

1982 FEAST OF TABERNACLES TO BE LARGEST ASSEMBLY ON EARTH

By Herbert W. Armstrong
Begin now to focus your mind on the most joyous eight days of this year — to be anticipated and enjoyed by the LARGEST number of people to be gathered at any convention, assembly or festival on earth.

More than 100,000 happy brethren will share this time of rejoicing.

Stop and THINK of the real PURPOSE and MEANING of the Church in which you are a member! We live in a world of discontent, gloom, sorrow, frustration, despair. In boundless LOVE and mercy the Supreme GOD has chosen and called you and me and all our brethren in Christ OUT of this unhappy and futile world. WHY?

Not only to give into our lives His happiness and joy and blessed hope, but to PREPARE us through His Spirit and His spiritual knowledge to rule over and TEACH all humanity during the coming thousand years and the following great judgment to have their lives transformed into vigorous happiness, joy and accomplishment with the GIFT of eternal life — when we ALL shall live happily, gloriously, vigorously, productively FOR EVER AND EVER!

We NOW look forward to the coming FEAST OF TABERNACLES. At the Feast we shall rejoice eight days looking forward to the time when we may be used in bringing other millions and billions of precious human lives into immortal glorious GOD-LIVES! Yes, then born into the GOD FAMILY — being VERY God ourselves!

All whose hearts and minds are right with God will be spiritually refreshed, uplifted, filled with joyous anticipation, enjoying a real FEAST on the SPIRITUAL WORD OF GOD!

Think how important this Festival is! After the return of King of kings Jesus Christ, "it shall come to pass that every one... shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles" (Zechariah 14:16).

And there shall be plagues and severe punishment on nations that neglect or refuse to attend! People will be compelled to be happy! Of course, that is speaking of mortal people then left alive — not of Christ's saints who then will be immortal and in the very Family of God!

But you and I are, now, still mortal — and the above scripture shows us how very serious in God's eyes it is that we attend this wonderful Feast this year. For we may be attending it as

immortal-born children of God before this present decade is out! That certainly is a likely possibility.

We have undoubtedly entered the most explosive decade in the history of man. But it is possible that God will cut short the days of great tribulation ahead and bring us into the wonderful and glorious Kingdom of God before this decade is out. Again, remember, Jesus said no man will know the day or the hour. But He did say we may know by world events when it is near — even at the door!

This will be my 56th year of keeping the annual Fall Holy Days. We did not come to realize the meaning and need to keep the entire Feast of Tabernacles until 1945, though my wife and I began keeping the annual Sabbaths in 1927.

The Feast of Tabernacles pictures to us year after year the glorious thousand years just shortly ahead now of world peace, happiness and opportunity for eternal salvation for all not previously called! It will be a world without Satan! It will be a

world with Jesus Christ ruling with love!

It is a time for us to get away from the dreary routine of daily life in Satan's world and enjoy eight wonderful days with brethren in Christ and their families! It is the only time in the year that God provides a time when we may get away and rest from our daily regular duties —

to be with brethren in Christ to worship Him and look forward to His utopia!

This year we shall have 23 Festival sites in the United States and Canada. Worldwide there is a total of 76 Feast sites in 44 countries.

Brethren, as God shows us the importance of attending the Feast, it is equally important

that all shall have been saving the second tithe to pay your own expenses and enjoyment at the Festival.

Of course, part of that expense is rental of auditoriums or halls or convention centers and other expenses the Church must pay. So, as always, be sure to send in a tithe of your entire year's second tithe by return mail. Mark or list it separately from your regular first tithe or offering.

What a blessing from God that we have not had to borrow regularly at the banks during all the last three years and so far this year. Formerly we had to borrow a million dollars in January and pay back out of Passover special offerings.

Then we had to borrow another million in July to be paid back from the Fall Festival offerings. Loan rates to largest bank customers have gone over 20 percent! What a blessing not to have to pay these excessive interest rates!

Instructions for making your housing arrangements are included in this issue of *The Worldwide News*.



FESTIVAL SITES — Pictured above are the 1982 United States and Canadian Feast of Tabernacles sites approved by Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong. A list of sites worldwide appears on pages 7 and 8. (Artwork by Ron Grove)

HWA meets officials in Europe, Middle East

By Aaron Dean
JERUSALEM — Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong arrived here in the Work's G-II jet April 2 following meetings in London; Brussels, Belgium; Amman, Jordan; and the island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean.

The pastor general left the Burbank, Calif., airport March 24 in the G-II with David Hulme, the Work's media liaison, Kevin Dean, director of Youth Opportunities United (YOU), myself and my wife Michelle.

Aaron Dean is a local elder serving as Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong's personal aide.

The aircraft touched down at 5 a.m. London time at Luton airport in the United Kingdom, about 15 to 20 minutes from the former Ambassador College campus in Bricklet Wood.

Later that day, Mr. Armstrong met with evangelist Frank Brown, regional director for God's Work in the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, the Middle East and East and West Africa, and ministers Paul Suckling, Robin Jones and Francis Bergen in his Dorchester Hotel suite in London.

Mr. Armstrong answered questions from the men and discussed the Work in Great Britain and the Scandinavian countries.

The pastor general flew to Brussels March 27, where he met officials of the King Leopold III Foundation and had lunch with the king.

Mr. Armstrong took advantage of the one-hour time difference

between London and Brussels to fly back and conduct Sabbath services in St. Albans, England. Before his sermon, the pastor general raised Mr. Suckling and Mr. Jones to pastor rank. He followed with a powerful sermon exhorting members to properly prepare for the Passover.

On to Amman

Sunday, March 28, Mr. Armstrong and his group left in the G-II for Amman, where he was met by government officials and cameramen from Jordanian television.

The pastor general met March 29 with Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan for an hour and 15 minutes. They discussed the origin of the three major Middle East religions and their common ancestry in the patriarch Abraham.

At the prince's request, Mr. Armstrong autographed and presented a copy of his book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* to the crown prince. The prince gave Mr. Armstrong his book, *Palestinian Self-determination*, and invited him to lunch the next day at the government state house.

Tuesday, March 30, before his lunch with the crown prince, Mr. Armstrong was given a guided tour of a school for the mentally retarded by Princess Sarvath. The crown prince had suggested that the Ambassador Foundation could help fund the school, which was started by the princess in 1972.

Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Dean were impressed with the school, and the YOU director explained some similar projects in the United States.

The pastor general and Mr. Dean noted that the princess's project was educating both children and parents. In many countries, parents try to hide their retarded children, instead of helping them.

The princess's project begins working with the children at age 2½, continuing through age 16 when they go into vocational training. This helps with the severe labor shortage in Jordan.

After his luncheon with the crown prince, Mr. Armstrong presented a check from the Ambassador Foundation to help fund this worthwhile project.

Meeting canceled

The pastor general's scheduled meeting with King Hussein was unavoidably canceled when the king had to fly to Iraq because of an escalation in the Iran-Iraq conflict. [Jordan is supporting Iraq in the war, and has sent volunteers to serve in Iraq's army.]

Wednesday, March 31, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Hulme met with Dr. Kamal to discuss airing the *World Tomorrow* program on Jordan's television network. The talks went well, and the pastor general expects to return with a special audition videotape this summer. [Amman's television station can also be seen in Jerusalem.] After the meeting, Mr. Armstrong and his party left for Cyprus.

The pastor general met George Ladaf, acting president of Cyprus and president of Cyprus' House of Representatives, April 2. In the meeting, Mr. Ladaf gave a brief but candid explanation of the problems facing Cyprus. Mr. Armstrong then

explained to him the cause of both Cyprus' and the world's problems, and their solution, the Kingdom of God.

After the meeting in the presidential palace, Mr. Armstrong flew to the Jerusalem airport, where he was met by Michael Ravid, former Israeli consul in Los Angeles, Calif.

Sabbath morning, April 3, Mr. Armstrong was visited by His Beatitude Deodoros, the Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church in Jerusalem. The patriarch conferred one of the oldest orders in the world on the pastor general, who was the 131st recipient in the 1,546 years of the order. It was founded by the Roman emperor Constantine I in A.D. 336.

The pastor general and his group spent most of the Sabbath in their hotel, briefly visiting the Garden Tomb and Golgotha.

Sunday, Mr. Armstrong toured the Liberty Bell park with Teddy Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem. That evening, the mayor was host to a dinner in Mr. Armstrong's honor, and presented an ancient coin from his private collection to the pastor general.

The coin, called the plutar and minted in A.D. 29 during Christ's ministry, was formed into a pendant for Mr. Armstrong. It was recovered in one of the Jerusalem excavations.

The next day, Mr. Armstrong had lunch with Joseph Aviram, director of the archaeological faculty at Hebrew University, and Benjamin Mazar, past president of the university, at the Chez Simon restaurant. They arranged the shipment of artifacts from the Jerusalem excavations for display in Prince Mikasa's (See MIDDLE EAST, page 2)

Vicious attack against God's Church

The following appeared in the March 19 Pastor General's Report.

By Herbert W. Armstrong
Thursday, March 11, the Los Angeles, Calif., *Times* came out with a blast against the Worldwide Church of God from a letter written by former Church member and auditor Jack Kessler, Dec. 30, addressed to the board and council of elders of the Church, making accusations against God's Church and its apostle personally.

On Friday and Sunday the Pasadena *Star-News* blazed forth the same attack with the same accusations.

God's Church has suffered much and long at the attacks of dissident former members "going to the public media against the Church." I have heretofore remained silent, never dignifying the allegations with a reply.

Some facts, however, have been written by the Church's attorney, Ralph Helge, which I feel you should know. His report follows.

But first let me give you a brief background, that you may see the situation in its true perspective.

Back in 1946 I realized the need of a college for the training of our own ministry and other personnel for the Work of the living God. I consulted with the chancellor of higher education over the state universities in Oregon. He agreed emphatically that education had become materialistic, having lost the true values.

Though he himself was in a position over the presidents of the universities of the state, he said he was powerless to change the existing system. He envied me, because in starting even a small private and independent college, I was free to "recapture the true values."

His expression "RECAPTURE THE TRUE VALUES" became the Ambassador College slogan.

I consulted a former boyhood Sunday school mate, with whom I grew up, who at that time was a dean at the University of San Francisco [Calif.]. He likewise said modern education was materialistic — off the track.

Jesus Christ, through me, started Ambassador College "ON TRACK." He had started God's Church of the Philadelphia era, small as a grain of mustard seed at first, but "ON TRACK!"

The Church, college and Work grew, and GREW and GREW! — at the rate of 30 percent increase per year for 35 years, up to 1968. In that year King Leopold of Belgium had invited me to see him. Also in the fall of that year Prince Mikasa, brother of the emperor of Japan, had invited me to a luncheon with him.

These meetings led to a continuous series of invitations to meet other heads of state in nations around the world. And these in turn opened the doors to carrying the true Gospel as

Christ's messenger — one "sent forth" as an apostle — to leaders in those nations.

For the next seven years I was away from Pasadena headquarters on this great commission up to 300 out of the 365 days of the year.

Meanwhile, leaving the day-to-day administration of the Church and college to others at Pasadena, both Church and college were getting sadly OFF TRACK. The Church was going "liberal," watering down doctrines and God's TRUTH.

The college was becoming just another "rubber stamp" of this world's colleges. The faculty was being loaded with professors from outside the Church, educated in universities of this

world. The evil of "tenure" was introduced in an effort to become "accredited" as one of this world's type institutions. The student body was growing beyond the numbers I had set. Illicit sex, drugs and abuses were fast entering the campus.

In August, 1977, my travels came to a sudden end with TOTAL HEART FAILURE! For many months I was bedridden. I had to learn to walk all over again. I was then living in Tucson, recuperating. I was becoming aware of what had been kept from me — the satanic state that was fast infiltrating the Church and college. I began removing some officials who were, perhaps without realizing it, being deceived by Satan, at the helm of

the Work at Pasadena.

With my typewriter, from Tucson, I began PUTTING THE CHURCH AND WORK BACK "ON TRACK!"

I closed down Ambassador College as then organized and operated. I put Raymond McNair in charge as deputy chancellor, and we started the college all over again with a freshman class only. The "outside" faculty members were terminated — a costly procedure, for they were on "tenure."

I began vigorously to put the Church back "ON TRACK" spiritually from Tucson.

By January, 1981, I began to find abuses I had surmised in supporting services to be true. I

prayed seriously, fervently, earnestly and continuously for days, that God would not let me misjudge some in leading positions of wrongdoing or wrong motives, IF what began to seem apparent was not in fact true. I had placed great confidence in certain high subordinates.

But as the living Christ led me, it became apparent that in putting God's Work back on track, certain personnel changes must be made in the supporting services, as well as spiritual.

I found it necessary to return to the home in Pasadena and take personal charge at headquarters.

I will let Mr. Helge's report relate the facts from there.

Church counsel refutes fiscal allegations

By Ralph K. Helge

PASADENA — As the apostle Paul had to refute and defend against rumor and accusation, so must the Church today.

Jack Kessler is a former auditor and attorney for the Church. He wrote a letter, which he addressed to the Church's board of directors and the Advisory Council of Elders, accusing ministers and executives alike of a wide spectrum of wrongdoing. The letter was then "leaked" to the press and many other sources.

Ralph K. Helge is counsel for the Worldwide Church of God.

The history of the Church shows that it does not attack people, nor attempt to destroy their reputation. The Church only defends when it is accused in order to preserve its name and those of its duly appointed leaders. Such a preservation of its reputation is essential in order not to hinder or impair the accomplishment of its great commission.

The accusations in Mr. Kessler's letter demand such a response. The following is a response that was published in the March 19 *Pastor General's Report* that will aid in evaluating the letter as well as placing it in the proper perspective.

The "leaked" letter of Mr. Kessler now requires we also respond to the media. We had hoped this would not be necessary. We had hoped to restrict our explanation of Mr. Kessler's accusations to the Church's ministry and membership. The following will at least furnish some background facts, which will aid in putting the "leaked" letter into perspective.

Mr. Kessler, while employed by the Church, found time to acquire his certified public accountant (CPA) credentials. He also achieved the highest exam grade in California on the CPA exam.

Later he was added to the accounting firm that became Rader, Cornwall & Kessler. He later became an attorney. Then there was the law firm of Palazzo & Kessler. Then there was the accounting firm of Rader, Cornwall, Kessler & Palazzo. Then there was the accounting firm of Rader & Kessler. Then there was the accounting firm of Kessler & Kessler. The names of the other parties are only mentioned as a matter of fact in order to identify them.

You must wind your way through this twisted path in order to determine if Mr. Kessler in certain letters is defending himself, other former Church officials, clients or others.

Mr. Kessler, under one firm name or another, served as auditor for the Church since 1972. From

time to time a wish was expressed by others, most of the time privately, but sometimes publicly, for an "independent" auditor.

The expression of such a wish not only provoked a denial of a lack of "independence" but was accompanied by wrathful threats of a lawsuit. Two such examples are the lawsuits filed by Mr. Kessler during 1979 demanding in excess of \$563 million in damages.

By mentioning this matter the author does not accuse or even suggest by doing so that Mr. Kessler was acting as anything less than an "independent" auditor. It is mentioned only to emphasize a point.

As one can appreciate, such an attitude would have somewhat of a stifling effect upon any attempt to even suggest that financial conduct of certain ones in the Church, and the manner in which Mr. Kessler was handling the same, should be reviewed by anyone else.

Mr. Armstrong acts

During February, 1981, after the conclusion of the State vs. Church case, Mr. Armstrong determined definitely to make higher echelon personnel changes. As a consequence, certain persons were discharged and the resignation of others was demanded and received. Other personnel changes were also made.

At this time Mr. Armstrong emphatically and unequivocally stated that he was going to "put the Church back on the track." One of the very first steps Mr. Armstrong took was to appoint a group of men as the Advisory Council of Elders. Responsible men and ministers in the Church who have proven loyal and faithful to the Church over the years. Men whom the ministry and the congregations respected. Men whose word would be above reproach. Men who Mr. Armstrong felt could act independently.

One of their primary responsibilities was to commence an investigation of past conduct in the Church. This commission read:

"Take whatever steps are necessary in order to become fully knowledgeable of all the phases and facets of the legal, financial and other secular aspects of the Church, and all its affiliated organizations, so that they may be better able to advise and recommend regarding the same."

It is interesting to note that in other letters sent by Mr. Kessler, he is threatening to sue some of the very men that Mr. Armstrong commissioned to conduct the investigation.

First investigatory steps

One of the first steps of the investigation was the retention of the outside law firm of Gibson, Dunn &

Crutcher, one of the largest and most respected law firms in the nation. Their reputation is above reproach, therefore, no one would successfully be able to claim that they collaborated in a cover-up of any illegal matters that came to their attention.

A commensurate step was to initiate discussions between the new executive and financial personnel of the Church and Arthur Andersen, the outside auditors who had already been retained. They are one of the largest and most respected accounting firms in the nation, whose findings would also be above reproach.

Firstfruits of investigation

The very day that another person's resignation was demanded, that other person unilaterally signed a contract with the accounting firm of Kessler & Kessler, one Kessler of which was the author of the "leaked" letter. The other Kessler is his wife.

The contract provided that Mr. Kessler was to serve as a consultant in the furnishing of advice in the area of accounting with the Church, for a period of five years, at the tune of \$12,500 per month. An additional sum was to be paid should the demands of the Church upon his unique expertise become too taxing.

Apparently it was felt that the auditing and accounting services of Arthur Andersen, one of the world's largest accounting firms, was either not capable of handling the task, or it was necessary to have Mr. Kessler's continued involvement for other reasons.

The contract was immediately delivered to the Accounting Department with instructions to commence issuing checks to the Kessler firm. Two such checks were issued. Once the Church investigation uncovered the Kessler contract, the checks were ordered stopped. Mr. Kessler was advised that the Church did not consider the contract binding upon it and refused to honor the same.

The newspaper reports that Mr. Kessler does not know why he was excommunicated and suggested it might be because of his "friendship with Mr. [Stanley R.] Rader" or because of his "unwillingness to lie about Stanley Rader." Mr. Kessler omits his accusing the Church of "treachery" because it refused to honor the five-year contract.

It appears now that the decision not to honor his contract was not only legally and financially sound but providential. For now we must ask the question, if the Church had honored it, would some other person be accusing the Church today of "bribery" to prevent the leaking of

accusations in the "leaked" letter?

Further, it seems appropriate to comment here that the Church did not and does not have to request lies from anyone. The Church does not need to deal in lies. The Church is only interested in attempting to document the actual facts so as to defend itself from the false accusations of its accusers.

One of the first areas of inquiry with Arthur Andersen was to seek their advice as to the appropriateness of financial expenditures between the Church and the Ambassador Foundation. The commencement of the inquiry must have touched a nerve because promptly a fiery telex was received from Mr. Kessler.

As of March 1, 1981, he certainly felt there was no basis for the "leaked" letter accusations because he stated:

"The question was asked whether they thought there was any impropriety in the Church's giving funding to the foundation in order for the foundation to carry on its activities. . . to me it's embarrassing for Church officials to wonder aloud whether we're committing some major fraud of this nature. There was no need to ask Arthur Andersen what they thought since they have just given us completely unqualified opinions two years in a row."

It is surprising he now chooses to ignore the exonerating effect of Arthur Andersen's two years of "unqualified opinions."

The Church's investigation also uncovered a matter that caused it grave concern. It uncovered the existence of two corporations in Nevada that had ostensible legal authority to appoint a successor to Mr. Armstrong in the event of his inability to govern the Church.

Neither Mr. Armstrong, nor the ministers whom he looked to for aid in spiritually guiding the Church, nor I, who served as house counsel for the Church for years, had any knowledge of these two corporations. There has been absolutely no satisfactory documented legal evidence that any of such persons would have had any legal control whatsoever of these corporations.

Mr. Kessler was one of the attorneys who created these corporations and who was named as a director of one of them. The other directors were people in his office who were not members of the Church. Only after the many demand letters by the Church upon Mr. Kessler or his associates, attempting to effectuate the immediate dissolution of these corporations, and only after many dilatory responses, and only after the preparation of the pleadings by the Church of a lawsuit to force their dissolution, were documents

(See ALLEGATIONS, page 7)