finish. Wherever that corruption is, we want to expose it. Particularly if it tramples on our rights to practice /our religion/ freely in accordance with the constitutional guarantees of the United States.

"So we have engaged a man who has been accustomed to exposing corruption in government. And because of his efforts there are people who served time because of corruption in the highest places in government. His name is Mr. Earl Silbert. He prosecuted the Watergate people and he put them in jail.

"Now that was not an exposé of corruption in a church. It was corruption in the White House. It was /also/ corruption in the /U.S./ Attorney General's office in Washington. That was what the game was all about. And we're going to do all we can to bear down on this corruption that we know exists in the Attorney General's office here in this state.

"As long as they started the battle we will prevail. And the chips will fall where they must. But Mr. Silbert is now on our legal defense team, and he will coordinate those efforts in Washington D.C. and here. We will be leaning on these people who would meddle in God's affairs. Leaning on these people who would try to interrupt this great WORK by peddling the worst kind of falsehood....

"We know these things go on /political corruption/ and now we have been affected and we are gathering the data, we are gathering the evidence. We have our investigators working tirelessly to bring it to our attention and hence to the authorities in this state. And if we cannot get them to act one way or another we will get that Attorney General's office cleaned up because that /political corruption/ is what this was all about.

"It began because of a few corrupt people. A handful of people. Now you can't even recognize the charges that they're making. You can't recognize what they're trying to tell the court their case is now compared to what they said back on January 3rd. Go back and read the headlines, those of you who have access to the newspaper morgues, and see what they said back on January 3rd and see what they are saying today. Much different. Much different.

"And yet they didn't hesitate, as Mr. Armstrong says, 'to blacken us with a big brush.' He wants total vindication for this church. And he wants total vindication for everyone who has been villified by these people. And in the process, if it is necessary to expose them for what they are, that's what will be.

Significant Turning Point

"Yesterday was, we think, a very significant turning point. All these matters kind of reach a climax periodically--not necessarily the final climax--but yesterday was a very significant day: it was the first time we had access to the Ninth Circuit [Court of Appeals]. We had no access before to the Ninth Circuit and it was the first time we were able to go up quickly with an appeal (as differentiated from some kind of a special writ)--on appeal from an order from an inferior [lower] federal court....

"Seven months we have been patiently waiting to get before the Ninth Circuit. As it turned out, the timing was such we were able to do so with almost exquisite timing. Actually, I was on my way out the door for my appearance at the state building [for my deposition] when the Ninth Circuit acted!

"Well, we are coming into what I think is the home stretch. Things are beginning to accelerate a little bit and we can see that very, very clearly now. It is going to be possible to punch more and more holes in their entire 'structure,' which has been crumbling for some time."

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Many have been asking when the "Blessing of Children" will be conducted. Traditionally, this annual event takes place one to two weeks following the Feast of Tabernacles. Effective this year, Mr. Armstrong has set aside the second Sabbath after the Feast for the blessing of children on a permanent basis.

Another matter came up during the Feast which has a tendency of being overdone and is therefore losing its meaning and impact. For quite some time, members have been clapping for almost anything and everything during Sabbath services. It is generally not considered in good taste to applaud for special music in Church services, as special music is to honor God, not the musician. A compliment given to the performer after services to show appreciation would certainly be appropriate. However, it would not be wrong to honor Mr. Armstrong with applause, or perhaps even to show appreciation to a minister visiting from some foreign area, or perhaps on occasion when a minister gives an outstanding and inspiring sermon such

as we heard from Mr. Waterhouse this past Sabbath in Pasadena--or spontaneously applauding some inspiring announcement about the Work, a miraculous healing, etc.-- Clapping should be reserved for those special occasions and thus will serve a much greater purpose.

--Joe Tkach

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

This coming week we will be doing further testing on the concept of Sunday Newspaper inserts to promote PLAIN TRUTH subscriptions. This time we will concentrate our efforts in the Lexington, Kentucky area with two different types of brochures. Lexington has been selected because it is always one of our best areas of public response. This response can then be compared with moderate or bad areas of response in other states. These tests are being run so that we can get all the facts and figures for a final presentation to Mr. Armstrong on this method of subscription promotion.

We have some more good news from QUEST magazine. We now have the magazine on the following airlines: Pan Am, TWA, United, National, Eastern, Braniff and Western. This is good news because it gives us much better coverage and exposure with this influential segment of the travelling public. This, in turn, gives the Ambassador Foundation, and hence the Church and Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, a great deal of additional exposure and credibility which since the January receivership has proved very valuable. We have been able to assess this by the many favorable press comments relating specifically to Quest and the Foundation since then.

--Roger Lippross

GOOD NEWS/WORLDWIDE NEWS UPDATE

The October-November Good News is now being mailed out, and we are well along in production of the December magazine. Mr. Herbert Armstrong called to tell us that he was especially pleased with the October-November edition and that he is preparing an important article for both The Good News' and The Plain Truth's December issues.

By the way, you festival coordinators should make sure your feast reports reach us no later than Nov. 5 if you wish them to be included in the Nov. 12 Worldwide News. The sooner the reports and photos reach us, the better a festival wrap-up issue we can produce. Since the majority of the reports had not reached us in time for the Oct. 29 WN deadline, we had to make the decision to push the reports up to the next issue.

The Oct. 29 Worldwide News will feature details of Mr. Armstrong's sermon by microwave to the U.S. Feast sites and some in Canada on the Last Great Day. It will also include updated information on the Church's legal crisis with the state of California.

--Dexter Faulkner, GN/WN Managing Editor