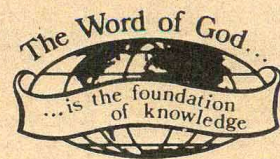


The Good News

PASADENA, CALIF.



A PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. VI, NO. 13 JUNE 19, 1978

CHRIST NOW LEADS TO REJUVENATE CHURCH

By Herbert W. Armstrong

GOD'S CHURCH has been in mortal DANGER! That danger was WITHIN OURSELVES — the fatal danger of drifting away from Christ spiritually. The danger of putting worldly politics into our midst. The DANGER of saying, "I am of Paul — or I am of Apollos — or I am of Cephas." The DANGER of trying to slide as close as possible — without falling off — into the abyss of Satan's secularism and worldliness.

Some of us — brethren, TOO MANY OF US — HAVE, PERHAPS NOT REALIZING IT, been led to want to let — little by little — more of THIS EVIL WORLD into our lives.

Brethren, AWAKE! Satan is subtle. He DECEIVES — and a deceived person is not aware he is misled — else he would not be deceived. He may be wholly SINCERE — yet deceived!

The battle cry now, within God's one and ONLY TRUE CHURCH, is "BACK TO CHRIST!" He is the one and only HEAD of God's Church! Not any man — though He does call and USE humans as His servants — but so can SATAN mislead and deceive men into unknowingly becoming his servants.

Brethren, my heart is heavy! We need to AWAKE to the FACT that we are now in THE LAST DAYS of this present evil world of Satan. We are in the time God says was to be a time of TRYING AND TESTING of His people.

The GOOD news

Our Philadelphia era of God's Church (Revelation 3:7-13) has the PROMISE of the living Christ that we shall escape the soon-coming GREAT TRIBULATION with TROUBLES in the world such as never happened before or will again (Revelation 3:10; 12:14).

But the prophet Daniel warns us, "And at that time [of the end, Daniel 12:1] shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people; and THERE SHALL BE A TIME OF TROUBLE, such as never was since there was a nation even to this time..." (See also Matthew

The June 5th "Good News" announced Christ had put the Church back on the track of Bible organization. He NOW leads to AWAKE the Church from secular drift and to recharge our spiritual batteries.

24:21-22.)

"Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried..." (verse 10). There are plenty of warnings of this same time of trial and testing in the New Testament. Brethren, COME TO REALIZE we are in THAT TIME.

But our GOD is on His throne. And the living HEAD of this Church is also ON THAT THRONE.

When frightening times of trying and testing come — and they have been coming tenfold re-

cently — I have not the ability to outwit Satan — my refuge and deliverance is in the LIVING CHRIST! Not only is HE there on His Father's throne, but the archangel Michael is also STANDING UP AGAINST SATAN FOR US.

Satan is now at the white-hot HEAT OF WRATH, knowing he has but a short time (Revelation 12:12). We are at the time when, "there was WAR IN HEAVEN: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon [Satan]; and the dragon fought and his angels [demons], and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven." (Revelation 12:7-8).

CHRIST will prevail

Christ warns us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." He IS seeking to devour YOU! But God continues,

"whom resist STEDFAST IN THE FAITH" (1 Peter 5:8-9).

We are now in the LAST DAYS — when "perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud... lovers of pleasures more than of God."

Brethren, first let me tell you of a personal experience I had, just before Garner Ted was born. My wife was excessively anemic, lacking iron in her blood. The doctor feared having delivery of the baby at home and insisted she must go to the hospital.

I had anointed and prayed for her healing, but the anemia had not left. I did not have the money to pay for the hospital bill — and the hospital bill for the delivery of my firstborn son, Richard David, had not been paid. The hospital would not admit my wife until that bill was paid.

It was a frightful dilemma. I

was helpless. I knew where to turn, however — to the living God. I began with fasting and prayer. It was a Sabbath morning. Taking no breakfast, I read the Bible for one hour, hoping to find the REASON my wife had not been healed of the anemia. Then I devoted the next full hour to prayer. The hour after that I just sat and meditated, asking God to show me where I had failed that her healing had not come. Then another hour of Bible study, followed by another full hour of prayer and then an hour of meditation.

I DID NOT PRAY FOR HER HEALING — but rather, that God would show me what was wrong in my life that my prayer for healing had not been answered.

This same rotation of an hour of Bible study followed by an hour of prayer and then an hour of meditation continued until bedtime, and then again on Sunday.

About 1:30 that afternoon one of our daughters called out, "Here come Grandpa and Grandma driving up our driveway!"

By this time God had shown me what was wrong with me. I had been drifting into having my mind

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HERE ARE THE ACTUAL RECORDS SHOWING 30%-per-year, 35-year GROWTH — and WHY and HOW Growth Then Stopped

By Herbert W. Armstrong

RUMORS have gone out that when I have said so many times God's Work grew 30 percent per year the first 35 years my statements were untrue.

The rumor started to spread that I grossly misrepresented — that the Work grew very slowly that first 35 years, but that it did in fact really grow faster AFTER 1969.

Brethren, it is now IMPORTANT that you know the TRUTH. I have had three departments of the Work — Pastoral Administration, Mail

Processing and Financial Affairs — give me the ACTUAL RECORDS — YEAR BY YEAR — UP TO THE PRESENT!

The actual RECORDS give you the truth!

Let me quote briefly from the article in the June 5th Good News:

"For 35 years the Work of God grew steadily at the rate of approximately 30 percent a year. I do not know of any organization, secular or religious, that has shown so remarkable growth, starting from NOTHING financially (though we started with something greater — FAITH in the living Christ as HEAD of the Church and the Work). This Work was built literally on FAITH.

"The living Christ blessed it richly, even though there was car-

nal opposition and persecution from the beginning...

"Meanwhile I was going in person, with our advertising agent of that time, to managers of radio stations all over the United States, especially the major 50,000-watt stations, obtaining time for a DAILY half-hour program. This is what, more than any other physical means, BUILT THE WORK — kept it growing 30 percent a year!...

"This, truly, is one of the most incredible success stories of our time. There is a very significant reason. For it is the story of what the LIVING GOD CAN DO — and has done — through a human instrument, called and chosen by HIM — whose eyes He opened to

astounding TRUTH — one He reduced to humble obedience, yielded in faith and dedicated to GOD'S WAYS!...

"Brethren, READ THIS SERIOUSLY! Jesus Christ, the living HEAD of God's Church, started this present era of His Work through me. I DID NOT BUILD THE WORK OR THE CHURCH — the living Christ built it, using me as His instrument and His apostle.

"But I made the mistake, unrealizing that mistake, of allowing an office of authority to be injected BETWEEN ME AND THE MINISTRY AND CHURCH!

"For the first 35 years of this Work, I was the sole human in

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HERE ARE THE ACTUAL RECORDS SHOWING 30%-per-year, 35-year GROWTH — and WHY and HOW Growth Then Stopped

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supreme command, UNDER CHRIST. . . During those 35 years the Church and the Work GREW AND GREW AND GREW! It had Christ's BLESSING!

"I knew that GOD'S FORM OF ORGANIZATION IS FROM THE TOP DOWN! I DID NOT REALIZE that allowing an office of authority to be interjected BETWEEN me and the Church was contrary to God's form of human organization.

"WHAT RESULTED? Great confusion in the Church — especially in and around headquarters. 'WHO IS REALLY IN AUTHORITY?' many wondered, perplexed. The Work STOPPED GROWING. . ."

Meeting with kings

Let me add here that after 1969 the MOST IMPORTANT phase of the Work *did* grow — while I was having personal, private meetings, by invitation, with kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers and others in high office in governments all over the world — in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, South America and Europe. And this was leading to personal PUBLIC CAMPAIGNS, reaching people by the hundreds and thousands in these gentile countries.

But both the membership and the financial income DROPPED OFF ALARMINGLY!

The Work and the Church started in August of 1933. It started from ZERO financially. I had no automobile. I had to hitchhike or depend on members to get me to the places where I was preaching six nights a week.

By 1942 I started the first DAILY half-hour broadcasting over a strong Hollywood station. Our BIGGEST RATE OF GROWTH was from 1942 to 1955. I have not been furnished the records of member increase until 1950 and of income rate of growth until 1955.

Below are the exact figures from our records:

Increases in yearly member growth since 1950 are shown (percentages show growth over previous year).

Year	Percentage	Growth average: 56 percent
1950	44.1	
1951	71.4	
1952	125.0	
1953	4.8	
1954	34.8	
1955	21.7	
1956	33.2	
1957	30.9	
1958	58.2	
1959	30.1	
1960	10.1	
1961	16.2	
1962	15.5	
1963	36.5	
1964	1.9	
1965	16.2	
1966	20.1	
1967	7.1	
1968	24.5	
1969	3.2	
1970	4.6	
1971	6.7	
1972	6.7	
1973	-1.8	
1974	16.2	
1975	-12.7	
1976	-11.9	
1977	-27.3	

Biggest percentage of growth was in years 1942, when first on air DAILY, to 1955 — do not have the records available at this time.

Increases in donation income over previous year since 1955:

Year	Percentage	Growth average: 26.2 percent
1955	34.0	
1956	28.0	
1957	24.0	
1958	35.0	
1959	31.0	
1960	26.0	
1961	25.0	
1962	30.0	
1963	29.0	
1964	26.0	
1965	25.0	
1966	24.0	
1967	23.0	
1968	35.0	
1969	31.0	
1970	12.0	
1971	11.0	
1972	9.6	
1973	1.0	
1974	-1.7	
1975	-4.8	
1976	6.7	
1977	6.2	

Beginning 1969 the DAILY half-hour radio broadcasting was gradually — and severely — reduced. Instead the *Garner Ted Armstrong* television programs were replacing daily half-hour radio. *THEY WERE DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMS* primarily, dealing primarily with conditions of THE WORLD — not the KINGDOM OF GOD.

In 1972 we started daily telecasting on GOSPEL subjects, but after a time these telecasts became more and more SECULAR, dealing primarily with this world's politics. Finally the radio programs were virtually eliminated, going to five-minute programs. This was almost disastrous, as the records of results show.

Brethren, Jesus Christ has now put HIMSELF back as the living HEAD of God's Church and Work.

I have to say to you, in truth, that my mistake in allowing a position of authority to be inserted BETWEEN myself and the Church led to GREAT CONFUSION as to WHO IS IN CHARGE — WHO IS THE



VIDEOTAPING — Herbert W. Armstrong addresses the Tucson, Ariz., church June 10 in the second of a series of videotaped sermons. These sermons will later be edited for half-hour telecasts on *The World Tomorrow* with Herbert W. Armstrong, as the television program is now called. [Photo by Ron Prociw]

REAL LEADER IN THE CHURCH. That is now CORRECTED.

The living JESUS CHRIST is the HEAD of this Church. It's time we quit saying, as did the Corinthian church, "I am of Paul — I am of Apollos. I am of Peter," etc.

As one Church official said the other day, many in the Church have drifted so far away from the knowledge of WHO IS THE REAL LEADER of this Church that they have forgotten that JESUS CHRIST is our LIVING HEAD! The Church of GOD is ruled by HIM — not the brethren or one they might choose, BUT AS CHRIST HAS CHOSEN AND IS LEADING, UNDER HIM!

Estimated donation losses due to member attrition since 1972:

Year	Disf. or Inactive	Accum. Total	Estimated Donation Loss	Key
1972	960	960	\$ 682,000	
1973	661	1,621	\$1,164,000	
1974	2,616	4,237	\$2,995,000	
1975	1,435	5,672	\$3,815,000	
1976	2,523	8,195	\$5,880,000	
1977	1,725	9,920	\$7,564,000	
			\$22,100,000	

CHRIST NOW LEADS TO REJUVENATE CHURCH

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more on our troubles and material problems. I had gotten away from that closeness to God needed to receive answers to prayer. But now I was back very close to GOD. Now I knew He would hear and answer my petition.

A quick prayer

I made a very quick prayer — perhaps not over 15 seconds. It flashed to my mind that *other* things were direly needed. I asked God again to heal my wife: I asked Him also to provide for the hospital bill. I asked Him to send us food — for we were completely out. And I asked Him to send wood for fuel (we then used wood for the kitchen cook stove

and the living-room stove).

I told Him I was out of money and the house rent was due and asked Him to provide that. I asked Him to provide me with a new overcoat. It was late January, and all I had was a thin topcoat with a hole 4-to-6 inches wide on one side of the seat. Then quickly I said, "Lord, You say that You know what things we have need of before we ask You — so send also anything I have forgotten to ask."

Then I closed that hurried-up prayer and went out to greet my parents. My father was lifting out of his Model-A Ford arm loads of wood. He had removed the rear seat and filled the space with wood. Mother was carrying into

our house a large covered pan with a big dinner ready to be warmed and eaten.

The next morning on waking we discovered my wife's cheeks were rosy. The morning mail — the very first delivery since my quick prayer — brought a letter that her share of a will left to her mother would immediately take care of the hospital bill. The doctor was dumbfounded that morning, announcing that the anemia was gone.

A new overcoat came to me during the Monday noon hour. Late that Monday afternoon the merchandising department of the Portland (Ore.) *Oregonian* asked me to conduct a survey for the Bissel Carpet Sweeper Co., and

this covered the rent bill and other needs.

But that wasn't all. A day later my youngest brother, Dwight, drove over and said he wanted me to keep his car and use it — for in case I had to take my wife, Loma, to the hospital during a night, I would have transportation. I had no car at the time.

Thursday evening my sister came over. She said, "The strangest thing happened this afternoon. I was praying, and in my mind I heard a voice saying, 'Take a robe over to Loma!' This was repeated. She was startled. She said to us, 'I don't know why I was told to bring this robe to you, but here it is.'"

"Oh," exclaimed my wife, "I

had completely forgotten — but I do not have a robe, and I will need one in the hospital."

Value of prayer

Some of you brethren have heard this before — because I think it is an experience that needs telling to help others to know the value of PRAYER.

Brethren of GOD'S CHURCH, our whole membership is SORELY IN NEED OF FASTING AND PRAYER.

Therefore I am, as God's apostle, appointing Sabbath, June 24, as a day of SPECIAL FASTING AND PRAYER for the spiritual awakening and rejuvenation of the ENTIRE CHURCH, which is "THE BODY of the living CHRIST!"