

PASTOR'S REPORT

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IS CHRIST STARTING A SECOND CHURCH?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

HOW MANY CHURCHES does God have at one and the same time?

The dissidents following a MAN, Garner Ted Armstrong, are now speaking out of both sides of their mouths. They KNOW that God condemns following a MAN. So, in an effort to take members away from God's Church, actually THREE false claims are being spread.

1) They are spreading the LIE that Garner Ted Armstrong is only doing the same thing his father did--FALSELY claiming I left the "Sardis" Church to pull away their members and so start a church of my own. The long article recently appearing, on "How the Worldwide Church of God Came Into Being" ought to NAIL THAT LIE! a) I did not leave them, for I had never been a member of them; b) I continued working alternately with their two main divisions--Stanberry, Mo., and Salem, W. Va. c) I was still working with them in 1945, 12 years after the present "Philadelphia" era came into being, 1933. Note that in this he concedes the 7 churches of Revelation 2 and 3 were consecutive eras, as well as seven continuous conditions in the one Church.

2) Again they admit the successive eras depicted in Revelation 2 and 3, claiming that my son is now starting the "Laodicean" era of the Church. But God does not start His Church or any era of it by one disfellowshipped for causing division, sowing the seeds of discord among brethren, and then attacking God's Church and trying to draw away its members after him, on pretext of being a CHURCH--when those few are only following A MAN. It is NOT a Church! It has no Apostle, Evangelist-Pastor-Elder organization. It is NOT proclaiming Christ's Gospel into all the world for a witness unto all nations! It is a MAN, with one or two working with him, merely seeking to take away members of God's true Church.

3) Then they speak out of the other side of their mouths, I am grieved to say. This time, they say Revelation 2 and 3 do NOT portray seven SUCCESSIVE stages or eras of the one true Church. Apparently they try to explain, or twist its true meaning, by saying seven is God's number of completeness--therefore there are now MANY churches, as Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, etc. etc.--all of which COMBINED constitute the BODY OF CHRIST. Anyone who believes that had, perhaps, better get into one of them, or follow a man who has incorporated himself to be a church. But a legal corporation does not make it GOD'S CHURCH!

It might be interesting, at this point, to explain the TOTAL DIFFERENCE between what Garner Ted is now doing, and what his

father did in 1930.

He has incorporated under civil law, under a church name as a starter. This was done to try to draw away members from the true Church to follow him.

But what his father did was totally different. In Oregon a number of members of the "Church of God, Seventh-Day," headquartered at Stanberry, Missouri, pulled out and incorporated themselves separately as "The Oregon Conference of The Church of God". They became a SEPARATE CHURCH, operating with their own tithes, directing and paying salary to their own ministers. They were ORGANIZED. They did not understand God's form of organization--they had no Apostle, but they did employ evangelists--as Robert L. Taylor, Roy Daily and myself--and later, Sven Oberg and A. J. Ray. Their form of organization was a board of trustees, with a president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer. The board was in authority--not the ministers.

Shortly after the Oregon Conference separately incorporated, a division occurred in the Stanberry church, and approximately half of their members followed Andrew N. Dugger into a new church based at Salem, West Virginia, and named, simply, "Church of God".

In August of 1933, I renounced the salary from the Oregon Conference, but did not leave their fellowship. In fact, later that August a new church was established at Jeans school house, 12 miles west of Eugene--all but one family my own new converts, and that family not attached to either Sardis group. But, more--most of the Oregon Conference members began coming to Eugene to fellowship with the new Radio Church of God (now the Worldwide Church of God), and I continued as a voluntary service, to preach Sabbath afternoons at the school house near Jefferson, where they met. I never sought to pull away any of their members. They were enamored with the new Salem-based church, and a little later--(not now sure of the date), probably 1934, while the Radio Church of God was on the air and the PLAIN TRUTH being published--they abandoned their Oregon Conference and went in with Salem. At, and just west of Eugene, the parent church of the Worldwide Church of God was very much alive and growing. I was leading elder, and I had appointed and ordained an assistant pastor, and a deacon. We counselled seriously on the matter--decided, in early or mid-1934 not to go in with the Salem people--and we had never gone in with Stanberry. However, a little later I agreed to co-operate and work with the Salem ministers--and under this arrangement I continued as pastor of the members who formerly were the Oregon Conference, but now were joined with Salem. BUT NEITHER I NOR ANY OF THE EUGENE MEMBERS ever joined the Salem Church--or Stanberry. I received no salary or compensation of any kind from them. On my part it was a VOLUNTARY GIVING of time and effort and co-operation, with no remuneration of any kind.

Later --it was either 1945 or 1947--probably the latter--the former Oregon Conference members had a division. I had ordained two elders and two deacons in their local church near Jefferson, which I pastored. Half of them including one elder, a Mr. Davidson, and Mr. Henion, refused to meet with them further, though I urged them to remain with the Salem people.

Meanwhile, about half of all the brethren in the Willamette Valley had remained with Stanberry. They asked me urgently to unite them

with the half of the Salem people who had refused to remain with the Dugger group. For a while I refused. But it left only a small membership still with the Dugger division, and finally agreed to organize them and serve as their pastor--although the Stanberry brethren kept their membership and sent tithes to Stanberry, while the Henion family and others, including the Coles, counted their membership with the parent church of the Worldwide Church of God--and Mr. C. Wayne Cole is still with us in the very important capacity of Director of Pastoral Administration, Worldwide.

I continued to pastor the Stanberry--based group in the Willamette Valley until--probably in 1942 when I spent some months in Hollywood starting the DAILY radio broadcasting, and speaking Sunday afternoons to a packed house at the Biltmore theater. I had GIVEN them my time and service freely, at my own and Eugene church expense. I sought none of their members and none came with us--though as brethren we still had love one for the other.

And I did not start out by incorporating myself pretending to be a church. We, in the growing Church of God--then Eugene-based--finally had grown to a size where incorporation became a necessity. IN NO WAY is Garner Ted doing as his father did, and any claim that he is, is a point-blank lie resorted to, to DECEIVE God's people, and present the REPREHENSIBLE things Garner Ted is now doing in a good light. It is Satan who tries to make us believe that wrong is right.

But now what about the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3?

I have always said, and still affirm, that these seven messages to the seven churches are picturing in advance the seven CONDITIONS to be found in the ONE CONTINUING TRUE CHURCH--but with the Ephesian condition dominant during the first era or years of time, the Smyrna condition becoming dominant in the next period of time, and so on with the Laodicean condition outstanding in the same true Church at about the time of the Great Tribulation, and climaxing with Christ's second coming.

To expound that fully requires more space than I have here. It will be covered later.

But the crux of the whole matter is simply THIS: Where, in all this effort at persuading God's people to follow Garner Ted Armstrong, a man DISFELLOWSHIPED, who did, and is continuing now from without, to sow the seeds of discord among brethren--in all their arguments, W H E R E I S G O D? WHERE IS JESUS CHRIST, living HEAD of the Church?

One thing I can say definitely and with authority, GOD and our Head, JESUS CHRIST have NOT left God's one and only TRUE CHURCH.

These dissidents are LOOKING AT MEN! They are leaving GOD out of their thinking. For FOURTY-FOUR YEARS the living JESUS CHRIST HAS BEEN HEADING, LEADING, GUIDING, AND BLESSING GOD'S ONE AND ONLY TRUE CHURCH!

He has not forsaken it. HE is not in ANY effort to pull members out from GOD'S Church, where CHRIST is working. HE is NOT following

Garner Ted Armstrong, who resorted to a conspiracy to water down God's TRUTH--to SECULARIZE God's Church and college--to literally PUT GOD AND CHRIST OUT OF THE COLLEGE AND CHURCH! HE is not! Will YOU?

Some were leaving Jesus when here in the human flesh (John 6:66-68). "Many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with Him". Would YOU have been one of them?

ANSWERING SMEAR STORIES

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Since 1972 God's Church and Work have come in for some unfavorable publicity in the public press.

Jesus said, "If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you". I counted this cost almost 52 years ago, when I gave my life, for whatever it was worth (which was less than nothing in my estimation as I gave it) to the wonderful Christ who had bought me (and you) with His life's blood. I was willing to suffer whatever He allowed.

And I have tried not to answer back. You have not heard or read a word from me in self-defense since this ugly publicity began appearing in 1972. Prior to that there had been persecutions, oppositions, and some limited public comment of an unfavorable nature.

But recently more defamatory stories have appeared in the public press, some of a nature I simply cannot let go unanswered.

One, which went out over the wires to many newspapers and news magazines, called Mr. Stanley Rader the "heir apparent", and another speaks of speculation that he will be the next Pastor General of the Church. This latter, in a national magazine, quotes my son Garner Ted, as saying that Mr. Rader "has already succeeded my father as head of the Church".

I want to say, 1) that Mr. Rader is a most valuable assistant to me in many ways--even beyond the capacity of words to describe--as personal assistant and advisor, as administrator in areas delegated to him, as financial advisor to the Church and Work, and as legal counsel teamed with Mr. Ralph Helge. There have been dozens of lawsuits filed against the college, the Church and often including myself, in trumped-up cases seeking to get money. Mr. Rader and Mr. Helge have won every suit--like a shield against unjust attacks upon God's Work--and few if any of our brethren have known of this INVALUABLE service to God's Work.

2) Mr. Rader has worked tirelessly, much more than eight hours a day, in the service of the Work. He has suffered slander, defamation from within the Church (mostly emanating from Garner Ted) yet has remained loyal. He has broken off all past social relationships in Beverly Hills and similar areas, to devote himself wholly and exclusively to God's Work, as my assistant. He never takes credit for accomplishment, but always gives full credit to me as Christ's Apostle.

3) Mr. Rader is not even ordained, nor do I now, or have I in the past contemplated ordaining him--yet my son has represented to the public press that he has already become head of the Work. All that is ridiculous, aimed at harming God's Work.

Yesterday I received a letter from Mr. Rader, at the moment in New York, saying his health is not up to par, and all this stress and strain is wearing on him, and he feels that probably he should resign. He wants to talk it over with me on his return this weekend. If his health permits, I shall plead with him to stay with me, for I NEED HIM AS MY ASSISTANT! He is of inestimable value to the Work. His fruits have been good--actually superb.

But the HEAD of this Church is the living JESUS CHRIST! Sometimes I have to wonder if some of our brethren forget that. JESUS CHRIST IS A L I V E ! This is NOT the work of MEN--not a worldly carnal operation or institution! I have had great difficulty in persuading some, even in high places in the Work (no longer with us) to realize that truth!

And, on the human level, Christ is using me, His Apostle, as human leader of the Work. And, these past six months, Christ has through me moved swiftly, dynamically, resolutely, with AUTHORITY, to turn God's Church, the Work and the college around--putting every phase of it BACK ON GOD'S TRACK.

I think that the leadership of Christ's Apostle has amply demonstrated for all to see, who is the human leader in God's Work under Christ. Mr. Rader makes no pretensions of anything like that, and what my son has been saying in the public press, I regretfully say to you, is his personal spite, antagonism, and effort at self-justification.

This year's Feast of Tabernacles was revealing PROOF TO ALL that God's Church has turned the corner--Christ's blessing is once again upon us--the Work is now surging forward with renewed vitality and power!

Let us PRAISE THE GREAT MAJESTIC GOD! He is a miracle and wonder-worker. Jesus Christ is IN this Church, directing and empowering--AND BLESSING it! Keep praying!

AN ASSIGNMENT FOR ALL MINISTERS

by Herbert W. Armstrong

When the "Systematic Theology Project" was passed out to all ministers at last January's conference, I am sure those unauthorized to have handed it out--or even to have prepared it--intended it to be an ASSIGNMENT for every minister to read and study thoroughly, for it was represented to you (falsely) as the official doctrines and beliefs of the Worldwide Church of God.

Robert Kuhn, Ph.D., and perhaps one or two others, scholars, of this world's higher education, wanted God's doctrines put in the form and order of modern scholarship.

I have said before--and quoted U.S. Senator Hayakawa, former university professor and president--that this modern academic scholarship does INTIMIDATE students on the college level, and those starting in graduate work at a university.

But did it ever occur to us that the greatest author, educator and revealer of knowledge of all--the real author of the world's greatest seller--and least understood Book, the Holy Bible, did not organize and systematize His revelation and dissemination of TRUTH in this "scholarly" manner!

Up to a certain point--the history of ancient Israel, the historical account is largely in orderly sequence--but God's most important revelation of HIS TRUTH--HIS DOCTRINES AND BELIEFS--which He wanted to be those of His Church, are here a little, and there a little. They are not in orderly sequence, not in what "scholars" in the world's universities would consider a "Systematic Theology Project".

Well WHAT then? Are we to conclude that God is ignorant, unlearned, unscholarly--and inferior to self-exalted scholars of our day?

I think not.

Fellow ministers, we are not OF this world! We do not--must not--operate by its standards. God has called us OUT from the world, to be SEPARATE--His people, doing things His way.

So I say to you that the new book, The Incredible HUMAN POTENTIAL, is a portion of what the "STP" was supposed to be--an EXPOSITION OF THE doctrines, beliefs, practices and traditions of the Worldwide Church of God!

It is presented, NOT in the academic system of "higher criticism". Neither is God's Book, supreme over all, It is not an academically systematized order. But it is written in a style which we hope the reading public will find interesting, revealing, eye-opening, containing Christ's Message in an easy-to-read manner that does not require a Ph.D. to decipher. It is written as God has revealed to me He wants it written. And it covers a multitude of vital truths that have been totally glossed over by organized "Christianity", truths that neither science nor education nor organized religion can answer--the MOST IMPORTANT TRUTHS in life.

And so, as I know Jesus Christ would have me do, I make the reading, AND CAREFUL STUDY of this book AN ASSIGNMENT.

Please do not just read it. STUDY IT! Read it again and again. Preach sermons from it!

This book will be on the market in book stores, I am now informed, by April. Also an up-dated edition, hard cover, of The World T O M O R R O W--What it Will be Like.

I am presently coming in on the home stretch in writing another book I have decided to title, A VOICE CRIES OUT AMID RELIGIOUS CONFUSION. It will also present absolute PROOFS of the one true church--as well as SEVEN TRUTHS that decry religious confusion. This book will cover a certain amount of the same ground as the present book, but with an entirely different approach. I hope to have it in book stores by May or June.

Others on the way are The 7 Laws of Success--a much enlarged edition, hard cover, and The United States and Britain in Prophecy--also updated.

Millions buy books and spend time on books instead of TV and magazines. The book stores and shops offer us AN ENTIRE NEW OPEN DOOR--A TOTALLY NEW AUDIENCE to reach in the United States, Canada, and Britain, and English-speaking countries. If this becomes a big enough success, we can have the books translated and made available in other languages.

But be sure to read and study HUMAN POTENTIAL before the next January conference.

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FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Greetings Again Fellow Ministers:

We had a very fine two-day meeting with the ministers and wives in Burk McNair's area in the Central Eastern region. Our meetings were held in an isolated mountainous area near Boone, North Carolina. Accommodations and facilities were not the "Ritz" to make an understatement, but they were adequate at relatively low cost to provide for a fine get-together. Ken Smylie did a fine job in making arrangements and we appreciate his efforts.

Both Doris and I thoroughly enjoyed being able to spend some time with you who were present in casual and relaxing circumstances.

On Sabbath, November 18th, we visited the Charlotte, N.C. Church and appreciated the opportunity to meet a few more of our brethren. Mr. and Mrs. Burk McNair (Burk and Suzie to us--and very dear friends) and their son Mark were exceptionally gracious and kind to us making us very welcome guests in their home.

Now to a subject very much on my mind and I believe extremely important to all of us.

Recently I have been accused of being a "soft and weak" administrator. My leadership of the ministry has been labeled as indecisive, weak, without firmness, not specific enough, not direct enough.

In this Pastor's Report it is not my purpose to react to such accusations, misinformed statements, silly allegations or whatever they might be labeled. Rather, I would like to devote the space to discussing what I believe is strength in leadership and management of people and processes as opposed to weaknesses.

To be a "strong" leader, is it really necessary to be militant, abrupt, aloof, autocratic, authoritarian and opinionated? Is it always necessary to convey by either words or actions very clearly "who's in charge"? Is it necessary to look on the negative side, search first of all for the trouble, the problems because it is certain, in the person's mind, that they are indeed there. Why should any feel that such behavior is "STRENGTH"?

This concept runs parallel to the notion of many about what constitutes "strong meat" in sermons, Bible Studies or classroom lectures. To many people "strong meat" is often associated with volume--how loud the speaker shouts--and/or along with the volume, the use of exhortive, corrective, admonishing words that generally convey to the hearer the reaction that he is being rebuked, corrected, disciplined, kicked in the seat of the pants or bawled out good and proper. Generally this kind of mentality or attitude is coupled with a very clear delineation of "who's in charge" and who is "under authority."

Frankly, I categorically reject both these concepts. Oh, to be sure, there is a place and time for firmness, for discipline, for precipitous and sudden action or reaction, for rebuke and correction--even at times for rebuke before others in a peer group or association to serve as an example for all. Yes, as every minister should know there is a time for volume, strong words, controlled emotional speaking and gesticulating. However, to equate obstinate, autocratic behavior or volume and rebuke as the principle elements of strength in leadership or strong meat in preaching is patently ludicrous.

I, and I'm sure you, have heard sermons that left your head aching and your mind reeling due to the loud, intense, driving exhortive nature of the delivery. Comments were probably even heard from sincere, well-meaning, loyal and teachable listeners about how valuable, how strong, how meaty the sermon was. But, when the content of the message was noted, isolated from the bluster and the volume, precious little of any lasting substance was said.

Wouldn't a sermon of substance, well-organized and developed, bringing out one salient point after another dealing with, for example, some aspect of Christ's ministry, the meaning of the Gospel, the destiny and purpose of man, the spirit of man, the meaning and application of God's law, or many, many other poignant subjects, with controlled volume, fitting and subdued gestures and animation, encouraging, uplifting and motivating comments inspiring the hearers, be much "stronger meat"?

As an experienced speaker I know I am able, if I wish, to choose just the right words, say them a particular way and draw dramatic, immediate response, probably ovation, yet I know that I may not have given any "strong meat" -- I may not have given any "weak meat" either-- I didn't give any meat at all but rather dished out a good "helping" of pabulum which to my adult taste is revolting, thoroughly unsatisfying "mush."

Mr. Herbert Armstrong has always set an outstanding example of effective speaking. To be sure he can speak with power, volume and correction, but also he can and generally does speak with emphasis on substance and content while at the same time saying it like he means it.

Back to strength of leadership and management. If I felt I had to rely on authority--"do you know who's in charge around here"

inferences, firm, incisive and rigid control--to be a manager then I believe I would be an abject failure in my biblical and Christian responsibility as given by Jesus Christ.

If one wishes to have a good guide on how to work with, inter-relate to, motivate, lead, organize and manage others, I believe there is none better than Galatians 5:22, 23 which movingly describes the fruits of God's Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ of Nazareth, God's Son, our Savior, and our example was the only person to live a perfect human existence. Whatever He did in whatever capacity was proper and right. He understood the mind of man. He knew what the effect of His words, actions, reactions, directions, corrections, rebukes, etc. would have on those He was addressing. He conducted Himself accordingly at all times. Christ knew the enormous value of a major concept that Mr. Herbert Armstrong has repeatedly drummed into the heads of us ministers. Mr. Armstrong has often said that there is nothing much worse than to demoralize, take the heart out of, beat down, make to feel like a whipped dog, utterly discourage and make to feel totally useless--a 100% total failure--another fellow human being.

Jesus Christ knew this truth and without any doubt practiced it. While He did not condone wrong, did not attempt to make the enormity of sin and rebellion any less enormous, He did always understand the circumstances, causative factors, humanness and weakness of fleshly man, and dealt with those around him in perfect love.

I once heard that a man corrected a group of students at Ambassador College so sternly, with such rebuke and with such effective and cutting words that one student literally "wet" himself while standing there at near attention. A minister who would do this might walk away feeling "that showed'em!", "I guess they'll remember that chewing out," he might feel rather proud of his strength and position of authority. Frankly, I feel that action was abominable, cheap and the epitome of weakness in not knowing how to deal with fellowmen.

When Jesus saw the desecration of the Temple--God's House--He went storming in and corrected the contemptible disrespect being perpetrated against His Father in heaven. Firmness was called for and firmness was the way He dealt with the problem.

When a woman actually caught in the very act of adultery was brought before Jesus, He perceived the need for a different kind of approach and He dealt with her that way. He was gentle, acted with compassion and yet did not condone nor make less the sin. I have often wondered what some of our ministers might have done in a circumstance similar to this. I believe I can see and hear some giving "strong rebuke" in an overzealous, indignant attitude, even disfellowshipping her for at least a few months, perhaps even demanding the lady to go into details describing the number of offenses, the methods, the names of the partners, perhaps even "casting the first stone," etc.

Personally, I think Jesus' attitude and actions are a perfect model. He knew what was needed, He was loving, tolerant, considerate yet gently corrective. If Jesus was "soft and weak" in His attitude here --then let me be as weak as He was!

It is easy to be militant in dealing with human relationships. It takes no special concern, nature or talent to lash out, act like the big boss, rule in tyranny, always "see" clearly in "one's own eyes and understanding" and act accordingly in giving direction and making decisions.

But, it does take something special, something different, another nature--it takes the Holy Spirit of God to guide, control, lead, rule, set an example for, be patient with, believe the best of and gently nurture and help to motivate in the right direction those we work with who also are God's heirs and potential sons and daughters in His Kingdom.

I believe I have just as much "righteous indignation" as anyone in this Church toward rebellion against our GREAT GOD, defiance against His awesome power and authority, disdain and criticism directed against His Church, open disobedience and misconduct that brings shame on both the person and the Work at large.

But, when dealing with those guilty of such things and more, I also want to be very sure that I try to understand the "whys," the causes, and then work to restore such people to a repentant and subservient relationship with God. If after counsel, correction and rebuke, as necessary, the only course left is removal by disfellowship, publicly "noting," making an example of the case before others, then that is the way it must be and will be! However, such action, God willing and with His help, will always be motivated by love and the hope that it will produce change, and not motivated by intolerance or the desire to "rule in authority." And let me assure you that I will not be pressured and intimidated to act and react in a way that I strongly believe is unChristian just because others may attack and criticize!

Frank Tarkenton (the famous NFL Quarterback for the Minnesota Vikings) wrote in a magazine recently that the first of three all-important motivational factors in successful management which he had learned by observation and experience was the proper example set by the motivator, or by superiors. The second factor is giving proper direction and objective, and the third is to follow up with the appropriate consequence whether it be recognition, praise, reward or whatever.

Is this counsel not thoroughly consistent with God's biblical instruction and wisdom? Yes, of course it is.

The ministry at all levels is to first of all be an example. We are to supply direction by example as well as teaching. And obviously we all need incentive that results from recognition, compliments, and proper recompense. We are to "rule" in the Church of God. But, never as lords, drivers, taskmasters, dictators, tyrants, reveling in our positions of authority and power. Christ said this was the way of the Gentiles.

As the Apostle Paul said to the Corinthians, which would you rather see and experience, the spirit of meekness or the wielding of the big stick? I would rather serve in love, meekness, patience, tolerance, mercy, gentleness, and with hope coupled with faith that in so doing we will see more inspiring and encouraging results.

I would rather be strong in my love for Christ, my compassion and understanding toward my fellowman and firm in my resolve to keep the

Body of Christ as spotless and blameless as possible, than to worry whether or not "people know who I am!"

In sincere efforts to assist Mr. Armstrong in bringing unity, support for one another and a spirit of cooperation to the team assisting and supporting Mr. Armstrong at Headquarters, just a couple of weeks ago I called all the top ministers in Pasadena together for a meeting so we could get feelings and criticisms toward each other out and on top of the table. We talked for well over three hours. We felt some progress was made. But more progress needs to be made.

But, fellow ministers, with all the firmness and strength necessary, I am going to do whatever is called for to help rebuild the attitude and conduct that contributes to and makes possible unity, accord, mutual esteem and respect for one another that results in an efficient, successful, winning team!

Mr. Armstrong has stated the policy and given the direction. He has delegated the responsibility for implementation and performance to others of us. I have no intentions of failing to do my part whatever it may be or whatever may be required.

I believe with all my being that the majority of you understand and appreciate this approach. The Feast of Tabernacles that we observed, leaving us all with such a resounding belief in the overall strength and unity of God's Church, is a very clear indication that the approach being taken is being blessed.

On closing, let me say again as I have rather frequently in recent months, we all at some time in our past "sold everything, gave all, even surrendered our own lives and self-will to buy the 'pearl of great price!'" That pearl encompasses all there is in God's great, equitable and just plan for all mankind. What, now, is worth selling it for? Does it have ANY price?

It is up to each one of us to put into practice the concepts in this letter. We can work together and we can overcome all obstacles if we want to deeply enough and ask God for both His forgiveness and His help!

--C. Wayne Cole

EXCERPTS FROM MR. ARMSTRONG'S STUDENT ASSEMBLY, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10

Well, nice to be back again, but this is my second time this year with you already, and it still isn't Thanksgiving. I haven't appeared before the students in a forum or assembly that many times in a whole year for several years.

Now, over in post World War II Britain, the United States, France and so on--the Allies--won the war. We lost the peace. We have not won the peace. We're still, to our sorrow, going to find that out, and I think it may be rather soon. Incidentally, things have been going on down at the Vatican in Rome, we really should keep our eyes on it, because it may be something that's going to affect every one of our lives rather drastically.

I have now been, for forty-four years, proclaiming that Europe will unite. Now forty-four years ago we weren't past World War II yet, but even during World War II I thought they would unite very soon after the war was over. The nations in Europe all want to unite. They want a common currency.

You know, you go from one nation to another, it's like going from one state to another here in the United States. You're going from one nation to another, and they all speak different languages. You get in the next nation, the first thing you have to do is go to the bank, usually right at the airport, and transfer some of your money into their money, because you can't use your money there. You've got to get their money to spend. In France you have to get the French franc, in Germany, the German mark, and in Switzerland, the Swiss franc. And so it goes. They want a common currency. Now, I understand they're working on it now to try to get it, but I don't know what kind of progress they're making.

Also they would like to be politically united. Now, they did work out the Common Market as you know, a good many years ago, and while we were still operating the college in England. And, of course, for a while it was quite a big political question in England, as to whether England should go in on it or not. I said all the time that, whether they should or not is not for me to decide, but that they won't stay in it. When the United Europe comes up, or the United States of Europe, what it will really be is a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire, the medieval Holy Roman Empire from 554 to 1814 A.D. And if and when they get it, there's only one way they can and that is the way it was all through those years, where the papacy sat on top and ruled over the kings. You'll find it described in the seventeenth chapter of Revelation.

Anyway, we know they've had this in mind. We know, also, that at the Vatican they've had it in mind. Every political move of that kind, of course, is an extremely complicated thing, and it takes an awful lot of planning and maneuvering and manipulating and everything else before they bring it about. I expected it back in the time of Pope Pius. When he died and Pope John XXIII was elected, I thought surely he would be the pope that would do this. But when I saw who they had selected and saw his picture, I thought, why he doesn't look like the man that I looked for to fill this role in the world's "progress" here, or lack of it. And he tried the ecumenical movement of getting the churches together, that is, the Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church and then the

Protestants, or as many as possible. The Protestants organized in a world association of Protestants. They've been making overtures back and forth, but they never got together.

There's only one way the Roman Catholic Church will get together, and that is the pope must sit on top, but the Protestants don't want him to be on top. They would like him to just have his share of the leadership. And of course, the Catholics aren't going to do that.

Now, there's a cardinal, Benelli, who really had been running the Curia. And Benelli has been working on this very idea for a long time. Pope Paul died finally; that's when I thought that maybe Benelli would get in. Benelli maneuvered the voting in the Sistine Chapel. They elected this man who took the name of John Paul I, names of the two preceding popes put together. And then he died suddenly.

Now again, they elect a man who is not an Italian and who came from behind the Iron Curtain--Poland. A Polish Pope. As I understand it, from what information does leak out, Benelli was really trying to get it this time for himself. And he got within two votes. In the meantime, this man was elected the present pope and took the name of John Paul II. But there are things about him. He is capable of springing very sudden surprises, for one thing. He is a stickler for the old traditional Roman religion. There're several things that indicate he might be the man.

Now, apparently Benelli did not manipulate this election to put him in, but Benelli might have, when he saw he wasn't making it himself, tipped the scale over to and thrown his votes to the pope who did get it.

There are two plans that have been made in Europe outside of the Vatican. Dr. Otto von Habsburg of the Habsburg tradition in Austria also has one. Actually, Dr. Habsburg's plan, in my judgment, comes the nearest of being what they will adopt because we have biblical prophecy to go on it. And we understand a little bit of what's going to happen from what is revealed in the prophecies, especially in the seventeenth chapter of Revelation. I felt that probably the plan, as it will finally mature, would be that of Dr. Habsburg. The man put at the helm might be Franz Josef Strauss.

One of the strongest leaders in Europe--they call him the "Strong Man of Europe"--Franz Josef Strauss who has written his "grand design" of uniting Europe. Now Strauss is not too old for the job. And, of course, if we delay another ten years, he will be. If they should go ahead with it and complete the union, or the resurrection of the so-called Holy Roman Empire, he would probably be the--they might call him the emperor, or whatever they call him--he would be over all ten nations.

But, of course, they know those things are in the Bible, but they shove it to one side and it doesn't mean them, it means somebody else. That's just the way it is when I say anything that is corrective in a sermon, everybody sitting out there thinks, "Well, they didn't mean me. They meant the person next to me." And of course, I don't. I mean that person right there because I mean everybody. People don't like to take it to themselves.

Well, we are just waiting to see, but all these things... we know it's coming. Now, I find that God will, on occasion when it's necessary, just hold back the trend of world events until a certain thing that he wants done is taken care of. For example, we come up to the sixth seal in Revelation 6, and the signs in the sun and moon and stars have already happened (at the end of the sixth chapter of Revelation). That is the sixth seal.

It's time now for the seventh seal. So you come to the seventh chapter, which should be the seventh seal, and instead, God sends an angel and says, just hold everything up. We've got something to do that hasn't been done yet. So we're just going to slow world conditions down until we seal the servants of our God in their foreheads. That's when the 144,000 are to be sealed. That hasn't happened yet. And another great innumerable multitude of people that have heard the Gospel over the air, or read it in the Plain Truth or otherwise emanating from this campus, and who have not come into the Church. They might have written in to get more literature or they may not have. We wouldn't know. But I think that many of those are then going to be sealed with the Spirit of God. Now this will be after the Great Tribulation, which is the fifth seal, and a terrible time of trouble. They will be people who have been through that and survived and lived, and they will then be sealed. After all of that, finally, then the seventh seal will be opened. The seventh seal is the seven last plagues. That will take place at the precise time of the second coming of Christ.

Now that's all just ahead of us in the future. It's something that you should all live to see. It's going to be a very important thing in your life. You have no idea what you may have to live through between now and then, and the things we're going to go through.

There are those who want to dispute the idea that the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3 are successive eras of the church. I have said for fifty-one years that they are not only seven eras, but also seven characteristics that will be in the Church at all times, with the Laodicean condition dominating in the last church. We haven't gotten to the last era yet. But we're in the time when God has opened doors to get the Gospel to the world. We are in the time when, for the first time in 1900 years, the real Gospel that Christ brought is going to the world. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the message Christ brought and preached. That message has not been preached from--oh, we don't know the date, but I'd say the churches had turned to another gospel (many of them) by the late 50's A.D.--but we'll say from 70 A.D., after the invasion of Jerusalem by the Roman armies, that it has not been preached to the world.

I came on the scene myself in the Sardis era. Now we have a lot of people who want to take anything that Christ put into the Church through me, and they want to knock it in the head and say, "That is wrong; that is a false doctrine." We've had a lot of so-called intellectuals around here on this campus, trying to do that very thing. And very sorrowfully, I've had a son that has aided and abetted in that sort of thing. So we're starting to sort of clean house a little bit around here. It's a good deal like I've said, what had happened here to us is like a cancer. I got the core of the cancer out, but it has other parts. It will start reaching with its tentacles to the whole body if we don't

get it out. Believe me, Jesus Christ through me is going to start getting all the other branches out until we get it out of the little twigs all over, all over in all parts of the world. That cancer has got to be removed. This has got to be, once again, the real Church of God, and not the church of Satan. So, as I say, we've been through the wars and have been through the storm.

Well now, we don't know what will happen. At any time something could be launched to unite Europe under the Vatican. It can only come through the Vatican. The nations have already proved they cannot get themselves together. They just can't do it. The Germans are not going to accept the Frenchmen, and De Gaulle would have liked to have done it, but the Germans wouldn't accept him. They were strong enough to keep him out. The French and some other nations in it are not going to accept a German, and there you go. They may have to accept a German when the Vatican enters into it. The Vatican will decide who's going to be there--the real "Beast," so to speak, in biblical language.

That brings us down to this time. This Church, this era, is the only era of the Church that Christ did not find something against. To all the rest He said, "I know your works." In other words, he complimented them, you've done this and that and that's fine. He said, "But I have something against you." He did not say to the Philadelphia era "I have something against you." Instead of that, he did say that we will be protected from this great tribulation.

Now, the question is this, and I don't know myself. I would like to discuss this with Dr. Hoeh and one or two others--maybe three, four, or five others, whether this Church will just lapse into the Laodicean condition or will it be another entirely different church with an entirely different leadership, who are not members of this church at all. One thing I do know, it'll be the Church of God. Anyone who has done what my son has done could not start and lead the true Church of God. So what he's doing cannot be the Laodicean Church, but if it is, it's a lukewarm church, and Christ says he's going to spew it out of his mouth. Now, I think it's in the 25th chapter of Matthew that he spews half of it out of his mouth. Maybe the other half gets in, and there are indications, of course, in the 3rd chapter of Revelation that many in that church are going to go into the Kingdom of God. The Church as a whole is in a lukewarm condition, but economically and financially rich. Now, I don't think we could say we are rich after all the financial troubles we've been through all these years. I can't see how that can apply to us. The lukewarmness, yes. We have to fight against that all the time. But at least we're fighting against it. I'm doing everything I can do now to try to stir up the brethren. I've found it has gotten down to a case of lukewarmness in the last two Feasts of Tabernacles. So I began to work with the men that were working on the Feast of Tabernacles and with the ministers. I sent a lot of things out to the ministers who would do the speaking that most of you never heard of. The result is that we did have spiritual revival in this Festival of Tabernacles. It was a thing of joy, as they say, a beauty to behold, at least to experience. A thing of joy forever. And I hope it will be forever, too. So we're, I hope, coming out of that stage of lukewarmness because we are the one who is carrying that Gospel that Christ preached to the world for the first time in 1900 years. Everything fits, and you can't deny it.

Well, I won't take any more of your time now. So I'll hope to be back again after maybe a few weeks. I'm going to plan to come in and speak to you a few times through the year, which I had not been doing in the past years.

EXCERPTS FROM MR. RADER'S TALK, SABBATH NOVEMBER 17

This is a rare occasion for me because it's the first time that I'll be speaking since my daughter has become a member of the Church. My daughter Carol, as reported in the WORLDWIDE NEWS was indeed baptized two weeks ago last evening, I guess it was, by Mr. Bob Fahey in my presence and the presence of Mr. Helge. I'll keep my remarks short today. She's a pretty severe critic. She hands out her compliments on people who speak before congregations very, very guardedly, although last week she said that Mr. Cole's sermon was outstanding.

Mr. Armstrong mentioned his trip so I won't have to say anything about it, although I had planned on it. We will be leaving about December 10 or December 11 for a two-week trip to the Middle East. Although we'd hoped to be able to squeeze in Egypt at the same time, it just will not be possible, so we're going to do the entire trip in Israel. We have four members of our television crew who will be there to film everything in 16 mm. film and we'll work that into some of our programming in the future. We expect it to be a very important occasion because it will commemorate the end of ten years of association in one project after another and the beginning of a new decade. It was on December 1, 1968 that Mr. Armstrong first met with the then president of Israel, Dr. Shazar, and agreed that we would commence what has turned out to be a ten-year association. We're now planning to move forward with the time that remains to us, of course, and we'll be digging in the city of David.

I had the chance Wednesday for the first time to "plug", as they say, Mr. Armstrong's book on someone else's television program. I was interviewed by Mr. Michael Jackson on KCET (that's Public Television channel 28 in this area). They'll be giving us an airing date sometime in the next week, but it'll probably be while Mr. Armstrong and I are away, right about the middle of December.

It was interesting because I now see that for the first time, there is much more interest in what we believe and what we are saying and what we are doing about what we believe rather than other things which in the past have made us somewhat, shall we say, victims of circumstance and the controversy that from time to time has surrounded us. In 30 minutes, almost every question was directed to what do we believe. The plug for Mr. Armstrong's book was very natural because Michael Jackson was asking "Just what is man? What is man's purpose? And how do you view that?" I said, "I'm not going to be able to answer that in the little bit of time that we have left, but it just so happens one of those books that I gave you (I had given him a copy of THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL), tells the whole story." Of course I was then able to hold the book up... I never expected to have that question asked in just that way. But I said, "It has the answer to everything that you intended to ask in the question, and even that which perhaps you hadn't thought about."

It is refreshing to have a serious journalist, television journalist like Michael Jackson, spend the entire 30 minutes just asking one way or another for all practical purposes, what do we believe. And how are we going about getting our message to the world. It was only at the very tail end that he asked anything at all about other things like our concert series and our auditorium.

This morning I took time to speak with Mr. Armstrong at some length because tomorrow morning I'll be leaving for New York for about four or five days to make plans concerning QUEST, and wanted to get his insight as well as some advice and instruction. We're at that point now where we have seven more months remaining to us--less than seven now because we're in the middle of November--seven more months to the end of the fiscal year at which time our commitment to stay with QUEST would, let us say, come to an end, although Mr. Armstrong has said we may not end it at that time if the financial considerations beyond July 1 are things which we feel are within our ability to handle, and if everything about QUEST proves to be more and more consistent with the getting out of the Gospel. I'll be trying to review the history, let's say, or experience of the past five and a half months to see how the financial considerations are comparing with what promises have been made to me and to Mr. Armstrong back in July, and then trying to make some good crystal ball estimates of what would lie beyond June 1979. That is a very difficult thing to do.

But one thing we are considering is going from the present bimonthly format to what would be tantamount to a monthly format, or at the very least, ten issues which would make it identical with that of the PLAIN TRUTH. This would make the magazine more acceptable to newsstand dealers, for example. It would also make it more acceptable perhaps to more people who want to have a magazine every month instead of every other month. There are very few successful magazines which are set up on a bimonthly basis.

So we'll be thinking about all of those things and then I'll be coming back to Tucson a week from now, actually next Friday. Mr. Armstrong will then be briefed with what I have learned and then he'll be making some decisions. As I told him, the easiest thing for us to do would be to dispose of the magazine and on the other hand, sometimes to work with something that is potentially so good requires sometimes great effort. He knows that because he knows the industry very well. As he has reminded me, he was in the publishing business before I was born. So he's right on top of it. I would hope that if all the people that are going to be spending their time this week on the magazine do their best work in helping me, then Mr. Armstrong will be able to make the right decisions. We still have many people interested in buying it--Litton Industries is very keen. I had another call yesterday from CBS. ABC is still interested. And these are all unsolicited calls that have been coming in. If we should find that for one reason or another it would be in our best interest after July to not have to be further involved with the magazine, then we could step up the efforts to dispose of it between January and June.

This brings you right up to date on that. In the meantime, I discussed last week with Mr. Armstrong an idea that we had for a television show and our television people are now working on a pilot which we hope will be available to show to the ministers at the ministerial conference, which will be sometime in January. That is to take the PLAIN TRUTH,

which is our terribly powerful printed message, that which we use so effectively, and have used so effectively for so long to reach people with the printed word, to make the PLAIN TRUTH into a television program as well. How many of you are conversant with things like 20/20, 60 MINUTES, and the like? Well, we've had many offers during the past two years from people in the industry and from people who would like to become involved in it with us to take QUEST to television as well. The reason that we didn't pay much attention to it was we felt that QUEST was in its formative stages and if the television program did not pan out as a commercial venture, it would have some impact on whether or not the magazine would ever be successfully launched. The same considerations would not be involved with something as powerfully entrenched as the PLAIN TRUTH. We think we may be able to come up with a very dynamic program.

The first thing Mr. Armstrong said when I mentioned it was, "Well, do you think you can get Mike Wallace and all those people from CBS?" Well, maybe we can make a stab at it. But most of those people have long-term contracts. But we can come up with people, I think, who can make it just as exciting and it's a big challenge, of course, to our television people here in Pasadena. But I'm sure we have the creative talent and drive to come up with a program of that sort, and it would blend very nicely with what Mr. Armstrong just produced today and help us to get the message out with greater and greater impact, helping it register everywhere. If such a program could in fact be produced and be produced well, I think you can all see how it would integrate our entire media effort. We already have a million copies of the PLAIN TRUTH going out on newsstands. We're going to be increasing that. And of course we have already passed the three million mark in overall circulation for the PLAIN TRUTH. If the television audience, which is immense, were to really begin to recognize the name, the PLAIN TRUTH, it would immediately increase the acceptability of the magazine. The magazine in turn would create new listeners or viewers for the TV people.

So we are hard at work at that.

I'm reading here from the PASTOR'S REPORT. I understand that Mr. Cole did speak last week on rumoring. By coincidence, Mr. Fahey has written a very strong article in the PASTOR'S REPORT. I think it's so good that I'm going to recommend that it appear also in the GOOD NEWS. He covers it perhaps from a different approach, maybe a more positive one even. He says here at the beginning, "Talk about rumor is usually too simplistic. Communication people know that rumor can be a good sign in that it shows interest. Somebody cares about the person being discussed. His actions are important and significant. People talk about what is of interest to them. We have given our lives to this Work. We are concerned about every facet of its operations. We care about the triumphs and the troubles. We discuss them both. We want to know particularly about the leadership, what they are doing, thinking, planning, or even dreading because those activities will affect the Work and us. So we are concerned. We want to know. That is good. We do not discuss what is of no interest to us. A few years ago, you could not get away from news about Jackie Kennedy. She complained about her lack of privacy. And if you saw photos (I did), with good reason. Now she has the privacy she wanted. But she may not be happy with that either. The public is saying in effect, we don't care

about how rich she is, her marriage and divorce plans, nor where she is and how she sunbathes. We have largely lost interest in Jackie.

"If our hearts and treasures are in the Work, we will surely talk about it, and so we should. The problem of course is how we talk about it. As Mr. Armstrong has said about everything from shotguns to sex, it is not the thing, but the misuse of the thing that is wrong."

Then he continued with much more that is very good and it's much in line with what we've been trying to do here in the Pasadena area and through the pages of the GOOD NEWS. We're trying to be certain that there is the proper kind of interaction between department heads here, between employees and department heads, or you might say, between employees and administration. It's also very important to have interaction between the student body and the faculty, between the faculty and the administration, the administration and the student body. That interaction brings about dialogue, and dialogue brings about better communication, and better communication prevents or helps to prevent, at any rate, misunderstanding. There can always be differences of opinion, but there need not be so many things to misunderstand. Hence we have found it to be reasonably successful on two occasions to answer questions from people in the forums that we've had. Mr. LaRavia and I are responsible here in headquarters for quite a few people in our respective departments, so we have gathered them together twice now over the last three months and have given them an opportunity to ask any question that they might have.

As a consequence of Mr. Fahey's article, which I saw before it was published, I thought it was so good and so much to the point that I added a short comment here for the PASTOR'S REPORT: We should "do everything we can to clear up any rumors or gossip that involve our areas of responsibility, but your help and cooperation is needed. All of you that receive the PASTOR'S REPORT should feel free to write, asking for comments on any rumor you may have heard. I will write a reply to each letter. It needs to be emphasized that any question, any subject is welcomed. The questioner will not be presumed to believe the rumor or the gossip that he's asking about unless he states that he does. Rather, it will be assumed that he is trying to help stop rumors and the harmful effects they produce in the church."

I have found, and it's been Mr. Armstrong's unfortunate observation as well over the past several years, that when people have something on their mind, they'll almost always ask anyone but the person more than likely to have the answer. I don't know why that is true, but if it's a question in a particular area or about a particular matter, it would seem that it would be very, very easy for each person who had something on his mind concerning that particular matter to just simply go directly to the person more than likely to have the answer and have the right answer. But almost invariably, that isn't what happens. It is discussed with almost every other person, including those who would have little likelihood to know what really is involved or to be able to contribute much other than confusion.

So we'll see that maybe this gets into the GOOD NEWS and give our brethren at large the opportunity to ask what they might have on their minds about subjects which are, as Mr. Fahey pointed out, so very important to them because, as he said, we do have our heart and our treasure in the Work, and we are interested in it. It's just a

question of how we use that which God has given us, which is the ability to speak, and of course we know it's the wise man who says perhaps a little bit less than others might under the same circumstances.

So I will hopefully be able to accomplish some good this week and then Mr. Armstrong and I will report to you fully as to what his decisions and his conclusions are either here in Pasadena, or in the pages of the GOOD NEWS or the WORLDWIDE NEWS.

TREASURER ADDRESSES MINISTERS'S CLUB

Mr. Rader, Treasurer of the Worldwide Church of God, and Assistant to Mr. Armstrong was the guest speaker at the November 8th meeting of the Sabbatical Minister's Club. The meeting was attended by about 30 of the sabbatical ministers currently at HQ, and their wives. One of the main purposes of the club is to help the ministry become better acquainted with many of the men fulfilling key roles at HQ.

Mr. Rader began his 35-minute address by reminding the men of the heavy responsibility of the ministry. He said that a minister must act as a buffer between problems and his flock. He must represent stability, certainty and confidence. He must have the capacity to understand difficulties, so that he can keep a church on an even keel no matter what. When a member seeks out his minister to discuss something with him, the minister has a God-given responsibility to make sure the member leaves the meeting feeling in some way unburdened and uplifted.

Mr. Rader said that ever since he began his career as a young man he has been in close association with men who were considerably older than himself, including of course, Mr. Armstrong. He felt that this had given him a more mature perspective on life than he would otherwise have had. As most of the ministry are still comparatively young men, they perhaps do not spend much time thinking about the end of this physical life. Paul's words "the wages of sin is death" have little meaning to a man this young. But for older members in their 50s, 60s, or 70s, the purpose of human life takes on a profound meaning. The older one becomes, the various theories expounded by secular sources become less and less satisfying, compared to the truth of the real human potential as explained in God's word.

Mr. Rader finished his talk by explaining some of the characteristics of successful people that he had known at many levels of business and society. One trait that he believes is common to those who succeed, is energy. There is a difference between just health and real energy. Many people may be able to participate in vigorous physical sports but they lack the energy to produce hour after hour, day after day, month after month. Mr. Armstrong, he reminded us, has come back from a critical illness to work twelve to fifteen hours a day. There is nothing like sheer energy to make a man successful.

--John Halford, Minister's Club, Secretary

EXCELLENT RESPONSE TO "THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL" BOOK Since the Feast of Tabernacles nearly 20,000 copies of Mr. Armstrong's new book, The Incredible Human Potential, have been requested by co-workers and members. Most members were able to obtain their copies at the Feast, but for those who were not, the book is available from Pasadena.

Co-worker response to an offer of one free book per household has been exceptional. In just two weeks, 27% of all our co-workers have requested the book!

New Record For "Co-Worker Newsletter" In the last Pastors' Report we mentioned how well response was coming in from donors and co-workers for article reprints which are offered with "The Co-Worker Newsletter." Final figures are now in for our latest article offers, and the "Biblical Prophecy" series has set a new record! Over 19% of the co-workers requested the article series. This is the most response from co-workers that a literature offer sent with the "Newsletter" has ever received. It shows that people are concerned about the future and the uncertainty of the world we live in. The literature published by God's Work can answer some of the perplexing issues facing them, and point them toward the REAL solutions which are provided by the Government of God!

The mail has been relatively steady throughout the month of November, although it is slightly lower than last year. As of November 16, approximately 1,600,000 letters have been received for the year.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE Good things are still happening with the PT Newsstand Program. We are at the moment printing new newsstand subscription response cards for the next three issues and we have designed things so that we will be able to tabulate response on an issue by issue basis. This will give us, among other things, valuable information regarding the type of editorial mix that pulls better than another.

As mentioned before, we have been evaluating the PT outlets that we pay for on the basis of their real worth to us as far as the cost per response goes. For example, the money saved by just using the shops and newsstands that want our magazine and give us free space will allow us to print an extra 350,000 magazines per year, and at the same time give us greater distribution!

Now that we are better known by the distributors and the business community, we find they are coming to us offering their services for free. This is because they see that the public wants our magazine, which in turn gives them more business by bringing the public into their shops and newsstands.

--Roger Lippross, Publishing Services

LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS AND SUPPORT (Editor's Note: The following letter was received recently by Mr. Rader. It is being reproduced at Mr. Armstrong's request for the interest of our readers.)

Dear Mr. Rader,

For many months I have wanted to write you and never got around to it; now however, your daughter's baptism has made an opportune time. Congratulations to you and Carol. It must be a huge pleasure to have a daughter who is no longer only a lovely physical daughter, but now is also your spiritual sister in Jesus Christ. What a tremendous blessing! If it be God's will in

this age of His Work, may He still call your wife and other members of your family. Then they, too, can rejoice in like manner as you and Carol. My lovely married daughter is my only child and so far I have not been blessed in such a way as your and Carol's blessing. Some day Jane and I will be! Maybe even in this age? Who knows?

Though I hardly know you personally, I certainly have learned to highly respect you as a personal servant and advisor to God's Apostle, Mr. Herbert Armstrong. Thank you for the loyalty you have shown him and God's Work through the years. It is not easy to be a personal friend and servant to another man when required to be in extremely close quarters for many hours a day for days on end. You must learn to "bite your tongue" at times. Add to this, becoming overly tired and worn out, you still must maintain a positive and pleasing attitude as you constantly are plagued by the continual whine of those ever persistent jet engines hour after hour--no let up! Traveling with a man who looks like other ordinary men--very human, can and does slip and stumble at times--yet, you must continually recognize, respect and treat him as the one God has called and chosen to be His Apostle. Yes, Mr. Rader, it takes a special man with special abilities, versatile, and with God's love and guidance to fulfill the position you are fulfilling.

Thank you that you have been and are still willing to yield to our God and fill such a needful, stress filled, yet rewarding position in this Work of the living God. Your fruits are showing! God has been "dunging your tree"! Always remember--dung always stirs up a stink--but it surely produces luscious aromatic fruit. Know what? I think God has marked your tree for periodic "dunging"! So no matter how far and foul the odor reaches--grin and bear it! That luscious, colorful, highly aromatic fruit will in the long run far outdistance it!

We brethren in the Palo Alto Church love you and are praying for and learning to love you more each day. Please remember us. Will you?

In sincere Christian love, your brother,

Hal Baird

ON THE WORLD SCENE

A NEW EUROPE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY? Nearly 21 years ago, on January 1, 1958, the European Economic Community was officially launched, tying together the fortunes of continental Europe's most important and economically-advanced powers--West Germany, France, Italy and the Benelux nations. On another New Year's Day, this time in 1973, the Community was enlarged to nine member states with the addition of Great Britain, Ireland, and Denmark.

Now at the next turn of the calendar, on January 1, 1979, Europe is poised upon "the most important monetary initiative in its history," according to the respected British news weekly, The Economist (Sept. 23, 1978 issue).

On that date, chances are very good at the moment that the new European Monetary System (EMS) will be put into operation. West Germany's Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and French President Giscard d'Estaing--two very close friends who converse with each other in colloquial English--are determined that the EMS plan will begin on time. A majority of Community countries is expected to endorse the plan at a summit meeting in early December.

The details of the EMS were covered in the October-November issue of The PLAIN TRUTH, but briefly they entail keeping the various national currencies tied together within close tolerances in a kind of "super-snake" arrangement. Backing up the arrangement will be a pool of gold, and national currency reserves (including Eurodollars) estimated at roughly \$32 billion. In another two years time, plans are that a full-blown and larger European Monetary Fund (EMF) will come into operation, along the lines of, and probably competitive with the U.S.-dominated IMF (International Monetary Fund).

Settlements between the EMS members will be denominated in a closed pseudo-currency, the ECU (European Currency Unit). Many believe the ECU will eventually become a genuine European currency. But that probably will have to await greater harmonization of monetary and economic policies among the member states, to say nothing of significantly greater relinquishing of national sovereignty.

Not all participants in the EMS plans are happy with its progress so far, most notably the British. In fact it appears unlikely that Britain will join up at the start. The British government says it won't make up its mind until the Brussels summit, but it has already "leaked" to the press its grave reservations about EMS. Specifically it objects to being forced into what it views as a straightjacket of fiscal restraints. It fears that by having to bind its currency into a tight arrangement with the essentially non-inflationary deutchmark, its economy will cool off ("deflate") too rapidly, threatening industrial output and jobs--and, of course, risking loss of power by the ruling Labor Party. Many laborites are ice-cold toward the Common Market anyway.

While the British are debating both across and within party lines--similar to the time wasting national referendum in 1975 on whether to stay in the Common Market--the Germans and French are rushing ahead with EMS. Thus, if or when Britain does join, it will have had only marginal influence on its structure. "If we muff this one," remarked a columnist in the London Times of November 14, "as we muffed the inception of the EEC in the late 1950s we could find ourselves once more standing on the platform while the European train moves off."

Meanwhile, the train is at the station, loading up, so to speak. "The political will is unmistakable" says one German Official. "The system will start January 1." Whether the train stops in London seems immaterial at the moment. But it appears that it will pick up an enthusiastic passenger in Dublin. The Irish government is fully supportive of the EMS plan. The Irish pound, presently tied to the British unit, is already under pressure to rise and will do so whenever the link is cut. While it won't be easy for small countries to abide with the stiff EMS rules, the Germans, according to the above London Times account, "are apparently prepared to underwrite Irish membership."

(German industrial and property investments in the Irish Republic are substantial.)

"Spirit of Charlemagne" A largely overlooked (in the U.S. press) "mini-summit" between Schmidt and Giscard helped pave the way toward the EMS. After the Bremen conference last July at which time Schmidt urged a green light on the system, EMS fell on rough times. Proposals and compromises between the strong and the weak nations were offered.

Schmidt and Giscard finally took all the differing ideas in hand in September, went off by themselves, ironed everything out, and produced the EMS structure as it now stands. Where they conferred in their exclusive mini-summit is as significant as the result they achieved. The two leaders met in the West German town near the French border known as Aachen to the Germans. The French prefer to call it Aix-la-Chapelle. Reports Maclean's, the Canadian newsweekly:

"The choice of the ancient Alpine border town as the site for a summit tet-a-tet between France's President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt did not go unnoticed.

"There, on the spot where Charlemagne once presided over his united European empire, the two close friends and former finance ministers hammered out the technical framework for a new European Community currency system which will create an independent 'stable European monetary zone' that is scheduled to go into effect next January, cutting the community's ties to the vacillating American dollar."

The West German daily, Hannoversche Allegemeine, on September 18 added: "Helmut Schmidt deliberately chose Aachen as the venue: Aachen, the city of Charlemagne, an emperor whom both Germans and French claim as their own. It was the first Franco-German summit concerned almost entirely with a European project, the European Monetary System, which is the brainchild of Giscard and Schmidt and an outstanding political achievement."

At Aachen, the two leaders, appropriately enough, visited Charlemagne's tomb. Equally significant, at one of their conferences, Giscard invoked "the spirit of Charlemagne which has blown through this summit." At least they went to the right place to get the "inspiration" they needed.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau