

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 3, NO. 7

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 13, 1981

FEAST SITES AGAIN AT SQUAW VALLEY AND JEKYLL ISLAND

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Some thousands of our people will be joyously elated to know that this fall we shall be using again, in all probability, both Squaw Valley and Jekyll Island feast sites.

Already I had announced that we are repairing the big tabernacle at Mt. Pocono and will be using it again. About a third of the Mt. Pocono tabernacle was ruined by the heavy snow cave-in three years ago. As repaired it will only seat some 8,000, but the Registration Building is still intact, and we can again accept two-thirds or more of the number who formerly attended there.

Squaw Valley is not 100% sure yet, but the management does want us back, and will make certain necessary repairs. I have OK'd it, and I'm sure we will be able to use it, though perhaps not quite as large a number of members can be accepted there as formerly. It will replace Fresno this year.

In a sense we still have Niagara Falls. It will be used primarily by the Canadian churches, but United States members who especially want to attend at Niagara Falls may be able to transfer there, upon request.

Because of new construction in the area in St. Petersburg, there will be parking space for only about 8,500 there, whereas we have formerly accommodated there up to 12,000. So, this year we are again going back to Jekyll Island where 3,500 can be accommodated. A new auditorium facility has been added there that will accommodate up to 3,500. Thus Jekyll and St. Petersburg will together accommodate the same 12,000 combined that formerly went to St. Petersburg alone.

We shall expect a larger attendance of 8,500 at Tucson, Arizona, whereas we had about 5,000 last fall.

I have asked the Festival Office to reduce the number of feast sites this year, with larger attendance at several. I felt we were going too far on the number of sites, reducing the number of brethren at each site. I could see it leading to a situation where either each local church would almost stay home and have its own feast--or, two or three churches in a close area would combine and virtually stay home for the Feast.

God revealed to me, even before or at the time of conversion, that the seven annual holy days or annual Sabbaths were observed by the New Testament Church and by Christ, and ordained FOREVER! For seven years my wife and I kept them alone by ourselves. When I explained them and their continuous binding by God to the brethren of the Sardis era in the Willamette

Valley of Oregon, they "laughed me to scorn"--(read II Chronicles 30:5-10). But when the fledgling parent of the present era, Worldwide Church of God, was first raised up, after seven years in 1933, they, mostly converted through my preaching, all began keeping the annual Sabbaths with us.

It was twelve years later, 1945, when God showed me the PURPOSE of the Feast of Tabernacles, and that we should leave our homes in this world for eight days and enjoy a foretaste of the thousand-year reign with Christ in WORLD PEACE, with Satan gone, as well as the Great White Throne Judgment for perhaps the next hundred years following. We went that year to the very beautiful little site of Belknap Springs--but 100 attendance over-crowded it. We held the Feast there for seven years. Then, 1952, the one and only site was Siegler Springs northeast of San Francisco. Beginning 1953 it was held at Big Sandy, Texas. In the early 60's, we added Squaw Valley, then Jekyll Island, then Mt. Pocono--and the number of sites has been growing ever since.

But just to remain home at our own local church does not seem to fulfill God's PURPOSE for the Festival. In old times the people left home and travelled to Jerusalem for the Feast.

Following is a list of revised sites being prepared for the 1981 Feast of Tabernacles:

<u>Assigned Sites</u>	<u>Projected Attendance</u>
Big Sandy, Texas	9,000
Cape Cod, Massachusetts	6,000
Dayton, Ohio	8,500
Jekyll Island, Georgia	3,500
Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri	8,000
Mt. Pocono, Pennsylvania	6,000
Norfolk, Virginia	8,500
Rapid City, South Dakota	3,500
Spokane, Washington	6,000
Squaw Valley (or Fresno), California	5,000
St. Petersburg, Florida	8,500
Tucson, Arizona	8,500
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin	5,500

Transfer Sites

Hawaii

Jerusalem

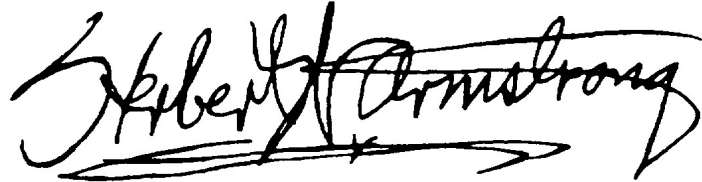
Pasadena

Alaska (operated through the Canadian Office)

Niagara Falls, New York (operated through the Canadian Office)

Other international sites (to be listed later)

It is planned that full information on the festival sites will be included in an April issue of The WORLDWIDE NEWS. All of the housing information and other details will be included in this special issue. The Church pastors should announce to their congregations that no further housing arrangements should be made by Church members until the April issue of The WORLDWIDE NEWS is released. However, this does not affect housing that has already been reserved by members. In the April issue of The WORLDWIDE NEWS we will have all housing establishments and the best rates verified at that time for the benefit of the Church members.



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Reminder About Dress For Sabbath Services

As pastors, we need to be continually mindful of how important it is for members of our congregations to glorify and honor God in the way they dress for Sabbath services. As Mr. Armstrong states in the May 21, 1979 WORLDWIDE NEWS, "It does make a difference to God how you come dressed to Church services."

Several pastors have sked about women wearing pantsuits to Church services, or skirts or dresses with high slits. Others have asked about men wearing sport shirts, or no tie or jacket.

As Mr. Armstrong puts it, "When you come to Church services, you are coming into the very presence of God!" Surely the answer to those questions is obvious. Mr. Armstrong has always taught us that we do not need to go out and buy new clothes. But we should dress up in the best we have, because God will be watching!

Reprinted here is Mr. Armstrong's article from the May 21, 1979 WORLDWIDE NEWS. Please read it to your congregations in teaching and reminding them about this important part of glorifying God on the Sabbath.

HOW YOU DRESS FOR CHURCH--

Could it keep you out of the KINGDOM?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

(Worldwide News, May 21, 1979)

ARE SOME OF our members going to be kept out of the Kingdom of God, because of the way you dress for church services?

THIS IS SERIOUS!

In some of our churches members never think of dressing up, but come in slovenly attire, overalls, blue jeans, tennis shoes, any kind of slouchy sport clothes.

In the state of Israel people do not dress up much. Men wear sport shirts with open collar and no necktie.

In Dec. 1, 1968, we were having a meeting with the president to announce our decision to go ahead in full cooperation with Hebrew University and the Israel Archaeological Society on the large-scale archaeological project at the temple mount adjoining the eastern temple wall.

With Professor Binyamin Mazar, Mr. Stanley Rader and I had first stopped in for a short chat with Dr. Yosef Aviram, who was going with us to the presidential palace. We had left Dr. Aviram's office, when he stopped midway down the corridor, saying: "Wait a minute. We're going into the presence of the president of Israel. I must wear a jacket."

He had started with us with only a sport shirt, unbuttoned at the neck. But, going into the presence of the head of state, he knew he must have on a jacket.

One time several years ago, I preached a sermonette, prior to the main sermon--I believe it was by Mr. Charles Hunting. We were at Big Sandy, Tex. Graduation day was coming up, and I had noted that people came to church services in any old kind of sloppy, unkempt clothes.

I wanted those people to at least be moderately well dressed at the graduation ceremony. I had noticed that brethren were coming to church services very sloppily dressed. I knew they all had better clothes--I did not mean they should purchase new and finer clothes.

Christ Not Indifferent to Dress

Jesus spoke of the Kingdom, when the dead in Christ shall rise first, and we who are then alive shall be caught up to meet the returning GLORIFIED CHRIST in the air. Then, descending to the Mount of Olives, will follow the GREAT WEDDING between Christ and the Church. Jesus' parable spoke of this.

Jesus pictured His Father as a great King calling many people to the wedding with Christ. But many or most of those called made light of it, gave excuses, rejected their calling and salvation. The King then sent His armies to bring in others. "And when the king came in...he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

"And he said unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness" (Matthew 22:11-13).

Of course, in the parable, Jesus was using garments we wear as symbols of righteousness or of unrighteousness. The lack of a wedding garment symbolized unrighteousness. Nevertheless, Jesus would not have used this symbolism if He was indifferent to how we come dressed into HIS PRESENCE! When you come to church services, YOU ARE COMING INTO THE VERY PRESENCE OF GOD!

It Makes a Difference

Brethren, IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO GOD HOW YOU COME DRESSED TO CHURCH SERVICES!

I know God expects me not only to inform you brethren, but so far as possible, to set you an example.

So let me ask you, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ME COME TO A CHURCH SERVICE IMPROPERLY DRESSED? I don't believe you have.

When Dr. Aviram put on a jacket, he was merely following Israeli custom. They are a struggling nation, with a heavy percent of national income going for armed forces. They do not "dress up" for everyday occasions as much as other more prosperous nations.

But notice in I John 1:3 that when we come together in worship service, that "truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."

When we gather together for a church service, WE ARE COMING INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE GREAT MAJESTIC GOD, and to have fellowship also with the living JESUS CHRIST.

THINK OF IT!

For I know you have NOT thought about it! When you come into the very presence of ALMIGHTY GOD and of JESUS CHRIST, YOU MUST COME WITH EVERY DUE RESPECT FOR THEIR SUPREME MAJESTY.

I say to you brethren, I know you have not deliberately come to church services in a slouchy, unkempt appearance--rather, you just never thought about it this way before!

Now that I have REMINDED YOU, you will have NO EXCUSE, and you will be INSULTING, and MAKING LIGHT OF your Almighty Father and your Savior Jesus Christ.

God Does Notice

You do NOT need to go out and buy new clothes. But DRESS UP hereafter in the best you have! God will be watching you! Notice it in Psalm 33:13-15:

"The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation, he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth...he considereth all their works."

Actually--literally--God Himself does look upon you and notice how you come dressed in His presence in church services!

For years, I not only wore a freshly pressed suit, but even a white shirt and a befitting (not too "loud" or flashy or too somber, but of proper character) necktie. In the early years of this Church, when I had only one pair of shoes (with holey soles) and one suit of clothes, I shined my shoes and got out my wife's ironing board and pressed my own suit Friday afternoons before going to church services.

I have always tried to HONOR GOD in the matter of personal appearance at church.

If you were in England and were invited to visit the Queen at Buckingham Palace, would you go with dirty shoes and sloppy, unpressed clothes? I hardly think so. Then do you consider that GOD HIMSELF does not deserve even the respect you would show to the Queen of England?

Symbols of Righteousness

WHY did Jesus use the kind of garments we wear to represent righteousness or unrighteousness? He would not have done this unless it IS IMPORTANT to Him how you come dressed to church.

In Zechariah 3:1-7 the high priest Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and Satan standing beside him. Apparently Joshua (a type of one today) was in the grip of Satan, unable to wrest himself free from Satan. He was clothed with filthy garments, typical of SIN, under Satan's grip, unable to loose himself.

Then Christ came and rebuked Satan. Christ freed Joshua from Satan's grip on him. Then Christ gave order to remove the filthy garments on Joshua (picturing freeing him from satanic SIN, due to Satan's grip on him.)

Jesus said he caused Joshua's sin to be forgiven and ordered them to clothe Joshua with clean garments and set a miter on his head, saying to Joshua, "IF thou wilt walk in my ways, and IF thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts" (verse 7).

Angels usually appear in WHITE garments, as a symbol of purity and righteousness.

Yes, IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO GOD how you come dressed in His presence at church services! Surely, "'NUFF SAID!"

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Wayne Chapman Making Good Progress

You will recall that Wayne Chapman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Chapman, has been in a coma since his fall from a scaffold nearly three months ago. We are happy to report that Wayne is able to take nourishment orally now, albeit slowly, and this week he has also said a few words. These positive and very encouraging signs indicate that he is starting to come out of his coma. The Chapman's are deeply grateful for everyone's prayers and request that we continue to pray for Wayne's complete healing.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to experience the Ministerial Refreshing Program. The material and knowledge we received was helpful to be sure. Yet I believe to see and feel

(Continued on page 8)

A Voice Cries Out: Problem of Survival- Will It Work Out?

Will the threat of nuclear war
and human extinction just go away
if we don't think about it?

Appeared in The Wall Street Journal Feb. 9, 1981

WILL the old adage apply now? It said, "In the long run, all will work itself out." Or will it have to be *worked out* by someone?

Why do we seem afraid to think about it—or *do anything about* this unprecedented danger? SALT, if it ever worked, would only limit expansion of nuclear weapons. But *existing* weapons of mass destruction could annihilate mankind from this planet 50 times over. And once would be quite enough!

One H-bomb would wreak as much destruction as all the bombs exploded by both sides in World War II!

Can we feel safe by thinking the threat is so terrifying no one would dare use it? A madman in one of the smaller nuclear nations might start the war that could spread to erase humanity from the earth! And with chemical warfare thrown in!

But two facts are *real*!

One is the *fact*—for the first time since humans inhabited the earth—there do exist such weapons and the realistic possibility.

What brought a fast-advancing civilization to the very brink of such *unbelievable*—yet *real* ultimate catastrophe? Why the paradox? If the threat is too awesome for most to contemplate, so is the advancement and progress in



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20th-century civilization awesome almost beyond belief!

What would a Lincoln, a Vanderbilt or an Emerson think, if he could be brought back to life today? Such a one would stand aghast at the marvels of science and technology, the power of business and industry, the modern Concorde carrying a hundred passengers from London and arriving in New York almost two hours *before they started!* Or astronauts flying to the moon and back unmanned spacecraft sending back photographs from the Martian surface? Yes, AWESOME!

But equally awesome would appear the trouble and evils of our world today—and the *reality* of the Frankenstein monster of nuclear warfare that threatens to destroy the civilization that produced it!

Human capability seems unlimited dealing with the physical and material. But our troubles and evils are spiritual in nature. Before them our best brains seem *helpless!*

I repeat there are the two ways of life—"GIVE" and "GET." "GIVE" is the spiritual way of outflowing love—cooperating, helping, serving, sharing. It's really an invisible spiritual law as inexorable and as relentless as the law of gravity! Its transgression is the motive of "GET"—*self-centeredness, vanity, covetousness, envy, competition, strife, violence!* This world is still traveling the way of "GET" toward its destruction! And time is running out!

Above I stated *two facts are real!* One is the *fact* of the impending CRASH of human annihilation! The *other, also one most don't want to think about*—is the super-powerful *unseen "Strong Hand from Someplace"* that *will* intervene in this world's affairs just before that final crash and save humanity from itself! A new world government will rule all nations. Humans will be *compelled* to be *happy in peace and universal abundance with eternal salvation offered all!* The new WORLD TOMORROW will start *living* the way of "GIVE." And how gloriously it will pay off! Believe it or not, it's as certain as the rising of tomorrow's sun!

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