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COMPLETION OF WORK NEAR???

By Herbert W. Armstrong
Signs are now fast appearing that our Work of the GREAT COMMISSION may be much more near completed than we have realized.

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

World conditions MAY force European nations and possibly some Balkan nations (10 in all) to unite, bringing to pass the revived "Holy Roman Empire" of A.D. 554-1814 even yet this very year — or possibly next. Our Work (Philadelphia era) probably will be finished about the time this European empire is united. Those nations have WANTED to unite politically, with a common currency and common military force, for some time — but have been unable. It can be accomplished only though the Vatican.

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

He has just finished a tour through three nations in Africa, and now has just completed a four-day crucial visit to France — the first time in nearly 200 years any pope has visited France. France is more than 95 percent Roman Catholic but mostly nominal — not fervent or active Catholic. The pope

was much perturbed about this and strove to correct it.

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

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

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

The Kremlin has made its first move toward complete world domination, on moving into Afghanistan. One more small leap and they are in control of the Indian Ocean and the

Persian Gulf — and in CONTROL of nearly all the world's oil. The death of Tito, the hostage situation, United States' display of having lost "the pride of our power" all combine to frighten European leaders, preparing the way for a lightning-fast move through the Vatican to politically and militarily UNITE EUROPE to protect herself against a danger OTHERWISE NOW UNSTOPPABLE.

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

Once the Roman Empire is resurrected in Europe and the Balkans, our great commission will be virtually COMPLETED.

Quickly the Laodicean church will rise up. It will go through the GREAT TRIBULATION. We shall be taken (by flight) to a place of protection for 3½ years, till the coming of Christ.

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

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

SATAN INTENSIFIES PERSECUTION

By Herbert W. Armstrong
Evidences increase and multiply indicating God's great Work through His Church (Philadelphia era) may be FINISHED in a matter of months.

We may be right now at the time of Revelation 12:7-14. I want to write another article on another phase of this prophecy that will appear in the August number of either *The Plain Truth* or *The Good News*.

Satan's masterstroke against God's Church came

with the massive assault of the California attorney general's office on Jan. 3 last year. Satan failed to knock out and destroy the Church with that civil lawsuit. He only drove us closer together, and closer to Christ. It actually helped in the process of putting the Church back on God's track.

So now Satan is trying something he has tried a number of times before — since he could not knock out the whole Church with one blow. He is now trying harder

than ever to DIVIDE and SEPARATE US by a vicious attack of false accusations against Church leaders. Proverbs 16:27 speaks of those who would try to accuse and defame: "A worthless man digs up evil, while his words are as a scorching fire" (New American Standard Bible).

Actually Satan tried this in the attempt to have the state political government take over running of the Church. Both Mr. [Stanley] Rader and I were falsely ac-

cused (but not in the lawsuit) of siphoning off (stealing) millions of dollars every year. We did not need to dignify those monstrous lies with even a denial.

But now Satan is coming at us in a more subtle and even more outrageous and scurrilous accusation, implying personal immorality and sins.

Neither shall we dignify these infamous accusations and rumors with a denial.

Adolph Hitler is reported to have said that if you tell a little lie it may not be believed, but if you tell an outrageously enormous and impossible lie it will be believed.

Brethren, I have no need for refutation or of the defense or character-witness, or personal recommendations. Listen to what the apostle Paul said: The same Satan tried to ruin Paul's credibility among the Church. Paul said: "Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, letters of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you?"

He answered, "Ye are our epistle (recommendation) written in our hearts, known and read of all men" (II Corinthians 3:2).

Directly or indirectly, you are all my children in the Lord. This Church is GOD'S Church. Jesus Christ is its living HEAD. He chose and has used me as His apostle — as His human servant and instrument through whom HE, not just I, raised up all this Church. It was God the

GOVERNMENT AGENCY CLEARS US OF FALSE ALLEGATIONS

By Herbert W. Armstrong
There are many levels of government in the United States. There is municipal city government, county government, state government and federal government.

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

Since Jesus Christ is the living and guiding HEAD of God's Church, the State is suing Jesus Christ. As Christ's chosen apostle, the state government is suing me, and as treasurer of

Our decision-making process

God's Church they are suing Stanley R. Rader.

Screaming page-wide front-page newspaper headlines blared forth that Mr. Rader and I had been alleged to have siphoned off millions of dollars every year for our own accounts and benefit. But no such charge was made in the lawsuit. Instead, the attorney general claimed that the state government actually owned, and should direct, guide and manage all churches in California. An exjudge was appointed, secretly in a Superior Court judge's private chambers as receiver of God's Church.

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

Now nearly all the large

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

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

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

But God had foreseen it all and had moved me to a home in Tucson, Ariz. THE RECEIVER stopped my first letter to ministers and members asking for special funds for defense at the Pasadena post office. But I im-

mediately wrote another letter that was mailed from another post office, directing all tithes and offerings sent to me, here. GOD'S CHURCH NEVER STOPPED OPERATING. THE WORK continued to GROW!

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

And so another level of government started its own independent investigation into the false allegations against Mr. Rader and me, and against general mismanagement of the Church and Work. This government office has been investigating us for some time. A few days ago, at my invitation, two official investigators came to Tucson for a talk with me in my home. They had talked personally with the false accusers. They had checked out records

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Western brethren aid in keeping Czechoslovakian Feast site open

For the third year in a row, Carlsbad (Karlový Vary), Czechoslovakia, will be an official site for the Feast of Tabernacles. In the following question-and-answer session Frank Schnee, director of the German Work, details the opportunity Church members have to keep the Fall Festival at this location.

How did the Church's involvement with the Carlsbad Feast site begin?

A few years ago, one of our Austrian members informed me that the Czechoslovakian government was vigorously encouraging tourist groups and organizations holding conferences to come to their country. They badly need the foreign exchange currency that visitors spend on food, lodging, entertainment and objects like fine lead crystal.

We decided to knock on the door and it opened wide. So in 1978 brethren began keeping the Feast in Carlsbad, in an area of the world that had probably never before encountered God's true Church.

What makes the Carlsbad Feast site unique?

When we keep the Feast at Carlsbad, we have the complete approval of Cedok, the official Czechoslovakian government tourist agency. And that makes the Worldwide Church of God the only group in the world that has official permission to hold a religious festival in a country behind the Iron Curtain.

In fact, both the director and assistant director of Cedok have attended Church services in Carlsbad and a Bible study in Pasadena during a visit to Ambassador College. They also met and visited with Herbert W. Armstrong at Tucson, Ariz. (W/N, Nov. 26, 1979). They were favorably impressed with our people. For our brethren in East Germany, Poland and other Eastern-bloc nations, this is of tremendous importance.

Why are international transfers to Carlsbad important this year?

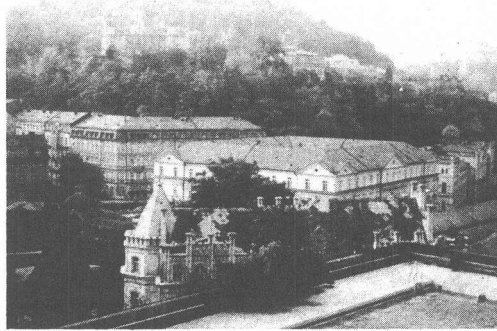
To keep this door in Eastern Europe open, we have agreed with Cedok to have a minimum of 200 brethren keep the Feast at Carlsbad this year. One hundred of these will come from the German-speaking area of Europe. That means another 100 of God's people are needed and can be welcomed from other parts of the world such as the United States, Canada and Australia.

Maintaining a Feast site in Eastern Europe is vital, because our brethren there are not allowed to travel outside the area. The Feast of Tabernacles is the highlight of the year for them, and they appreciate the lifeline that brethren in the West have stretched for them. The abundant physical blessings of the Feast at Carlsbad are actually insignificant in comparison to the spiritual blessings of worshipping God in a communist country with this special group of members.

At Carlsbad those who transfer in from Britain, the United States, Canada and elsewhere pioneer in preaching the Gospel by the light they shine behind the previously impermeable Iron Curtain — and they keep this important door open.

Why is Carlsbad famous?

Carlsbad, which literally means "Charles' Bath," was founded by Emperor Charles IV of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation in the A.D. 1350s. History has



CZECH FEAST SITE — Carlsbad, Czechoslovakia, will be a Feast of Tabernacles site for the third year in a row. The Worldwide Church of God is the only group with official permission to hold a religious festival in an Iron Curtain country.

it that Charles IV discovered a natural hot spring geyser here while on a stag hunt.

The area became world famous as a health spa and was a popular social center for Europe's aristocracy in past centuries. Recorded in Carlsbad's chronicles are visits by such renowned figures as Czar Peter the Great of Russia, Wolfgang von Goethe, Ludwig van Beethoven, Leo Tolstoy, King Edward VII of England and Karl Marx. Today a total of 12 thermal mineral springs are in operation, some of them reserved specifically for drinking, and the baths are now open to the public.

This area is the source of the world's finest kaolin, a clay that Czech craftsmen transform into exquisite porcelain and china products.

Just 17 miles from Carlsbad is the Old Mint, in the silver-mining town of Jachymov. It was here that the silver coin called the Joachimstaler was first struck; the American dollar derived its name from this coin.

About 65 miles away is Prague, the capital of Czechoslovakia and the former seat of the Holy Roman Empire under Charles IV.

The entire region of Western Bohemia, in which Carlsbad is located, abounds with natural beauty. Much of the countryside is forested, and the city is built on rolling hills.

What is it like to keep the Feast at Carlsbad?

Carlsbad is a marvelous Feast site in several ways, and quite a few brethren who transferred there from overseas in 1978 and 1979 plan to return this fall.

Feastgoers are pleasantly surprised at the high-quality meeting hall, lodging, food and service provided by Cedok. In fact, the paneled, chandelier-adorned meeting hall leaves first-time visitors overwhelmed.

Lodging and meals are provided at Carlsbad's famed Moskva Park Hotel, once a bastion of the Austro-Hungarian Empire's upper class. A buffet-style breakfast and one hot meal per day are included in the price. This allows everyone to sample Czechoslovakian or international cuisine "on the town" for one meal each day.

Spiritually speaking, the Feast at Carlsbad is second to none. Via film, Mr. Armstrong will be our guest speaker, just as at other Festival sites. Speaking in English and German on alternate days, other speakers will be bringing top sermons. Using professional-quality infrared wireless headphones, all German sermons will be translated

into English and vice versa.

Popular activities during the Feast include a trip to Prague and a formal dance featuring a Czech band. The local guidebook states: "Persons interested in hunting and fishing find plenty of opportunity for their predilection. The forests abound in stags, deer and grouse, while the romantic valley of the Tepla and its tributaries are a paradise for anglers."

A principal side benefit of attending the Feast at Carlsbad is the warmth and intimacy of fellowship and making new friends with a group of brethren that will not number more than 250. Transfers from other countries in the West will make this site truly international, and the rare opportunity of getting to know brethren who live in the Eastern-bloc nations contrib-

utes to the family atmosphere.

Brethren need to remember that their attendance at Carlsbad provides a much-appreciated service to the members in Eastern Europe and allows all in attendance to enjoy one of the Church's finest Feast sites.

What should brethren do if they wish to transfer to Carlsbad?

Write by airmail immediately to Frank Schnee, Postfach 1129, 5300 Bonn 1, West Germany, or to the International Office, Ambassador College, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91123, U.S.A. Detailed information and applications will be sent by return mail. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. See you in Carlsbad!

FALSE ALLEGATIONS

(Continued from page 1)
— everything. They told me their investigation was now almost finished. We will, I am certain, be totally exonerated of any wrongdoing.

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

I was glad to answer that!

First, Jesus Christ is living HEAD of the Church and Work. He is the WORD of God in Person, and the Bible is the same Word in print. I follow His teachings and ways. I pray constantly for leading and guidance, I follow the biblical teaching and examples. I follow the biblical admonition, "In multitude of counselors there is wisdom." On various problems I counsel with our leading ministers best qualified in the area of the problem for counsel. On all major policies or decisions, I call a board meeting, and we counsel together. When we are all unanimous — because we seek not our own ideas or wills, but God's — a motion is made

and the vote is unanimous. The final decision, it is true, is mine — but in all meetings of such problems or decisions we have all been unanimous. The motion is not put until we are.

Thus we follow the biblical teaching that we all must speak the same thing, avoiding disharmony and division. Some who have been self-willed, controversial, causing division in the Church have been excommunicated. That was true of the malcontent exmembers who brought the false allegations — and the attorney general's office acted on their false allegations without a shred of evidence!

The investigators were fully satisfied.

GOD'S CHURCH FOLLOWS GOD'S WAY!

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

Correction

PASADENA — In the June 2 W/N article headlined "Tornado: story of protection," Michigan Gov. William Milliken was incorrectly identified as Gov. Norton. Our apologies to the governor.

PERSECUTION INTENSIFIED

(Continued from page 1)

Father who called me, and later all of you. Jesus Christ founded and built God's Church. He raised up and built the present Philadelphia era of God's Church. But He used me as the human instrument in so doing.

WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR BELIEF — THE DOCTRINES WE ALL HOLD SO DEARLY? Every doctrine — every point of belief, you received directly or indirectly through me as Christ's apostle!

Jesus Christ built this entire Work. But He caused me to work as hard and as diligently as if I had built it — only, if I had tried to do it WITHOUT Him, as others have tried to build THEIR OWN CHURCHES, it would have fallen flat long ago.

Have I ever sinned? Yes, just as you and every one who ever lived, except Jesus, has sinned. But I have stood before you even as the apostle Paul did, a sinner who DEEPLY REPENTED and WAS FORGIVEN BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST. I learned 53 years ago that we must LIVE the Christian life in a spirit and attitude of repentance. I have done that, and my precious Savior has FORGIVEN and cleansed me of all sin.

Jesus said, "by their FRUITS ye shall know them." I do not need to dignify false witnesses by a denial of their malicious accusations, nor does Mr. Rader. The FRUITS are all the answer I need.

Not only did Christ use me in raising up the present era of God's Church, He used me in building it. And, when others to whom I had delegated responsibilities not only greatly exceeded the authority delegated, but tried to LIBERALIZE God's Church and turn it gradually and subtly into Satan's Church, Christ used me these past 2½ years in TURNING GOD'S CHURCH around and SETTING IT BACK ON THE TRACK. HE WOULD NEVER HAVE SO USED ONE GUILTY OF THE SINS SATAN NOW ACCUSES, USING EVEN FORMER MINISTERS DISFELLOWSHIPED FOR DIVIDING AND LIBERALIZING GOD'S HOLY CHURCH!

Mr. Rader's FRUITS have been GOOD. His service has been mostly in finance and legal areas, but the value of his services to the Church could not be estimated in dollars. And he has been LOYAL.

Henry Cornwall and Sherwin McMichael all are accused by those put out of

the Church for trying on their part to DESTROY it. Their fruits also are all the recommendation they need, and denial of accusations by false witnesses. Mr. Cornwall is now my assistant, in addition to serving as our advertising agent.

Jesus said that if they had persecuted Him they would persecute us also. I counted that cost when I GAVE my life into Christ's service.

Read Matthew 26:59-60: "Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death... At the last came two false witnesses."

Accusing Stephen, "set up false witnesses," to put him to death (Acts 6:13).

Satan is still at it today — still seeking to destroy the Work of the living GOD!

But THANK GOD, His Church turns a deaf ear to false witnesses serving Satan.

I want to write much further on the passage in Revelation 12 in *The Plain Truth* and *The Good News*. Our Work may be more nearly FINISHED than we have realized. But remember he that shall endure UNTO THE END, the same shall be saved (Matthew 24:13).