

Mr. Armstrong Speaks at SEP Again

By Herbert W. Armstrong
I flew up to Orr, Minn., again to speak to the second contingent at SEP — Summer Educational Program.

This winds up the second camp at Orr for the summer of 1979. I found this second group (of teenagers) slightly larger than the first contingent, to which I spoke three weeks before. This SEP program is a wonderful thing. It brings the teenagers (12 to 18) into an activity that definitely increases their interest in the activities of God's Church.

I spoke on a subject that will appear as an article in the September *Good News*.

YES program launched

It involves a whole new program in the Church, bringing our young people and still younger children into a far greater relationship than before with their parents.

I am exuberant, enthusiastic, vitally interested in the new YES (Youth Educational Service) program now being launched in the Church. It works in conjunction with the YOU program. But I feel it is even far more important. So much so that I am bringing both YOU and YES programs directly under my own personal direction and supervision, and the leaders of both will work directly under me, and in closer personal touch with me.

By way of brief summary of my message this last Sabbath at Orr: There were more than 600 there altogether, including teenage campers, crew and about 100 visiting parents, since these youths will be returning home about Wednesday [Aug. 1] this week.

God includes your children

I put emphasis on the fact that God Himself has a very special interest in children of all ages — from infants on through teenagers.

What the world does NOT know is that God, at the creation of MAN, set a definite master plan for reproducing Himself — a plan that definitely involves the entire FAMILY as the basic unit of society. God's great master plan includes children from infancy to adults.

As God's renewing of the face of the earth — recorded in Genesis 1, verses 2 through 31 — and even into following chapters — took place in seven literal days (including creation of the Sabbath day), and since a day is as a thousand years to God, and a thousand years as a day, so those first seven days represented the 7,000 years of God's master plan.

When God drove Adam and Eve out from the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:22-24), He said, to put it in modern language: "YOU have made your own decision, for yourselves and all humanity that shall be born from you. You have rejected my government. You have rejected me as your God and Savior. You have rejected me as Revealer of basic knowledge. Therefore I SENTENCE YOU AND ALL HUMANITY to be CUT OFF FROM ME FOR 6,000 YEARS — EXCEPT FOR THE VERY FEW I shall specially call for special service preparing for the KINGDOM OF GOD, which shall be

after the 6,000 years.

"GO! Form your own knowledge, form your own god and religions, form your own governments over nations. You will NOT be cut off from Satan, and therefore he will sway you in all you do into HIS WAY of vanity, lust and coveting, jealousy and envy, competition and strife, rebellion and destruction."

This present evil world resulted.

God did call a few. He called Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Moses and, though He denied them His Holy Spirit except for

the prophets, the nation Israel. He sent Christ. He has called a comparative VERY FEW into SPECIAL SERVICE preparing for the KINGDOM OF GOD — and these have formed GOD'S CHURCH!

Jesus said plainly and emphatically, "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father . . . draw him" (John 6:44). No man CAN. Except for those specially called for special duty, all humanity has been CUT OFF from God! God has NOT, as yet, been trying to GET THE WORLD "saved."

Children in a separate category

But the children of those called

are SET APART in a SEPARATE CATEGORY! This is BIG NEWS, not heretofore been taught in God's CHURCH!

In I Corinthians 7:8-9, Paul addresses the UNMARRIED and widows. In verses 10-11 he addresses THE MARRIED! In verses 12-16 he addresses "the rest." Who can that be? The context explains.

"If any brother hath a wife that believeth not [verse 12], and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away." A Church member CANNOT divorce a non-Church member, so long as that non-Church member is willing to keep the marriage intact.

Too many of our people are getting liberal at this point! The same is true of a believing wife who has a nonbelieving husband. As long as they can live in reasonable peace, THERE CAN BE NO DIVORCE!

Now verse 14: "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife." What does that mean? Not made "sanctimonious," but put in a SEPARATE CATEGORY — although a nonbeliever, such nonmember husband is NOT CUT OFF from God. Verse 16: "For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband?" He is not converted, but he is NOT CUT OFF — meaning he CAN come to Christ if WILLING!

Children not 'cut off'

Now notice verse 14: "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified" — put in a special category — not necessarily called, but NOT CUT OFF — free to come to Christ if HE WISHES! Continue: "else were your children unclean" — that is, CUT OFF from God like other children — "but now are they holy." Or, in other words, the children of a believing parent are SET APART, in the sense that THEY ARE NOT CUT OFF FROM GOD as are other children!

It does not mean they are converted. Just that they are NOT "cut off" from God — the believing parent can TEACH THEM, and when they are mature, hopefully they may be converted.

THIS IS THE GREAT NEWS!

Children of even one converted parent may be TAUGHT by that parent, to offset Satan's reaching them through the human spirit within them.

THIS ALSO PLACES A RESPONSIBILITY ON GOD'S CHURCH and ON ALL PARENTS IN THE CHURCH to work with our children from babyhood until adult!

THIS IS A WONDERFUL TRUTH. The YES program is going to help definitely in this regard.

Those at Orr, Sabbath, received this message with elation — parents as well as teenagers! I am personally enthusiastic about it!



VISITING SEP — Herbert W. Armstrong is welcomed to the second session of YOU's Summer Educational Program July 28 by YOU director Jim Thornhill, left, and sings at special Sabbath services with Mrs. Armstrong, right. Mr. Armstrong visited campers attending the first session of the camp July 7. (Photos by Nathan Faulkner)

Youth program gets approval

PASADENA — "I am exuberant, enthusiastic, vitally interested in the new YES (Youth Educational Service) program now being launched in the Church. It works in conjunction with YOU [Youth Opportunities United]. But I feel it is even far more important," said Herbert W. Armstrong (see "Mr. Armstrong Speaks at SEP Again," this page) about the Church's new youth educational program, which he approved June 13 at his home in Tucson, Ariz.

Speaking to a group of more than 500 campers, parents and staff members at the Church's Summer Educational Program facilities in Orr, Minn., July 28, Mr. Armstrong revealed that the children of a believing parent or parents are set apart and are not cut off from God as are other children.

Church-parent responsibility

"This also places a responsibility on God's Church and on all parents in the Church to work with our children from babyhood until adult . . . The YES program is going to help definitely in this regard," he said.

Ron Dick, director of the new program, said that general concepts pertaining to its functions have been tested for more than a year and have proved to be successful.

"The most important element, though, relating to its success as an

official activity of the Church," Mr. Dick said, "is Mr. Armstrong's enthusiastic endorsement. The impact of his concern about the youths will stimulate God's people to take positive action in regards to YES."

YES is based on the concept that parents are responsible to train their children and to teach them about God and His way of life. The Church's role, said Mr. Dick, is to help the parents, offering educational programs that deal with effective child-parent relationships.

Elements of program

The program consists of six basic instructional and participatory elements: 1) parent education program, which will offer guidelines to parents on how to fulfill their responsibility as leaders and teachers in their own family, 2) family togetherness program, which will suggest ways to strengthen the family unit, 3) Sabbath instructional program, designed to teach youths about God and His way of life on a level they can understand and relate to, 4) teacher training program, which will promote the development of qualified teachers for the instructional programs, 5) Sabbath service aids program, which will seek to build positive attitudes among the children toward the Sabbath and the Church, and finally, 6) youth awards program, which will

recognize outstanding achievement in biblical knowledge and Christian living.

"The strength of the YES package is its flexibility," Mr. Dick said. "It meets the needs of all churches and families, no matter how large or small, scattered or centralized. Any of the six elements can be used independently or as a whole, depending on the needs of the individual groups."

Festival presentation

A presentation dealing with all the aspects of YES will be given this year at U.S. and Canadian Festival sites. Most of the ministers from the United States have been or will be briefed on the program at regional ministerial conferences, as were many of the international ministers at the international regional directors' conference July 17 through 19.

More information on the program will be mailed to pastors and YOU area coordinators from the YOU Office in Pasadena as well.

In addition to Mr. Dick, the YES staff includes Mike Greider and Alex Peck.

"We've been working hard to give the Church families the assistance Mr. Armstrong wants them to have," Mr. Dick said. "Mr. Armstrong wants the Church to be ready in every way for Christ's return."