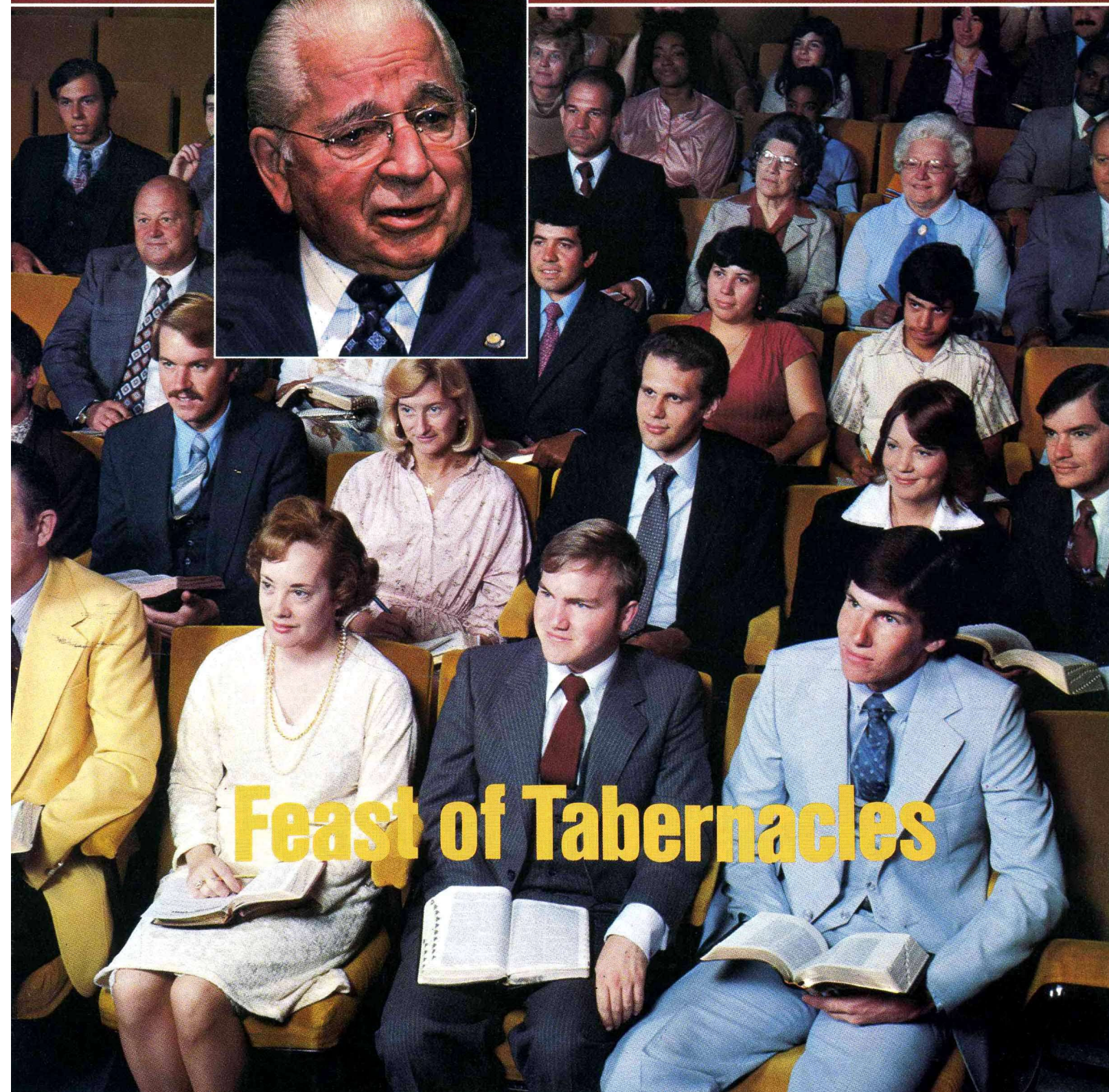
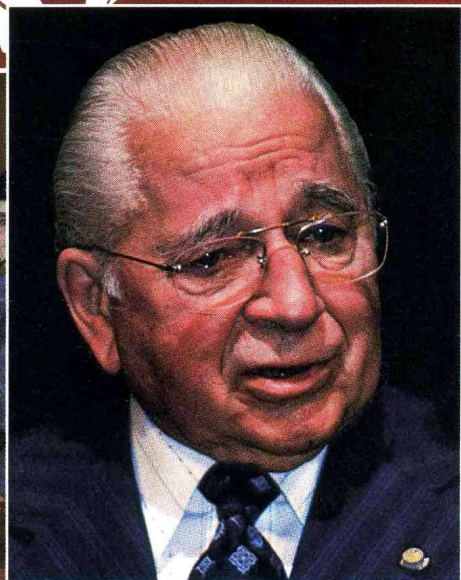


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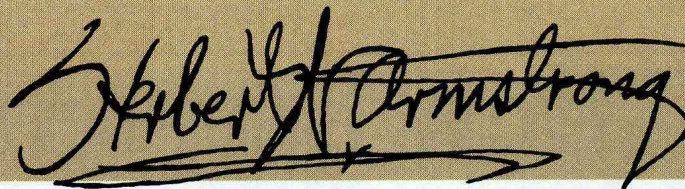
1980
SPECIAL EDITION

AUGUST 1980



Feast of Tabernacles

Personal from



HOW WE SHOULD thank God for all His blessings to us! Even the things we humans think we suffer under the most, such as unjust PERSECUTION for serving God, turn into BLESSINGS, and are a part of the stuff that builds righteous character within us.

This morning I wrote a big full-page newspaper advertisement about FALSE WITNESSES.

Deputized Roman government agents used the allegations of false witnesses to put Jesus to death. Deputized agents of the California attorney general's office used the untrue allegations of FALSE WITNESSES — revenge-lusting expelled former members — to bring the massive civil lawsuit against GOD'S CHURCH.

Satan is the "ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN." And Satan is still actively accusing — FALSELY accusing — through former brethren and even former trusted ministers turned to bitterness and hate, seeking REVENGE!

They would wish me DEAD! I am reminded of the reply of Golda Meir, late prime minister of Israel, when asked why she did not just surrender to the Arabs. "Because," she replied, "they want us DEAD — and we have decided to go on living."

I myself did die, in August, 1977 — but only for a minute or so — I was brought back by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. I have just received a letter suggesting that this Church of God might not even still be in existence had not God restored my life — to put His Church back on the track — cleaned up — coming to be READY for Christ's coming for His BRIDE. That letter will be reproduced below.

Did you read my article in the June-July *Good News* on what is a

Christian? God's PURPOSE in each of us is the building of holy, righteous CHARACTER. There may be an instant when we first receive God's Holy Spirit, after repentance, faith and baptism. But we receive the Holy Spirit by DEGREE — perhaps only a small portion of God's Spirit and His nature at that begettal instant. Jesus alone of all humans had God's Holy Spirit in all its FULLNESS — COMPLETELY. We receive it by degrees.

At first we are only newly begotten babes in Christ. We have not then yet learned how to walk spiritually, to think spiritually or to live perfectly. Like the apostle Paul said, with his mind and heart he *wanted* to live perfectly according to God's spiritual law. But he found himself actually doing otherwise.

If the newly begotten Christian stumbles spiritually and falls down at times, he must confess his sin (to God, not to people), repent of it, turn from it, and the blood of Christ will cleanse him of all sin.

We are ALL sinners. Some of us are sinners being saved by grace. Supposing one such sinner, unrepentant and disfellowshipped from God's Church, in his angry resentment seeking REVENGE, accuses the minister of God who had to put him out, probably manufacturing in his own rebellious and depraved mind unthinkable evil things, which only a depraved and satanic mind could conjure up, and he feels he will obtain a fiendish enjoyment of so falsely accusing the minister whom GOD IS USING!

Will some BELIEVE his wild, perverted ACCUSATIONS? Well, some still today believe the false witnesses whose evil testimony resulted in the death of your Savior and mine.

However, Jesus said it is not for us to judge or condemn — especially on the evil allegations of revenge-seeking castaways. Jesus said we shall KNOW — not judge or condemn, but KNOW — by their fruits. Jesus Christ

is NOT using or bearing good spiritual fruit through these accusers.

You and I — all of us within God's Church — are sinners now being saved by grace, being cleansed by Christ's precious blood, not accusing or judging, but IN LOVE and in living FAITH, pressing on together, that the living Christ may infuse within us, more and more, His Holy Spirit and that holy, righteous and perfect CHARACTER of Christ Himself!

Daily I pray for all of YOU. I know that many and even most of you do pray daily for me. We all NEED IT! I pray daily also for my persecutors, and ask you to do the same.

The great commission may be already virtually completed. There are many signs of the times and indications that we have reached the time when God will, as in Romans 9:28, "finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth."

If I say to some, I think perhaps we have about completed the Work of the great commission, and our Work may therefore come very quickly to an end, they say: "Oh, don't say that! We have much more work yet to do." But did not Jesus tell us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come," and should we, then, pray, "Oh, don't let your Kingdom come quickly now — but let us go on, and this sick decaying world go on and on longer"?

We may be now near, at or past the event of Revelation 12:7. More of that later.

I would like now to reproduce for you one or more letters I received just today.

June 1, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Thank you for allowing God to rule your life! Why do I say this? I mention this because it is through your direction that *The Plain Truth* magazine and *The Good News* magazine

(Continued on page 34)

How Ex-member Dissidents Fill Their Minds— How About YOU?

By Herbert W. Armstrong

ONE EMBITTERED expelled former member, whose principal purpose in life now seems to be to “expose the evils” of the Worldwide Church of God, has said, so I am told, that ex-member malcontents fill their minds continually with nothing but conjuring up in their minds what they seem to enjoy thinking is **WRONG** with the Church of the living **GOD**.

Their whole thought — their conversation — dwells on nothing, it seems, but what they like to suppose is wrong and evil about God’s one true Church.

They twist and distort facts into that which is *not* true. They enjoy conjuring up in their embittered and often perverted imaginations monstrous, impossible, filthy lies about the Church or its leaders, and enjoy spreading false rumors.

Significant? Those of us in the Church fill our minds on, more than anything else, the **WORK** of God’s Church, the wonderful **TRUTHS** of God’s precious Word. But, it seems, those who once had their minds on these **POSITIVE** things of **GOD** — of His **WORK**, and of His **CHURCH** — still keep their minds **ON GOD’S** Church, but now in a negative, embittered, resentful, hating and satanic trend.

It fills their minds not only, but their hearts.

This is a **WARNING** to **YOU!** Don’t let *your* mind and heart be filled with such vengeful bitterness!

Are they now, as Jude says: “filthy dreamers [who] defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities . . . [who] speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. **WOE** unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. These are spots in your feasts of charity [love] . . . feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever . . . These are murderers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words . . . mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit” (Jude 8-19).

“But,” this passage continues, “ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life” (verses 20-21).

This is definitely a prophecy respecting God’s Church in these last days. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he (Prov. 23:7). So, **THINK NO EVIL!** “If ye then be risen with Christ . . . Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is

hid with Christ in God” (Col. 3:1-3).

We, brethren, **ARE** the **BODY OF CHRIST**, the **CHURCH** of the living **GOD**, now in the short time remaining, letting Christ prepare us as His Bride to whom He soon will come. We must be found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. Never mind the **PAST**. If confessed to **GOD**, and repented of and turned from, the precious blood of Christ has **COVERED** all our sins. Let **HIM** prepare us for His soon **COMING!**

PRAY for our former members, who have gone out or been put out according to Romans 16:17-18, and II Thessalonians 3:3, 6, 14-15. Pray that God will reveal to them that God is blessing His Church with **PEACE**, and that in spite of Satan’s persecution, the Church is **GROWING**, is **BACK ON THE TRACK**, that we are knit together with God and with Christ. When our ways please Christ He **BLESSES US AND HIS WORK!**

Those who have gone out are **NOT** so blessed. Pray that they may see it, and **REPENT**, that they may be received back with **REJOICING!**

Some eight or 10 little splinter groups have gone out from us. **NOT ONE HAS PROSPERED!** Some have even been fighting one another! They have caused many to drop out, not only from God’s true Church, but from their little groups, and departed entirely from **CHRIST!** That is the **FRUIT** they have borne! Some have been lost **FOREVER!**

Also pray fervently for **ONE ANOTHER**. Pray for me, as I pray for you **DAILY** — that we may allow God to preserve us faithful, enduring unto the **END** — **NOW NEAR!** □

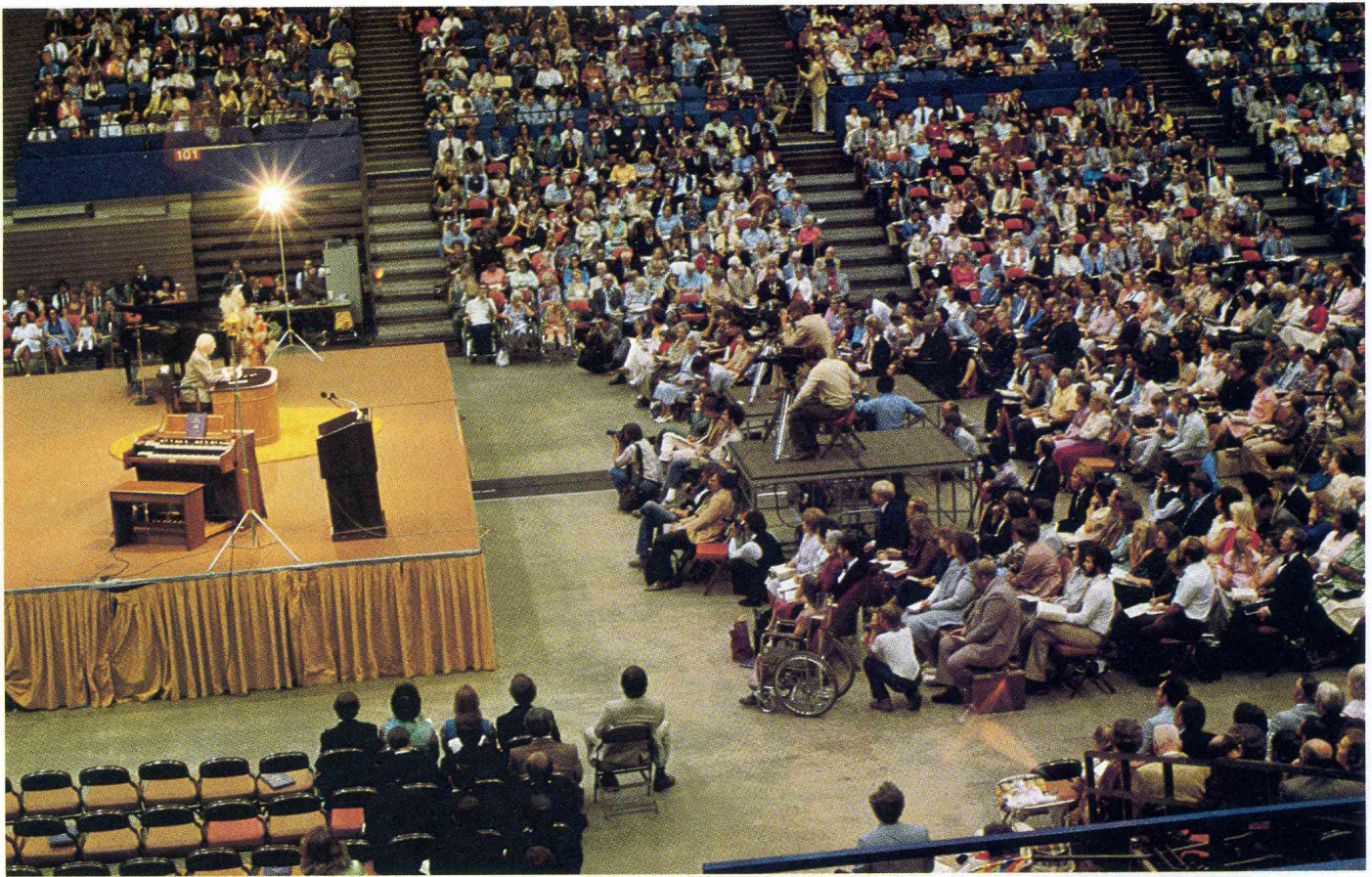


Photo by Michael Snyder

The History of the Beginning and Growth of the Worldwide Church of God

By Herbert W. Armstrong

UP TO THIS point I have covered events preparatory to the actual beginning of this "Philadelphia era" of God's Church, The WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD.

The time was August, 1933.

Elmer E. Fisher of Eugene, Ore., was brought into the Church through a Bible study I had with him and his wife one stormy evening during the tent campaign held in Eugene. He was chairman of the school board of the Firbutte

school, a one-room 36-seat school eight miles west of Eugene.

Sven "Sam" A. Oberg and A.J. Ray started a campaign at the same time in the 150-seat church in Harrisburg, Ore.

All connected with the start of the present Church era began from

smallest beginnings, in the midst of the worst economic depression of our time. During this campaign I stayed at the Fisher home, my family remaining in Salem, Ore.

I found a rock atop a hill close by the Fisher farm, which made a prayer rock before which I knelt in prayer every day of the meetings. Average attendance for the six weeks was about 40.

I first typed out on a borrowed typewriter an outline of subjects to be covered in the meetings, with many carbon copies. These I carried in person afoot over the sparsely settled area. The roads were graveled. I walked over these rough graveled roads with shoes that had "holy soles." Part of the time Elmer Fisher let me take his Chevy car.

We had in attendance the Fishers, the elder Mr. and Mrs. Alva Ellis, their son Claude and wife, who had been members of Sardis in Southern California.

About a week before the conclusion of the meetings, I found Ernest Fisher, brother of Elmer, ready for baptism, and I baptized him.

Meanwhile Sam Oberg was having a smaller attendance in his 150-seat Harrisburg church than I in my 36-seat schoolhouse. This intensified jealousy. Mr. Oberg was producing no "fruit" whatsoever. Messrs. Oberg and Ray induced Mike Helms to call a "business meeting" at the Harrisburg church on the Sunday prior to the last week of the campaigns. It was an "inquisition." Through the morning and part of the afternoon, each of them orated about an hour and a half against me, accusing me of improperly baptizing Ernest Fisher. I spoke 15 minutes in my defense, reading from Matthew 28:19-20 that he who taught was to baptize those taught, after which by laying on of hands they would receive the Holy Spirit, *then* teaching them the way of the Christian life.

At that point, as I finished, Elmer Fisher drove up to take me back to the Firbutte school for the Sunday night service.

I asked Messrs. Oberg and Ray if they would take no action until I could be present at another meeting. They promised.

Half or more of the brethren went with me outside to see me off. While

they were out, Oberg and Ray pulled a double cross, breaking their promise before all, and steamrolled through the few left inside a resolution condemning me for baptizing according to Jesus' specific command.

On hearing this I immediately wrote to Mike Helms, then president, rejecting any further receiving of the \$3 per week "salary," saying that henceforth I would rely on God for support, not the brethren.

Anyway, the meetings closed at the end of that week, and afterward I organized the 19 we had, including the Fishers and Ellises, into the parent church of the present Worldwide Church of God.

This was the "Philadelphia" succession of the CHURCH OF GOD founded the day of Pentecost, A.D. 31, by Jesus Christ. It was founded entirely through living FAITH in Jesus Christ. It was founded in poverty in the midst of the worst economic depression within the memory of man. And it was founded amid political persecution from the ministers Sven Oberg and A.J. Ray. It was founded after I had severed my connection with the Oregon Conference. And I had never been a member of the "Sardis" succession of God's Church, nor of the Dugger offshoot started 1932 in Salem, W.Va.

However, my friendship and brotherhood with the Oregon Conference brethren continued. Often many of them began driving down to Eugene to attend services with the fledgling new "Philadelphia" succession of God's Church. Always the brethren of all "Sardis" people had been more than friendly to me — they really did love me and my wife. It was their jealous ministers, who were fruitless in the work, who persecuted me.

The new Church resulting from the Firbutte school meetings began meeting three times a week, including Sabbath afternoons, at the Jeans schoolhouse, some four miles on west of the Firbutte school.

Meetings were held by the new church Sabbath, Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Soon I began holding meetings in the old Masonic Temple building in downtown Eugene. These meetings were held on Sunday, Monday and Thursday nights, beside the three

meetings weekly held by the new church at Jeans school.

There was a new Masonic Temple in Eugene. The old Masonic Temple auditorium was on the second floor, with store rooms (retail) below.

Also, for \$10-a-month rent, I was given a small room on the second floor adjoining the hall as an office. That was the first office of the newly raised up Church of God.

These three-times-a-week meetings in Eugene continued into the winter, but I learned that meetings three times a week will not draw an audience like meetings six nights a week. Nevertheless, we had a good attendance of some 50 or 60 per service.

Oregon Conference brethren go with Dugger

Soon the brethren who had operated as the Oregon Conference decided to join up with the Andrew N. Dugger offshoot headquartered at Salem, W.Va.

The Dugger church was claiming to have a "Bible organization." They claimed 12 apostles, which included most of their ministers, 70 leading elders, of which they had only a few, and a financial board of seven.

This was a clever deception, used by Mr. Dugger to deceive the membership into thinking that he, only, had "the Bible form of organization." He claimed the 12 original apostles were instituted as a permanent board to head the Church. They were not. They were 12 who had accompanied Jesus wherever He went during His 3½-year earthly ministry, and the 40 days after His resurrection, to be personal WITNESSES of the divinity and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Actually, the opposition the Church met during its first five or 10 years was Jewish opposition, which rejected Jesus as the promised Messiah. The early preaching of the apostles was primarily eye-witness testimony of the miraculous ministry, death and resurrection of Christ. There is no indication whatever in the Bible that Jesus intended them to be a permanent board of 12 apostles — and in historic fact, they simply were not.

At one time in His ministry Jesus had appointed 70 followers to go on a special mission as advance men preparing the way in cities where Jesus

(Continued on page 35)

Fellowship

(Continued from page 17)

given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over" (Luke 6:38).

How you can serve

With thousands of people observing God's Festival worldwide, there will be many opportunities at every Feast site to serve the brethren. Here are a few suggestions to consider:

- Remember the widow and orphan. God commands that those who have an abundance should be generous and share their blessings with the less fortunate (Deut. 14:29). Take widows or others who may be on a meager budget out to dinner. Buy flowers for somebody who may be lonely or neglected. Buy gifts for children of needy families (check with parents first for what is appropriate). Treat a needy family to an outing — perhaps a park or amusement center. Do something special to brighten the Feast for those who are handicapped. Make new friends by inviting others over for fellowship and snacks.

- Provide transportation. If you have a car and the room, check to see if anyone needs transportation to the Feast. Once there, you could offer rides to and from services.

- Date widely and emphasize fellowship. Visit new people of many age groups. Involving yourself in family activities at the Feast will broaden your outlook on life. Always maintain proper conduct during a date.

- Be service minded and enthusiastic. Volunteer for whatever responsibility your local church is assigned. Look for spontaneous opportunities to serve — carrying luggage, opening doors and visiting before services.

- Be responsive to organized singles' activities. Whether it's a dance, party or special dinner, join the group and have fun. Don't be a drag and hold out!

If you apply these points they will pay generous dividends. These principles will help you learn to fear God and rejoice as a single person in God's Church, and give you spiritual rewards that will last for eternity. □

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

have been revitalized — been put back on the track.

Once again we in the Church can look forward to a new issue knowing that we will be given instruction, correction and inspiration in its pages. Unfortunately this was not always the case. But things have changed — for the better! It is thrilling to see how God is using you to set the ministry, college, SEP [Summer Educational Program] and the Church publications on the right track. So much confusion has been eliminated. The Church is being given right direction. There seems to be a fresher spirit among God's people. There is a greater sense of purpose and urgency to get the WORK done. And that's good!

Mr. Armstrong, it seems more apparent than ever why God brought you back from death. It's frightening to think about it, but it appears now there may not have even been a Church preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom if God hadn't restored you to good, vibrant health.

My family, and I'm sure the Church as a whole, is deeply gratified to see you back at the helm.

I was reading your autobiography the other day out of an old *PT* magazine (a 1961 issue). In that article you mentioned the years of deprivation your family underwent just so the precious Gospel message could get out. Well, I'm just so grateful to see that that suffering wasn't undergone in vain. *The PT* is back! *The Good News* is back! The college is back! The broadcast and telecast are back! And the WORK as a whole is back on the track!

But we can't stop here. Now we have to press on more powerfully and with more determination than ever before. Everything appears to be set for one great push on getting the message out before the time of the end.

Thank you again, Mr. Armstrong, for hanging in there — for letting the Eternal and the Father use you in doing Their WORK.

We pray for you daily. We pray that God will give you a strong heart and the eyesight you need to do God's Work.

We pray that God will give you bulldog tenacity that characterized Theodore Roosevelt and Winston Churchill.

We pray that God will give you the strength necessary to fulfill the great commission.

Thank you for all the sacrifices you have made for me, my family and the Church.

Thank you for being faithful to God and His Gospel message.

Continue on, Mr. Armstrong!

We LOVE you!

We are with you because we know the living God is with you.

Sincerely,
Gary W. Pedersen
Minneapolis, Minn.

May 24, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I've just finished reading your "Personal" in the May issue of *The Good News*, on letting God fight your battles. I've been wanting to write for a long time and thank you personally for ALL your efforts on our behalf. After reading this article I just couldn't put it off any longer.

Each issue of *The Good News* magazine these last few months has been invaluable from cover to cover. It never ceases to amaze me, the timeliness with which these articles reach us, but then the living God who knows our every need, is after all, overseeing all things. I thank Him daily for His great plan for mankind and for sending us, the apostle such as He has, one through which the living Christ is now working to perfect His Church. Your love and concern for all of us is an ever shining example.

May God bless YOU, Mr. Armstrong, for this love, and for the strength and endurance you've shown, which I know comes directly from our Creator. As you said, we need only do our part, and Christ will return to find a holy, righteous perfect Church. How perfect and right the works of God, and praise be to Him through which all good things come.

With sincere love and
great appreciation,
Lynne Neer
Helena, Mont. □

The History

(Continued from page 4)

was personally to visit soon after.

The seven were deacons appointed by Peter and the other apostles after the day of Pentecost, to minister to women and children and wait on tables to the group remaining in Jerusalem who had come from many other areas. The King James Version calls this waiting on tables "this business," and Mr. Dugger twisted that to mean they handled the MONEY and the business transactions of the Church.

Mr. Dugger at the time was under fire from the Stanberry church, accused of making himself the head man. So he carefully kept himself off of the "Board of the Twelve Apostles," who were ostensibly to rule the church. But he put himself in as chairman of the Board of Seven, to handle the money and the "business" affairs of the church.

One incident well illustrated how this worked in actual practice. A member of the "Twelve" (supposedly RULING the church) had made a statement against Mr. Dugger. Mr. Dugger immediately gave an order for the member of the "Twelve" to publicly disclaim and apologize or he would cut off his salary immediately. That proved who was the real "boss."

Mr. Dugger's claiming to have a "Bible form of organization," and accusing Stanberry of having a non-biblical form, puzzled the whole church as to what, after all, was the real intended biblical form of church organization. I have to admit I became mixed up on this also. It is plain enough in the New Testament, but for the time we were all confused and blinded to it.

Actually, the Bible says the Church is built on the FOUNDATION of the APOSTLES and prophets (Old Testament), Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. It says plainly that Christ gave different ones special spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12) for various administrations and operation in the Church's Work, and that He set in the Church administration, first apostles (not a continuation of the original 12 as a "ruling board"), then prophets (of which there are none today), then evangelists, pastors and elders. Various other New Testament passages

show that some elders were local elders, some preaching elders, others not preaching, but in a degree of leadership. Then for physical duties there were deacons and deaconesses. THAT IS HOW GOD'S CHURCH IS ORGANIZED TODAY. That is the TRUE Bible form of Church organization!

I cooperate, but do not join

When the Oregon Conference disbanded and joined in with the Dugger offshoot, I did give serious consideration to it. I was never really convinced of Mr. Dugger's professed "Bible form of organization," and I decided never to join them. We now had our own new local church in Eugene,

The announcer announced
me and gave the signal.
Suddenly nerves gripped
my whole body
and mind! But somehow
I began talking,
and after 30 seconds
or a minute
the "mike-fright" was
gone. . . . The GOOD NEWS
of the Kingdom of God
was on the air
for the first time.

though I did not yet at that time realize it was to develop into the Philadelphia succession or generation of the true Church of God.

I counseled with Elmer Fisher. We decided to wait and see how things developed.

Messrs. Oberg and Ray had joined the Salem, W.Va., offshoot. They, especially Mr. Ray, were making a whole religion out of the "clean and unclean" meats of Leviticus 11. I had been listed by Mr. Dugger as one of the "Seventy Leading Elders," but had never accepted nor joined them.

Finally one of "The Twelve" came to my rather bare office room in the old Masonic Temple quarters. He had one question, What was my stand on the "clean and unclean"?

I stated my stand concisely and briefly. God had never intended the "unclean" animals to be food for humans. But it is a PHYSICAL, not a SPIRITUAL, matter. The Gospel is the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is not in meat or drink, but in spiritual matters (Rom. 14:17). Therefore I DO NOT preach abstinence from unclean meats in proclaiming the GOSPEL, but I DO teach all Church members for health reasons.

He had never heard it put that way, but said he felt I believed as they do, only had a different way of saying it, and I was acceptable.

I finally decided we would fellowship with them. I would work WITH them, but not FOR them and at my own expense, but would NOT JOIN them as a member. I did work with them for some three years.

But I am now ahead of my story.

I believe it was the spring of 1934 that I had finished the three-nights-a-week meetings in downtown Eugene, and engaged in a six-nights-a-week six-week campaign at the Alvadore schoolhouse, 15 miles northwest of Eugene. This was a two-room country school, with a second story hall covering the area of the two ground-floor schoolrooms.

We had a good attendance, and I had, or rather God gave me, 15 new baptized members.

Meanwhile I had been holding Sabbath services Sabbath mornings in my home in Eugene, attended by converts from the Eugene meetings, and Sabbath afternoon meetings at the Jeans school, 12 miles west of Eugene.

With the 15 new members from Alvadore it became imperative that we buy back the church building (seating 100) that we had built in Eugene in 1931. You will remember that had been deeded in the name of elder Robert Taylor. Mr. Taylor had gotten rid of it. It was, in 1934, owned by a man who lived next door. There were no seats, no pulpit. It was unfinished, outside and inside. We now had enough members to buy it. With our own labor — more of mine than any others — we finished the outside siding, the inside plasterboard, seats, which I designed and largely built. We had a cabinet-making carpenter member from Alvadore who built a platform,

pulpit and altar railing. But again I am ahead of the story.

Back now, to October, in 1933. It was in that month that we formally organized the church at Jeans, as "The Church of God at Eugene, Oregon." Also in that month, I heard that the local radio station, KORE, with the smallest wattage of power allowed, 100 watts, had a weekday morning devotional service of 15 minutes open free to ministers in Eugene. I found most ministers did not want to get going at 7:45 mornings for the broadcast, and the time was seldom used.

I went to the station, and was given free time for the very next week. This was about Feast of Tabernacles time, but only myself and wife had been keeping the annual Sabbaths. However, the new members, beginning with those brought in from the Firbutte meetings, had begun keeping these annual Sabbaths with us. It had not yet been revealed to me to know the real MEANING of God's seven annual festivals. Up until 1945 we observed the annual Holy Days. I did not know WHY — and therefore I could not teach the new converts who formed the beginning of the "Philadelphia" succession of God's Church, which had existed since A.D. 31. I knew only that the annual Holy Days (High Sabbaths) were commanded by God and was willing to OBEY first and understand WHY later, whenever God would reveal the meaning. And how wonderful and vitally important is that meaning.

But now I was to go on the air for the first time in my life. The ministers of the churches in Eugene had not considered the opportunity to put a Gospel message on the air of sufficient importance to rise early enough to be at the radio studio at 7:45 weekday mornings. But to me, it was the most important OPPORTUNITY to proclaim God's TRUTH that had so far come to me.

During the days remaining before that first Monday morning on the air, I worked diligently and with inspired enthusiasm on the messages for the five weekday mornings.

Came the crucial Monday morning. I was well prepared. One minute before that zero hour I was nervous. I had never spoken through a microphone before.

"If I need any instruction, you'd better give it to me quickly," I said to the announcer. "I've never been on the air before."

"Just stand before that mike and begin talking when I give you the signal," he said indifferently. That reassured me. I said to myself, Why, I'm not a bit nervous now.

The announcer announced me and gave the signal. Suddenly nerves gripped my whole body and mind! But somehow I began talking, and after 30 seconds or a minute the "mike-fright" was gone. My mind was absorbed with the subject. The GOOD NEWS of the Kingdom of God was ON THE AIR for the first time!

Through the week I
carried on the theme of
the WORLD TOMORROW
— THE KINGDOM OF GOD!
That message had not
gone out to the world
publicly since about A.D.
53! But my heart was
in it, and it began
coming in POWER!
I did not realize, then,
the significance
of that moment!

I began with God's promises to Abraham. The whole true Gospel is based on those PROMISES to Abraham. Soon I was revealing to listeners that the promises were NOT heaven, but this EARTH as an everlasting possession, coupling other scriptures with God's promises beginning in Genesis 12.

Through the week I carried on the theme of the WORLD TOMORROW — the KINGDOM OF GOD! That message had not gone out to the world publicly since about A.D. 53! But my heart was in it, and it began coming in POWER!

Almost 1,900 years had gone by — since A.D. 53, since that message had been proclaimed PUBLICLY! I did not realize, then, the significance of that moment!

On Thursday morning of that week, the announcer told me the station owner and manager wanted to see me.

"Mr. Armstrong," he said, "never before have we received mail from listeners to this morning devotional period. But many letters are coming in to the station. Listeners are writing that they never heard what you are preaching before. So I listened in on you this morning. You have a good radio voice. You are evoking a good public response. I suggest you work out a half-hour program, and we'll put it on as a public service every Sunday morning."

The next morning, Friday, Frank Hill wanted to see me again.

"Mr. Armstrong, you've stirred up havoc among the ministers in Eugene. They held a meeting of their Ministerial Association yesterday and informed me they don't want you on the air any more — and they will see to it that one of them is here for the morning devotional every weekday hereafter. It appears that members of their congregations are coming to them and bringing their Bibles, and pointing out what you've been preaching and embarrassing the ministers by asking why they are preaching the very opposite of what the Bible says.

"I can't give you any more free time," continued Mr. Hill, "but I'll tell you what I *can* do. I'll sell you a half hour Sunday mornings for less than half of what it costs the station to operate the time. I'll open up a Sunday morning half hour for you at \$2.50 per half hour."

So *that* is how Christ's true Gospel message came to go out regularly OVER THE AIR — and it has never ceased since it began the following Jan. 7, 1934! Actually station-owner Frank Hill prompted the start of *The World Tomorrow* program, by contributing more than half the actual cost of the radio time! Frank Hill is long since dead, but I'm glad to say this to his everlasting credit.

I worked diligently from that day in October, to start what we then called the "Radio Church of God," the first Sunday in 1934! It was a significant date in the history of the Church of the living God! □

(To be continued)