

PASTOR'S REPORT

PUBLISHED BY THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. 2, NO. 17

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 15, 1978

Greetings to all of you.

The news here continues to move in a fast-paced manner, as the necessary meetings required to implement Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's recent directives are being conducted.

The last graduation ceremony of Ambassador College here in Pasadena takes place today. I'm sure it will be a time of emotion for many.

As soon as I have some free time I intend to sit down and write something for the Pastor's Report that will bring you up to date in regard to the events of the past week or two as they affect my responsibilities and role in serving Mr. Armstrong, and helping you in your jobs whatever way I can.

Rather than try describing to you the very exciting Bible study and Sabbath sermon by Mr. Armstrong this past weekend, I thought you might be interested in what Pasadena Star-News staff writer Dick Lloyd had to say in his front-page article in the May 14 edition in which he covers Mr. Armstrong's appearances very well, even if he may not have really comprehended everything he reported. (See page 2.)

--C. Wayne Cole

DATE OF THE SECOND PASSOVER A number of ministers have enquired as to the exact date of the second Passover service for 1978. That service should be conducted on the evening of Saturday, May 20th.

EDITORIAL SERVICES UPDATE We've been getting some nice kudos on the May issue of the Plain Truth, which is very encouraging. I'd like to share one with you:

"Just saw the U.S. May Plain Truth. Congratulations on a really first-rate edition. Wish we could use it all. But of course can't. But thanks for all the work to produce a magazine that all of us can say we are proud of."

(signed) Bob Fahey

Thanks for the encouragement, Bob!

Apparently the issue is expected to do very well on the newsstands.

At present we are transcribing some of Mr. Herbert Armstrong's talks with the sabbatical ministers as article material for the Plain Truth. I am hoping to show him some manuscript this coming week for his editing and approval.

We received printouts of lesson 12 of the CC today, but it may still be a few weeks before it is off the press. Thanks for being patient

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—Staff photos by Walt Mancini
SENIOR ARMSTRONG RETURNS — Herbert Armstrong, head of the worldwide Church of God and father of Garner Ted Armstrong, airwave evangelist, made a vigorous appearance to deny reports of disunity in the church he built and to outline its future plans. In the above picture, Armstrong gestures his thanks for applause while in the lower shot, he gestures, as if to emphasize his position of dominance.



Senior Armstrong shows he's in charge of church

By **DICK LLOYD**
 Staff Writer

Striding confidently on stage, impeccably dressed in a dark pinstriped suit, the silver-haired patriarch stood for a moment with arms raised, accepting the thunderous applause, then settled, Bible in hand, into a huge leather chair.

With the same magnetic voice that won thousands of followers during his 50 years as a worldwide radio evangelist and emissary of Christ, Herbert W. Armstrong announced he is heading to Jerusalem next month, there to dedicate a children's playground built with funds from his

Ambassador International Cultural Foundation.

And in a few moments his broad jowls shook with energy as he called on the throng to sustain his "great commission" to proclaim the "good news of the coming Kingdom of God."

His presence, vibrant manner and statement signaled to the loyal that he and no one else is in charge of "the work," that there is no trouble in the ranks, that under his leadership the call to warn the world "will

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Armstrong retakes leadership of the church he put together

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go forward as never before," and that he is physically and mentally strong.

Other than to mention he still gets a little tired and he needs exercise, the evangelist gave no hint of debilitation from the heart attack that has kept him home in Tucson since last summer.

At 85, the charismatic leader of 65,000 followers in the Worldwide Church of God said he believes his heart and health are better than before the illness. "If anything, I am not over 55 years old in mental ability," he said.

"I am coming along fine," he said, announcing his readiness to resume his globe-circling journeys to meet with "kings and presidents and emperors."

The trip from Tucson to Ambassador College for two addresses before overflow crowds on Friday and Saturday was like a family reunion. He was glad to see the throngs, and their standing ovation showed their devotion to their leader.

"I'm coming back into active service," said Armstrong, vowing that his work is going to be increased.

As if to quell any thoughts of trouble in the leadership ranks, one of the first remarks he made was, "We're in complete unity."

He did not define that sentiment, but it seemed a reference to rumors that he and his son, radio and television evangelist Garner Ted Armstrong, whom he removed last week from all executive and administrative responsibilities in the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College, are involved in a power struggle or are in serious disagreement.

The elder Armstrong made only passing reference to his son who was conspicuous by his absence from the stage.

And as if to indicate that his decision last Thursday to close Ambassador's four-year liberal arts college was of little significance, Armstrong almost forgot to give any explanation, and there was little of that.

He said that the college has gone beyond its original purpose to "provide educated personnel to assist me in the ministry." The Worldwide Church of God "is not in the college business," said Armstrong.

Closing of the college, said Armstrong, will provide considerable funds which can be used for radio broadcasting which he plainly was delighted in expanding.

Garner Ted Armstrong was released from executive posts to assume fulltime radio broadcasting duties, a decision which also included taking Garner Ted off television.

"Once again we're going to be

back on the track in a big way." Armstrong said of the return to radio. It was radio, Herbert Armstrong said on Thursday, that provided the growth of the church. And when the church went to television in 1969, the growth of the church slowed, to the point where now it is of serious concern.

He said "the work" is going to daily half-hour radio broadcasts all over the nation. It is important, he said. "God has called me to get out (the message) to the world." Most of the time in both the Friday evening and Saturday afternoon sessions was devoted to a two-part sermon by Armstrong on the history and purpose of mankind in the eyes of God, carrying the congregations on a search throughout the Bible.

And it was interspersed with assurances to the congregations that the

Worldwide Church of God is the true church and that he has been called by God to prepare the way for the return of Jesus Christ in what he calls his "great commission."

That fact may be hard for some to understand, he said, but it is no less true. His voice raised in strength and volume and he gestured with his hands and arms to emphasize points, particularly with reference to the need of the people to develop what he called "right character" and in reference to what he said is his special mission as apostle.

"I speak with the authority of Jesus Christ," he said, calling on ministers to heed his counsel in the matter of preaching and urging his followers to do as he says. "I say it with authority and power."

And as if to counter any questioning of his authority, he said with a shout. "No man can put me out."

during the long wait on this lesson.

That's it for this report.

--Brian Knowles, Editorial Services

SHARP INCREASE IN NUMBER OF NEW DONORS Although "Donors" contribute only a small percentage of the Work's total income, we are encouraged that all media combined produced 21,602 brand new donors during the first six months of this fiscal year. (These media sources include The PLAIN TRUTH, radio, television, the Correspondence Course, booklets, Subscriber Development mailings, and other miscellaneous sources).

New donors coming on the file are 66% higher than the comparable period last fiscal year. As an illustration, stats for the first six months of three fiscal periods are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Period</u> <u>(July-Dec.)</u>	<u>New Donors</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Donations</u>
1975-1976	15,382	\$144,261
1976-1977	13,037	\$ 88,841
1977-1978	21,602	\$179,335

Indications are that better quality donors are coming along: 1) Donors are demonstrating more involvement in terms of overall response (lit requests, letters, comments and contributions); and 2) a higher percentage are on their way to becoming co-workers. It's our hope that this positive trend will continue for some time.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

BATTLE FOR ZAIRE, ROUND TWO For the second time in 14 months, rebel forces have invaded the rich Shaba province of Zaire (formerly the Belgian Congo).

In March of last year a similar invasion from Marxist Angola was repulsed. This time, however, the assault could prove to be more

difficult to deal with. Last time, the rebels, remnants of the old Katangese units that fought the Central Congolese government in 1961, were trained but apparently not led into battle by their Cuban advisors. This time they are openly accompanied by Cuban soldiers along with Libyans and Algerians.

As in "round one" over a year ago, the invaders have struck from bases in Angola, which is the staging ground for attacks not only upon Zaire, but South West Africa. A huge training camp has been established in the former Portuguese colony, run by Cubans, East Germans, Czechs and other East bloc member states.

Zaire's President Mobutu has called again upon the West to help prevent the dismemberment of his country, which would lead to its collapse. Will France and Morocco again save the day as they did last year when French planes airlifted in 1500 Moroccan troops to turn the tide of the battle? Mobutu knows from experience not to depend upon America. Last year the U.S. dispatched some "nonoffensive" military supplies and also, curiously, a C-130 cargo plane loaded with cases of Coca-cola.

France is turning out to be the Western "gendarme of Africa" in the absence of U.S. and British action. French units are also fighting Libyan-backed guerrilla bands in Chad and supporting the Mauritanian cause in the Western Sahara dispute against Soviet- and Algerian-backed guerrillas. The French state that they have an obligation to defend the African member-states of the French Community. But another reason is that Paris believes it alone has the political will to block the expansion of Soviet-Cuban influence in Africa.

Certainly America no longer has the will to do so -- or even the perception, apparently, of what the enemy is up to. In a speech recently in Spokane, Washington, for example, President Carter downplayed the obvious grab for geopolitical advantage in Africa on the part of Moscow. Instead, said Mr. Carter, the "innate racism that exists toward black people within the Soviet Union" figured in Soviet support for military adventures in Africa. He predicted this attitude would work to Moscow's disadvantage. The President added that he thought "we are holding our own in the so-called peaceful competition with the Soviet Union in Africa."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau