

## Mr. Armstrong opens 1979 conference

TUCSON, Ariz. — Herbert W. Armstrong, pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God, gave the opening address Monday, Jan. 22, at

gathered in the Hall of Administration and on campus to sing hymns and show support for Mr. Armstrong and the Church.

ation of church and state left in the United States of America."

Mr. Armstrong referred to action taken by the State of California in response to a legal suit that threw the Church and its affiliates, Ambassador College and the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, into receivership Jan. 3.

"We are fighting to protect freedom of the press, freedom of religion and freedom of assembly," he said.

The details and background information relating to the situation were scheduled to be discussed later in the conference. Mr. Armstrong primarily discussed why there is a

ministry and the job that must be accomplished in our time.

However, toward the end of the first session, he again referred to the situation in Pasadena.

"God is the creator and revealer of truth. Jesus Christ is fighting this battle for us, and He's going to win out," he said. Mr. Armstrong also praised Stanley Rader, his chief adviser, saying that "he has been of inestimable value to this Church."

The official Board of Directors for the Church was also announced by Mr. Armstrong Monday afternoon (see WN, Jan. 15 issue).

Roderick Meredith, director of

Pastoral Administration, shared the podium with Mr. Armstrong Tuesday morning and explained some of the events leading up to the trouble the Church is experiencing.

The conference, usually held in Pasadena, was switched to Tucson this year to avoid conflict between the Church and the State, according to Sherwin McMichael, director of the Work's Festival operations and in charge of accommodations in Tucson.

The conference ended Thursday afternoon, Jan. 25, with most ministers leaving for home the following day.



**PASTOR GENERAL** — Herbert W. Armstrong, pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God, addresses ministers in the 1979 ministerial conference opening session. (Photo by Dexter Faulkner)

the 1979 ministerial conference, held for the first time in Tucson.

Mr. Armstrong walked briskly toward center stage in the Tucson Music Hall as about 550 ministers, many of them accompanied by their wives, stood and applauded. Listening over loudspeakers, through a telephone hookup, were several thousand Church of God members and employees in Pasadena, who had

After calling attention to an article on the judicial process, Mr. Armstrong opened the first session with a reference to the State of California's suit against Church officials.

"We are fighting the battle for all churches and all religions in the United States of America," he said. "If the State and the judicial system should succeed in this present action, there will be, in actual fact, no sep-

## Evangelists ordained at Tucson

TUCSON, Ariz. — On the last day of the ministerial conference here, Jan. 24, Burk McNair, area coordinator of the Charlotte, N.C., area, and Dennis Luker, assistant to Roderick Meredith, director of Pastoral Administration, were ordained as evangelists in the Church of God.

After a 20-minute break between sessions, Dr. Meredith requested that the evangelists come to the podium. All were present except Dean Blackwell, who had remained in Pasadena during the crisis there. Dr. Meredith then asked Mr. McNair and Mr. Luker to join them on stage.

Herbert Armstrong, pastor general, and the evangelists laid hands on Mr. McNair and asked God to ordain him an evangelist in God's Church.

After the laying on of hands, Mr. McNair hugged Mr. Armstrong, resting his head on Mr. Armstrong's shoulder for a second. He seemed to be overwhelmed beyond words.

Traditionally those newly ordained shake hands with the other ministers taking part in the ceremony. But this afternoon was different. Almost all of the ministers, many of whom have been Mr. McNair's friends for years, hugged him.

Mr. McNair, 47, was first ordained to the ministry at the ministerial conference in 1955. He and his wife Sue have three children, Kerry, 24, Sue, 21, and Mark, 16.

Dr. Meredith also announced at the conference that Mr. McNair would be the new area coordinator in the Pasadena area.

evangelist in the Church of God. Mr. Luker gave Mr. Armstrong a hug and shook hands with all his fellow evangelists.



**BURK MCNAIR**

Mr. Luker was then brought forward, and the evangelists and Mr. Armstrong laid hands on him and again asked that God ordain him an



**DENNIS LUKER**

Mr. Luker, 41, was ordained into the ministry in 1963. He and his wife LeeAnn have two children, Stephen, 14, and Leah Jeanette, 12.

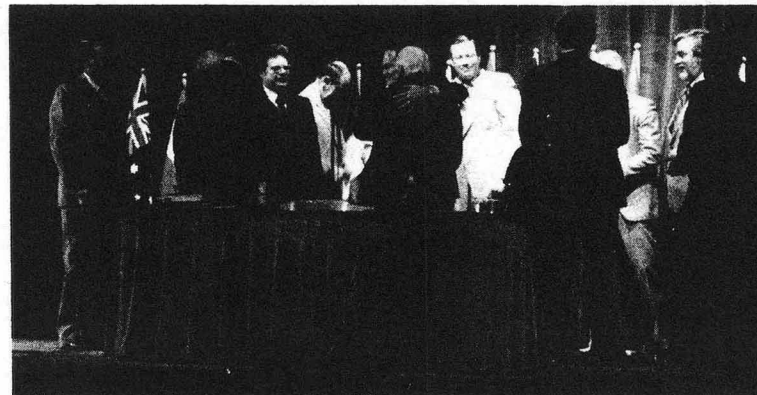
## Pastor general appoints eight to Church board

PASADENA — Following are profiles of the eight men who, with Herbert W. Armstrong (chairman of the board), comprise the new board of directors of the Worldwide Church of God. (Ralph Helge is secretary of the board, but not a member.) The board members were announced here in Sabbath services Jan. 13 by Roderick C. Meredith, after receiving a signed transcription from Mr. Armstrong the same day.

Stanley R. Rader, 49, serves as the Church's treasurer and general counsel to Mr. Armstrong. Reared in New York, Mr. Rader is of Jewish parentage. His first contact with Mr. Armstrong came in 1956, at which time he was a certified public accountant living in Beverly Hills, Calif., and working out of an office on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, Calif. He was first hired by Mr. Armstrong as a tax adviser to the Work.

In 1959, Mr. Rader enrolled in the University of Southern California's law school and graduated three years later with the highest grade average in the history of the school. He served on USC's faculty from 1963 to 1965, while also teaching accounting at Ambassador College.

Mr. Rader has been the constant traveling companion and personal (See MR. ARMSTRONG, page 6)



**ORDINATION CEREMONY** — Dennis Luker receives a congratulatory hug from Herbert Armstrong after he, along with Burk McNair, was ordained an evangelist by Mr. Armstrong and the Church's other evangelist-ranked ministers. (Photo by Henry Sturcke)

## Ministerial team chosen

TUCSON, Ariz. — A new Pastoral Administration team was announced here Jan. 25, the final day of the ministerial conference, by Roderick C. Meredith, director of the ministry worldwide.

The team consists of nine men who will aid Dr. Meredith in coordinating the worldwide activities of the ministry. They are: Dennis Luker, recently ordained an evangelist (see article, this page), who will serve as assistant director of Pastoral Administration; Raymond F. McNair, an evangelist of 26 years, appointed last July to the position of deputy chancellor of Ambassador College; Gerald Waterhouse, a 16-year evangelist who will be engaged in field visits to the U.S. churches and occasional worldwide church tours.

Wilber Berg, a longtime headquarters local elder who will act as administrative assistant to Dr. Meredith and Mr. Luker; Burk McNair, newly ordained an evangelist (see article, this page), recently named headquarters area coordinator; Ted Herlofson, a local elder managing the Ministerial Services Department.

Sherwin McMichael, a pastor-ranked minister holding the post of Festival Office director; Rod Matthews, a preaching elder formerly serving in Australia, who will act as international office coordinator; and John Halford, a preaching elder reassigned to Pasadena from Australia, who will act as staff assistant to Dr. Meredith and Mr. Luker for the international area.

# Church treasurer details crisis' impact

By Gene H. Hogberg  
PASADENA — In a series of press conferences, Stanley R. Rader, chief adviser to Herbert W. Armstrong, has outlined to members of the news media a "list of horrors" inflicted upon God's Work as a result of the receivership action instituted by the attorney general of the state of California, Jan. 3.

At the same time, Mr. Rader

of the records by the people accused of improprieties?"

## Conference at Rader home

One press conference took place in Mr. Rader's home Sunday morning, Jan. 21. Accompanied by Church secretary and attorney Ralph Helge, Mr. Rader appeared before camera crews of all the major television stations in Los Angeles, Calif., as well

of a court-appointed receiver Jan. 3, Mr. Rader said "our camp has been invaded." State agents ran through the Church, he added, "raping and pillaging as they went. They raped our files; they took what they could under a color of authority." Even when Mr. Armstrong and he himself are completely exonerated of all charges, he said, the damage caused the Church by the action of the State will never be undone. "We will never be able to practice and exercise our freedoms of religion, press and assembly of speech in California again, even if we are totally vindicated" — unless the State legislature acts in a manner showing that it recognizes that churches are to be protected by the First Amendment guarantees offered by the United States Constitution.

Mr. Rader told the assembled newspaper, radio and television newsmen that the attorney general's office, the courts and the receiver have desecrated God's property in "the most inconceivable, reprehensible and abominable way during the past two weeks." He then proceeded to catalog a "list of horrors" committed by the court-appointed receiver.

For example, the receiver, retired Superior Court Judge Steven Weisman, who is not a Church member, dispatched a Mailgram to the entire worldwide ministry of the Church. The Mailgram read, in part: "Church members of the Worldwide Church of God are not permitted to make contributions to Herbert Armstrong or his representatives for Church purposes on behalf of the Church."

To obtain the ministerial addresses, the receiver gained access to a limited-edition source book, which is, said Mr. Rader, "clearly labeled as confidential." By resorting to such actions, he stressed, the receiver clearly contravened the court order stipulating that he not interfere in ecclesiastical matters.

The episode represented, said Mr. Rader, an "outrageous attempt to interfere with the right of this Church and its members to exercise what is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States." Mr. Rader emphasized, however, that the Mailgram will have absolutely no effect on the members of the Church. "I can assure you," he said, "that we think next week there will be no contributions arriving here from anyone who is a member of the Worldwide Church of God. It's inconceivable that the State would

even conceive of receiving such contributions."

With regard to another "horror," the receiver, shortly after he arrived on the Ambassador College campus, announced that both Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader "were out." Furthermore, a top administrator on the receiver's staff stated openly his intentions of revamping, said Mr. Rader, the biblical, doctrinal foundations and organization of the Church, which is "hierarchical in nature." The State and its agents, according to Mr. Rader, "want to change the board of directors, our bylaws," adding that they have stated repeatedly that the Church and its properties belong to the state of California — "a patent absurdity, if everything we know about the First Amendment is right."

In another "horror" action, the receiver "arbitrarily and capriciously" stopped (for a period of time lasting about a week in early January) payment on all checks — to employees, ministers, and creditors (including payments to radio and TV stations) and even to widows on third tithe. During the same time period, however, the receiver deposited \$150,000 of Church tithes and offerings in a special receivership account to provide for the hiring of outside security guards and other expenses.

A further, but far from complete, catalog of "desecrations" Mr. Rader reported were: smoking on the part of the receiver, a clear contravention of Church beliefs as well as property insurance policies; agents of the receiver working until midnight one Friday night copying records, desecrating the Church's Sabbath; and the admission of disfellowshipped ministers and members onto God's property. The receiver further brushed aside a polite reaffirmation of Church policy with regard to the treatment of "marked" ex-members of the Church.

In fielding questions, Mr. Rader continually chided members of the press for failing to inform themselves on the real issues involved in the receivership issue, which, he said, represented a "classic confrontation between church and state." To one reporter, who had not taken the time to check available court records, he said: "You have not done your homework. Hot foot it downtown [to the courthouse] and do your work."

Mr. Rader stressed that a Pulitzer prize awaited the reporter who was willing to dig into the complexities of the case, especially its grave implications with regard to the First Amendment, and the threat not only

to the continued existence of the Worldwide Church of God, but all churches. He also advised reporters to study their Bibles, especially the New Testament record in the gospels and the book of Acts with regard to the true nature of Christ's Gospel message.

## Tucson press conference

The next day in Tucson, Ariz., Mr. Rader, once again accompanied by Mr. Helge, held another and similar press conference for media representatives. Mr. Rader repeated some of his remarks of the previous day, then responded to questions put to him by the press. Here are key excerpts from Mr. Rader's remarks:

"We have had our properties seized, confiscated and desecrated by the State of California — all of this in contravention of everything that all of us have held sacred.

"Heretofore, this organization, which is a church and has been described as a church by the attorney general in his complaint — heretofore, this Church and all of us have believed that the two most important written documents in the world are the Bible, first and foremost, which is the true word, the inspired word, of God. And the second, of course, was the Constitution of the United States . . .

"In open court, twice in state court, and once in federal court, the state attorney general's office has stated through its attorneys, that the property and the Church belong to the state of California. That is a matter of record. This is not my interpretation. It is not something that we have conjured up. This is in the record. You can check it out for yourselves.

The Church and the property belong to the state of California, and as a consequence, we do not have any rights, according to the state attorney general, none of the constitutional guarantees of the First Amendment, which are essentially substantive due process rights, the right of freedom of speech, freedom to exercise one's religion without infringing, the right of assembly, and, of course, freedom of press, which most of you know something about, as well as the procedural due process aspects of the Bill of Rights, which have to do with illegal search and seizures, habeas corpus, right to trial by jury. All of these things, from the mouth of the attorney general, and/or his representative.

(See IMPACT, page 3)



**TREASURER** — Church treasurer Stanley R. Rader answers questions from the news media at a press conference after a three-day sit-in by area members at the Church's Hall of Administration. The event received extensive coverage in newspapers and radio and television news programs. (Photo by Roland Rees)

stressed the positive benefits of the unprecedented crisis that have already accrued to the Work — and that will be greatly magnified in the long-term once the crisis has passed.

## Challenge to journalists

During his appearances before the newsmen, Mr. Rader repeatedly called for journalists to come forth who are willing to spend the time and effort to probe the depths of what he has called, "the classic and most blatant confrontation between church and state, which the First Amendment was expressly designed to prohibit." Too many journalists, Mr. Rader noted, seem content to believe the State was somehow "justified" in its unbelievably harsh action.

"I suggest to you," Mr. Rader remarked in a Jan. 26 press release, "that this 'justification' is preposterous," adding in remarks to assembled reporters the same day that the real story lies with exploring the motivations of the dissidents who brought the suit in the first place; discovering what prompted the attorney general's office to act in a heretofore unthinkable manner based only upon "wild allegations" of misconduct; and probing the interplay of forces between dissidents, the attorney general, the judges involved so far in the case and the receiver.

"You people are supposed to be intelligent members of the press," Mr. Rader chided the newsmen. "You're supposed to be able as members of the Fourth Estate to think about the problems and the allegations. Why should the State be able to come in, run a church, seize its property, stop all of its activities because of an alleged threat to the destruction

as area newspaper and radio reporters.

Before he launched into his major purpose for calling the conference — "to give you a list of the horrors of receivership" — Mr. Rader stressed to newsmen that despite the grave injustice done to the Church and the outright desecration of God's property at headquarters in Pasadena, God's Work will not be stopped.

Mr. Rader stressed that he will leave the "lawyering to the lawyers" defending the Church against receivership action. Instead, he will be redoubling his own efforts to help Mr. Armstrong in propagating the Gospel, stating, "I shall use all of my ability, all of my training, all of my experience and all of my spiritual resources to that end from this day forward."

The current trauma, Mr. Rader emphasized, has already produced beneficial side effects. First of all, it has flushed dissidents out into the open and broken the back of a conspiracy aimed at subverting Mr. Armstrong's authority. Secondly, it has rallied and unified the Church and will soon make it a "household word worldwide." Church members, said Mr. Rader, "know that this persecution is something that has been anticipated for some time," and it "will give us greater strength and solidarity as an institution" in preparing for the "end time."

## Camp invaded

While the Gospel will continue to go out, Mr. Rader made it clear that it is virtually impossible for the Work to conduct its operations in normal fashion in the state of California.

Of the totally unannounced im-



**PRESS CONFERENCE** — Stanley R. Rader answers reporters' questions at a press conference held in his office Feb. 2. (Photo by Roland Rees)

## The Worldwide News

CIRCULATION: 55,000

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Editor in chief: Herbert W. Armstrong  
Managing editor: Dexter H. Faulkner  
Associate editors: Sheila Graham, Dennis R. Robertson; layout editor: Scott Ashley; "Local Church News" editor: Vivian Rothe; composition: Kimberly McAnally; circulation: Roland Rees, Diane Derrick  
NOTICE: The Worldwide News cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited articles and photographs.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Subscriptions are sent automatically to the members of the Worldwide Church of God. Address all communications to The Worldwide News, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91123. Additional mailing offices: Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 2M2, Canada; Box 111, St. Albans, Herts., AL2 2EG, England; Box 202, Burlinghead, Queensland, 4220, Australia; Box 2808, Manila, 2801, Philippines; Box 2709, Auckland 1, New Zealand.

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** U.S. changes of address are handled automatically with Plain Truth changes of address. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at Pasadena, Calif. Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to: The Worldwide News, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91123.



# Impact

(Continued from page 2)

tatives in court, have no applicability whatsoever to the Worldwide Church of God, despite the fact that we are described page after page in the complaint as a church and despite the fact that we were described in court again and again and again, as a church. . . .

Question: "Where does the Church go from here?"

Answer: "The Church continues to propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe that in the long run—in the long run—this will be a healthier and better Church.

As Mr. Armstrong has said, those who have been lukewarm about the truth, those who have been less than converted, those who have been seeking and lusting for power, those who for one reason or another have been not exactly real members of the Worldwide Church of God, have more or less been exposed. More will be exposed as time goes on. The Church then will cleanse itself spiritually. And the Church, as a result of this unfortunate incident, will become a household word.

"This will be, I think, in the annals of law and the annals of religion, recognized as the classic confrontation between state and church. I think it will last two years before all the controversy disappears. And when it's finished, people will by then know what the Church of God teaches, and what the Church of God preaches and what the Church of God practices. [They] will also know more about its leaders. They will know more about a lot of things, including perhaps these constitutional issues that are talked about. Perhaps they'll know something more about how the judiciary works.

They'll know a little more about why there are receivers and how they relate to the judiciary system. [On another occasion, Mr. Rader defined receivers as the "vultures of the economic world."] I think that for a good reporter, a good journalist, there is a Pulitzer prize available. I myself was maybe four months from publication of an authorized biog-

raphy of Mr. Armstrong. I will have to completely revamp that. This will now make everything I've written passe . . ."

Question: "Can you bring us up to date on the health of Mr. Armstrong?"

Answer: "It is fine . . . Mr. Armstrong and I have a trip planned for Cairo in the middle of February. We hope that this [crisis] does not interfere with it. We also have a trip planned to Japan in April. And we just returned from a two-week visit to Israel. Mr. Armstrong is stepping up once again his international efforts to spread the Gospel—efforts that were interrupted for a period of 17 months because of an onset of congestive heart failure that hit him in August of 1977. But he is now back on his feet.

"He has made 35 television programs since July. He has written one book, which has already been published in hardcover. This is the special edition for the Church membership, but it will be in the bookstores in February with a different cover. He's in the process of writing four other books, all of which will be in, in print, we hope, by the end of the year.

"He writes one or more articles each month for *The Plain Truth* magazine, which has a circulation of 3½ million copies per month in five languages. He writes at least one or more articles every month for *The Good News*, which goes to our Church members and co-workers, one or more articles for *The Worldwide News*, which is our Church newspaper. He also writes for the *Pastor's Reports*, he preaches in Pasadena, in Tucson, in Texas, and wherever his particular personal appearance is going to add some important impact to the meeting . . .

"When he was in Israel, he [Mr. Armstrong] made four different public appearances and gave speeches at each place. So he's extremely active. He is not to be understood to be a man of 87 who is infirm."

### Back in Pasadena

The day following the conclusion of the ministerial conference in Tucson (Jan. 26), Mr. Rader held

another full-scale press conference for media representatives in his office in the Hall of Administration in Pasadena.

The main purpose of the conference (see "Statement to the Media," page 7) was an attempt to clarify what Mr. Rader felt were "basic misconceptions" the news media held about the current crisis affecting the Church—and how journalists had so far overlooked the grave constitutional questions involved, both with regard to freedom of religion and freedom of the press: the latter something newsmen in particular should be concerned about.

To highlight the challenges to these freedoms, Mr. Rader mentioned that the mailing of the latest issue of *The Worldwide News* was held up by the receiver for two weeks—an "absolute interference" with both freedom of religion and the press.

Asked by one reporter why the Worldwide Church of God may have been singled out for such unprec-

edented action by the civil authorities, Mr. Rader answered:

"I think that the state attorney general intends to look more and more into the affairs of churches despite the First Amendment guarantee. We are the target because we're big enough that if he should be able to prevail, he will set a precedent for the other churches. But he thought we were small enough, and he thought that we were filled with dissension . . . that, as a consequence, we would be easy pickings. But he will find out that we are not. He will find out that God will prevail, and we are going to punch him out.

"I'm going to go on a national radio and television effort," exclaimed Mr. Rader. "I'm going to carry this message to the entirety of the nation. If I can't get the point across to the press I will get it across to the people. We will buy radio time; we will buy television time; we will buy print space. We are going to get our message out to everyone. By the time we are through, whoever is

the attorney general is going to be sorry he backed up this ill-advised action by the prior administration."

### Going to Washington

For the first step in this thrust to tell the Church's story, Mr. Rader announced that he would be leaving for Washington early the following week to discuss the Church's plight with as many senators and congressmen as are willing to listen.

Mr. Armstrong's chief adviser said that the Church is battling through the early rounds of a fight, the length of which has not yet been set.

Before an employees' meeting at the Pasadena campus Jan. 19, Mr. Rader predicted that as the story "gets bigger and bigger, you will get better reporters, better journalists interested in the matter. And as the quality of the reporting improves, then the nature of the reporting changes. And that's what you're going to see occur in the next few weeks or months."



**LETTERS OF SUPPORT**—Church employees and other volunteers read letters sent in by members in response to a request that they voice their support of the Church's leadership during its present legal entanglement with the State of California. [Photo by Sheila Graham]

# Excerpts of letters showing support for Mr. Armstrong

**PASADENA**—The following are excerpts from a few of the multiple thousands of letters sent to Los Angeles, Calif., Superior Court Judge Julius M. Title from members of the Worldwide Church of God to show support for Herbert W. Armstrong, Stanley R. Rader and the Church.

☆☆☆

Herbert W. Armstrong is a bright, intelligent, dynamic minister of the Bible. He has devoted over 50 years of his life to one single objective, bringing God's true word, the truth of the Bible, to the members of the Worldwide Church of God and everyone in the entire world who cares to listen.

The members and co-workers contribute tithes because the Bible clearly directs us to do so. The Bible does not in any way suggest that either the contributors or the State are to be concerned with how the Church's leadership elects to employ the contributions to do God's Work.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Young  
Long Beach, Calif.

☆☆☆

The record has shown that the Worldwide Church of God has been an extremely effective instrument in preaching the Gospel and in service to the local and international communities. Reporters have marveled about the scope and impact of our Church's activities despite our rela-

tively few numbers and comparatively meager resources.

This effectiveness has come, in part, as a direct blessing from God because of our willingness to obey the guidelines concerning the form of Church government he has specified in the Bible.

Ernest C. Oakley  
Pasadena, Calif.

☆☆☆

My family and I have received incalculable benefits from belonging to the Church over the years. I am certainly very grateful to Mr. Armstrong for being the inspiring, helpful leader he has been. I do not consider him in any way as a supernatural being. He is a human being, as we all are, subject to human frailties. But he is the man God is using in this time to lead His Church and accomplish His purpose.

I have given freely during this time and very generously. But that has been my choice and not at all at the dictates of any man. After I have given my money, I no longer have any control over it, because it is not mine. Mr. Armstrong is answerable to God, but not to me, for how he conducts his stewardship of the money. If I would be distressed at the use to which the money was put, I would be able to send my money elsewhere. It is my money to give as I see fit.

Geraldyn Zebrowski  
Long Beach, Calif.

The greatest outrage, however, is the present threat to remove certain important officers of the Church. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, our respected and beloved spiritual leader under Jesus Christ is, I understand, threatened with dismissal. This man is a dedicated, honest, moral and upright servant of God. He is fully in control of his faculties, able, adept and strong. His productivity over the last few months is undeniable witness to this. He writes profusely, and speaks to large audiences with clarity, dynamism, power and authority. He is a most remarkable example of a man of his age, and I have complete confidence in his integrity, ability and spiritual leadership.

Mr. Stanley R. Rader, the Church's treasurer, is an able and dedicated assistant to Mr. Armstrong. I am certain that he is guilty of no legal offense whatsoever. His appointment must therefore remain the sole discretion of his supervisor, Mr. Armstrong, and should be of no concern to the court.

Ralph D. Levy  
Pasadena, Calif.

☆☆☆

Mr. Armstrong, being a wise man who knows God's laws, is aware that " . . . in the multitude of counsellors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14). This is one of the functions Mr. Rader serves. If he is taken away this deprives Mr. Armstrong of one of his most valuable sounding boards.

Being God's apostle, Mr. Armstrong is aware that he is dealing with the spiritual care and feeding of thousands of God's people. He knows that God will punish an unjust, unwise steward of His people. But a wise steward will be rewarded. Now the responsibility for the people of the Worldwide Church of God also rests in part on your shoulders. Please consider well the action you plan to take.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Smith  
Pasadena, Calif.

☆☆☆

I sincerely doubt that the leader of any country, whether emperor, king or prime minister, would be willing to sit and have meaningful conversations with anyone who is less than brilliant, with a truly sharp and clear mind. It seems much less likely that these leaders would take a certain amount of advice from, and in some cases, become close personal friends with a senile old man who is himself led around and told what to do and say. Mr. Herbert Armstrong is not this type of person; he cannot be led around and told what to say by anyone other than the God he worships and obeys.

Paula J. Caswell  
Huntington Beach, Calif.

☆☆☆

There is a great deal of anticulf sentiment in the air today, and not without good reason, after what hap-

pened in Jonestown in Guyana. But the Worldwide Church of God is not a cult, and Herbert Armstrong is not a cult hero. The Church has been around for 46 years, steadily growing, always doing the Work of preaching the Gospel as well as feeding the flock.

The members believe it is their prime mission to support the Gospel effort, that is, not just having the Gospel preached to themselves, but bringing it to the attention of the world at large.

The Church, by the way, is not trying to convert the public to its own membership—only persons who themselves embrace the Church's doctrines become members—but simply to get the message out, effectively, as an announcement.

Jon W. Curtis  
Arcadia, Calif.

☆☆☆

I believe you will finally come to see that members of the Worldwide Church of God have been in accord with the overall accomplishments on a global scale that have been our Work for over 40 years. I have been associated with the Worldwide Church of God for 12 years and am sure God is working many good things through this Work, and I want to be able to continue to be a part of this endeavor.

Mr. and Mrs. L.C. Wynn  
Gladewater, Tex.

# Excerpts from Jan. 27 Sabbath services

PASADENA — The following comments are excerpted from remarks made by Roderick C. Meredith, director of Pastoral Administration, and Ellis LaRavia, facilities director, in Sabbath services Jan. 27.

### Roderick C. Meredith's comments

I want to mention a few points about the so-called sit-in in the Hall of Administration [Jan. 22 to 24].

### NOTICE CONCERNING CO-WORKER NEWSLETTER

Due to the present serious trial on God's Work and the need to keep all supporters fully informed, we are sending *The Worldwide News*, a member newspaper, to all co-workers in place of the smaller *Co-Worker Newsletter* normally prepared for supporters who are not baptized members of this Church. The *Co-Worker Newsletter* has been temporarily suspended, but we expect to resume normal publication schedules in the future.

Some few are apparently still a bit confused about it.

First, let us understand that there was a genuine crisis. I think most of you realize that. There was a crisis and the very life of God's Church was at stake. Personally, I have been under more pressure in the last 3½ weeks than at any time since the day I was born. I've been getting calls day and night. Many of us have been losing a lot of sleep and a lot of weight.

When a receiver comes in and starts to take over virtually everything, drains the money away, the fact that we can keep this campus is a minor miracle. We are not even sure at this moment whether or not we will be able to remain in these facilities, because we have already been hurt so badly, losing so much money and a lot of other things. I just want to be open with you and tell you that. They have hurt us terribly.

And yet, if we think about the publicity the Church has been given — becoming virtually a household word — and the fact that this thing might go on to the Supreme Court, we can see how God could turn the situation around. God could cause our newsstand circulation to skyrocket, for example. God could cause evangelistic campaigns by some of us across the country to literally move and shake this nation. There is beginning to be a wave of sympathy built up for us in many quarters. God can cause it

to work that way. But humanly speaking, the State and courts have hurt us badly. They have hit us below the belt.

Essentially, then, that is the backdrop. As you know, neither Mr. [Herbert] Armstrong, nor I, nor any in top administrative positions had any direct part in planning the sit-in at all. I heard about it in Tucson [Ariz.] after it was already starting, and I immediately got on the phone with Mr. Armstrong. He had heard about it by then, and he said he was glad the brethren had that kind of zeal, and that it was all right. But it wasn't something I was supposed to publicly authorize, or we could have been held in contempt of court. I did not authorize it, I did not plan it. I didn't have anything to do with it.

But I want to give you some points about it just briefly in lieu of a full sermon on it, which I don't think is necessary at this time.

First, it is all right, within God's laws, to sit in your own property, which you own, and to show to the community and to the nation your concern about that property. That does not violate God's laws, and it does not even violate man's laws in most cases, because all kinds of organizations do that all the time, and our society virtually expects it now. If you don't do it, they might well say: "Well, you don't even care. You're just rolling over and playing dead, so we'll just take over everything that you have." And so, because of that, it is not wrong at all, as long as it is not intended to produce violence or directly go against the fundamental laws of the land.

Secondly, some people were upset about women and children being involved. Well, the women and children, I think, were very helpful in order to give the public a balanced picture, not of a bunch of militant men, ready to fight with clubs, but of a peaceful, concerned family group. I don't think there was any danger of women and children being hurt or killed. They weren't the ones standing right behind the doors.

And I just want to make a point of

this: All four of my children were there, including my little 11-year-old daughter. All four of them were there, and they were showing concern. So we weren't off hiding somewhere. My flesh and my blood were here and involved virtually every day. I think my sons were here every single day, and my daughter, I believe, nearly every day, and my younger daughter was taken out of school and brought here two days.

Thirdly, some were upset and said, "Oh, people are getting all excited, and all this emotionalism is not good." Well, I want to say, brethren, that sometimes those things get out of hand. I understand that, and I recognize that probably in some cases there were wrong emotions. Certainly in a time of crisis those things come out, but to say that we shouldn't have emotionalism about the welfare of the Church of God is ridiculous. If there is anything we ought to get emotional about, it is not the Rams getting to the Super Bowl, or failing to, but the very Work of God and the continuance of that Work of God in these beautiful surroundings that God Almighty has given us. And that is not wrong, as long as that emotion is rightly controlled, and I think we need to understand that.

Do you think the people in the book of Acts were not emotional when Peter came back, and they all got down and prayed to the great God of heaven and beseeched Him, "Deliver us and deliver your servant?" And on one occasion, God shook the building they were in. Can you imagine the wave of emotion those people must have felt on occasions like this? Some say, well, this sit-in wasn't exactly like that. I know it wasn't exactly like that, but I've been in God's Work long enough to realize that things don't always happen in the "classic" pattern.

The State, in this case, was influenced by dissident members and ministers, many of whom have left God's Church in hate and have been fighting us, directly and indirectly, for months. They finally took the

matter to the attorney general's office, which decided to launch an all-out battle against what it regarded as a small sect or cult, possibly to justify the fact that the attorney general's office did not crush the Jonestown [Guyana] people sooner than they did, and they tried to take their spite out on us. And that's wrong. And we do not have to submit to that kind of treatment in this land, the so-called land of the free and the home of the brave.

I hope we get those freedoms back, and we can continue to exercise them within the system that we have — the system that acknowledges the principle of self-help. You do have the right to sit in if you want to. If there is a direct court order, you're supposed to let them come in. But if you block the doors and make it hard for them to come in, they still may not have that much on you legally. A lot of groups do that. It depends upon whether you decide the law of God and the continuance of God's Work (Acts 5:29) is more important to you than perhaps spending a night or two in jail. And it comes down to your commitment at that point.

I know that other people say, "Let's just fast and pray and do nothing else." Well, I think not one, but both are needed. You see, faith without works is dead. Works without faith is dead, too. You do need them both. But sometimes there are things we have to do. We just want to do them the right way.

So emotional involvement is not wrong. I might, however, say that some of those on the telephone committee — and I'm grateful that many pitched in and helped, so please don't get me wrong — did get a bit overzealous, and I've had two or three reports where they were calling out stating that Mr. Armstrong was commanding people that they had to leave their jobs, get their kids out of school and be over at the meeting at 7 o'clock the next morning.

Well, Mr. Armstrong was not commanding any such thing. He (See EXCERPTS, page 5)



HALL OF ADMINISTRATION — Left: Pasadena local elder Robin Webber leads songs at services in the Worldwide Church of God Hall of Administration. Below: Charles Scott, Pasadena minister, conducts a Bible study for members in the Hall of Administration lobby. Right: Many members brought their children to the three-day sit-in. [Photos by James E. Capo and Roland Rees]





# Excerpts

(Continued from page 4)  
 wasn't commanding people. In fact, he made sure he did not command any such thing, because it would have been in violation of the court order and the receivership, and he could have been held in contempt of court. Some of the overzealous members got their wires crossed, and I hope the rest of you can have a little charity for them. They were being zealous. Maybe they were being overzealous in commanding people to come the next morning.

We've all got to realize that different ones of us have different emotional and spiritual and even intellectual orientations from our backgrounds and not judge one another, because I understand now that some who were really zealous are judging those who weren't involved as heavily and saying, "Did you see so-and-so at the sit-in? And if they weren't, they say, "Oh well, they're not very spiritual."

Maybe they sincerely felt that was not the right way to go, and they didn't have all the facts and they thought, "Well, I'll just stay home and I'll really pray," and maybe their prayers — if they prayed; I hope they did pray a lot — did as much good as the sitting in. And yet it was good that many did sit in and show their personal concern in that way.

And then others have criticized that we copied — or they thought we copied — some of the civil-rights tactics. What's wrong with copying some of the civil-rights tactics if they are within God's law and get results? We copy the world in a thousand different ways. We're not supposed to copy the world when it comes to Christmas and Easter and pagan ideas involving worship, but this was not involving worship. That's the

whole key. This was involving a strategy about how to handle a situation that had become a kind of a classic church-state confrontation.

We had to explain to our ministers from overseas, because some of them didn't understand it. In their land, it would have been wrong. But in our land, our laws permit it. And obviously, if they had not permitted it, all of you would have been arrested within the first hour. Don't you think the National Guard is capable of coming in here and taking care of a Church picnic? Of course they were! But it was a situation that basically was within God's law and man's law. And as I said, our society almost expects it and you know, if you don't do it, they say you really don't care. And they'll walk right over you.

So expressing concern in the proper way is not wrong, and I hope that those who were not involved will not condemn those who were involved in it, because they were trying to help in their own way.

And those of you who were involved in the sit-in, remember that some people were honestly and sincerely and conscientiously on the sidelines, and they don't understand, and they've been confused. So why don't you just say: "Well, that's fine. That's up to them." Each one of us has to do the best we can according to our conscience in a thing like that, so don't condemn one another.

A final point is that we will try to get better organized soon and to get the word out *through the ministry* if future problems come up and not through some mysterious telephone committee. Our government in the Church has always been from the top down, and that is the way God describes it, and that's what made the question of the sit-in exceptionally hard for some people. Other groups are used to organizing and getting pressure up to the top. You see what I mean. And so people were confused

by that. I don't know if in every case we can do it from the top down; in this case it might have placed us in contempt of court. It was a difficult situation. And each one had to pray and to think and to act on what they knew.

So let's realize this and not condemn one another. And I won't promise this, but God willing, we will have within a few weeks a complete sermon explaining the principles involved in this type of situation and spelling it out even more completely, or perhaps an article in one of the magazines so that everyone can understand for the future. But again, remember, the life of God's Church was at stake and still is at stake. That's why we're fasting today.

This is a crisis. We are in a war, and let's all do the best we can and not judge one another.

### Ellis LaRavia's comments

I think the so-called sit-in or peaceful protest is something that has not been entirely understood. Put simply, it was a matter of hundreds of Church members sitting in the Hall — and many of you were there — who were there protecting their Church property and assets, which were bought with their tithes and offerings. The question arose, however, whether this direct violation of State authority was appropriate or advisable.

First, let me say that it was peaceful; it was a self-help thing. There was no violence intended. It was intended in large measure to get attention for our plight and our cause. And it worked; it turned the media around.

The media began to report favorably on us, because they came in and saw people, people who were just average, normal people. They saw people who had definite strong beliefs, who believed in God, who believed in Herbert Armstrong as His apostle, who believed that the Work being done by this Church is vital for the rest of this world, and who believed it to the depths of their being. They saw people in a peaceful demonstration protesting a takeover by the State, which really had no authority to do that despite the fact that there was a court order.

During the sit-in, I talked to Bob McGowan, the Pasadena chief of police, a fine man and very much in support of Ambassador College, because he knows there's never been any problem here. We've never created any problem in the city of Pasadena; we're very law-abiding.

Well, I called him early Wednesday morning [Jan. 24] to relate to him that we had in the neighborhood of 4,000 to 5,000 people in the Hall, the Auditorium, the student center and

all over the grounds. And I told him they're all loyal Church members; they're all very stable. They're family people; they love God and they love the community; they enjoy Pasadena.

But, I said, we're just here for peaceful protest over the flagrant violation of our constitutional rights. Nobody intends to get involved in any violence, nobody intends to create any problem of disturbance. And he said: I appreciate that, and you know where we stand. We don't want to get involved, and we're not going to participate in any break-in in your institution. We will help with the traffic and all that, but as the City of Pasadena Police Department, we're just not going to get involved in it.

After that conversation he went down to Brookside Park where all the sheriff's deputies were waiting. It was a hypersensitive situation and an emotional situation, and the air was just filled with it. Many there believed that they were going to have to come in here and do battle, break down doors and carry off maybe hundreds of people. That was what they were anticipating.

But at any rate, in the eleventh hour, we got a reprieve. I think God sent this man, because I don't think God wanted anyone to get hurt. In the eleventh hour, a man named Ralph Nutter, a lawyer, previously a judge in Superior Court and recently retained by the receiver to help resolve this situation, stepped in. The reason the receiver retained him was because he had 10 years experience in writs and receivership in the courts.

This man has since stated that he has never once issued such an ex parte order, and he had never seen a receivership imposed on an organization in the fashion that this one was. Well, at any rate, he advised the receiver: Look, you've got a stalemate. You've got a situation that is only going to deteriorate; it's only going to get worse. If this thing is ever going to work, you're going to have to back off. You're going to have to make overtures to back off, to make a truce, to make peace. And, as a result, Mr. Nutter got with our attorneys and proposed a plan to which Mr. Rader said, fine, we'll try it.

Of course, you know the rest of the story, those of you who were there. Mr. Rader escorted Mr. Weisman [the receiver] into the building, took all of the records and belongings out through Mr. Armstrong's personal elevator so as not to create any more strife or problems, and took him down to the Accounting-Data Processing area where he is now confined to a small area. Our situation then became a peaceful truce. I don't know how long it will last.

Some felt that when Mr. Rader and the receiver entered the building, they were compromised. Now, I really don't understand that, unless these people wanted to go into some sort of confrontation whereby the doors were knocked down, people injured and so on. But they felt they were compromised because they did not get the receiver out of the Church altogether. Well, we would love to have had that as part of the compromise. But, you see, this did not go to court. Understand that. This situation did not go to court to get a compromise. This was a compromise the receiver was willing to make with us because of Ralph Nutter's suggestions and recommendations to him.

But, at any rate, to those of you who felt compromised by that situation, I don't think you should, because here is a chance now to at least have a peaceful truce and to go on with the conduct of the Work, to get busy, for the time being at least. So I am thankful for the peaceful truce, for however long it lasts.

We have a temporary truce because, I feel, of the media's coming in and seeing our wholesome people here, elderly people, people with their children, people who were just very normal and interviewing them and talking to them. They saw that these people were God-fearing people and people who just wanted the situation resolved. But they weren't going to give in to an illegal State takeover of their Church. So we saw a turnaround in the media. We saw a turnaround in public sympathy directly as a result of this. That's where we are right now.

As I say, this is not a court-ordered truce. It is a truce between the receiver and us. And he could come in and strictly enforce the court order any time he wants to, but we're hoping he doesn't choose to do so. The court order still exists, and it specifies absolute, total control of this organization. And that is abominable.

We don't want the receiver to stay here. That's the next step. We still have the receivership to deal with. But we'll have to deal with it in a legal fashion. We're not going to get the receivership out, in my opinion, by sit-ins or a protest, however peaceful they are.

I think the recent sit-in achieved its immediate purpose, but we still have a receiver. He has to go, because of his ability to totally control this organization and do virtually whatever he pleases, to make whatever decisions he wants, whether financially, physically, even spiritually. He says he doesn't get involved in ecclesiastical areas, but it's hogwash to think you can separate them. So the battle isn't over by any means.



**AREA MEMBERS** — Above left: Area members participating in the sit-in take a break for lunch. Left: A television reporter, one of many on the scene through the three-day sit-in, interviews members in the Hall of Administration lobby. Right: Members and media representatives

crowd the plaza in front of the building to hear sessions piped in from the ministerial conference in Tucson, Ariz. (Photos by James E. Capo, Roland Rees and Warren Watson)

# Mr. Armstrong appoints Church board

(Continued from page 1)

aide to Mr. Armstrong since 1968, some years spending as many as 300 days abroad with him. He has been instrumental in arranging many of Mr. Armstrong's meetings with gov-



STANLEY R. RADER

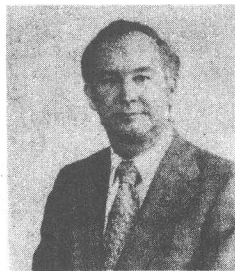
ernment, business and civic leaders throughout the world. His broad experience and expertise have made him an invaluable asset to the Work. In addition to his other functions, Mr. Rader also serves as executive vice president of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF).

Mr. Rader has been a member of the Church since March, 1975, when he was baptized in Hong Kong by Mr. Armstrong. Mr. and Mrs. Rader, the former Niki Gartenberg, have been married 28 years and have three grown children. His younger daughter, Carol Little, was baptized at the Rader home following the Feast of Tabernacles last fall after counseling with Mr. Armstrong.

Among Mr. Rader's favorite pastimes are reading and tennis. In recent years he has taught himself the French language, which he now reads and speaks with fluency.

Ellis LaRavia, 47, serves as headquarters facilities director. A native of Houston, Tex., Mr. LaRavia is a 1954 graduate (B.S.) of Louisiana State University. Following graduation he served a stint in the U.S. Air Force. Upon his discharge he became manager of an agricultural and sales business in Texas, concerned with the commercial growing and marketing of roses. He later moved to Arizona when the business was relocated to that state.

Mr. LaRavia came to Ambassador College, Pasadena, in 1966, graduating with a B.A. in 1969. While in college he served as head of the Landscaping Department. In 1970 he



ELLIS LARAVIA

was ordained a local elder, and two years later was named general services director. In 1976 Mr. LaRavia was raised to preaching elder, and the following year was asked by Mr. Armstrong to assume the responsibility of managing all aspects of the headquarters facilities. In that capacity he has been at the center of the recent crisis with the State of California, spending numerous sleepless nights dealing with the wide variety of problems that have arisen relative to the college and

Church properties.

Mr. LaRavia is married to the former Gwen Brickley of Santa Monica, Calif. The LaRavias have five children, three sons and two daughters. Hunting, fishing and tennis are included among Mr. LaRavia's interests.

Richard Rice, 43, is director of the Church's Mail Processing Center. A native Oklahoman, Mr. Rice became interested in the Church at an early age, around 13 or 14, as he recalls. He became a constant listener to *The World Tomorrow* broadcast while in high school in Midwest City, Okla., a suburb of Oklahoma City. Taking a correspondence course to complete high school early, he came to Ambassador in 1954 at age 17.

Even before taking his B.A. degree in 1960, Mr. Rice began teaching in Imperial elementary and high school in Pasadena. Following his graduation he continued to teach in the Imperial school system in Big Sandy, Tex., until his ordination to local elder in 1962. After being raised to preaching elder in 1964, Mr. Rice became director of the visiting program at Big Sandy, a post he held until 1966. He was then assigned to pastor the Birmingham, Huntsville and Montgomery, Ala., churches. In 1969 he was raised to pastor rank, continuing to work with



RICHARD RICE

the churches in Alabama until being called back to Pasadena in 1971 to work with Dr. Clint Zimmerman in the Letter Answering Department.

In 1972 Mr. Rice was named director of the newly reorganized Mail Processing Center. Soon afterwards he was appointed director of the Work's subscriber development program.

Mr. Rice and his wife, the former Virginia McAllister of Mississippi, have three sons. Mr. Rice's interests include all sports, reading, writing, woodworking and being with his family.

Raymond F. McNair, 48, is deputy chancellor of Ambassador College. Born in Independence, Mo., he was raised in Camp, Ark. Mr. McNair came to Ambassador in the fall of 1948, completed work for his B.A. in 1952 and was ordained an evangelist by Mr. Armstrong the following year. He conducted four nationwide baptizing tours as a student, and one each year after graduation until 1958. Also after taking his degree, Mr. McNair served as pastor of numerous U.S. churches, including Seattle and Tacoma, Wash., St. Louis, Mo., Chicago, Ill., and the churches in Oregon.

In 1958 Mr. McNair was sent abroad to act as director of the Work in Britain, a post he held for 15 years, until 1973. After the opening of the Bricket Wood campus of Ambassador in 1960, he was named deputy chancellor of the college. During his years in Britain Mr. McNair datelined numerous articles from throughout Europe for the Church's magazines and traveled extensively

around the world, meeting many world leaders. In 1963 he was awarded an M.A. in theology from Ambassador.

Following his return to Pasadena in 1973, Mr. McNair served in vari-



RAYMOND F. MCNAIR

ous capacities, including deputy chancellor of the Pasadena campus, senior editor of *The Plain Truth* magazine (a position he has held since the mid-1960s) and researcher on doctrinal matters.

From September, 1977, to May, 1978, Mr. McNair was posted as senior pastor in the Lake of the Ozarks, Mo., area. He was then called back to Pasadena as Mr. Armstrong's personal assistant. In addition to his post as deputy chancellor of the college, Mr. McNair is co-teaching three college classes.

Mrs. McNair is the former Eve Lombard of Linden, N.J. In addition to his two stepchildren, Mr. McNair has three grown children by a previous marriage. His interests include hunting, fishing, hiking, reading and writing.

Roderick C. Meredith, 48, is the newly named director of Pastoral Administration. The eldest of three children, Dr. Meredith was born in Joplin, Mo., and lived there for the first 19 years of his life. After attending a junior college for one year, he came west to Ambassador in the fall of 1949, serving as student body president during his senior year. Following graduation he pastored the Portland, Ore., church for four months and raised up the Tacoma church in Washington as well as the San Diego, Calif., church. In December, 1952, he was ordained an evangelist by Mr. Armstrong. Soon afterwards he returned to Pasadena to teach classes and attend graduate school. He received an M.A. in



RODERICK C. MEREDITH

theology in June, 1958, and his Th.D. in January, 1967, both from Ambassador.

From 1961 to 1972, Dr. Meredith served as superintendent of the U.S. ministry. He has also served as deputy chancellor of Ambassador College, both at Pasadena (1972) and at Bricket Wood (1973). Subsequently he held the post of dean of the faculty in Pasadena. Until his recent appointment as director of Pastoral Administration, he served as pastor of the Los Angeles church and senior

pastor of the Glendale, Reseda and Bakersfield, Calif., churches. In addition to his other responsibilities, Dr. Meredith has been a *Plain Truth* editor since 1953, holding various positions on that publication as well as on *The Good News* magazine.

Dr. Meredith's wife of 20 years, the former Margie McNair, Mr. (Raymond) McNair's sister, died in June, 1976. He has two sons and two daughters from that marriage. In November, 1977, he married Sheryl Ann Hensley of Bakersfield. The couple are expecting a child later this year.

Dr. Meredith's interests include jogging, climbing, hiking and the study of wines and wine lore. He enjoys reading biographies and autobiographies of great people.

Dibar Apartian, 60, is director of the French Work. Although born in Istanbul, Turkey, of Armenian parentage, he spent most of his life in Switzerland, where he received his education in business administration.

During World War II, Mr. Apartian worked for the American embassy in Switzerland. After the war he was sent to France to help reopen the U.S. embassy in Paris. Following a year's service there, he decided to settle in the United States, where he devoted some years to private tutoring and translation work.

Coming west to California, Mr.



DIBAR APARTIAN

Apartian was hired in 1955 by Mr. Armstrong as a French instructor on the Ambassador College faculty. In 1959 he began taking courses at Ambassador, receiving his M.A. in 1962. He was ordained a preaching elder in the same year.

Mr. Apartian has been the voice of the French broadcast, *Le Monde a Venir*, since 1960, when the program was first heard on a Canadian station and soon afterwards on Radio Luxembourg. He also serves as editor of the French-language *Plain Truth*, *La Pure Verite*.

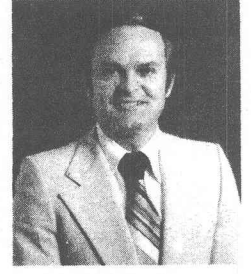
In 1964 Mr. Apartian was raised to pastor rank and two years later to evangelist. In his position as head of the French Work, he has conducted numerous campaigns over the years in Europe, the Caribbean and French-speaking Canada.

Mr. Apartian and his wife, the former Shirley Nash of El Dorado, Ark., have two sons. His interests include reading, writing and climbing.

Dennis Luker, 41, is the recently named assistant director of Pastoral Administration. Born in Union City, Tenn., Mr. Luker received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Delaware in 1959. Thereafter he worked as a mechanical engineer for North American Rockwell in Los Angeles until coming to Ambassador in 1960.

Mr. Luker attended the Pasadena campus from 1960 to 1963, serving as senior class president. Following graduation he was ordained a preaching elder, and served as pastor of the Oakland and Sacramento, Calif., and

Reno, Nev., churches from 1964 to 1965. Ordained to pastor rank, he was district superintendent for Northern California from 1966 to 1967, and held the same position in the Minneapolis, Minn., area from



DENNIS LUKER

1968 to 1969. Coming to Pasadena in 1969, Mr. Luker became assistant to Dr. Meredith, then the superintendent of ministers. In 1972 he was awarded an M.A. in theology.

From August, 1972, until December, 1976, Mr. Luker served as regional director for Australia and Southeast Asia. Afterwards he spent one sabbatical semester at Pasadena, earning a Certificate of the Ministry. He was then reassigned to the U.S. field ministry, serving as senior pastor in the Phoenix, Ariz., area. Concurrent with his recent appointment as assistant director of Pastoral Administration, Mr. Luker has been raised to the rank of evangelist by Mr. Armstrong.

Mrs. Luker is the former Lee Ann Livengood of St. Helens, Ore. The Lukers have one son and one daughter. Mr. Luker lists his interests as sports in general and particularly racketball and basketball.

Leon Walker, 42, is the newly named acting dean of faculty at Ambassador College. Mr. Walker holds both a B.A. (1960) and an M.A. (1970) from Ambassador, Pasadena. From 1959 to 1960, he served on the college faculty as an instructor in Spanish. In 1960 he was sent to the newly opened Bricket Wood campus where, during the next 14 years, he taught such classes as Spanish, International Relations, Old Testament Survey, Epistles of Paul and Intermediate and Advanced Public Speaking.

Ordained a local elder in 1963, Mr. Walker pastored various churches in Britain, including those

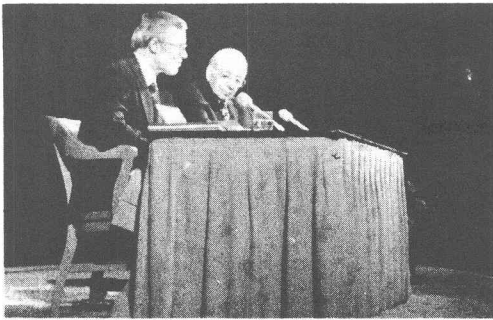


LEON WALKER

of Bristol, Warrington and London. He was elevated to preaching elder in 1964 and to pastor rank in 1967. In addition to his teaching and pastoral responsibilities, he served as dean of students at Bricket Wood from 1972 to 1974.

Transferred to the Big Sandy faculty in 1974, Mr. Walker served as chairman of the Theology Department at that campus. Mr. Walker and his wife, the former Reba Roper of Wilmot, Ark., have three sons and two daughters.





**CONFERENCE SPEAKER** — Roderick C. Meredith, director of the ministry worldwide, shares a ministerial conference session with Herbert Armstrong. [Photo by Dexter Faulkner]

# Mr. Rader's statement to media

PASADENA — Following is a statement to the media by Stanley R. Rader at a press conference in his office in the Hall of Administration Jan. 26.

My purpose here today is to put the events of the last 24 days in their proper perspective and to attempt to correct what I believe to be some basic misconceptions by many of you as to the issues involved in these proceedings, which you have so diligently covered.

In my opinion, based upon my reading of virtually every article and listening to almost every radio and television broadcast, the biggest misconception or error on your part is

your failure to realize that you are viewing the classic and most blatant type of confrontation between church and state, which the First Amendment was expressly designed to prohibit.

To frame the issue as one of simple accountability, as the attorney general has attempted to do, is to misstate it. Mr. [Herbert] Armstrong, myself, and all others working in and for the Church are, of course, accountable to God and, in my case and those of other employees, to Mr. Armstrong. Moreover, we also are accountable to our members in the sense that they are free to examine our conduct for themselves and, based on that examination, continue or cease to donate funds to the Church.

By virtue of our extensive publishing and electronic media activities, our members for years have known of the activities of which the State now complains. That they have continued to donate in ever-increasing amounts is perhaps the most persuasive testimony and expression of their faith and trust in the Church, its Work and its leadership.

Quite frankly, I am amazed that the media, who of all people should be and, at least in your own sphere, are particularly sensitive to and solicitous of First Amendment rights, have failed to realize the grave constitutional significance of the attorney general's actions in this matter. The State, by means of an ex parte proceeding without notice of any kind, through a court-appointed receiver has actually seized a church. Not only does this violate First Amendment rights, but it also violates the Fourth Amendment right to be protected against unreasonable searches and seizures, as well as the constitutional right of privacy. In any context this is intolerable; when dealing with a church it is heinous.

What is the justification for this outrageous conduct, which already has desecrated and irreparably damaged the Church and Mr. Armstrong who has spent 46 years building it? According to the attorney general, Mr. Armstrong and I have been using Church funds for our personal benefit, not by fraud or embezzlement, but simply by allegedly being over-compensated and allegedly incurring exorbitant expenses while traveling on behalf of the Church. The attorney general then says that a receiver is necessary to avoid destruction of the historical evidence of these so-called improprieties. I suggest to you that this justification is preposterous.

Those of you who were at the hearing before Judge [Julius M.] Title saw for yourselves the great lengths the Church goes to document its

transactions. You know that even under the rigorous standards of a TCMP [Taxpayer Compliance Measurement Program] audit, the IRS [The U.S. Internal Revenue Service] has given the Church a clean bill of health. You know that I likewise have been audited and that no changes have been requested by the IRS. You know that there has been an independent appraisal of every property sold by the Church, and that the Church has not been liquidating them for less than fair value. And you know that there has been no destruction of financial records of the Church, and that all of our records are contained in our data processing system and can be produced at any time. I submit to you, ladies and gentlemen, that these records will exonerate those of us who have been accused of improprieties; we want to preserve them, not destroy them.

Perhaps more importantly, however, the State has no right to invade, seize and desecrate the Church because of the alleged improprieties of myself, Mr. Armstrong or anyone else. Can you imagine a receiver taking over General Motors ex parte, without notice, because of alleged antitrust violations? Or taking over Columbia Pictures because of alleged defalcations and other improprieties by its executives? The notion is absurd!

Why, then, take over a church, the last place government should invade? To do so is all the more contemptible when one considers that the State's action was taken on the mere accusations of six dissident former members who, I believe, are attempting to use the attorney general's office as a sword to further their own ends and gain control of the Church.

Ladies and gentlemen, neither Mr. Armstrong nor I have engaged in any improprieties. If the State feels to the contrary, we will be proud and privileged to defend ourselves in the proper forum in civil or criminal actions brought by the appropriate authorities. All that we ask, indeed, demand, is that the State keep its hands off the Church as the Constitution tells it to do.

Because of the financial crunch in the Work the YOU national finals will be postponed. The basketball and cheerleading programs, however, will continue through the regional level. All other programs, including SEP, talent contests and exchange programs, will continue as scheduled.

## Receiver moves office after sit-in

PASADENA — Applause and cries of "Three cheers for Mr. Rader" greeted his announcement Jan. 24 that retired Judge Steven S. Weisman, the court-appointed receiver over the Church, would be vacating the office he occupied on the fourth floor of the Hall of Administration for a "more suitable location," the Data Processing Center.

"I think it [the DPC] is the proper place," said Stanley Rader, treasurer of the Church. "If he's going to be a custodian of the records, that's where the records are."

Mr. Rader termed this an "amicable temporary adjustment" rather than a victory, since the court has not ordered the receivership removed, but he indicated this does put the Church in a more favorable position to monitor the receiver's activities.

Lawyers working for the Church and for the receiver negotiated this as a step in what Mr. Rader said will be "an accommodation, so the receiver, acting as custodian of the records, will be able to carry on, through his auditors, an audit."

He said, "A receiver is, by definition, a neutral party — an independent party. Unfortunately, for the last three weeks he has not been acting that way. Now he will be independent again, he will be neutral. He will keep our records safe. His people will be allowed to perform an audit."

"Now if everything works well he will not ask for things he is not entitled to. He will not invade our privacy. He will not ask things which are privileged. But he will examine those things, and only those things, which he is entitled to. If we have a difference of opinion over a particular area, then we can go back to see the judge."

Mr. Rader's announcement that the receiver was moving out of the Hall of Administration ended a three-day and two-night occupation of the Church's headquarters building. He said the occupation was a major factor in winning the adjustment, but more importantly, it served to unite the brethren in a show of support for the Church and for Herbert Armstrong.

## Attorney lists 18 possible constitutional violations

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — On Monday, Jan. 29, the Church's attorney, Allan Browne, arguing before U.S. District Court Judge Robert Firth, listed 18 ways in which he feels the court order of Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Julius M. Title violates the First Amendment and other federal constitutional rights of the Church. In labeling each point a constitutional violation, Mr. Browne cited numerous federal cases (not included here for lack of space) as authorities.

1. Possession and control of Church.
2. Supervise and monitor business and financial operations and activities of Church.
3. Take over management and control of Church.
4. Hire personnel and pay them out of funds and assets of the Church.
5. Suspend or terminate any employee, officer or agent of Church in his sole discretion.
6. Direct that any [suspended or terminated] officer or employee or agent not be permitted access to the grounds or facilities of the Church.
7. Take possession and control of all books and records of Church and make them available to State.
8. Interfere in Church operations if he determines in his own discretion that it is necessary.
9. Take over any portion of opera-

tion necessary to protect Church.

10. Petition state court to remove Mr. Armstrong or Mr. Rader.

11. Determine spiritual leader's compensation for services and any expenses that are incurred.

12. Conduct audit of the financial and business dealings of Church.

13. Review all allegations of malfeasance and neglect concerning the financial and business affairs of the Church.

14. Take possession and control of funds of Church forthwith and deposit them in a special receiver's account [in his complete discretion].

15. Order Church and members to cooperate with state receiver.

16. State court to resolve any dispute between receiver and Church over whether or not a particular matter is ecclesiastical in nature.

17. State court determines the issue and propriety of whether Mr. Armstrong or Mr. Rader should or could be removed from their positions and functions within the Church.

18. Disclosure to State of all Church documents without notice and denying right to object or assert privileges.

### ANSWER TO 'WHO IS THIS MAN?' FROM PAGE 12

Who is this person who has been such a controversy in God's Work? MOSES! Here is where you can find the proof in your own Bible:

1. Exodus 15:24; 16:2, 7, 8; 17:3; Numbers 11:1; 14:2, 27, 29, 36; 16:11, 41; 17:5; Deuteronomy 1:27
  2. Numbers 16, especially verses 2, 3, 13-14.
  3. Numbers 16:15; Exodus 32:19-24.
  4. Exodus 4:24-26 with Exodus 18:2.
  5. Numbers 12.
  6. Exodus 18:13-26.
  7. Matthew 19:7-8.
  8. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.
  9. Numbers 14 and Numbers 16.
  10. The law provided 1 percent of national income for Aaron. Compare Numbers 18:24, and 21, with verses 20-28. Also note verses 8-19.
  11. Exodus 7:7 with Deuteronomy 34:7.
  12. Moses asked God to appoint a successor whom God then named. See Numbers 27:15-23.
- Now read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, especially verse 11.



**CONFERENCE TRANSLATOR** — Translators simultaneously translate the messages of conference speakers from English to Spanish and French for the benefit of foreign ministers unfamiliar with the English language. [Photo by Henry Sturcke]

## Foreign ministers aided by conference translators

TUCSON, Ariz. — One phrase stressed repeatedly throughout this year's ministerial conference Jan. 22 to 25 was that this is the Worldwide Church of God. Those seated near the rear of the auditorium could hear the voices of Herbert Armstrong, Roderick Meredith and Raymond McNair in front of them, and directly behind hear simultaneous translations into Spanish and French.

Many of the ministers whose mother tongue was one of those two languages listened in on headphones. "These are our ministers; they need to take this back to our congregations," commented Fernando Barria, copastor of the Pasadena Spanish church.

The German ministry is bilingual and listened to the sessions in English, as did ministers from such diverse locations as Tonga and Nigeria.

Pablo Dimakis, a minister from Mexico, and Albert Sousa, a minister from Puerto Rico, shared providing the Spanish translation. Fanny Carion, of the French Department in Pasadena, provided the French.

According to many translators it is easier to go from their acquired language into their native tongue, but Miss Carion, a Belgian native whose mother tongue is French, says that going from English to French is harder, "because it takes more words to say the same thing."

# LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

### ASSORTED ACTIVITIES

The final dance on the former Ambassador College campus in BRICKET WOOD, England, now the Central Electricity Generating Board Center, was held by members Dec. 9. About 650 brethren from churches all over Britain and the Continent gathered to enjoy dancing from 7:30 until midnight.

John Terrett and his crew managed to transform the gymnasium into a suitable carnival atmosphere in only two hours. At 9 p.m. a supper of chicken 'n' chips (french fries), cooked on the former campus courtesy of Cinefoods Ltd., was served, followed by a cabaret. Host David Finlay gave a veteran performance. Many of the acts were golden oldies specially dusted off for a final airing, including a ministerial special, "Hands up, this is an up-stick," featuring burglar Paul Suckling and bank teller Francis Bergin.

At midnight a cascade of balloons and singing of the national anthem ended the festivities on the former campus for the last time. *John D. Stettaford.*

"All agree it was the picnic day of the children's year." So wrote the matron of the Spastic Society of Malvern, near Melbourne, Australia, in a letter to Paul Hasankolli, who organized the picnic that was sponsored by the MELBOURNE South Spokesman and Ladies' clubs at the church's bush campsite. About 20 spastic children and four nurses attended. The club members arrived at the Yarra Glenn campsite early to prepare for the picnic and begin roasting a lamb on a spit, which



**CHILDREN'S PICNIC**—Rod Dean, pastor of the Melbourne (Australia) South church, poses with Debbie, one of the children who enjoyed the club-sponsored picnic for spastic children Dec. 18. (See "Assorted Activities," this page.) [Photo by Paul Hasankolli]

was supervised by outgoing Spokesman Club president Rod Puts.

When the children, ages 9 to 12, arrived at 11 a.m., two club members introduced themselves to each child and continued to act as the hosts for that child throughout the day. After a few lively rounds of kicking the football, some sightseeing and numerous piggyback rides and races, it was time for lunch. Before the children boarded their bus at 3:30 p.m., they were treated to a few songs, concluding with the Australian classic, "The Me Kangaroo Down." *Leon J. Lyell.*

Members of the PORTLAND (Ore.) West church took their first step in a community program called Loaves and Fishes Dec. 29. The program was created in 1969 to serve the elderly hot, nutritious and professionally prepared meals. Those able to be out and about gather daily to eat lunch at one of the 33 meal sites, and homebound people are served their lunches at their homes by the organization's Meals on Wheels program. Margie Greenwald, a Church member, learned of the program and brought it to the attention of Dan Fricke, pastor of the Portland West church. He urged the church's members to become involved in a volunteer work party headed by Betty Hyles and her assistant, Eva Tovey. The members are now scheduled to work every fifth Monday, Wednesday

and Friday of the month. Also on call as drivers in the Meals on Wheels program are members Don Marson and Ed Campbell. *Woody Corsi.*

The English congregation of the MONTREAL, Que., church has completed another series of Bible studies. This six-week, Wednesday-night package featured the Work in South Africa on Nov. 8, with pastor Bill Raby, assisted by Lionel Mooi, showing two films and several slides of the area. The Work in Australia and Southeast Asia was profiled Dec. 20, and the Church's activities in Latin America were discussed Nov. 29 after the brethren viewed films on Chile and Mexico. Two Bible studies, Nov. 22 and Dec. 6, featured a study of the book of Ephesians. *Dominic Vincelli.*

Marie Scott of the RICHMOND, Va., church has been supplying flowers from her own garden for the Sabbath services for the past eight years. At the service Dec. 2 the congregation presented the 88-year-old widow a gold locket in appreciation for her years of service. That evening the Richmond and NORFOLK, Va., churches gathered together for a country-and-western dance. *Piper Ely.*

Members of the CLARKSBURG, W. Va., church had a double treat Dec. 23, first enjoying a potluck supper after the Sabbath service, then gathering at the Masonic Temple for a wedding. A candlelight ceremony with pastor David Johnson officiating united Laura Gail Williamson and Rex Dale Groves Jr. in marriage. James Schuller sang three solos, accompanied by Carolyn Harrison. Maid of honor was the bride's sister, Anna L. Williamson, and best man was Alan Mayton. Following the reception was a church social. Mr. and Mrs. Groves will reside in Clarksburg. *Joyce Batson.*

Ninety-one-year-old Mae McCarthy

joyed 360 brethren from the BALTIMORE, Md., and WASHINGTON, D.C., churches at La Fontaine Bleu in Glen Burnie, Md., Dec. 23. Receiving recognition for their costumes were Cindy Russell, preteen category; Lisa Salyer, teens; Wendy Keener, females; Joe Smith, males; and Dave and Diane Wells, family. *Robert E. Curry.* Seventy people of all ages from the BELLE VERNON, Pa., church met at the Hopwood Manor Lanes Dec. 25 for an enjoyable afternoon bowling party. *Peggy Henry.*

The BROOKLYN-QUEENS, N.Y., church held its annual white-elephant sale and talent show Dec. 25, providing an opportunity for fellowship and a means of raising money for the church's fund. The sale, coordinated by deacon Juan Quinones and his wife Doris, offered used merchandise that was contributed by members at low prices, and the church's women sold an assortment of desserts and other food. The talent show included a singing performance by pastor Leslie Schmedes and a piano medley played by Wendy Pack, wife of associate pastor Bill Pack. A hustle dance competition rounded out the day. Smooth-moving winners were Douglas Wales and Lydia Rivera. Also attending the day's activities was Northeast area coordinator Elbert Atlas. *Richard H. Calenias.*

The first annual winter concert of the CHICAGO (Ill.) Southside church was presented Dec. 17, featuring performances by the chorale, the brass sextet, the band and soloists. Douglas Bragg was musical director, Ivan Lane the choir director and Don Gibson the assistant choir director. *Barbara Williamson.*

Vermont farmer Obadiah Waterbody (Dan Abbott) made a repeat performance Dec. 17 as master of ceremonies of the CLEVELAND (Ohio) West talent hoodown, this time bringing with him his charming wife Emerelda (Marilee Abbott) to join in his humorous patter. The talent production, under the supervision of Alan Pachinger, included piano solos, vocal duets, hula and tap dancing, acrobatic routines, dramatic readings and a barbershop quartet. The last half of the evening was a rousing hoodown with a professional square-dance caller. For a finale a group went all out with a '50s rock-and-roll number. Festivities concluded with a raffle for a stuffed animal and a macramé wall hanging. *La Verne Witting.*

The relatively new church in CUMBERLAND, Md., had its first social Dec. 23, preceded by a sermon by pastor Terry Mattson on unity and teamwork. After the sermon, all enjoyed a potluck meal organized by Jessie Hoppert in a hall decorated by Pat Blubaugh. A fun show was produced and directed by Margie Fratz. Two skits stole the show: Pam Meadows attempted to sing while Arnold Athey attempted a ballet number, and Buzz Raines operated his "enlarging machine" with dubious results. Then Sam Metz conducted a *This Is Your Life* skit in honor of Mr. Mattson and his ordination as preaching elder, and he and his wife were given a cake from the congregation. *Eudale Ashby.*

Young and old brethren of the ERIE, Pa., church enjoyed an "Around the World" social Dec. 23. After the Sabbath service the brethren changed into costumes from various parts of the world and enjoyed a potluck meal featuring foods representative of countries around the world. The children were divided into four groups and visited four rooms decorated to represent Germany, Japan, the Congo and Israel. They learned about each of the areas, played games and made different crafts. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Trickett organized the evening's activities. *Thomas A. Tullis.*

"Showboat" was the theme of the EVANSVILLE, Ind., semiformal social Dec. 23, and children as well as adults enjoyed the family-oriented gathering. A baby-sitting room was provided and parents took shifts supervising the children. Entertainment and music was provided by Clear Light, a local band. A decorated cake made in the form of a showboat was the centerpiece for the refreshment table as well as the door prize. It was won by Rich Kissel and his family. *Wanda Harper.*

Twenty of the more sentimental members of the GODALMING, England, church set off for Working Centre Halls Dec. 16 after the Sabbath service and a quick snack to enjoy a production of



**LOAVES AND FISHES**—Margie Greenwald and Portland (Ore.) West pastor Dan Fricke eat with some of the elderly at the community-sponsored Loaves and Fishes hot-lunch program. The Portland West brethren are volunteering their services to the program on a regular basis. (See "Assorted Activities," this page.) [Photo by Woody Corsi]

Lerner and Lowe's musical, *Gigi*. This was the first such outing for the group. *Chris Houghton.*

The GREELEY, Colo., church had its annual bake contest and auction Dec. 23, accompanied by a potluck meal. Then the brethren enjoyed a square dance, joined by members from the Denver, Colo., Scottsbluff, Neb., and Wyoming churches. The bake auction enriched the church fund. *Mrs. Fred Watson.*

Members of the JACKSONVILLE, Fla., church built and took part in a carnival Dec. 10, featuring gerbil roulette and blackjack in addition to all the usual stalls. Tickets were raffled for a coffee maker, and door prizes of a digital clock and a popcorn popper went to those who collected the most winning tickets at the carnival stalls. The YOU members ran a concession booth offering such refreshments as corn dogs and hamburgers, and cakes and other sweets were for sale at the Country Store. *Kay Russell.*

KENOSHA, Wis., brethren enjoyed a social Dec. 10, playing a round of buncos, auctioning a few articles and watching a Walt Disney nature film. *Mrs. Donato L. Hernandez.*

The LETHBRIDGE, Alta., winter social Dec. 17 at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Mudge at Milk River featured games of hockey on a frozen pond at the base of some coulees, trout ice fishing at the edge of the pond, toboggan and sled riding down the coulee hills, and ice skating after the hockey games. The Mudgetts' trailer home was converted into nursery quarters for the young children, and in a nearby new Quonset hut tables were set up for serving and sales of hay for sitting and a wood stove for snuggling around. The brethren brought containers of chili for the potluck meal. As the day drew to a close, all gathered around the warm fire for a sing-along with guitar and accordion accompaniment. *Jan Peterson.*

White T-shirts, leather jackets, midcalf skirts and bobby socks were everywhere at the rock-and-roll '50s dance sponsored by the MONTREAL (Que.) French brethren Dec. 23. Members of the Montreal English church were also invited to the dance, which was organized by Elise Bellefleur and Gino Ricci. Music for the *Danse des Annees Cinquante* was provided by the Rockin' Reds. *Dominic Vincelli.*

Raggedy Anns and Andys, hoboes and clowns added color and zest to the NANUET, N.Y., church's potluck dinner and costume dance Dec. 16. After a stage parade, prizes were awarded for best children's costumes. Meccin D'Etorre, 3, and Heather Rivera, 4, won for their clown costumes. Sal Cimino, 10, as Raggedy Andy; Eric Roseland, 11, as a hobo; and Matthew D'Etorre, 8, as Batman won the boys' prizes. A surprise visit by clown-costumed Donna Nickel added to the children's delight by handing out lollipops, balloons and party blowers. After judging the mothers and fathers had a chance to dance and socialize. *Lynn Sandland.*

Accompanied by Cliff Marsh and his wife Irena, five members of the NOTTINGHAM, England, YOU chapter went to Leeds Dec. 18 to join in the church's festivities marking its 14th anniversary. The social and dance were or-

ganized by David Hepworth. The teens spent the night at the home of a Leeds elder, then visited the Cusworth Museum near Doncaster the next day. Meanwhile, their parents and other adult members of the Nottingham church enjoyed a social evening at the 400-year-old home of Christine Ackrill, who not only organizes the choir during church services but is also the local church dentist. The 20 adults ended the evening with a sing-along under the leadership of local elder Bob Devine. *Ron McClaren.*

The RESEDA, Calif., members held their third and most successful yard and bake sale at the home of Jim and Nancy Stiles Dec. 3. The morning started early for Lory Schiller and Frances Tabladilla, who planned for the pickup and storage of items at various members' homes. Thanks to good weather, big crowds and enthusiastic sellers, the yard sale provided additional church funds for the coming year. *Cornell Smith.*

The ROANOKE, Va., church choir, the children's choir and members of the YOU chapter provided entertainment for the brethren after the Sabbath service and potluck meal Dec. 9. The choir, under the direction of Mrs. John Lanum, presented "The Times of Your Life," with selections including "Memories," "I Believe in Music" and "To Life!" The children's choir had its own section, singing "It's a Small World" and accompanying the teens in a skit, "The Adventures of the Three Blind Mice." The brethren plan to streamline the show and present it in area nursing homes and hospitals. *Mrs. Joseph Puckett.*

The ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., church advertised its yard sale as having "everything imaginable," and public participation ran extremely high with a steady flow of customers from sunrise to sunset. In preparing for the sale, many of the workers rose as early as 3:30 a.m. A week later, on Dec. 10, the remaining items were sold at the Wagon Wheel Flea Market in Pinellas Park, Fla. *Lavene L. Vorel.*

The SARNIA, Ont., brethren gathered for a potluck meal after the Sabbath service Dec. 23, then some went bowling and others went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Sinclair for games of euchre and cribbage. Keith Stoner, John Vandervies and Martin Vandervies were winners of the round of bowling. *Iva Mae Grimes.*

A potluck meal of international dishes was prepared by ladies of the SMITHS FALLS, Ont., church for their last social of the year Dec. 16. YOU members decorated the hall with posters and flags from around the world, and mood music took those attending to exotic places. The after-dinner entertainment of games and intermittent jokes told by pastor Terry Johnson provided an evening of fun and merriment. *Joan McCaw.*

The SYRACUSE, N.Y., members sponsored a winter social Dec. 9. Several carloads of brethren from the Rochester, Corning and Binghamton, N.Y., churches also joined in for the night's activities of square dancing and movies. During intermission Syracuse local elder Charles Denny was surprised by the brethren with a cake decorated just for the occasion: the anniversary of his baptism 17 years before, on Dec. 9, 1961, in New (See CHURCH NEWS, page 9)

### DECEMBER DOINGS

"Our American Heritage" was the theme of the costume dinner-dance en-



# CHURCH NEWS

(Continued from page 8)  
 York City. John Peterson, master of ceremonies, and Harold Maybury recalled incidents enjoyed since Mr. Denny has been serving in the Syracuse area. *Marlynn Denny.*

Movie night for the **TORONTO** (Ont.) West church Dec. 23 was a smashing success. Excited youngsters watched Walt Disney's *Tale of Two Critters* and *Winnie the Pooh* and were later entertained by Tigger, Eyr and Winnie in costumes. After cookies and popcorn, ministers Tom Ecker and Perc Burrows were presented with Pooh bears for their contributions to the YES program. YES director Trevor Brown and Gail Rawnsley also received bears, with thanks for running the YES program. *Judy Zimmerman.*

The **VANCOUVER** and **SURREY**, B.C., churches combined for their annual sports social Dec. 25. Through the efforts of local elder Lorne Davies, who is inter-collegiate sports director at Simon Fraser University, the whole SFU sports complex is opened to the church once annually. Some of the events included swimming, tennis, racketball, volleyball, basketball, square dancing and disco, chess and checkers. During the stand-up meal, the YES members competed with the free coffee by selling soft drinks to raise money for their program. *Lorna A. Lukinuk.*

**WESTLOCK** and **ATHABASCA**, Alta., brethren have no lack for winter activities. Pastor Greg Johnson keeps the members busy with such activities as family game nights, bake sales and a new activity, square dancing. A professional caller educated everyone in the various steps Dec. 10, untangling many people with two left hands and legs. *Alfred Heitman.*

## CLUB MEETINGS

The Spokesman Club of the **ASHEVILLE**, N.C., church met Dec. 17, with 35 attending. Director Dave Mills has instituted some changes in the format, eliminating the business portion and individual evaluations and having a different president for each meeting who will also act as toastmaster and give the evaluation at the end of the meeting. Mr. Mills says this will allow the club members to progress at a faster rate by allowing time for as many as seven speeches per meeting, because weather conditions in the area restrict the total number of meetings held. Mel Brady was president for the first meeting; Henry St. John conducted the topic session.

The Asheville Women's Club held its first meeting the same day, attended by 34 women. The women discussed their plan to publish a natural-foods cookbook. Sandy Mills is director, and Joyce Stepp was hostess, assisted by Joan Jacques. Betty King was named treasurer and Mrs. Jacques secretary. *Steve Tershany.*

Three tables of home crafts were displayed at the Dec. 11 meeting of the **BRISBANE**, Australia, Ladies' Club. The originators of the crafts, Thelma

Smith, Sylvia Tailier and Barbara Emms, were on hand to answer questions. The meeting was presided over by Martha McQueen. *Olwin Waterman.*

The **CAPE TOWN**, South Africa, Spokesman Club had its final ladies' night Dec. 12 in a suburban hotel. Among those attending were director Bill Whitaker, local elder Peter van der Byl and his wife Pat and pastor Dan Botha. The club president, deacon Walter Bester, chaired the meeting, and Graham Speckmann served as topicmaster. Toastmaster Edward Pelston presented the five speakers; Brian Bergstedt received two trophies for being named most improved and most effective speaker. *Henri Fortuin.*

The home of Bill and Elaine Jacobs and the first snowfall of the season set the scene for the **JONESBORO**, Ark., Ladies' Club annual men's night Dec. 9. The 21 attending dined on pizza, then participated in a spirited round of banquo. Mrs. Jacobs and Ruth Davis claimed the prizes. Animated charades closed the evening of fun and fellowship. *Kathy Holmes.*

The **KENOSHA**, Wis., Women's Club was born Dec. 17, beginning with a luncheon meeting at the home of Sandi Rendall. Twenty-eight women were present to voice their ideas on organization, monthly subjects, fund-raising projects and the purpose of the club. Hostess Donna Baker led the discussion, and cohostess Ann Sorregino organized the luncheon and the houseplant and cutting exchange. *Connie McClure.*

The **MELBOURNE** (Australia) South Spokesman and Ladies' clubs held their annual combined meeting Dec. 9 in the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria. The evening marked the first time that ladies of the Melbourne church have graduated and received certificates of merit. After speeches by members of both clubs, the members presented director Rod Dean a silver pen-and-pencil set and gave his wife Vicky a bouquet of flowers. The meeting concluded after Mr. Dean announced the new officers for 1979. *Val Wheelton.*

The Graduate Club of the **NANUET**, N.Y., church held its inaugural meeting on the last day of 1978, a breakfast meeting with wives as guests. After opening remarks by director Lloyd Briggie, chairman Dave Sandland explained club goals and procedures and members participated in a 30-minute topic session. Three members presented speeches on the mental, emotional and spiritual maturity, and each speech was followed by a question-and-answer period that proved just as challenging to the speaker as giving the speech. The theme for the next meeting is "Family." *Lynn Sandland.*

The 1841 Restaurant in Guildford was the venue for the **PERTH** (Australia) South Spokesman Club's Ladies' night Dec. 9. Director Lloyd Longley brought the club to order, then the business portion of the meeting consisted of everyone acquiring sufficient food from the smorgasbord to last during the topic session. A humorous, fast-moving 30 minutes of discussion was led by John Lindsay, and toastmaster Jeff Keen spotlighted the five speakers. John McDonald's heckle speech, "How Men Should Treat Their Women," earned the most-effective cup,

and Jeff Hunter's "Family Life — Be in It" the most-improved. President Ted Ots reminisced on some of the high points of the club year. Graduation certificates were presented to John Bekker, Chris Carpenter, Ian Darke, Byron Mason, Steward O'Neill, Paul Sheppard and Aub Warren. Officers for 1979 are Mr. Lindsay, president; Mr. Darke, vice president; Mr. Carpenter, secretary; Pat Minehan, treasurer; and Mr. Warren, sergeant at arms. *Ted Ots.*

Ladies' night for members of the **RICHMOND**, Va., Spokesman Club was Dec. 9 at the Fiddler's Green Restaurant. Cocktails and a buffet dinner preceded four entertaining speeches. Pastor and director Ken Giese concluded the meeting with his evaluation. *Piper Ely.*

Sociologist Lynn Tribbling's talk on "Being a Success" attracted about 100 **TORONTO**, Ont., brethren to the churches' combined East-West club meeting in Toronto Dec. 17. Miss Tribbling, who has spoken to members on various occasions, is founder of the Rational Living Center in Toronto and teaches courses on assertiveness training and communication and helps singles and divorced women to deal with their problems. *Carola Finch.*

## SENIOR ACTIVITIES

The Silver Ambassadors of the **BIG SANDY**, Tex., church met on the former Ambassador College campus Dec. 17 to take part in a fund-raising project, stuffing envelopes for a Big Sandy business firm. Faye Curwille headed the refreshment committee, which served a buffet lunch. Club members completed their work at 3 p.m., leaving the treasury \$240 richer for future activities because of their effort. *Lela Fisk.*

## SINGLES SCENE

Braving a winter ice storm, seven members of the **EVANSVILLE**, Ind., singles group gathered after the Sabbath service Dec. 9 at the apartment of Bob and Dorothy Webb for their first activity, a chili dinner. Arnold Leaf presented a slide show, and the group enjoyed Bible games and fellowship. Mr. Webb conducted a planning session, with the group discussing activities for the singles in the area. Also attending were Robin Ambrose, Ken Carter, Bonnie Coultas, Stan Duncan, George Haydn and Charlene Talbert. *Dorothy Webb.*

More than 90 people from Minnesota, North Dakota, California, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta met in Canada's Gateway to the West in **WINNIPEG**, Man., Dec. 23 through 25. The event was a singles' bash, which included two back-to-back nights of dancing and a talent show on Saturday night. The wide variety of music provided a balanced program for singles 18 to 80. The singles bravely below-zero temperatures Dec. 24 for a chilly toboggan slide, later warming up with hot pizza and a dance. Before beginning the long trek home, the singles enjoyed a hot chicken dinner at noon Dec. 25 and solidified friendships. *Murray Murray.*

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The young people of the **MELBOURNE**, Australia, churches enjoyed another summer camp at Reefton, 50 miles out of Melbourne, Dec. 23 through 26. About 55 attended, including several guests from Queensland and ex-Melbournite Sylvia Root and her young son, Daniel, who were visiting from West Germany. This year's camp included the many activities Reefton is famous for: kayaking, archery, volleyball, lots of snaying and late conversation-filled nights, films, a dance night and the "Reefton Olympics." A new addition to the program was the daily lecture by Rod Dean, pastor of Melbourne South, dealing with male-female relationships from courting through to marriage. *Leon J. Lyell.*

An expedition to Johnson Cave was on tap for young people from the **DICKSON**, Tenn., church Dec. 25. The group had gained experience in rock-climbing techniques during several previous outings. After hiking, climbing and crawling through more than one-half mile of Johnson Cave, the spelunkers came upon a 40-foot drop, rigged the drop with ropes and rappelled to the floor of the room. Then they continued on for another 200 yards, crawling on their stomachs, and finally emerged on a ledge overlooking an 80-foot drop to the floor of another chamber. But since both ropes had been used to rig the first drop and time was running out, the cave explorers reluctantly retraced their steps, emerging from the cave into the late afternoon sun after having spent more than eight hours underground. *Mike Syer.*

The action was nonstop and the music ranged from disco to slow waltzes as a dozen-less-one **YOU** teens of **MONTREAL** (Que.) French church made it through the anticipated 11 hours of their dance-athon Jan. 1. Each teen had received pledges from adult members of the congregation to raise funds to finance a swim meet scheduled for February in Toronto. The officiating proved to be top-notch, as judges scrutinized their juniors constantly. One judge, though unsponsored, put in a solid 7½ hours of dancing. By 10 p.m. Cathryn Chappelle, Kathy Nemeth and Kenny Brown had placed first, second and third in the grueling competition, one based on form and variations in addition to endurance. Disc jockeys for the happening were Claudius Brown Jr. and Sammy Bocchicchio. *Dominic Vincelli.*

Twenty pizzas disappeared Dec. 24; suspects are members of the **BATON ROUGE** and **LAFAYETTE**, La., **YOU** chapters. First stop on the day's agenda for the teens was the House of Wheels, where the teens spent two hours roller skating. Then they moved on to the home of Robert Albarado for a light lunch (that's where the pizzas disappeared). Director Dennis Hoglem organized a game of charades, then dancing took over. A late-afternoon **YOU** business meeting was called to plan activities for 1979, with special projects being a visit to a children's ward at a hospital and distributing *Plain Truth* magazines. Officers are Wray Zehrung, president; Laurinda Clement, vice president; and Tracie Clement, secretary. *Tracie Clement.*

Some 70 teens from the **NASHVILLE**, **COOKEVILLE** and **MURFREESBORO**, Tenn., churches met together at Lebanon (Tenn.) State Park Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for a weekend of fun and learning. Dances were held both evenings. Ten adults were chaperons, including Darris McNeely, pastor of the Murfreesboro and Cookeville churches, and Fred Bailey, associate pastor of the Nashville church. The teens enjoyed basketball, football and volleyball games and heard speeches by six **YOU** members who attended the **YOU** conference in Pasadena. *Everett Corbin.*

Forty-seven teens of the **LANSING** and **FLINT**, Mich., **YOU** chapters went to the Starcade-Arcade Dec. 25, which is owned by coordinator Jerome Bischoff of the Detroit (Mich.) East church. The teens rounded out the day with a potluck meal and a Bible study at the home of pastor Nelson Haas. *Janie Mendez.*

The **COLUMBUS**, Miss., **YOU** members sponsored a roller-skating party at the Roller Palace in Columbus on Dec. 9, their first activity as a **YOU** chapter. The fun was shared with the **YOU** members from Tupelo, Miss. *Brenda Johnson.*

Eighteen girls between 6 and 11, eight mothers and five "extras" from the



**FAREWELL** — Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Longley of the Perth, Australia, church were honored at a farewell social-dance by the brethren Dec. 16. After serving for many years in the Perth area, Mr. Longley has been assigned to copastor the Bunbury church, 100 miles south of Perth, and is now in residence there. The members presented the Longleys a silver coffee service and tray as a farewell gift.

**TAMPA**, Fla., church packed a picnic lunch and headed for Sea World in Orlando, Fla., on Dec. 20. Leading the group was Mary Quade, coordinator, and seven other mothers, including Mrs. Ron Lohr, wife of the church's pastor. The group of girls earned the money for the trip, with the help of their mothers, through a yard sale last summer and a bake sale in the fall. *Mary Quade and Jim Blount.*

**YOU** Day at the **DETROIT** (Mich.) East church was Dec. 30, featuring reports on the **YOU** conference in Pasadena by Sandy Pencyl and Tony Campo. Mark C. McDonald was song leader, and John Preziawski and Bobby Wilmoth Jr. gave the opening and closing prayers. Kirsten Friebe and Fran Gornick sang "A Better World to Live In" for special music. Luke Preziawski made the announcements. *Johnie O. Smith.*

## SPORTS

Members from four church areas rolled into **WASHINGTON**, D.C., Dec. 17 to do battle in the second Washington double-elimination invitational bowling tournament. Nine teams from the Baltimore and Hagerstown, Md., Norfolk, Va., Philadelphia, Pa., and Washington churches participated.

The championship game in the women's division was a barn burner between Baltimore and Washington. The Washington women pulled ahead in the 10th game of the frantic nip-and-tuck battle to eke out the win by a narrow margin of 6 pins, winning the first-place trophy for the second straight year.

A much-improved Baltimore team defeated the Washington team to capture first place in the men's division. Though the Philadelphia team had a spectacular first-round victory, the men could not sustain their initial charge.

High-game award for the women went to Ann Marie Dwyer of Baltimore for her 199 game, and Dale Carlen of Philadelphia was winner in the men's division with his 223 game. *Linda Curt.*

Basketball players ages 3 to more than 40 from the **ANDERSON** and **INDIANAPOLIS**, Ind., churches got together Saturday evening, Dec. 30, for a round of basketball. As the games progressed the fans could easily detect those who were nearer to 40 by the red faces and shortness of breath. The first game was for boys 6 to 12 years old, but the rules were bent and some players were as young as 3 and as old as 16.

The men's game was close all the way, but Indianapolis prevailed, winning 70-60. Top scorer of the match was Anderson's Cosden Poland with 27 points. Good rebounding was provided by Bob Benbow of Anderson and Vernon Hargrove, pastor of the Indianapolis church. *Donna Foland.*



**LAST DANCE** — Members from the British churches enjoy their final dance in the gymnasium of the former Ambassador College campus in Bricket Wood, England. (See "Assorted Activities," page 12.) [Photo by Philip Stevens]



# Artist's pen leaves its mark on Church

**By Klaus Rothe**  
**PASADENA** — Basil Wolverton is a name many will always associate with erupting volcanoes, heaving earthquakes, collapsing skyscrapers and violent landscapes littered with pain-wracked bodies covered in boils from head to toe as the world writhes in incredible agony in the prophesied end time.

Some called his artwork nightmarish, others claimed the gruesome graphics grabbed them. In any case, it was this man's illustrated theology that introduced thousands of people to the then Radio Church of God as they wrote for such publications as *1975 in Prophecy* and *The Bible Story*.

Attention-getting artwork accompanied by hard-to-beat writing will not soon be forgotten by the many fans of this remarkable man who died Dec. 31 after 69 fruitful years that left behind a considerable mark on this Church and the country's art-and-humor field.

### Spaghetti and meatball

Not everyone was impressed by Mr. Wolverton's artwork, and he knew it. Identified by *Life* magazine as an example of the spaghetti-and-meatball school of design, author-artist Wolverton was fond of intricate, time-consuming pen-and-ink techniques, which are yet to be successfully duplicated.

"You make all those little lines to cover up your lack of ability," a newspaper-panel cartoonist once told him.

"I was dazed," said Mr. Wolverton. "I had always hoped that viewers would regard it as shading and didn't think that even another cartoonist would get wise to the awful truth."

People either enjoyed his work or they disliked it. There was little middle ground.

Besides writing and illustrating *The Bible Story*, the Spokesman Club manual and various booklets, Mr. Wolverton's zanier characters and humor have appeared in more than 60 national magazines since he started selling his work in 1926.

His first major comic strip was a fantasy science-fiction interplanetary crime-fighting superhero named Spacehawk. Others followed including Meteor Martin, Rockman and a host of grotesque villains who threatened both the reader and the universe.

In 1938 Mr. Wolverton, who termed himself a "producer of preposterous pictures of peculiar people who prowl this perplexing planet," turned his talents to humor and created an array of unbelievable characters that included Dr. Dimwit and his assistant Doc Rockblock, Dr. Whackyhack, the Whacky Quak (Mr. Wolverton had a hard spot in his heart for doctors) and a host of single-page gag cartoons.

While his science-fiction features could be compared with efforts of other artists, his humor features were completely unlike those of anyone else. Outstanding in this field was Powerhouse Pepper, Mr. Wolverton's most popular humor feature.

Powerhouse Pepper was a comic superhero possessing great strength and speed but little brains. Nonetheless, Powerhouse's heart was in the right place as he spoke in outrageously zany rhymes and alliterations.

When Powerhouse is rejected from Army service because no helmet would fit, Pepper asks the Army doctor, "You mean I'm in, doc, old sock?"

Doctor: "No, you're out, sprout."  
 Pepper: "Isn't my bean clean?"  
 Doctor: "It's too lean, if you know what I mean. See? A helmet teeters down over your cheaters, and there's no way to clap a strap under your map."

Pepper: "Fap. I must look like a sap."

It went on continuously in all Powerhouse stories and eventually became the trademark for the entire Wolvertonian zoo of characters such as Scoop Scuttle, Mystic Moot and his Matic Snott and Inspector Hector and the Crime Detector.

In a feature called "Culture Corner" the reader who slurps soup is warned that he is "the type that's ripe for a swipe in the pipe."

"Flash me your cash, or I'll get rash and bash you into hash," growls arctic thief Caesar Freezerbreazer. "No more racing or cow chasing, or you'll be facing a disgracing lacing," says an Air Force officer to

he did. "Some of them are plotless, out of focus and poorly cast."

Mr. Wolverton didn't start out as a cartoonist; one of his earliest jobs was a performer in vaudeville. "I was booked nights at various theaters in Oregon and Washington, thereby hastening vaudeville's death," he said.

In 1946 Mr. Wolverton made news when *Life* magazine chose his

Flap Flipflop the Flying Flash. As for alliteration, try this one: "Mind mumbling a message to the mob, mister?" a radio announcer asks Powerhouse Pepper, who had a safe dropped on his head. "Don't dump debris on a duffer's dome. It's deplorable, disastrous and disgusting. Besides, it digs dents in his derma," replies Pepper.

Mr. Wolverton found it impossible to resist the temptation to construct alliterations with his own name. Sometimes he would sign his name to a strip "Basil Bugbrain (or Wetwit, Wartwit, Westwit) Wolverton."

Then editor of *The Good News* magazine, Brian Knowles would mail many a memo addressed to Basil Wolvertoon, Basil Wolvertone, Mr. Wolverine, Mr. Wesil Bolverson or Mr. Basil Wolvorton (mountain?) among others.

In one memo between the Pasadena editor and the Vancouver, Wash., artist's home, Mr. Knowles informed him if he ever changed his name he would be a Were-Wolverton.

### Floop, skworp, koyp

Leave it to Mr. Wolverton to research into the acoustics of comics. "I looked furtively about as a preposterous plan permeated my pate," he wrote in 1948 as he set out to catalog hundreds of sound words to last a lifetime of cartooning. Among his findings:

Glass eye falling into tomato soup: Floop.

Car crashing into large vat of frog eggs: Skworp.

Man dragging toenails over No. 2 grade sandpaper: Skarp.

Sock in face with Sears and Roebuck catalog: Pwosh.

Sock in face with Montgomery Ward catalog: Pwash.

Woodpecker hammering on human head: Dud-dud-dud-dud.

Skin pore snapping shut on contact with cold air: Koyp.

### Bad dreams

Because of Mr. Wolverton's preoccupation with ghastly humorous cartoons, he was often asked if he had bad dreams. His reply was that

he did. "Some of them are plotless, out of focus and poorly cast."

Mr. Wolverton didn't start out as a cartoonist; one of his earliest jobs was a performer in vaudeville. "I was booked nights at various theaters in Oregon and Washington, thereby hastening vaudeville's death," he said.

In 1946 Mr. Wolverton made news when *Life* magazine chose his

shot in the liver," he said.

### "The Bible Story"

It was in the late '50s that he began a massive project of paraphrasing the Bible for the Church. Many of the elements of comic-book style were sublimated and incorporated into a



version of the world's ugliest woman, Lena the Hyena, a hideous caricature that defies description.

*Mad* magazine was a natural outlet for the Wolverton style.

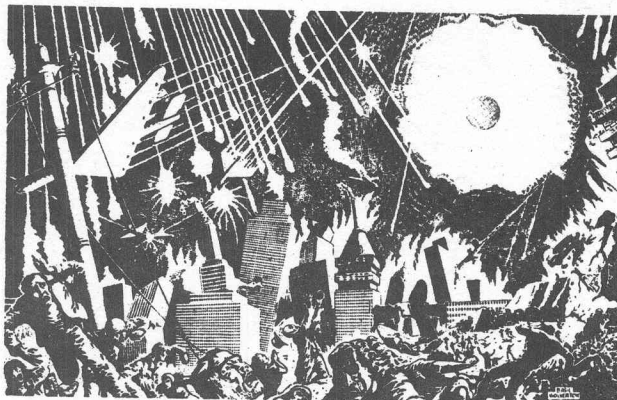
He considered his best satire, such as the September, 1970, feature entitled "Sports Cars We'd Like to See," to have appeared in *Mad*.

"Haying material published in *Mad* has always been like getting a

style more appropriate to book illustration.

Herbert W. Armstrong lauded the project, which first began appearing serially in the November, 1958, *Plain Truth* magazine. During the 1960s the series was printed in book form, prompting Mr. Armstrong to say: "This book is not merely written for children. We like to say it is for

(See ARTIST, page 11)



**CHURCH PUBLICATIONS** — Basil Wolverton is probably best known among Worldwide Church of God members for his artwork in several Church publications depicting the calamitous



ous prophecies to be fulfilled in the end time, left, and *The Bible Story*, a six-volume series describing Old Testament stories such as Noah and the Flood, center and right.







# NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

PASADENA — Following a week-long trip to New York and Washington, Church treasurer Stanley R. Rader announced in a press conference Feb. 2 that the Church has garnered support from "every other major church group of the United States" in its court battle with the state of California to vacate receivership.

According to Mr. Rader the multid denominational group, Americans for Separation of Church and State, has already filed a court brief in protest of the State's actions. Other churches are actively preparing their briefs, but Mr. Rader declined to name specific churches involved until such time as their briefs are filed.

Mr. Rader said he was voicing the feeling of all the groups involved when he said that, because the State's

actions were so gross and reprehensible, "there is little chance that a court will not reverse and soon."

☆☆☆

BURLEIGH HEADS, Australia — Saw Lay Beh, pastor in Burma, thanks all those who have donated their efforts to send clothing to the Burmese brethren.

However, when clothing is sent, an enormous duty is attached, and Mr. Saw is unable to pay for it, according to Chris Hunting of the Australian office here.

Mr. Saw requests that no clothing be forwarded to Burma or, for that matter, any goods or money as the customs duty is prohibitive.

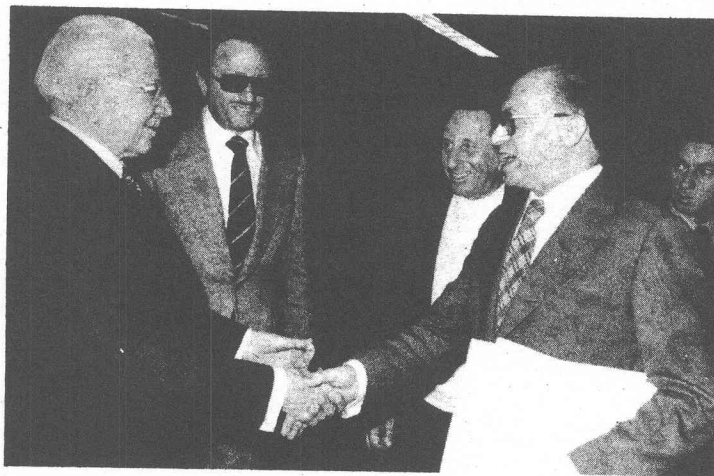
Mr. Hunting said that when a minister visits Rangoon, Burma, a small amount is taken in as gift items with no difficulty.

## WHO IS THIS MAN?

By L. Leroy Neff

There has been a leader in God's Work who has prompted a host of criticism and comments. Who is he?

1. Some people continually complained about how he ran the Work.
  2. Some claimed that he took too much on himself and that he exalted himself, even to making himself sort of a "prince," and that he was inaccessible and didn't keep his word.
  3. He is reported to have a bad temper and on occasion to really become angry.
  4. At times he didn't have his family under control.
  5. His marital situation came under criticism by even some of his own relatives.
  6. At first he seemed to do most of the work by himself, but in due time he initiated a pyramid-type organization in God's Work.
  7. This leader was frequently coming out with some new doctrine or truth not known or understood in the same way previously. On one occasion he made a major change in the doctrine of "divorce and remarriage" from what it previously had been.
  8. He wrote several books on theological or spiritual subjects, which were widely distributed.
  9. Conditions got so bad on at least two occasions that there was a major movement by other leaders in the Work to get rid of him and his principal assistant. These tries failed.
  10. His principal assistant had a fabulous income and probably had more income and assets than he had.
  11. Some of his greatest achievements came after he was 80 years old.
  12. He would not name his own successor, which undoubtedly caused some people to become upset.
- Who is he? For the surprising answer turn to page 7.



**PRIME MINISTER** — Herbert W. Armstrong and Stanley R. Rader meet Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin in the Israeli Knesset building during their six-day stay in Jerusalem in December, 1978. Because of a delay in the planned meeting with Mr. Begin, members of *The World Tomorrow* television crew were not on hand to record the meeting, and as a result it was not included in our photo coverage of the trip in the Jan. 1 *Worldwide News*. (Photo by Eliahu Harati)



**MEETING MINISTERS** — Herbert W. Armstrong and his wife Ramona meet Worldwide Church of God ministers from various foreign countries at the ministerial conference, right, and pose with them for a group photograph, above. Ministers from many countries, including Australia, Canada, Great Britain, South Africa, New Zealand, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, the Philippines, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and Tonga made the trip to Tucson for the four-day conference. For some, it was their first trip away from their home country. [Photos by Dexter Faulkner]



## Conference switch tests flexibility

TUCSON, Ariz. — This year's ministerial conference, scheduled to open in Pasadena Jan. 22, was switched to Tucson, creating a test of flexibility and resourcefulness for hundreds of field ministers scheduled to attend. Travel bookings had to be reworked, sight-seeing canceled and baby-sitting plans altered. The ministers, however, upon arriving here found the workings of a smoothly functioning conference already in gear.

According to Ted Herlofson of Ministerial Services, it involved "a whole series of minor miracles." Much of the preparation was done by the Festival Office, otherwise known as the Worldwide Convention Service, in Pasadena. "They got here a

day or two ahead," said Mr. Herlofson. "We got in and it was here."

Sherwin McMichael, director of the Festival Office, said, "If it weren't for the fact that Tucson has been a successful Feast city, we could never have prepared housing, transportation and meal arrangements for 1,000 people — during the peak convention season."

Mr. McMichael stressed the close association over the years with the Tucson Convention Bureau and ways in which their cooperation, expertise and influence made it possible.

### Three working days left

Mr. McMichael received a call in Texas notifying him of the change Jan. 16, three working days before the start of the conference.

He immediately left for Tucson and began to work on the arrangements. As Budde Marino (public relations director of the Worldwide Convention Service) commented, "Physically, it was like organizing three separate conferences, since we had to use three separate auditoriums. Parking, transportation and other arrangements change every time you change halls."

The first two days, Jan. 22 and 23, the ministry met in the Music Hall of the Tucson Community Center. According to Mr. Marino, there were only two sets of dates available there through May, and this two-day sequence was one.

On Wednesday, the conference moved to the auditorium of the University of Arizona. As Mr. McMichael commented, "If it had not been for the convention bureau, we could not have had the University auditorium."

On Thursday, the final day of the conference, the meetings were held back in the Community Center, this time in the Arena, home court of the Tucson Bullets, a professional basketball team (in the middle of their season).

The convention bureau, according to Mr. McMichael, "has worked us in around a tight schedule of basketball games, stage plays, hockey

games, even another convention. They just would not have done it for anyone else."

### Housing a problem

Housing was also a big concern. In Pasadena many ministers are lodged in members' homes during conferences, but here ministers outnumbered the Tucson congregation. The alternative: hotels. The Marriott, at the Community Center complex, was nearly full, making it necessary to use other hotels and motels at a greater distance. Commented Mr. McMichael, "It was tougher to negotiate than for the Feast" (traditionally in the off-season).

The use of scattered housing complicated transportation. The solution was to line up vans to organize a shuttle service. According to Mr. Marino, it took Ray Wooten (pastor of the Dallas [Tex.] North church) all three working days to line up enough vans. At one car-rental agency, the manager said he never has as many as four vans on his lot at one time. Then the University turned in four. Someone from Phoenix, Ariz., called asking for all the vans just as Mr. Wooten walked in and rented them.

According to various members of the Feast Office team, these "chance" circumstances continued to come up. As a result of these, the experience of the team in the Festival Office and the cooperation of the city of Tucson, ministers arrived from around the world and found that in less than a week, the equivalent of months of planning and preparation had been accomplished to help assure a successful conference.

The YOU office is now accepting SEP employment applications. Those who wish to apply may request an application by writing or calling the YOU office. All applications must be returned by Feb. 28. Write: YOU, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91123.