

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

**By Herbert W. Armstrong**  
In just the last six weeks I so many cards, plaques and letters have been received I decided to have them all spread out on our large conference table, seating 14, with wide-arm chairs, and photograph them.

And this is only the last six weeks. Hundreds and hundreds more were received in the preceding weeks and months.

I'm sure, from the pictures, you can realize how impossible it would be for me to write a personal letter of thanks for each one. Some most recent ones were "Father's Day" cards. Nearly all were expressions of love and support. None were expressions of disapproval or hostile in nature.

Several were from local churches in the United States, Germany and elsewhere, with hundreds of signatures. Some were in hand-tooled and carved leather. Several were rare works of art.

### HWA visits SEP at Orr, gives talk

*Ellis LaRavia is director of facilities management in Pasadena.*

**By Ellis LaRavia**

ORR, Minn. — A rousing greeting by more than 300 campers welcomed Herbert W. Armstrong to the Summer Educational Program here June 27. Youths from all over the United States, Canada and Barbados lined both sides of the camp entry road to greet Mr. Armstrong. The G-II set down on schedule at 2 p.m. CDT (Central Daylight Time) at the regional airport here. Emerging from the aircraft, Mr. Armstrong was welcomed by ministers serving in various capacities at SEP.

He was promptly escorted to the gymnasium on the SEP campus overlooking Pelican Lake for Sabbath services. In addition to the campers and staff, approximately 150 Church members from Brainerd and Grand Rapids, Minn., heard Mr. Armstrong speak.

Mr. Armstrong addressed the problems of youths in this society. He noted that the physical accomplishments of man have been staggering in the last few decades. He queried: "In an age with such great physical accomplishments, why nothing but troubles?"

Mr. Armstrong concentrated his message on the problems of man resulting from the decision Adam made when he took of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil rather

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Brethren, I still say Christ has made me the most blessed man on earth. A very few have wanted to kill me, but multiple thousands show real love for me.

Not only do I thank God in my prayers daily for all of you, but first of all because He is God who loves us all, for His TRUTH, UNDERSTANDING and privilege of sharing it with so many thousands and millions, with using me as His servant and instrument, for the many trials, tests, troubles, persecutions (James 1:2-4, I Peter 1:6-7) and lastly for the material blessings to be briefly enjoyed in this transient and temporary life.

How wonderful and how good is our God and His Son Jesus Christ our Lord!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! for these assurances of your love and backing God's Work!



**CARDS AND LETTERS**—At left, Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong examines one of the many cards he received in the past six weeks July 7. Above, Mr. Armstrong with the cards in the Hall of Administration boardroom. (Photos by Warren Watson)

## I CONFESS WRONG—CAN YOU?

**By Herbert W. Armstrong**  
**P**ERHAPS THE HARDEST thing for any person to do is admit it when he is wrong.

It is human to err. All make mistakes. Even more, ALL HAVE SINNED — and SIN is much worse than making a mistake.

God says, "to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). Sin is consciously, knowingly, transgressing God's law. A mistake is not necessarily a sin.

Yet, even of Christians, God

says, "If we [we spirit-led Christians] confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9).

The 10th verse says if we Christians say we have (not *did* have before conversion, but have now) no sin, we are wrong. But even an unintended error or mistaken statement should be acknowledged and be corrected.

It seems almost no one will confess it when he sins, let alone repent and turn away from continuing in the particular sin. Even admitting an error or an unintended wrong goes against

human nature. Yet a child of God must do it.

True repentance is confessing to SINS — not justifying them, but admitting them, having enough godly sorrow over them to TURN FROM THEM and overcome them.

Usually an initial repentance takes one through an internal struggle of mind. The SELF doesn't want to admit wrong, let alone deliberate and intended SIN.

I know the struggle I had to go through in the spring of 1927. Yet it is something like going into the ocean at a beach or a swimming pool when the water is cold. One hates to plunge in, but once in, it isn't so bad and may even be enjoyable.

When God brought me to repentance, it was like that. I say to others, "Come on in — the water's fine!" It has never been so hard, since, to admit wrong, or confess even sins to God. I have had to admit error more than once.

For 40 years I had led God's Church into the error of observing the day of Pentecost on a Monday. In this one, ONLY, of all God's Sabbaths, he tells us to COUNT in order to determine ourselves which is the right day. In all others, God tells us which is the right day.

Back in 1927 I had to COUNT to determine which day was the Feast of Firstfruits. The Bible said count FROM the morrow after the Sabbath — count FROM a Sunday 50 days. I did. I counted correctly. I did not make a mistake in that, let alone committing an intentional and knowing SIN.

The King James version said count 50 days FROM a Sunday. At that time I had checked every translation then published of the

Bible. All used the word FROM. One day FROM Sunday is Monday. Fifty days FROM Sunday is Monday.

But finally, after 40 years, God showed me that EVERY TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH had mistranslated that word. I talked to two members of the translating committee of the Revised Standard translation. After some discussion, they both admitted an erroneous translation.

Actually it was the Hebrew-English scholars who translated the Bible who made the mistake. But, on learning it I corrected it and the whole Church has accepted the correction.

When I find I have sinned, I confess that to GOD, not to people. But when there comes to my attention an unintended error — a mistake — which has involved people, then I must admit that error and correct it before the people involved.

That has happened in the case of my disfellowshipment letter to my son, Garner Ted Armstrong.

Can you imagine my mental anguish and turmoil at the moment? Disfellowshipping one's own son is a MOST SERIOUS responsibility and sore trial.

I had prayed desperately. I had decided to give him "one more chance," rose up early in the morning and written a last desperate letter hoping to avoid disfellowshipment.

But then I realized my first duty, even above that to my son whom I love, was to the Church and to Jesus Christ.

Much as I love my son, I love Jesus Christ and God's Work more. I tore up the letter.

Hurriedly I wrote another, the one of disfellowshipment. In

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### City of David 'dig' begins for AC students, brethren

JERUSALEM — The 1981 summer "dig" involving 26 Ambassador College students and nine Worldwide Church of God members began July 13, reported Richard Paige, coordinator of the Church and college volunteers here.

Most of the students and Church members left the United States June 24, arriving in Israel July 1 following a tour of Athens, Greece. "We stopped there to capture some of the experience offered by ancient Greece's treasures and to adjust to the time change," Mr. Paige said.

The students and members participated in a "fairly intensive educational program," according to the coordinator, an assistant professor of history on the Pasadena campus of Ambassador. (Jim Herst, a graduate assistant in Pasadena, traveled to Israel to assist Mr. Paige.)

Before leaving for Israel, the students received 20 hours of evening study in archaeological methods and

geography of the Holy Land. The Church members participated through cassette recordings of the lectures, lecture outlines and slides.

One of the purposes of the in-depth study was to teach the students "to appreciate the limitations, as well as the contributions, of biblical archaeology," Mr. Paige said.

"As Paul Lapp [the late director of the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem] once noted, 'While biblical archaeology is no longer in its infancy, it is still very much in its childhood.'"

Upon arriving in Israel, the students and Church members began an extensive tour of the Holy Land, visiting dozens of sites with historical significance, he said. Places visited included Megiddo, Mt. Carmel, Jericho, Qumran, Tiberias, En Gedi, Masada and the Mt. Sinai area.

#### Experimental program

"This year we allowed Church (See DAVID, page 5)

# Big Sandy primes for opening

PASADENA — Preparations for the new two-year junior college in Big Sandy, Tex., are "gaining in intensity" as the opening date nears, said evangelist Leon Walker, deputy chancellor of the Big Sandy campus.

"Most of the faculty should be moved on campus by the middle of July," he reported July 3. "All are excitedly looking forward to the opening."

A handful of students are working on "various grounds and maintenance jobs" preparing for the arrival of the new student body in August.

"We will have our major departments such as business, employment, registrar and others operating smoothly well before school opens," the evangelist stated.

"Mr. [Herbert] Armstrong has asked me to continue directing the Spanish Department from the college in Texas," Mr. Walker said. "I was very pleased to continue as I love what I'm doing."

Mr. Walker and his wife Reba plan to arrive on campus July 17.

### Traveling evangelist

Asked how he would direct the Pasadena-based Spanish Depart-

ment, Mr. Walker said, "I don't foresee any problems. About 60 percent of my work in the Spanish Department deals directly with the Spanish-speaking ministry, with whom I already work mostly with by phone, correspondence and personally when I visit them in their respective areas."

The evangelist stated that there are no plans to move the Spanish Department to Big Sandy, mainly because of the magazine production facilities in Pasadena for *La Pura Verdad* (Spanish Plain Truth).

"I plan to visit Pasadena about every six weeks," he added. "We also have a direct phone hookup through our computer system that I can pick up at anytime. I will also have a Quip [electronic data transmitter] machine in my office that allows me to transmit or receive printed material from Mr. Armstrong or other of our offices."

Mr. Walker plans to visit brethren and ministers in Latin America during school breaks. "During the Feasts, between semesters and other times I'll be traveling in Spanish-speaking areas, and I plan to swing back through Pasadena at the end of

all my trips to report to the staff there."

### Four-year program?

"Several people have asked me whether we are planning to develop a four-year program in Big Sandy," Mr. Walker reported. "To that I can answer that Mr. Armstrong makes those decisions and he has presently instructed us to carry out a two-year college. And, we follow those instructions and nothing else."

Big Sandy's student orientation program starts Aug. 20 with classes beginning Aug. 24.



SEP TRIP — Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong pauses to chat with Greg Albrecht, education instructor for the first session of the Summer Educational Program, his wife Karen and their son Scott, before Mr. Armstrong's June 27 sermon in Orr, Minn., site of SEP. (Photo by Nathan Faulkner)

## CONFESS

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it I wrote: "In spite of your continual disagreement with the way the living Jesus Christ has been building and conducting God's Work through His chosen apostle, I have at all times done my best to hold up and protect your name."

That summarized in one overall short sentence the real cause of disfelishment. Then I added four specific of-the-moment incidents, which at the last moment decided me.

"1) You have disobeyed my directive by going to Orr, Minnesota." Our summer camp was there. My statement was true and correct. I had forbidden him to go.

Since, I have learned that two of his young sons were there, and he is now saying he and his wife went there to see their sons.

As I now remember, I did not realize his sons were there. Had he told me and asked to see them, I'm sure I would have said go.

"2) Contacting members you were forbidden to contact." This he had done. It was NOT a false charge.

"3) Contacted the United States Postal authorities in the unethical and unscrupulous effort to intercept corporate

## Orr

(Continued from page 1)

than the tree of life.

This decision impacted not only Adam and Eve but all mankind who have been born since that incident. Man has spent 6,000 years cut off from the tree of life, which would have imparted spiritual knowledge and understanding with God's Holy Spirit to Adam and all of mankind.

Mr. Armstrong emphasized that young people in God's Church, however, are not cut off. Rather, youths whose parents are members of the Church of God, are sanctified or set apart, even if only one parent is a member. He stated that Church youths are set apart . . . to be converted when they come to the right age.

He concluded: "You are different from other children, but not better than other children. It is just that

God will call you someday."

He reminded them that they will be pioneers during the millennial reign of God's government on this earth. "You will not be excluded from the world tomorrow," he stated emphatically.

Accompanying Mr. Armstrong to Orr were Spanish Department director Leon Walker and his wife Reba, David Hulme (Robert Fahey's administrative assistant) and his wife Robin, and facilities management director Ellis LaRavia and his wife Gwen.

SEP administrators Larry Salyer and Kevin Dean noted that the first session had gone smoothly, despite 21 straight days of rain.

Immediately following Sabbath services, Mr. Armstrong, his traveling companions and ministers and their wives gathered for about an hour for snacks and a personal talk from the pastor general.

## Oregon member learns newsstand PT sells itself

Rex Sexton, a 1977 Big Sandy Ambassador College graduate, is a local church elder in Pasco, Wash.

### By Rex Sexton

HERMISTON, Ore. — Drawing on Spokesman Club experience, member Donald Smythe established more than 20 Plain Truth newsstand outlets in April, May and June. And more than 100 waiting rooms now receive *The Plain Truth* through the efforts of Mr. Smythe and his wife Frances.

### Formula for success

Pasco, Wash., local elder Ed Oetel asked Mr. Smythe to establish PT outlets in northern Oregon.

Mr. and Mrs. Smythe tried to work in the evenings, but found that store managers were usually not in

their stores. Only the managers could authorize placement of Plain Truth newsstands.

So, Mr. Smythe took a vacation day off from work. He started in Boardman, Ore., at 9 a.m. and worked his way back home.

At first he felt awkward. "I was thankful I'd worked on my 'Speak With Purpose' speech. Managers are very busy and talk to many salesmen. They don't have a lot of time to waste," he added.

Mr. Smythe came straight to the point: "After introducing myself, I simply say: 'I represent *The Plain Truth* magazine, and we distribute free copies on newsstands we maintain ourselves. We're interested in establishing an outlet in this area.'"

He then hands three different copies of the newsstand Plain Truth to the manager. Small talk, he has found, is not effective and distracts the manager from inspecting sample copies.

Several have asked, "Is this a religious magazine?" Mr. Smythe answers: "Yes. It is published by the Worldwide Church of God. Each issue contains articles on family living, world events and Bible prophecy. We are not proselytizing or soliciting funds in any way. It is simply an educational magazine in the public interest."

### Managers welcome PT

Mr. Smythe noted that negative reaction to *The Plain Truth* is rare. "The vast majority," he said, "are impressed with the high quality and welcome it — many have already either seen it or have heard Mr. [Herbert] Armstrong on the broadcast."

He reported that the positive approach works well — often later adding additional newsstands. "By working through one district manager I was able to place four separate outlets in different cities," he said.

"It must be some kind of record," commented Pasco pastor Gerald Flurry. "It's amazing the success Mr. Smythe has had."

Establishing his contacts in less than three working days spread over three months, Mr. Smythe said he plans to work on the project until at least one newsstand is established in every city in the Pasco church area.



EXTRA EFFORT — Member Donald Smythe pauses after restocking a newsstand he established in a Heppner, Ore., supermarket. More than 20 newsstands were established by Mr. Smythe in three working days. (Photo by Rex Sexton)

mail and thus divert corporate funds illegally into your private, personal hands . . ."

I wrote this on information given me. It was a TOTAL MISUNDERSTANDING ON MY PART. I want now to retract that, though I believed at the time it was true.

My son says he was only trying to receive his own personal and private mail, and I believe

him in that. In the emotion of the moment I wrote that as it had been reported to me.

LET ME SAY HERE WITH EMPHASIS, I AM ABSOLUTELY AND POSITIVELY SURE MY SON WAS NOT TRYING TO OBTAIN MONEY FALSELY!

He would never do that. He did not covet more money. Every time I gave him a raise in salary, he would say, "Oh Dad, I didn't need that."

Though I was led at the moment to believe that statement No. 3, I know now it was not true, and I apologize.

"(and 4) Finally giving the Los Angeles Times (and perhaps other media) distorted and false accusations against your father, God's apostle."

My son justified this later, saying the Times contacted him, not he them.

Newspapers have tried to contact me, and I reply, "No comment," or refuse to talk.

When he responded and talked to them for a story hostile to God's Church, he did tend to "cause divisions and offenses" against the Church.

Yes, it is truly terribly hard for one to admit he has been wrong. I am sorry to say my son is still in great and widespread disagreement with me, as I am in agreement with Christ.

I do think that my son thinks he is right — does not see where he is wrong. I pray for him daily that God will cause him to "come to himself," as President Woodrow Wilson wrote in a book, and realize his disagreement and see in his own mind where he is wrong.

## Photographers needed for Feast of Tabernacles

The Work's publications need new color and black and white photographs from Festival sites worldwide. Selected photos will be used in *The Plain Truth*, *Good News*, *Worldwide News*, *Youth 81* and in Church presentations. If you are interested in serving God's Church in this capacity, please send a short summary of your photographic experience, photo equipment you will be using, the Feast site you plan to attend and your name and address to:

The Worldwide News  
Festival Photographer  
300 W. Green St.  
Pasadena, Calif., 91123

The Work needs 35-mm. and 2 1/4 camera format only. Film and mailing expenses will be provided only to those who correspond and are selected as official photographers. Please respond no later than Aug. 5. Photographers for Jerusalem; Mount Pocono, Pa.; Squaw Valley, Calif.; Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii; Brno, Czechoslovakia; Praz-sur-Arly, France; Bonn-dorf, West Germany; and Exloo, Netherlands, have been selected. Nearly 80 sites are left to be covered. Please respond as soon as possible.