

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

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MR.

ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF CALIFORNIA:

The battle lines are drawn! Your office launched a State vs. Church lawsuit--to test the strength, power, and the very existence of the Constitution of the United States.

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

THIS, MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL, is a battle you can't win! Realize it or not, you have chosen to do battle against the living GOD! You have engaged in an unconstitutional fight to take over, own, and operate (or destroy) God's Holy Church--to run it by the will of politicians instead of the will of GOD! God's Church belongs to GOD--and when you attack it you attack Almighty GOD!

The giant Goliath once challenged the people of GOD. The soon-to-be King David, then only a lad, said, "Who is this Philistine that he should defy the living GOD?" The giant lost that battle--and his life!

Our forefathers came to America to escape religious persecution from human government. They established a Constitution whose first amendment guarantees the religious liberty they fought, bled and died to secure for us!

That Constitution shall stand inviolate! But even if we, as they, had to flee to other countries for a base from which to spread God's TRUTH, we would remove beyond your jurisdiction! There is NO WAY you can stop us!

This nation is becoming aware that your massive civil lawsuit actually is the first REAL TEST of the freedom of CHURCH against political encroachments of STATE! It is a battle to decide whether politicians of the STATE can take over, own, and operate all CHURCHES according to political will instead of the WILL OF GOD!

It is a political onslaught to determine once for all that the CHURCH of the living GOD may be governed by HIM according as He directs through His chosen Apostle, as revealed in His Word, the Holy Bible!

The GOVERNMENT OF GOD once existed over the earth--a fact unknown in the world today. It exists today in only one place in the world--in GOD'S CHURCH!

The first created man, Adam, rejected that Government OF and BY God FOR the people. Our first forefather chose government OF and BY the people. Unfortunately self-motivated political rule has developed--sometimes evil.

The GOVERNMENT OF GOD is government from the top down--from God, through Christ as living HEAD of His Church, and on the human level the Apostle of Christ's choosing, then in administrative office: evangelists, pastors, preaching elders and teachers (Eph. 4:11-12, I Cor. 12:28). No prophets ever served in administrative capacity in the New Testament Church.

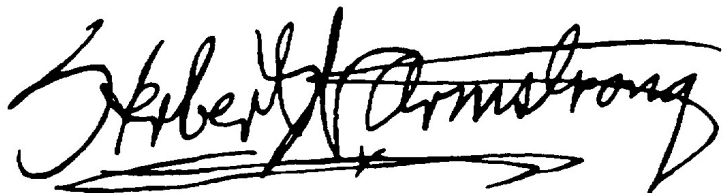
And as His chosen Apostle, I say to you by the authority of Jesus Christ, the POLITICAL STATE cannot and shall not take over, govern or administer the affairs of the Worldwide Church of God. By that authority, far transcending yours, Mr. Attorney General, this Church shall continue to operate, not by the will of politicians, but by the will of the Eternal GOD as revealed in His Word!

Your jurisdiction extends only to the boundary lines of the State of California. The jurisdiction of GOD'S GOVERNMENT is limited to the voluntary assent of its baptized members worldwide.

Within the jurisdiction of human political government in all matters aside from an attack to take over, own, and operate God's Church, according to political will, our members are willingly subject to whatever government of man has jurisdiction over us. We are respectable, God-fearing, law-abiding citizens in whatever country we live. We practice the law of outflowing love toward neighbor equal to self-concern. But our God is a jealous God (Ex. 20:5) who will not tolerate another usurping His rule! And in this case He will fight for US!

Mr. Attorney General, we are not in politics nor shall we be. But when your office assumed it was launching this supreme TEST CASE to test the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, you grossly underestimated God's Church! If your office assumed you were attacking a very small, weak, though a sufficiently established Church, to serve as the first domino of a domino theory--that we would simply lie over and "cave in," you must have known very little of us.

Those with us are far more powerful than any power seeking to destroy us! The Church of GOD is imbued with a STRENGTH greatly underestimated! God will give us the VICTORY!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Herbert Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mr. Attorney General of California:

Am I in it for the money?

A Frank Open Statement of My Financial Condition

HERE IS A STORY such as you have never read. The State of California, through your office, launched a massive armed attack against the Worldwide Church of God, its corporate entities, myself and Mr. Stanley R. Rader.

Eight-column newspaper headlines, TV and radio newscasts blared across the nation the false allegation that I, with Mr. Stanley R. Rader, had been siphoning off millions of dollars every year from church funds for our private accounts.

Now, after more than a year and a half, no evidence of any wrongdoing has been found, yet you have not cleared our good names!

It's time the people know the TRUTH! Have I been in the work of the living GOD these 53 years for what I could GET out of it? If any have started a religious work for private profit they have learned their lesson the hard way!

It's time the public knows the true facts! Why, and for what purpose, did I leave the world of mammon for the world of hardship and persecution? What have I "GOTTEN" out of it? How much do I have now? How much does Stanley Rader have now? I now lay my life bare before the public.

I had been outstandingly successful as a young man in advertising. In my own office in Chicago's downtown Loop I was making, before age 30, on the 1980-dollar value, more than \$175,000 per year.

Then, at age 34, the living God opened my eyes in astonishment to His TRUTH! I questioned the existence of God—but now it was *proved* to me. I found *proof* in the inspiration and authority of the Holy Bible as the Word of GOD to man. I was shocked beyond words to see proved that the orthodox religious teaching of my childhood and youth was the very antithesis of God's TRUTH revealed in His Word!

In this authoritative revelation I came to see that, stripped of academic and theological terminology, there exist just two ways of life! One, reduced to simplest terms, is the way of "GET"—the way of self-centeredness, the way of "I'm in it for what I can GET"—of vanity, covetousness, envy, jealousy, competition, strife, violence and rebellion.

The other—GOD'S way of life—is "GIVE"—outflowing love and concern for the good and welfare of others—the way of LOVE to GOD and love to neighbor equal to self-concern.

Every evil in this world has been caused by the "GET" way of life—in violation of the Law of GOD!

God put it in my heart to want to GIVE this amazing basic TRUTH to as many as I could reach. In my conversion, spring of 1927, I did not just "GET"—that is, "receive." Jesus Christ He led me to do far more—to "GIVE" this sinful self to Him, who had bought and paid for it with His shed life's blood!—that in His power I might "GIVE" His precious TRUTH and understanding—that I might SHARE His truth and salvation with as many as He made possible!

I gave up the business life and its material rewards. I studied diligently His Word, as He the great GIVER gave me to understand! Several



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

years later, January, 1934, I began, on FAITH, giving His precious truth over radio. I had to start in literal poverty—from nothing of this world's goods—but rich in FAITH! I had but one pair of shoes. They were "righteous"—with "holey soles." I had a suit for every day in the week—the threadbare one I was wearing was it! I had no car. I owned no home, but paid \$7 per month rent.

I preached Jesus Christ and Him crucified—and I proclaimed Him as God's divine Messenger who brought the precious Gospel Message from God to man! I preached the most difficult teaching and doctrine in all the world's Christianity to accept! And I started with a definite policy that continues to this day—I would not solicit the public for money—and I would never charge for the TRUTH nor proselyte—seek to GET members from other churches. I could never be "competitive!"

Would anyone start out with the most hard-to-accept teachings of God to make money? Does that make sense? It was a doctrinal truth that for 53 years has brought opposition, persecution, false accusation! It's no way to make money, let me tell you!

I devoted my life to "GIVING." My family went hungry—and I do mean literally HUNGRY! That was only part of the price willingly paid for the privilege of GIVING God's truth and way of love in a world adjusted to GETTING! But you see I had learned something of the TRUE VALUES!—the spiritual rewards far exceeded the monetary and material!

The living Christ blessed this Work in marvelous ways. Faith was rewarded. Prayers were answered! This Work of the living God was prospered. It seemed slow. Yet by every yardstick of measurement, it GREW at the rate of 30 percent per year for 35 years!

In 1947, the living God founded through me my first college. It had to be founded on sheer FAITH with no financial income whatsoever that was not already obligated for radio time and other operating expenses. By FAITH it survived!

I incorporated the Church and college in a manner to prevent myself from financial gain other than proper remuneration for services performed. I employed first an attorney who had been 12 years an attorney in the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C. For my own salary I appointed a committee of three—this attorney from the IRS, and two Church members not related to me, to set my personal

compensation. The Work of God grew at a rate probably unmatched. In due time God allowed me to be responsible to Him for handling millions of dollars annually of His money!

About a quarter of a century ago I came into contact with Mr. Stanley R. Rader, a very brilliant young certified public accountant. I employed him to establish at our Pasadena, Calif., headquarters a puncture-proof accounting system—to guarantee honesty in handling God's money.

Mr. Rader then graduated from the USC Law School with the highest grades on record. The Yale Law School awarded him a Sterling Fellowship, and all doors in the legal profession were opened to him. He is a member of the California Bar. But he was working more and more with us in a professional capacity and he preferred to stay with the Church of God.

Some years ago we asked Mr. Rader if he would commit his full energies to us. He had an established well-paying law practice and CPA business. Neither Mr. Rader nor members of his family were then members of the Worldwide Church of God. It is understandable that he did not want to lower the living standard of his family. We agreed to pay him at a rate equal to his income at the time. It was the highest "salary"—well above my own. I am reminded of a large milling company in Minneapolis that used to have for the advertising slogan for its flour—"Cost's More—worth it!" A Rolls Royce car costs more—but remains like new 30 or 40 years—cheaper in the long run. God says "the laborer is worthy of his hire."

Mr. Rader's type of specialized talent, ability, training and expertise, may be worth a little more, but God's Work has needed it! Today, Mr. Rader and one of his daughters are baptized members—and the whole family is firmly loyal to God's Church at heart.

Now, TODAY, after all these years, WHAT DO I HAVE — WHAT DOES MR. RADER HAVE?

The IRS recently has gone over with ■ fine-tooth comb examining both our personal financial accounts—and approved them.

All I have in the world today is my home in Tucson, Ariz., bought 3½ years ago with a small down payment and a 20-year loan secured by mortgage; the use of a 3-year-old car and a checking account in the bank. My wife owns a car, some clothes and some jewelry that I bought with personal funds, after taxes and tithes and Church offerings. I own the clothes on my back—THAT IS ALL!

Mr. Rader has a bank account about double mine, his home in Pasadena, and is buying an interest in a small horse ranch in Tucson. His wife has some money in her own name, inherited from her family—not from the Church.

Jesus Christ suffered persecution—was finally put to death on testimony of false witnesses. He said that if they persecuted Him, they would persecute those who follow Him TEACHING His ways!

For 53 years now I have lived a life devoted to the principle of "GIVE"—but those who "GET" do still accuse falsely and persecute those who GIVE! When the whole world turns to the GIVE way of life there will be PEACE on this war-weary earth!

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

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If readers wish to know more about the true GOSPEL MESSAGE proclaimed by Jesus Christ, request, FREE, the eye-opening booklet, *Just What Do You Mean—KINGDOM OF GOD?* Also you may receive FREE—no subscription price—*The Plain Truth*, a monthly magazine of UNDERSTANDING in full color. It has a worldwide circulation, in five languages, in excess of two million copies per month. There's no follow up nor request for money.

Write the Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, Calif., 91123, or call toll-free, (800) 423-4444. In California call collect (213) 577-5225.

If you have some questions for the attorney general of the state of California, write to him, The Hon. George Deukmejian, California Attorney General, 555 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, Calif., 95814.