

AM I IN IT FOR THE MONEY? A Frank Open Statement of the Plain Truth

By Herbert W. Armstrong
HERE IS a story such as you have never read before.

The State of California, through the attorney general's office, has launched a massive attack against the Worldwide Church of God, myself and Mr. Stanley Rader. Eight-column banner newspaper headlines screamed to the world the

Many are accused of preaching the "Gospel" for the money they GET out of it. Here is a frank, open statement of the PLAIN TRUTH. Here I lay my life bare as an open book before you!

way of LOVE to God and LOVE to neighbor.

Last Sunday I saw a preacher on television say, "We can't know the CAUSE of all the troubles, evils and suffering in the

world's "Christianity" to proclaim — the HARDEST for my hearers to accept.

I wanted to GIVE this amazing truth to the world. In my conversion I did not just "GET" — RECEIVE — Christ as personal Savior. Rather I GAVE this sinful self of mine to HIM. I received Him and His truth, NOT to "GET" for myself, or to "GET" salvation and eternal life for myself — but rather, that I might GIVE this precious truth and understanding to the world — that I might SHARE it with thousands and millions of others.

I GAVE UP the business life and its rewards. Seven years later, in poverty, I began GIVING the precious truth over radio.

I started in poverty — from nothing of this world's goods. It was a work of FAITH from the start. I had one pair of shoes. They were righteous — they had "holey soles." I had a suit of clothes for every day in the week — and the one I was wearing was it! I had no car.

And what did I preach? I preached Jesus Christ and HIS TRUTH — the most DIFFICULT teaching and doctrine in all this

world's "Christianity" to proclaim — the HARDEST for my hearers to accept.

Would anyone start out with the most hard-to-accept teaching to make money? Does that make sense? It was a teaching and doctrinal TRUTH that has brought continual opposition, accusation, persecution. It's no way to make money, let me tell you!

I devoted my life to GIVING. My family and I went HUNGRY — and I do mean HUNGRY! That was part of the price paid for GIVING out of love for others, in a world adjusted to "GETTING."

Yet the living Jesus Christ blessed this Work in marvelous ways. Faith was rewarded. Prayers were answered — continually. The Work of the living God prospered.

In 1947 I founded my first college — GOD's college, that is! And on sheer FAITH, with no income whatsoever that was not already appropriated and obligated for radio time and operating expenses. By FAITH it survived!

I incorporated the Church

and college on improper legal advice — or we should not be suffering this State vs. Church lawsuit now. But I thought the legal advice was good. It was that of a lawyer who had been an attorney in the Internal Revenue Service of the government in Washington, D.C., for some 12 years. But I took pains to incorporate so that I, personally, could never GET anything out of it, except for modest salary earned. For this, I appointed this ex-government lawyer and two people not related to me as a committee of three to set my salary. I did not even set it myself.

This Work of God grew and expanded at the rate averaging 30 percent each year over the year preceding for 35 years — probably a record of growth unmatched. God allowed me to be responsible for handling many millions of dollars of His money. It was handled honestly.

Along the line, now about a quarter century ago, I came to know Mr. Stanley Rader, a very brilliant young certified public accountant. I employed him to establish at our headquarters an accounting system that is puncture-proof. It would be IMPOSSIBLE for me, or any officer or employee, to get away with anything more than his honestly earned salary or compensation for services.

Mr. Rader then graduated from the University of Southern (See MONEY, page 3)



PASTOR GENERAL SPEAKS — Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong addresses evangelists and instructors for the Ministerial Refreshing Program in his new studio/office in Tucson July 2. [Photo by Aaron Dean]

allegation that I, with Mr. Rader, had been siphoning off millions of dollars every year from Church funds for our own accounts and use. After a year and a half, NO EVIDENCE of any wrongdoing has been found.

BUT WHAT ARE THE TRUE FACTS? Have I been in the Work of the living GOD for what I could GET out of it? Why and for what purpose did I start, 53 years ago? Just how MUCH have I "GOTTEN" out of it? Just how much do I have now? How much does Mr. Stanley R. Rader have now?

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

Then, in 1927, at age 34, the living GOD opened my eyes to HIS TRUTH, unpreached in this world. I came to see that the orthodox Christian teaching of my childhood and youth was the very antithesis of the truth God reveals in His Word, the Bible. In His Word God revealed to me that there are just two ways of life. One is "GET" — the way of SELF-centeredness — the way of "I'm in it for what I can GET — I love ME, and I don't care about you." The other — GOD'S WAY — is the way of "GIVE" — outflowing love and concern for the good and welfare of others — the

world — but we know that God is suffering along with us." I don't believe that. God has revealed to me the root CAUSE of all the world's evils and sufferings. Every evil in the world has come

JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN—A CULT?

By Herbert W. Armstrong
HAVE YOU HEARD OF Greeks being called, insultingly, "wops," Italians being called "dagos," Germans called "boche," Jews called "kikes" or "sheenies"? Mexicans who wish to insult Americans call us "gringos."

Some Southerners after the civil war called northerners "Yankees." They intended it to be an insulting epithet.

A prominent Baptist minister recently said, "If the Worldwide Church of God is a 'cult,' then we Baptists were a 'cult' during the early years of our growth."

Actually, the word *cult* is not an insulting epithet, but today it is often used insultingly. The word comes from the word *culture*, which ordinarily is used as a very complimentary term. Webster defines "cult" as 1) formal religious veneration, worship, 2) a system of religious belief and ritual, also adherents to, 3) a religion rejected as unorthodox or spurious.

The Worldwide Church of God is *not* a "cult"! It is the present generation continuing the Church of God founded A.D. 31 by Jesus Christ. Here are the facts.

It is this third usage that was widely used in the sensational Jonestown mass-suicide incident.

Since that event occupied front-page banner headlines for several days, some who do not know the facts have been labeling any or all small churches, small in membership, as "cults." SMALL CHURCHES ARE NOT "CULTS."

The one true Church

Jesus Christ founded the one true Church of God on the day of Pentecost, in June, A.D. 31. It began that day with 120 members. It was not a "cult." Jesus, during His lifetime, called those original members the "little flock" (Luke 12:32).

In the prophecies of the book of Revelation, two churches are foretold. One, in chapter 17, a great false church, called in verse 5: "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth." She is pictured as ruling over nations speaking different languages — large, strong, powerful. The other, the true Church of God, is described in chapter 12, as a small, persecuted church, having to flee for her safety.

By the year A.D. 53, the churches in Galatia, Asia Minor, now modern Turkey, had already removed themselves from the grace of Christ, into another gospel. The true Gospel of Jesus Christ was being suppressed from the world by the larger false church.

The true Church of God, holding to the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the teachings of Christ and the apostles, had to go underground, meeting for services in secret. Millions were tortured and put to death for their faith.

But the TRUTH of Jesus Christ and the apostles was preserved by the persecuted "little flock," and in its fullness in the Holy Bible.

The Worldwide Church of God today holds to the SAME FAITH, same doctrines, same customs and practices, as the original Church of A.D. 31, under the original apostles.

Meanwhile, your Bible says, Revelation 12:9, the WHOLE WORLD has been DECEIVED by the invisible Satan the devil. Yet GOD'S TRUTH has been preserved in the Bible.

If you would like to see some of that truth revealed and made plain, why not write for our free booklet, *Just What Do You Mean — Born Again?* It will open your eyes, when you see this truth IN YOUR OWN BIBLE!

Church treasurer interviewed on California news, talk shows

PASADENA — Completing a tour of appearances on radio and television talk shows in Sacramento, San Francisco and Glendale, Calif., Church treasurer Stanley R. Rader returned here to speak at a Bible study in the Ambassador Auditorium July 4.

Mr. Rader covered several aspects of the state vs. church issue during the interviews, as well as explaining the Work of the Church: "We have a great commission to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ worldwide," Mr. Rader stated on KGO-radio in San Francisco June 24. "And the core of the Gospel message is the coming Kingdom of

God... [It] is simply that Christ... as He promised, will return. And He will return soon. And when He does, He will return as a King and High Priest... then we will have the Kingdom of God... It will be a government of God based on the laws of God, not the laws of man."

KGO-radio is owned and operated by the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) and is "one of the foremost powerful and wide-ranging stations in the western United States," according to Chico, Calif., pastor Marc Segall.

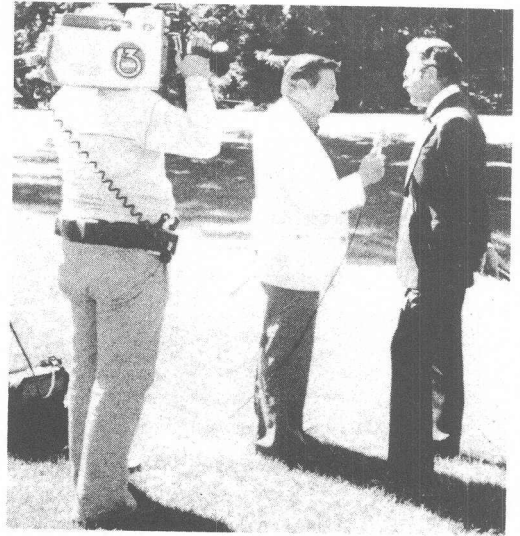
Jim Eason, the program's moderator, is a donor to the Worldwide

Church of God and a longtime subscriber to *The Plain Truth* by his own on-air admission. Mr. Rader discussed the issue of pilfering and siphoning off funds: "We really shouldn't... use euphemisms here. Mr. [Herbert] Armstrong and I have been accused of stealing \$70 million. Let's not talk about 'misuse' [as] you're talking about a person accused by the [California] attorney general; and the newspapers have put it in eight-column print... that we are the archcriminals of this age.

"He argues that Mr. Armstrong and I are stealing \$3 million each, per year, right now. Mr. Armstrong the other day called me and said, 'Now Stan, a million is one million, isn't it? A couple [of million] would be two million. So the millions each year [that are allegedly stolen] has to at least be three million [dollars] each. Now, Stan, where's the money?' Because he doesn't know where it is and I don't know where it is, but that's what they [the State] continue to accuse us of. And it's all false, obviously."

In response to an angry caller who asserted that Mr. Rader was taking "\$1,000 a day from the poor," he answered: "We will take \$300,000 as the figure [for Mr. Rader's annual salary and benefits] and take 600 church congregations that we have in the Western hemisphere and divide the 600 into 300,000 and get \$500 per congregation. Now, I had two of the ministers from the Sacramento area [Joel Lillengreen and Mr. Segall] drive down [to San Francisco] with me today. One of them is in the other studio. His congregation in Sacramento... [has]... about 500 members. That means those people are contributing each year... \$1 per person... I'm charging roughly two cents per week per member of his congregation."

While in Sacramento, Mr. Rader and his assistants John Kingston and Joe Kotora played host to a banquet for area elders, deacons and their wives. According to Mr. Segall, the Church treasurer "openly and warmly described the main events leading up to the latest phase of God's Work with His apostle, Mr. Armstrong." After taking questions, Mr. Rader stressed that his chief role in the Church is "to sup-



TREASURER INTERVIEW — Newsmen Bill Evans of KOVR-TV in Sacramento, Calif., interviews Church treasurer Stanley R. Rader on the lawn of the California State Capitol June 23.

port and stand behind Mr. Armstrong," Mr. Segall reported.

After appearing on KCRA-TV, KGNR-radio, KTXL-TV and being interviewed for three hours by KFBK-radio news director Pat Casey, Mr. Rader returned to Pasadena to appear on Dr. Gene Scott's television program. Dr. Scott's Faith Center is also under litigation by the attorney general. Dr. Scott taped and rebroadcast the interview with Mr. Rader several times since June 25, and has offered to broadcast the Work's television documentary about the legal struggle free of charge. Mr. Rader reported in the July 4 Bible study that initial arrangements are made, with the Church buying full-page advertisements featuring the documentary.

Government control

The California attorney general was interested in obtaining control over churches long before the Guyana tragedy in the fall of 1978, stated Mr. Rader on Dr. Scott's program: "When we closed down... our academic operations in Pasadena," he reported, "we decided to close [the college] for a two-week spell [in May, 1978]... That's all the time that decision was extant. About midway we got a call from [Deputy Attorney General Lawrence] Tapper. Tapper started asking him [Church attorney Ralph Helge] about what the Church

was about to do, in essence, with his [Mr. Tapper's] assets [referring to the Church-owned buildings on campus].

"Well, Ralph did not pick up on it... [and]... I didn't either because it [the issue of Church ownership of property] went away immediately... He [Mr. Helge] simply said 'We're not [moving to Texas], all we're doing is closing down the program.' But if we had picked up on it, we would have realized that if we had been intending to move... Tapper was telling us that we couldn't do it without his permission."

Officials lack knowledge

Mr. Rader also detailed certain other problems in dealing with government officials: "For a period of almost 6½ months we have been negotiating privately with the attorney general to see if there wasn't some way for him to clean up his act and get out of this case without being completely humiliated.

"When [the negotiations started]... my intermediaries were absolutely appalled when they found out that neither [Attorney General George] Deukmejian or his two... top people had ever read the complaint [against the Church].

"After a year and two months of (See INTERVIEW, page 12)

FORUM WITH STANLEY R. RADER

This issue's "Forum" is the conclusion of a question-and-answer session by Stanley R. Rader, the Work's treasurer and general counsel to Herbert W. Armstrong, in Pasadena June 3. Mr. Rader's comments cover various aspects of the present state of the Church.

Now that the corporate sole has been established, what impact will that have on our dealings with the State in the future?

What it really does is that it limits our battle with the State to the past and not to the present or to the future. The State doesn't have any more control over the Worldwide Church of God in any other place in the world than it has over the Ayatollah [Ruhollah] Khomeini in Iran. We are literally a worldwide church anyway. We're now conducting ourselves a little better along those lines.

As I told the New York Times today, maybe we were too naive in the past. We believed that there was a Constitution. We believed that the state of California also guaranteed us those rights, and we didn't take all of the steps necessary to protect ourselves.

As a matter of fact, in a conference a few weeks ago between the deputy attorney general and our lawyers, one of the deputies who emerged to his position from the bowels of his class, as described by the Los Angeles Times, was saying, "Why did anyone first in his class ever decide to incorporate in California?"

And then Mr. Helge, I believe it was, reminded them that that incorporation process took place in 1946. And that I hadn't met Mr. Armstrong until 1956 or '57. And that I hadn't begun to represent the Church in any way along legal lines until about 1970. And that three years ago I had advised the Church, as did Mr. Helge, to change from the corporate form to the corporate sole form.

And we actually sent papers to the secretary of state designed to accomplish exactly that. And that's all a matter of record. And the secretary of state turned us down because Mr. Armstrong at the time was too modest. He wanted the title of the corporate sole to be called the Worldwide Church of God, a Corporate Sole. And we tried to explain to him it couldn't be that way. It had to be a person's name. And he was too modest. And I said: "Mr. Armstrong, that's the way the Catholics do it. That's the way the Mormons do it. That's the way the Secretaries of state will require that we do it." He said: "We'll try it the other way. I don't want it to just have my name."

And as I predicted, the secretary of state rejected it and then this followed. So we weren't totally naive as we began to see the movement. But when Mr. Armstrong and others

came to California they were advised by counsel that there was a Constitution in effect here, the United States Constitution, the California Constitution and that the best way of carrying out the Work of the living God as he explained it to them was to incorporate. If he'd been told that these other methods were available at that time and what the risks were of doing it one way as against another and what the advantages were, he might have opted as does the Catholic church to operate as a corporate sole, and we would have been a corporate sole for 30 years. That gives you some of the background. So it's not a brand new idea even for us. We tried to do this back in '76, not thinking that anything like this would happen.

Oh, by the way, Harpers magazine has asked our Professor Laurence Tribe to write an article. And he's been writing it and it will be coming out shortly. He had to hold it because he didn't want to run afoul of a Supreme Court custom that lawyers representing people before the court while the case is lodged there should keep their names out of newspapers or magazines.

But that article will offset some of the bad articles that have been appearing elsewhere. His position on our team is very significant. He's not just a lawyer in practice. A lawyer in practice takes all kinds of cases, and he takes cases where the people are guilty as well as innocent, because everybody is entitled to a defense.

He's from Harvard, and he's not in private practice, but he is allowed on a selected basis to take cases of paramount importance. And once he convinced himself of our integrity and the nature of this case, he has been an absolutely dedicated servant. And I can call him at two o'clock in the morning and he's in his office. And I can call him at two o'clock in the morning on a Sunday and he is there.

He is the outstanding constitutional lawyer in the United States today. He is working around the clock trying to vindicate us.

I just wanted you to know that, not that the other lawyers don't believe in our cause as well. I'm only pointing out he's got a lot at stake reputation-wise, and Harvard would look down on him if he got involved in the wrong case at the wrong time because it's just too much of an educational institution to have their leading law professor in that field running around after bad causes.

Money

(Continued from page 1)

California Law School with the highest grades on record. Yale Law School awarded him a Sterling Fellowship, and all doors in the legal profession were open to him. But he was working more and more with us and preferred to stay with the Work of God.

Finally, some years ago, we told Mr. Rader we would like to have him devote his full time with us. This meant giving up a well-paying CPA business and an established law practice — he was a member of the bar in California.

Neither Mr. Rader nor his family were then members of the Church. It is understandable that Mr. Rader did not want to lower his family living standard. We agreed to pay him a salary equal to his income at the time. It was the highest salary on our payroll — well above my own. I am reminded of a large milling company in Minneapolis that used to have a slogan for its flour — "Costs more — worth it!" A

Rolls Royce car costs more than others — but will last 30 or 40 years — cheaper in the long run. God says "the labourer is worthy of his hire" (Luke 10:7). God would not have had me pay him less than he was worth.

Mr. Rader's kind of specialized talent and ability, like a Rolls Royce, may cost a little more — but is WORTH IT, and he should not be underpaid. However, let me add here that both Mr. Rader and one of his daughters now are baptized members of the Worldwide Church of God. And the whole family is firmly loyal to the Church at heart.

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

The government Internal Revenue Service has gone through and with a fine-tooth comb over both our personal accounts, and absolved us completely of any of these false allegations.

All I have in the world is my home in Tucson, Ariz., bought 3½ years ago with small down

payment and a long-term loan with many years yet to run before it is clear, the use of a 3-year-old car belonging to the Church and a checking account in the bank. My wife owns a car, clothes and some jewelry I bought for her with personal funds after taxes, tithes and offerings. That's all!

Mr. Rader has a bank account about double mine, and 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, but it all came from her own mother — not from the Church.

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

For 53 years I have lived a life devoted to the principle of GIVING! But those who GET do love to accuse falsely and persecute those who GIVE! WHEN WE ALL turn to living the GIVING way, there will be PEACE on this war-weary earth!

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Mr. Attorney General of California:

You cannot shut these doors opened to me for world travel to proclaim the Gospel!

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT to your office, Mr. Attorney General, I am under orders from a far higher authority—one who says you can't stop me!

To me, the Supreme Authority, the living Jesus Christ, says, "Go ye into all the world and proclaim my Gospel Message." He says He is the Supreme One who has opened before me the doors, and no man can shut!

Just how important is this to the Supreme Authority above all? For our time now—late in the 20th century—He says, "This Gospel of the Kingdom of God shall be preached in all the world for a witness, to all nations, and then shall the end [of this world's civilization] come."

No other is taking this Gospel Message of the imminent WORLD-RULING Kingdom of God into all the world. In 1,900 years that Message has not gone out to the whole world!

The Supreme Authority says you cannot shut the doors He has opened before me!

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S VIEW

Just how have you, Mr. Attorney General, viewed my Great Commission, going into all the world with that all-important announcement of the coming world-ruling GOVERNMENT?

Without checking in a peaceful manner to learn WHY I have been going into all the world, you listened to the dissident, expelled ex-members of the Worldwide Church of God. You assumed that these arduous missions worldwide were mere pleasure trips—"siphoning off millions of dollars every year to my own personal account." You accepted, without first checking, the testimony of expelled former members. Through your actions, severe and irreparable damage was done to the Work of the living GOD!

In the first place, had you checked, you would have found that these globe-girding travels obeying the Great Commission from Christ, were allocated the *smallest* amount on the Worldwide Church of God annual



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

budget—less than \$1 million per year! Yet it was necessary that I take along with me a team required for holding many series of public meetings before large audiences on various continents of the earth.

Opening the door to such public meetings were invitations for private audiences with many heads of state—kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers. I have been given highest honors by the governments of foreign nations.

I have been the first—and so far as I know only—religious leader from the world of Christianity to be invited as the honored guest of the Communist People's Republic of China, to speak to large audiences this Message from the Supreme "Unseen Strong Hand from Somewhere" at the Chinese capital. My party and I were the honored guests of that largest-population nation on earth.

The Higher Authority I serve has said that in so doing, I or any others serving Him, would suffer the indignities of severe persecution—even from the high sources of this world. Jesus Christ said that if they had persecuted Him they would persecute us who follow and obey Him.

Not realizing what you were doing, you have allowed yourself to be snared into this major-scale persecution of the entire Church of God—and, as a test case, your start on a campaign to take over, own, control and manage the affairs of ALL CHURCHES!

I know that in IGNORANCE you have done this. You allowed yourself to be misled by ex-members. Had you come to us in peace, seeking the background of the Worldwide Church of God and its world-girding operations, we would have given you the fullest cooperation and told you the PLAIN TRUTH.

We have so cooperated with every other government agency that has sought the true facts.

Forces of the Roman government persecuted Jesus Christ—finally put Him to death to pay for your sins, Mr. Attorney General, and mine. You have allowed yourself to be snared into fighting against this Higher Authority! I shall do as the Head of the Church admonishes: "Pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you." I shall pray for your enlightenment, and that you may be forgiven by the Higher Power! I would like to take you with me into the soon-coming Kingdom of God!

WE ARE NON-PROSELYTING

We do not compete with other churches. We do not seek their members nor solicit any MEMBERS DIRECTLY. God adds such members as He calls and who come voluntarily.

We have, as we so well know, been grievously misunderstood. But we welcome with thanks to Almighty God the present legal backing of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States, the Lutheran Church in America, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, the Synagogue Council of America, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, National Association of Evangelicals, and Northern California Ecumenical Council. By them we are supported by 83 MILLION AMERICANS!

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

For more information, 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.