



The Worldwide Church of God

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WATERING DOWN— OR BUILDING SOLIDLY UP?

The following article, which appeared in the June 4 Pastor's Report, was written by Herbert W. Armstrong from Tunis, Tunisia, June 3.

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Very shortly after my original marriage in 1917, an angel appeared to my wife in a dream. He descended from the sky, put his arms around both of us, said God was calling me soon to the most important commission. At the time I was embarrassed, suggested she tell it to the preacher at the church on the corner of the block (Chicago, Ill.) and erased it from my mind.

Nine years later, about September, 1927, God did call me in a manner most disturbing. You read many times of the dual challenges — from my wife taking up with religious "fanaticism" — Sabbath keeping — and a sister-in-law challenging me on the doctrine of evolution.

You've heard, or read, of the story of the intensive almost night-and-day study that led to PROOF of the existence of God and the AUTHORITY of the Bible — God sweeping my mind clean of every other doctrine and belief — revealing to me HIS WORD exactly AS IS — no watering down.

I know of no other man who was ever brought to GOD'S TRUTH in that manner.

This led in seven years to the founding of the CHURCH OF GOD at Eugene, Ore., which in due time became the Worldwide Church of God.

The living Jesus Christ founded the one true Church of God, A.D. 31. The same living Jesus Christ started the Philadelphia era of God's Church through me, as His chosen apostle, August, 1933.

January, 1934, He started me on radio, and Feb. 1 *The Plain Truth* made a superhumble bow.

Fellow ministers and wives, the LIVING CHRIST raised up this era of His Church through me. HE heads it — leads it! Through me, directly or indirectly, you came into His Church, and into the knowledge He first revealed to me.

But the most terrible thing that ever happened to me was during the recent years when I was away from Pasadena up to 300 of the 365 days in the year, and my son

assumed a full and complete authority never given to him, and encouraged WATERING DOWN God's TRUTH and God's COMMANDS! For the past year now Jesus Christ, through me, has been SETTING HIS CHURCH BACK ON THE TRACK!

But that job is far from complete! I quote from a letter from a member:

He says: "How come nobody preaches about third tithe anymore? . . . There were things being said by ministers to plant doubts in my mind about it."

Fellow ministers, I say to you by Christ's authority that for one claiming to be a minister of Jesus Christ and receiving a salary as a minister of, and representative of this Church, to water down or make less binding the teachings and doctrines Jesus Christ put in this Church through me, is taking money (salary) under false pretenses. It is SERIOUS and a SERIOUS SIN. God will call everyone who does that to account.

Compare this to a captain in the army. He is in a comparatively low authority, but he is over first and second lieutenants, sergeants, corporals, etc. Suppose an army captain begins to water down or change the military rules. Suppose he tells those under him, "You don't need to obey this or that order — unless you want to." Such a captain would be court-martialed and PUT OUT with DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE!

Yet ministers who ought to

know better have said to those under them, "You don't need to tithe if you don't want to."

I know that the large majority of you ministers are faithful in preaching the doctrines the living Christ has put into His Church through me. Yet under my son's assuming more authority than had been given him, there was a great letdown and dereliction of duty creeping in through a portion of the ministry. In the army, during wartime, for such dereliction of duty they might just rid the guilty officer by a firing squad. HOW MUCH MORE SERIOUS IS WATERING DOWN OF DOCTRINES AND THE FAITH IN GOD'S WORK?

This letter from a lay member continues, "When I was (in Ambassador College) there were things being said by teachers and ministers to plant doubts in my mind."

There has been entirely too much of this "planting doubts" in the minds of Church members. Jesus Christ is CHALLENGING ME TO CHALLENGE YOU on this question, and to say that THERE IS AUTHORITY in God's Church — it is the one and only place on earth where THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD is being administered.

Jesus Christ holds ME accountable for how I administer HIS GOVERNMENT! If a minister plants doubts in the minds of his congregation, remember, "He that doubteth is damned." Jesus said that for one to deliberately lead even one of "these little ones" astray, it would be better if a millstone were hanged about

his neck, and he was drowned in the ocean.

This is a SERIOUS MATTER WITH GOD!

In comparatively recent years a "doctrinal committee" raised itself up at Pasadena. But I soon learned that these "scholars" were not searching for new and additional TRUTHS. They were trying to destroy or water down truths we already had. I have discovered that "committee."

This letter continues: "I don't have to tell you that man's desires are carnal and that Satan's pulls are always in a manner away from the truth. I'd sure like to find some excuse to spend that third-tithe money some other way. And it sure is easy to do that when God's ministers aren't constantly proclaiming God's commands, and aren't powerfully preaching His ways, expounding His laws! Exhorting the brethren!! Exposing their sins!!"

"And what happened to sermons on birthdays being wrong, New Year's celebrations being wrong, Valentine's Day being wrong? We need someone to speak out solidly and loudly and firmly, not saying . . . 'you do whatever you want.' But saying: 'God condemns those who follow their own ways and Satan's ways. He refuses to bless them and He curses them' — and then giving them scriptures.

"I pray often that you will once again stomp and speak thunderingly, and pound your fists until you drive it into people's minds what is right and

what is wrong, and get rid of this wishy-washy preaching of ministers under you! Let's not be so timid . . . We need to shake people up! Respectfully" (SIGNED).

But now back to where I started. I think that most of us tend to lose sight of what God has done in raising up this Philadelphia era of the true Church of God.

In my forthcoming book, *A Voice Cries Out*, I state that, of all the world's many religions and the more than 250 Protestant denominations, NOT ONE, except the original small persecuted Church of God, knows WHO and WHAT God is; NOT ONE KNOWS and WHY man is; NOT ONE KNOWS the true Gospel message God sent to mankind by Jesus Christ, etc., etc.

I ask, in this book, HOW would a Buddhist in Thailand ever come to the TRUTH? He has known nothing since birth but Buddhism. How would a Moslem, living right here where I am writing this — in Tunis, Tunisia — ever come to God's real TRUTH?

How DID those who wrote the Bible — the very WORD OF GOD — come to know God's TRUTH? God had to perform a miracle in the beginning to reveal His TRUTH to Moses by the incident of the burning bush. God had to speak to Moses direct, to give him the knowledge he wrote in the Bible.

How did the apostle Paul come to know God's precious TRUTH distinct from the Judaism he had been born to and raised in?

HOW — in the U.S. or elsewhere in today's world — could YOU have come to know such precious TRUTH, born and raised completely surrounded and engulfed by either Roman Catholic or Protestant-brand "Christianity?"

More to the point, HOW DID YOU come into this precious knowledge?

GOD PERFORMED A MIRACLE — that's how!

As I wrote at the beginning of this *Pastor's Report*, the living Jesus Christ CALLED ME. He used a method such as NONE of you had to go through. He completely UPSET me! He made me see that just about ALL that I had been taught about religion was WRONG. I was WRONG about the immortal soul, about heaven and hell, about the LAW OF GOD, about the real history of GOD'S CHURCH — and of ancient Israel before it. Christmas, New Year's, Easter — all these I had to UNLEARN. It was a SHATTERING EXPERIENCE! My mind was

(See WATERING DOWN, page 16)

Mr. Armstrong visits Tunisia, explains Church's commission

TUNIS, Tunisia — Herbert W. Armstrong, his chief counsel Stanley R. Rader and Tokuo Yamashita, a senior member of the Japanese Diet, were received by Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira in the palace at the Casbah here June 5. The meeting was also attended by the Tunisian minister of planning and the chief of staff of the Cabinet of the prime minister, reports Mr. Rader.

Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Yamashita discussed at length a proposed project of triangular cooperation between the Tunisian government and people, the United States and Japan in the area of nutrition. Mr. Armstrong explained the Church's long interest in improving nutritional values worldwide and mentioned the various agricultural projects and studies for many years under the auspices of Ambassador College in Big Sandy, Tex.

Mr. Armstrong discussed current developments in the agricultural field with Dale Schurter, a minister and former faculty member of Ambassador College in Texas, before his Tunisian trip.

Earlier, before arriving in Tunisia, Mr. Armstrong met with the prime minister of Morocco in Rabat. He and Mr. Rader discussed with the prime minister problems in the field of social welfare.

June 6 Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Yamashita spoke, along with Mr. Rader and the Japanese ambassador to Tunisia, at a dinner honoring Mr. Armstrong and the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF). The Tunisian ministers of culture, planning, justice, social welfare and foreign affairs were present as well as ambassadors from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Italy, Rumania and Morocco.

Mr. Armstrong explained the purposes of the Church and the great commission and announced that world peace would come with the government of God under the laws of God and would be established in the world tomorrow — the Kingdom of God.

In describing the foundation, Mr. Rader stated that the AICF has been blessed with four kinds of resources — spiritual, human, physical and financial.

Mr. Rader said that whenever the resources of the AICF are equal to the needs of a particular country and those needs have been manifested by the proper representatives of the country, a new project for the foundation will begin.

Mr. Rader said the foundation will work closely in the future with the National Institute of Nutrition in Tunis.

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

UPDATE

PASADENA — Sherwin McMichael, director of the Festival Office and the personal appearance campaigns, completed the Seattle, Wash., campaign May 28. Writing in the *Pastor's Report* May 29, Director of Pastoral Administration Roderick Meredith said, "In spite of the obvious difficulties of being on Memorial Day weekend and having to finish on Monday night because of hall bookings, the team felt the campaign was a fine success."

New attendance each night was estimated at 60, 45 and 50 for the three-night campaign out of a total attendance of from 290 to 450. Mr. Meredith wrote, "While the numbers are not large, God is giving us good, solid attendance and growth through these campaigns."

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PASADENA — Seven hundred thousand persons who let their *Plain Truth* subscriptions expire when the magazine went tabloid in 1975 and a subscription price was requested are now being written to see if they would like to be added to the circulation lists again, reports Boyd Leeson, circulation manager for *The Plain Truth*.

"According to the test mailings we should get about 10 percent," Mr. Leeson said, which he pointed out is high for the publication field, "especially when you consider that the addresses we are using are four years old."

Mr. Leeson also announced that the *Plain Truth* introductory issue is now ready. This is a standard issue that will be sent to all new subscribers before they get their first regular issue.

It is designed to speed contact with a new subscriber (an introductory issue can be mailed immediately, without the six- to 10-week delay needed for processing a subscription) and to introduce the subscriber to the scope and purpose of the Work, said Mr. Leeson.

Contents include a "Personal" from Herbert W. Armstrong titled, "Why I Talk With Heads of State About World Evils and World Peace," a history of *The Plain Truth*, and "The Story of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation."

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PASADENA — The international area of the Work continues to report increased mail and income.

In the Philippines, year-to-date income as of April was up 21.7 percent. Also, 65 were baptized. With the addition of churches in Agusan del Norte and Davao City there are now 17 congregations and 18 Bible studies in the Philippines.

Bram de Bree, regional director of the Dutch-speaking Work, which comprises the Netherlands and Flemish Belgium, reports a year-to-date increase in income of 4 percent as of the end of May.

During the same time, *De Echte Waarheid*, The Dutch *Plain Truth*, added 1,550 subscribers, increasing its circulation to 18,425. Public lectures with follow-up Bible studies, two in the Netherlands and three in Belgium, resulted in a monthly Bible study being started in Antwerp.

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PASADENA — Incoming mail was up 21 percent over the first quarter of 1978, and income was up an

average of 33 percent for the six mail receiving offices in the Caribbean, reports the international office. Income in the Bahamas was up 4 percent; Barbados, 8 percent; Bermuda, 68 percent; Guyana, 100 percent; Jamaica, 111 percent; Trinidad, 46 percent; and Puerto Rico, 3 percent.

Plain Truth circulation in English has increased by 611 this year, to make the total Caribbean circulation 27,638 (English), while *La Pura Verdad* [Spanish *Plain Truth*] is being distributed on the newsstands at the rate of 3,500 copies a month in Puerto Rico alone, where 8 percent of those picked up result in new subscribers, according to the international office.

The first public Bible lecture in Spanish was conducted in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, March 25. Thirty-three people attended, and 19 people in other parts of the country were visited for the first time.

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PASADENA — The Free Summer "Pops" Festival, a season of seven free concerts, begins June 24 with "Piano Cavalcade," which features four jazz pianists, Geri Galian, Joanne Grauer, Johnny Guarneri and Howard Reynolds, announced Samuel Lurie, promotion manager.

The concerts, sponsored by Ambassador College in the Ambassador Auditorium, are presented jointly by the Music Performance Trust Funds of the Recording Industries and the American Fraternity of Musicians along with the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation.

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LONDON — Mark Ellis, pastor in Scotland and Northern Ireland, will move to Dublin, Ireland, to replace Sidney Hegvold, who has moved to Pasadena with his wife Mary to join the Ambassador College faculty. Mr. Hegvold will teach science, and Mrs. Hegvold will teach home economics courses.

Mr. Ellis will pastor all three Irish churches, Ballymena, Belfast and Dublin, with the help of Hugh Carton in Northern Ireland and Brian Bedlow in Ireland.

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LONDON — Income figures continue to rise in the United Kingdom reports the Work's office here. Year-to-date increase as of May was 20 percent over 1978. Holy Day offerings increased by 15 and 9 percent, respectively, for the first and last days of Unleavened Bread, while attendance figures were up by 3 percent.

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LONDON — National newspaper ads here featuring Church booklets, which ran through April, drew 6,000 responses by May 22. The booklet *Why Were You Born?* was the most popular, drawing about 2,000 requests according to the Work's office here.

The *Plain Truth* was advertised jointly in some ads. A leaflet offering more booklets and a letter inviting the person to write for a six-month trial subscription of *The Plain Truth* accompanied every literature request.

The program continues through June, using mainly Saturday and Sunday national papers and television magazines.

'PT' displays placed in shows

LONDON — As part of the strategy for getting the Gospel to the United Kingdom, a *Plain Truth* display, complete with an 8½-minute audiovisual presentation, is being placed in 20 Ideal Home Exhibitions and Agricultural Shows throughout England, reports Ernie Winchester, coordinator of the exhibition program.

Mr. Winchester says the purpose of the display "is to explain clearly the aims and content of the magazine and to encourage people to become subscribers."

A full-color brochure advertising *The Plain Truth* invites people to subscribe for a six-month trial period, and the audiovisual presentation, which Mr. Winchester said has undoubtedly "attracted many additional people to the stand," shows about 100 color slides illustrating the contents of the magazine.

Those exposed to the display have been found to respond better than those who receive the brochure for the first time in their homes, reports Mr. Winchester.

With nine of the 20 exhibitions completed (the series will run until October) Mr. Winchester reports

HOTLINE

The following information was provided by official Church sources to answer many of the questions generated by the crisis in the Church.

If a Church member as an American should not vote, why should the Church fight the State in the court and not just let Christ fight it for us?

Voting is a voluntary act of casting a choice for the head of man's government. We do not take part in these elections because Christ is the Head of the Church and His government is not of this world. However, in the case of our court fight, it was cast upon us. If you read the cover page of our suit, it states you must defend this suit or judgment will be made against you. Not defending would be an admission of guilt, and we are not guilty.

Christ is directing this Church through Herbert Armstrong. Being a Christian sometimes requires affirmative action. To say that we should not do anything while Christ fights our battle seems incongruous with God's view of human beings as His instruments throughout history. Why don't we let Christ prepare the way for His own second coming if we want Him to do everything for us? Certainly it is only through Christ that we do what we do and continually pray for His guidance.

Where can I write Mr. Armstrong where he will receive it? Also, will my privacy be protected?

You can send letters to Herbert W. Armstrong, Executive Office, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91105. Letters to the Tucson address or Box 111 in Pasadena will be received by the Personal Correspondence Department.

Mr. Armstrong has never shown an unwillingness to read any letter sent to him. He does, in fact, enjoy hearing from members. The only letters he shows no willingness to read are anonymous letters. Certainly he cannot read every letter but is willing to read those stating problems or requesting specific action. If you request privacy, it will be respected. If your letter accuses someone, that person will be innocent until proven guilty. If after ascertaining all the facts the charge is verified, corrective action will be taken.



BRITISH EXHIBIT — Color displays of *The Plain Truth* magazine line the walls of an audiovisual display cabinet in the United Kingdom and show the content and history of "The Unique Magazine of Understanding."

more than 15,000 brochures taken — 4,000 from one exhibition alone, the Festival for Mind, Body and Spirit in London. "We expect just under a 10 percent response," said Mr. Winchester.

Also at the London site, 15,000 booklets were given away. Mr. Winchester reports the most popular were *Is This the End Time?*, *Why Were You Born?*, *The Modern Romans* and *The Dilemma of Drugs*.

Why are we concerned with defending the constitutional rights of all other churches?

It is a side benefit from our legal battle. What happens to us will set the precedence for what the government will be allowed to do (or not to do) in the future. God has put us in this position for His purpose, and we must do all we can to continue doing the Work that Satan would like to see dissolved.

Several months ago, Mr. Armstrong asked that any Church

members who felt there was a problem in their area, please write Mr. Armstrong a personal letter concerning the problem. Is he still interested in hearing from the members concerning this?

Yes, Mr. Armstrong would still like to hear from the membership, and letters may be addressed to him personally or anyone else in the office in care of 300 West Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91105. Any letters sent to this address will be handled with the strictest confidence.

'WN' AFFECTED BY NEWSPRINT SHORTAGE

Because of a shortage of newsprint caused by a paper mill strike over the last few months, *The Worldwide News* is having difficulty obtaining enough paper to maintain a regular printing schedule. If the situation worsens, we may be forced to print on paper of a different size or color or print intermittently. Please bear with us, and thank you for your patience.

WATERING DOWN

(Continued from page 1)
SWEEP CLEAN of false beliefs. My mind was open to God's TRUTH.

YOU, dear ministers and wives, did not have to go through what God put me through. I learned TRUTH a doctrine at a time. Through me it was handed to all of you "on a platter" — all together.

Now if you don't understand and believe that, I wonder what you are doing in Christ's ministry.

The living CHRIST put His TRUTH into God's Church through me.

You have of your own will been drawn into this Church by the living Christ — to HELP me in proclaiming this GOOD NEWS to the world. IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK IN THE WORLD — ESPECIALLY AT THIS CRISIS TIME JUST BEFORE THE COMING OF CHRIST TO SET UP THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

It is far more important than being a captain in the army in time of war! If you did not agree with the military regulations and

orders and openly proclaimed your dissidence to those under you, you would be court-martialed and probably shot! Yet disagreement and contrary teaching of those under you in God's CHURCH is, in God's eyes, FAR MORE SERIOUS!

Now I am not, of course, going to order any firing squads. But the LEAST you can do, if you cannot wholeheartedly accept and loyally teach the truths Jesus Christ put into His Church through His chosen apostle, is to resign and LEAVE THE CHURCH!

God commands in His Word that we all "SPEAK THE SAME THING." That "same thing" He put into His Church through His apostle. If you can't agree on any point, you may bring your disagreement privately to your superior or directly to me — but to teach disagreement to the children of God is the height of disloyalty!

For a year now, God has been SETTING HIS CHURCH BACK ON HIS TRACK! That action continues!