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NON-TITHING IS STEALING

By Herbert W. Armstrong
I find it impossible to believe that a minister of Jesus Christ could at the same time be a THIEF — STEALING FROM GOD! Nearly all ministers and 98 percent of brethren have been LOYAL.

Yet during recent years "liberals" have risen up in the Church, watering down the laws of God.

God says, "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee saying, Let us go after other gods . . . and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet . . .

"For the Lord your God proveth you . . . Ye shall walk after the ETERNAL your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments" (Deuteronomy 13:1-4). And in Old Testament times such a false prophet was put to death.

Yet it is reported to me that a minister has said to a congregation words to this effect, "If you don't want to tithe, you don't need to."

Back on God's track

The living Christ who heads this Church, has been, for a full year now, SETTING GOD'S CHURCH BACK ON GOD'S TRACK. Jesus Christ has moved swiftly. Great strides have been taken — great change already has taken place.

But during the past 10 years much false teaching has gone out, subtly, craftily, inducing many of God's people to ease off on keeping God's commandments, leading many into SIN, while being deceived into supposing they are on safe ground spiritually.

God has shown me that my commission is not ONLY to proclaim the good news of the coming Kingdom of God, but also to raise up this Church (which already has been done), and, far more, to lead this Church into becoming READY for Christ's soon return in GLORY to earth.

LISTEN! fellow ministers and wives — and all you brethren in the Church: Jesus "loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it . . . That he might present it to himself a GLORIOUS church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be HOLY and WITHOUT BLEMISH" (Ephesians 5:25-27).

Time is SHORT

Again (Revelation 19), at the

time of Christ's return in power and GLORY, the Church shall have MADE HERSELF READY" — and brethren, we have many spots to be cleaned out, and many wrinkles to be ironed out *before we are READY!* And TIME IS SHORT and GROWING SHORTER FAST!

Actually, I think God already has held up the progression of world events, TO GIVE US more time to 1) give out the Gospel of the Kingdom in greater power to more, and 2) get ourselves — the Church — *READY!*

I am simply heartsick that my son assumed power and authority neither Christ nor I gave him to WATER DOWN GOD'S TRUTH. In that infamous "STP" [Systematic Theology Project], paying tithes, which WE OWE to God, was changed to merely mean a little GIVING — *IF* we feel like it!

God says, "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is SIN!" Perhaps some of you — even ministers — were DECEIVED by these "intellectuals" who felt they were superior to Jesus Christ, put out of circulation the official Church booklet on TITHING and substituted a new booklet based on the STP.

Perhaps "the times of this ignorance God winked at, but now commandeth all men everywhere to REPENT" (Acts 17:30) — and THAT MEANS YOU!

An ordained system

God has ordained the tithing

system. This whole earth BELONGS TO GOD — not to us! Everything we have, whether goods or value in money, comes out of the ground. Even we, ourselves, have come out of the ground — WHICH IS GOD'S EARTH — therefore even WE OURSELVES belong to God, whether we wish to admit it or not.

The Church of God is built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets — Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. The prophets who form part of the very foundation are the OLD TESTAMENT prophets, for the apostles' teachings, and New Testament writings, are quite largely built on the Old Testament prophets.

There were NO NEW TESTAMENT PROPHETS WHO CONTRIBUTED any doctrines or teachings to the Church. Malachi wrote after both the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah had gone into captivity and slavery, and was therefore written for US, rather than for recording Old Testament teaching. It is *THE WORD OF GOD!*

And this prophet on which the Church was built, says to you who have not been tithing: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me . . . In tithes and offerings, YE ARE CURSED WITH A CURSE: FOR YE HAVE ROBBED ME, EVEN THIS WHOLE NATION. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of

hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:8-10).

A New Testament command

You ought to know how tithing is COMMANDED in the NEW Testament also — even though some liberals try to twist the Scriptures of the Holy GOD so they can GET and never GIVE. Speaking of the Old Testament Levitical priesthood, we read in Hebrews: "And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a *commandment* to take tithes of the people *according to the law* . . .

"But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises . . . And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, PAID tithes in Abraham" (Hebrews 7:5-9). (Tithing in not a matter of taking pity on poor God and GIVING Him alms and charity in the form of tithes and offerings — IF YOU FEEL LIKE IT, IT IS A MATTER OF PAYING to God WHAT YOU OWE AND ARE COMMANDED TO PAY.)

Neglect or refusal to PAY is STEALING from GOD — cutting yourself off from the lavish BLESSINGS He promises to faithful tithers as quoted above.

But continue in Hebrews 7: "For the priesthood being CHANGED [not abolished, but a change in which priesthood re-

ceives your tithes, under the NEW TESTAMENT] there is made of necessity a change also of the law" (verse 12). What law is it talking about? As quoted above, a law in which the priesthood "have a *COMMANDMENT* to take tithes of the people, *ACCORDING TO THE LAW*" (verse 5).

The priesthood was changed at the founding of the New Testament Church back again to the Melchisedec priesthood under CHRIST. There is therefore a CHANGE in the TITHING LAW that COMMANDS YOU AND ME TO PAY TITHES TO THE MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST, since Christ is now our High Priest at the right hand of GOD! (All above quoted from Hebrews 7.)

Stealing from God

Brethren, it is not easy for me to write to you whom I dearly LOVE, and tell you that some of YOU ARE THIEVES breaking God's holy commandments, and stealing from GOD — which surely is far worse than holding up and stealing from a bank!

I want you to think this over. I don't know WHO you are — I have just been informed that a shocking number of members and ministers ARE NOT PAYING TITHES, and are giving either NO offerings or a comparatively small amount.

I want you to look at it as GOD looks at YOU!

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these [tithing] OUGHT YE TO HAVE DONE; and not to leave the other undone" (Luke 11:42).

You who have neglected tithing have NEGLECTED SO GREAT SALVATION (see Hebrews 2:3).

The living JESUS CHRIST put TITHING in God's Church from the very beginning of this Philadelphia era, and it has been in God's Church EVER SINCE A.D. 31.

Heretofore I have made NO EFFORT TO CHECK OUR COMPUTER RECORDS TO FIND OUT WHO TITHES. I surely never wanted to "snoop." But it is a LAW! Neglect or refusal is MAJOR SIN!

I am not pussyfooting! Commandment breakers won't get into the Kingdom of God, and I am commissioned to blot out the spots and iron out the wrinkles (Ephesians 5:27) to make God's Church READY when He comes (Revelation 19:7).

Called to be separate

Brethren, we are not like other people. We are not like those in the more than 250 Protestant "Christian" denominations. We (See STEALING, page 5)

Phoenix personal appearance draws largest attendance yet

By Ken Tate

PASADENA — Momentum is building in the series of personal appearances, with the largest crowds yet gathering for a two-night campaign June 23 and 24 at Phoenix, Ariz., according to Sherwin McMichael, director of personal appearances.

"I am very excited about the enthusiastic response," said evangelist Roderick C. Meredith, head of Pastoral Administration, who spoke at the Phoenix campaign.

Mr. Meredith said that the campaigns follow Herbert W. Armstrong's method of building and strengthening the Philadelphia Church early in this period.

Mr. McMichael said "new attendance for the campaign was 105 for the first night and 90 for the second, total attendance was 540 and 525 respectively."

Phoenix was the third program for Mr. Meredith and the sixth of seven in the series. The last of the series is slated for Aug. 4 and 5 in Dallas, Tex., with Dennis Luker speaking. Mr. McMichael said he expects the Dallas campaign to be the biggest turnout of the series.

Mr. Meredith termed the latest campaign "excellent. Even though we had no advertising whatsoever," he said in a June 25 *Pastor's Report* letter to the ministry, "we, nevertheless had larger crowds than any so far in the series of minicampaigns."

Following the program, he said, "The brethren in all of the church areas in which we've had campaigns are very enthusiastic. This series is helping to build the Work and the Church of God.

"I hope to see dozens and dozens of these campaigns conducted across the United States in the coming year."

Another benefit of the campaign series, according to statistics gathered by personal appearance personnel, is a high response rate to literature offers.

Invitations to the campaign sent to the *Plain Truth* mailing list included offers of free literature ranging from "Are We Living in the Last Days?" to "Faith and Hope."

Highest response to the literature offers has been from Phoenix, which topped out at 12.3 percent, according to Budde Marino of the personal ap-

pearance department.

Mr. Marino said there have been several of the mailings to the six campaign sites receiving response rates of 10 percent or more; the average for all six sites is 8.6 percent.

He added that the department is "delighted with the results," as the average acceptable response rate for direct mailings usually runs 3 to 4 percent. Mr. Meredith said he is "very grateful" for these results, being another indication of the growth of God's Work.

Statistics from the literature offers show that several thousand people have responded to the literature offers since the series began.

Mr. McMichael said the personal appearance department is still researching the possibility of another series of campaigns for late fall and early winter in other sections of the United States.

Mark Cardona, pastor of the Phoenix and Prescott, Ariz., churches was master of ceremonies for the Phoenix campaign. Music was provided by vocalist John Beaver, accompanied by Ross Jutsum at the piano.

FORUM WITH STANLEY R. RADER

(Continued from page 4)

place to spend a lot of time. It's hard enough to spend the time in the hotel in Nepal.

Mr. Rader, a while back we produced two documentaries regarding the receivership. I wonder what's going to be done with them?

I understand they're working on it; they're in the final stages. Someone told me today they were refilming a couple of simulated episodes. They weren't a hundred percent happy with the coverage they had of the actual break-in the first day, and so that will be covered again.

And I think I heard today that it was supposed to have taken place this morning or sometime today. So it's close to being finished. And I think it will be very powerful.

By the way, it will not be easy to get that aired. I want you all to understand that. We will have a great deal of difficulty getting program time. You have no idea how sensitive these stations are to that sort of thing. And they are public licenses, you know, and they're concerned about that aspect of it, but we'll push hard and we'll have enough exposure, and I think it will be good for our Church members.

And I think it's the type of thing, for example, that Mr. [Roderick] Meredith and others can show around the country as they continue their

campaigns. It would be very effective.

And then we might set up some kind of lecture tour, which I'm working on now, to kind of get my invitations that I do get to speak under some kind of intelligent format, and then that might be something I could take along. But it will not be easy to even buy the time, because I know the way these stations are. They don't have an awful lot of guts.

How many of you saw this film, *The China Syndrome*? Well, there you go. You saw how astation was afraid to air the tape that they had of what happened there. And that's typical of these stations.

Could we then see it at the Feast of Tabernacles?

Oh, I think so. Is there someone here from the Feast? Is Mr. [Sherwin] McMichael here, or is there someone here from that office? No one's here from that office. I assume that will be shown at the Feast. I guess they're out making preparations for the Feast.

Most of us from the Feast Office are here, but we're just not saying anything.

Very good. Well, you might keep that in mind. I think it will be a very good presentation.

What do you see in the future as regarding cost-of-living increases for employees?

We're going to do everything that we can to bring about the cost-of-living increases. What we've done for the moment is we have been able to reestablish fully our credit. Every-

body has been cooperating very well, department by department. Income has been holding, and I understand, but correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. [Jack] Bicket, that even if we can't clear the bank loans the way we want it, we might make it through without it — is that correct? — to the Feast.

Mr. Bicket: It's possible.

Possible, okay. But you have to understand, we have to watch and provide for each contingency, and it becomes a question of prioritizing our priorities. So Mr. Bicket has responsibility of monitoring the daily cash flow, and for the moment, until that money that we know now the banks are ready to lend us in our accounts, we have to wonder how to get from here to the Feast, and through the Feast. Not just to the Feast, but through the Feast.

But the moment that we find that our credit has been fully restored, I would assume that one of the first things we will do is to look at the cost-of-living increases because we know it's a serious problem. We're not unaware of the problems.

We know they're there, and we appreciate your patience, but you have to understand that the overall needs of the Work are such that when you just don't have — we don't even have a quarter of a tank of gas in our tank. And yet somehow or other Mr. Bicket and his group are keeping everything going, and they've been doing a wonderful job of managing the day-by-day flow.

It's a very responsible job and dif-

STEALING

(Continued from page 1)
are not of this world. We are CALLED OUT to be a separate and a holy people.

HOW WONDERFUL! HOW WE SHOULD PRAISE GOD AND REJOICE — that He has called us to be a separate and a peculiar people!

Nearly all our ministers, and I would estimate 99 percent of the lay membership have proved 100 percent LOYAL, standing faithfully with me and God's leaders in the terrible, illegal and unconstitutional onslaught of the State of California, trying to DESTROY God's Church and Work, take over our beautiful properties at Pasadena, and themselves personally PROFIT by taking the money.

But GOD WAS WITH US, and YOU were with us!

difficult job, and it's one I'm happy I don't have. I guess ultimately I have the responsibility for it, but I make believe that I don't, and I let Mr. Bicket worry about it, and if he doesn't call I assume it's being done. And I feel happy and blessed that he's able to do that. But it needs the patience and needs the cooperation of everybody in the Work at this time.

But it could clear up quickly. As I

Yet, during recent years a few LIBERALS at Pasadena used my son Garner Ted, manipulated authority even Ted did not have, in order to water down GOD'S LAW within the Church.

Pay tithes first

Don't say you can't afford to tithe. You can't afford not to. If you owe other debts, PAY GOD'S TITHE FIRST, AND PRAY FOR HIS PROMISED BLESSING TO HELP YOU ON THE OTHER DEBTS. THERE CAN BE NO EXCUSES for not tithing!

Failure to tithe is STEALING — COMMANDMENT BREAKING. It is without excuse! Keep current with God, and HE will keep you current with your other obligations!

This matter of STEALING FROM GOD is one matter that Christ is CLEANING UP IN GOD'S CHURCH NOW! No delay! And no excuses!

said, the banks now are ready to give us what we need, and but for our unwillingness — and you all understand that, why I will not notify the attorney general of what we're going to do. Because to do that admits that we have to do it! And we're just not going to do that. They don't have the jurisdiction that they claim they have over us. We are not a public trust. (TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE)

Seven Caribbean Festival sites offer tropical setting, activities

By Stan Bass

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The Feast will take place in seven English-language sites in the Caribbean islands — the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Guyana, Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Trinidad-Tobago. Services at all these sites will be conducted in English, with Spanish translation at Puerto Rico.

The climate in all of the islands is subtropical with cooling easterly breezes. The climate in Guyana, situated on the northeastern corner of South America, is a little warmer than that of the islands of the Caribbean. Individual Feast site information is as follows:

Bahamas

We will again be holding the Feast at the Holiday Inn, Paradise Island, Nassau, about 180 miles from Grand Bahama Island.

The typical housing package deal this year runs \$384 a person, single; \$214 a person, double; \$179 a person, triple; including an air conditioned room for the eight nights, tax and gratuities. This does not include meals. In order to hold the Feast at the Holiday Inn, we must ask you to permit us to make your reservations.

Snorkeling, fishing, hiking, swimming and horseback riding are some of the activities available.

No transportation will be needed at the Feast site, as the meetings will be at the Holiday Inn. The airport is about seven miles from the site, and taxis and rental cars are available there. Those persons wanting to rent a car should do so through their travel agent or airline.

Barbados

The Festival location is the Government Convention Center, St. Lawrence Gap, Christ Church, Barbados.

Swimming, snorkeling, surfing, fishing, nightclubs and horseback

riding are popular activities.

Hotels are within walking distance of the Convention Center at about \$30 for a single and \$40 for a double a night. Meals, tax and tips bring expenses to about \$45 to \$50 a person a day. In Barbados you may make your own housing arrangements if you wish, but you must notify us as there is a space problem in the meeting room. It is necessary for you to go through the regular application procedure, stating on your application your lodging plans and the number in your party.

No transportation is needed at the Feast site if you are in a hotel nearby. However, those persons wanting to rent cars may do so at the airport, which is about five miles from the Feast site.

Bermuda

The Festival location is the Sonesta Beach Hotel, Southampton.

Hotels in Bermuda are expensive. Many members have found it convenient to live in guest houses, which cost approximately \$20 to \$25 a day for each person. We recommend that you allow us to make your arrangements in Bermuda. All accommodations are first class, minutes from the beach, with pools and air conditioning.

Swimming, snorkeling, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, golfing and sailing are some of the site's recreational attractions.

Generally speaking, transportation will be needed to get from your hotel or guest house to the Feast site. We will be able to arrange transportation, although in Bermuda rental cars are not available. However, you may rent *mobilettes* (motor-assisted cycles for which no license is required) for \$7 to \$8 a day. The Feast site is about 12 miles from the airport.

Guyana

The Feast in Guyana will be at the Pegasus Hotel in Georgetown. Per-

sons wishing to keep the Feast here should contact their travel agent for reservations at one of the two leading hotels in Georgetown, the Pegasus or the Tower.

Guyana does not have an excessive number of quality beaches like the other Caribbean sites. The major activity is sight-seeing. Kaieteur Falls, one of the major attractions, has a sheer drop of 741 feet, making it perhaps the world's grandest waterfall. Flights can be made into the area, which is in the interior, by contacting Guyana Airways.

Jamaica

The Feast will take place again this year at the Runaway Bay Hotel & Golf Club, Runaway Bay, Jamaica, on the north shore.

Jamaica is another site where, in order to protect the availability of the Feast site, we must ask that you allow us to make your housing arrangements. The rates this year are single \$34.20, double \$41.20 and triple \$55.47 for the European plan, and single \$56.20, double \$85.10 and triple \$121.47 for the modified American plan (two meals included).

Those staying at the Runaway Bay Hotel need no transportation to services. However, car rentals can be made through your travel agent. The hotel is about 45 miles from the nearest airport at Montego Bay.

Hiking, fishing, waterskiing, nightclubs, sight-seeing, golfing, horseback riding and swimming are popular activities.

Puerto Rico

The Festival location this year will be the Hyatt Rio Mar Resort, Palmer, at the foot of the National Rain Forest El Yunque near beautiful Luquillo Beach on the north coast.

Housing will be at the site, and we must require that we make your arrangements to protect the availability of the Feast site and special rates. The cost will be \$40 (European plan)

SIGN LANGUAGE AT THE FEAST

Sign language interpreting at the Feast of Tabernacles will be available in both Norfolk, Va., and Fresno, Calif. Interpreting in one or two other areas may be provided if enough interpreters are available.

It is important that we hear from those wanting this service and also from interpreters and helpers.

Gerrie Leimbach has taken Lana Kreivis' position as coordinator in the Pasadena churches and will help coordinate the interpreting for U.S. Feast sites. If you have contacted her, she will forward the information to the Feast Office. If not, please write Hugh Mauck at the Feast Office in Pasadena, 300 W. Greyn St., Pasadena, Calif., 91123.

If it is important to be housed near another person or family let us know. Don't hold up your Festival application pending decisions regarding the interpreting. We can always reassign you once we have all the information needed.

a room a day, plus a 5 percent government tax added. The rooms are kitchenette units, and can accommodate up to four persons. There is also available a modified American plan at \$18 a person a day additional plus 15 percent gratuity. Other charges include 50 cents a day a person for maid service and a one-time bellman charge of \$2 a person for the stay.

Those persons wanting to take advantage of Rio Mar's transportation from the airport will pay \$15 a person round trip. Please indicate on your application if you desire this service. It will not be possible to buy a one-way fare; it has to be the round trip at \$15. Transportation at the site is not needed, but if you would like to rent a car you may do so through your travel agent or airline. The Feast site is about 19 miles east of San Juan International Airport.

Swimming, fishing, nightclubs, hiking, horseback riding, tennis (\$3 to \$4 an hour a person) and golfing are popular activities at the site.

Trinidad-Tobago

The Festival location is the Golden Thistle Club on the island of Tobago (Robinson Crusoe's island), 21 miles off the northeast tip of Trinidad.

Because of a special group rate, we need your cooperation in allowing the Church to make your housing accommodations in Tobago. The hotels available run \$22 to \$30 a person a day, including two meals, with children some \$5 to \$10 less.

Activities include sight-seeing (bird sanctuary, coral reefs, etc.), swimming, boating, hiking and snorkeling.

Accommodations are all within walking distance of the meeting hall. We will book your flight from the Port of Spain, Trinidad, airport for Oct. 4 and 5. There is no extra charge. Your airfare to Trinidad includes the flight to Tobago.

I would like to mention once again the reason for our requiring a limitation on making your own lodging arrangements at the Bahamas, Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Trinidad-Tobago sites. In order to obtain the meeting facility, we have to deal with the hotel on the basis of their playing host to a convention.

This makes us in essence the organizers of the convention, and we must provide the guarantees for using a certain number of rooms. If Feast-goers make their own arrangements, we could end up not having a site in which to hold the Feast they came for. The hotel would treat each overseas application as an individual, and we would not qualify for the group rates given to the Church.

Those who are making their own arrangements at any of the other sites (although we would be happy to make them for you) still must submit their applications as usual, so that we can know how many to expect and avoid meeting room overflow. So please let us know your lodging plans and address and the number in your party.