

Mr. Attorney General of California:

Are you enforcing, or breaking, the law by persecuting the Church of the living GOD?

A GAIN I ASK, *HOW* are you justifying the surprise massive armed attack against the Church of the living God?

You contend all churches are charitable trusts and that they ought to be owned, controlled and managed by your office! And *why*? To protect, you contend, the handling of public funds.

This STATE AGAINST CHURCH battle launched by your office has mushroomed to national concern. The Worldwide Church of God defends the constitutional rights of all churches—with their welcome legal aid—in this struggle for religious freedom!

You, Mr. Attorney General, do not make the laws. They are made in our country by the Congress and various state legislatures. You were elected to office, and sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to enforce the law in the state of California.

The First Amendment to the Constitution protects the CHURCH from the STATE, saying no law shall be made concerning religion or the free exercise thereof. The Worldwide Church of God has violated no law. You have been unable to charge it with any lawbreaking. Are you, then, arrogating to yourself the lawmaking prerogative?

It's time we clarify the whole question. It's time the PEOPLE you are sworn to protect UNDERSTAND what you are doing!

Just what is a charitable trust? And what, contrariwise, is a CHURCH?

The CHURCH, says the Holy Bible, is the spiritual "Body of Christ." It is that Body of "called-out ones" who are the begotten children of the Holy God. They are called by God out of the secular world—a spiritual organism, not a secular organization.

Jesus Christ is the designated Head of the Church. He said, "I will build my Church." Its purpose and function is dual: 1) Jesus commanded His apostles, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel"; 2) He commanded, "Feed my sheep." Feed members spiritual food.

How is the Church of God financed? As God has directed, by the tithes and freewill (unsolicited) offerings of God's people. The Worldwide Church of God never solicits the public for contributions. It handles only God's money—not the public's money. And it reports regularly to those giving God's MONEY on how and for what it is expended.

Let me here reveal some of the inner workings and organized procedures of this Church—unique among all churches or institutions in the world. You, Mr. Attorney General, should have done your homework and familiarized yourself with these facts before your office launched this unconstitutional persecution!

Notice carefully. The Worldwide Church of God is neither a charitable trust nor a small "cult" as you apparently assumed.

First, how do we carry out the Great Commission—go to all the world with Christ's Message?

Beginning January, 1934, our *World Tomorrow* radio program went on the air, then weekly. By 1942 it became daily. In all these years it has never ceased. By the decade of the '60s we used more wattage of radio power than any program on earth. Beginning 1955, the program went on television coast to coast. This became the largest allocation on the annual budget.

Beginning February, 1934, we began publication of what has become one of the world's finest mass-circulation magazines, *The Plain Truth*, a magazine of understanding. It is free to the



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

public—no subscription price, carries no advertising, full color, in five languages, circulation over two million monthly. This unique magazine covers the real meaning behind world news, human interest subjects, human and world problems viewed from the biblical approach. It sparkles with dynamic human interest. A subscription is offered the public FREE, but only on request.

We send, tuition free, but only on request, a monthly Bible Correspondence Course, currently with 50,000 enrolled students. Exams are required and graded at regular intervals.

Besides this we offer the public, free, without follow-up request, for contributions, multiple millions of copies of booklets, books and other attractive literature.

Finally, we carry the Gospel Message into the world by PERSONAL EVANGELISM. Ordained evangelists have conducted public lectures in many cities in the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, nations in Africa, Asia and elsewhere around the world.

Last of all, and least in expenditure on our annual budget of any operation or department, have been my personal tours proclaiming Christ's Message into many parts of the world. I have held personal lectures before large public audiences in many countries. I have conferred with privately, on their personal invitation, many kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers and other top echelon officials of many nations. I have received highest honors from such nations as Japan, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, the Philippines, Lebanon, Thailand, Nepal, Ethiopia, South Africa, Costa Rica, Chile, India, the People's Republic of China and others.

These missions, commanded by Jesus Christ, are what you have denounced as "siphoning off millions of dollars every year" for the personal account of myself and Stanley R. Rader who has accompanied me. Yet this Gospel function was allocated the smallest amount on our annual budget!

How Carry Out the Second Church Function—Feeding the Flock?

We have hundreds of local congregations all over the world, pastored by ordained ministers. These are unique in that 98 percent to 100 percent of members attend regular weekly Sabbath services. Our ministers hold, besides, week-night Bible studies.

We issue weekly from Pasadena headquarters ■ *Pastor General's Report* for all ministers. It contains up to the minute news of Church activities. Ministers pass much of this on to their congregations.

Next, we issue for all members biweekly a tabloid newspaper, *The Worldwide News*. This regularly informs members on Church activities and how God's money is being spent. Also news of local congregations and personal news concerning members.

Still further, we publish for all members a monthly full-color magazine, *The Good News*. This magazine contains articles teaching the ways of Christian living, good neighborliness, spiritual food from the Bible. It "feeds the flock" in print.

Finally, as one division of the Mail Processing Department, is the Personal Correspondence Service. Here ordained ministers answer thousands of personal letters from both members and the public, answering biblical questions and giving personal counsel.

For These Dual Functions, How Organized?

In the Church (I Corinthians 12) are spiritual gifts imparted by God's Holy Spirit for the various administrations and operations God has set in these spiritual offices: apostles, evangelists, pastors, teachers, elders. They are not elected but chosen by Christ. The government in the Church of God is theocratic and hierarchical, from God, through Christ, through His chosen apostle and on down, as established by Jesus Christ and the New Testament. The living Christ is Head of the Church.

Training for Service

The Worldwide Church of God maintains its own educational institutions—both on the collegiate level and elementary. Ambassador College has been founded on three campuses—Pasadena, Texas and England. We have maintained elementary and secondary schools on all three campuses for children of members.

These liberal arts colleges, with theological majors, were founded to train ministers and other personnel. The campus in Pasadena was founded in 1947, in England in 1960 and in Texas in 1964. When needed personnel provided from the English and Texas campuses became adequate, they were closed, but the Pasadena campus continues.

When Jesus Christ first founded the Church of God, He personally taught and trained the original apostles. Thereafter ministers and needed personnel were trained by apostles. In Old Testament times, the prophet Elijah had organized three colleges, called "Sons of the Prophets."

The Worldwide Church of God is utterly unique, even among churches. It is the present generation of the SAME CHURCH. Jesus Christ founded A.D. 31, with all operations and organization continuing as outlined in the Bible. True, we do some things other churches do not and refrain from some things others do. But we neither proselyte nor compete. We hold only love for all. And we wage this defense for ALL churches!

But, Mr. Attorney General, in the present persecution you have attacked the living God and His CHURCH.

I have explained above what this Church really is, its purposes and functions, how organized and operated.

Now, contrariwise, WHAT IS A PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST? It is a secular firm or organization formed by legal agreement in which confidence is placed for the handling of PUBLIC CONTRIBUTED MONEY. We have NONE of the factors that compose a charitable trust.

We handle only God's MONEY for God's commanded purposes, freely and voluntarily given by God's people for the purposes for which it is expended.

Your sworn duty, Mr. Attorney General, is to enforce THE LAW—not break the law contrary to the Constitution by persecuting churches whose liberties and rights are guaranteed by the First Amendment!

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

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If the reader would care to examine any of the publications mentioned above, a sample copy will be sent gratis upon request—no follow-up. You may also receive a sample copy or subscription (no subscription price) of *The Plain Truth* magazine upon request.

Write the Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, Calif., 91123,

or call toll free, (800) 423-4444. In California call collect (213) 577-5225.

If you have some questions for the attorney general of the state of California, write to him, The Hon. George Deukmejian, California Attorney General, 555 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, Calif., 95814.