

DO YOU SHOW DUE RESPECT FOR YOUR MINISTER?

By Herbert W. Armstrong

I WAS rather astonished to learn, just today, that in many of our churches the members are on a "first-name basis" with their local pastors. Let me tell you my own experience in that regard.

Years ago in the parent church in Eugene, Ore., I encouraged the brethren to call me by my first name. Why? Because I felt, wrongly, that if they called me Mr. Armstrong, I would appear to be exalted and not humble. My intentions were good, but not the method.

Years later a woman who had been a close chum of my elder daughter in those early days at Eugene came to visit Beverly in the Pasadena area. She had long since left the Church. Back in 1934 and following years, there had been about eight or 10 young

Are you on a "first-name basis" with your ministers? Read here of my own experience on a "first-name basis."

people of around 16 to 18 years of age. I had organized a sort of young people's group of them and held special and separate Bible studies with them.

Familiarity breeds contempt

"Mr. Armstrong," she said at my daughter's home, "I don't mean to criticize you, but I think you might like to know why several of us who were in the teenage group in Eugene are no longer in the Church. This is not the only reason, of course, but it did contribute to it. Do you remember how you encouraged all in the Church in those days to call you by your first name? You were then a full generation older than we teenagers.

"Experience has now shown some of us that the saying 'familiarity breeds contempt' is really true. We were on such a familiar first-name basis with you, that it brought you in our eyes down to our own level. I notice that since you came to Pasadena, the brethren are not on a first-name basis with you. I hope you never change that."

Yes, familiarity *does* often breed contempt. Your minister *should be*, spiritually and in biblical knowledge and understanding, senior to those of you — even who may be twice his age.

I remember, at a Feast of Tabernacles in the days when our one and only Feast site was Big Sandy, Tex., how I found it necessary to admonish the brethren that, even though many of them were in physical years

much older than some of our young ministers, yet these young ministers had had special concentrated biblical teaching at Ambassador College, and SPIRITUALLY speaking, these young ministers were older than the brethren.

Senior in understanding

I do not want, most certainly, for our ministers to feel superior, vain or "lifted up in vanity," but the very fact that they have been ordained to Christ's ministry *should* mean that they are SENIOR to their congregations in biblical knowledge and understanding.

And, as I believe the personal illustration I gave above of my own experience, it is **YOU BRETHREN** who may be harmed if

you feel familiar enough with your minister to be on a first-name basis with him.

God's Word teaches us to hold the ministers who are over us in high regard.

"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake" (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

Again, "Let the elders that rule well be accounted worthy of double honour [remuneration — Moffatt translation], especially they who labour in the word and doctrine" (1 Timothy 5:17).

On the other hand, I do not mean that we should go to the opposite extreme and call ministers by high titles, such as Dr., etc. During the recent ministerial conference Mr. Roderick Meredith asked me if I would stop calling him "Dr. Meredith," and I agreed that this could sound like flattery.

Tough decisions for Washington

PASADENA — President Jimmy Carter has his hands full wrestling with America's energy crisis, with the certainty of having to make some politically uncomfortable decisions. Yet the energy issue is only one of a number of quandaries confronting the chief executive.

The first dilemma is what to do about the future defense needs of Western Europe.

The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT II) treaty, if approved by the U.S. Senate (a mighty big "if"), will set the groundwork for the U.S.-Soviet strategic nuclear relationship for the next few years. But the treaty does nothing to curb the growth of Soviet nuclear might targeted on Western Europe. And the European North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies are growing more concerned about this threat with each passing day.

The Soviets are deploying monstrous SS-20 ballistic missiles in western Russia that could not reach U.S. targets without the addition of a third stage, but can easily flatten British, French or West German cities. The Kremlin is also building a fleet of medium-range Backfire bombers that are tailor-made for intra-European warfare. SALT II in no way affects these developments.

The defense ministers of Europe's NATO powers recently met with U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown and other Pentagon officials in an attempt to get NATO in general and the United States in particular to upgrade the aging medium-range defensive nuclear weapons stationed in Europe. The most-discussed new hardware is either a new ground-launched cruise missile (GLCM), or an extended-range version of the already deployed Pershing missile.

Replay of neutron fiasco?

The sparring inside NATO is reminiscent of the debacle 15 months ago when President Carter abruptly decided against construction of the neutron bomb for NATO's defensive use after Europe's NATO partners

thought the issue had already been resolved.

As in that case, Washington, fearful of Soviet reaction, does not want to give the impression that it is acting unilaterally on NATO's behalf. Yet U.S. leadership is essential because most European governments can't politically afford to appear that they are pushing the issue — when in effect they are.

The Netherlands, for example, was a hotbed of resistance to the neutron warhead. Norway and Denmark remain opposed to having any nuclear weapons stationed there. Even West Germany's Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has to be mindful of his party's influential left wing, which wants to cozy up to Moscow. The only answer is for the United States to take a bold, if somewhat lonely, stand. Yet, there is a strong likelihood that the alliance may be in for a replay of the neutron-bomb controversy.

One senior European official in NATO says this: "Suppose we get everything lined up with our defensive ministries and our parliaments and our cabinets and then the [Carter] administration suddenly decides that it doesn't want to build a special medium-range missile for Europe, or it doesn't think that the Europeans should get the cruise missile after all. It would be disastrous for the alliance both politically and militarily, and we can't be sure yet that it won't happen that way."

If Washington turns down the European NATO members a second time, confidence in America would plummet to a new low, and the momentum in some quarters to seek an arrangement with Moscow, with Europe moving into a more "neutral" stage, would certainly accelerate.

Africa policy in shambles

The NATO decision may be rough enough, but what to do in Southern Africa, especially in the aftermath of the elections in Rhodesia, is building up to be the most agonizing foreign

policy headache President Carter has faced yet. "The problems are going to be horrendous for Mr. Carter," predicts one State Department official.

The President is required by law to lift economic sanctions against Rhodesia providing the Rhodesian government agrees to two conditions: 1) expresses its willingness to

attend an "all-parties" peace conference with Patriotic Front guerrilla leaders, and 2) conducts a free and fairly administered election leading to majority rule.

High voter turnout

The first point Prime Minister Ian Smith and other members of the executive council agreed to last autumn, whereas the two guerrilla chiefs, Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, turned cold shoulder to it.

On the second point, international observers generally reported their approval of the April 17 to 21 Rhodesia election that resulted in the victory of Bishop Abel Muzorewa as prime minister-elect of the new Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. Nearly 65 percent of all Rhodesians eligible to vote went to the polls. (Contrast this with 18.7 percent of registered voters going to the polls in Mr. Carter's home state of Georgia during the congressional elections of 1978 and only 37.8 percent when he was the favorite-son candidate for the presidency in 1976.)

What is the President's dilemma? Just this. To acknowledge that the preconditions have been met and that sanctions should be lifted will wreck the administration's Africa policy, specifically its relations with other African and Third World states — including oil-rich Nigeria (the United States' second-largest supplier). These states passionately back the Rhodesian guerrillas, and the United

States believes it would lose enormous face to go back on these carefully nurtured "lover" relationships at this juncture (see Jeremiah 3:1, 4:30 and 30:12-15).

Thus, according to the Los Angeles, Calif., *Times*, officials in the administration "are searching the legislative record for ways to justify a ruling that the elections were not 'free' or fairly conducted and thus do not require lifting sanctions under U.S. law."

How did the United States get it-

senger airliners?"

Because of what other observers label America's "moral bankruptcy" in this area of its foreign policy, an entirely new political equation is developing in Southern Africa; namely a more neutral power bloc in the subcontinent embracing South Africa, Namibia (the United Nations scheme to hand this territory over to terrorists is all but dead), Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, plus several smaller African states dependent upon South Africa for their economic livelihood and military defense.

This is a very significant trend, because there will eventually come a swing to the right in Western Europe. West Germany and France both have enormous investments in South Africa. Pretoria (capital of South Africa) is Bonn's chief trading partner in Africa. A united Europe — cut off from a mistrusted America (symbolized by the missile dilemma) — might find a ready ally in an isolated, beleaguered Southern Africa power bloc.

WORLDWATCH BY GENE H. HOGBERG

self boxed into such a canyon? It all goes back to the administration's African policy constructed for it by left-wing State Department "Africanists." Columnists Evans and Novak describe the basic false premise of their approach:

"The policy originated in the belief expressed to us in March, 1977, by one of Mr. Carter's senior White House aides — that 'the white man is finished in Southern Africa.' That meant the United States must get on the side of the blacks, even if their ideology was Marxist and their record in human rights questionable."

The *Wall Street Journal*, in one of its strongest editorials ever directed against an administration in office, called the government's position in the Rhodesia election a "scandal." By pandering to the wrong parties, its Rhodesia policy, it said, was shot through with "profound confusion and dishonesty," adding that "this country has been placed in the outrageous position of throwing its weight against liberal democracy and moderation in Rhodesia and acting instead in behalf of the men in the conflict who are clearly the more illiberal and violent."

New power bloc

Columnist Patrick J. Buchanan was even more blunt. United States policy, he said, "leaves veto power over the lifting of sanctions to people who murder civilians, rape nuns, kidnap children and shoot down pas-

The Worldwide News

CIRCULATION: 56,000

The *Worldwide News* is published biweekly, except during the Church's annual Fall Festival, by the Worldwide Church of God. Copyright © 1979 Worldwide Church of God. All rights reserved.

Editor in chief: Herbert W. Armstrong

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NOTICE: The *Worldwide News* cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited articles and photographs.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscriptions are sent automatically to the members of the Worldwide Church of God. Address all communications to *The Worldwide News*, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91123. Additional mailing offices: Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 2M2, Canada; Box 111, St. Albans, Herts., U.K. 2EG, England; Box 202, Burrell Heads, Queensland, 4220, Australia; Box 2603, Manila, 2801, Philippines; Box 2709, Auckland 1, New Zealand.

ADDRESS CHANGES: U.S. changes of address are handled automatically with *Plain Truth* changes of address. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at Pasadena, Calif. Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to *The Worldwide News*, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91123.

GOSPEL TO JAPANESE LEADERS

By Herbert W. Armstrong
For some 20 months, due to total heart failure in August, 1977, I was prevented from proclaiming Christ's Gospel in person in the far-flung nations around the world.

But God has been with me. There has been NO diminishing of the vital faculties, especially of mind. And while I was having for the time to defer the ORDEAL of physically demanding worldwide travel, I have been able to WRITE almost faster than you brethren can read and to continue FULL LEADERSHIP of God's Work here on earth.

I want to mention a point we were discussing here in the hotel suite yesterday afternoon. I have not realized it before. Probably

"... in a few words, and even waiting at every sentence for the interpreter to repeat it in the Japanese language, Jesus Christ through me DELIVERED THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM to some 300 of the leaders of Japan ..."

you have not realized it. But the United States is the ONLY nation on earth that retires people at age 60 or 65. In the United States most have come to suppose that people naturally begin to lose their mental faculties even as early as 55.

WHY?

This general national assumption is NOT TRUE! Many large corporations have adopted a RETIREMENT POLICY that all employees, and even executives, must retire at age 65 — and some at age 60. The same is true of schoolteachers.

I even retired one man at age 55 on his urgent request, although in a manner that did not increase the Work's expenses, even though we had to hire another to take his place. But he had worked for us 25 years. I remember he wanted to travel — not to other parts of the world — but to see other parts of the United States, as he phrased it, "before I have to meet my Maker." In other words, even at age 55 this man was THINKING, in his mind, that he was approaching "the age of death."

The age of wisdom

WHY do Americans think that way? Here in Japan a man of 65 is just coming into the age of the BEGINNING of wisdom! A man in his 80s is not regarded as old or senile, but as more mature — of higher stature — of having a BETTER mind, of attaining to the "age of wisdom."

But I remember one of my grandmothers at age 55. In those days, when I was probably 5 or 6 years old, all women wore hats outdoors. Young women had rather decorative hats, with artificial roses, or objects of bright colors and with a sophisticated STYLE. Hats were not intended to cover or keep warm the

head — but to be an added DECORATION. But by 55 or maybe younger, all women wore "old ladies" bonnets. They were shaped like an old covered wagon and always black, as were their clothes. They dressed in the style that all "old women" dressed. By their dress as well as their manner, they proclaimed loudly, I am OLD. I expect to die right away. My days of usefulness are over.

But times did change. Although I remember that both my grandmothers wore old-ladies bonnets and dressed like old women, my mother did not. My mother was 95½ when she died, and right up to the day of her

death, in her 90s, she dressed like a younger woman, or at least like a middle-aged woman. Many of our readers will remember her. And at age 95 she was still happy, jolly and had a good sense of humor.

Somehow, between the generation of her mother and her own generation, women had at least begun to dispose of the custom of wearing old-ladies bonnets and somber and unattractive clothes.

12 Japanese sons

But back to what I started. There must have been 250 or 300 or more at the banquet last night. It was held in a large banquet room of this hotel (The Imperial), and this is a large hotel with several private dining rooms. Many of the eight congressmen (members of the Diet — the Japanese congress or parliament) who call themselves my "Japanese sons" were there. The speakers' table seated at least a dozen, some of whom spoke briefly, all of whom stood one at a time to be introduced. All others, including wives, were seated at many round tables — 10 or 12 seated at each table.

All who spoke were saying complimentary things about me. During the evening a few other members of the Japanese Diet said they wanted to be counted as one of my Japanese sons, all of whom are important Diet members — the number of my Japanese sons in the Diet is now 12.

All speeches were translated. If a Japanese official spoke briefly, he spoke, of course, in Japanese, but after every sentence the interpreter translated the sentence into English. And vice versa. Of course, the whole thing was in my honor, so I was the chief speaker. Both Stanley Rader and Osamu Gotoh spoke briefly.

Herbert W. Armstrong continues proclaiming the Gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD in nations around the world.

Herbert W. Armstrong's report of his trip to Japan will also appear in the June-July issue of The Good News magazine for the benefit of those co-workers who do not regularly receive The Worldwide News.

I had said earlier that I was not going to plan ahead what to say, or speak from any notes. I knew the living Christ would put into my mind what I should say — and He did!

There were at least a half dozen ambassadors representing other nations present (with their wives). So I knew that a number of different religions were represented.

Suppose you were to be asked to stand up and speak to some 300 highly distinguished people, some believing the Buddhist, Shintoist, Islamic or Taoist religions, not knowing anything about the true GOD, and you knew that Jesus Christ wanted you to proclaim to them the good news of the KINGDOM OF GOD. And you had to get this Gospel message over to these important people.

JUST HOW WOULD YOU GO ABOUT IT? If you had two or three days beforehand to think and plan what to say, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

How the living Christ guides

I think all you brethren ought to know a little about how Jesus Christ leads His chosen apostle to do it.

I KNEW the living Christ would guide me. Like you I am only human, but I TRUSTED the living Jesus. He did put in my mind what to say.

Many of you may hear a tape recording of what I did say. But as I now remember it, I mentioned that I do have private meetings with many heads of nations — that I talk with them about their problems and world problems. That their problems are greater than any of them have power to solve. I then said I had read an editorial in one of the world's leading news magazines that said our "WORLD PROBLEMS AND EVILS are now so great it would seem that the world's ONLY HOPE lies in the intervention of a GREAT UNSEEN HAND FROM SOMEPLACE." In this manner I brought to the attention of these many government officials of different religions the supreme GOD — then explained that this Great "Unseen Hand" was the UNSEEN CREATOR WHO MADE OF ONE BLOOD ALL OF THE NATIONS REPRESENTED IN THIS BANQUET.

I did not know until I stood up before the loudspeaker microphone that I would say that. But you see, Jesus Christ put words in my mouth that showed them I was speaking of the SUPREME CREATOR, regardless of their religion.

Jesus gave me the words to show GOD'S POWER without of-

fense to any because of his religious belief.

God's ambassador

I then said many consider me an ambassador without portfolio (that is, no official political authority), but in fact, I told them, I was an official ambassador of the GREAT GOD who created us all. And I brought them from Him GOOD NEWS — news of the world's ONLY HOPE — that we are now in the very LAST DAYS of this present man-made civilization, with more problems and evils than mankind CAN SOLVE — and that SOON NOW — in OUR GENERATION — God will INTERVENE and set up the WORLD-RULING KINGDOM OF GOD — that we shall then have world peace, happiness, JOY and economic ABUNDANCE for ALL in ALL NATIONS.

I said: "I don't ask you to BELIEVE what I say. We humans won't bring this about — it will be DONE TO US — and IN SPITE OF US — whether we believe it or not — whether we want it or not. But I have just ANNOUNCED IT TO YOU, and IT DEFINITELY SHALL HAPPEN!"

Thus, in a few words, and even waiting at every sentence for the interpreter to repeat it in the Japanese language, Jesus Christ through me DELIVERED THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM to some 300 of the leaders of Japan and several other nations.

And I might mention THIS is what the attorney general's office in California is trying to call "siphoning off millions of dollars every year for my own use." In the past two years we have not spent one tenth of \$1 million on

"... definite plans are under way for me to make an official visit to COMMUNIST CHINA — officially the People's Republic of China, in company with two or three of the highest members of the Japanese Diet. Two of the high-ranking members of Japan's law-making Diet are definitely working on arrangements."

this important Work of carrying the GOSPEL into nations worldwide.

For the past 10 years, this part of the Work has cost less than \$1 million a year — whereas our budget calls for SEVERAL million per year for SALARIES to ministers and the staff at headquarters — several million for radio, for TV, for printing.

I must break off now and hurry into a business suit — for I am to have a meeting in less than two hours with Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira. I have met and visited with every Japanese prime minister in the past 10 years — Prime Minister Eisaku Sato, Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, Prime Minister Takeo Miki, Prime Minister Takeo

Fukuda, and now Prime Minister Ohira. I have been highly honored in Japan.

There's the saying that a prophet is not honored in his own country. That's where the PERSECUTION comes from. But here, I am honored above any unofficial non-Japanese.

And though the persecution comes in many forms at home, I am DEEPLY GRATEFUL that you brethren of God's Church have deep LOVE for me, and you have certainly proved that. I love and pray for you continually.

Official visit to China planned

LATER: In flight back home, April 29.

I have now had private personal meetings with the last FIVE prime ministers of Japan.

Perhaps the most important news of all that I can give you of this trip is that definite plans are under way for me to make an official visit to COMMUNIST CHINA — officially the People's Republic of China — in company with two or three of the highest members of the Japanese Diet. Two of the high-ranking members of Japan's lawmaking Diet are definitely working on arrangements. The trip will be made in our own G-II jet, and probably in August. Private meetings are being set up with the Communist Party Chairman and Prime Minister Huo Guofeng and the deputy prime minister, Deng Xiaoping.

As you know, I have been waiting a long time for the HEAD of our Church, Jesus Christ, to open doors — if He wanted His apostle to go to the LEADERS of China and the Soviet Union. Of course, I can't know yet what Christ may have in mind, but He is able to open doors wherever He wants me to go as His ambassador and apostle.

Plans are now being made for a

visit with the government heads and many other leaders in a country I have never yet visited — Tunisia, on the southern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, west of Egypt. And, of course, I already have had a personal meeting with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt.

Before leaving Japan on this present trip, I had further meetings with a few other Japanese leaders.

This has certainly been a very successful trip. We are now on the descent for a refueling at Cold Bay, Alaska, the farthestmost western tip of Alaska, where the Aleutian Islands virtually join up with Alaska at its farthest western tip. I close asking you to continue your earnest and fervent prayers for me and the Work.