

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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SATAN INTENSIFIES PERSECUTION

by

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Evidences increase and multiply indicating God's great Work through His Church (Philadelphia era) may be FINISHED in a matter of months.

We may be right now at the time of Revelation 12:7-14. I want to write another article on another phase of this prophecy which will appear in the August number of either The PLAIN TRUTH or The GOOD NEWS.

Satan's master stroke against God's Church came with the massive assault of the California Attorney General's office on January 3, last year. Satan failed to knock out and destroy the Church with that civil lawsuit. He only drove us closer together, and closer to Christ. It actually helped in the process of putting the Church back on GOD's track.

So now Satan is trying something he has tried a number of times before--since he could not knock out the whole Church with one blow, he is now trying harder than ever to DIVIDE and SEPARATE US by a vicious attack of false accusations against Church leaders. Proverbs 16:27 speaks of those who would try to accuse and defame: "A worthless man digs up evil, while his words are as a scorching fire" (New American Standard Bible).

Actually, Satan tried this in the attempt to have the State political government take over running of the Church. Both Mr. Rader and I were falsely accused (but not in the lawsuit) of siphoning off (stealing) millions of dollars every year. We did not need to dignify those monstrous lies with even a denial.

But now Satan is coming at us in a more subtle and even more outrageous and scurrilous accusation, implying personal immorality and sins.

Neither shall we dignify these infamous accusations and rumors with a denial.

Adolph Hitler is reported to have said that if you tell a little lie it may not be believed, but if you tell an outrageously enormous and impossible lie it will be believed.

Brethren, I have no need for refutation or of the defense of character witnesses, or personal recommendations. Listen to what the Apostle Paul said. The same Satan tried to ruin Paul's credibility among the Church. Paul said: "Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?"

He answered, "Ye are our epistle (recommendation) written in our hearts, known and read of all men" (II Cor. 3:1-2).

Directly, or indirectly, you are all MY children in the Lord. This Church is GOD'S Church. Jesus Christ is its living HEAD. He chose and has used me as His Apostle--as His human servant and instrument through whom HE, not just I, raised up all this Church. It was God the Father who called me, and later all of you. Jesus Christ founded and built God's Church. He raised up and built the present Philadelphia era of God's Church. But He used me as the human instrument in so doing.

WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR BELIEF--THE DOCTRINES WE ALL HOLD SO DEARLY? Every doctrine--every point of belief--you received directly or indirectly through me as Christ's Apostle!

Jesus Christ built this entire Work. But He caused me to work as hard and as diligently as if I had built it--only, if I had tried to do it WITHOUT Him, as others have tried to build THEIR OWN CHURCHES, it would have fallen flat long ago.

Have I ever sinned? Yes, just as you and every one who ever lived, except Jesus, has sinned. But I have stood before you even as the Apostle Paul did, a sinner who DEEPLY REPENTED and WAS FORGIVEN BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST. I learned 53 years ago that we must LIVE the Christian life in a spirit and attitude of repentance. I have done that, and my precious Savior has FORGIVEN and cleansed me of all sin.

Jesus said, "by their FRUITS ye shall know them." I do not need to dignify false witnesses by a denial of their malicious accusations, nor does Mr. Rader. The FRUITS are all the answer I need.

Not only did Christ use me in raising up the present era of God's Church, He used me in building it. And, when others to whom I had delegated responsibilities not only greatly exceeded the authority delegated, but tried to LIBERALIZE God's Church and turn it gradually and subtly into Satan's Church, Christ used me these past two and a half years in TURNING GOD'S Church around and SETTING IT BACK ON THE TRACK. HE WOULD NEVER HAVE SO USED ONE GUILTY OF THE SINS SATAN NOW ACCUSES, USING EVEN FORMER MINISTERS DISFELLOWSHIPED FOR DIVIDING AND LIBERALIZING GOD'S HOLY CHURCH!

Mr. Rader's FRUITS have been GOOD. His service has been mostly in finance and legal areas, but the value of his services to the Church could not be estimated in dollars. And he has been LOYAL.

Henry Cornwall and Sherwin McMichael also are accused by those put out of the Church for trying on their part to DESTROY it. Their fruits also are all the recommendation they need, and not our denial of accusations by false witnesses. Mr. Cornwall is now my assistant, in addition to serving as our advertising agent.

Jesus said that if they had persecuted Him they would persecute us also. I counted that cost when I GAVE my life into Christ's service.

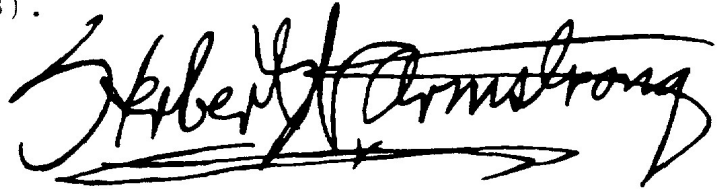
Read Matthew 26:59-60: "Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put Him to death;...At the last came two false witnesses."

Accusing Stephen, "set up false witnesses" to put him to death (Acts 6:13).

Satan is still at it today--still seeking to destroy the Work of the living GOD!

But THANK GOD, His Church turns a deaf ear to false witnesses serving Satan.

I want to write much further on the passage in Revelation 12 in The PLAIN TRUTH and The GOOD NEWS. Our Work may be more nearly FINISHED than we have realized. "But," remember, "he that shall endure UNTO THE END, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 24:13).



NEW YORK TIMES REPORTS ON RECENT U.S. SUPREME COURT ACTION

The New York Times, which maintains a full-time reporter in the nation's capital for the purpose of reporting on Supreme Court activity, recently ran an article (reproduced below) covering the high court's denial of the Church's writ of certiorari. So far as we know, the New York Times is the only newspaper thus far which has accurately reported the meaning of the U.S. Supreme Court's action regarding the Church's request for an early hearing. (Notice the underlined paragraph below.)

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 1980

Church Plans Campaign Against California Inquiry

By PAMELA G. HOLLIE

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, June 7 — The Worldwide Church of God, under investigation by the California Attorney General's office, has decided to plead its case to the public. "We will spend whatever it takes," said Stanley Rader, the principal adviser to the church's 87-year-old founder, Herbert W. Armstrong.

In full-page advertisements appearing in California newspapers this week and scheduled for other papers around the country later this month, Mr. Armstrong,

a radio and television evangelist, has begun an appeal for public support of his church's constitutional battle with the state of California. The first advertisements appeared in three California papers this week after the United States Supreme Court decided that it would not hear an appeal by the church.

For the last 18 months, the 100,000-member Worldwide Church of God has been resisting a state investigation into allegations that Mr. Armstrong and other church officials misused church funds. The church contends that the investiga-

tion violates the First Amendment guarantees of freedom of religion. Lawrence Tribe, a Harvard law professor and attorney for the church, said that if the state was allowed to obtain church records it would "seriously erode the constitutional protection of all citizens."

Inquiry Called Unconstitutional

In January 1979, the California Attorney General started an investigation into the church's financial dealings under state laws that govern charitable trusts. The church maintains that the state has

no jurisdiction over its activities and has called the investigation an "unconstitutional assault on American freedom."

The church had hoped for an early ruling by the Supreme Court. The Court's refusal to hear the case, however, sets no legal precedent and does not preclude it from taking the case at a later date.

The Worldwide Church of God, which has spent \$2.5 million in the last 18 months on legal fees, was in receivership for four months early last year and so far has refused to comply with demands to release church documents, although general financial statements on the operation of the church have been made public.

Those documents showed that the church assisted in the financing of homes

for its officers and paid for gifts and round-the-world trips for Mr. Armstrong and church officials. Former members have accused Mr. Armstrong and other officials of pilfering church property, siphoning off millions of dollars for their personal use and squandering church funds.

The dissidents cited as excessive certain expenses of Mr. Rader, who emerged as the church's second in command after the founder's son, Garner Ted Armstrong, was excommunicated. These expenses included \$13,166 for maintenance of Mr. Rader's home in Beverly Hills and \$10,591 for another home in Tucson, Ariz.

The conservative denomination is one of the world's most prosperous Protes-

tant sects, with an annual income of \$70 million, raised largely through the church's radio and television evangelism. Funds from church members, who tithe 10 percent of their income, is spent to support the church's Ambassador College in Pasadena, Calif., which is also the headquarters of the church, the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation and the church's publishing enterprises.

Mr. Armstrong, who calls himself "Christ's apostle," travels thousands of miles each year to meet and entertain heads of state and win converts. He generally takes a camera crew to record his visits. One such visit last fall to China is scheduled to be broadcast this year as part of the church's news media campaign.