

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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COMPLETION OF WORK NEAR???

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

Signs are now fast appearing that our Work of the GREAT COMMISSION may be much more nearly completed than we have realized.

Mark you, I say "may be." It is not yet sure.

World conditions MAY force European nations and possibly some Balkan nations (ten in all) to unite, bringing to pass the revived "Holy Roman Empire" of 554-1814 A.D. even yet this very year--or possibly next. Our Work (Philadelphia era) probably will be finished about the time this European empire is united. Those nations have WANTED to unite politically, with a common currency and common military force, for some time--but have been unable. It can be accomplished only through the Vatican.

There are no "great" men heading any nation, such as Stalin or Churchill, any more. The one man now ascending to the stature of such strength is Pope John Paul II. Already he is the most travelled pope in history.

He has just finished a tour through three nations in Africa, and now has just completed a four-day crucial visit to France--the first time in nearly 200 years any Pope has visited France. France is more than 95% Roman Catholic, but mostly nominal--not fervent or active Catholic. The Pope was much perturbed about this and strove to correct it.

Last night I watched on TV an interview with the Foreign Minister of France. (The French are seriously "turned off" against the U.S.) Asked his opinion of President Carter's boycott of the Olympics, he said, in effect, it was only a slap on the wrist. Asked what would stop Russia's advances which began with the invasion of Afghanistan, he said, in effect, ONLY SUPERIOR MILITARY POWER. That is true and the nations of Europe know it. But they no longer have faith in U.S. military power being used to stop Russian advances beyond Afghanistan.

More than ever, European governments realize their very LIFE now depends on their own UNIFICATION in MILITARY MIGHT to stop Russia, who is virtually on their borders now.

The debacle of President Carter's military attempt to free the hostages in Iran, added to other Carter weaknesses and blunders, has turned off European confidence in relying on U.S. military power to protect them from the USSR.

The Kremlin has made its first move toward complete world domination, on moving into Afghanistan. One more small leap and they are in control of the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf--and in CONTROL of nearly all the world's oil. The death of Tito, the hostage situation, the United States' display of having lost "the pride of our power," all combine to frighten European leaders, preparing the way for a lightning-fast move through the Vatican to politically and militarily UNITE EUROPE to protect herself against a danger OTHERWISE NOW UNSTOPPABLE.

It may not jell so rapidly--yet I warn you IT MAY--so rapidly it will take our breath!

Once the Roman Empire is resurrected in Europe and the Balkans, our Great Commission will be virtually COMPLETED. Quickly the Laodicean church will rise up. It will go through the GREAT TRIBULATION. We shall be taken (by flight) to a place of protection for 3 1/2 years, till the coming of Christ.

I have rechecked Revelation 3:10 again, and from the original Greek it definitely refers to our being taken to a place of safety from the Great Tribulation.

Meanwhile, let us redouble our efforts, and PRAY as never before, that we draw yet closer to Jesus Christ and to God. Time is short and daily growing shorter. Please pray for me personally with intensive fervor right now!

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GOVERNMENT AGENCY CLEARS US OF FALSE ALLEGATIONS

Our decision making process

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

There are many levels of government in the United States. There is municipal city government, County government, State government, and Federal government.

God Almighty whose Church we are, has been sued by the government of the State of California through the Attorney General's office, in a civil lawsuit. That is, His Church has been sued--and since it BELONGS to God and is called by His name, the State government is actually suing God Almighty.

Since Jesus Christ is the living and guiding HEAD of God's Church, the State is suing Jesus Christ. As Christ's chosen Apostle, the State government is suing me, and as Treasurer of God's Church they are suing Stanley R. Rader.

Screaming page-wide, front-page newspaper headlines blared forth that Mr. Rader and I had been alleged to have siphoned off millions of dollars every year for our own accounts and benefit. But no such charge was made in the lawsuit. Instead, the Attorney General claimed that the state government actually owns, and should direct, guide and manage all churches

in California. An ex-judge was appointed, secretly in a Los Angeles Superior Court judge's private chambers, as receiver of God's Church.

Yes, after almost a year and a half--still UNBELIEVABLE! Nothing like it had ever happened in this land of the FREE and home of the BRAVE!

Now nearly all the large churches of the United States are behind us, giving legal assistance in this lawsuit. They know this is a TEST CASE. If we fall, they will fall.

God's Church did not cave in. We did not fight back in the sense of attacking the State, but we did effectively DEFEND ourselves.

On the very first day, January 3, last year, the receiver "fired" me, Mr. Rader, and the entire Board. He claimed he was running the Church from here on and would decide all policies, doctrines to be believed, type of services and all activities.

But God had foreseen it all, and had moved me to a home in Tucson, Arizona. The RECEIVER stopped my first letter to ministers and members asking for special funds for defense at the Pasadena post office. But I immediately wrote another letter which was mailed from another post office, directing all tithes and offerings sent to me, here. GOD'S CHURCH NEVER STOPPED OPERATING. The Work continued to GROW!

But the names of God's Apostle and Treasurer had been blackened by false witnesses, just as that of Jesus was by false witnesses.

And so another level of government started its own independent investigation into the false allegations against Mr. Rader and me, and against general mismanagement of the Church and Work. This government office has been investigating us for some time. A few days ago, at my invitation, two official investigators came to Tucson for a talk with me in my home. They had talked personally with the false accusers. They had checked out records--everything. They told me their investigation was now almost finished. We will, I am certain, be totally exonerated of any wrong doing.

But I was especially interested in one question they asked me. Since we operate on the Biblical hierarchical form of government, from the top down, and I am responsible for making policies, establishing procedures, doctrines, etc., WHAT IS MY DECISION MAKING PROCESS?

I was glad to answer that!

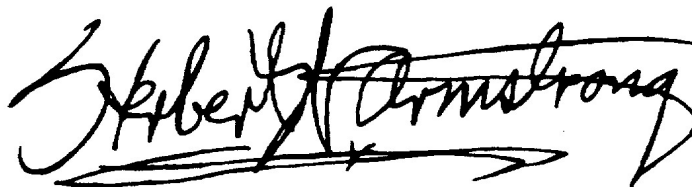
First, Jesus Christ is living HEAD of the Church and Work. He is the WORD of God in Person, and the Bible is the same Word of God in print. I follow His teachings and ways. I pray constantly for leading and guidance. I follow the Biblical teaching and examples. I follow the Biblical admonition, "In multitude of counsellors there is safety." On various problems I counsel with our leading ministers best qualified in the area of the problem for counsel. On all major policies or decisions, I call a Board meeting, and we counsel together. When we are all unanimous--because we seek not our own ideas or wills, but God's, a motion is made and the vote is unanimous. The final decision, it is true, is mine--but in all meetings on such problems or decisions we have all been unanimous. The motion is not put until we are.

Thus we follow the Biblical teaching that we all must speak the same thing, avoiding disharmony and division. Some who have been SELF-willed, controversial, causing division in the Church have been excommunicated. That was true of the malcontent ex-members who brought the false allegations--and the Attorney General's office acted on their false allegations without a shred of evidence!

The investigators were fully satisfied.

GOD'S CHURCH FOLLOWS GOD'S WAY!

Our GOD will vindicate His name and His Church before the world!



RECENT U.S. SUPREME COURT ACTION EXPLAINED AT EMPLOYEE FORUM

Monday morning, June 2, the nation's highest court announced its denial of the Church's request for a hearing concerning our legal battle with the State of California. That same afternoon, Mr. Rader conducted a press conference in his office in the Hall of Administration to inform the media of the court's action and what it means to the Church. Reporters and cameramen from six Los Angeles television stations and several radio stations were present, along with representatives of the print media.

On the following day Mr. Rader covered basically the same points in an employee meeting and answered questions about the court's refusal to act. Following is a summary of the key points he discussed and excerpts from the press conference and employee forum. (Mr. Rader's Pastor General's Hotline tape of June 2 also contained basically the same news and an analysis of the high court's refusal to intervene at this time.)

What Does the High Court's Decision Mean?

Mr. Rader explained that the decision was disappointing but not really surprising and should be viewed in context: "All the Supreme Court decided to do is nothing. So it didn't rule for us, it didn't rule against us. It didn't say we should do something, it didn't say we should not do something. It didn't give the state any greater powers and it didn't impose upon us any more onerous burdens."

Mr. Rader continued, "We requested an appointment with a very august body" He said that the Supreme Court receives 4000 to 5000 requests like ours every year. These are called "writs of certiorari" and are requests that the high court review matters that are in the hands of lower courts to see if there have been any irregularities. Yet, as Mr. Rader explained, 90% of these requests are not granted for any one of a variety of reasons.

People think that one has an automatic right to go to that court. But this simply isn't true. This lofty institution doesn't have to hear cases that it doesn't want to hear. It makes its decision, without explanation to the public, upon criteria including such considerations as the "exhaustion of other remedies."

Churches Outlawed in U.S.S.R.

Don't say it can't happen here!!

80 million Americans fight back!

Appeared In The Los Angeles Times June 3, 1980

YOUR CHURCH is being threatened! Ours already is under attack. We are fighting the battle for you!

The First Amendment of the Constitution was adopted to protect the freedom of religion from the State, as well as freedom of the press and the right of peaceable assembly.

But the organized move to DESTROY the United States Constitution is already under way through corrupt politicians. You need to know the FACTS!

This conspiracy to destroy all churches and the freedom of the press in the U.S.A. by corrupt politicians has been launched in America's number one populated state by the office of the California Attorney General. He maintains that all churches are the ward of the political government—that the State owns all church property and assets—and the political State should run and operate all churches.

This is the most heinous and unconstitutional assault on American FREEDOM, and start toward a Communist Dictator State.

Those in political corruption believe in the domino theory. If our Church, singled out for the beginning attack against Constitutional rights succeeds, other churches will next be destroyed, until all churches are non-existent!

Eighty million Americans already are fighting back. Already those coming to our aid in submitting legal briefs to higher courts include the Roman Catholic, the Methodist, the Baptist national association, the National Council of Churches, and many more of the leading church organizations in America.

They do not believe all our doctrines, nor one another's, nor we theirs. But they, and we, do believe in the right of others to freedom of belief and of peaceful assembly.

Our Church, the Worldwide Church of God, is nearly fifty years old in its present era of the Church started by Jesus Christ in A.D. 31. We are comparatively small—less than 100,000 baptized adult members. Yet we are worldwide, we are non-proselyting, do not solicit members of other churches, do not solicit funds from the public. We believe sincerely and deeply in our Church, even as you do in yours.

A MODERN POGROM

Pogrom is a word that may be unfamiliar to most Americans. It refers to the systematic or organized persecution or destruction of a minority group within a society. Most often it has been used to describe Tsarist Russian attacks on Jews there. It has not often been used in this country.

Pogrom, however, may be the only word suitable for describing the ghastly attack on our Church by the attorney general. Conservative columnist James J. Kilpatrick, on March 25,



1980, writing in the Washington Star, described it this way:

"... you might have to go back to the days of Thomas Jefferson to find a case more mind-boggling than the assault of the State of California upon the Worldwide Church of God.

"Jefferson's greatest contribution to the concept of individual liberty was his Statute of Religious Freedom. The Sage of Monticello must be spinning in his grave. California's incredible takeover of the Worldwide Church of God makes a travesty of the Jeffersonian doctrine. If ever a case presented a brazen intrusion by the state upon the free exercise of religion, this is it."

What "this" is, in case you have missed news stories, is the takeover of our Church. Again, the words of Mr. Kilpatrick:

"The facts are not even significantly in dispute. Toward the end of 1978, a schism developed within the Pasadena-based Worldwide Church of God. The patriarchal leader of the Church, 86-year-old Herbert W. Armstrong, split with his 48-year-old son Garner Ted Armstrong.

"Half a dozen dissident members of the Church complained to the California attorney general that the senior Armstrong and his close associate, Stanley R. Rader, were overpaid, that they were pilfering Church property, that they had conspired to sell Church property at less than its fair value, that they had shredded Church documents to prevent their disclosure, and that they were living in luxury at the expense of the Church's 50,000 members."

On no more evidence than the complaint of those six former Church members, the State of California raided the Church's property and headquarters on January 3, 1979, and announced that a court-appointed receiver was in charge.

The receiver, again as Mr. Kilpatrick describes, "came armed with an ex parte court order directing him to take possession and control of the Church, including all its assets, to take over the management of the Church to the extent that he deemed necessary in his sole discretion; to suspend or terminate any employee, and so on. One of [the receiver's] first acts was to fire the Church's executive secretary...."

"For the next seven weeks, until Church leaders were able to get the receivership lifted under a \$3.4 million bond, agents of the state roamed at will through nearly 7,000 seized documents. The attorney general demanded that former Church officials produce for judicial inspection not only financial records but also confidential papers having to do with matters of ministry and theology—for example, the unpublished page proofs of a manuscript, 'The Doctrines of the Worldwide Church of God.'"

"At no point has the Church been accused of any injury to the public health or safety; the trial court has stressed that the Church 'has not been accused of any wrongdoing.' The most

serious allegations, having to do with the below-value sale of real estate for private gain, have been dismissed as mere hearsay.

"It is beyond comprehension—beyond my comprehension anyhow—how the state of California can assert a power to control what a Church employee is paid. That issue lies at the very heart of this case."

It is beyond our comprehension too. Our Church's work has been seriously disrupted. All because the attorney general believes, or says he believes, that a Church's money is public money, not the Church's, that the State has the right and obligation to make sure a Church's money is spent properly, and that he is the person who can decide what proper spending is.

As Mr. Kilpatrick noted, "It is apparently immaterial that a Church, as in this case, has never solicited funds from the general public, but relies only upon the contributions of its own members scattered across the nation."

And that is the whole crux of the matter. It is God's money. We give it freely to our Church because we want to and because we trust our Church's leaders to use it wisely in carrying out work that we support and of which we approve.

You don't have to approve of us or support our work. Certainly, the attorney general's support or approval is of no concern to us. We want only to be left alone to go about our religious business as we see fit, as we believe you should be.

Can you imagine the attorney general overseeing the spending of the Roman Catholic Church in California? Can you imagine a Catholic cardinal's compensation being subject to the attorney general's review?

Would he have attacked the Methodist Church, the Presbyterian or Lutheran?

Would he have undertaken to raid a Synagogue?

Will he?

He might well, given his apparent determination to be the religious arbiter for California's citizens, UNLESS HE IS STOPPED NOW. He chose what he thought was a small, helpless group, perhaps expecting us to disappear without a whimper, leaving him with an important legal precedent.

We turned out to be somewhat bigger and less helpless than he expected. We do not intend to disappear, whimperingly or otherwise. We intend to continue defending our Church because our religion and our right to practice that religion as we wish matter more to us than our property or even our lives.

What about you? What matters to you? Your religion? Your politics? Your sex? Your profession? Your race?

Again, we don't ask you to care about the Worldwide Church of God. We ask you to care about yourself and about what you believe in and to ask yourself whether you don't have a cause in common with us.

We think you do. It's called, the Constitution of the United States.

As we said earlier, we do not seek members, but we will be happy to provide any information about us that you wish. Write us: The Worldwide Church of God, Box 111, Pasadena, California, 91123, or call our toll-free number: (800) 423-4444. In California, call collect (213) 877-5225.

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