

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JULY 18, 1980

CHANGES IN FOREIGN MINISTRY

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

Circumstances in the Foreign Work have necessitated certain changes in the Foreign Ministry, to take effect immediately.

I am sending Mr. Robert Fahey, formerly manager over the churches and Work in South Africa, to take charge of the Work in Australia. I am cancelling all services in all churches in Australia for this Sabbath, July 19, as a day of fasting and prayer for peace and harmony in God's Church over the Australian continent, and on the following Sabbath, July 26, combined services will be held in all cities where there is more than one local congregation.

Mr. Gerald Waterhouse also is going immediately to Australia, to preach to these combined church congregations in Australia. He has just completed his tour speaking to churches throughout Canada, and will now travel over Australia. Before Canada, Mr. Waterhouse spoke to every local church in the United States, touring at the rate of some six or seven churches every week.

Mr. Dibar Apartian had been removed as Director of the French Work, and apparently for the sole reason that he was loyal to Christ's Apostle and to Jesus Christ. I reinstated him, and now he is reinstated also over the French-speaking churches in eastern Canada as he was before.

I am sending Mr. Larry Salyer, who has been pastor of the AM church at Pasadena headquarters, as assistant to Mr. McCullough, second in charge over all churches in Canada (except French-speaking).

There has been no office as Director of Foreign Work since I abolished the office of Pastoral Administration, although I have approved two or three visits to overseas offices by Mr. Leslie McCullough. Supervision over all foreign work continues to remain in Ministerial Services, under my personal direction.

Mr. Dean Wilson is being transferred to be in charge of the three churches in Portland, Oregon.

The Work of the living GOD continues to be SET BACK ON THE TRACK!

Meanwhile, in Ambassador College, Mr. Rod C. Meredith has returned from his leave of absence and will teach 3rd-year Church of God Doctrines, Epistles of Paul, and introductory Homiletics.

Mr. Attorney General of California:

Has your unconstitutional attack
against the
Worldwide Church of God
hurt the strength of that Church?

The plain truth may surprise you!

Appeared in the Los Angeles Times July 17, 1980

WE ANSWER: The strength of God's Church lies in the POWER of the living GOD—in the dynamic POWER of the true Gospel Message God sent to the world by Jesus Christ—and in the Church people!

We are not anchored to buildings or other assets you have tried to seize!

You, Mr. Attorney General, cannot seize or control our living GOD! You cannot seize, control or in any manner stop the proclaiming over all continents that vital MESSAGE! That Message of the soon-coming world-ruling Kingdom of God was unpreached to the world—believe it or not—for 1,900 years!

But God's time has come! No power on earth can stop that astonishing Gospel Message from going out worldwide!

You cannot seize or control our loyal members, over all continents and even the islands of the seas, from meeting for worship in their respective local churches. You cannot stop their loyal and devoted prayers and backing of our travels to carry this END-time Message to the world!

Our strength does not lie in our numbers. Numerically we are a comparatively small Church—less than 100,000



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

adult baptized members. Yet on national television's No. 1-rated *60 Minutes* Mike Wallace called us a "wealthy Church!" The living GOD has made us a powerful Church. The millions hear His Message through us. And neither you nor any human source can stop that Message nor hurt our STRENGTH!

You see, our STRENGTH does not reside in numerical numbers. Jesus Christ said of us, "I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. . . . I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut" (Revelation 3:8, Revised Standard translation).

Now what, in retrospect, have you done? True, you caused us irreparable damage through the public press and newscasts, in our public image before many throughout the United States. You have damaged us financially to the extent of a few million dollars—which the living GOD made us adequately able to bear. But our God has used your politically motivated persecution to strengthen His Church—to draw our

devoted members closer to Him and to be more unitedly welded together. You have stimulated the Source of our STRENGTH!

That all-important END-time Gospel Message shall now go forth to the nations of this world in greater POWER than ever! It is the Message from God—the GOOD NEWS of the soon-coming world of PEACE—a world that shall be as filled with the knowledge of the Great GOD as the ocean floors are filled with water! A new world that shall enjoy world PEACE! A world where all eyes shall be opened to God's TRUTH, and eternal salvation offered to all!

Mr. Attorney General, you underestimated us—or rather you underestimated the GOD we serve and whom you ill-advisably attacked! You listened only to a handful of expelled, former members. You accepted their testimony without doing your "homework"—ascertaining the facts as they actually exist. You fell into their trap. In so doing you attacked and persecuted the living GOD and His TRUTH. But HE has turned your persecution into a significant growth in the Church's strength. Newly baptized members now are increasing at the rate of 30 percent per year.

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

The WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD proclaims worldwide the true Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Interested readers may request, free, the eye-opening booklet, *Just What Do You Mean—the Kingdom of God?*

Write The Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, Calif., 91123, or call toll-free, (800) 423-4444. In California call collect (213) 577-5225. If you have some questions for the attorney general of the state of California, write to him, The Hon. George Deukmejian, California Attorney General, 555 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, Calif., 95814.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESSpecial Letters of Appreciation

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I want you to hear from us as we are here in Pasadena for our "Refresher Course" which you have begun for the field ministry. I can't think of a more appropriate word to use than "refresher" since this first week has been one of the most REFRESHING experiences I have had in the entire 13 years I've been in the ministry!!! There can be no doubt that God's hands are directing you as He revivifies His Church.

The classes have been stimulating and interesting. There has been a renewed emphasis on the simple, clear truth of God's Word. From one of us in the field ministry, I can say a hearty "Thank You" for your determination and strength which you have shown in this effort. You certainly are a spiritual father to my wife and me! Thank you again for your patience with so many of us who should have been more help and encouragement to you. I believe you will continue to see that improve.

Yours, in Jesus' service,
Judd and Terri Kirk

Excellent opportunity to get to know more intimately the current thinking of Mr. Armstrong and leadership of God's Church. Have enjoyed the fellowship with other ministers. There is a very obvious and apparent improvement in the spirit and attitude of personnel and membership at Pasadena. Also, appreciated lectures on Church doctrine.

--Don Ward

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you so very much for the letter to the ministers in the June 27, 1980 issue of the Pastor General's Report. It has been a long time since tears came to my eyes while I was reading the report.

Thank you so much for the encouragement and trust and invaluable instruction in the letter that God inspired you to write.

May God continue to bless you another 88 years in carrying out His service. I know that He will if that is what He wants and that is what is required. And you have proven that you would continue another 88 years if that is what it took.

Sincerely and respectfully,
Jeff Mc Gowan

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you very much for all the work that you have done and are doing on behalf of Mr. Armstrong and the field ministry.

Also, I want to thank you so very much for giving us backing in time of need and correction in time of need. We cannot function without both.

I hope to see you and the rest of the staff after the feast at the refresher program.

Sincerely and respectfully,
Jeff Mc Gowan

Visiting Tour of Spain and Portugal

Mr. Fernando Barriga of the Work's Spanish Department here, returned June 3rd from a month-long tour of Spain and Portugal. The tour, which was Mr. Barriga's seventh since 1975, took him to 19 cities in Spain and two in Portugal. He visited 21 members, 32 prospective members, and conducted five group Bible studies. There was one baptism, but since one member had recently died, our membership total remains at 17 in Spain and five in Portugal.

The purpose of the tour was twofold: 1) to visit and encourage the members and prospective members and to baptize those who were ready; and 2) to look into the possibility of keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in Spain for the first time in the modern era of God's Church.

Mr. Barriga was only able to baptize one prospective member, Mrs. Nelly D'Arumont Van Geffelen, on this trip. "The principle obstacles preventing many of the others from taking the plunge," explained Mr. Barriga, "are the Sabbath and tithing." Mrs. Van Geffelen, who is Belgian, and her husband (who is not yet a member) formerly lived in Zaire (Belgian Congo), where they first came into contact with the Work's publications (in French.)

"Mrs. Van Geffelen and all the other members were excited to learn of the possibility of keeping the Feast in Spain," said Mr. Barriga. "They wish they could get together every Sabbath, but unfortunately they live too far away from each other," he further explained.

Now that plans have been approved, the Feast will be a unique opportunity to fellowship not only with their brethren from the Iberian peninsula, but also with brethren from overseas who will be attending. The Feast will be held at a first-class, four-star 117-room hotel with a private beach just south of the city of Valencia on Spain's southeast coast.

"Overall," Mr. Barriga concluded, "the whole tour was very positive. All of the members I visited were encouraged and moved at least a few steps forward. They pray for the Work and for Mr. Armstrong, and they ask their brethren around the world to pray for them."

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

CLARKSBURG, WV--DAVID M. JOHNSON: Of all the articles Mr. Armstrong has written lately, we really enjoyed and appreciated the one in the June 27, 1980 Pastor General's Report on "When I Pastored a Church." I have never had the opportunity to hear that much about Mr. Armstrong's experiences in this area and I would like to encourage him to write more along that line

to those of us in the field ministry. It really helps in figuring out how to handle some of the difficult situations we face. Many times we just have to hope we did the right thing, and it helps to know how Mr. Armstrong handled a similar situation.

DETROIT, MI--EARL H. WILLIAMS: A big "Thank You" to Mr. Armstrong for writing to us his experiences in dealing with people as a Pastor. Please tell us more as you have time. Your advice is greatly treasured.

PHILADELPHIA, PA--CARLOS E. PERKINS: Although nothing dogmatic has been said about dates, the recent comment by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong concerning the possibility of the Work ending in a matter of months has stirred a great deal of anxiety and concern along positive lines.

ELKHART, IN--RAND MILLICH: The Church reacted very positively toward Mr. Armstrong's comments concerning how close we are to the tribulation and to the return of Jesus Christ. The vast majority are strongly backing the Work of God and realize how much this world needs God's intervention.

CINCINNATI EAST, OH--R. SHORTY FUESSEL: Things are going very well in the area. No unusual problems or bad attitudes. Just the regular human problems. Everyone enjoyed the Putnam interview. Feast fever is beginning to build as people finalize plans, get their tickets for flights, etc. The enthusiasm and support of Mr. Armstrong is high--everyone conscious of shortness of time.

TAMPA, FL--BRADY VELLER FOR RON LOHR: More people are expressing interest in prophecy and are showing an increasing awareness that we have but a short time left to finish the Work. Also, it is my subjective opinion that God has recently in this area been working circumstances in many people's lives in order to test their loyalty and responsiveness to His government. This seems to especially be coming true among a number of people who have striven to avoid surrender to God's government in the past and have limited their Church involvement only to Sabbath service attendance.

PITTSBURGH EAST, PA--DON J. LAWSON: There is more enthusiasm in the Church here than ever before. People recognize the leadership of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and can seem to feel the age we live in. I would say that now people are totally behind the Work. There are no longer the negative questions we once had.

MOREHEAD, KY--RAY WOOTEN: People seem to be more excited about the truth of God and show more interest in learning and obeying it. They enjoy Mr. Herbert Armstrong's Bible study tapes.

BIRMINGHAM, AL--KENNETH M. MARTIN: Overall, things are positive! The brethren really appreciate the sound leadership of Mr. Armstrong during these days of prophetic upheaval. Attendance is up! God is blessing His people in spite of the recession.

MEMPHIS, TN--ROWLEN TUCKER: I have heard many favorable comments about Mr. Armstrong's recent doctrinal statement concerning "Porneia." Many feel the Church is addressing an area of past permissiveness concerning the family and seem encouraged to see Mr. Armstrong stabilizing the Church doctrinally.

CUMBERLAND, MD--TERRY P. MATTSON: Brethren have been experiencing severe health problems of late. Members are responding with sobriety to recent warnings that time is short, and some who were asleep have been shocked into alertness.

CINCINNATI NORTH, OH--JACK PAKOZDI: People appreciated the timely tapes on the court case.

UNION, NJ--RICHARD J. FRANKEL: The brethren are behind Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong 100% and are very happy to see a return to the faith once delivered. Members were very appreciative of the Putnam-Rader interview; also excited about the exposure through ads in the New York Times.

BELLEVILLE, IL--HAROLD SMITH: We have had a growing number of new people who show a great zeal in wanting to begin attending services. Most are people who have known of the Church for many years, and have finally decided to do something. It's like God is shaking the bushes so that they will commit themselves finally.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

NOTICE TO ALL CHURCH PASTORS

If anyone has any knowledge of a member by the name of Harold Stevens (he also goes by Steve Stevens), please contact Mr. Harold Rhodes at (512) 255-4048.

--Ministerial Services

PT PROMO PROGRAMS BEARING FRUIT

From all parts of the United States, brethren involved in the new Waiting Room and Library P.T. Subscription Programs have been sending in dozens and dozens of envelopes filled with the names of new subscribers to The PLAIN TRUTH. Since the program began less than two months ago, our brethren have already added nearly 1,000 businesses and libraries to our computer files! The important thing about these subscription outlets is that each has the potential of adding many additional subscribers because of the four response cards inside each monthly magazine.

Our thanks and appreciation go out to all pastors and brethren involved in this important program supporting Mr. Armstrong's efforts to publish the Gospel. Keep up the great Work!

--Publishing Services

MAIL COMMENTS

Our mail comments this week show that God's Spirit is clearly working in His Church. Members appreciate the stronger sermons and definite Biblical guidelines. Also, the letters show God is blessing His people and answering their prayers in remarkable ways. Our last group of comments show that the Church and College are making a distinct and lasting impression on the public.

--Mail Processing Center

Members Thankful Church Is Back on Track

God's Spirit is really working with all our brethren here in our local church. There is such a spirit of warmth, concern and trying to pull together. Sometimes I feel that things cannot get any better, but I know they will, for we are not yet perfect.

--Joe W. (Covina, CA)

I can really tell God's Church is back on the right track. The Church used to be so cold and lonely, at least my area was. Now there is so much love in nearly everyone.

The PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS are so interesting I can't put them down until I have read the whole magazine.

Thank you [Mr. Armstrong] for being faithful and being an example I know God must be pleased with.

--Debi M. (Bartlesville, OK)

Thanks for all the help in getting us back on the right track. It's hard to believe we strayed so far. In our trials, your love and dedication to God and this Work are an inspiration to all of us.

--Mrs. Hermon H. (Kimper, KY)

We want to let you know that we stand behind you [Mr. Armstrong] and are very happy to do so. We have seen the growth in our area in the past year and a half, and the growth of each individual as well.

We are especially thankful for the clear picture we are given of God's way of life, and no longer a watered-down version of "Christianity"!

--Mrs. Eli B. (Duluth, MN)

I would like to write this "thank you" letter and to say to my Mother, the Church, "I love you," just as I would say to my own Mom. After thinking about it awhile, I concluded that I have always loved Mom the best when she said "No" to me. Then it was certain she cared.

Since the Church has been put back on the right track and has come out with some decisive yes's and no's, I know "Mom" cares again. What a secure feeling!

--Jane R. (Mishicot, WI)

Blessings and Answered Prayers

The Worldwide Church of God is directly responsible for the good things in my life today. Five years ago I did not have any self-esteem at all, and was so afraid of people that I was antisocial. But the change in me since coming into contact with this remarkable Work has been truly amazing.

When I started attending services, for the first time in my life I made several friends. Two years ago I graduated from a chiropractic college--a doctor! A few months later I married a terrific girl who was and still is a baptized member. And there are so many people I consider personal friends, that it is hard to number them!

--H.B. (Jasper, GA)

Having three children and no money or food could sound like a disaster for anyone in the world, but not for one in God's Church. We knew God was aware of our situation and we trusted in Him. There was no worry or fear at all. God gave us faith. We were literally at the Red Sea with God telling us to stand back and watch His salvation!

God stirred up one of his human instruments to call and inquire how things were going. I told her of our situation. That was all she needed! By evening we had food, money for gas to get to services, clothing for the girls, warmth, love and friendship!

--Mrs. B. (West Allis, WI)

It brings tears to my eyes each time I ask God for something and He always answers. I have had prayers answered in just a matter of hours. Other times I have had to wait awhile, but God always answered as He saw fit. I always let Him handle it.

--Mrs. Morris O. (Childersburg, AL)

How Nonmembers View the Work

How different are the people in the Church of God! After having attended services these last two months, I am amazed at the difference in the people's attitudes. There is peace, calmness, and a quiet confidence that the world just does not have. Indeed, I wouldn't have thought that a group of people could have kept it up all day--well, I realize that people of themselves can't sustain such qualities--but God's Spirit can and is being proved to me by their lives. I suppose that what I've been trying to say is: the fruits of the Spirit are there and nowhere else.

--Bill C. (Jasper, MO)

I have had the great privilege of visiting your Church several times, and also had a visit from the local minister. God says His people are to be of the same mind. This is what I see, when I compare your Gospel message in print and hear it on the radio, as well as what I hear the ministers preach at Church. All is in accord with the Holy Bible.

--Rex L. (Humble, TX)

Recently, a brother of mine who is not in the Church visited Ambassador College. He was very impressed by the College and the people he met, as well as an audio-visual Bible study on the book of Haggai. The impression made on him was so deep that he asked me to pass on to you a contribution he was inspired to give.

--Arnoul J. (Chicago, IL)

Some time ago a group of senior citizens from the City College of Long Beach was privileged to tour your college campus. We were delighted with being assigned a student from Australia as our guide. We wanted you to know that he did an excellent job. He was very knowledgeable and his presentation was superb.

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to visit with you. We compliment you on the caliber of students you have and we came away with a greater knowledge of your fine College.

--E.S. (Long Beach, CA)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ABETS FAMILY DOWNFALL: By the time the White House Conference on Families pulled into Los Angeles for its final stop last week, it was already apparent that the effect of the conference would be to further weaken the American family unit.

The two previous meetings of the touring "All in the Families" road show had already endorsed abortion on demand, homosexual rights (in housing especially), and the Equal Rights Amendment. Other resolutions seem to have been taken right out of Ted Kennedy's campaign platform, namely national health insurance and a guaranteed annual income of \$13,000 a year for a family of four. The Washington Post called the resolutions a "laundry list of liberalism."

The White House Conference was created to fulfill a campaign promise Jimmy Carter made to evangelicals to help the family as an institution. However, in practice, the conference was taken over mostly by radical activists--feminists, social workers, homosexuals, and liberal clergymen--who were more concerned with pushing big government spending programs and weakening the traditional family structure rather than helping it. Thus, early on, the name was changed from "White House Conference on The Family" to the "White House Conference on Families," the Administration yielding to pressure from the activists who wanted endorsement for their perverse concepts of what constituted a family (such as a lesbian mother now living with a lesbian lover, but rearing a child and using the facilities of a federally-funded day-care center.)

Moreover, the delegate selection process was blatantly rigged. The original rules allowed for a majority of the delegates to be popularly elected, with the rest to be appointed by the state governors. But after "pro-family" groups won the elections in one state, the rules were changed to give the governors (who were subject to radical pressure) power to appoint most of the delegates. Overall, governors ended up appointing more than 80% of the conference delegates.

One interesting incident shows the anti-family attitude of those who ran the conference. At the Baltimore meeting, personally opened by President Carter, one of those in attendance was Dr. Joel Rosenshein, an

Orthodox Jew. The resolution endorsing homosexual rights, abortion on demand, the ERA and three minor issues was scheduled to be brought to a vote on Saturday, June 7. Dr. Rosenshein asked several times for an absentee ballot, since he wasn't going to attend any sessions of the conference on the Sabbath. His requests went unanswered. As it turned out, the resolution passed by only one vote: 292-291. Dr. Rosenshein would have voted against it, creating a tie and preventing its passage. (A walkout of a group of 55 conservative anti-abortionists and anti-gays also paved the way for the resolution's passage.)

The victory surprised Joan Deforeest, a lesbian delegate from Reading, PA. "I expected to make a statement," she told of her decision to attend. "I thought it'd be a gesture representing millions of gay families around the nation. I didn't expect to ever get farther than that."

One delegate, avowed homosexual and "gay rights" activist, Eric Rofes, was ecstatic that "his side" had won.

"The White House Conference today voted to support gay rights," Rofes said incredulously. "That's historic. It has to be noted because 10 years ago we wouldn't have been allowed to come in here." Even by one vote, that has to impress me. It shows there is a strong enough group here that feels enough about the civil rights of lesbians and gay men to stick their necks out."

God says, of course, that such a "victory" will be short-lived: "The show of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! For they have rewarded evil unto themselves" (Isa. 3:9).

In Los Angeles, incidentally, the conferences endorsed roughly the same bag of proposals--ERA, abortion on demand and homosexual rights in housing. As a result, one group in attendance, the National Pro Life Coalition, termed the White House Conference "a fraud." Connie Marshner of Washington, D.C., coalition chairman, objected to the conference "legitimizing" non-conventional families such as gay and unmarried heterosexual households.

"A government, which, regardless of the benevolence of its intentions, attempts to take over the family's job of providing for the needs of its members, is laying the groundwork for the destruction of the family unit," the group stated in its position paper.

Castro Uses U.S. as Gay Dump Site

Perhaps Fidel Castro was watching the antics of the farcical White House Conference too. Of the 115,000 Cuban refugees he has let go recently, as many as 20,000 of them, reports the Washington Post, are said to be homosexuals! To engage in homosexual acts is a crime in Cuba, so Fidel knew where to dump his unwanted "gays"--into the "Land of the Free" (to do every licentious thing.)

"The Immigration and Naturalization Service no longer keeps people out just because they are homosexual," Mr. Robert Havel, a spokesman for the U.S. Justice Department, told the Post. "There was a time when they were kept out because homosexuality was considered an illness. But the United States Public Health Service no longer sees homosexuality that way."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau