

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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GREATEST FEAST EVER

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

It has come and gone! How time flies! Reports from around the world tell us this was in reality the greatest Feast of Tabernacles in our time. The entire Church had been made ready for it, because the Church is in process of making herself READY for a far GREATER event--the coming of the KING of kings and LORD of lords to usher in the very event of which we were enjoying merely a foretaste!

Definitely God's Church is by her Head Jesus Christ being set back on God's track. Reports from around the world have one tone--a NEW SPIRIT has been injected from God into His people the earth around. There is a spirit of LOVE--of REJOICING--of UNITY--of TOGETHERNESS--of a common LOYALTY to Jesus Christ, His TRUTH with no watering down, of being truly ONE --AT-ONE-MENT with GOD! It is a HAPPY spirit, a joyous spirit!

The attitude of division, suspicion, taking sides, seems to have vanished. Now we are once again truly O N E Body of Christ in harmony and peace and love!

And of course it was another FIRST! Modern technical facilities did not yet enable us to bring together by microwave and satellite every feast site on earth. BUT for the first time, on the first day and the Last Great Day, all festival sites in the United States, Canada and England were joined together by television cameras and motion picture screens at the various sites--all but Hawaii, where they heard the audio portion only.

A few mechanical difficulties caused a delay on the opening day. But from all reports the Last Great Day transmission was technically OK and all of you were as if you were right with us at the moment here in Tucson. When I spoke, they tell me, by TV camera close up, my face appeared live many times larger on your screen than if I had been physically there. I hope it was all satisfactory, and many reports say it was.

THIS DREW US ALL TOGETHER--AS IF WE WERE ALL IN ONE AND THE SAME BIG AUDITORIUM!

But the main thing is that we all had the attitude, feel, and spirit of BEING TOGETHER--one of UNITY in CHRIST!

Reports from all over say the sermons were somehow inspired by the living Christ to be the BEST EVER! I know they surely were here at Tucson, where upwards of 5,000 were assembled together.

Through the years I have heard some very fine sermons at various festivals, even by some of the younger ministers. But this year EVERY sermon here at the Tucson site, as well as every sermonette, was simply super. For one thing, the messages were kept generally on the theme of the occasion--the coming millennial reign of the Kingdom of God, and/or our preparation for it. There were deeply spiritual and moving sermons on our need to prepare spiritually for it. There were messages on the GOVERNMENT of the Kingdom during the millennium. There were explanatory sermons on the type of civilization--the agricultural nature of society and the happiness it will bring, during the coming thousand years.

Both sermons and sermonettes hewed to the line, as God instructs, and gave us "MEAT IN DUE SEASON." These Festivals were given us to remind us every year of God's great Master Plan working out HIS TREMENDOUS PURPOSE here below. This year all ministers "hewed to the line."

I personally congratulate all the ministers, and I know all the brethren join me in this. You ministers did look to the living Christ for guidance and inspiration, and He answered your prayers!

This morning I happened to tune in for about thirty seconds on Pat Robertson and his 700 Club. He was offering a little leaflet or tract of some kind that would show the reader how to live this new wonderful life in Christ. Too bad all those evangelists do not understand fully what the true life in Christ is.

To them, their brand of "Christianity" is one that exalts Jesus Christ, worships Him, but as PART of this world--assuming this is HIS world. They remain PART OF this world, while talking about, accepting, even worshipping Christ. But Jesus said, "In VAIN do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandments of God, ye hold the traditions of men...Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:7-9).

How thankful we should be that God has revealed to us HIS GOVERNMENT, based on His LAW, which is HIS way of life.

The Church of God is the Body of Christ CALLED OUT FROM the world. We must live in it, but we are not OF it! We look forward for God's WORLD TOMORROW!

What a joyous time we just had looking forward to that wonderful time!

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NEW MAGAZINE TO BE BORN

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

During the midst of the Feast of Tabernacles God put in my mind the need of still another magazine.

Already we publish more magazines and regular publications than any church so far as I know. I have even wondered if we are top-heavy--publishing too many. But I really don't think so--people are reached through the eye more effectively than by any other means.

The PRINTED WORD has done more to build and inspire God's Church than any other means. Radio and TV have been effective--the first approach. But the booklets, Correspondence Course, The PLAIN TRUTH and, in the Church itself The GOOD NEWS, the WORLDWIDE NEWS, and for the ministry the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT--not to mention even full books--have done more to follow up a first temporary, casual interest into a completely changed and dedicated life than radio and TV by far!

But God has now shown me that we have been neglecting a MOST IMPORTANT NUMBER OF OUR PEOPLE--the youths from age 18 and under. We have the Y.O.U. and the Y.E.S. and the S.E.P. summer camp at Orr, Minnesota. But our young people coming along are the FUTURE MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERS IN THE CHURCH AND THE LEADERS IN THE WHOLE WORLD GOVERNMENT OF TOMORROW!

In a sense, doesn't that make them almost the MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE ON EARTH?

So it came to my mind that they need a REAL MAGAZINE of their own. Not even a tabloid "newspaper" type paper--a REAL MAGAZINE! Full color. I have thought, turned over in my mind and prayed over the NAME of the new magazine. I had thought of several, such as the JUNIOR PLAIN TRUTH, and then "YOUTH TODAY." Discussing it with Dexter Faulkner, Managing Editor of our publications, he came up with,

"YOUTH/81."

The following year it would be "YOUTH/82" and so on--a takeoff from "QUEST."

The first issue will come out as the January, 1981 number--Volume 1, Number 1. It will be sent without subscription price to all youths, children of Worldwide Church of God members, ages 13 to 18.

We will have a department for "What Our Readers Say," and if some of our youths will write in right away telling us what they think of the idea of a magazine OF THEIR OWN, the editors will select from among them letters to be published in VOL.1, No.1. And that will become a treasure copy to be kept for years.

I want this magazine to be well illustrated. There's a saying that one picture says more than a thousand words. I would like some of the illustrations to be humorous, some to bring a laugh--yet others to illustrate more serious or thought-provoking articles. There will be articles on sports, and the things all youths are interested in, and also articles looking into the future, such as "WHAT DO TEENS AND YOUTHS HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN A MODERN WORLD?"

There will be news of the Y.O.U. and the Y.E.S. I would like someone to write a good article on "LIFE AT S.E.P. CAMP." There will be updated articles on the PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT SEX. There is perhaps no need more urgent for pre-marriage youths than proper, intelligent and frank knowledge about sex after puberty and before marriage--AND W H Y? You can't get this sorely needed knowledge from other kids--and very few ever get it from parents. Nor any book on sex at bookstores.

There will be articles about youth and parent relationships, about competition in sports, about sports in the World Tomorrow.

Articles on where do youths get their LIFE-STYLE, and where SHOULD THEY? An article on "Did SATAN Get to YOU When You Were Young?"

The above gives you a few ideas of the type of articles and material that will appear in "YOUTH/81."

Another, "Is the BIBLE For Youths--or ONLY For Middle-aged and The Elderly?" I would welcome ideas and suggestions from youths about the kind of articles and subjects they feel should be covered in THEIR new magazine.

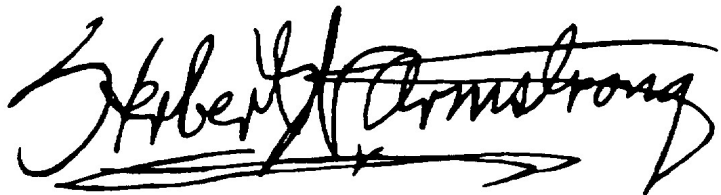
I am personally very enthusiastic about this. I myself will be in my 90th year a year from now--but don't ever get the idea I'm an old man. I still have very YOUNG IDEAS--though both God and the years have added enough wisdom to know which are the BETTER values even for kids and youths. I don't mean better for God or for parents--I mean better for the YOUNG. Yes, and better for us ALL!

Remember, God does not deny us anything that is good for US--He wants our lives to be happier, with more JOY that is good for US! Some people--adults, middle and old-aged as well as the young--are deceived into thinking some things are good that make us painfully sorry afterward.

I will have this story of "YOUTH/81" run in Worldwide News also.

By the way, I would urgently request all youths of Worldwide Church of God parents to send in AT ONCE, their names and addresses, with age (13-18 inclusive). And, if some a year or so younger or older want to subscribe, we will enter the subscription. Be sure to PRINT the name and address in block letters.

Send the subscription to "YOUTH/81," Worldwide Church of God, Box 111, Pasadena, California 91123.



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

News of God's Work in French-speaking Areas

Record-breaking Times God's Work in the French-speaking areas has experienced much growth since Mr. Herbert Armstrong has begun to put the Church back on the right track. We have achieved records in many areas such as the number of renewals received from former PV subscribers (11% response in France, over 15% response in Guadeloupe and Martinique, and about 8% response in Switzerland), in the income (June 1980 income in Geneva up 67.5% over June 1979) and the attendance at services in all French churches including Canada. We are certainly very grateful to God for all these blessings.