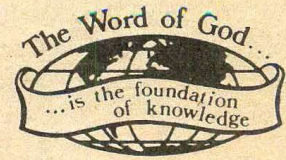


The Good News

PASADENA, CALIF.



A PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD VOL. VI, NO. 22 NOV. 6, 1978

HOW THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD CAME INTO BEING

By Herbert W. Armstrong

TO SET the record straight, once and for all, I give you here the actual FACTS relating to my fellowshiping with the *Church of God, Seventh Day*, Stanberry, Mo., and the A.N. Dugger "Church of God," Salem, W. Va.

Rumors have been started that Garner Ted Armstrong is now doing the precise thing his father did in the years 1933 to 1937. Like most rumors started for wrong reasons, this one is FALSE!

Mr. Armstrong's conversion No biblically organized true Church still existed

Errors usually originate from a false premise carelessly ASSUMED, unproved.

The true original Church of

We are really in the third generation of the present era of the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD. Few are still living who remember how God started it. HERE IS EYE-OPENING NEWS to most members of God's Church TODAY. And it corrects a false rumor concerning Herbert W. Armstrong and the "Sardis" era of the Church. Mr. ARMSTRONG DID NOT "LEAVE" THE CHURCH OF GOD (Sardis era) TO START THE PRESENT WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD. Nor did he ever seek to draw away any of their members after him! He was never a member of either of the two factions of that church — though he fellowshiped and gave help to each of them. Mr. Armstrong's relation with "Sardis" was one of "GIVING" not "GETTING."

God was founded A.D. 31 by Jesus Christ. It was a SPIRITUAL ORGANISM — not a worldly organization — yet well organized on GOD'S PATTERN.

It was headed by Jesus Christ, who already had ascended to God's throne in heaven. It was

founded on a SOLID FOUNDATION — a spiritual foundation — the apostles (New Testament) and prophets (Old Testament) with Christ the actual HEAD.

Under the apostles and the very few prophets after A.D. 31 were evangelists, pastors, other elders

and teachers, deacons and deaconesses. It was truly the "... household of God ... In whom all the building fitly framed together ... unto an holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:19-21), "... the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth ..." (Ephesians 4:16).

But after A.D. 33 violent persecution set in (Acts 8:1). But about A.D. 53 to 59 another gospel was taking over the churches, and before A.D. 70 the Gospel Christ had preached was SUPPRESSED! The Church was

forced virtually to go underground, holding meetings secretly.

The apostle Polycarp (a disciple of the apostle John) and a later apostle, Policrates, had heated controversies with the Roman bishops in the false "Babylonian Mystery" religion (Revelation 17:5), which, under Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8), had adopted the name "Christianity."

In Revelation 2 and 3 are the messages inspired by Christ from God's throne.

The seven churches

The apostle John relates, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day ..." (Revelation 1:10). In other words, John was taken IN VISION, by the Spirit of God, into the far future DAY OF THE LORD. From the time of Adam to now — approximately 6,000 years — we have been in the day of MAN, deceived and led by Satan.

The period foretold in more than 30 prophecies called the "Day of the Lord" is the time when God supernaturally intervenes and begins taking over the world — starting very shortly, perhaps one to three years, before the second coming of Christ to RULE ALL NATIONS.

The apostle John, in vision, (See HOW, page 3)

'78 Feast is 'spiritual revival'

PASADENA — Worldwide Church of God brethren gathered at 75 sites this year from Anchorage, Alaska, to Suva, Fiji, for eight days (Oct. 16 to 23) of spiritual food, fellowship and fun.

For the first time in the history of the Feast members of God's worldwide family had the opportunity to see and hear Herbert W. Arm-

strong speak at the Feast.

As the Festival got under way the evening of Oct. 15 it was Mr. Armstrong who greeted Feastgoers, whether they were meeting in coconut-palm huts or Church-owned tabernacles such as the ones at the Lake of the Ozarks, Mo., and Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

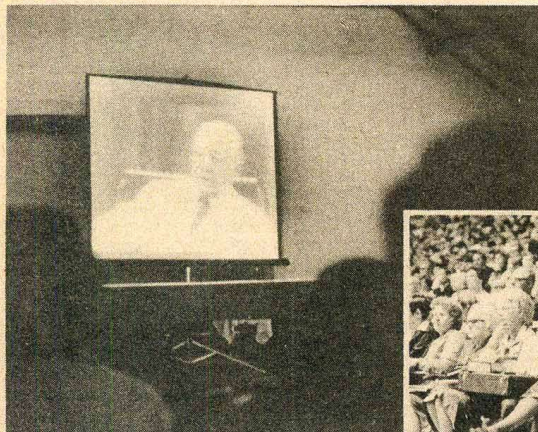
Films that Mr. Armstrong had

made before the Feast for this purpose were shipped to all points of the globe. For German-, French- and Spanish-speaking brethren the film was translated.

Some attending the Feast in African sites had never seen Mr. Armstrong before. Festival coordinators reported delight at being able to have the films, with many calling the presentations the highlight of the Festival.

Mr. Armstrong himself made personal appearances at three U.S. sites. Accompanied by his assistant, Stanley Rader, he spoke before a combined total of 28,000 brethren in St. Petersburg, Fla., Big Sandy, Tex., and finally Tucson, Ariz. Mr. Rader also gave talks at the three sites.

Mr. Armstrong hailed the Feast as (See FEAST 78, page 8)



FESTIVAL SERVICES — Members watch Herbert W. Armstrong's opening night film at the Sierra de la Ventana, Argentina, site, above, and listen during services at Fresno, Calif., right. [Photos by Tom Williams and Dave Knight]

'GOOD NEWS' TO CHANGE FORMAT, 'WORLDWIDE NEWS' TO RESUME PUBLICATION

As announced by Herbert W. Armstrong in a co-worker letter dated Oct. 16, *The Good News* will soon be changed into a full four-color magazine and the tabloid paper will continue publication under the name *The Worldwide News*. Work has already begun on the first two issues of *The Good News* magazine, and it should begin regular publication within the next few months.

As explained by Mr. Armstrong, the new *Good News* will be devoted to biblical and spiritual food for members. *The Worldwide News* will resume its emphasis on news of the Work and its leaders throughout the world and continue its coverage of local church activities, announcements of personal news, features on members and additional articles of a spiritual nature.

We welcome your comments and look forward to serving you with continued news and encouragement through the pages of *The Good News* and *The Worldwide News*.

Dexter Faulkner
Managing Editor

HOW THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD CAME INTO BEING

(Continued from page 1)
was taken into this "Day of the Lord" called "the Lord's day" in Revelation 1:10. This period, "the Day of the Lord," especially that phase of it PRIOR to Christ's coming (although it shall continue through the millennium), is the THEME of the book of Revelation.

Continue in Revelation 1:10: "... and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega [A and Z], the first and the last; and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia..." Then Christ named the churches, starting with Ephesus and ending with Laodicea.

Then, in his vision John turned and saw seven golden candlesticks and "... in the midst of the golden candlesticks one like unto the Son of man [Christ]..." And he had in his right hand seven stars..."

Then He (Christ) said, "The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches; and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches" (Revelation 1:20).

Then follow, in chapters 2 and 3, Christ's messages to the angels of these seven churches.

I studied deeply into these seven churches and Christ's messages to them 51 years ago. And I concluded, on exhaustive re-

discouraged — had lost their first love. But, also, that has been true of every era of the Church — only not so dominant as in the first two centuries.

The Church did become scattered! Never again after the first century was it ONE WELL-ORGANIZED, COMPACTED BODY!

This is a fact that most today have not realized — and perhaps most have supposed there existed a centrally organized closely knit Church from the first century

"The Church did become scattered! Never again after the first century was it ONE WELL-ORGANIZED, COMPACTED BODY!"

until now. BUT THAT IS NOT TRUE.

Yet, when Christ comes, He is coming to a Church that IS well-organized — the "... household of God..." in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:19-21).

THAT IS THE TEMPLE TO WHICH CHRIST SHALL COME. THAT IS THE ONE AND ONLY CHURCH THAT SHALL, RESURRECTED, MARRY CHRIST!

But, when I first was converted and came on the scene, the Church (Sardis era) was widely scattered. There was a U.S. headquarters at Stanberry, Mo. But there were a few very small scattered groups, which we have discovered since, in Central and South America and Europe. These brethren were still keeping

by very disturbing dual challenges. My wife, after nine years of happy marriage, had begun keeping the seventh-day Sabbath. I was aghast! That, to me, was religious fanaticism! She claimed to have found this teaching in the Bible.

My first upsetting thought was, What will my business contacts and friends say? It was a devastating thought, humiliating!

All the arguments came quickly to my mind. They were of no

avail. She said she found this teaching in the Bible.

"But the Bible says," I protested, "thou shalt observe Sunday."

"Can you show that to me in the Bible?" she asked.

"No," I replied, "I don't know much about the Bible. My interest and studies have been in the area of business. But I know the Bible teaches Sunday observance, because all these churches can't be wrong, and they receive their beliefs from the Bible."

"If," she smiled sincerely — but to me exasperatingly — "you can show me where the Bible commands Sunday observance, I'll go back to it."

There was no dodging the challenge. My marriage depended on it!

A second challenge

Coincidentally, a sister-in-law, newly married and fresh out of college, hurled at me a second humiliating challenge.

"Herbert Armstrong," she accused contemptuously, "you are just plain ignorant! Everybody who has any education knows human life has come by evolution."

I was proud. I had not neglected study and education. I thought I knew the facts about evolution, and I didn't believe in it. But now I had to admit I had never pursued a thorough, in-depth research of the question.

The dual challenge drove me into a determined almost night-and-day research. That intensive study continued for six months before I found the *proved* answer. Yet the study to this day has never ceased.

I was not only humiliated and angered by these challenges, I was determined to prove both my wife and sister-in-law wrong. Both challenges focused on a common starting point, the book of Genesis in the Bible, although that was only the beginning.

These challenges came at a period in life when I had ample time on my hands. I plunged with intense concentration into the study.

Evolutionary writings researched

But I did not begin the research

ily understood how the field of education had been gripped in the clutch of the evolutionary concept.

Evolution, as I finally learned, is the atheists' attempted explanation of the presence of a creation without the preexistence of a Creator.

This initial stage of my research rudely shook my faith in the existence of God. It brought me to realization that I had assumed the reality of God, because from childhood I had heard — and therefore assumed — it. For a while my head was literally swimming. Was all I had ever believed mere myth and error after all? I was awakened to the realization I had never seen

PROVED the reality of God! Now I was determined to know the TRUTH! My mind was being cleaned out from ideas and beliefs previously taken for granted.

Of all the writings on evolution Moore, alone, had culled out many discrepancies in the theory. Yet he, too, went along with the doctrine overall.

But now I had, first of all, to prove or disprove the existence of God. It was no casual or superficial study. I continued in this research as if my life depended upon it — as in actual fact it did, as well as my marriage. I studied books also on the other side of the coin.

God's existence proved

Suffice it to say here that I did find irrefutable PROOF of the exist-

"I began to ask, 'WHERE, then, is the real true Church which CHRIST founded?'"

ence of God the Creator, and I found proof positive of the fallacy of the evolutionary theory. I had the satisfaction of winning the admission of one thoroughly steeped in evolutionary thought — having spent years in graduate work at the University of Chicago and at Columbia — that I had definitely chopped down the trunk of the evolutionary tree, though like Dr. Moore, she had been so thoroughly brainwashed in it she had to continue in what she had seen and acknowledged was PROOF of its falsity.

Also I had the enjoyment of being able to cause my sister-in-law to "eat those words" branding me as "ignorant." All of which was merely vanity on my part, which I had not yet eradicated.

I had proved the reality of THE GREAT MAJESTIC GOD! But my wife's challenge was still tormenting my mind. Already, in the evolutionary research, I had studied Genesis. I knew each of the world's religions had their own sacred writings. Once God's reality was proved, I had expected to continue in the pursuit of comparative religions to see if any such sacred writings proved authoritative. Through which of these did God speak to mankind — if any?

Bible research continued

Since I had to research the Sabbath question anyway, and already I had delved into Genesis, I decided to continue my study in the Bible — intending to examine in depth the writings of other religions afterward.

In my biblical study I came across early the passage in Romans 6:23: "... the wages of sin is death..." I stopped, amazed. Wages is what one is paid for what one has done. Here I was staring at a statement diametrically opposite to my Sunday school teaching prior to age 18.

"Why," I exclaimed, "how can that be? I was taught in church that the wages of sin is EVERLASTING LIFE in an eternally burning hell."

Another shock came on reading the last part of the same verse: "... but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

"But," I questioned in disillusionment, "I thought I already had eternal life — I am, or I have, an immortal soul. Why should I need it as a gift?"

I researched the word *soul* by means of a Bible concordance. Twice I found the words, "... the soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4 and Ezekiel 18:20).

Then I remembered I had read in Genesis 2 how God said to the first human, "But of the tree of

the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

In Genesis 2:7 I read how God "... formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man [dust — matter] became a living soul." This stated plainly that a soul is physical — formed from matter. I found that the English word *soul* is translated from the Hebrew *nephesh* and that in Genesis 1 fowl, fish and animals,

(See HOW, page 4)

"But God's Church, though continuous through all generations from A.D. 31, LOST much or all of its original organizational pattern established BY CHRIST..."

search, that they represented the seven conditions that would be found in the Church of God at all times, from A.D. 31 until Christ's coming — BUT ALSO the seven ERAS of God's Church during these more than 1,900 years. God showed me that the Ephesus condition here described would be PREDOMINANT during the first era, the Laodicean condition described in the last era just prior to Christ's second coming, predominant just before Christ's coming. But definitely they depict SEVEN SUCCESSIVE ERAS.

Loss of first love

The predominant characteristic of the Ephesus era — the first, beginning A.D. 31, — was loss of its first love. The Church in A.D. 31 on the day of Pentecost started out with great rejoicing and deep spirituality. But by approximately A.D. 59 to 59, they already were turning to ANOTHER GOSPEL — the GOSPEL MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST WAS BEING SUPPRESSED!

A violent persecution had set in by A.D. 33. By A.D. 70 the true Church was virtually forced to go underground. They were

the Sabbath, the Holy Days (which the Sardis people in America WERE NOT), and still kept the NAME, Church of God. They are now part of the Worldwide Church of God.

NOW — Herbert W. Armstrong and the Sardis era

I was born of stable and upright parents with an ancestry in the Quaker faith that had emigrated from England to Pennsylvania with William Penn, a hundred years before the United States became a nation.

At age 18 I dropped all but the most passive interest in religion. I had put myself through an intensive self-examination, coupled with a survey of the various occupations and professions to determine where I belonged — to avoid fitting the proverbial square peg in the round hole. This led into the advertising profession and a business life. I was unusually successful. I had continued through the years diligent study and application. I had planned that my business contacts were largely with the great and the near-great.

Then, at age 34, I was assailed

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all three, were *nepesh* as Moses was inspired to write.

Next, I happened to read where Jesus said, "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man . . ." (John 3:13). I researched the heaven and hell teaching further. I saw where the inspired Peter, on the day he received the Holy Spirit said, "For David is not ascended into the heavens . . ." (Acts 2:34).

Taught opposite of Bible

I was, in utter astonishment, coming to realize that what I had been taught growing up in church was the precise opposite of what the Bible says in clear language.

This is not the place for a lengthy, detailed account of my intensive search in the Bible — bent on proving to my satisfaction that "all these churches can't be

of no world religious leader who arrived at his teachings in such manner. Perhaps that is why GOD'S INSPIRED WORD *alone* — as I proved — is TRUTH. Only GOD is infallibly correct!

I was brought, by the spring of 1927, to a complete MIND-SWEEPING — my mind *swept clean* of previous assumptions and beliefs — surrendered to the WORD OF GOD, which by then I had *proved TRUE*, and the SUPREME AUTHORITY.

More, I had been brought to realize my own inadequacy and nothingness. I had been brought to a real repentance — CONQUERED by the GREAT MAJESTIC GOD — and with a solid rock-based FAITH in Jesus Christ. I was baptized, and the infilling of God's Spirit opened my mind to the JOY UNSPEAKABLE of knowing God and Jesus Christ — of knowing TRUTH and the warmth of God's divine LOVE!

"I was, in utter astonishment, coming to realize that what I had been taught growing up in church was the precise opposite of what the Bible says in clear language."

wrong, for their teachings came from the Bible." The essential point here is the simple fact that I did find irrefutable PROOF of the divine inspiration and SUPREME AUTHORITY of the Holy Bible as the revealed Word of God as originally written. Even all the so-called contradictions evaporated upon unbiased study.

Yet, to my utter dismay and chagrin, I was forced to "eat crow" in regard to my wife's supposed "fanaticism." It was not what I *wanted* to believe, THEN! But by now I had taken a real beating. I had *proved* truth contrary to what I wanted to believe.

Let me pause here to add a point to what I wrote above, saying to most people believe what they have repeatedly heard or read or been taught. There are two other psychological truisms in regard to WHY people believe what they do. One is, people carelessly accept what those around them believe. Most Thais are Buddhists because those around them in Thailand are Buddhists. There is the psychological tendency to go along with one's peers.

One other reason for people's beliefs is that human nature tends to cause one to believe what he *wants* to believe and refuse, regardless of proof, what he does not want to believe. There is the old saying, "One convinced against his will is of the same opinion still."

God's Word alone is truth

That is why I have said the experience I was painfully subjected to in this six-months' intensive study was UNIQUE in human life and conduct. I know

What I once hated I now LOVED. I found the greatest and most absorbing joy of my life in *continuing* to dig out those gold nuggets of TRUTH from God's Word.

Now came a new enthusiasm in biblical study and receiving the REVEALED knowledge of God.

I began to ask, "WHERE, then, is the real true Church which Christ founded?"

The true GOSPEL

My shocking, disappointing, eye-opening discovery, upon looking into the Bible for myself, had revealed in stark plainness that the teachings of traditional Christianity were, in most basic points, the *very opposite* of the teachings of Christ, of Paul and of the original true Church!

Could the original and only true Church have disintegrated and disappeared? Could it have ceased to exist? No, for I read where Jesus said the gates of the grave would never prevail against it. Also He had said to His disciples who formed His Church, "Lo, I am with you always."

Then I saw that the very PURPOSE of the Church was to *preach Christ's GOSPEL!* It is HIS BODY — His instrument by which He carried on GOD'S WORK!

I looked carefully at that Gospel as Christ Himself preached

and taught it to His first ministers. It is recorded in the four books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. At almost every point of teaching that Jesus enunciated, the teachings of traditional Christian bodies today are just the opposite.

THEY WERE NOT PREACHING THE SAME GOSPEL AT ALL, BUT A TOTALLY OPPOSITE MESSAGE! This was shocking — incredible — unbelievable! Yet I was compelled to see it was true!

Jesus *began* the Work of preaching the very Gospel that GOD the Father had sent to mankind through Him. He commissioned His disciples — His apostles — to carry the same Gospel to all the world. And He has said He would never drop the Work He had begun! But WHERE was it going on *today*?

Seeking an obedient Church

I knew now that when I found the one and *only* true Church, I would find a Church *obedient to God* — keeping His commandments — having the testimony of Jesus Christ, which is the TRUTH of the Scriptures.

I had been much impressed by a description of the true Church, as it is to be found in our time — just before the second coming of Christ: "It is found in Revelation 12. It is the time when Satan is filled with wrath against God's Church, 'because he knoweth that he hath but a short time' (Revelation 12:12). Satan is making war with 'the remnant of her seed.' The remnant means the very last generation in this age. The Church is definitely described. It is those '... which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ' (Revelation 12:17).

My intensive study had revealed one thing plainly: "The commandments of God" mean "Sabbath keeping" to most traditional denominations. They say, "The commandments are done away!" They reject "the commandments of God."

That automatically ruled out all churches observing Sunday. So far as I could learn, it reduced the search to three small groups — the Seventh-Day Adventists, the Seventh-Day Baptists, and a little, almost unheard-of church called the Church of God, which maintained a small publishing-house headquarters at Stanberry, Mo.

So I examined Seventh-Day Adventist teachings — just as I did those of many other denominations. I obtained their magazines, their booklets and pamphlets, their large book of

Bible readings or Bible "home instructor."

The true Church is the one that lives by EVERY WORD OF God — the words of the BIBLE!

Never an Adventist

It seems necessary to add here that I have *never* been a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist denomination. False statements have appeared in various church or religious magazines, pamphlets or tracts that I am a former Seventh-Day Adventist. I did obtain much of their literature to compare with the Bible. I did examine and study it with an open mind, and without prejudice. I was happy to find that like most denominations, they do have certain points of truth. None is 100 percent in error.

But my familiarity with Adventist doctrines has come entirely through their published literature. I have *never attended a regular Sabbath church service of that denomination!*

Next, I looked into the teaching of the Seventh-Day Baptists. I found it to be virtually identical, except for observing a different day of the week, with other Protestant denominations — especially the Baptists.

But, of these three churches to which the search had been narrowed, only one had the right NAME for the true Church. This was the small, little-heard-of Church of God whose headquarters were at Stanberry, Mo.

Twelve times in the New Testament, I found the NAME of the Church that Christ established plainly stated as "THE CHURCH OF GOD."

Could GOD'S Church be fruitless?

The only Church I had so far found that "kept the commandments of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ," and at the same time bore the NAME of the original true Church, was this almost unknown little Church of God with its small publishing house in Stanberry, Mo.

But this left me quite confused. For this was a *little* church, especially compared to the Roman Catholic, the Methodist, the Baptist, the Presbyterian, the Lutheran or other large churches numbering millions of members. Then I saw where Jesus called His Church the "little flock."

But still I was not completely satisfied. I was deeply concerned. I prayed a great deal over it. For here was a church, which, compared to the large-scale activities of the Catholic and big Protestant bodies, was ineffec-

tive. I could see that it was imperfect. It wielded no great power. Jesus had said, "... ALL POWER is given unto me in heaven and earth" (Matthew 28:18). I read how Jesus Christ was to *be IN* His Church! He guides it! He directs

"This was the small — actually infinitesimal — start of what was destined to grow in 38 years to a major worldwide Gospel Work reaching millions . . . every week."

it! He EMPOWERS it! He said His Church was to RECEIVE POWER (Acts 1:8).

No person is even a member of the true Church unless he has received and is filled and led by the Holy Spirit — and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of POWER! This little church seemed to be powerless — comparatively impotent! I failed to see where it was bearing much if any fruit! Could a fruitless church be the ONE AND ONLY true Church of GOD on earth?

I was deeply perplexed. Here was a little church, with scattered members probably numbering less than 2,000, mostly in rural areas. Apparently, as nearly as I could learn, it had only a very limited number of local churches, none as large as 100 members.

As I began to come in contact with some of its leaders, they seemed to be men of little education — no college degrees — its ministry could hardly be described as an educated ministry. Their preaching had a certain fire, yet seemed totally to lack the power that attracts sizable audiences, that *moves* people, *stirs* hearts, and changes lives. I could see no visible results.

Could *this* be God's one and only true Church on earth? The very question seemed preposterous!

... But, where else?

And yet —

Yes, and yet, small, powerless, resultless, impotent though it appeared to be, here was a church with the right name, "keeping the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ," and *closer*, in its doctrines and teachings, to what God had been opening my eyes to see plainly in His Word than any other church of which I knew! Small and impotent though it appeared, it had *more Bible TRUTH than any church I could find!*

Meanwhile, what was I to do? I was not at all convinced this was the one and only true Church. Yet, if it was not, *which one was?* This one came *closer* to the Bible qualifications than any I knew.

(See CHURCH, page 5)

"This initial stage of my research rudely shook my faith in the existence of God. It brought me to realization that I had assumed the reality of God, because from childhood I had heard — and therefore assumed — it. For a while my head was literally swimming. Was all I had ever believed mere myth and error after all?"

CHURCH

(Continued from page 4)

Therefore, I began to fellowship with their scattered and few members in Oregon, while at the same time refraining from acknowledging membership.

We were living in Portland, Ore., at the time. I knew of no members of this church in Portland, but there was a sprinkling of them through the Willamette Valley between Salem and Eugene, in Oregon — mostly farmers or truck gardeners. They welcomed the fellowship of myself and Mrs. Armstrong.

We found them to be simple, plain and humble people, hard working and industrious, and loving the Bible TRUTH — as much as they had — willing to suffer persecution for it.

And so it was, in this detached fellowship, that Mrs. Armstrong and I continued the first 3½ years of my ceaseless night-and-day study of the Bible — of history, especially as connected with biblical history and prophecy — and of pertinent allied subjects.

These, too, were years of much and earnest prayer. Much of the Bible study done at home was done on my knees, combining study with prayer. Much time was spent during these years, as it had been that first six months, at the public library. I delved into intensive research in the commentaries, Bible encyclopedias, Bible dictionaries, comparing various translations of the Bible, examining Greek and Hebrew texts of doubtful or questionable passages, checking with lexicons

Conference. I learned that they were organized as a General Conference, with elections of officers held biannually. Most of the Oregon members lived in the Willamette Valley in the vicinity of Jefferson. Most of them were in attendance at this business meeting.

About half of them were opposed to Elder Dugger. They wanted to organize a state conference. Some of the other states had state conferences. The purpose of this Oregon State Conference was to hold the tithes and church funds contributed by Oregon members in Oregon.

But actually, it was born of opposition to and dissatisfaction with the Stanberry membership and state conference. The other half were just as verbal in their loyalty and support of Elder Dugger and the Stanberry regime.

The dispute over Stanberry politics and Elder Dugger's personal fitness and integrity waxed more and more heated. One tall man who weighed considerably over 200, and was a leader, spoke of "dirty politics" and called Elder Dugger a "ward-healer". An equally vociferous man on the other side of the dispute rose to defend the honor of Mr. Dugger. Words flamed hotter and hotter. Each side was sincere and in roused earnest. Under the tense pressure tempers were flaring. I became afraid it was going to be settled (or unsettled) by fists.

At that instant I rose, and in a loud but calm voice asked if I might say a word. Since I was a guest, they didn't refuse.

"Brethren," I said, "you all know how, as recorded in the

"... we did not yet realize ourselves that CHRIST had started, in us, the Philadelphia era of His Church, committed with the GREAT COMMISSION."

and Robertson's *Grammar of the Greek New Testament*. I made an intensive study of ancient history in connection with biblical history and prophecy.

Meanwhile, on their urging, a few of these articles had been mailed in to *The Bible Advocate* in Stanberry, Mo. These articles began appearing on the front page.

The near fight at a meeting

Along in November of 1930 the Runcorns, neighbors of my parents, asked me to go with them to a business meeting of brethren of the Church of God, being held in the home of Mrs. Ira Curtis, near Jefferson, Ore.

Although I was a guest — I had never become a member of this church, whose headquarters were at Stanberry, Mo. — they asked me to act as secretary and take down the minutes of the meeting. I learned that the meeting was called for the purpose of organizing these Oregon members into an Oregon Conference.

I sensed immediately there was a feeling of division among them. Elder A.N. Dugger was the real leader of the church at Stanberry. He was editor of the church's weekly paper sent to members. He either was, or had been, president of their General

first chapter of Job, when the sons of God came together, *Satan came also*. You also know how, in the 12th chapter of Revelation, we are told that the people Satan is most angry with are those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. That means us. Satan is here. He is stirring up rage and anger in your hearts. I am going to drop to my knees right now and ask God Almighty to cast Satan out of this house! All of you who wish may kneel with me and pray silently."

Without another word, I quickly dropped to my knees beside my chair and began asking God to rebuke Satan and this controversial spirit that was rousing these men to anger and to drive Satan from our presence and to give us peace and love.

When I rose there were some wet eyes, but there were no angry voices. These people were sincere. They simply believed what they believed and had allowed themselves to be caught off guard and roused to anger.

R.L. Taylor arrives

In early summer of that year, 1931, a former Seventh-Day Adventist minister, a Robert L. Taylor, came to Oregon from California. It was practice among these Church of God people to

"Jesus said we should KNOW 'by their fruits.' And now they were split right down the middle. A house divided cannot stand, and their two houses — Stanberry and Salem — did NOT stand!"

hold all-day meetings about once a month. It was at one of these meetings that Mr. Taylor preached. We were all quite impressed.

"He's a better preacher than any of the leading ministers from Stanberry," seemed to be the common exclamation. Indeed we were all rather swept off our feet by his preaching.

After a few weeks, the brethren of this Oregon Conference, which had been formed the preceding November, wanted to team Elder Taylor with me to hold an evangelistic campaign. They were becoming anxious to see a little life in the work of the Church.

They found Elder Taylor very receptive to the idea. By this time a modest balance had accumulated in the new conference treasury. You will remember that the object in forming this state conference was to create a local state treasury and keep their tithes and offerings in the state instead of being sent to Stanberry, Mo. These were days of rapidly descending economic depression, but several of these brethren were vegetable gardeners. They were doing very well financially.

This made it necessary that the Oregon Conference ordain me to the ministry.

ORDAINED Christ's minister

Being ordained and entering the ministry full time meant a complete change in my life. In former years the idea of becoming a minister was the very last thing I should have wanted to do. But by June, 1931, I had been preaching a great deal for 3½ years. By this time my whole heart was in it.

I shall never forget that moment of my ordination.

The meeting was being held outdoors. I do not remember where — except it was in the general rural area of Jefferson. I do not remember other circumstances.

But I do remember the ordination itself. It was one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences like being married, and being baptized. Only this seemed to me to be the most momentous event of my entire life.

All the brethren — as many as could get their hands through to my head — laid their hands on me — on my head, my shoulders, my chest and my back (like Acts 13:1-3).

I am sure it was the weight of the experience, from a spiritual and emotional standpoint, rather than the physical weight of hands and arms — but it seemed I was entirely weighted down with the heaviest load I had ever stood up under.

To me this was symbolic of the tremendous responsibility that now came down on my head and shoulders.

And let it be made plain here: I was ordained by, and under the authority of the Oregon Conference of The Church of God, separately incorporated; *not* by the

Stanberry, Mo., headquarters.

The Oregon campaigns

The campaign was held in Eugene in a tiny tent seating 50 people. R.L. Taylor there turned out to be Pentecostal. No results came from the six-weeks, six-nights-a-week meetings, except one night when it was too stormy to hold a service.

One lone couple came that night — Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Fisher. They came with me to the room I had rented, and that night Mrs. Fisher accepted the Sabbath. He already believed in it.

After this, employed by the Oregon Conference, I teamed up with a young minister of the Stanberry church, Roy Daily. We held meetings at St. Helens, Ore., and Umapine, Ore., near Walla Walla, Wash.

The only results came after Mr. Daily left Umapine, on finding the conference treasury was about gone, and saying, "I'm going back there to protect my own interests."

I said I would serve GOD's interests in faith — and after he left a small church was raised up.

But, like others raised up by my preaching, there was no local minister and the church evaporated after a few weeks.

In March, 1933, we planned a six-nights-a-week campaign in a small empty store building in the Hollywood residence section of Salem, Ore.

Now appeared on the scene two more former Seventh-Day Adventist ministers, A.J. Ray, and Sven A. Oberg. Oberg swept the brethren off their feet with his superb preaching more than had R.L. Taylor. He was a man so perfect we wondered if he was not actually an angel in disguise. He was in disguise all right! He, too, turned out to be Pentecostal.

Soon the Pentecostal people with Mr. Oberg's help were taking over the meetings.

Results? NONE! The shouters drove away others who had been interested. After the meetings, Mr. Oberg went to Harrisburg, where a church building was leased, to hold a campaign of his own.

"Here was a church, which, compared to the large-scale activities of the Catholic and big Protestant bodies, was ineffective. I could see that it was imperfect. It wielded no great power. Jesus had said, '... ALL POWER is given unto me in heaven and earth ...'"

I had been invited to hold a six-weeks campaign in a country schoolhouse, eight miles west of Eugene, Ore. First, however, Mrs. Armstrong and I visited privately in their homes some of the people who had attended the meeting in Salem. Result? A new church of close to 50 members organized. I had asked A.J. Ray to pastor it. Under his "leadership" it lasted six weeks.

Mr. Oberg was starting his new meetings in Harrisburg on

Sunday night, July 9. The Fishers and I decided to start the meetings at the Firbutte school the same night. I arrived at the Fisher farm, leaving my wife and children at our home in Salem about July 5 or 6.

Small start of worldwide Work

This was the small — actually infinitesimal — start of what was destined to grow in 38 years to a major worldwide Gospel Work reaching millions of people every week.

But if small, it started with a burst of energy and inspiration. First, it started with intensive and earnest private prayer. To the rear of the Fisher farm home was a fair-sized hill. Running over this hilltop for exercise I discovered a rock about 14 inches high. It was in a secluded spot. It came to mind how Jesus had dismissed the multitude and gone up into a mountain *apart* to pray — alone with God. I dropped to my knees before this rock, which seemed just the right height to kneel before, and began praying earnestly for the success of the meetings. It became sort of a daily pilgrimage, during my stay at Fishers', to this, which became my prayer rock. I'm sure that I drank in much energy, spiritual strength and inspiration at the prayer rock.

Preparing for the meetings, I borrowed a typewriter. I think the Fishers arranged this for me through one of their relatives. With carbon paper, I typed out some 30 notices, announcing the meetings, and the topics of the sermons for the first week or 10 days.

The first broadcast

The six-weeks meetings in the one-room Firbutte schoolhouse came to a close on Sunday night, Aug. 20, 1933. A total of more than 20 had come with us — but this apparently included the 10 members of the Fisher and Ellis families, members of the Church before the meetings started.

The Oct. 1, 1933, *Bulletin* carries the report that "with the Fisher and Ellis families, more

than 20 signified their desire to establish a new Sabbath-keeping Church of God in this district."

In September, the living Christ began opening doors for the MASS-proclaiming of His Gospel. It was then that someone brought to my attention the fact that the local radio station at Eugene, KORE, then the very smallest minimum-power of 100 watts, had a morning devotional program scheduled, but that they (See CHURCH, page 16)

CHURCH

(Continued from page 5)

were having difficulty getting local ministers to conduct the program. It was free time, carried by the station as a public service sustaining program of 15 minutes, 7:45 to 8 a.m.

Immediately I went to the radio station. A woman secretary told me she felt sure they would be glad to have me take the program for a week. I was to call back later for the exact date.

On my second call I was assigned the week of Oct. 9.

Oct. 9 was surely a great day in my life — the day of my very first experience before a microphone, *ON THE AIR!*

I took this opportunity very seriously. It was an opportunity to speak to several HUNDRED people at once! I had never spoken to that many before.

I spent the preceding week preparing rather extensive notes and script. I might never again have such an opportunity, so I decided to strike directly at the very heart of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Since the Kingdom of God is based on the promises made to Abraham, I began, on Monday morning's program with the PROMISES made to Abraham.

The surprising response

It must have been about Thursday morning that the announcer told me the station owner, Mr. Frank Hill, wanted to see me in his office later in the morning.

He had received several letters and telephone calls from listeners requesting copies of my talks. I had offered no literature of any kind. I had invited no mail response.

"This is rather surprising," said Mr. Hill. "We never had any response of any kind, before, from this morning devotional program. They told me you had not invited any. Yet it has been coming, I listened in on you this morning to see what was causing it. You have an excellent radio voice and a way of delivering your message that arouses interest and holds an audience."

"Now, Mr. Armstrong," he continued, "I want to suggest that you work out a regular Sunday morning Church service, condensed into a half hour. I'd like to put that on as a regular sustaining program — free time — but I can't do that without offering equal time to every church

would see what I could do.

But, \$2.50 every week! WOW! That was almost as much as my entire salary had been! And I had just previously renounced even that small salary!

Today, \$2.50 per half-hour broadcast seems incredibly small. We have to pay two or three times more than that per minute on most stations today! But it seemed like an insurmountable barrier then.

Yet I knew this was GOD'S WORK, not mine. I was only an instrument. God had promised to supply every need.

God had OPENED THE DOOR OF MASS EVANGELISM!

He had opened the first radio

planning of mine that the three-point campaign then being launched was to expand into its present global scope and influence.

The three-point campaign that built the Work

I plunged with energy into the GIANT DOORS God was opening. Of course those doors were not GIANT at first. God always starts things He does through humans, like the grain of mustard seed, the very smallest. But I, and the newly raised-up very small Church backing me, started on the very smallest wattage of any commercial radio station — 100 watts — and once a week.

whenever possible.

Further, to stop vicious rumors, I was NEVER a MEMBER of either the Stanberry, Mo., or the Salem, W. Va., factions of the Church of God. I worked WITH, in friendly cooperation, both factions, but never was a member of either.

More important, all those who have GONE OUT OF BEEN DISFELLOWSHIPED from the Church have sought by every means to STEAL AWAY OUR MEMBERS!

One minister who was doing this explained it this way: "Well, where else can we go to get members? We can't make any headway against the Seventh-Day Adventists, so it leaves us

tament offices, imputing to them a totally unscriptural meaning.

He claimed falsely that Jesus' original 12 apostles formed a permanent board of 12 as a church hierarchy. Then he took the seven deacons of Acts 6:3, who were appointed to wait on tables serving the widows and orphans. In the King James translation, this duty was translated as "This business," the Revised Standard Version, Moffatt and others translate it simply as a DUTY. But Mr. Dugger seized on that word *business* and construed it totally out of context to be a BOARD OF THE SEVEN, which were to handle THE MONEY of the church.

The board of the '12'

Because there had been much complaint about Mr. Dugger "running things" and assuming all authority, he adroitly appointed 12 others (by HIS CHOOSING) to be the Board of the 12 and appointed himself chairman of the Board of Seven to handle the money. This gave him absolute authority, while he pretended to give it to the "12." Then, because Jesus had sent out 70, two and two, on a special one-time tour of places where He was to come later (Luke 10:1), Mr. Dugger appointed what he called "the Board of the 70" — 70 "leading elders" — although there were not anywhere near that many elders in the church.

Actually, far from being a true

"Could the original and only true Church have disintegrated and disappeared? Could it have ceased to exist? No, for I read where Jesus said the gates of the grave would never prevail against it."

door (Revelation 8:8). I knew He wanted us to walk through that door. I knew He would somehow supply that \$2.50 every week. I knew also that we had to do our part, not lie down, do nothing, and expect God to do it without any effort from us.

I was continuing to hold meetings at the Firbutte schoolhouse, twice weekly — Sabbath afternoons and Thursday evenings.

Parent church of Worldwide Church of God founded

Now came a most crucial event. It was a TURNING POINT — AN EPOCH — IN THE 1,900-YEAR HISTORY OF GOD'S CHURCH.

And NOTE CAREFULLY THIS FACT. I was still cooperating with the Oregon Conference, although upon starting this new era of God's Church God had moved me to drop the infinitesimal salary I had been receiving from them.

But most of their members in the Willamette Valley now began attending with us at Eugene.

Oct. 21, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Smith, just across the road from the Jeans school, four miles west of Firbutte, this new Church of God was organized, with Mr. E.E. Fisher as deacon and myself as pastor. Meetings continued from that date, three times a week, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sabbath afternoons. Attendance was averaging 22. A first action of the new Church was the decision to go ahead with the broadcast. Three new members and the lay brethren of the Oregon Con-

ference all approved it joyfully as an effective evangelistic activity of the Church.

SURELY NOTHING could have started smaller. Born in adversity in the very depths of the Depression, this Work of God was destined to grow to worldwide power.

But I did not realize its destiny then. There were no illusions of grandeur. It was not through any

will to produce the radio program, but through 20 years of advertising experience I knew it had to be followed up.

I had conceived the idea of publishing *The Plain Truth* magazine in 1927 — had engaged a professional advertising artist to design a front cover. But for that seven years no way opened to make possible its launching. Now, my making it a mimeographed "magazine" — cutting stencils on a borrowed typewriter and gaining permission of the local A.B. Dick Co. to borrow the use of his mimeograph, I was able to produce the first *Plain Truth* — about 350 copies for about \$5.

On the first Sunday in 1934 the radio program was on the air — TO STAY! And TO GROW! Response was beyond expectations.

Feb. 1 *The Plain Truth* made perhaps the most humble bow any magazine ever made!

And, to round out the three-point campaign, we continued holding evangelistic services.

Since we were holding services Tuesday and Thursday nights, beside Sabbath, at the Jeans schoolhouse — the first meeting place of the present Worldwide Church of God — I hired an upstairs hall in downtown Eugene for \$10 a month, for services Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights. I had mimeographed handbills circulated to draw a public audience.

Still cooperating with 'Sardis'

I interrupt at this point to further spike a nasty rumor some have attempted to circulate against GOD'S Work, by saying that the ministers who went out of the Church in 1974 and since are "only doing what Mr. Armstrong did when he went out of the Sardis era church to start one of his own."

NOTHING COULD BE FARTHER FROM THE TRUTH. In this present history of the Church, we are in 1934. The parent Church of today's Worldwide Church was already organized — as of the preceding Oct. 21. THE PRESENT WORK was well under way, small though the start was! And I WAS STILL COOPERATING WITH THE OREGON CONFERENCE BRETHREN, who attended at Eugene for some years,

only the Worldwide Church of God."

NEVER ONCE did I in any manner, directly or indirectly, make any effort to draw their members into the present Church God had raised up through me!

I pray very earnestly and regularly for my son, whom I love, that God will OPEN HIS EYES TO THE TERRIBLE SIN HE IS COMMITTING, sowing the seeds of discord among Christ's brethren, trying to draw away God's people FOR HIMSELF! And, whenever he ceases this unholy activity of try-

"I was not at all convinced this was the one and only true Church. Yet, if it was not, which one was? This one came closer to the Bible qualifications than any I knew."

ing to take our members after him and will instead PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD, I will pray for his success. But when CHRIST was virtually thrown out of Ambassador College under his unauthorized *policy setting* and doctrinal changing, and every effort was being made to SECULARIZE the Church (which really means drive God out), I most certainly cannot uphold such satanic activity! He has been MARKED and MUST BE AVOIDED!

Factions of Sardis era

Now on with the history of God's Church. For some years I continued to cooperate with both Stanberry and Salem factions of the Sardis era.

True, some of their ministers opposed GOD'S WORK, but I never opposed them!

About August, 1933, a complete split had occurred in the church headquartered at Stanberry, Mo. Its leader and editor of the weekly *Bible Advocate* had been voted out by a single vote. Instead of remaining loyal, he proceeded to join a C.O. Dodd, in Salem, W. Va., in setting up what they termed the "Bible organization" of the Church and made every effort to take Stanberry followers with him.

At Stanberry, they had been organized under a biannual general-conference system — each local church of five or more members having one vote. But now Mr. Dugger claimed a new "Bible organization" by a bizarre combination of New Tes-

ting to take our members after him and will instead PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD, I will pray for his success. But when CHRIST was virtually thrown out of Ambassador College under his unauthorized *policy setting* and doctrinal changing, and every effort was being made to SECULARIZE the Church (which really means drive God out), I most certainly cannot uphold such satanic activity! He has been MARKED and MUST BE AVOIDED!

But we in Oregon at that time were CONFUSED on the subject of biblical Church organization. Mr. Dugger had made it sound as if he had put together a truly "BIBLE organization."

The brethren of the Oregon Conference were confused, but they did want to do whatever was the Bible way. They did not go with this Dugger organization immediately, due to this confusion. Most of them lived too far away from Eugene to attend regularly with God's Church at Eugene (we soon bought a church property in Eugene).

Off to a good start

The Work of God was already off to a good start at Eugene. I had soon appointed Claude Ellis as elder and also Mr. J.M. Day, (past 80 years of age) and Mr. W.E. Conn and Mr. Oscar Heibel as deacons, in addition to Mr. Fisher.

The Dugger people had, without my knowledge, put my name down as one of "the 70 leading elders."

The truth is, 1) we were all confused as to Church organization, and 2) we did not yet realize ourselves that CHRIST had started, in us, the Philadelphia era of His Church, committed with the GREAT COMMISSION.

Before Elder Day had been or-
(See CHURCH, page 17)

"These people at Stanberry and Salem, originally, had been truly the Church of God — of the Sardis era. But their era was over, and by the fruits, looking at them, I came to realize God was raising up the Philadelphia era of His Church."

in town. However, I will sell you the time at less than bare cost of operation, \$2.50 per half hour."

And THAT suggestion from Mr. Frank Hill is what put the idea of *The World Tomorrow* program in my mind!

Altogether 14 letters and telephone calls came in to the radio station requesting copies of the messages I had broadcast.

I thanked him and told him I

This year in Jerusalem

By Mark Robinson

JERUSALEM — For the 177 Church members who participated in the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation's fall tour of Israel, it wasn't like any Feast they had ever attended before. In fact, the trip was far more akin to Succoth, the Jewish equivalent of Tabernacles. To a large number of these members the eight-day whirlwind tour of the Holy Land was one of the most moving and spiritually rewarding times of their lives.

"If it wasn't my best Feast, it certainly came close," said Charles Dorothy, minister and one of three tour guides. "The Feast in Israel had an extra depth of meaning since the millennial peace pictured by Tabernacles will begin in Jerusalem."

The tour included visits to Samaria, Galilee, Caesarea, Bethlehem, the Dead Sea, Beersheba, and the fortress of Masada, in addition to scores of sites in Jerusalem.

For Cyndi Colburn, Fort Worth, Tex., Church member, the trip was unforgettable. She now has seen many of the places mentioned in the Scriptures and recommends, "at least one Feast in Israel for everyone to help make the Bible live."

Liberty Bell Park on tour

One site of particular interest for the tour was Liberty Bell Park, a new recreational facility in Jerusalem partially sponsored by the Ambassador Foundation. A Jerusalem physician told former Jerusalem office manager and one of the three tour leaders, Richard Frankel, to "tell Mr. [Herbert] Armstrong the park has brought tremendous joy to thousands of children."

During a special presentation after the first Holy Day by the International Cultural Center for Youth, Israeli minister of tourism Moshe Kol praised Mr. Armstrong's humanitarian efforts in Israel and spoke of an "iron bridge" built between Pasadena and Israel.

For the Frankel family the tour was their first chance to see Israel after leaving three years ago. Joyce Frankel voiced amazement at how much the Old City had been cleaned up. Mr. Frankel's expert knowledge and contacts were of immense benefit to the tour leaders. Bob Smith, pastor of the Riverside and Banning, Calif., churches, served as the third tour guide.

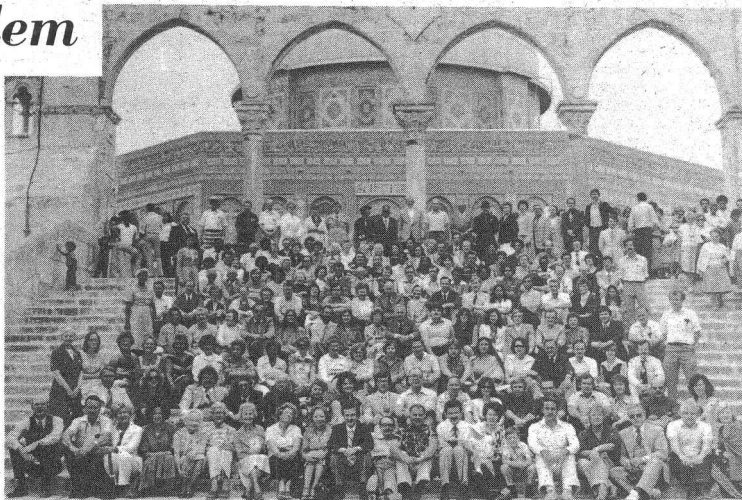
AICF-organized tour

The trip, organized by Human Potential employee Bob Ellsworth, had a base price of just under \$1,000 per person. Mr. Ellsworth commented that the trip was organized to

fulfill the obligations made by the Ambassador Foundation to provide group travel benefits, adding, "What better place to start than Jerusalem with its rich history and deep theological roots."

The return to the United States was delayed for one day because of a cracked windshield on the chartered Trans World Airline 707. However, all of the inconveniences were lodged at TWA's expense in a luxury beachfront hotel overlooking the Mediterranean in Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Israel.

IN JERUSALEM — Brethren who traveled to Jerusalem to observe this year's Feast make a sizable group at the Dome of the Rock. The trip, which included a tour of Israel, was organized by the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation.



Members keep Feast in the Holy Land

By Bob Smith

JERUSALEM — The people of God, 177 strong, were moved with excitement as they sat in the area of the Mount of Olives and chorused the words to "Come Thou Almighty King"!

God's people were keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in the very city to which Jesus Christ will introduce the reality of what this Festival depicts — universal peace!

At the first Holy Day service, Abilene, Tex., pastor Mark Robinson spoke of the balanced spiritual-physical approach needed in order to properly observe the Feast.

I followed with a sermon about the

The following is a first-person account of this year's Feast in Jerusalem as observed by the Riverside and Banning, Calif., pastor Bob Smith.

awesome events just over the horizon, of which Jesus Christ warned, "... if it were possible they shall deceive even the elect" — but which will usher in the only true and lasting millennial peace.

At the close of services on the first Holy Day, Simha ("Joy" in English) Gombo of Israel was baptized by Charles Dorothy. Wayne Dunlap and myself in the pool of the Diplomat Hotel in Jerusalem.

Mrs. Gombo (a native of Morocco who now resides north of Haifa, Israel) has been interested in baptism for several years and was last visited months ago by Great Britain minister, Paul Suckling.

Since Mrs. Gombo speaks Hebrew and French fluently but only a few words of English, prebaptism counseling was aided by the expert translating of Yonah, a young Jewish girl from Canada. And, thus, Simha Gombo became only the second person to be baptized in Jerusalem in this modern era of God's Church.

An exciting tour

After traversing tiny Israel — from the on-the-spot excitement of the Garden Tomb, the Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, the Western (Wailing) Wall and Dome of the Rock (all in Jerusalem), to the Sea of Galilee and Capernaum, Nazareth, Cana and Caesarea, and down to Masada and the Dead Sea — the tired group assembled on the weekly Sabbath and heard Gerald Weston, pastor of the Midland and Gaylord, Mich., churches, reiterate Herbert Armstrong's very familiar "Why are we here?" — and then answer it from Deuteronomy 14:23 "... that you may learn to fear the Lord thy God always!"

Richard Frankel, former manager of the Church's offices in Jerusalem and now pastor of the Woodbridge, N.J., church, painted a word picture of the transition from today's downtrodden world to the excitement,

beauty and peace of the wonderful world tomorrow.

At the conclusion of this hallmark tour, a grateful segment of the Body of Christ entered final services on the Last Great Day with a new sense of fervency, a new sense of urgency.

Mr. Dunlap, La Mirada, Calif., pastor, pictured Jerusalem as the hope of the future for all mankind, as the world awaits Christ's return to the Holy City in great power.

Dr. Dorothy — following the Feast of Tabernacles theme established in earlier messages — reminded us of the magnitude of the great God in heaven, who desires so greatly that all peoples should become part of His awesome Family that He allowed the literal sacrifice of the One responsible for the creation of those very peoples.

Post Feast baptisms

Following services on that Last Great Day, the brethren from many areas around the world who were observing the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem gathered about the same pool and rejoiced as Dr. Dorothy and I immersed, first, Mollie Martin, from the San Diego, Calif., church, and then Richard Shire, a 1978 graduate of Ambassador College in Pasadena.

Mr. Frankel and Mr. Dunlap joined in the laying on of hands, and the Feast of Tabernacles, 1978, ended on a note enriched by the continual adding to the Church daily by Jesus Christ — as it pleases Him.



SPECIAL PRESENTATION — Members of the ICCY (see story, left) present a special program for Feastgoers during their stay in Jerusalem. (Photo by Rodney Larson)

CHURCH

(Continued from page 16)

dained, I discussed this seriously with Elmer Fisher and Claude Ellis. We decided not to rush into it.

Where was the true Church?

I mentioned earlier that I was searching for the one true Church of God. These Stanberry-based brethren, as I had stated above, seemed weak and impotent. They were bearing no FRUIT!

When one of their ministers held a small "evangelistic effort" it was always fruitless. There were no conversions. This had continued to bewilder me.

Jesus said we should know "by their fruits." And now they were split right down the middle. A house divided cannot stand, and their twohouses

— Stanberry and Salem — did NOT stand! As of TODAY, 1978, each of those two has been split and re-split into so many fragments that no one could probably discern just how many branches they have split off into.

Yet everywhere I went, FRUIT was borne — except when I tried to hold a campaign with one of their men, elders Taylor, Daily, Oberg and Ray. But whenever I preached alone, there were conversions. I did not realize then, as I do now, that it is GOD who "ADDS to the Church." God was adding wherever I went.

Then I discovered that they are described by Christ Himself in Revelation 3:1-6. They had been, a couple of generations or more before my time, a Church of more vitality and larger membership. But they had dwindled to the state of Revelation 3:1 — still

having the NAME of the true Church but SPIRITUALLY DEAD. Apparently a generation or two before my time, they had not been so spiritually dead.

Truly God's Work

But now, I knew that what God had led me into was, truly, GOD'S WORK! It had vitality. It was bearing rich fruit. And, after finding the identification in Revelation 3:1-6 and verses 7-11, I finally came to realize where GOD'S TRUE CHURCH WAS! These people at Stanberry and Salem, originally, had been truly the Church of God — of the Sardis era. But their era was over, and by the fruits, looking at them, I came to realize God was raising up the Philadelphia era of His Church.

And, as we grew, God was showing me HIS BIBLE FORM OF CHURCH ORGANIZATION.

Meanwhile, I was holding services three times weekly at Jeans schoolhouse, 12 miles west of Eugene and four nights weekly in downtown Eugene.

In due time the brethren of the Oregon Conference decided to go in with the new Dugger group. That dissolved the Oregon Conference as a corporate church body. However, they continued to attend at Eugene as often as possible.

After the 5½ months of meetings in downtown Eugene, adding more members to the Church, we began holding services in my home (rent \$5 per month) in Eugene, as well as at Jeans schoolhouse.

Then, it must have been about March, 1935, I began holding six-nights-a-week meetings at Alvadore schoolhouse — about 15 miles northwest of Eugene. This was a two-story

schoolhouse, with two classrooms downstairs and a hall the size of both classrooms upstairs. For six weeks I held meetings there, with, as I remember, about 15 new members added. For a while I held meetings Sabbath mornings alternately every other Sabbath at Alvadore, and every other at Jeans with a service every Sabbath afternoon at my home in Eugene.

But this was too scattered, and soon we purchased the small church building in Eugene.

After a conference with one of the Dugger '12' we had decided that I would cooperate with the Salem, W. Va., faction, BUT NOT JOIN. I would work in cooperation with their ministers, but ENTIRELY INDEPENDENT, and receiving NO SALARY from them. None of the Eugene church became members of the Dugger

(See CHURCH, page 20)

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

PASADENA — Carol Little, daughter of Stanley R. Rader, the Work's treasurer and general counsel to Herbert W. Armstrong, was baptized at the Rader home Oct. 27 according to Bob Fahey, former director of the African Work currently in Pasadena on sabbatical.

The baptism was performed by Mr. Fahey and was attended by Mr. Rader and Ralph Helge, head of the Work's legal department. Mrs. Little counseled for baptism with Mr. Armstrong, to whom she feels very close, according to Mr. Rader.

Mr. Rader commented to Tucson, Ariz., Feastgoers Oct. 23 that his daughter had requested baptism and would be baptized shortly after he returned to Pasadena following the Feast.

☆☆☆

PASADENA — Ray Wright, former financial director of the Work, left for England Oct. 26 for a two-to-three-week preliminary trip. He will then return to Pasadena for his family and move to England for three months a year.

In England Mr. Wright will study the business aspects of the Work's foreign offices and assist Frank Brown, director of the Work in Great Britain. He will also help coordinate and oversee the British Work's printing needs and preparation for foreign-language editions of *The Plain Truth*, according to Stanley R. Rader, the Work's treasurer.

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CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Charlotte church presented Mr. and Mrs. Burk McNair an engraved silver tray as well as congratulations June 11 in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary July 18. Tape recordings from the McNairs' two older children in Pasadena, Kerry and Susie, were played at the surprise reception.

In August the McNairs went to Pasadena for the marriage of those two children — both weddings within 24 hours. According to the McNairs the weddings were another special milestone in their lives.

Aug. 20 Kerry Burk McNair was married to Debra Jean Wendt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wendt of Pasadena, in a double ceremony with Debra's sister Nancy and Elmer E. Collins Jr. The ceremony was in the Italian Gardens

on Ambassador College campus. Mark McNair was his brother's best man and Sue Wendt was maid of honor for her sister.

The following day, Aug. 21, Mark Curtis Weaver, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Weaver of Dayton, Ohio, and Karen Sue McNair were married in the Ambassador College Recital Hall. Tony Morelli and Elizabeth Meredith were their attendants. Mr. McNair conducted the ceremony for both his son's and daughter's weddings.

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PASADENA — Herman Hoeh, co-pastor of the Pasadena Auditorium P.M. church, traveled to Syria during the first two weeks of October to visit the Mesopotamian excavation site at ancient Terqa, or modern Ashara, and other archaeological sites along the upper Euphrates from the Iraqi border to the border of Turkey.

An archaeology enthusiast, Mr. Hoeh helped uncover history by digging the earth at Terqa.

The Ambassador, International Cultural Foundation (AICF) has been jointly sponsoring the Terqa excavation along with the Institute of Archaeology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Johns Hopkins University and other institutions for the past three years. The AICF will discontinue its participation in the project after this year.

Terqa was on the route by which traffic from Babylonia and Sumer left Mesopotamia and the Euphrates Valley and crossed into inner Syria to the Kings Highway to the Jordan in the second millennium B.C., according to Mr. Hoeh. The excavation is directed by Dr. Giorgio Buccellati, director of the Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, and his wife, both personal friends of the Hoehs.

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PASADENA — Stanley Rader announced that Jack Bicket has been appointed to the position of assistant treasurer and will be reporting directly to Mr. Rader as a member of his financial staff. Mr. Bicket worked as business manager in Big Sandy, Tex., until 1974, when he was moved to Pasadena to assume responsibilities in the Accounting and Data Processing Departments.

CHURCH

(Continued from page 17) group, but we fellowshiped with them.

The former Oregon Conference members in the Willamette Valley now established, under my pastorship, a regular Sabbath afternoon service. They, though not I, joined as members with Salem, W. Va. I preached Sabbath morning at Eugene church, then drove 55 miles to the schoolhouse near Jefferson to preach to them Sabbath afternoons.

More radio stations open up

It must have been late in 1935 that a Portland radio station opened up. Then, for a time, I preached Sabbath mornings at Eugene, afternoons at Jefferson, then on to Portland for a 4 p.m. Sunday broadcast. Very shortly after that, I went on the air in Seattle, station KRSC, 8:30 Sunday mornings.

In those days I continued fellowshiping and cooperating with the Salem-based faction. I had to turn the Sunday morning radio program over to my assistant elder, Claude Ellis. I preached Sabbath mornings at Eugene, Sabbath afternoons at Jefferson, then on to Seattle, arriving usually after midnight. Up at 5 a.m., a quick coffee while I scanned the Sunday newspaper at a corner drugstore for war news to broadcast, then I had to type the entire broadcast script, because World War II was by then under way, and radio announcers had to hold script on me to see that I did not deviate from it on the air.

Precisely at 8 a.m. I was in my car, driving past the Boeing works, to KRSC. On the air at 8:30 — off at 9, drove on to Portland arriving about 3 p.m. for the 4 p.m. broadcast, off the air at 4:30, then the 123-mile drive to Eugene, arriving by 7:30, with a church full of people awaiting a full evening evangelistic service. Then a full week writing and printing *The Plain Truth*, holding a midweek Bible study, visiting members and prospective members, anointing the sick, answering mail.

And STILL preaching for the Sardis church near Jefferson

Sabbath afternoons!

I say this to PUT AN END to the FALSE RUMOR that my son, now, or other ministers who have gone out of God's Church to draw away disciples after them, are doing what I did.

Two incidents prove

Let me here cite two incidents to show that I was never a member or in the employ of the Dugger faction at Salem, W. Va.

Shortly after the Oregon Conference brethren had gone in with the Dugger faction, which had pulled about half of the Stanberry members into it. I agreed to cooperate with them but not as a member — my SOLE MEMBERSHIP WAS AT EUGENE in the parent Church of the present Worldwide Church of God! We at Eugene handled our own finances for the Church. Meager though they were, starting in 1933, yet they were GROWING at approximately 30 percent per year.

Soon after I decided to cooperate with them, they made a political move to stop the *Radio Church of God* broadcast, as it then was called, and also *The Plain Truth*, and to TAKE OVER the members God had ADDED to His Church at Eugene. Please read that again, and GET IT STRAIGHT as to who was trying to steal WHOSE members! Quite the OPPOSITE of what departed dissidents are trying to claim today!

Otto Haeber, one of "the 12," was sent to my office in Eugene. (God's present Work already was established in an office in Eugene beginning about November, 1933.)

"We have decided," said Mr. Haeber, "to transfer you to Tacoma, Wash."

"Why should I move to Tacoma?" I asked.

"Well, we think there is an interest there."

"What do you mean, Otto, by 'an interest'? How many people are 'interested,' as you say, in Tacoma?"

"Well, possibly three or four," was the hesitating answer.

"Otto," I said, "I have agreed to cooperate with the Salem church — but my only membership is here in the Church at Eugene and none of our Eugene members are members of the Salem church. Due to my broadcast and *The Plain Truth*, several hundred definitely are 'interested' here, and this is where I intend to stay."

He gave up and left.

A second incident

A second incident occurred prior to that. Mr. Haeber came to my office, soon after I had agreed to cooperate with them.

"We have assigned all the territory from Salem to Eugene to Elder A.J. Ray," he said, "and the Eugene territory to you."

"I interpret that to mean that all the Eugene territory, from the city of Eugene north to Salem, is assigned to me, and that is what I shall keep."

Actually, these Dugger men wanted to cooperate with me for one reason only. They saw that GOD WAS BLESSING EVERYTHING I DID WITH SUCCESS — many new members being brought in — and they wanted to TAKE OVER God's people whom God had added to HIS CHURCH, then starting a tre-

mendous growth at Eugene, Ore.

Until I went to Hollywood, 1942, to broadcast DAILY, I had continued to pastor, or to copastor, the Sardis people near Jefferson.

As late as 1945 — 12 YEARS after Christ started the present Worldwide Church of God (then called the Radio Church of God), I was still cooperating with and helping the Sardis people. One of their "12" — John Kiesz — had moved to Canon City, Colo., because he said he needed to live there due to its dry climate. He had no means of financial support at the time. He had had a small church there, whose tithes kept him alive — but they had all moved elsewhere. I went to Canon City to help Elder Kiesz. I conducted nightly meetings for some weeks, going into Denver every week to record the broadcast. RESULT? God, through me, raised up a new church there for him.

God's PRESENT GREAT WORK was getting off to a start, growing 30 percent per year. By no stretch of the imagination could anyone say that I left the Sardis people to draw away their members after me. I NEVER DREW ANY OF THEIR MEMBERS — although the Henion and Cole families did of their own free choice, affiliate with the Church of God starting from Eugene.

Mr. Wayne Cole, then quite small, but now in charge of Pastoral Administration in the Worldwide Church of God, will confirm this.

Part of the FACTS recorded here were written in *The Autobiography*, yet many of them have not been previously published. I have felt it is time to STOP their mouths!

As we read in Titus 1:11, there are deceivers WHOSE MOUTHS MUST BE STOPPED!

But, more important, I have felt it profitable to our brethren for me to give you this review of the BEGINNING of the Worldwide Church of God.

Looking back, it is difficult for me to understand, now, WHY I was so mixed up in those days about Church organization. I knew neither Stanberry nor Salem factions had God's own form of Church organization. This had us all confused — even though, when one puts the pertinent scriptures together, it becomes crystal clear.

Organizational pattern restored

But God's Church, though continuous through all generations from A.D. 31, LOST much or all of its original organizational pattern established by CHRIST — until God finally restored it IN THIS END TIME through His present-day apostle.

Truly, GOD HAS PREPARED A PEOPLE FOR HIS NAME — and HIS WIFE (God's Church of today) is making herself ready!

There is only the ONE, TRUE and ORIGINAL Church of God — and today CHRIST has organized it according to the original pattern HE, THE ETERNAL, INSTALLED!

My NEW BOOK, *Seven Proofs of the TRUE CHURCH*, is starting to appear serially in both *The Good News* and *The Plain Truth*. It leaves NO DOUBT as to the identity of the ONE and ONLY TRUE CHURCH!



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY — Mr. and Mrs. Burk McNair, right, were honored for their 25th wedding anniversary June 11 by the Charlotte, N.C., church, where Mr. McNair serves as pastor and area coordinator. In August the McNairs traveled to Pasadena for the marriages of two of their children, Kerry and Susie, to Debra Jean Wendt and Mark Curtis Weaver Aug. 20 and 21. In the left photo are, from left, Mr. and Mrs. McNair, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Curtis Weaver, Mark McNair, and Mr. and Mrs. Kerry McNair. (See "Update," this page.)