Outsider's *Inside* Update™
Newsletters of Understanding

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." ~Ephesians 5:11

Within two years the Worldwide Church of God (founded by Herbert W. Armstrong) divided its multi-million dollar corporate empire, leaving a myriad of splinter groups and walking wounded in its wake. What caused this highly publicized, destructive group to divide and conquer certain counter-cult apologists? Why have they joined with the ecumenical movement? **There are reasons behind the events**.

Doctrine has been exploited as a massive propaganda tool by the WCG (GCI), which in turn provides gross distraction to what is actually occurring within the organization and has been used as a way to elicit control and obtain specific behavior from spiritually minded individuals that have paid extreme amounts of money into the organization.

The OIUs look behind the scenes at the real activities and associations pertaining to the "transformation" of the WCG and their New Age agenda.

OIU Newsletters™ FIVE and SIX are detailed reports surrounding the Ecumenical Movement (EC) and the current EC strategy involving the Worldwide Church of God conglomerate. Those interested in researching the "reasons behind the events" and activities of the Worldwide Church of God and its extension groups; i. e., United Church of God, Global Church of God (today the Living Church of God), Philadelphia Church of God, Restored Church of God and other splinters, will find these two Volumes helpful, thought-inspiring and possibly shocking.

These OIUs were written by ESN founder, L. A. Stuhlman and originally snail-mailed to those who requested them. They consist of 184+ pages. A partial linked table of contents is now listed on each volume's first page to make it easier to find info and to know much of what the newsletter contains. A few updates and notes have been inserted in brackets since 2000, plus removal and/or updating of some of the external links.

The OIUs also contain letters received from former members at that time.

NOTE: Please realize that the word "cult" (which was common when these newsletters were written) is used in the context of a totalitarian, deceitful, abusive, and mind-manipulating organization which has caused spiritual, emotional, and psychological harm to those involved.

UPDATE: In April 2009 WCG changed their name to **Grace Communion International** in the United States. (Some local church areas and countries may still carry the former name or a different one.) Church Multiplication Ministries is a ministry of GCI.

Related Material:

Research & Exposé on Worldwide Church of God (Grace Communion International)
Twenty-Five Rules of Disinformation (Includes Eight Traits of A Disinformationalist)
PDF books on Worldwide Church of God & Herbert W. Armstrong

(Strategies that were implemented; Why a different story was told to outsiders than was taking place inside; Issues regarding psychological and emotional effects; Letters; and much more)

VOLUME TWO(Education as the key to recovery; The great diversion and distraction; The hidden agenda; Myths about cults; The plot was planned; Global Church of God; Power and money; Letters; and much more)

VOLUME THREE (A list of ministers disfellowshipped and ministerial exits; Was there a choice? United Church of God; David Hulme; Divide and conquer; Where did all this change come from? Stories submitted; and much more)

VOLUME FOUR (Info on propaganda and dialectical materialism; Cognitive dissonance; The "historic" Tkachian thought reform program; The pseudo numbers game; The selling of assets and loss of members; Fear; Divide and conquer; The flock scatters; In Transition; Ronald L. Dart; Friends of the Sabbath; and much more)

VOLUME FIVE (Transformed by lies or transformed by truth? Ecumenical movement; The goal of one world religion; Communism is the result [HWA studied Communism; his own words]; The private letters of HWA and Loma Armstrong;; Dignitaries, Leaders share loss of pastor general; Listing of books, ministries; and much more)

VOLUME SIX (The New Age evangelicals hop the bandwagon and "profitize"; Greg Albrecht attends Azusa Pacific University in 1977; The ecumenical web woven by the deceivers; Tkach and Albrecht become partners with ecumenical collaborators; WCG goes public with new agenda; Pasadena's occult history; letters; and much more)

OIU Mission:

- State the facts
- Report the true history of the WCG and counter the refashioned lie
- Provide information that propels questions and critical thinking
- Report the reasons behind the events
- Foster accountability of behalf of those posturing as religious ministers or church organizations

OIU Volume One

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

Volume ONE ... a newsletter of understanding ... Fall `94

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VOLUME ONE contents:

•As the Whirlwide Turns™, Part One:

(current events and strategies that have been implemented by the WCG in efforts to de-cult the look of the WCG and answers to why it is happening)

•So What's it All About?

(Why a different story was told to the outside than what was truly taking place inside the church)

•What makes a cult a cult?

•The CRI story (Christian Research Institute)

•Network Affiliates from Afar (letters)

•Therapeutically Speaking

(issues regarding psychological and emotional effects from cults)

•News To You

•Waterhouse Alert!

•A Church in Decline?

•From Our Mailbag

NETWORK NEWS

The past six months have been anything but quiet. The WCG Exit & Support Network™ has been feverishly

committed to aiding the victims of the WCG on a full-time basis. Many readers were direct recipients of the help and support the Network provided. What's keeping us so busy?

- 314 mailings, many were complete exit packages.
- An average of six phone calls daily.
- Attendance at five significant conferences.
- Ex-member out-reach.
- International networking.
- Compiling data regarding WCG, other cults, and therapeutic cult issues.
- Coordination of affiliates in Canada and Australia.
- Organizing COP-AID (Coalition of People Against Intentional Deception)
- Extensive research on WCG history, current events and future agenda.
- Awareness Campaign: counteracting duplicity; manipulation; and gross deception in the WCG as well as in Christian cult watching community regarding the WCG.

Space will not allow a full report on the above; however, readers who wish to be more informed with the current events are invited to contact the Network.

The need for the Network has proven itself time and time again. There are over 3,000 cults in the U.S. alone, more than 600 of them are Bible-based. Recent statistics given at the 1994 Evangelical Ministries for New Religions (EMNR), counter-cult conference, estimated twenty million people involved with cults in some capacity in the U.S. alone. Their tactics may differ, but their agenda is the same. The Bible-based cults hide under the Constitution, rip off with tax-benefits, violate human rights and strip the FREEDOM from every recruit. Under the heading of religion, the goal of power and money is achieved through MIND CONTROL (brainwashing /hypnosis), coercion, manipulation, reverse psychology tactics, exploitation, control, fear, and abuse in every form. This violation and abuse of Human Rights is allowed in our permissive society while the passive populace does nothing. The cults of today are BIG business. Religion, unfortunately, serves as a safe umbrella and vehicle toward attainment of deceitful goals while God searching, well-meaning vulnerable people get manipulated by the money-hungry sharks.

Upcoming issues of the OIU will detail some of the debilitating effects of cult involvement. As many well know, the healing process can take years. Others may be haunted by cult after-effects throughout their lives.

It is naïve to think that the "cults" are going to "go away." They are here to stay and are growing by leaps and bounds while they employ the most sophisticated techniques and maneuvers available to further their agenda. Education is the only key to surviving this wicked phenomenon. Those who have been victimized and psychologically tortured by cults such as the WCG, stand as the most credible witnesses. Awareness and warning the public is the only hope of rerouting the next likely candidates from buying into the FREE LITERATURE, which in turn, for many, cost their entire lives.

As the Network strives to help those questioning or exiting while it maintains an awareness outreach, it is hoped that all who are able, participate in the endeavor of making the Network... work. As many will attest, the most therapeutic thing one can do is to help the next victim. The Network is for the WCG victim! At present, the Network has two affiliates, one in Canada, the other in Australia--and many are needed in the U.S. alone.

As The Whirlwide Turns™... Part One: A New Axis??

Those watching the turn of events within the WCG throughout the past several years have been witness to what many term an explicit, well-orchestrated propaganda campaign involving multiple uses of Mind Control and manipulation of business strategies. The cry of, "What is going on?!" has permeated the media, secular and Christian cult watchers, affiliated outsiders, and most importantly, the membership. The Adventism theme of Prophecy and Apocalypse NOW certainly is not the diet for the Council of Churches, but as the Evangelicals, Catholics and some New Age sects can attest to, the Trinitarian card is.

This several part series, As The Whirlwide Turns, will update readers on the current events and strategies that

have been implemented by the WCG in efforts to **de-cult the look of the WCG to gear up for big business in the '90's and the new millennium.** Analyzing the current trends objectively renders much difficulty for most onlookers. Many aspects must be considered through research and understanding:

- Comprehensive history of Herbert W. Armstrong, prior to the Radio Church of God
- HWA's affiliation with other religious denominations, organizations and pertinent individuals who influenced the thinking of HWA and enhanced the overall agenda of the WCG
- The inception of the Radio Church of God in Oregon
- The Anglo Saxon--British-Israelism--Lost Ten Tribes movement (Identity Movement), which was the substructure and foundation for Armstrongism throughout the decades
- The growth and development of the church throughout the 1940s and 1950s
- The doctrinal messages and Gospel: "One World Government/Kingdom"
- The introduction of Stanley Rader and Ralph Helge in the late 1950s around the same era as the sudden death of Richard Armstrong due to shock because of neglect of medical assistance following a car accident.
- The intense growth of the 1960s
- The multitude of HWA international trips visiting distinguished dignitaries, with his chief advisor Stanley Rader
- The massive building construction paid by the membership
- The Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF) and the Ambassador Auditorium (God's House turned big business)
- The entire story of the 1970s: Garner Ted, major doctrinal disputes, ministerial defections from party line, membership rebellion, Christian cult watchers scrutiny on the church, international exposure on alleged frauds, sexual improprieties, gross opulence and fund misapplication, and deceptions
- The court battles and receivership story
- The reasons behind the freeing of the receivership What the Human Potential/QUEST magazine stood for
- The Systematic Theology Project
- The early to mid 1980s push with prophecy, British-Israelism, doctrinal enhancements, Holy-Day plan of Salvation, and legalism
- The truth about the *Human Potential* and *Mystery of the Ages*, supposedly authored by HWA
- HWA's true state of health and capabilities the last ten years of his life
- HWA's past "sins" and his failed marriage to the forty-year-old secretary of Stanley Rader
- The Tkach hard-line government following HWA's death
- The image changing campaign and PR with the outside evangelical community and Christian media starting in 1987
- The formulation of a new doctrinal package, which appears to the outside Christian community to coincide with the mainline acceptable orthodox belief (Trinity, Born Again, Salvation by Grace, Kingdom is here NOW, no Baptism required for Salvation, NO one true church, Sabbath and Holy Days not required, just practiced, are some of the supposed changes.) The message to the Christian cult-watcher is very different than what is being instructed to the membership. The inner church has no idea of the depth of supposed changes being reported to the outside, nor do they comprehend the supposed strategic changes. There has been no significant support material to clarify supposed changes for the members.)

- The doctrinal committee consisting of popular, publishing evangelicals and theologians. The double-talk, duplicity and diabolical doctrinal messages administered to the inside members
- The major current recruiting campaign consisting of new ad strategies, personal evangelism, Open Houses, community services (similar to the Moonies) *Plain Truth* format change, *World Tomorrow* telecast removed from the TV, accreditation of Ambassador College to Ambassador University (the college business), etc.
- The training programs and support materials to enhance the success of recruiting by personal evangelism and Open House engagements.
- The opening up of new markets with registrations in countries previously refused.
  Understanding of the Global Church of God, in relationship to the WCG.
- Knowledge of the present leaders and their backgrounds. Understanding of the WCG ten-year goal plan and how it fits into the "global" perspective and united world agenda.

All victims learn lessons. The lessons learned from the negative WCG involvement can be turned into positive experiences. Everyone has strengths! Our individual strengths, pulled together, can make a great difference in combating the corruption and fraud played out in the name of Jesus Christ.

Compiling the necessary research in the above areas is no easy task; the reason for this will be revealed throughout this series. As many exit the WCG, confused and dazed and groping for the true light, it is their hope to find peace and understanding about their involvement with the WCG. For most, that is an impossible task unless the shattered pieces of the past are revealed, reviewed and accepted. The **thousands** of God-searching people, who paid dearly with their entire lives to a government throughout the past sixty years, deserve to know, what in the Worldwide is going on? Knowing tidbits about **what** is currently going on is limited knowledge when not accompanied with answers to why it is happening.

The WCG/Armstrong/Tkach organization (hence forth noted as the **WAT**) is a big story. It's tentacles encircled many lives in various degrees. The total picture can only be understood by close evaluation of all the components. Part One of this series will summarize the past few years.

Christian Research Institute (CRI) in Irvine, CA previously held a pristine reputation under the direction of Walter Martin. Following the sudden death of Mr. Martin on June 26, 1989, CRI management was assumed by Hank Hanegraaff. CRI sponsors a radio show, called *Bible Answer Man*. On their international broadcast in early May the CRI stated that the "**WCG has repented and has come around to affirming the Trinity.**" They go on to say,

"This is cause for rejoicing of all of God's people, and we are thoroughly persuaded, that contrary to the speculations of some, this is not some public relations maneuver, not some sort of window dressing or attempt to deceive people or dissuade their detractors. This is TRUE repentance, true submission to the word of God."

Anyone who has been affiliated with the WAT in the past ten years would term the CRI statement as bizarre and totally ungrounded. As members were oblivious to changes that were being reported to the Christian community (previously known as Satan's deceivers) in 1990, select leaders of the WAT were secretly meeting with several publishers and writers in the counter-cult arena. The purpose of these visits was to demonstrate to the "Christian heavyweights" that the WCG was changing its ways. The propaganda maneuver worked in some arenas and it wasn't long before Ruth Tucker, author of *Another Gospel*, was snugly positioned on the WAT Doctrinal committee along with a featured article in *The Plain Truth* magazine. Several others, such as CRI, joined Ruth Tucker as the authorities for setting up the parameters for the WAT doctrinal changes. As the CRI strategic maneuvers continued with those outside of the WAT walls, the members were unaware of the magnitude of doctrinal changes being reported. As members exit the WAT, they find themselves astonished that publications such as ***Christian Research Journal*** and ***Christianity Today*** have written articles over the past couple of years indicating that the church was moving toward orthodoxy and the Trinity, when in fact, the membership was being taught the **direct opposite** at that time!

Since the WACO occurrence, a mixed bag of changes have been expedited; however, any "changes" that have occurred were doctrinally accompanied by confusing explanations, duplicity, contradictions, cover-ups,

misrepresentations, denial of facts and, of course, disfellowshipments due to questioning the ministry. Meanwhile, the old teachings and legalism, which outsiders consider to be Armstrongism, continued to be the mainstay of the WAT diet.

As a small handful of WAT leaders diligently worked the Christian Counter-cult crowd with reports of doctrinal changes, the Tkach team vehemently esteemed [and still do] Herbert Armstrong as God's true instrument and an author of change to the membership.

So why did the WAT leaders tell the outside a different story than what was truly taking place inside the church? And what was the reason for these "changes" anyway?

Ex-members regain critical thinking skills, which allow them to discern the truth from the deception. Many pursue investigations on the organization and uncover the hard-core facts behind the front of a religion and church. One only has to research the 1970s era to uncover the magnitude of corruption within the church at that time, which led to international attention and exposé. Hundreds of newspapers picked up the negative PR that permeated the airways. The WCG became the main focus for Christian cult watchers. Countless Christian writers challenged the church in every degree doctrinally, while secular cult experts appropriately labeled the WCG one of the more destructive cults in America due to the methods employed by the WCG to gain control of the group and individuals. Yes, the exposure of the fraudulent agenda of the 1970s took its toll on the recruiting of the 1980s. HWA always said, "Never change anything that works," and the reality is, it **wasn't working anymore**.

Shortly after the WAT leaders started the de-culting campaign by fostering relationship building with the enemies of the past, including "Church of God, Seventh Day," negative publicity came to a halt and was replaced with positive affirmations regarding orthodox changes in Worldwide. Some have termed this propaganda as ingenious. All the WAT had to do was face their enemies of yesteryear, convince them that WCG was making changes, and shake hands. In turn, the enemies of the past start their own PR campaign selling the new WCG in a positive light. [A no lose situation for the wealthy leadership.] The easy strategy consists of cashing in on the negative PR that cost the church financially and replace it with all the FREE PR that the Christian cult watcher will offer. Meanwhile, the coalition of cult watchers who are defending the WCG, are left feeling great about themselves because they think the leadership is changing the doctrinal plan due to their personal efforts.

No one would deny that the WAT organization was/is quite skilled in appealing to vanity. Sadly, the WAT targets (like CRI and Ruth Tucker) are not mentally, intellectually or emotionally prepared to take on the deceptive tactics that the well-trained present day leadership represents. In turn, due to ignorance, many well-meaning cult educators are guilty of printing positive remarks about the WAT without having done an investigation or thorough research other then taking the hearsay from organizations like CRI. Much damage has been done to the victims of the WCG; even more importantly, it would appear that the WCG propaganda program is working, so therefore the damage to new possible recruits is even more significant. Why? In the past many seekers were able to learn about the WCG's position in the religion market prior to making a commitment, due to the reporting in the Christian media.

Why did the WAT organization play the "we've changed" game to begin with? Many theories have been posed:

- The Catholic/Evangelical/Protestant churches and Council of Churches helped to bail the WCG out of the Receivership in 1980, so in turn, the leaders from all parties perhaps cut a deal something like this, "We'll bail you out of this mess, but you better slant your doctrinal package to our side within ten years."
- The WCG decides to get **politically correct** and prepares for the universal religion movement that is presently taking shape in conjunction with the "global" agenda and the proposed "united new world"--which by the way, was the WCG's gospel (and still is intermittently), "to bring on one world government!"
- The WAT leaders monitor the trends in religion and cults to date and align with a more acceptable, vogue package for recruiting purposes. For instance, the International Church of Christ (formerly known as the Boston Church of Christ) has grown immensely these past few years through

"**personal evangelism and discipleship methods**."

- The WAT decides to follow the strategies of big cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons and build a solid corporate business empire. [Both these groups also recruit big numbers through personal evangelism.]
- *The Plain Truth*, October issue, pg. 29 states, "**One in Three Are Christian**," "More than a third of the world is Christian, making Christianity the religion with the largest number of adherents in the world." In a business sense, that is a large chunk of the market. If "Trinitarian" Christianity were that popular, it would make sense to align with what **IS** working. Or, last but not least, maybe the "dark skeletons" of the past have come to haunt the "One true church" for all the damage created by the proponents of the British-Israelism/Identity Movement (Lost Ten Tribes).

Whatever the precipitating reason for the de-culting maneuver and propaganda campaign is, rest assured the goal is **power and money**. While the "select coalition" fights on the WCG's behalf by nit-picking doctrines, the leaders capitalize on the distraction while moving fast and steadily implementing growth and recruiting campaigns throughout the world.

There have been no respectable training programs for doctrinal changes other than contradicting statements. But many dollars have been poured into in-depth training programs involving Personal Evangelism and Open Houses. As Joseph Tkach stated in his major speech of the year, at the `94 Feast of Tabernacles, "The homosexuals have now come out of the closet; it's time we Christians come out of the closet, too." That is exactly what the WAT plan is all about. Out of the closet and onto the street, it's recruiting time. The membership has been inundated with literature and sermons on evangelizing. They have been introduced to videos and training programs geared toward learning how to "talk it up," (love-bomb). Joseph Tkach states that Jesus "wants us to do our part." "Our part" means to serve God by bringing new people into the church. The last two years have demonstrated heavy devotion toward the evangelism training program. The so-called, "changes" offer an evangelism package.

It is highly doubtful that the WAT could pull off a massive recruiting campaign through evangelism/ Open Houses with a belief system consisting of the old beliefs: Identity Movement, You're going to be a God someday and own your own planet, You won't see physical death, but be changed in a twinkling of an eye, Salvation by works and legalism to boot, just to name a few things.

What the "select coalition" (outside Christian cult watchers/publishers/writers) didn't understand as they squabbled over doctrinal words on paper with the architects of the Church Administration Dept. (CHAD) [which never includes Joseph Tkach in person], is that the WAT has always been about **power and money**, not God and doctrine.

The strategy is well organized. The "mixed bag" of doctrinal confusion (change), has opened new doors for the old WCG.

1. The church has registered in several countries during the past six months that have, in the past, flatly refused their presence.
2. Ambassador College received accreditation in July `94 and is now to be called Ambassador University per Joseph Tkach. This was the main reason why several ministers were attending liberal colleges and receiving degrees in Theology. The college business has spawned several necessary changes.
3. National **Open Houses** have been running throughout the past two years. The October issue of *The Plain Truth* states: "*Join Us For Get-Acquainted, Open-House Services." "During the month of November, many of our congregations will be holding special open-house services for Plain Truth readers like yourself. People who want to know God, the Bible and the Christian way of life." "More details coming next month on an open house near you---in the meantime, for an overview of the church's activities, request your free copy of --Introducing the Worldwide Church of God*--"
4. Community service is now a focus, whereas in the past it was, for the most part, forbidden, or at least shunned.

All these new recruiting adventures required strategic implementation of programs, which involved much training of members for the purposes of evangelism, plus manipulation of the previous doctrinal package to something more appealing and believable. Other recruiting strategies include: removing *The World Tomorrow* television program and replacing it with concentrated ads molded after the "Mormon strategy," having *The Plain Truth* magazine's artwork emulate the Jehovah's Witnesses style while the written text format targets to the despondent, searching audience; *Reader's Digest* major ad campaigns restarting with the high draw lure of the "Spirit World," beefing up community services and fund-raising events in local churches--even Canadian members are going door to door passing out *Plain Truth* advertising flyers. Also, the management of the membership has taken an about face with its new approach for getting results through people. In the past the "go-getters or mavericks" in the church were squelched; however, now they are picked for **special mover and shaker committees** to get the job done. The new target markets and recruiting methods offers a list too extensive for this OIU; however, readers should note that the WAT's strategic maneuvers include a heavy push toward the youth. The *YOUTH* magazine is filled with recruiting lures and pamphlet requests. It is also the magazine of choice being shipped to Doctors' offices and libraries, colleges, and public schools throughout the country. The *YOUTH* magazine format has fooled many who refused *The Plain Truth* in the recent past. Even the magazine artwork is geared toward recruiting. Professionals in the field of hypnosis and mind control state that the magazine appears to use colors, which are considered to be the luring hues (orange, red, green, yellow, on dark background), and when these colors are meshed into a "grid type" of art, it is almost impossible to resist.

(See `94 PT's, March, April, May/June, Oct. and notice the format of *YOUTH* `94: Jan/Feb., Mar/April, May/June.) Interestingly, the PT pre Feast, September issue is more upbeat with happy faces denoting the theme, "come to our church."

So What's It All About?

The WAT had to change if it was to survive this rapidly changing world. That in itself is OK. The issue is, what is the truth and real agenda behind this organization? Many cults have restructured their strategies in the past ten years including the Mormons, Unification Church (Moonies), and The Family. Even the Jehovah's Witnesses pursued moderate changes. Cults periodically attempt to mainstream or clean up their image in effort to gain respectability for new recruiting purposes. [UPDATE: WCG changed their name to Grace Communion International in April 2009]

Throughout the years the WCG used the "commanded tithes" to grow toward a multi-million dollar annual revenue organization, in addition to its assets in real-estate, aircraft, investments, and other businesses such as travel agencies, insurance, Ambassador Foundation, and the newly accredited Ambassador University. Unfortunately, while the "church" was expanding in opulence and the leaders were living like kings, the impoverished membership was highly exploited by an authoritarian and totalitarian government that demanded complete control on its people. Lives were lost, families were destroyed and individuals were spiritually, psychologically and financially **abused**! Thousands were manipulated through deception, coercion and fear into believing that they had better be obedient to the "**one true church**" or their end would be the "**Lake of Fire**." Many spent over thirty years devoted to an addictive system of beliefs and behaviors as instructed by the leaders with the understanding that, "If you break the Law, the Law will break you." As the WAT reconstructs its sales package and places new recruiting demands on its members, it continues to esteem **Herbert Armstrong** as a true servant of God who brought great truth through the foundation of the Bible.

It is a fact that billions of dollars have been paid into the WCG's false gospel while an "empire" was built. The main WCG attraction was "British-Israelism" (which is part of the same Aryan belief system shared by many of the Right-wing Christian racist organizations such as the Skin Heads and Ku Klux Klan). As the message to the Christian public takes on a mainstream orthodox appeal laced with a verbalization about Jesus, the **membership** remains in a state of confusion and cognitive dissonance. Many are experiencing a "trancing out" due to the double speak, dialectics, and combined agendas of the past and present. Also, not only is there a lack of education toward spiritual understanding of any supposed doctrinal changes, Joseph Tkach **has not** denounced most of the previous church teachings to the membership. While he has stated the church was wrong on a few matters and is updating booklets, he has also positioned the blame for misinterpretation of beliefs onto the membership. The current message is: It is not a matter of understanding doctrine that will

earn salvation, if you don't "get it" that's okay as long as you stay in God's Church! Members have been told specifically that they are still under the Law. As Joseph Tkach stated to the membership in a worldwide satellite transmission on Sept. 19, 1994:

"You see Christ gave Matthew 5 to magnify the LAW--to make it more binding. No one is saying or accusing, or as I have been accused of, that I am doing away with the LAW, that we are no longer required to keep the LAW. But, I want everyone to know worldwide that I do not keep the LAW to be saved. I keep the LAW because I am saved. I serve God because I am saved. I conduct myself in a certain manner or way because I am saved. I do all the things that are pleasing to God because I am saved and I do have the Spirit of God." (Tkach goes on to say) "But if you trace it back from Acts 5 vs. 32, 'God gives his spirit to those who obey,' that means we have earned it! We have the right to receive the spirit of God because we obey God. We worked for it!"

Herman Hoeh, an original Armstrongite, evangelist and present Executive Editor of *The Plain Truth* magazine, points out in his tape, **Unfinished Business**, "The church will continue to change its point of view." Meanwhile, the WCG mega printing presses crank out booklets to support the current belief claims. The WWN, July `94 issue article, **Booklet staff keeps pace with updates**, says, "Edits will also reflect growth in understanding of the characteristic language used by Old Testament prophets as well as a view of prophesied events." It goes on to say, "Economic factors, growth in understanding and changing audiences mean that our literature collection will never stay static." [UPDATE: Herman Hoeh died 11-21-04]

This ought to keep the cult watchers busy!

This brings us back to the question, **what is the real agenda here**? Those who research, scrutinize, and investigate the total picture, know that the de-culting strategy is just part of the long-range plan. The "changes" employed will meet the criteria for obtaining the goal. **Power and money** is the objective. The objective cannot be met without a major recruiting campaign, which will add members, who in turn, will pay the "commanded tithes" and offerings. The income will be enhanced by fund-raising efforts and evangelistic recruiting.

So, has the church changed? Yes, but it is the same church, different pew--or better-said, same candy, different wrapper.

Has the Law... changed? Has the authoritarian, "top down" government...changed? Has the secrecy and withholding of information...changed? Has the legalism ...changed? Has the "God inspired" Tkach interpretation of the Bible ...changed? Has the "one true church" belief... changed? Has the theme of God's Government... changed?

Read ANIMAL FARM by George ORWELL!

What Makes a Cult a Cult?

From the book *Captive Hearts Captive Minds*, Madeleine Tobias states the definition of cult, adopted at a 1985 conference of scholars and policy makers:

CULT: A group or movement exhibiting great or excessive devotion or dedication to some person, idea, or thing and employing unethical manipulative or coercive techniques of persuasion and control (e.g., isolation from former friends and family, debilitation, use of special methods to heighten suggestibility and subservience, powerful group pressures, information management, suspension of individuality or critical judgment, promotion of total dependency on the group and fear of leaving it), designed to advance the goals of the group's leaders to the actual detriment of members, their families, or the community.

Three characteristics that help distinguish a cult from other groups are:

1. Members are expected to be excessively zealous and unquestioning in their commitment to the identity of the leadership of the group. They must replace their own beliefs and values with those of the group.
2. Members are manipulated and exploited, and may give up their education, careers, and families to work excessive long hours at group-directed tasks such as selling a quota of candy, [fruit], or books; fund-raising; recruiting and proselytizing.

3. Harm or the threat of harm may come to members, their families and/or society due to inadequate medical care, poor nutrition, psychological and physical abuse, sleep deprivation, criminal activities and so forth.

The following are other characteristics provided by a clinical psychologist who has been researching cults and thought-reform programs since the 1950s.

CULTS:

1. are authoritarian in their power structure.
2. tend to be totalitarian in their control of the behavior of their members.
3. tend to have double sets of ethics (one for the leader and another for the members; one for those inside the group, and other for dealing with outsiders).
4. leaders are self-appointed and claim to have a special mission in life.
5. leaders tend to be charismatic, determined, and domineering.
6. leaders center the veneration of members upon themselves.
7. appear to be innovative and exclusive.
8. basically have only two purposes: recruiting new members and fund-raising.

The select coalition of Christian-counter cult publishers and writers have done a great dis-service toward the well being of searching Christians by giving approval to "a church" that has carried the reputation as destructive, without having done their homework. CRI (Christian Research Institute) has ignored the pleas for help by exiting members, and fostered the de-culting propaganda by positioning itself as the authority on cult vs. non-cult. The WAT leaders diligently strive to get removed from the hundreds of cult references and use every sales/propaganda tactic available to them. Meanwhile, the word Trinity becomes a vogue term as its definition joins the category of abused and distorted terminology increasingly employed by cults to get the job done. Those who have made judgments about the WCG based on the leaders' words have positioned themselves as participating parties towards any deception and personal destruction of its members.

The CRI Story

[UPDATE: Christian Research re-located to Charlotte, North Carolina in 2005, with an affiliate (CRI Canada) in Calgary, Alberta.]

As the Christian Research Institute continues to extend its ministry by capitalizing on the reputation of the late Walter Martin, President Hank Hanegraaff apparently does not have the credentials to fill Mr. Martin's shoes.

CRI's positive stand on the new Worldwide became increasingly noted by newly exited members. Many reached out to the leadership of CRI countering the claims they were making and voiced their accounts of the personal abuse they experienced within the church. Frustrations multiplied as their calls for help were ignored. Some exiting members reported that CRI directed them to return to the church for counseling and that the church had changed.

Paul Carden, CRI International Outreach, met with Mike Feazell and Joe Tkach, Jr. late in April of this year. The morning of his visit, Paul Carden contacted the Network requesting questions to relay to the WAT leaders. The Network was shocked that there was no preparation done by CRI for such an important issue and complied with their request.

Paul Carden admitted that he had **not** reviewed **any** Worldwide News publications, listened to **any** sermon tapes, visited **any** areas as a guest, interviewed **any** recent ex-members or current members, reviewed any Pastor General's Reports or Pastor General's letters, or completed a study on the history of the WAT in regards to the documented corruption of the past. He stated he had a few booklets that the church had sent to him. Only a few days later, on May 5, 1994, Paul Carden broadcast on the Radio Answer Man that the WCG was a true Trinitarian, fully repented church, and certainly not window-dressing their doctrines to gain respectability.

Many remain shocked that noted counter-cult ministries would align with an organization that has been responsible for the ruin of thousands of lives in the past sixty years and flip their opinions following a few meetings with the same organizational leaders who were part of that destruction.

The answer to this phenomenon may lie in the pages of the "CRI Accountability Report" compiled by twenty-four past employees of CRI. President Hank Hanegraaff and several others on the executive board are being sued in court for the following:

1. Civil R.I.C.O. ACT violations (Soliciting and misappropriating charitable contributions-mail fraud and wire fraud.)
2. Illegal seizures of Fax Wire communications
3. Violation of Constitution and First Amendment Rights
4. Wrongful termination
5. Occupational Safety Hazards
6. Writ of Mandate for Reinstatement with Back pay and Skelly-Type Hearing
7. Injunctive and Declaratory
8. Replevin for Return of Personal Property
9. FRAUD
10. Slander and Defamation of Character

Full details are disclosed in the Group for CRI Accountability ($5.00), and the Court Report ($1.00). Order by contacting Mr. Robert Bowman, 1452 Ridge Court, Lithonia, GA 30058. This thick report will provide much insight into the deceptions of leaders thriving under the guise of religion. Many will find the documented experiences enlightening. Particularly interesting, is this excerpt from **Mr. Perry Robinson's letter**. Mr. Robinson had witnessed the unjustified lifting of the cult label from other noted destructive cults as was recently done with the Worldwide Church of God [now known as Grace Communion International]. Mr. Robinson documents the following:

> *"It has also been my experience that CRI leadership has covered up evidence against such groups as SET FREE and had **under the table** dealings with the said group. I personally witnessed over 500 pieces of mail bypass Accounts Receivable/ Corres-pondence Processing and go directly to 'Hank's office' via Jane Huckaby. Some of the letters from SET FREE I knew to be false. When I tried to log the letters in the back of CRI where all mail for up to 2 yrs is kept, the letters were nowhere to be found. I asked Jane Huckaby about this, and she told me personally that Hank had had a phone conversation with Phil Agular where Agular had taped Hank without knowing it. Hank had, according to Huckaby, said many compromising things that Agular had taped. Those letters were never to be seen again to my knowledge.*
>
> *"Other incidents include dealings with different groups like YWAM, **where evidence was ignored just because Hank was assured by leaders of YWAM that they were not teaching heresy any longer.** So, Hank pulled all negative info on them..."* (Emphases in bold is ours)

It will be interesting to learn what inspired Hank Hanegraaff to make such critical, intentional decisions!

[UPDATE: Read exposé report on Christian Research Institute] [offsite article]

An informative message, "Deceptive Groups Claiming to be Christian," may be ordered from Texe Marrs: Power of Prophecy, 1708 Patterson Rd., Austin, Texas 78733; phone 1-800-234-9673. [Update 2014: This is not an endorsement of everything espoused by this ministry.]

Individuals interested in voicing their opinion or thoughts about the duplicity and deceptions personally experienced or witnessed and would like to write letters to the counter-cult organizations, may contact the Network for the COP-AID information package and address listing. [NOTE: This is no longer available through snail mail. ESN material is now posted on our website.] Included will be additional interesting facts and documentation regarding the select coalition working with the WAT leaders.

Part Two of this series will define the "changes" and clarify differences stated to the Christian public/media and

the membership. Also, what is the story behind WCG and British-Israelism/Identity Movement? Stay tuned! [UPDATE: To learn more about this, read this part in ESN's Letter to author Janis Hutchinson.

Network AFFILIATES from Afar:

Hello from Canada:

"Nothing has changed!" At least that is what the local pastor said when I questioned him about the changes that have occurred within the WCG. As the ministers and members battle with some new terminology, the theme of THE LAW and God's government prevails in the sermons. Stress continues as Regional Minister Frank Brown insists that members DO NOT go over their minister's head in contacting Pasadena with questions. Likewise, Mr. Brown refuses to answer questions from non-members and instead directs them to Pasadena.

While *The Plain Truth* offers a new recruiting format with more Christian articles and less prophecy/social scare attractions, the famous "four horseman of the apocalypse" can be seen trotting across the TV screen during the highest rated supper hour news. Another popular ad seems to be, *The Spirit World* and *Inside the Book of Revelation*. This continuation of the same old recruiting strategy remains popular in Canada as many people received *The Plain Truth* and were avid followers of Armstrongism. These same people are now being invited to join the Church with open arms (love-bombing to boot). Evangelism and advertising efforts seem to be taking hold under the same old Armstrongism theme. Yes, Herbert Armstrong is highly esteemed by the ministry as the guiding light to the present. (Representative of a pillar of cloud, if you will.)

Apparently the plans for the first North American WCG building have fallen through. Mr. Brown told the membership it was due to escalating costs of construction.

Many have left the local Canadian churches and are on the road to recovery. A great time was had by 40 ex-members as we met for a picnic in August. Many shared their positive experiences following their exit form the WCG. --Brent and Debbie Leeson

[The Network is not surprised to hear that the plans for the first North American church building fell through. This same idea was put forth in the seventies in effort to gather new enthusiasm from the members. This more recent proposal was issued simultaneously to announcing the removal of *World Tomorrow* telecasts from the big screen. The prospect of building new church facilities appears to be a little carrot on a big stick and many have become discouraged over what they term, "another deception." As the WCG maneuvers recruiting and ad strategies, the new church buildings promise offers great distraction. Recently, members have told the Network that ministers are pushing the members to sign up for the new discount rate phone fund-raiser with UniDial Long Distance Service. The church now claims these proceeds will go toward "new church buildings." [Exiters from the 1970s say..."Don't hold your breath!"]

Aye from Australia:

As you may have guessed, many members react to the changes by saying, "What changes? Nothing's been changed except a few ways of explaining things." While some are thrilled that the WCG is shedding past embarrassing doctrinal baggage, others are fleeing to Gerald Flurry, Rod Meredith, or Garner Ted. A few have dropped out in a more idiosyncratic way. ....

Sermons continue to exercise control on the members by drilling obedience to the Law and loyalty to Mr. Tkach while they continue to trumpet the "one true church theme." Excommunication continues for members (widows included) who raise serious questions or elicit "bad attitudes" for questioning the minister about the teachings of the church. Of the cases I have known, no effort has been made to emotionally or spiritually restore these rejected people. Sadly, confusion has been so significant that some disfellowshipped members have committed suicide. Members are being taught that failure to follow Mr. Tkach and obey and support the ministry is the sure road to spiritual death. When I personally told a minister of my agony over such abuses, I was told that the policy was for HQ to lead such erring ministers by example! How can the ministers be more tolerant if they receive the same treatment from HQ as they inflict on or upon the members?

Adding to the confusion are Dr. Stavrinides' tapes explaining his version of the Trinity. These tapes are reportedly leaving members so baffled they find it simpler not to question them and just get on with the day at

hand. What appears to be happening is that many are left feeling inferior in spiritual understanding and possibly lacking God's Spirit for discernment. It's another form of repression.

[UPDATE: Kyriacos Stavrinides later became a Greek professor at Azusa Pacific University, which is considered to be a theologically liberal institution and a member of Willow Creek Association. Also read: Footnote #3 and #4 for more info about Stavrinides in "Letters to Janis Hutchinson."]

As Flurry's group appears to be slowing in growth and Church of God International with Garner Ted increases its mailing of tapes to WCGers, Meredith's Global Church has gained perhaps 100 or so members. [UPDATE: GTA (now deceased) later founded Intercontinental Church of God and Rod Meredith (died in 2017) left Global and founded Living Church of God.] The pro-Armstrong factions seem to be gaining interest in the Global Church of God also. At least one local pastor is widely known to be encouraging defectors to go to Meredith if they must leave at all.

All this spiritual confusion makes sense after corresponding with Mark Kellner, writer for *Christianity Today*. He wrote to me stating he has met with the Joe Jr. team and that the church was no longer a cult. He stated he has taken the "leader's word at face value and trusted them." If this is an example of what is available for Christian guidance for cult members, God help us all! --Neil Godfry

Dear Neil, Many ex-members shockingly learn that they are disfellowshipped for no reason following their quiet departure from the church. Several called into Pasadena, only to learn that they were listed as DF'ed and labeled as "joined Flurry" or "luring members away" Victims have expressed that this was an overt lie and abusive toward them, following their many years of dedication.

As you may have guessed, the Dr. Stavrinides' Trinity tapes created no small stir in the U.S. either. For a topic so sensitive as the TRINITY, many were startled over the confusion and contradictions the tapes seem to generate. Equally exhausting was the very difficult to understand Greek dialect of Dr. Stavrinides.

We recommend a study in the techniques utilized in cults under the heading of Mind Control and Programming. Psychotherapist David Neswald from Encino, CA specializes in this field and has worked with hundreds of ex-cult patients from around the world. In The California Therapist magazine, Vol. 3, Issue No. 5, pg. 47-50, Mr. Neswald, lists over twenty types of cult programming techniques.

Two significant programs listed are:

1. **Scrambling Programs**: These programs intend to confuse, disorganize and/or block the patient's alter system, emerging memories, thought processes, and /or incoming information. [also read footnote #28 in OIU 4, pt. 5]
2. **Flooding Programs**: Such programs are enacted by the cult in order to interfere with therapeutic progress/process by overwhelming the patient. This is achieved by triggering the patient [or member] to have a flood of painful and frightening cognitive and/or somatic memories enter consciousness simultaneously, thereby significantly increasing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), symptomotology and suppressing the functionality of the patient. A wide variety of triggers may be utilized.

Another topic for research is "dialectical materialism" (double-speak; i.e. the combining of opposites. Whenever a person or people can be seduced into simultaneously accepting, two opposing beliefs as true, they are, by that, rendered docile, passive and indifferent to the advances of their enemy. The goal is to neutralize the people. This concept is known as Psychological Warfare or "brainwashing." Totalitarian governments of all sizes use these techniques to gain control of their people. Karl Marx was very fond of this technique!

Education + Investigation = Emancipation
"People who are ignorant will always look for a dictator
so they won't have to think for themselves!"
-Holocaust survivor

OIU Volume One - Pt. 2 of 2

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

Volume ONE ... a newsletter of understanding ... Fall `94

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Therapeutically Speaking

Each OIU will address particular issues regarding psychological and emotional effects from cults. Although cults vary in degree regarding the methods applied toward their victims, the devastating effects are similar.

The healing process is individual and essential. One does not exit a controlling, coercive, deceptive and abusive environment without experiencing post cult trauma in some capacity. It is virtually impossible to healthily readjust to the outside world without having an understanding of the cultic life one had experienced. There are some who live the "stuffed turkey" syndrome. That is when one exits and represses the whole experience by flatly refusing to sort out the facts or accepts that he/she too, may have been severely harmed.

[UPDATE: Where Do the Feelings Go? (covers processing painful thoughts; includes a section on: "How Do I Go About Writing and What Do I Write About?")]

In addition to having to deal with pre-cult problems, cult victims must first work through the posttraumatic stress and emotional disabilities caused directly from the cult.

The healing process consists of several stages:

1. **Evaluating your involvement.** Why were you recruited? What attracted you to the group? What was going on in your life at that time?
2. **Evaluating the group.** Intellectually and theologically
3. **Scrutinize the group's ethics.** Where does the MONEY really go? Learn the methods of thought reform / mind control used by the cult. Investigate the group's practices of deception, manipulation, persuasive techniques, etc. Research the group's history and its leaders.
4. **Personal Recovery.** Recognizing post-cult effects such as depression, anger, floating, fear phobias, isolation, loneliness, loss of self-worth, physical ailments and lacking feeling. Starting a help-yourself program and/or counseling.
5. **Sorting out spiritual issues.** Recognizing spiritual abuse and tactics used by cults to distort the Bible to support their agendas. Reconnecting spiritually regaining trust.
6. **Cult education.** How does the cult you were in compare to the thousands of others? Understanding the cult phenomenon is the only protection from re-recruitment into another cult.

[Read: Recovering After a Deceptive, Abusive Group]

Many have stated that exiting a cult was the most difficult task they have had to endure throughout their life. Confronting the obstacles of exiting takes great courage and real faith. However, exiting is only part of the process toward freedom. Healing from the victimization completes the process. As one so aptly stated, "I left the Worldwide, but the Worldwide didn't leave me!" Unless the healing process is challenged, one can find that five years later, they are still enduring confusion, anger outbursts, anxiety or cult related phobias among many other things.

Upcoming OIU issues will cover these specific issues and more.

[See OIU #2, Vol. 1 for continuation of how to recover]

Post-cult: dependencies, de-doctrinating self, mental and spiritual healing, disassociation, dealing with phobias induced by the cults, kids in the cults and leaving loved ones behind.

Cult tactics: Propaganda, hypnosis, degrading of self, programming recruits/members, control/coercion, manipulative factors such as denigration of critical thinking, group pressure, isolation, dissociative exercises,

guilt induction, deception, triggers, thought stopping techniques, etc.

Recommended reading: SEE OUR BOOKLIST

News to You

"Ambassador College is now fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools!" says Joseph Tkach. "We are grateful for the members' prayers, and support..." [We are told thirty percent of college costs are actually being funded by members' dollars.] As of July 1, Ambassador College changed it name to Ambassador University, "a term that is a more appropriate description of the range and diversity of programs and opportunities that are provided by Ambassador," (Joseph Tkach in his June 30, 1994 letter to "Fellow Laborers with Christ.")

* Cult watchers were quite surprised about the new college business. As one ministry stated, "I guess that's why they have been sending some of their ministers to liberal schools for theology degrees." Accreditation means following a particular criteria for acceptability, especially regarding belief systems. Future updates will elaborate on this.

* One insider stated that "54" countries were represented in the student body. That would explain increased Green Card immigration information in *The Worldwide News*.

* Some Ambassador College Alumni have been approached to donate to the Alumni Association. The accreditation people were not pleased that the college did not have an alumni base to support it. "We need at least 80% donations so it will good for the accreditation, even if it is only $1.00 from each person, it will still look good," said the collector to the graduates. One AC graduate says, "That's a scam!"

* *The Worldwide News*, July 26, `94 printed the following statements. **"Will graduates before the Class of 1995 gain any retroactive benefit from accreditation?"** "(When graduates apply to graduate schools or for jobs, they should use the name Ambassador University. Accreditation should not be raised unless others raise it. Then merely state that Ambassador University is accredited, not when it was accredited.)"

The article goes onto say.... What school would be listed if a replacement diploma were needed? "Replacement diplomas would read Ambassador University and have Mr. Tkach's signature. Only someone who has actually lost the original diploma and really needed a replacement should request one, however." (The cost is $25.00) While some AC graduates may be thrilled about this accreditation and find this article helpful, others view it as another moneymaking ploy that has nothing to do with spreading the Gospel. Also, the article appears to be very deceptive.

Accreditation has also opened doors to government grants, which in turn adds more disposable income to the tax-free church. Students began receiving Pell grants this year. "These funds allow the college to redirect to other areas, money normally set aside for student financial aid." (WWN) Many hope this doesn't mean more "personal home improvements" for evangelists!

The Tithe of the Tithe (10% of 2nd tithe) collected from members pre-feast supposedly to defray the costs of the hall rentals at feast time, has apparently been applied to many other expenses. The WWN, April 5, 1994 prints a correction on page 12 clarifying some discrepancies by saying, "The tithe-of-the-tithe fund pays the expenses of all of the Church's festivals, not only the Feast of Tabernacles. In addition, this fund supplies the second tithe allotment for ministers employed by the Church."

This is a very upsetting issue for those who paid many dollars into the WCG tithing system, because they feel they have been deceived regarding the allocation of their money. It is well known that the ministers travel first class and have the finest accommodations at each feast. Why, people wonder, were they pushed into paying for the luxuries of the ministers when they themselves went without? The law states that money collected must be applied toward the stated purpose. Application in any other degree, especially without warning constitutes fraud! Is this the reason a clarification and correction was made?

Waterhouse Alert!

The famous South African born well traveled evangelist of the past several decades, was apparently retrieved from retirement in 1993 and has been doing a tour of local churches in the U.S. and Philippines. A more recent sermon called, "What is Jesus Doing At This Time?" has been circulated to churches and has caused quite a reaction from several circles. Among the ninety minutes of awesome Gerald Waterhouse "insight," he tells the

members that God has stripped away the things that enable Satan to identify the church and bring on persecution. Waterhouse elaborates that **God has put the church in the mainstream of religion for a reason** and that is the way Christ has always worked--by hiding. "God had Joseph take Jesus and hide him in Egypt from King Herod," He's weaving His people in and out of Satan's tactics [orthodox Christianity] to get us where we ought to be." "So, God used the method of hiding Jesus until it was time. Now the WCG is his [Christ's] body. So, it's up to Christ to hide his body, until it is ready to do the job for which it has been raised up. To get us where we ought to be. So God has trimmed off a lot of those things that make us look like a cult or sect."

Many members and a few counter-cult watchers were shocked by this tape, **which was approved and mailed by headquarters** (HQ) to churches. Several contacted HQ and voiced their concern. As expected, they were told that Gerald Waterhouse is no longer employed by the WCG and that HQ had nothing to do with the circulation of this very revealing tape. So, as HQ passes the buck with denial, the Waterhouse message remains ingrained in the minds of WCG members. The damage is done! Why, others wonder, hasn't Waterhouse been publicly disfellowshipped and his sermon openly denounced if it was, in fact, true that Waterhouse was acting independently?

[UPDATE 2002: Gerald Waterhouse later left WCG and joined United Church of God-AIA in 1995. He died September 4, 2002 at age 76 after a long illness (swollen prostate, collapsed bladder and extreme toxemia).]

Pastors and Evangelists on the move. It was reported in the WWN that Evangelist Larry Salyer was retired; however, the PGR, May 25, `94, told the ministers that Larry Salyer was disfellowshipped, but not to read the announcement to the membership. The fact is Mr. Salyer has joined brother evangelists Carl and Raymond McNair in the Global Church of God [later known as Living Church of God], along with Wesley Webster and his Guyana church. Much disinformation about David Hulme has surfaced these past few months. One says, "He's still with the WCG," the other says, "He's joined his father with Flurry." One thing is for certain, his name has been deleted from the contributing writers section on *The Plain Truth* in the October issue.

[UPDATE 2003: David Hulme left UCG-AIA in 1998 and formed "Church of God, An International Community," Pasadena, California, a group which publishes a quarterly entitled, *Vision--Journal for a New World*. He proclaims most of Herbert Armstrong's former teachings in his literature. (Hulme, along with seven other evangelists, were offered severance pay [hush money] from WCG).]

[UPDATE 2004: Carl McNair died April 14, 2004 of bone cancer. He was a minister in Living Church of God. Raymond McNair (Raymond F. McNair) went with Church of God, 21st Century, which claims to "serve the affiliated churches of God." He continued to teach Herbert Armstrong's dogma. Raymond McNair is mentioned in:: Roderick C. Meredith's $750,000 Libel against Leona McNair]

[UPDATE 2008: Raymond McNair died October 11, 2008]

Do You Know Where Your Children Are? If you don't, the WCG probably does. In conjunction with the evangelistic/Open House-recruiting strategy, the WCG has targeted the youth of the country. Other cults, such as the Moonies, International Church of Christ and Jehovah's Witnesses do a big business with the younger population and WCG has made it very clear to the membership that they intend to keep the youth in the church. Some youth target tactics include:

- Youth Educational Services (YES) is now called, "Pre-teens." Many new programs have been implemented in local churches along with an increase in youth participation in services.
- *Youth* `94 magazine has taken the place of *The Plain Truth* in libraries, doctor offices and schools. Yes, schools! People from all over the country have noticed the FREE magazine positioned right in the public schools' libraries. Librarians, office executives, and principals are all shocked to learn that it is really the "*Plain Truth* people" inside the cover.
- *Youth* `94 is also offering many publications to its young readers. The same slick "mail for our booklets FREE of charge" slogan permeates the pages.

What's all the **YOUTH** fuss about? One WCG minister relayed to members that surveys indicate a child's direction is set by eleven years of age, "so the church has to hook them by that time."

Opening New Markets. As the WCG incorporates and receives registrations in the Philippines, Mexico, Portugal, Italy (and other **Trinitarian countries**), it also expands its membership into the U.S. Spanish speaking territories. It seems two new Spanish-speaking churches have just been started in the heart

of Florida these past few months. The new to the U.S. brethren are very delighted with all the WCG promises and show great enthusiasm with new fund-raising for WCG ventures. Many are very thankful God landed them safely on the U.S. shore to specifically respond to God's calling into His church! As new country registrations continue to increase, the WCG reminds its readers that, **"registration brings benefits at banks and post offices, and allows purchases in Church's name."** (WWN, March `94) It is still unclear whether registrations are in the name of the WCG, or under the Ambassador University, or Ambassador Foundation.

God changed his mind about the Gospel and his "calling" system, but the tithing commands will never change! Space will not permit a thorough review of the 1993 Audited Financial Report, but does allow us to question the following:

1. Who are the 77 individuals who formerly were longtime employees that currently receive discretionary assistance? (third-tithe assistance) And why are they receiving it?
2. What are the "Selected Worldwide Affiliated Organizations," that consume so much of the impoverished members' money?
3. The audit states, on page 13, "The church is currently making discretionary payments to certain former employees of approximately $1,732,000 annually. These discretionary payments are provided based upon the employee's needs and, accordingly, could be discontinued in the future. No amounts have been accrued in the accompanying combined financial statements for future payments relating to these arrangements."

What does this mean exactly? This statement is disturbing to many because there is great concern about high-level ministers who leave the WCG being offered a written contract with on-going sums of money to insure silence. It certainly answers the question, "Why don't more former ministers go public about the years of deceit and reported corruption and abuses?" Do the new open door policies mean the secrecy will end? Will the membership start to get the real facts about the money allocations?

Anyone interested in their own copy of the Financial Report prepared by Coopers & Lybrand may write to the church Financial Affairs office headed by Steven Andrews CFO.

One more thing: The 1993 report also indicates "Members of the Church **practice tithing** (which is the donation of ten percent of one's [gross] income for the Church's **unrestricted use**). The majority of the Church's revenue consists of such unrestricted donations."

Those members who have been financially destroyed due to the three tier tithing "command" will also find this statement amusing, "Members who are financially able contribute an additional ten percent of their annual [gross] income to the Church Assistance Fund. This is commonly referred to as third tithe." [emphasis --editor.] This offers the public a very different tone than the Pay -Stay- and Decay result from obeying the commands of Jesus as directed by Joseph Tkach.

Exiting members state that ministers are increasing the pressure on the tithing issues. Apparently the tithing talk on the local levels is much harsher than the way Glen Nice (member assistance coordinator in church administration) states it in his article, "**Sensible Ways to Secure Your Money and Your Future."** "The first law of success in any endeavor is pleasing God. In the case of finances, honor to God is shown by tithing. God tells us the whole world is His (Psalm 50:10-12) and Jesus sanctioned the practice of tithing (Matt 23:23). If you have question about tithing or are a little confused as to what is expected of you, you should discuss it with you minister." (WWN, Aug. `94) [Good Luck!!!]

Glen Nice also quotes **Karl Marx**: "A democracy is not a form of government to survive. For it will only succeed until its citizens discover they can vote themselves money from the treasury, then they will bankrupt it."

A Church in Decline?

Some have reported that WCG is in decline. This certainly would make sense seeing that many have left the church while others have incorporated a "wait and see" attitude about tithing. However, many questions arise from the 1990 WCG transition. Would the Tkach team have instituted a change without feeling secure that their financial structure was protected? The WCG income was about $70 million in 1978 and according to Mike Hollman, director of data processing during the 70's, **there were only about 45,000 baptized members in the computer.** Between 1979 and 1990, very little recruiting occurred. (Pastor General Report (PGR), May `94, in speaking about the telecast responses stated, "Between 1986 and 1991--the percentage of those who

progressed to membership was extremely low.") Economic depression was also prevalent between 1977 through 1982. The financial strain continued throughout the last six years. One must wonder, how has the WCG managed to increase its income to $200 million, plus, in twelve short years and during a decade when recruiting was down and the economy was depressed? Where did the money come from? Could it be from the "Selected Affiliated Organizations?" What was the contingency plan in case fifty percent of the membership defected after aligning with the Armstrong beast power? (Catholic/Protestant Christianity). What portion of the Church revenue consists of tithing from members and how much is the church supported by other means??? [NOTE: Read: Myth 1 and 2 - the greatest of them all for more information on this. It also covers how Tkach, Jr. and Albrecht found it necessary to enhance the exaggeration of inflated church membership numbers making the latest account higher than all other false statistical statements. (This will show the millions WCG was pulling in compared to other top evangelists of the time.) (Also, see this part in OIU 2, Pt. 1 about "discrepancies with the growth picture starting around 1978.")]

The May PGR stated the following answer to the question, "What does the Church mean when it says it 'cannot afford" a 30-minute telecast anymore?" Reply, "Compared to the cost of television commercials, a broadcast is far more expensive. Also, a church with hundreds of congregations and thousands of members must set priorities on expenditures. When we say we cannot afford a 30-minute telecast, we mean that we do not want to spend a large amount of money on a 30-minute telecast while we ignore other basic needs, like local buildings for our church congregations, or financial considerations for ministers and employees, including such things as a retirement plan. Moreover, ads are a much less expensive way of bringing people into contact with the Church."

As the WCG removes *The World Tomorrow* telecast, it **increases** its spot ads. The ads frequently air in key time slots throughout the U.S. and Canada. So while much disinformation spouts out from the WCG - HQ regarding money woes, the facts remain that there is **plenty of money** to implement the new recruiting/evangelistic training programs and Open Houses.

What did Jesus have in mind when he said, "I will build my church"?
L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology, shares this thought:
"If you want to get rich, start a religion!"

CULT--CUTS--

--Ambassador College received a Federal Communications, Commission (FCC) license, March 23, 1994, to broadcast on its own radio station.

--The church IBM 370 mainframe was decommissioned on March 11th, only to be replaced by a new AS/400 computer. The new computer system effectively allows sharing of information with their offices around the world. For a more thorough understanding on the way the WCG uses its computers to track its members, order the Mike Hollman (former head of Data Processing) testimony, "Armstrongism: An Insider's View," Watchman Fellowship, P.O. Box 13340, Arlington, TX 76094-0340.

--As the WCG enhances recruiting strategy through its PR campaign with community services, evangelism, Open Houses, newspaper photo op, fairs (distributes the YOUTH `94 magazine), it also modifies some of the inside church behavior that has not been so appealing to newcomers--members can now clap during special music and women are allowed to wear pants!

--A new Let's Talk video program is being used by Church pastors in efforts to improve marital skills within the church. It has been reported that a church survey indicated that seventy percent of Ambassador College graduates' marriages end in divorce. These shattering statistics certainly show "God's way of life and government from the top down, as stated by the WCG," doesn't work!

From Our Mailbag:

Thank you for all your letters and for taking the time to share your feelings with us. Limited space allows just a sampling.

I found the information to be very helpful and enlightening! However, I would like to suggest including information about how WCG lacked the Godly love it purported to have and especially how racist WCG is. After

all, it wasn't over doctrinal issues that I left the WCG--it was over the lack of love and the racism. After leaving, I found out how flaky the doctrines were in the WCG. I am an African American and I would dare say that most African Americans leave the WCG because of the racism, not because of some change in doctrine. During my time in the WCG, virtually no one wanted to talk about the racial problems. I believe if gathered testimonies from African American, Hispanic, and Asian ex-WCG members as to their experiences as far as race is concerned, they would make credible testimonies to illustrate another destructive facet of the WCG. - Virginia

[I believe you're right! How about others writing us about their experiences. -ESN]

I was in the WCG from 1969 until 1981. I was one who waited for the church to flee in 1972 and for Jesus to return in 1975. I listened very intently to Raymond Cole, Rod Meredith, Brice Clark, Wayne Cole, Herbert Armstrong, Garner Ted and Ron Dart. Now, what does one do? Quite a number of people left the church when I did. Not one is attending any church. No one knows what to do. If you have any information on cults, please send me some. I will pass it on to the other former WCG members in my area. The deacons that came out when we did don't seem to know anymore then the rest of us. I will be anxious to hear from you. - W. Virginia

[UPDATES: More on Ronald Dart is covered in our OIU Newsletter 4, Pt. 4. Raymond C. Cole died 9-25-01 of a stroke; C. Wayne Cole entered GTA's Church of God International in 1979, but left soon after and went into the real estate business. "My Story" by C. Wayne Cole, 5-19-79; CD/audio tape with ESN.]

My family and I have left the WCG. Please forward any information that might help us recover from the experience. - Virginia

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It is very refreshing to read about people like yourself and your husband who are involved in helping those who have exited and are exiting the WCG. My wife was in for 25 years and I for six years. It's been a great challenge to come out of this "faith" and control. It's been much more difficult for my wife than me, but difficult nevertheless. It does shake a person's stability. It's caused us to do some homework in comparative religion study and watch, with a critical eye, everything said by people preaching the gospel. We both would like to hear about your group and what you do to assist people regaining confidence in themselves and God. We have a need to learn how others handle this particular problem. - Wisconsin

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Thank you once again for all the information you sent me. I enjoyed talking to you over the phone. You were a lot of help to me. If I never meet you and your family in this life, I'm sure we'll meet in the Kingdom of Heaven. - North Carolina

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My husband and I recently left WCG after being members for seven years. I hope to never get involved with organized religion again. I also hope to never be so foolish as to put an organization or a man between me and God again. It's a funny feeling, though, to think you had all the answers and then to find out you don't have any of them. I have to wonder at the gall of people who mislead others in the name of God. Don't they fear the Day of Judgment when they will have to give account? Well my prayers are with all the ex-members of the WCG. I hope we can all finally begin to have a real relationship with God. - Virginia

[Well said! Refer to Chap. 5, Captive Hearts Captive Minds for a thorough ***understanding*** *of the* ***characteristics of cult leaders****!]*

I left the WCG last year. I have gone through so many emotions of disbelief, denial, confusion, anger, sadness, etc. I had been in WCG for twenty years. I was a "spiritual widow." Neither my husband nor children were in the WCG and they do not understand what I am going through. They don't want to talk about it, but I need to talk about it. For twenty years, the WCG was my life. It controlled how I thought and reacted to everything around me. I never, ever thought that I would someday be leaving it. I never really made friends outside of the WCG and now that I have left, all of my friends in the WCG have shunned me. I am at a point now where I am not certain what I should believe spiritually. I feel that I can't trust anyone, nor my own gut feelings. I certainly have been wrong before! I also have the feeling that I no longer belong anywhere; that my foundations have crumbled. Where do we go from here? - Texas

---

The sound of your service is probably much needed. I think it is fairly well established by many (though not

enough) that the WCG and many of its clones are cults. Perhaps not a David Koresh or a Jim Jones cult, but nevertheless, psychologically and certainly financially destructive and abusive. Cults are dangerous in very subtle ways. Their radioactive fallout too often has a very dangerous life span. "Toxic faith" is what one source calls it. While I feel I owe absolutely nothing to the WCG, I still feel I owe something to the brethren, despite the fact many either have or would condemn us--"you've lost God's Spirit"; "you're going into the 'Lake of Fire,'" etc. I'm sure you've heard them all. It hurts to care for such people who we once thought of as friends and brethren and to be condemned and shunned by them. I've only tried to help them. But does God really want me to try to help others who want to be deceived and abused doctrinally and financially? Can anyone truly help those who want to remain mind-controlled? Do I really owe them anything, other than prayers for their eventual deliverance? - Ohio

---

I dropped out of WCG after being unable to live up to their high standards. I alienated all my relatives and friends since being in the church. I can't seem to make friends outside, as no one wants to listen to things related to the WCG. I am very lonely and don't fit in anywhere. Please send information. - Texas

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Man in WCG Molested My Son:

I was kicked out of WCG several years ago. I was shunned. A man in the church had molested my son. I was scolded for calling the police. My husband divorced me (WCG member). I have not been able to get over the 22 years of the WCG. I need help and I need help from others. - California

[Also read: Stepfather was a Sexual Abuser in the WCG While a Deacon (8-9-05 letter to ESN. This also has links to similar letters.)]

To Our Readers

Reading the thoughts of others is very helpful toward the understanding that you are not alone. Knowing that others are enduring the challenge of healing offers support during the trying times. Space will not permit us to include all your letters, but we will continue to print or quote your words in upcoming issues. The OIU will never list names unless specified to do so.

Please continue to write to the Network and keep us updated on your progress. Equally important as sharing your anger and frustrations, is the awareness that life really does get better. Share your thoughts, ideas and suggestions on how your life improved after the WCG experience. Through the OIU we can collectively reach out to one another.

Yes, a WCG Network is long past due. The isolated efforts of ex-members throughout the years could have had a far-reaching impact had they had the opportunity to support each other with their altruistic endeavors of helping the victims. A one-man band will eventually burn out, or turn its efforts inward. This Network belongs to the WCG victims. The success of it will depend on the input of ex-members and their willingness to take a stand on the platform of their precious knowledge and experience.

I have often been labeled high energy and dedicated to the cause. I will agree with that statement. However, the pace that I have maintained these past eight months is far stronger than one human being should endure. A heartfelt thank-you goes to those individuals who have connected with the Network and have participated in making it work. I would like very much to recognize those people, but will only print names upon approval.

I also thank those who have covered their postage and printing costs for all the supplies we have mailed. The financial contribution on our household has been significant. We hope that those who have benefited from our personal labors and sacrifices, but have not contributed, will consider covering the costs of the materials they have received. The exit packages and additional support materials have been instrumental in helping victims de-doctrinate and psychologically heal. As one exiter put it, "You saved me years of work and thousands of dollars."

It is our aim to issue an OIU regularly. We look forward to your input and hope you will participate in the writing of the: OUTSIDER'S INSIDE UPDATE

With Sincerity,

The Gang at the ESN

OIU Volume Two

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

Volume TWO. A newsletter of understanding ... Winter `95

Special Edition

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ESN NEWS

As usual the Exit & Support Network™ has been flying in high gear, tackling everything from exiting emergencies to research trips to doctrine pandemonium.

We no sooner returned from the Evangelical Ministries of New Religions (EMNR) conference on cults in Oct., when we found ourselves soaring to Ohio for the 1994 Cult Awareness Conference. [NOTICE: **Since this, OIU CAN is no longer a recommended resource. It was bankrupted by Scientology and is staffed by its operatives. More on CAN is mentioned in** this **offsite report**.] Once again, the national yearly conference was jam packed with excellent professionals from around the globe sharing their years of

experience and expertise on a multitude of cult related subjects. Every organization carries its strengths and weaknesses; the yearly conference is certainly an asset of the CAN organization. This was the ESN's second attendance. One of the highlights was meeting hundreds of people who are totally unrelated to the WCG, but can relate experiences as if they have lived through one's own. People from all over the U.S. who have exited from hundreds of other cults, who have in some way, lived though a similar experience, help us to realize we are not alone and we're not personally attacked, but had been caught in the market of deception, control, coercion and manipulation for the gain of power and money.

Attendees had the opportunity to learn, discern and heal from their cultic involvement in every aspect, spiritually and psychologically. When a victim breaks away from a controlling and abusive group, putting his past in perspective is an arduous task that involves critical thinking. The ability to recognize that the cult phenomenon is far bigger then the WCG picture, helps one to release himself from the bonds of WCG, to start the sorting process. Education is imperative to healing and spiritual understanding. The CAN conference is another tool provided to assist the cult victim on his recovery path. In addition to attending these conferences, we held a local television interview about cults, gave a presentation on cults at Yale University, and continued with ESN's research on the WCG. As the WCG spins its strategies into new directions, we methodically piece the past and present together. The year 1994 culminated with another research trip to Washington, DC. Our family enjoyed many of the sights together, as we considered the true meaning of freedom and weighed it against the atrocity of totalitarian governments. Worth mentioning at this time, is what is considered to be the Library of Congress' most valuable book. That book is the Gutenberg Bible, well protected and on special display in the Madison Building. Most strikingly eye-catching, were the words carved on a large bronze plaque, ironically just above the display case that housed the Bible:

"The **essence of government is power--**
and power lodged as it must be in human hands, will ever be liable to abuse."

I will share more about my Washington trips....in the future!

Education: The Key To Cult Recovery Spiritually and Psychologically

Many lose out on opportunities that would have added to, and expedited their recovery process. The years of tunneled thinking, and us vs. them programming, inhibits our ability to think objectively or expand our knowledge. This problem can prevent the exiter from benefiting from many available resources that aid in cult recovery. And that's a shame! Exiters seem to develop prejudices against certain recovery tools available to them. Due to the sophisticated programming techniques that were used to control the WCG member, the exiter carries the cult inspired negative and inhibiting behavior with him through life. Unless, of course, he has confronted that programmed thinking and worked it out of his system. An example of this would be the intense use of psychology by the WCG ministry. For decades members have been drilled with negativism regarding satanic psychologists, man's way, the Satan inspired medical field, etc., all the while members were being conditioned to react on command like Pavlov's dogs.

The Us vs. Them Thinking...Sticks!

If one were to ask what were the most personal significant learning lessons in 1994, my reply would entail this response:

A) The twisting of religion, Christianity and Jesus Christ and utilizing the concepts as a mask and shield for deception, corruption and money hungry organizations, and.....

B) The influencing of our lives and decisions directed by propaganda.

The ESN has had it share of enlightenment in both areas. Human nature shows us that we want to believe what feels comfortable to our psyche. We deny what might confront our pride. Accepting the need for recovery places us in another vulnerable position. It means we must tear down the wrong to build a solid future. **That is one reason why so many ex-WCGers turn their back on the past, or jump directly into another belief system without thoroughly understanding it.** It is temporarily more comforting to escape reality, transfer our beliefs and ignore the pain of truth, than it is to deal with it and get on with life. If the cult

experience taught us anything, it should have been how necessary it is to think for ourselves, keep an open mind, question and take responsibility for our own lives. Unfortunately, many victims exit and neglect to utilize that freedom. The result is stunted spiritual and psychological growth.

Negative Programming Prevents Growth

Ministries state that their job is to preach the Gospel and sort out spiritual issues. Secular organizations strive to educate victims on cults and their psychological and behavioral effects. Secular does **not** mean anti-Christian. Many support organizations consider themselves secular in an effort to reach out to all people from many understandings; the goal is total well-being. **Both** sides are essential to recovery. It is a real loss when one places limitations on his healing because of propaganda, or closed thinking. Exiters must recognize that post-cult behavior reflects the negative training of the past and enhances prejudicial thoughts. Unless we personally take responsibility to cut the umbilical cord to the destructive thinking that dictates our behavior, we will forever be mentally tied to the Worldwide Church of God. That, by the way, would be indicative of the "programmers" pursuit.

As The Whirlwide Turns™...Part Two:

The Great Diversion and Distraction

What prevents us from seeing the real story?

Definitions: (American Heritage Dictionary)

Divert: 1. To turn aside from a course or direction; deflect.

Diversion: 1. An act or instance of diverting or turning aside; deviation. 2. Something that distracts the mind and relaxes or entertains. 3. A maneuver that draws the attention of an opponent away from the planned point of action.

Distract: 1. To cause to turn away from the original focus of attention or interest; divert. 2. To pull in conflicting emotional directions; unsettle.

Distraction: 1. The act of distracting or the condition of being distracted. 2. Something that distracts. 3. Extreme mental or emotional disturbance; obsession.

What is important? Is it the EVENT, or the REASON behind the EVENT?

> *"What I want you to really understand today--so many times we focus in prophetically on the event and not its reason. We get so glued to events which are important, that we don't look into the reason and the reason is the cause of events... "We have to know why!"*

This quote is from an October 2, 1978 sermon by **Art Mokarow**. Mr. Mokarow was a prominent WCG minister quite astute on the topic of "Fascism." Among his many WCG titles in the 1970 era, he was Chief Editor of the unbiblical magazine *Successful Living* and Director of the **Human Potential Center**. (These worldly WCG tithe-eater projects represent a small example of the many non-church, Rader/Kuhn creations that... failed.) Some might remember Mr. Mokarow's fine sermons on positive aspects of "Fascism!"

[UPDATE: Art Mokarow died on July 27, 2017]

Recapture True History

Too few WCGers are aware of the significant era in WCG's history during the 1970s. That is made plain by the gullibility of some current members and on-looking Christian Ministries who are currently gobbling up the new Tkachism as "**new truth**." Reviewing the WCG 1970s era aids in the process of connecting and analyzing the strategic events unfolding before our eyes. How easy it would be to report only the changes we see; there are some who derive income on doing just that! But the picture is far deeper than the visual tip of the iceberg. As Roosevelt has said many times, "**nothing happens without a plan**." The Worldwide Church of God/ Armstrong/ Tkach team (the WAT) has never been without a plan and the current events changing Worldwide

is no exception.

The last OIU discussed the deception surrounding the changes and WCG's involvement with outside evangelical and Protestant ministries, marketing strategies and the gain of power and money as the underlying objective.

By the **early 1970s** rumblings about doctrine started to build throughout the ministry. As several ministers became increasingly sickened by the intense control and methods they were instructed to apply to the membership, many started to increase their knowledge of Biblical issues. Month by month these pioneer ministers stepped out with great fear and trepidation to stand up to the evil that was prevailing within the Worldwide Church of God. Many adamantly researched the doctrines, which led to intense investigations on the corruption and duplicity that was occurring at that time. **Stan Rader's** leadership was being questioned and scrutinized along with his involvement in money matters as the Chief Financial Officer and HWA's right hand man. The corruption was magnified by the behavior of HWA's son, Garner Ted. These ministers stood behind their integrity on behalf of the exploited; they strove to be heard on doctrinal issues, such as the Sabbath, Tithing, Holy Days, God's government and the LAW. For years they cried out for help because they could no longer lie to the members. Some became physically ill due to the stress of having to break up families with the Divorce and Remarriage (D&R) doctrine. Other ministers grew enraged from watching innocent believers die under the Healing doctrine, or from having to bury suicide victims who could no longer live up to the WCG's mandates. Documentation in the form of letters, office memos, HQ correspondence to the ministries, tapes of meetings and phone conversations, books, The Minister's Bulletin, PGR's, testimony accounts and other supporting material, clearly outlines the incredible ruthless events that transpired from the hands of leaders, Herbert W. and Garner Ted Armstrong, along with **Stan Rader** and the obedient ministers at large.

[UPDATE: Stan Rader died of acute pancreatic cancer July 2, 2002, at the age of 71, and Garner Ted Armstrong died of pneumonia, at age 73, on September 15, 2003.]

The in-house fighting for change and correction resulted with seventy ministers leaving and over 11,000 members exiting. [NOTE: Be sure and read about the very turbulent 1970 era talked about in ESN's letter to author Janis Hutchinson.]

Personal accounts clearly describe the firings, the character assassination, the disfellowshippings and the painful emotional distress the pioneers suffered through. These men used every respectful tactic known to aid in initiating change from the Hitler type of government to a true church of biblical understanding. They were rewarded by being thrown out, ridiculed and labeled as liberal rebels conspiring to take over the church.

Many, under the HWA dictatorship, were teaching lies and persisted on doing so despite the massive communication pointing out their errors. They continued to preach the biblical distortions as it damaged thousands of lives--some to the point of death--knowing full well that much of it was heresy. The HWA team had total control over its membership and it continued to use fear and guilt to twist and manipulate each member that was snarled in its web.

The WCG story played like Star Wars on earth. Exposé blanketed the globe about the corruption and doctrinal distortions. Meanwhile, the members were sheltered by the threat of satanic attacks and threats about annihilation in the Lake of Fire.

The church did not have a clear cut "doctrine package." Herbert W. Armstrong's belief system consisted of a compilation of teachings and beliefs from other religions. His authoritarian tactics were comprised from his extensive history involving right-wing extremist organizations. The belief system and behavioral tactics were rightly called "Armstrongism."

Several ministers started the first of the spin-off churches. Among them was Ernest Martin, head of the Theology Department for Ambassador College. Ernest Martin aided hundreds of exiters through his articulate explanation of the massive errors in the Armstrong teachings. It was also Ernest Martin's research that Dr. Hoeh used without permission to verify the change in Pentecost.

[UPDATE: Ernest L. Martin died January 16, 2002.]

Rebellion against Armstrongism was ignited in the early 1970s by men of integrity. By 1978, the Systematic Theology Project was written.

" This systematic theology is being produced by the Worldwide Church of God to reflect its doctrines, beliefs, practices and traditions. The development of the project is the response to a need sensed by the leadership of the Church. The need was for an up-to-date and accurate statement of our official doctrinal positions and understandings, which would provide a formal record and serve as a communications vehicle both within and without the church."

" As a formal record of the Church's beliefs and teachings, the systematic theology will provide an official source of public information about the doctrines of the WCG."

The above statement prefaces the almost 500 page binder which outlines the proposed doctrinal statement and beliefs. Herbert W. Armstrong rejected the attempt for change and correction by expelling the idea and a few ministers along with it.

The story of the 1970s is a book unto itself. Several agendas were accruing simultaneously. While HWA and **Stan Rader** globetrotted visiting particular leaders for the purpose of "**secret agendas**," the battle behind the Pasadena wall escalated. The massive amount of documentation left in the wake of the 1970 era awakens us to the deception perpetrated by the leaders of the Worldwide Church of God. It also highlights the fact that Joseph W. Tkach has not been given "**NEW TRUTH**," by Jesus Christ, as he so dogmatically claims!

By the end of the 1970 decade, the church was limping due to negative publicity through exposé and books published about HWA and his church. The turmoil persisted through the lawsuits and receivership. Yes! The WCG was hot news in the Christian and secular arena. Meanwhile, through it all, the meager membership were led to believe it was a **satanic attack** as they continued to offer up every penny they had to prepare for their supreme role as the chosen Kings and Priests in the soon coming Kingdom, that was to be ushered in by the sound of the trumpets. Throughout this era HWA and Rader pursued their extravagant trips and "secret agenda" visits to dignitaries under the **pretense** of spreading the Gospel.

Getting the church back on track was the order of business following the ouster of Garner Ted Armstrong in 1978. It was at this time that the penetrating publications such as, *The Incredible Human Potential* and the *Mystery of the Ages* were launched. What seems today to read like Project Mind Control was really a heavy dose of HWA's rendition of GOD SPEAKING TO HIS PEOPLE! It was no secret to the inner circle that HWA was not managing the church. **Stan Rader** was the number one answer-man. It is documented by many that HWA was often under heavy influence of alcohol and had frequent episodes of senility. **Stan Rader** decided that it was time to keep HWA highly visible and pictured on all the publications, which helped cover for lack of personal appearances. On the other hand, it is highly doubtful HWA authored any materials, including the *Mystery of the Ages*, during his final twenty years of life. Considerable documentation points to the communism/fascism/ Aryan race expert, Herman Hoeh as having the final say on the "belief system," and accompanying dogma.

[UPDATE: Herman Hoeh died November 21, 2004.]

The unraveling of God's Plan of Salvation and all its science fictional trimmings was christened at the 1978 Feast of Tabernacles by HWA, and it became the diet for the membership for the next ten years.

The WCG leadership was determined to get their people back on track. No method of control was considered too harsh. The **God's Government** routine provided the foundation for the belief system--the pursuit of doctrine clarification was not a priority. The membership anchored to the constant barrage of threats, fear and abuse instead. The leadership learned many lessons by their mistakes in the 1970s, henceforth; safeguards were built in to prevent uprisings in the future. **Those safeguards consisted of the wearing away of individual identities, wills and self-worth**. The Bible was the tool used in a distorted way to prove that each individual was only garbage in God's eye. What follows is a quote that represents the **locked in mental programming** forced on the unsuspecting spiritual seekers.

Just What IS Repentance?

"Repentance is a change of mind and attitude. It is a change from this carnal attitude of hostility toward God--of rebellion against God's Law, to the opposite attitude of love, submission, obedience, and worship of God, and reliance on Him. It is an "about-face" in attitude and intent, the way of God's righteousness. Repentance

means that you come to really see yourself as you are--as God sees you--as a *self-centered, hostile, shriveled-up, rotten, vile, filthy, sinning hulk of rotting human flesh*, *unworthy to breath the free air God gives you!* It means to be so sorry, not only for what you have done, but also for what you ARE--that you so abhor yourself that you come emotionally broken up, throwing yourself on God's mercy, asking His forgiveness, and His redemption! It means wanting to be made righteous." (*What Do You Mean--The Unpardonable Sin?* by Herbert W. Armstrong.)

The same underlying message found its way in all the readings and letters and sermons geared for the membership. Is there any wonder why so many found suicide to be the answer to their pain? While the ministry accused the psychology field as being SATANIC, they employed whatever psychological measures needed to keep their "sheeple" (people/sheep) in line.

[NOTE: Read: Can I commit the unpardonable sin? (Q&A)]

All Good Things Come To An End

Thanks to Jonestown and the increased cult awareness, recruiting slowed down through the 1980s. The HWA hard-line approach was continued by Tkach for at least three years following HWA's death. The Tkach regime manipulated many marketing strategies with *The Plain Truth* and *World Tomorrow* broadcast. It seemed as if the formats were being changed every few months. That certainly would indicate what wasn't working. The year 1988 was when a few daring insightful members were able to first detect some change. However, it wasn't until 1990 that possible changes became more evident. As the duplicity and confusion prevailed within the church, the leaders locked hands with Protestant ministries in an effort to reform their doctrinal package and de-cult the look of the Worldwide Church of God. Of course, the membership was told that the doctrines were only being enhanced and modified and nothing was really changing.

"Work Smarter, Not Harder"

These were the words Joseph Tkach told his membership. "We've got a five year plan in motion," he boasted. This helped the membership to begin realizing that they too might join the rest of humanity and see **physical death**. Shock permeated the local ministries; the new thought was, "looks as if Christ isn't coming in our lifetime." That was a problem, because the bulk of the membership had no money saved, no insurance, minimal education and nothing to show for their WCG life span but the thought that their money helped build "God's house."

With the membership in increasing disarray, they were comforted by their leaders that WCG was **God's only true church** and that God (more recently changed to Jesus Christ) was leading the way. Members were asked to always pray that Joseph Tkach would carry out God's instructions faithfully.

1994---A Pivotal Year

The escalation of cult awareness with the occurrence of WACO expedited the WCG's new strategy development program. The cult watching Christian ministries were being entertained with the words such as, "Trinity" since 1990. Meanwhile, the Trinity introduction to the membership didn't occur until 1993 with the word "Hypostasis." By 1994 all of the membership was aware that changes were occurring within their church. Confusion escalated month after month because of the contradicting messages in the writings and sermons. Those not in denial were aware that JWT was changing course. Past Church beliefs were shelved and replaced with Protestant teachings while previous behavioral traditions were being overshadowed by liberal methods.

The WCG was moving in several directions at the same time throughout 1994. Their new friendship with Church of God Seventh Day, linkage with Protestant/Evangelical Christian Ministries, Accreditation, new recruiting strategies with Open Houses, TV advertising, evangelism programs, registrations in new foreign markets, Dr. Stavrinide's psychobabble tapes on the Nature of God and implementation of a form of Protestant Christian theology, seemed to not only confuse the membership more, but leave them psychologically paralyzed as well. Could that have been the intention?

1995---WCG Goes Public

Following an exhaustive year of Tkachism duplicity, contradictions, double-talk, etc., Joseph Tkach conditions the membership with warnings of major decisions pending. In the Sept. `94 Pastor General's letter to the membership, JWT states the following:

> *"Today, we all live and work in uncertain times. Trials may strike at any time. Some trials are unpredictable, and others are easy to predict but seemingly impossible to prevent. On my own horizon, for example, I see some difficult decisions looming, as I referred to in last month's letter. I agonize about these decisions, and I am fully aware that I am unable to solve the problems on my own. I come before God in fear and trembling, asking for his mercy and direction."*

This August `94 letter prefaces the above statement while it paves the way for the pending Holy Day offerings:

> *"First, I cannot stress enough how important the fall Holy Day offerings will be this year. Income seems stable at about 7 percent below last year, which is what we had projected based on current economic trends and conditions. However, we had hoped, of course, that the picture would be brighter than our projections.*
>
> *The unpleasant news I bring to you now is that our projections for next year must again anticipate a decline, and that decline must be prepared for now. This financial situation demands that we carefully reassess all priorities and take serious immediate action to reduce expenses in advance of next year's projected deficit.*
>
> *There is light at the end of the tunnel. Indication, based on our past income cycles and typical economic cycles in the US, is that this negative income trend will begin to slow down in late 1995 and early 1996 and reverse itself in 1997.*

(He goes on to say:)

> *Financially, our first priority is to provide our congregations around the world with pastors, so that the Body of Christ has the local spiritual leadership vital for spiritual health and growth in Christ. This priority is based on the instruction in Eph 4:11-16, and must remain our first consideration. This priority includes the need for proper training and administration.*
>
> *Our second priority is The Plain Truth magazine, which (besides the personal Christian conduct of our members) is our fundamental evangelistic tool. The Plain Truth is our primary media vehicle for Christian instruction, encouragement, admonition and proclamation of the gospel. It supports and enhances the evangelistic work that more and more of our local congregations are becoming engaged in. Of course, to build and maintain Plain Truth circulation we must continue to advertise, as we are now doing with our television ads. Along with The Plain Truth in priority, is the mail-processing operation, which receives and responds to the thousands of letters the church receives every day.*
>
> *After these, several aspects of the Church's work are vital: Ambassador University and our Christian booklets, brochures and study aids. As we can afford it, we will also continue with television advertising and acquisition of buildings for local congregations."*

The Christian cult watchers finally learned to use a little patience before giving WCG a clean bill of health before its due. They have tempered their glowing statements and have taken a "wait and see attitude," while watching the WCG events unfold. The Christian cult watchers main concern is that the leaders of WCG combine forces with their own theology. So, as JWT and team set the pace for their strategic business maneuvers, they apparently will gain support as leaders after God's own heart.

In January 1995, Joseph Tkach gave a three-hour video sermon to the membership and all churches were instructed to play it. The sermon was filled with the expected double messages, contradictions, confused rambling and abusive shouting, but the bottom line indicated the following:

- The WCG is a new Covenant Church.
- The church is not under the Old Testament Law.
- Tithing is voluntary and no longer a required command.

- Sabbath is not required for Salvation, nor is it a sign between God and his people.
- Pork and shellfish are OK to eat (but they are still unclean food).

One would have to listen to the three-hour video and the follow-up sermon given two weeks after the big message to fully understand and discern that the same old story is being told. The commands to the laws have been done away with; however, the law is spiritual and written on the hearts of the Spirit-filled; therefore, those who have the Spirit and our true followers of Jesus Christ will want to continue to keep the Sabbath and Holy Days and tithe above and beyond 10%. Tkach says it is not a command, but thoroughly conveys to the listener that they better do more then required in the past because the law is on their hearts.

The three-hour video and the follow-up sermon on Sabbath and Tithing are filled with mixed messages and leave much to be desired. HWA is praised as if he had been teaching these ideas all along, but people misunderstood him. Tkach extols the importance of keeping the Sabbath because one has the Holy Spirit, but assures that one may work at his place of employment if necessary. The Big Sandy video edited out Tkach's comment about playing golf on the Sabbath being perfectly fine. "I don't keep the LAW to get saved, I keep the LAW because I am saved," are the words Tkach uses to explain his position. Tithing may be voluntary; however, Tkach points out that anyone who **truly** loves Jesus and is thankful for what Jesus has done for him, will want to tithe even more than before.

The three-hour video does not follow the script written in *The Worldwide News* article. The Dec. WWN neglects to allude to the membership as dummies and ignorant as he did in the video. If one were to read the WWN as their only information source and not read the Pastor General's Reports, nor listen to the video, one would think the message was polished and professional. But that is not the case. Tkach's words on the video mimicked the same authoritarian mannerism riddled with abuse tactics and blame on the membership. While Tkach strives to look like a Christian hero willing to go the way of Jesus, the membership is repeatedly blamed for the destructive thinking patterns of the past and for their stupidity in misunderstanding good old Mr. Armstrong.

[For those who are interested in the total message along with a study in manipulation and mind control we suggest you obtain a copy of the tapes from the ESN. Or go to Video Sermon by Joseph W. Tkach, Sr. and Transformed by Truth or Transformed by Lies?? for excerpts]

Opinions are wide and varied regarding the message behind the video. To sum it up best, it could be said, "Have it your way." Basically, anyone tuning in will hear what he or she wants to hear. Do you want the LAW? You've got it! Do you want grace? You've got it! Do you want more freedom on your wallet? You've got it! Do you want emotionalism? You've got it! Do you want to know that the WCG is Jesus` church and Jesus put YOU in it? You've got it. The list is endless, but let's not forget the most important thing. Do you want everything to stay the way it was and have legalism to boot? You've got it! Just pick up your body and shuffle over to Rod Meredith's Global Church of God. He'll give you Armstrongism on a silver platter, no strings attached! Tkach goes as far as to hold up one of Global's magazines, *The World Ahead*, and invites members to join. [Update: Roderick Meredith died May 18, 2017]

As the membership tries to incorporate the Tkach message regarding their personal misunder-standings for past beliefs and behaviors, they seem to find themselves baffled over how they could have been so wrong. Several members we have spoken to are particularly annoyed over the presentation of Herbert W. Armstrong. On one hand, it is stated that the church was wrong on past teachings; on the other hand, HWA is constantly esteemed as a beloved man of God who brought great truth to God's Church. The image of HWA is reshaped with constant reminders that HWA would have been a true supporter of all the Tkach maneuvers had he been alive. [Read: Transformed by Christ (a critical review) to see the WCG's whitewashing of Herbert Armstrong and Has WCG Whitewashed Herbert W. Armstrong? (several examples)] The Jan. 7th, WWN offers a lengthy article about HWA's Baptist baptism. Columns of twisted misinformation attempt to shape HWA into a righteous silhouette. The point of the article is to convince the reader that HWA never believed that salvation had anything to do with Sabbath keeping. The article states that HWA wrote the following:

> *"If you do not honestly feel sure in your own mind that God wants you to rest and keep holy the time between Friday and Saturday sunsets, it is not disobedience not to do it...I now realize it has nothing to do with salvation...Until you had taken that step [of baptism] I have felt you*

should not be bothered with the Sabbath question."

One current member told us he was shocked over the overt lies being told and couldn't understand why more people were not reacting to such heresy. It appears that the leaders are fairly secure with their Mind Control tactics and feel cocky enough to get away with anything. Maybe the members are petrified to say anything for fear of losing their life. In Tkach's latest sermon he forcefully shouts that anyone who dares to cause discord by disagreeing with him verbally will be sorry and God help him! Phew!

The Truth Proof

Where is the WCG going with all this? The Christian Media hopes it's going "their way," but is it really? One would think true repentance would accompany an honest change in behavior, especially dealing with matters of Jesus Christ. But has it?

The Tkach by-line states that the ministers will not honor the changes and the membership on the whole refuses to accept change. Blame for non-conformance has been positioned on the lower ministry from the beginning. All the while Tkach is set up as a Godly man of change exhibiting much integrity. This propaganda certainly delights the self-appointed Christian cult watchers who DO NOT know the whole story. Tkach stands as the man of faith, willing to put the whole church in jeopardy for the sake of the "truth". However, if the Tkach regime had an honest agenda, it would be highly unlikely that such secrecy, duplicity, contradictions, blame, denial, guilt, manipulations, deception and massive confusion, would be part of the change format--unless, of course, there was a **hidden agenda** to the change strategy.

One exiting member wrote us, stating her frustrations with the Tkach double message and new psychological twist. She says that if these changes represent an honest statement of repentance then obviously we'd see some different fruit in Mr. Tkach:

1. Tkach would admit to the financial corruption of the past.
2. He would stop lying.
3. He wouldn't be living a high lofty lifestyle and making a salary of several hundred thousands dollar a year.
4. He wouldn't tolerate decadent lifestyles.
7. He wouldn't be using fear, guilt and manipulation on those who leave the church.
6. He would come out and repudiate HWA's corruptive and deceitful life instead of trying to convince the membership that he was a man following Jesus Christ.
7. He'd stop using the membership like objects and cease exploiting seekers for the gain of power and money.
8. He'd be open about what he is doing with all of the church's money.

This recent member makes valid points, but for us to better understand why cult leaders do what they do we must understand their **personalities**. In the book *Captive Hearts, Captive Minds*, Janja Lalich and Madeleine Tobias address this issue under Chapter Five, Characteristics of a Cult Leader. A thorough explanation may be found under the following subheadings:

The Authoritarian Power Dynamic
Who Becomes a Cult Leader?
The Role of Charisma
The Cult Leader as Psychopath
The Master Manipulator
The Profile of a Psychopath

1. Glibness/superficial charm
2. Manipulation and conning
3. Grandiose sense of self
4. Pathological lying

5. Lack of remorse, shame or guilt
6. Shallow emotions
7. Incapacity for love
8. Need for stimulation
9. Callousness/lack of empathy
10. Poor behavior controls/impulsive nature
11. Early behavior problems/juvenile delinquency
12. Irresponsibility/unreliability
13. Promiscuous sexual behavior/infidelity
14. Lack of realistic life plan/parasitic lifestyle
15. Criminal or entrepreneurial versatility

Moving right along...

The Hidden Agenda

The last OIU discussed the WCG's marketing strategies. A review of the last ten years indicates that the Adventist message wasn't working anymore for recruiting. WCG was behind the times with current trends and squeezed the final dime out of its followers. If business was going to survive, grave restructuring of the entire modus operandi was in order. If we set aside our personal spiritual beliefs and look at the organization in a business sense, we can better understand the total picture.

Armstrongism was not about doctrine. It was **a way** of life instituted by HWA and highlighted by buzzwords and science fiction. It is well documented that he did not author any specific teachings through Godly inspiration, but instead incorporated a neat little package from several other religious denominations and often modified them to tailor his specific needs and personal beliefs. He was careful to combine and plagiarize just the right statements that would serve the groupthink. Contrary to what many believe, Herbert W. Armstrong was not academically intelligent. He did, however, possess exceptional expertise on how to control the crowds. His pre-religion history gave him vast understanding about "human nature" most intellects never arrive at. That, combined with his worldly experience, his close association with his mentor, Frank Armstrong and heeded advice from Elbert Hubbard, rewarded him **great riches**. Timing was great for HWA's methodology, but all good things do end. So did the HWA era.

The Tkach handlers stepped into the multi-million dollar operation following HWA's death. Sure, Tkach tried to fill the HWA shoes for at least two years, but to no avail. The product (Armstrongism) was already in great decline. The church structure, which is set up like a "Mary Kay Cosmetic" organization (or any multi-level marketing Co. for that matter) needed a new product to sell. After careful study of religious trends and surveys, the WCG leaders did what had to be done.

Business is Business

In business, when sales drop, decisions are made to increase profits. There is only one main goal prompting decisions; it's called PROFIT. If the product is no longer salable, it must be modified or dropped from the sales line. Usually, it is replaced with a far trendier product. Rest assured though, it will be based on the need in the market.

Relating this to the WCG, we note that Armstrongism died with the image of Herbert W. Armstrong. That left the WCG all dressed up and nowhere to go, as they say. After fiddling with different renditions of the same old sales market, WCG incorporated a whole new sales strategy. Bearing in mind that the bottom line is money and the money is going to come from those who buy the product, it is highly doubtful that most past customers (members) will accept the new game plan. (Can't teach an old Pavlov dog new tricks.) Radical changes are essential.

Getting Politically, Religiously Correct and ready for the NEW AGE

Putting this perspective into the WCG we can easily piece together the incremental steps to their strategy. If the product doesn't sell, there is no use advertising it [read: pull all the publications from printing]. If the company's sales are declining, the work force must be downsized [read: no ordinations of new Pastors and combining of local churches to reduce overhead]. By applying the business understanding to WCG, we gain insight into why local ministries and affiliated businesses like Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF) will continue to be shut down. Why carry the employee expense and costs of running local areas if they are not generating profit, let alone new business? In the case of the WCG, the situation is a bit sticky because the organization (deceptively) took millions of dollars from well-meaning people under a specific pretense (product). Careful considerations must be applied to every move lest the WCG creates a massive rebellion from its followers.

When a market dries up, the business must look for new markets. That is exactly what the Tkach regime has done. It abandoned the exhausted product and replaced it with a more durable, easier to relate to package. Something for mass appeal. But who will buy into this product? Not likely the old customers [read: members]. So, a whole new market must be penetrated.

What better way to dump the original customers than to catch them completely off guard with a major diversion. Only a few short years ago no one would have believed that the WCG would have attempted to take every "satanic belief" and incorporate it into the current mind set; yet, that's exactly what they are doing and have been doing for awhile.

In business, if you want to get rid of an employee, you hope that he leaves on his own. It saves you the pain of dumping him and having to deal with repercussions upon his exiting. What better way to dump the current WCG membership than by making a 180° turn in their investment. In other words, pull the rug out from under their feet.

In plain English, the product wasn't working anymore. The money allocated to the local ministries was eating up revenue to no avail. Why open up new offices and pay employees if they can't cover their expenses?

The local churches are likened to deficient offices. WCG changed its sales strategy and marketing approach. Before, they used every controlling tactic to recruit and bleed the seeker until the well ran dry. Now the leaders have learned to work **smarter and not harder**. They are learning to derive their income from mass appeal rather then catering to costly exclusive customers. The brilliant play on psychology could prove to be very profitable in the long run, while the WCG leaders attempt to sweep the religious market with a product proven to work! **Orthodox Christianity, Protestantism, Catholicism, Evangelicalism** is a proven product. WCG has modified its package by combining several belief paradigms. This package serves several purposes:

1. Gains acceptance in the mainstream Christian Community.
2. Appeals to the seeker and searcher and larger Christian audience.
3. Puts the WCG in line with the "universal religion" now taking shape.
4. Attempts to de-cult the look of the organization.

Those jumping from their inherited denominations and those new to WCG, should feel much more at home with the **"New Covenant Church of Christ" (the future name which might replace the WCG name)** than with the old and tired legalistic, totalitarian.... **Worldwide Church of God.** The unfolding of events seems to indicate that WCG will continue to down-size its local money eating churches, despite its "**priority**" to obey the instructions in Eph. 4:11-16. (Aug. `94 PG letter) They have been preparing the local areas to act independent of HQ for some time now.

[UPDATE: Worldwide Church of God changed their name to Grace Communion International in 2009.]

This reverse turn in Christian teachings has inspired many to flee already. Some have run to the highly WCG advertised, Global Church. Could that be part of the plan too? Now that the Tkach team has shifted gears and applied full throttle speed to their rocket approach marketing strategy, many of the diehards are starting to panic. No one knows what to think anymore, that is, for those who do think!

So where is the Tkach team going with all this?

If the local ministries are just money eaters, it would behoove the leaders to do away with all the ministries that are not income producing. Apparently, that is just what is happening. In the past two weeks HQ has started the money panic woes again. Listed here are a few of the current events pointing to abolishing the local ministries.

- The Jan. Pastor General Report indicated that the Pastors could not be guaranteed their jobs in the future and should now start evaluating their marketable skills.
- We are told that over 40 ministers were handed "last chance" retirement packages in the past month.
- 30 more ministers are scheduled for lay-off with a 150 additional lay-off by the end of 1995
- Contracts for the entire fleet of ministerial rental cars have canceled.
- Many local churches throughout the U.S. have merged for services.
- All subsidies to the International work have been discontinued.

Now on the surface, it looks as if the hero, Joseph Tkach has forsaken the church for the position of truth. But instead of taking such a superficial naïve glimpse at the picture, we should dissect the rest of the strategies being played out simultaneously to the axing of local churches.

One must wonder why the legal department continues to negotiate registrations in other countries such as Singapore and Uruguay. The WWN claims 117 thousand people attend services, with over 7000 new members signed in from successful Open Houses. This contradiction doesn't make sense!

Is The Cookie Crumbling????

Such diabolic contrasts of events permeate the Church correspondence and announcements. The WWN remains upbeat about the church's growth and Open House successes. Articles regarding Ambassador University's glowing triumphs seem to be appearing more often these past two months. The leaders even entertained King Hussein while cheering over basketball games at AU. Is all the hype real, or is it **diversionary propaganda?**

What is real, however, is that the 180° turn in doctrine and behavior is sweeping the membership off their feet and on to their... bottoms, while they claw at their heads with desperation. This strategic flip of marketing strategy has recently caused a few more dominos in the long line to fall. Here listed are some additional events that have been reported to us:

- The WCG airplane is up for sale, or may have been sold.
- Hundreds of regular employees have been laid off.
- Imperial School will close as of July 1st.
- 1/2 of the editorial staff has been dismissed.
- Major cuts abound at the Festival Office, and the Feast of Tabernacles `95 (now known as the celebration of Jesus Christ) looks questionable.
- Seven evangelists have been offered **healthy severance packages** [read: hush money] and are on their way to the next adventure. [Could it be Global?] Herman Hoeh, Debar Appertain, David Hulme, Dean Wilson, Leroy Neff and famous Gerald Waterhouse are among them.
- It is reported that ministers receive 60% of their salaries for life providing they honor the exiting contract by never preaching again.

[UPDATES: Gerald Waterhouse later left WCG and joined United Church of God-AIA, in 1995. He died September 4, 2002 at age 76 after a long illness (swollen prostate, collapsed bladder and extreme toxemia).]. Herman Hoeh died November 21, 2004 at age 75. Dean Wilson later became a UCG-AIA minister, and died with Parkinson's disease on January 11, 2005.]

Wait!!! There's more...

God Abandons God's House

"Ambassador Auditorium--one of the Southland's most acclaimed concert halls and for more than 20 years a center for fine classical, jazz, and folk music--is canceling its 1995-1996 season because of financial woes and will shut its doors in May, owners of the Pasadena landmark said Friday." (January 27, 1995) [**Owners???**]

This quote was positioned in the middle of the *LA Times* front page. The extensive article continues to discuss the magnificent auditorium and its attributes to the service of the Pasadena society. Nowhere in the article does it discuss that the real reason the auditorium was built was to represent **God's House here on planet earth.** Nor does it attribute thanks to the thousands of men and women who were coerced out of their last dime and manipulated by guilt and shame into obtaining bank loans to contribute to the multi-millions of dollars it took to construct this awesome building, which brought such joy to the Pasadena community. This sudden closing startles many, especially the "worldly" entertainers who were paid the highest financial rewards issued from any cultural foundation in the country.

We have also learned that several "fund-matching" companies investigated the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF) and became aware of its church/cult attachments. If deception was used by the WCG in efforts to gain "free money," it is no wonder why many companies pulled out of the program. This too would mean a significant financial loss for its owners.

The following was stated by David Hulme in the *LA Times* Jan. 28, 1995:

> *"The hall will continue to be used for religious services, but its future as a concert hall is unclear. It would be wonderful if members of the community around us could come to our rescue in whatever way they feel they can."*

The Feb. 7th WWN states that Mr. Hulme has received a flood of calls since the announcement was made on Jan. 27th.

> *"People want to know what they can do," Hulme said. "They want to see the performing arts continue here. Some of the patrons said they will pay double for the tickets if it helps us continue, and there has been an offer of outside funding, so there is reason for cautious optimism."*

One can't help but wonder what the leaders have up their sleeves now. Rest assured it is part of the overall strategy. Sadly, the *USA Today* and *Pasadena Star News* reported to the public that they were told these cutbacks followed the command for tithing being lifted by leader Joseph Tkach.

"Me thinks thou dost protest too much." Shakespeare

There has been no word as to what Real Estate, if any, has been sold at this time, but we'll keep you posted.

All these financial woes come in the wake of Tkach "going public" with the New Covenant Freedom Act [if you will]. It is most ironic, that the *Pasadena Star News* and *USA Today* report that the Worldwide is exhibiting its worst financial disaster in history because **the members have stopped tithing**. Supposedly, the income is down 30 to 40 percent. This drastic drop is attributed to the fault of the membership withholding tithes since the leader, Joseph Tkach, withdrew the command from the people. Once again, the fault is placed on the members' shoulders. The long-abused membership struggles to build the structure and then they get blamed for dismantling it. It is very interesting how these radical cutbacks come immediately following Tkach's "Going Public" message.

The Reasons Behind the Events

Remember, Roosevelt said, "Nothing ever happens by chance in politics. If it happens, it is planned that way."

And as Art Mokarow clearly demonstrates, "The **reason** is the **cause** of the **event**. It's the WHY, that counts."

The thinkers have been working overtime observing these unfolding events. Although some differ in their conclusions, none feel that the Tkach regime is truly repented and turning this long held corrupt organization into an outright HONEST church, where people are free to come and go and rejoice in their Christian belief.

"For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. **A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.** Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away" (James 1:7-10)

Double-minded man!!

The "new truth" change was cuddled by consoling Armstrong verbosity. Those who follow the strategy were educated on the keen application of propaganda and manipulation while the Tkach regime carefully constructed the new image of Herbert W. Armstrong. Tkach has gone so far as to indicate that HWA secretly told him to make these changes. We at the ESN especially enjoy the comment made on the current video that, "HWA was unaware of the wrong teachings being implemented by the upper-level ministries. " HWA's words are repeatedly twisted in efforts to make him look... righteous??? The Armstrong statements that have speckled the pages of the WWN these past few years have been outright **false flattery and attempt to provide historical cleansing**. There is plenty of documented material that proves this!

Among other double-minded tactics worth mentioning at this time are the repeated comments made by the leaders to the outside cult watchers placing blame on the Directors, ministers, and membership for fighting the supposed doctrinal statements. Words like: resistance, refusal to change, lacking God's Spirit, fighting and rebellious, are the descriptive adjectives used to clarify that the leader is the "good guy," and the rest of the church is the "bad guy."

This constant shift of blame onto the victims continues to cripple them spiritually and emotionally, as if the people haven't had enough already. They have been constantly reminded that their interpretation was wrong, or they carried things too far. As the leaders work diligently to gain acceptance from the outside Christians, they neglect to incorporate Christian love. These abusive guilt/blame tactics continue to foster an already psychologically distraught membership. In the psychiatric field this is termed, projection. Projecting is a defense technique used to shift the blame from the responsible party to the innocent bystander.

"No man and no force can abolish memory." (Franklin Roosevelt April 1942)

It is an atrocity when a Christian ministry makes an assessment of the WCG and has not researched all the elements of the organization. It is no accident that the WCG moves in several directions at the same time. Shame on those who consider themselves "Christian stock" and have bought into the propaganda at "face value."

The fact is the duplicity and confusion is not an accident. It's another strategic maneuver, which causes great **distraction from the reason behind the event.**

OIU Volume Two - Pt. 2 of 3

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Myths About Cults

> *"Gone are the days when young cult members of many nationalities stood at street corners selling magazines to passersby and inviting them to their meetings.... On the whole the cults have changed to much more subtle methods in order to achieve a better press. Many have "dialogue" with churches, address schools and play the role of persecuted minorities. Some of the official presentation of aims (manifesto style) is formulated in such a way that they contain little that could not be readily endorsed. Points of real importance, however, are likely to be left out or to be cleverly concealed. To anybody who gets the chance to study internal cult documents (writings for members only) it will become apparent that despite changes in policy, the main aims are still pretty much the same, and in many cases they are still connected with striving for power and wealth." (The Cult Observer, Vol. 11 Nos. 9&10 1994, AFF, P.O. Box 2265, Bonita Springs, FL 33959)*

[NOTE: In 2004 AFF changed their name to International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA)]

Growth, Growth, Growth, you've heard the words for years. HWA's favorite remark was that the church was growing 30% per year. But was that a true statement? Big growth did occur in the 1960s and some did occur throughout the 1970s, although we're unsure how with all the negative media exposure that existed in that era.

We find some discrepancies with the growth picture starting around 1978. As we mentioned previously, Mike Hollman, Head of Data Processing, indicated in his testimony ["Armstrongism: An Insider's View" available from Watchman Fellowship] that there were **only about 45,000 baptized members listed on the computer.** Mr. Hollman offers a reputable comment because he was the Dept. head who set up the computer program for the Worldwide Church of God. The new member recruiting was significantly low from 1986 to 1994 (lean years for the Great Tribulation message). Somehow, the WCG leaders feel that the church expanded from 40,000 to 100,000 between 1978 and 1988. Given the high rate of attrition during these same years, that inflated sum is **highly** unlikely.

Another disturbing observation is in the Financial Statement of that same era. It was widely reported that the Church's income in 1978 was about 70 million dollars, by 1988 that figure grew to 201 million dollars, to 214 million by 1989 and then increased to 222 million dollars by 1990. How could that have happened? It has been established that recruiting remained low for over a decade and certainly didn't pass the church attrition rate, but somehow the income increased by 152 million dollars in twelve short years. Also, we must consider the fact that the years 1979-82 were recession years--only to be followed by more difficult financial times starting in late 1986 and continuing to this day. These difficult economic times affected the WCG brethren greatly--not only due to the economic pinch, but because the household salaries were on the low end of average income. Today, the average American income is approximately $25,000 per year; in the late 1970s and early `80's, the average salary was far less than that. This point is crucial to bear in mind while we scrutinize the current WCG agenda. Simple math will indicate there are grave questions regarding the multi-million dollar increase in income of the Worldwide Church of God. Where did all the money come from during that ten-year period? It is so uncanny how the "till" could grow so significantly while recruiting did not. **Interestingly**, prior to the multi-million dollar increase in income, Herbert W. Armstrong and **Stan Rader** were traveling up to 300 days a year

on their highly publicized dignitary visits supposedly orchestrated by the mysterious Japanese, Osamo Gotah, throughout Japan, Middle East, Israel, Philippines, Egypt and many other highly controversial areas. (We've recently heard Osamo Gotah is in jail in Japan, but have no further details at this time.)

With a careful study of historical facts, combined with analytical scrupulous observations of the last 10 years, it is easily concluded that the WCG had no foundation to support organizational growth. It was built on money and ruled by power. It now becomes obvious to many that the WCG's agenda had much to do with deceptive dealings and little to do with true undefiled religion. Religion is abused as the drug to divert attention. Theology was not the mainstay of the WCG; control, under an abusive totalitarian government is what held it together until the public grew smarter. There will always be successful spin-off groups, but they will not grow into empires like the WCG. If the WCG money/power base is to continue in this "new age," it has no choice but to align with Protestantism and Catholicism. The WCG would have folded without a product switch. The organization hid under the wide umbrella of religion for the past 60 years. It incorporated under the seal of religion as a guise for its strategic business operation.

[NOTE: Read Myth 1 and 2 - the greatest of them all in OIU# 6, about how Joe Tkach, Jr. and Greg Albrecht found it necessary to enhance the exaggeration of inflated church membership numbers making the latest account higher than all other false statistical statements.]

The Plot Was Planned

The inner workings have been well plotted and time-released. Many probably forget how:

- *The Plain Truth* was being canceled in many countries starting several years ago. Distribution decreased from over 10 million to 1 million. [PGR, Feb. 1995 states that the PT was cut by 50%]
- The satellite in Europe for *The World Tomorrow* was canceled around 1990.
- The Bible correspondence course was pulled along with the many publications way before the membership became alerted to doctrinal changes.
- The OUTREACH [read: propaganda campaign] to Protestant/Evangelical Christian Ministries began around 1988.
- The subtle, but contradicting messages about "new truth," trickled towards the ministry, oh so slightly at first, as the leaders' said one thing, and did just the opposite.
- Ordinations to Pastor position became a rare occurrence.

As growth hype prevailed, the membership was sheltered and uninformed about the inner agenda. Meanwhile, the college extracted financial energy and priority manpower, while it turned its objective from being an educational institution to train ministers and to further the gospel into a college business capable of earning great sums of money. Accreditation means much more than a new facade for the past graduates, it means it can now squeeze more money out of the government through many types of grants and loans. The WWN, Nov. 29th issue listed approximately 1000 companies participating in gift matching to universities. It asks the membership to contact the personnel or human resources department at WCG. There is more than one way to skin a cat and many feel here goes another tool to use toward the game plan of power and money. Although the tithe paying membership paid millions of dollars into the WCG college business over the years, they were kept secluded from the plans and direction of the leadership. As ministers were sent to study Protestant Theology and secular professors were hired to teach new curriculums, the WWN barely mentioned any college news with the exception of eliciting money to build new buildings. Recently the WWN reports upbeat trivial news about the University's successes.

In summary, the modus operandi under Armstrongism fell apart, causing a rapid state of decline in finances and membership. It left the leaders with no choice but to radically switch operations. After careful research of the religion polls and surveys, embracing the Protestant/Evangelical Christian paradigm became the new religious product to merchandise. It is this religious system that offers mass appeal.

[UPDATE: "The word paradigm describes the New Age idea of transition between two world views. ...

Do not ask questions, for questions and Biblical reasoning is a solid block against this change." ~Joseph Chambers, 1997]

The first priority for the leaders was to establish a rapport with the Christian Media and cult watching organizations. The WCG employed Public Relation companies and pursued keen marketing psychology in an effort to gain respect from a Christian public who detested the WCG's teachings. The writers and cult watchers, who did not fall in line with WCG's new truth propaganda, were contacted by the Tkach team and on occasion legal threats were applied.

Secondly, the membership was slowly stroked with a slight lifting of intense authoritarianism while it was being prepped for the "new truth" manipulation, known better as re-duping the duped. The newly instituted mind-direction intensified following the WACO disaster. Increased membership fall-out started escalating with the exit of Gerald Flurry and William Dankenbring. Soon following, Rod Meredith was noted as disfellowshipped from the WCG and the **Global Church of God** was born, almost the same day.

Speaking of Global... (Re-inventing the wheel)

The Rod Meredith organization must not escape close scrutiny in the scheme of things. Although onlookers are divided with opinions, many feel strongly that the Global Church of God was purposely set-up by the "inner-workings" of the Worldwide Church of God. As one North Carolina minister stated to a member, "the church would not attempt any change without a contingency plan."

When one carefully examines the stacks of documented history and analyzes the maneuvers and **diversionary** tactics employed by the WCG over the past 60 years, this type of scheme comes to be expected. The panic from those dependent on and hooked into Armstrongism and its government would cause them to be the likely candidates to jump from the "Laodicean church" into the "Philadelphia branch" of the Church of God conglomerate. It is unlikely that these true diehards would miss a day of tithing.

This concept might seem quite far-fetched and conspiratorial to many, especially the ones who jumped from WCG into Global before their Armstrongism awakening. On the other hand, not considering the strong possibility would be naïve and play right in the WCG's leaders' hands! For those who are sparked to investigate this possibility before making the conclusion that "it could never happen," we suggest you:

1. Study the in-depth background of Rod Meredith and his involvement in the WCG over the past four decades.
2. Count all the times Joseph Tkach verbalized a **Global commercial** to the WCG membership. His most recent invite to join Global was in the video sermon. "Holding up a magazine of Global's called, *The World Ahead*, JWT told the membership, "If you want legalism, go join Global!"
3. Many exiters told the ESN that they knew nothing about Rod Meredith and Global until they heard so much about it from Mr. Tkach.
4. Do a careful study on the literature and correspondence written by Evangelist Rod Meredith. One gets the impression, that he is quite complimentary about the Papa church. While Rod Meredith states clearly that he doesn't want to ridicule the WCG, he successfully convinces his readers that the WCG has changed and has embraced mainline Christianity. Isn't that the same message the WCG has been selling to its cult watchers?
5. You may also wish to request a copy of "Most Asked Questions, An interview with Mr. Meredith," from the Global Church. We find his answers do not correspond with the other documented material from the past.
6. Think about the countless times Armstrong, his aids, and the present day leaders (students of Armstrong), deceptively and successfully maneuvered plans and strategies behind the backs of the tithe payers. Cult leaders easily predict the behavior of their slaves--they spend their lives perfecting skills to control others.

[UPDATE: Larry Salyer later joined United Church of God-AIA.]

The Global News (Jan. Feb. issue) states it has grown to over 62 churches and is served by 64 ministers, including four evangelists. Of the 62 churches, 43 are served by pastors, while 19 churches are served by "Hosts." The 62 churches also include nearly 100 deacons and over 30 deaconesses. In addition to the 62 churches, nearly 100 Video groups regularly hear sermons from Headquarters, while 1300 households receive the sermons by audiotapes. All told, about 7000 brethren now hear the sermons being preached by ministers of the Global Church of God.

This very revealing issue seems to coincide with the WCG's full throttle thrust toward change. Rod Meredith writes in the January 25th letter to the Brethren:

"My wife, Sheryl, and I recently returned form a most encouraging and inspiring visit to the Pacific Northwest. We had been repeatedly urged by many of our brethren and supporters to pay a visit up there--as many of God's "sheep" were in a state of confusion after all the recent upheavals in our former association. So we flew up there last Friday. We were able to have dinner with our dedicated elder and his wife in the immediate area, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Graves. He had told us earlier in the week that they were expecting about 60-80 brethren there for the Sabbath. That evening, at dinner, he said a lot of people had been calling and that the attendance might even get up to 100."

"Sabbath afternoon, as more and more "new" people kept coming into the hall, the final attendance came up to 134! And what a group it was! As dozens of out former brethren came in they would be joyously greeted by close friends among our people--and there was so much smiling, hugging and laughing that I almost thought I was back at the Feast of Tabernacles."

So, while Rod Meredith grins from ear to ear and poses with open arms to catch the "lost sheep," the Tkach regime seems to be subtly directing his sheep that are unable to accept change and longing for the "good old days," into the open arms of Global. Before one hastily dismisses the possibility that Global was strategically set up for the purpose of catching the Armstrong junkies (while WCG incorporated its new mainstream religion sales package) the entire **Worldwide** picture must be considered!

As Rod Meredith grows comfortable in his new mansion in San Diego, he gives this message to those who find comfort in following him:

"As we work and pray together to do the real Work of God, He will use us NOT to attack our former association as some do, but to preach and publish POWERFULLY the dynamic Message of the Kingdom of God and all that this entails. And we will preach the true "name" of Jesus Christ--the WAY of life which He and His original apostles imparted to the world of their day."

"Also, we must preach the end-time prophecies and the Ezekiel Warning Message to our slumbering Israelitish nations! (Ezek. 33) We must do as God tells us in Isaiah 58:1, "Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell my people their transgression. And the house of Jacob their sins." (Dear Brethren and Co-workers letter Jan. 25, 1995)

One final note on this topic; the reruns of *The World Tomorrow* telecast are terminating just as Rod Meredith steps into the blinding lights of television to launch a Global telecast. Is it just coincidental that the Global Gospel will pick up where the Worldwide left off? You decide!

[UPDATE: Rod Meredith was later fired from Global and founded Living Church of God in 1998. Read: What Happens if I Join Roderick Meredith's Living Church of God?]

"The difference between the Lord and me is that I am finishing the job." ~Hitler

"Nazi propaganda was simplistic, emotional, repetitive and uncompromising with total obedience. Nazi propaganda drew its power from absolute control over information." ~Holocaust Museum film, Washington DC"

"One people, One nation, One leader." ~Hitler

A streamlined outline of the WCG conversion strategy might look something like this:

Operation WAT

Bury Herbert W. Armstrong.

Stop promoting ranks to Pastor position.

Gain acceptance from members by acting like HWA, start with hard-line approach.

Spend two years traveling to local ministries shaking every member's hand.

We Are Family!

Gain support and trust by:

a) Releasing the killer doctrine on Healing. Let members get medical treatment.

b) Allow women to wear make-up.

Hold secret meetings with Protestant/Catholic Evangelical ministries. Make a doctrine package; call it new truth to the members. Tell cult-watchers you're making changes, fill membership with confusion and contradictions.

Get the Christian cult ministries to rally around WCG and support the leaders at face value. Use all "brainwashing" techniques on the theologians of the world.

Launch de-culting campaign. Disfellowship any insightful members who question the change.

Mend relationship with Church of God Seventh Day. Use them to help the de-culting campaign.

Quietly pull booklets from publications.

Shelve the British-Israelism.

Pretend we never believed in it. Propagandize against it.

Hire Marketing firms and Public Relation firms to help WCG change image and implement new strategy.

Make policy changes while membership is being told there are no changes. Start Outreach and Evangelism programs as diversionary agenda.

Start liquidating church-owned Feast site locations. Absorb the profits... quietly.

Cut TV broadcasting stations.

Cut *Plain Truth* circulation, use threats on the membership that it is their fault recruiting is low.

Combine local churches in efforts to save money. Prepare membership for new sales product. Instill confusion about Trinity, Nature of God, the Gospel and other new doctrines. Call them "enhancements".

Change Gospel from the Gospel of the soon coming kingdom with His called out ones, to The Gospel of Salvation and Grace. Don't tell the membership you've changed it.

Push hard that it's now Jesus' church.

History Cleanse HWA. Start recreating his entire identity.

Position all blame on membership. Shake them up for big change by squeezing last ounce of self-worth from their bodies. Shoot them with "stun gun effect" verbalization. Get them to shoulder all the guilt and blame for the past. Program members to think that they were the ones who had the wild ideas and misinterpretations of beliefs.

Go Public with No Sabbath command--**but** we are to honor the Sabbath, Tithing voluntary--but we should want to tithe more then 10 % if we have God's Spirit, No Old Testament Law--it's now New Testament Law etched in the heart.

Follow up with another sermon by Tkach. Be harsh and abusive. Give it all you've got with guilt and manipulation.

Steer Armstrongites over to the new income producer...Global Church.

Go full speed ahead with corporate downsizing program:

a) Lay-off ministers. Cut all perks.

b) Close church locations with exception of money producers.

c) Shut down financial drain operations like Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF).

d) Liquidate luxury items like the airplane.

e) Shut down International markets.

f) Get rid of all old time Evangelists. Give "exit contracts" to shut them up.

Denounce Armstrong as a false Prophet (this hasn't been done yet, but it will probably happen). [UPDATE: In a January 2005 video, "Called To Be Free" (produced with Living Hope Ministries) Greg Albrecht stated that Herbert Armstrong "was a false prophet." The video has been used as another propaganda tool. Read our critique of the video/DVD.]

Go Chapter 11 or equivalent for church organization.

Make the outside world think the church is folding as you heavily divert funds.

Shut down the whole church, if necessary, to make it look like the members were at fault. Get rid of the groupies who don't pay enough money.

Set up Tkach to look like the hero for Christ.

Re-surface as a new Church. Maybe call it the New Covenant Church of Christ.

[Update 2009: WCG changed their name in the United States to Grace Communion International.]

Now set up like the International (Boston) Church of Christ (the fastest growing cult in the nation).

Throw out as much disinformation and propaganda as possible. Lie from every direction. Keep the observers off balance and confused. Keep doctrine junkies focused on doctrinal issues. Create confusion on all levels to maintain the power and control.

As Operation WAT unfolds as planned, the non-tithe payers and WCG fence sitters get pushed again, this time it's... out.

The members are left with little choice but to buy into the whole Tkach package, hook, line and sinker again, or to join the Global Church and pray, pay and decay. The only other alternative left is to exit quietly and blend into society like the 1,000's of other distraught victims before them--the ones that survived, that is. Any thinkers in the crowd have already exited. Armstrongites are running to Meredith. What are left (and that is the majority of the members of the past) are the followers of Tkach and the government he represents. Most will parrot whatever they hear from their master.

During the past three months, the plot has thickened. Disinformation is released daily by Headquarters. Several reputable sources tell us that disinformation in disseminated on purpose from the Pasadena fourth floor.

The PGR, WWN and Tkach sermons are all contradicting.

Here are a few of the conflicting events that have been reported to the ESN:

- Pastors will receive a one time offered severance package.
- Ambassador University will merge with another college.
- The entire church will close its doors, perhaps as early as summer 1995.
- Half of the Pasadena grounds have been sold.
- The airplane is for sale and perhaps sold.

As the leaders attempt to portray two different scenarios, the reality is that there are many smoke screens set up to divert everyone's attention to what is truly happening with the leaders of the WCG, as they continue to pursue their **hidden agenda**. Yes, "**The true hand is unseen**."

Cults are about power and money. They survive by control and enslaving a people. Religion serves as the perfect vehicle to entrapment. Armstrongism is dead, but the leaders of the past are still alive. They have tasted power! They have abused power! Thousands have suffered greatly under the **strong-arm** of the **Armstrong regime** that continues to rule.

Power corrupts--Absolute power corrupts absolutely. Embracing a hodgepodge of mainstream beliefs serves many purposes for this once dying cult. Each passing day magnifies the inner workings of the WCG. By pushing out the old membership and claiming financial disasters, the leaders apply damage control tactics, which in turn prevents the WCG's rightful owners to lay claim on the goods. Just meditate on the thought of 1,000's of scorned members rebelling against the WCG with massive lawsuits, or publicity, in effort to claim their financial losses. That's the last thing the leaders want. The leaders have never been financially accountable to **anyone**. They have manipulated every loophole available by hiding under the Constitution in the name of religion. The Tkach regime needed only to convince the followers through all their handy "brainwashing," manipulative, deceptive and coercive techniques, that Jesus was leading His church. If you didn't buy into the mind-control, you were shunned, ostracized, ousted and character assassinated --unless, of course, you had a top ranking position and could walk away with an extended contract filled with hush money, providing you kept your mouth shut!

"Bad men cannot make good citizens." ~Patrick Henry

"A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit." ~Matthew 7:18

The future of the WCG remains to be seen at this time. However, it is doubtful that the leaders are making a primary move to shut down the whole church (permanently). That theory is held by many observers and it may be just what they'll do if their current business strategy doesn't pan out. By the time the leaders successfully rid the roster of most of the members and local church areas that do not generate income, their plans for gobbling up the floating mainstream spiritual seekers of America should be tightly in place. Whatever is left of the 52 acres of land in Pasadena (after any Real Estate deals are completed) may be used to warehouse the mass mail-order appeal. We might actually see the WCG doors close within the next six months--but for those who are eager to see corruption and evil end, don't get your hopes up. The beast power may be getting a facelift. It could rise up glistening and wrinkle free. The plan was to kill the past, restructure the cult and shed its previous image--very few remnants will remain. Whatever occurs, you can be guaranteed the select few leaders and handlers will be filthy rich.

At this time it looks as if the New Age WCG plans the following:

If you can't beat them, join them.

Divert Funds.

Shut down operations, Internationally and in non-profit local areas.

File Chapter 11 or Bankruptcy.

Close church doors if necessary for thorough restructure.

Resume operations, possibly under a new church name and new facade.

Target mass appeal with mainline non-threatening Christianity.

Use new *Plain Truth* (under a new name) to appeal to all Christian Public. Increase mailing list to millions. Collect all the benefits of selling religion like tax-free exemptions. Pocket millions of dollars in offerings from the mass appeal approach.

Build a mail-order church on the same wave of Billy Graham. Instead of squeezing blood out of a stone with a hard-core tithing command, subtly seduce a mass population that will offer random donations. In other words, go for quantity not quality.

Continue to open registrations in various countries, which will allow banking privileges and investment deals.

Continue with selected local ministries, which prove to be income producing and good advertisements.

Watch Global grow.

Laugh all the way to the bank!?

This would serve as a no lose situation for the leaders of the Worldwide Church of God. Even if in the long run their new strategy fails, the leaders will benefit as they walk off with multi-millions of dollars (as if they don't have enough stashed away already). Most all the past membership will be history except for the truly committed members of the abusive dysfunctional group.

How ingenious of the leaders to have figured out a plan that would allow the evil, corrupt thieves to walk away with all the money and all the support from the cult watching Christians. Joseph Tkach and son have been quoted several times saying comments such as these:

"I don't care if there are only 10,000 members left in the church, at least it will be a good church."

"If I'm the only member left, than that's the way it will be."

"We plan on losing up to half of the members with these changes."

The reality is it appears they have implemented a plan to rid the non-income producing members so they can carry on with their "hidden agenda."

It certainly appears that the Tkach regime has purposely implemented the opposite action that Tkach points out in the Aug. `94 PG Letter (pg. 5):

"The first priority is to provide our congregations around the world with pastors so the Body of Christ has the local spiritual leadership vital for spiritual health and growth in Christ?" Is that why all the International work has been cut off financially? Is that why the paid ministry is being let go? Is that why the non-profitable church areas are closing down? Is that why the ministry is getting pushed out before the billion-dollar Real Estate is sold?

"Our second priority is *The Plain Truth* **magazine, which is our fundamental evangelistic tool. *The Plain Truth* is our primary media vehicle for Christian instruction, encouragement, admonition and proclamation of the gospel."** Is that why the PT has been canceled from all International countries? Is that why the PT distribution has been slowly decreased from 10,000,000 to 2,000,000 circulation over the past five years with some areas receiving black and white issues? Is that why the PT circulation has been cut again by 50%, now down to 1,000,000? Is that why 1/2 of editorial staff is being laid off? Is that why all advertising has been discontinued? is being laid off? Is that why all advertising has been discontinued?

"After these, several aspects of the Church's work are vital: Ambassador University and our Christian booklets, brochures and study aids." Is that why most of the booklets were pulled from distribution? Is that why the new Bible Study was never written or published to replace the "outdated" one? Is that why the church hasn't released any learning tools carefully explaining their newly incorporated traditions? Is that why there is rumbling that the University will shut down in July or merge with another college?

There are many more questions on peoples' minds! Such as, where have all the millions of dollars gone? Whose name is sitting on the Corporation papers as sole owner of the empire? Where have all the evangelists gone? Have they joined Dr. Stavrinides in Greece? (We understand he is quite wealthy these days as a recipient of a very fat bonus.) As the "leader regime" diabolically preaches a new direction to its congregations, it moves with thrusting power with its own secret agenda. There is a destiny--they will ride on the image of Jesus Christ to get there.

Over the decades the WAT leaders have fooled many, but those who have dared to peer through the propaganda, distortions, distractions, diversions, and manipulations, clearly see that the great change of the New Covenant Church of Christ (read: WCG) is another preposterous deception and exploitation under the name of religion and for the purpose of.....

OIU Volume Two - Pt. 3 of 3

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

Volume TWO. A newsletter of understanding ... Winter `95

Special Edition

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POWER AND MONEY!

The WCG is a very complicated and sad story. When looking objectively at the whole situation and not getting caught up emotionally in the **massive doctrinal distraction**, we can clearly see how the Protestant Christian beliefs could be abused to push the old blind sheep to slaughter in efforts to clean out the cage for a different animal. What could have proven to be more clever than to manipulate the people in such a way that they could never fight back. There they are, thousands of them, drifting aimlessly with denial and confusion, many psychologically ill, all financially impaired and most in spiritual paralysis. While Joseph Tkach poses as the beleaguered leader fighting for Christ, he and his handlers build their platform for heroism. The damaged used goods (members) are thrown to the garbage pile to join the thousands of others who preceded them. All under the name of religion and Jesus Christ. What a scam!!!

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." ~Proverbs 29:2

While this newsletter alludes to the massive corruption under the umbrella of religion, no disrespect is intended toward any personal spiritual beliefs of the reader. "Divide and Conquer" has been the WCG/HWA/JWT theme for decades. The truth behind the WCG has never been about "God and Doctrine." Many readers hold respect for HWA and believe that he repented of his doings before his death. The OIU is not about criticizing personal spiritual beliefs. It is our attempt to combine the vast documented facts and apply the extensive WCG history to the current reasons behind the events. While not intending to offend anyone, the facts of the past must be told.

[UPDATE 2005: Since this OIU was written, much more has been uncovered about HWA. See our section: Questioning Herbert W. Armstrong. (Questioning if he told the truth; questioning his fruits, his background, his methods, and his dogma.)]

Resources used for miscellaneous reports include:

*Worldwide News*es
Pastor General's Reports
Quest Magazines
Successful Living Magazine
*Plain Truth*s
Current members
Material from Global Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God, Church of God International
Several books and articles about cults and psychological trauma
Exited members
Systematic Theology Project
Dear Brethren Letters
Documents from the 1970 era
Testimony letters

Various Sermon tapes

The Bible

Books written about the WCG and HWA

The ESN extends a hardy thank you to all who communicate with the ESN and have sent information, tapes and other misc. materials. Works of darkness and evil must be exposed. The ESN is working, because many are making it work!

"All that's necessary for BAD people to triumph
is for GOOD people to do nothing." ~Norman Schwartzkopf

SUMMARY OF RECENT WCG EVENTS

1. Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF) canceled.
2. Ambassador Auditorium canceled the Arts program starting May.
3. 40 ministers were given retirement packages in the U.S.
4. 30 ministers scheduled for next few months and 150 by December of `95.
5. All International subsidies are canceled.
6. *Plain Truth* and *Youth* Magazine canceled to all International areas.
7. All advertising is discontinued.
8. Over 50% of editorial staff has been laid off.
9. The Festival Office has made substantial cutbacks.
10. Imperial School to be closed by July.
11. The WCG jet is for sale.
12. Twenty Faculty in Big Sandy to be laid off at end of school year.
13. The entire board in Big Sandy is resigning or being asked to resign.
14. The 1995 feast is questionable; 1996 feast may be canceled
15. National SEP is canceled. Will now have regional only.
16. The board of Regents (trustees) exerted their independent authority (as required by the recent accreditation of the A/U) and refused to fire Don Ward, the University President, as Joseph Tkach had instructed them to do.
17. We understand that the following Evangelists have left the WCG and more are about to be ousted:

Dibar Apartian [NOTE: Dibar Apartian, one of more than 160 WCG ministers disfellowshipped in 1996. He was with Living Church of God when he died on 12-8-10.]

Dr. K. J. Stavrinides (Kyriacos Stavrinides)

Herman Hoeh [UPDATE: Herman Hoeh was with WCG when he died on 11-21-04.]

Dean Wilson [UPDATE: Dean Wilson was with UCG-AIA when he died on 1-11-05.]

Leroy Neff [UPDATE: Leroy Neff was with COGWA when he died on 1-28-14.]

Gene Hogsberg

Gerald Waterhouse [UPDATE: Waterhouse was with UCG-AIA when he died on 9-4-02.]

David Hulme

Leon Walker

Ralph Helge, Head of Legal Dept.

Colin Adair [UPDATE: Adair was with GCG when he died on 11-15-98.]

NEWS FROM CANADA

62 Ministers

$10 million in income

1. Pastors in Canada that are near retirement age have been offered a retirement package. To be accepted by Feb. 24, 1995.
2. Ministers are being offered a severance package, consisting of two weeks salary per every year of employment, which can be given in lump sum, along with reallocation assistance.
3. Ministerial positions will be reduced to 30-45.
4. *Plain Truth* and *Youth* Magazine is canceled.
5. Income has dropped by 40%
6. All remaining ministers must take an immediate 15% cut in salaries and benefits have been removed.
7. Of the 35 employees in the Vancouver office, 1/3 has been laid off thus far.

Stay tuned with the ESN!

Following, are excerpts from a current letter sent by Evangelist Colin Adair, Coordinator of the Caribbean Region, to recent ex-members.

Following the first two paragraphs of scolding and reprimand for reading literature about the WCG, Colin accuses and assumes the ex-members have "turned their back on God." As he strives to defend the LAWS, it is apparent that he's recruiting for Global.

But let me ask you a question. Is, or was your faith based on Mr. Armstrong or any other human leader? Do you throw out everything you once proved to be right in God's word simply because you may lose respect for a man? My faith is not in any person and doesn't depend on whether or not that person does right or wrong. I have proved the truth from the scriptures and know that God is who He is and that He requires obedience from us as a condition to granting us the gift of eternal life. He has clearly laid out that his commandments are to be kept (including the Sabbath and holy days). That cannot be denied by anyone who studies the scriptures and the teachings and practices of the early church.

So why have you turned on God? You have allowed problems in the church to cause you to deny the faith, or so it seems. I have been in the church 32 years; I have known of problems with people, I have seen things done wrong and people do wrong, but that does not negate the truth of God. As the scripture says, "Let God be true and every man a liar."

I know you did not keep the FOT this year and that you even queried Unleavened Bread earlier in the year. Please think what you are doing. Even if you feel "turned off" from the Church, should this cause you to be turned off from God? You cannot turn your back on God after making your commitment. I urge you to reconsider what path you have been treading these past few months and plead with you not to cast aside the faith you once proved and accepted. You know that my wife and I love both you and the children. We hate to see you turn away from God and embrace this world's ways again. While there may be problems in the Church right now, this shouldn't change our faith in God and what He expects of us. Remember, Satan is the winner here if you allow him to derail your beliefs. He is the author of lies, and anyone who, years after a person's death (Mr. Armstrong), continues to publish a regular journal on him or the present leadership, can only be of Satan.

I hope you will receive this letter as its intended to be--a hand reaching out to someone, from someone who cares.

With Christian Love,

Colin & Margaret Adair

Comment: Colin Adair has functioned as the Regional Coordinator for the Caribbean Islands for several years following his duty as top man in Canada. Has anyone told Colin that guilt-threats--and abuse tactics--are out of vogue these days with the WCG, supposedly? Maybe he should send a copy to his boss. One of Colin's main duties as coordinator is to take frequent flight-island hopping for the soul purpose of collecting cold cash tithes and offerings. Several island ex-members have told us they have never received receipts. One family tried confirming their totals with Pasadena, to no avail. We must question what Colin did with all that money!!!!

Now that the WCG has cut off from all International work, we might see Colin bring all the naïve Island tithers to Global.

What does Achieving World Order have to do with the WCG?

(Introduction)

As individuals stumble out of the limping Worldwide Church of God, they find it takes time to clear their thinking from the anger and confusion to critical and controlled thinking. The search for will and identity is part of the healing process. Most, unknowingly, continue to abide by the "programs" set up in their thinking by the ministers' dogma. Education and recognition of these set programs is the only way of releasing them. For example, some live in a state of panic and become overwhelmed with anxiety attacks that something dreadful will happen to them for leaving "God's Church." Phobias develop. One 24 year old exiter who contacted the ESN explained that he hardly ever left his home because he had a compulsion to watch unfolding events in the news. He had several televisions running simultaneously to enable him to catch all the news stations. He was obsessed with watching the "end time" events unfold, just the way he was programmed to do by the WAT leaders his entire life. Sadly to say, this type of post-WCG behavior is not uncommon. The leaders expect it. Throughout the decades exiters were labeled mentally deranged with satanic spirits in their hearts when they manifested these types of symptoms. The rest of the members were threatened with expulsion from the church and annihilation in the **Lake of Fire** dare they make contact with the upset or ailing victim.

Because of this type of trauma to the human mind, most exiters are disabled and prevented from piecing together the puzzle of their WCG involvement. Some just repress the whole experience and act as if it never happened (this doesn't work in the long run). Whatever the case, the WCG and its leaders come out ahead.

Prior to the new strategy change, the membership was told to mail all their old reading material into HQ. Shortly after that, they were instructed to discard it in the garbage. Most did what they were told, of course. Those who exit, clear their closets and head to the dumpsites. One exiter told us he had a "burning party." By the time an exiter is strong enough to so some research, he has no literature left. This is one of the reasons why victims do not learn the real WCG story.

Now, what does all this have to do with **Achieving World Order**? Future OIUs will cover this topic very thoroughly. It is a delicate topic and subject to much criticism and controversy. Some are very quick to label those who dare to verbalize comments on this subject as being paranoid and conspiracy oriented. We'll take our chances with those who are quick to judge and label, we've done our homework!

First, let's take a look at some vital points.

What was the multi-million dollar WCG Gospel that destroyed the lives of many supporters?

> "The very thing that is the one and *only* **TRUE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST**, is to reveal **God's Government**--the fact that God Rules--the truth of the KINGDOM OF GOD, and secondly, to reveal--preserved in writing for us TODAY--what is to happen "in the latter days"--actually within the next two decades--**THIS LAST HALF OF THE 20th CENTURY."** (*Just what do you mean...KINGDOM of GOD?* HWA, 1962) [emp. HWA]
>
> "Jesus Christ's message--His Gospel--was the Kingdom of God--the **Government** of the living God!" He is coming to set up the **GOVERNMENT of GOD** and rule all nations with the help of those who have qualified in this life." (*What is the TRUE GOSPEL?* by Herbert W. Armstrong, 1972)
>
> "But what is a KINGDOM? Primarily, it is a Government--a NATION and the GOVERNMENT which rules it. And especially in this biblical sense, there is the DUEL sense of the NATION including all its subjects or citizens, and the Government by which it is ruled."
>
> "Four things are necessary to constitute a KINGDOM: 1) The territory, with its specific location and definite boundary line, with 2) a KING or Supreme Ruler or governing agent, ruling over 3) SUBJECTS or citizens within that territorial jurisdiction, with 4) LAWS and form of GOVERNMENT. If we leave out any one of these vital requisites, we do not have, and cannot

believe, the true Gospel for this time." (*What is the TRUE GOSPEL?* Re-edited under Joseph Tkach 1988)

The 1991 version of the above listed title modifies the same wording as in the past booklets, except the final paragraph includes the words "salvation for everyone who believes."

1994 Feast Of Tabernacles (FOT) Sermon by Joseph Tkach opens with this paragraph:

> *"Well, what comes from the 1994 FOT? Another exciting family reunion. A dawning of a **NEW AGE**, and **WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW**, when the FOT anticipates a worldwide harvest of redemption, a time when the earth is filled with knowledge of the Lord. A time when nature, government, economy, culture will work in harmony in bringing His children to glory and fulfilling our **INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL**." [emp. editor]*

Some might say, "So, what's wrong with that?" I guess the answer depends on what you know and how you are looking at the total picture instead of focusing on what may be comfortable. Maybe the following excerpts, taken from the well-publicized WCG 1970 era magazine *Quest*, will help the skeptics discern. The first issue of the *Quest* Magazine was called HUMAN POTENTIAL. It was to serve as a "rehearsal issue," published by the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, March/April 1976, Executive Editor, **Stan Rader**. While all the articles in Quest issues are most revealing to "hidden agendas," we find the article on page 96 of this first issue quite notable. This article called, "**Achieving World Order**" was written in 1975 by Dr. Nagenda Singh, "Judge of the International Court of Justice at the Hague and widely recognized as a learned and leading exponent of achieving world peace through international law."

This very exposing article elaborates on the necessity of one public order combining every nation.

> *"Thus a possible method of achieving world order would be to establish the supremacy of one single rule whether theocratic, or political or "ism'ic, [sic] whose writ would run round the world unopposed.*
>
> *"Another method which has suggested itself to the practical politician is the elimination of war by disarmament."*
>
> *"Another method suggested by jurists on the elimination of war, the arch enemy of public order, has been to ban war by law."*
>
> *"Again, the political thinker more than the practical politician has suggested the establishment of a super-state or a supra-national organization for establishing world peace."*
>
> *"For establishing public order, accepting the municipal analogy of the national state, two basic pillars are necessary: namely, first the existence of a proper law and second the machinery for enforcing it which includes the sanction behind the law. The same prescription applies with equal force to the evolution of international public order."*
>
> *"The only democratic method which can bring about evolution of public order by installing a proper authority is the agency of an international organization of the universal type. In this direction, the United Nations furnished the true path which can yield results."*
>
> *"Any concept of authority that does not emanate from an international organization, such as the U.N., would tend to be oppressive and tyrannical. Let us therefore, as citizens of the world, build a better world based on the edifice of an inter-governments international organization like the United Nations, which works on a democratic basis and which merits to be strengthened on all counts in the interests of mankind."*

The above translates to ONE WORLD ORDER, ONE GOVERNMENT, and ONE RELIGION!

This rehearsal issue of the Quest publication is filled with enlightening articles about brain control issues. Advertised is the WCG booklet entitled "**COMING: A NEW AGE.**"

Is all this coincidental? Did it all happen without a plan? Herbert W. Armstrong attended the first meeting of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945 when the U.N. Charter was signed. In the HWA letter to members

November 24, 1967 he boasts how **Alger Hiss** signed his entry pass into that meeting. [Read it in OIU 5, Pt. 3.]

The story about the real WCG cannot be assumed by a few quotes. However, as we peer closely into this area in the future it will be apparent to those who have ears to hear, that the Gospel of HWA and his empire served many purposes, the least of which was the Bible!

The NEW AGE

It is dawning, as JWT informs his congregation, but how many really understand its significance? The bookstores hold thousands of NEW AGE books, which deal with all kinds of topics. Many are unaware that the NEW AGE theme is divided into several parts: **Government--Religion--and Money**. The Globalists are hopeful that these parts will function as ONE GLOBAL GOVERNMENT. A few years ago, we never saw the word "Global" written anywhere. Today, it is the most common household word. As America becomes conditioned to the "uniting government" agenda, they become complacent to what is actually unfolding under their eyes in this country. With all the distraction, diversion and propaganda, the public becomes fragmented and superficial, lacking depth in discernment. HWA, and his chief aid Stan Rader (or perhaps we should say, **Stan Rader** and his chief aid, HWA), understood these matters very well, as we shall see in the future.

The Universal Religion Is Here

Many significant leaders in the Protestant/Evangelical religion are gravely upset over the signing of documents uniting the Catholics and Evangelicals. The Christian Media is rumbling loudly about the repercussions of any unifying attempt. The goal to bring about one Universal Christian Religion becomes more apparent as we observe the Vatican of Rome preparing their statement on unification of Christianity.

All this prepares the way for increased NEW AGE teachings and acceptability. The Christian institutions, cults or sects that don't participate will be shunned and ridiculed.

The facts are extensive about this unifying attempt. The NEW AGE religion concept in incorporated into this whole process. No Christian denomination will be considered without following the guidelines set forth for the unification. The Trinity doctrine is one such guideline.

Many have watched several bible-based cults attempt to mainstream these past several years while modifying their sect's beliefs to coincide with the unifying of Christianity. The WCG is not the only powerful and wealthy organization that has attempted to reform to the guidelines of the Council of Churches.

Bible-based cults have much in common:

- The cults devise their own religious ideology.
- They all set up a government and legitimize it by naming it, "God's Government."
- They institute laws and behavior guidelines, as they twist the Bible Scriptures to verify their commands.
- They all claim to be the exclusively chosen ones to usher in the soon coming kingdom.
- The leader locks his victim inside the cult by instilling guilt and fear.
- He threatens his people with annihilation and obliteration.
- The leader convinces his weakened prey that it is God speaking through him.
- They are skilled in using religion as their weapon to enslave a society.

This sounds a bit like the Hitler era, doesn't it? Hitler got millions to love him and follow him. He was the chosen one to head a pure Aryan race to one Kingdom under God.

Cults work toward the goal of:

A Global Society--
One World Order
(The Capitol's motto)
Novus Ordo Seclorum "The New World Order"
(Written on the dollar bill and carved

into the walls of many Washington buildings)

The Mormons, the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Moonies and others have more in common with the WCG than to have rushed to the WCG's aid during the receivership crises. These mini totalitarian governments create a submissive, passive, docile, obedient, non-thinking or questioning, society under the heading of religion. Is there any wonder why the government allows them to operate under those pretenses?

> **"The Hitler dictatorship demanded the public's unconditional obedience and tolerated no criticism or dissent." ~Holocaust Museum**

The WCG is making whatever modifications necessary to be in line with the order of things. Once upon a time, Prophecy and prediction was the methodology. As the globalist leaders of the WCG monitored the inner worldly workings with their close associations with specific orders, they forecast the events and neatly tied it to prophecy. Yes, Herbert W. Armstrong's affiliations, behavior, and writings left a legacy to truth, but it wasn't about the Bible.

Herman Hoeh, Gene Hogsberg and Rod Meredith, how well you wrote!

The wheat symbol represents the government of the proposed "New World Order." You will find it on many government seals, and money. You will also find it on the WCG seal and emblem. The wheat is part of the lion's tail; it protrudes from the lion's backside and is under the semi circle shaped like a "V."

Suggested introductory research:

Global Unification:

EN ROUTE TO GLOBAL OCCUPATION, by Gary Kah, published by Huntington House.

Proceed with caution...

Considerable research material is available in this topic. We caution those who pursue education in this area that much propaganda and disinformation surrounds it. We also stress that some ex-WCGers have embraced their studies to the point of addiction. While the information is valuable and answers many questions to the WCG story, we caution researchers to **keep it in perspective.**

One last comment regarding this topic. Ex-WCGers were part of an organization that fostered secrecy, conspiracies addictions, fear and paranoia. Ex-members can easily carry that learned behavior into any pursuit.

"WHAT CAN I DO?"

The story isn't over when we finally exit a cult. It is just the beginning. True freedom comes with knowledge and discernment of the REASONS BEHIND THE EVENTS.

> *"So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea if thou criest after knowledge, and lifteth up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom... " ~Proverbs 2 vs. 2-6*

Another Sad Suicide

A while back the *Ambassador Report* printed an ESN request for personal information about WCG suicides. Although we were pleased with the response and caring attitude from those who responded, we were greatly saddened by the many experiences WCG members witnessed.

Many are not aware of how prevalent suicide is among WCG members. Throughout the years the ministry snuffed off any occurrence and made up excuses for the victim. Time and again a minister would stand on the pulpit, many times emotionless, relaying a death of a member, deacon, or a fellow minister. Without details

about the death it was usually labeled as cause unknown at this time. Often, the members would excuse the incident by a simple statement such as, "Well, he'll be raised first in the Kingdom." Or, "It's OK, he's now sound asleep." Statements such as these can tend to induce emptiness within the heart, such as a coldness. Many will recall the WCG training on how to make decisions with the brain, as "the heart is deceitful in all its ways." That constant training hinders the lives of the people who practice it. As emotions become repressed, feelings subside; they become buried beneath cold, hard exteriors. After a while, one can no longer feel love, let alone receive it. Nothing matters anymore. The thinking pattern starts a downward spiral fall. One's entire life becomes infected with a depressed mental state. It doesn't take long for hope and enthusiasm to die in the heart. When one takes on the personality of the environment, it becomes an infectious disease.

We can think back to the past and remember how in the church, good people often seemed non-caring or "loveless" as many term it. The behavior we practice affects the heart and the mind. Negative behavior will produce negative results.

There are many solid reasons why the WCG suicide rate seems so high. One commits suicide because he has no hope left. Many who were able to escape from the WCG clutches know the depths of depression, the feelings of failure and anger so intense it drains all life out of the body. It takes some strength and willingness to get started on the road to recovery. The victims who have lost their will to the WCG pick the only alternative they see, and that is death.

Pages could be written about this phenomenon and its relationship to the Worldwide Church of God. In the future we will take a closer look at this tragic problem. Meanwhile, we must take this issue to our hearts and care about those who have lost the fight for continuance in life. We, who remain behind, must represent those who have succumbed to the victimization.

Mr. Ronald Howe committed suicide in early Feb. by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, CA. He leaves behind his wife, Joy, and children. Mr. Howe was well known in Canada as he served in many areas. He also served as Pastor in Alabama, San Antonio, TX and associate Pastor in Pasadena. More recently, he pastored the Oakland Church. Many members and ministers knew Mr. Howe well for many years.

The suicide victims become the forgotten chosen ones, very quickly in the minds of their fellow church members. Prior to my personal exit from the WCG, a 30-year-old woman in the local area took her life from an overdose of pills. She was a true believer and dedicated her life to the laws of the leaders. Because of the church teachings, she had lost her family and had no friends on the outside. She died a lonely death. After investigating the true cause of her death on my own, I was shocked to find she was buried with no gravestone. There she lay as if she never existed. A friend and I collected $350.00 from the local members by personally approaching them and letting them know the circumstances. Today she has a stone which celebrates her having once lived in this life, if for no other reason than to die. The occasion commemorated our final good-by to the WCG.

"To Save One Life Is To Save the World Entire"

This quote is taken from the Torah, and was etched into the ring given to Conrad Schindler of the true story, "Schindler's List," by the ones he saved from the inferno ignited by Hitler.

A Personal Note To Our Readers

As this OIU is a Special Report, it does not include the regular features, such as Therapeutically Speaking, News To Use and Cult-Cuts. Another issue is planned for mailing by early spring and will include the regular features plus the following topics that were cut from this issue due to length restraints. Articles include:

- Why do members "hang on" to the WCG?
- The Earl Williams Story
- Helping others exit--sorting out spiritual matters
- Crime and deception in Ministries--Christian Research Institute update
- The real tithing and Sabbath issue
- The history of Herman Hoeh and the WCG

Much time and research is applied to the entire ESN endeavor. Our expenses for postage, printing, telephone

and office supplies is extensive and we need your help, please. We must rely on donations to help defray the costs. Please help the ESN to continue to expose the evil works while it offers guidance and support to exiters and their families. We cannot grow in strength without your help. It has taken great personal sacrifice to see this through, and I hope you will consider participating with the best of your ability.

Thank you,

The ESN gang

From Our Mailbag:

We thank you for your correspondence and look forward to hearing from you often. Our apologies for not being able to respond to all your letters.

Excerpts from our files:

I was a member of the WCG for 6 years, and the damage done to my life was most destructive. What is even more disturbing is that many of the experts in the Christian community have endorsed the WCG as truly "orthodox". They seem to have bought into this "LIE". Also, it seems to be the theme these days to get on the "right side." Armstrongism was definitely not the wave of the future, but evangelism is. (Canada)

My grandmother is really struggling with depression at this point and dealing with the reality that for 30 years she has been "wasting her life" in a cult. She has many regrets and disillusionment. I'm trying to encourage her. It is sad when this happens at her stage in life (she's 78). (S. Carolina)

We heard there are two "pilot churches" out in California, which are meeting on Sunday. Have you heard anything about this? (N. Carolina)

Only rumblings, but not confirmed facts. It would certainly make sense and fit into the scheme of things.

What is going on? I can't believe all this madness in the WCG! Please send me everything you have, so I can sort this out. (Texas)

Asimismo, llevo diez anos dedicandome al tema de las Sectas Religiosas Destructivas en mi pais, a nivel de psicolgia clinica. Por tanto, el dirgirme a ustedes es debido a que estaria sumamente interesado en recibir informacion, documentacion, publicaciones, investigaciones, etc., ustedes tengan o editen sobre el tema las Sectas Destructivas o Sectas Religiosas Destructivas. (Canary Islands)

Translation: Help! Send me everything!

Any good that HWA ever preached had to come from someone else. The strange thing is how did someone so evil even recognize anything good? (Missouri)

The minister in our church area is requesting everyone to bring in all their pennies from the previous week. After services the members get together and make penny rolls. Isn't that something? (Alabama)

Finally, the ministers in our area are allowing the members to seek psychological help if it is absolutely necessary. This is a big improvement over the past when all outside church help was satanic. The only problem with this change is that the member must first go to the minister and counsel with him. Then, if the minister agrees that help is needed, they must agree to see who the minister recommends. The reason for this is because the minister has already interviewed several in the health field and is only allowing those professionals who promise not to steer members away from the church, to see the members as patients. (Canada)

Run for your life!

What has happened to all the artwork that HWA purchased? I'm told it is worth millions of dollars? Is the church going to sell it? Do the present members realize they have been robbed? (California)

Good sources have told us that the massive multi-million dollar art collection remains in a large guarded private room in Pasadena. This artwork was all purchased with tithes and offering money. The question should be, "Who owns it?" You'll have to ask the members if they think they've been robbed. It doesn't look like the leaders are attempting to unload the artwork any time soon as they are currently repairing the expensive de-humidifier. (That costs money too!) [UPDATE: Read about how WCG auctioned off HWA's treasures to Gerald Flurry of Philadelphia Church of God.]

Joe's consistent blame upon the people for such misunderstanding is so disturbing to me. According to his thinking, if I had lost a job, a loved one (because of misinterpretation of healing doctrine), or have gone financially bankrupt, then that would be considered honorable to God??? I cannot accept that twisted concept. It is simply stupid and most dishonorable to God. I don't know any historic mainstream denomination (as far as I know) that teaches the kind of New Covenant the way JWT is. If there is, I'd surely like to know. They may be closer to the Roman Catholic Church than to Protestants...plus their own exclusive extras like the Holy Days and the Sabbath. Very similar to what Herbert W. Armstrong did, somewhat of an "Eclectic" religion, all homogenized into a distorted perverted form of Christianity and totally false. (New Britain)

Now the WCG is going back to a "sort of" Protestant viewpoint?? What is the reason?? So the leaders see what is coming about in the country and the world? That is, global unification and one world religion? Are the WCG leaders trying to blend in? Be a part of the effort going on now to unite the churches? Are they joining up with Pat Robertson, Billy Graham and numbers of others working behind the scenes to unite the churches--perhaps under the Pope? (Missouri)

This church has been one of the worst experiences of my life and I think I can speak for my family as well. I truly understand what the meaning of a destructive cult is. (United States)

We have many letters to share and will strive to print more in the next OIU.

THE ESN WORKS!

There would not be a ESN available to aid the victims of the WCG abuses if it were not for the many individuals that devote their time, energy and love toward helping the ones left behind. Special thanks for your letters, suggestions, input and prayers. We can make a difference if enough of people care.

Exit & Support Network™

Till next time, keep strong.
L. A. Stuhlman, Editor

OIU Volume Three

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

Volume THREE. A newsletter of understanding ... Spring `96

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VOLUME THREE contents:

- As The Whirlwide Turns™, Part Three (Includes list of ministers disfellowshipped and ministerial exits)
- Was there a choice?
- Chronology of events since January `95
- Let's access what is really occurring
- The United Church of God is Born
- #David Hulme joins the pack (also covers Earl Williams)
- Divide and Conquer
- An Analysis (also covers Earl Williams)
- Bankrupt??? It seems so final, but is it???
- "God's Government is Government From the Top Down!"
- The United Church of God--Alabama Leads The Way
- Where did all this change come from?
- Future Forecast
- HOT NEWS, WCG Funds the UCG
- The Pastor General is Sick!
- What About the Festivals?
- Youth--Youth--Youth--Youth
- Apologies, or are they excuses?
- What Golf Course??? (OIU editor's visit to Big Sandy's "76" acre golf course)
- Observations From Cult Central
- From the Mailbox (stories that were submitted; letter #3 is from Earl Williams)

NETWORK NEWS

A year ago this past May, I looked outside the window in my office and admired the spring flowers all in bloom. As the Exit & Support Network™ (ESN) was in the startup phase, I was just too preoccupied to visit the garden very often and enjoy the outdoors. I thought to myself, next year I won't be so busy. Next year is here and my previous thoughts stand corrected, as the ESN is busier then I could have ever contemplated.

Since the last OIU, events have been unfolding like dominos collapsing on themselves. New information finds its way to the ESN daily, as do many of the one time dedicated WCG members in search of truth. As demands to the ESN stack up, we strive to maintain our goal in providing assistance to exiters. The OIU could be published monthly without delay if all we did was compile the information and report it. However, other aspects demand our time. Our phone line rings daily with first time callers, the mail has increased with requests for help or information, the research continues and the ESN affiliates grow, while we pursue education and networking through conferences. Through it all, we make it our point to stay in touch with the exiters, the professionals and the current events.

Special recognition goes to many who actively participate in the ESN endeavor. Since last spring the ESN has aided hundreds during their exiting process. Many affiliates took an active role in that process by talking with exiters, or supplying information to them. Some have sponsored the OIU for their friends remaining inside. Being able to reach out to those in need has not only been therapeutic in personal healing, but as those who participate find out, it is very rewarding to know your efforts have made a positive difference in another life.

We've been on the go

Thomas and Lavonne Holshouser of the WCG South Eastern Resource Network and other family members attended a conference on cults in Charlotte NC, entitled "Cults in America." Janja Lalich, author of *Captive Hearts, Captive Minds* and Ron Enroth*, author of *Churches That Abuse* [and *Recovering From Churches That Abuse*], were key speakers discussing topics related to cults and how they are infiltrating society. The Holshousers shared lunch with Ron Enroth while they discussed the changes in the WCG and how the WCG compares to other groups making moves toward evangelism and discipling.* Lavonne states, "The conference was so helpful, especially with understanding Mind Control and how all the cults function so similarly."

[Note: *Discussed on "From Cult to Church: The Quest for Acceptance," audio by Dr. Ron Enroth, 1994.]

Another conference on mind control took place in Dallas, Texas in late March. I attended this three day educational symposium and had the opportunity to meet with several experts. They were professionals who have studied the areas of cult abuse and mind control. This particular conference offered an advance view of the topics mentioned and outlined the prevalent cult related problems in our society.

Several WCG exiters attended a NY Cult Awareness conference in New York. The timely theme of this day-long seminar was on Apocalyptic Cults. We heard from experts and researchers in the area of Aryan race (British-Israelism followers), extremist groups and Bible-based groups that expose the apocalyptic belief system. As the WCG fits that category snugly, the attendees gained much understanding from the speakers. The WCG ex-members were mostly from the New York area with one hailing from Missouri. I personally had a great time meeting up with individuals I had met through their contact with the ESN. After the conference, we ate, chatted and laughed, until we had to depart.

The ESN research also extended to New Hampshire on a fact finding and observation journey visiting the New Hampshire Patriot/Militia meeting. While the ESN takes NO position with the movement, it strives to clarify the facts --agenda-- and direction of the highly, recently publicized organization in relation to the Constitution and proposed government control. (Cults have much to do with both.) Some WCG exiters tend to be attracted to extremist organizations eliciting a strong cause. Understanding the mind-set helps us to relate more clearly to the exiter of the WCG. The OIU is about research; armchair assertions cannot accurately portray the reasons behind the events.

For all the concerned ESN supporters.... don't worry, I am taking the time to smell the flowers, too!

[Update (1/97): Since the writing of this OIU, the ESN has obtained information pertaining to Cult Awareness Network that exposes associations and goals not compatible with the ESN mission.]

[Notice: CAN was bankrupted by Scientology and today is staffed by its operatives. More information on CAN is contained in this offsite report.]

AS The Whirlwide Turns™, Part Three

The following list of ministers have been disfellowshipped with credentials evoked and were listed in a notice from Joe Tkach, Jr. to the remaining ministers: [NOTE: There are 168 ministers on this list.]

Colin Adair	**Additional ministerial exits:**	Mark Mickelson
Dean Wilson	John Orchard	Bill Butler
Doug Winnail	John Elliot	Ron Laughland
Ray Wooten	David Register	Bob League
Dibar Apartian	Lyle Kellog	Charles Bryce
John Bald	Robert Jones	Todd Carey
Alton Billingsley	Harold Rhodes	Tom Clark

Tony Bosserman
Steve Buchanan
David Burson
Herbert Cisneros
Robert Dick
Roy Dove
Wayne Dunlap
Rob Elliott
Roger Foster
Jim Franks
Lambert Greer
Vernon Hargrove
David Havir
Roy Holladay
Don Hooser;
Doug Horchak
Noel Horner
David Hulme
Bill Jacobs
William Jahns
Victor Kubik
Saul Langarica
Ellis LaRavia
Dennis Luker
Ken Martin
Burk McNair
Rand Millich
David Mills
Steve Moody
Dave Myers
Hadden Pace
Richard Pinelli
Camilo Reyes
Larry Roybal
Robert Peoples
Carl Sable
Dan Salcedo
Stuart Segall
Mario Seiglie
Jim Servido
Rex Sexton
Randall Stiver
Guy Swenson
Dick Thompson
Jim Tuck
Leon Walker
Larry Walker
Don Waterhouse
Robin Webber
Ron Weinland
Gerald Weston
Lyle Welty

Larry Grieder
Melvin Rhodes
Randy Corbenal
Richard Crow
Warren Zehrung
Earl Williams
Pete Michaelson
Ken Treybig
Richard Ames
Darris McNeely
Fred Davis
Richard Dunkin
Thomas Damour
Howard Davis
Steve Lablanc
Gary Petty
Roy Camilo
Clint Zimmerman
Jim Chapman
Dave Clark
Tom Turk
Ken Giese
Eugene Noel
Pablo Gonzolez
Harold Smith
Carlton Smith
Richard Dunlap
Ed Pope
Ron Howe-- (suicide)
Rick Beam
Dave Harold
Randell Stop
Gary Antion
Leroy Neff
Dave Caprice
Bob Douglas
Chuck Zimmerman
William Bradford
Gil Goethals
John Cafourek
Tom Tullis
Roger West
Herb Teitgen
Cary Todd
Dave Treybig
Ken Treybig
Steve Nutzman
John Anderson
Steve Siders
Gerald Seelig
Graemme J. Marshall

Randy D'Alessandra
Roy Demarest
Jack Williams
Steve Elliot
Bruce Gore
Mark Gully
James Haeffele
Dan Hall
Arnold Hampton
Mike Hanisko
Cliff Veall
Doug Johnson
Greg Johnson
Clyde Kilough
Mitchel Knapp
Randel Kebernat
Glen White
Lester Harold
Otto Lochner
Paul Lueke
Mark Welch
Bill Winner
Terry Mattson
Marc Masterson
Frank MacCrady
Al Miscnick
Norm Myers
Steve Myers
Frank Nelte
Cliff Parks
Ron Wallen
Dick Rand
Ellis Rice
Bob Rodzaj
Gerald Waterhouse
Steve Shafer
Steve Shepperd
Steve Sidars
Gary Smith
Ron Smith
Brittain Taylor
Keith Waldon
Larry Neff

By the time this is published it will represent only a partial listing. **WHERE *did all these men go?*** Part Three of:

As The Whirlwide Turns . . .

will offer the **Chronology of Events** for the past three months and attempt to correlate some of the **reasons behind the events**. In OIU Vol. TWO, we discussed the sequence of events leading up to the Tkach Company de-culting program and introduction of the Protestant/Evangelical belief. As the WCG continued to decline throughout the seventies and eighties, the leaders employed an array of new marketing tactics in effort to save the organization. Despite the fact that the yearly income statements reflected financial growth, the truth is, the recruiting of new members was at an all time low. The enhancement of financial figures was accomplished through "other means!"

As the WCG did not have a clearly written doctrinal statement, the Systematic Theology Project (STP) was an attempt to provide one. Careful scrutiny of past literature will verify that the HWA teachings offered an enhanced system of belief characterized by mandatory behaviors. There was never a STATEMENT OF PURPOSE. The only way any prospect could grasp the church's teaching was solely by wading through the thousands of booklets and articles. By the time one read a few booklets he was well on his way to "transformation and conversion the HWA way." Ron Dart, chief assistant and Vice President to Garner Ted Armstrong and one time evangelist with the WCG (until his resignation in 1978), recently stated:

> *"For the uninitiated, the STP was begun in the mid-70's to pull together existing teachings of the church into one place. Formerly, anyone wanting to find out what the church believed would have to plow through booklets and articles to find what they were looking for. Much of the time they got it wrong--not altogether their own fault. The idea was to provide a source book for scholars and others so an official statement of what the church believed would be available."*

[NOTE: Ronald Dart founded Christian Educational Ministries in 1995 after he left the Church of God International during the scandal involving Garner Ted Armstrong and a masseuse). CEM produces his "Born to Win" program (Whitehouse, Texas), airing on Christian radio. He also founded Independent Church of God. He continues to teach a false gospel based on the dogma of Herbert Armstrong, a known false prophet. At Garner Ted Armstrong's funeral, Dart stated that he thought Garner Ted "knew the Bible as well as any man he has ever known and was gifted of God." (Tape 9/20/03, "The Indispensable Man") Ronald Dart is mentioned in ESN's exposé article on GTA and in the December 16, 2004 letter to ESN: Ron Dart Says He Has All the Money He Will Ever Need. UPDATE: Ronald L. Dart died January 24, 2016 at the age of 82 of cutaneous T-cell lymphoma.]

The absolute verification of the reasons behind the current WCG events is clearly spelled out through the history of the 1970 era. The 1980s marked the pivotal point for decision-making regarding church survival. Certainly, survival was a challenge to the Tkach regime. They were the ones to assume the position of the beloved leader Herbert W. Armstrong--not an easy task when one considers how the membership worshipped the ground HWA walked on. Transferring that HWA devotion over to JWT was a task to behold. That problem coupled with the lack of new recruiting of members forced the Tkach regime to explore many maneuvers.

Think back to 1986, shortly after HWA's death. JWT moved in place with all the hard-line teachings. *The Good News*, *Worldwide News*, Pastor General's letters, booklets, articles, all enhanced the Armstrong behaviors and ideology. The JWT article called, God Restored these Eighteen Truths: How Thankful Are You For Them? (WWN, Aug. 25, 1986), depicts quite well where JWT's head was at that time. Throughout 1986 and 1987 there was a major push for distribution with HWA's book, *Mystery of the Ages*. Many of JWT's signed writings reiterated that this book was the greatest piece of literature ever written by HWA. During the years from 1986 to 1990, The ***Plain Truth*** and ***World Tomorrow*** format were in constant change. Always being billed as, "God is opening our minds to see other ways of reaching the people he is calling." The membership became complacent to the simple excuses given them to condone change, and for the most part, they went along with whatever the Tkach regime put forth. It was too soon for the questioners to realize that the frequent marketing flip-flops meant that the church was not growing. After the church exhausted the hype over the famous TV clip, "Four Horseman of the Apocalypse" running over the TV screens, *The Plain Truth* (PT), took on a very secular approach (it accompanied the make-up approval). Of course, all these marketing strategy changes were billed as the famous, "God inspired new truth," or "God is opening new doors." Did the membership notice the rapidity of new strategies being enforced on them? Did they question why they were told the PT and *World Tomorrow* telecast were not really for them, but for those searching? One of HWA's famous phrases was, "Never change anything that works." All the quick change marketing strategies in the 1980s should have been an indication and warning that "church survival" was a problem.

We must keep in mind that insiders would have been unable to detect the shenanigans going on with headquarters. The fear/guilt mind-control was so intense, that it prevented members from critically thinking or questioning. It was the game plan to go along with everything and never deviate from the "GOD'S IN CHARGE" mantra planted into everyone's brain.

As the "new truth" was deceptively injected, oh so subtly in the beginning, no one really questioned it--except for maybe Gerald Flurry and few others in the upper ranks who knew a few things! Market and sales strategies were so rapidly changing that any good advertising and sales organization would have shuddered at the shortened time span allowed for testing the new strategies. Were the leaders that desperate?

Was there a choice?

This is where the planned strategy enters that has been billed as "new truth." When long time exiting members ask whether Mr. Tkach is being honest about the changes or whether or not it is "new truth," we refer them to a thorough research on the 1970 era. Now that's easier said then done for most questioners, mainly because they were "insiders" then and VERY limited to any factual information, thanks to their local minister. However, as they start to recollect their past and think about names such as Richard Plache, Al Carrozzo, Al Portune, David Antion, Ken Westby, David Jon Hill [died 11/24/03], Ernest Martin [died 1/16/02] and many others--things start to click in the mind.

> *"Wait a minute," some say, "These changes JWT is making now are the same teachings that all that rumpus was about in the 1970s."*
>
> *"That's right!" we reply.*
>
> *"Do you mean to tell me all that so called "rebellion" was because some caring high level ministers wanted to bring the church out of a cult with similar teachings they're instituting now?"*
>
> *"That's right!"*
>
> *"That's right!" we retort.*
>
> *"Was it dictatorial, authoritarian and Government from the top down, then?" they question.*
>
> *"That is what led the 1970 pioneers to discover that HWA's Bible interpretation had some real flaws. These men claimed they wanted to free the membership from the constrained obedience to one man, to freedom in Christ," we explain.*

After a little dialog and reference materials, the questioners soon became exiters and began their own journey into the past. Thankfully, much documented material was left behind from the 1970 era that clearly outlines and verifies the agenda of today. The 1970 era story is enormous and will be told. Current events have preempted the space for this issue, but details will follow in the upcoming months.

Full knowledge of the 1970s era is the "proof" way of de-bunking the "new truth" spectrum and deprogramming one's mind from the "WCG system." [Read transcription of Worldwide Church of God History by Kenneth Westby and the very turbulent 1970 era talked about in ESN's letter to author Janis Hutchinson.]

One reason why members were repeatedly drilled to "look ahead and not behind," was so they could not figure out the inside maneuvers. The leaders neglected to understand that under mind-control one doesn't stop absorbing his environment, he just stores it up in a mental file cabinet for future use when he's ready to look at the data.

As everything appears to unfold and fall apart with the **old** WCG structure, it becomes very plain that the "new truth" was nothing but another new strategy and a desperate attempt to put humpty-dumpty back together. As the OIU has outlined in previous issues, the thrust is not about Doctrine or God (the D&G syndrome), it was about keeping the business in operation. There wasn't much depth to hold the church together after the entrepreneur, HWA, died. The HWA image sold the product: no image--no product. The multi-level marketing company took a dive. The only hope for survival was to incorporate a product that is known to work with the religion market. As all the surveys indicate, Protestant evangelicalism is on the incline while Apocalyptic-ism is on the decline. So the leaders set out like busy little beavers making friends with the popular spokespersons in

the Christian arena (such as Ruth Tucker). One must admit the leaders must have feasted on humble pie to face the enemy of yesteryear and say, they want in....! The **pot of gold** softens the blow a bit; nevertheless, it had to be a tough task at first. All that wheeling and dealing is enough to grate on anyone's nerve, let alone the WCG leaders. Think about all the things they had to pull off:

- The introduction of change
- Making amends with the "Christian" enemies
- Convincing the outsiders to accept the new pitch at face value
- Keep the membership in the dark with the duel agendas (the outside and inside)
- Implement new marketing strategies
- Keep the "not in the know" ministers faithful
- Digest the doctrine package so they could somehow put it across to the ministers
- Conjure up fund-raisers

etc., etc., etc.

Since the Tkach Co. assumed the leadership role, they pretty much tried every market tactic available to increase recruiting. A major switch into mainstream was about the only thing left if the church had a chance at all of making it. The decline was going on for years (the financial totals had nothing to do with the growth).

No one says it better than **Stanley Rader** in *The Good News*, Nov. 20, 1978 under the section entitled, FORUM with Stanley Rader.

Question: In the face of the sagging dollar and declining economy, do you foresee any problems for the Work?

> Answer: "We are constantly being eaten up by inflation just as every organization is that has to live on a reasonable limited income. But we feel that the Church is now going to go into a period of growth. We have literally been static. **We've been stagnating for some seven and a half, eight years.** What we have experienced is the Church brethren, despite inflation, despite the difficulty it has caused them as individuals, are giving more to take up the slack that has been caused by the fact the **non-member income has not grown. It has shrunk about 50% in terms of real dollars, and despite the fact that costs have gone up.** But now that we have removed what we feel has been one of the primary reasons--if not the primary reason--for lack of Church growth all we have to do is begin to show a modest Church growth. We've had no growth. But if we begin to grow by even 5 percent in terms of membership, it begins to change our numbers rather drastically. And if we should go back, and we think we can, to our old growth curves, then you can see the future is bright. We always suffer more in time of inflation than in times of mild recession. That seemed to be the case for us when the country went through recession during the past 20 years. We never suffered as a result of the recessionary conditions. We only began to suffer when our growth stopped, and inflation began to eat us up. So we're hopeful about the future. It all looks bright." (emp. Ed.)

Well, the future was not so bright Mr. Stan Rader, because the church barely recruited during the eighties and many continued to leave (the reader is referred to Vol. TWO). The reason for the changes should now become clearer. It was the last resort--to make or break the organization that postulated as a church for decades, while the leaders lapped up the luxury afforded to them by the tithes and offerings of mind-controlled and deceived members. While Stan Rader and HWA globetrotted in luxury, the church was in decline. The financial reports were no indication as to the actual condition of the church, furthermore, they are very misleading (just try and read one), they do not indicate who "dumped" the extra 150 million dollars into the church bank roll during the 1980s, nor do they indicate what direction the money was filtered. Obviously, it appears.

"Worldwide News, Feb. 10, 1986, "Media Marks Death of Herbert W. Armstrong."

"The Associated Press continued: In the Church's theology, Armstrong was appointed apostle of Jesus Christ on earth."

"Members of the Church tithe voluntarily, and **the Church also says it receives significant financial**

support from non members who back it's evangelical work." (emp. Ed.)

Please, read that again! Who are the non-members with deep pockets? Who are these backers of the evangelical work!??? Inquisitive minds want to know!

LA TIMES, January 17, 1986

> "The jet-setting Armstrong was the patriarch of a religious empire often as mysterious as it was famous. In 1934 he founded the Radio Church of God on a shoestring in Eugene, Ore. He moved it to Pasadena in 1946, renamed it the Worldwide Church of God in 1968 and proceeded to build a lavish church headquarters and the Ambassador College campus near the corner of Orange Grove Avenue and Green Street."
>
> "In addition to the 725-student, four-year unaccredited Pasadena school, the church operates a 350-student junior college in Big Sandy, Tex., and controls the education and culture-oriented Ambassador foundation in Pasadena. The opulent Ambassador Auditorium, a pet Armstrong project and a showplace for performing arts concerts was built for $11 million in 1974."
>
> "Armstrong brought in the Vienna Symphony for the auditorium's debut at a cost of $112,000. A year later the foundation inaugurated a glittering 64 concert series featuring world-renowned artists." (*LA Times*, January 17, 1986) The 1986 Gospel announcement that Jesus Christ was coming in your lifetime to set up His wonderful Kingdom on earth and World Tomorrow (One World Government) seemed to lose steam when the flying HWA team finally landed.

Could it be that Jesus Christ, the head of his "one true church," was a big spender, and ran out of cash?

Whatever the reason was, drastic changes were necessitated by the lack of membership growth. After the Tkach Co. hard-line approach didn't produce results within the first few years, there was no choice left but to join the Christian mainstream and grab a piece of the pie. That may sound cold-hearted to those who were recruited under the Tkach Company, but for the members of the 1970s who were scorned, ridiculed, rumored against, castigated, defiled and disfellowshipped for their knowledge of grace -- salvation and the New Covenant, it's a complement.

The WCG teachings crumbled when the HWA foundation disappeared. (Parable of the sower comes to mind.) Armstrong was the real product, and he died. That's verified by observing the members' reaction to change. Those who claim that the doctrine is priority are also the ones who continue to worship the man. They are the ones who will cover-up--deny--and go through great lengths to defend the man of many deceptions. Their attitude can be understood when one realizes that the message and messenger go hand in hand. The others? Well, we are all in the process of watching the one time true believers in HWA transform and convert toward a whole new by-line by JWT Company. As they wash away the "HWA ilk, and undergo a renewing of their minds," they trust their new master that he is the one who has "the truth" again!

As JWT well instructed his flock at FOT, 1993:

> *"Come out of Her My People...see the selfish sinful materialistic arrogant way of the world."...REVERSE your life completely! That's what revelations mean.... The Christian is not to conform to this world but be TRANSFORMED...We think our perfect Sabbath attendance record is going to get us into the Kingdom of God. I don't keep the Sabbath to get into the Kingdom of God; I keep it because of God's personal intervention in my life. I keep it because I am saved!"*
>
> *"To be TRANSFORMED means to be CHANGED...be different...a different set of values...by a process in one sense of the use, the expression by BRAINWASHING, the RENEWING OF THE MIND, to RESTORE, to REBUILD, to change into a likeness of Christ."*

[NOTE: Tkach, Sr. also talked about a "brainwashing program" in the January 7, 1995 video sermon to members, which introduced the new doctrinal changes.]

It seems that many followed JWT's commands--- just fine, "in many ways, shape and form," to quote a JWT saying.

Was JWT paving the way for what is transpiring today? As we will see, many financial backers (tithers) didn't

aspire to the orthodox quick fix. But then, how could they accept the new teaching in the manner of which it was presented...deceptively, dialectically, with confusion and contradictions; with little support materials or straightforward explanations of the supposed teachings. For a group of SKILLED writers who for decades have been able to publish writings that were entrenched in trickery, one must wonder WHY the same team couldn't explain the "new truth" in a proper, open, honest and straightforward fashion. Was there a method to the madness?

Did the big push for Christian mainstream--flop??

Since JWT presented the January 3 1/2 hour video on the New Covenant, the church has been in great disarray. How much of this fragmentation is going according to plan? Is there really a severe rebellion occurring? Is the church going bankrupt? Will the WCG change its name? Where are all the exiting ministers going? What direction is the WCG headed? What is happening to the members?

These questions and more are answered in the:

Chronology of events since January '95

January

Week one--Joseph Tkach relays a 3 and 1/2 hr. video to entire membership on the WCG New Covenant and Sabbath teaching. Tithing becomes voluntary, but if you really want to follow Jesus Christ you'll tithe above and beyond what the LAW required.

Week two & three--Follow-up 1 1/2-hour video, sending conflicting messages regarding first video.

Week four--*LA TIMES* and *Pasadena Star News* broadcast church's financial woes. Immediate cutback in advertising/ closing of Ambassador Auditorium, lay-offs, liquidating of property/PT cutbacks/International funding cut.

February

Week one--*USA TODAY* 2/8/95 "A month after telling parishioners that tithing is voluntary rather than God's command, the Worldwide Church of God has lost 30% of its income, the Pasadena Star News reported. It is one of the church's worst crises in its 61 years."

Week two-four--Tkach Co. relays financial stress to members.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, 2/16/95, "I wish I could say that this letter is full of good news. But the truth is, my heart aches as I write it, brethren, and I have no choice but to bare my soul to you. Let me share my sorrows with you. The income of the Church has dropped sharply, and we must lay off hundreds of employees. I grieve for them, and for their families. Please join me in praying that they would be able to find other work soon."

"We are facing the Red Sea as it were. The enemy of the gospel is threatening us from behind."

"Since the amount we give is voluntary under the new covenant, it is a far more revealing test of where our hearts are. And what a surprise it has revealed! Some people have simply stopped giving anything. After years and years of preaching that Christianity is a "give" way of life, generosity hasn't been written on their hearts at all!" *(OUCH! Some professionals might list that statement as emotional, spiritual, financial and psychological abuse!)*

"But I'm also sad that so many families have jumped ship, so to speak, and are not supporting the work of the Church. They are failing to contribute even their fair share of local congregational expenses."

"People are blown about by every wind of doctrine, and by cunning and crafty men who teach what the people want to hear. I cannot judge their motives, of course, but I can see that their followers are following men and not Christ, comparing themselves with others and not with Christ. So I am sad for them."

Dear Brethren letter, 2/23/95, "I am sorry to have to write to tell you that we may not be able to hold our summer camps this year. As you know, we have stepped out on faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, choosing to teach the truth of the Bible despite the consequences, and this has resulted in a lower level of income for the church."

"Brethren, I know the summer camps are very important for our young people, and I am willing to go ahead with them this summer if the operating expense can be met with special donations within the next four weeks."

"If we do not receive $683,000 for this fund by March 20, 1995, the camps will be postponed until next year, and your donation will be applied toward the 1996 SEP operating fund." *(This letter represents the annual fund-raiser drive to gather funds under the SEP heading.)*

[UPDATE: In 1996, because of the small number of applications for S.E.P., the program was canceled and applicants were being referred to S.E.P. in Orr, Minnesota. In 2002 WCG sold the camp in Orr and closed it the same year. As of 2005 WCG has 8 local S.E.P camps in the United States (and some in Canada).]

March--Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, 3/27/95, "Last month I shared with you my sadness about having to terminate hundreds of Church employees due to a 30% decline in income. Now, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity. As of March 10, income had stabilized at 15% under last year, and with our cutbacks, if income remains at this level, we will be able to remain on budget."

"As the Passover of Jesus Christ and the festival of unleavened bread approach in the next couple of weeks, I need to remind you that the seven annual festival offerings, in addition to regular tithes and offerings, are an important part of the Church's income."

"Thank you again, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for your dedication to the work God has called us together to do. Let's remember the words of Paul: "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Within three weeks of the New Covenant Video and follow-up sermon, the WCG implements a slash and dash program while it places the financial strain blame on the members. Some old timers who have had enough of the above say, "So what's new?" The point to be scrutinized is the time frame of the mass ministerial exodus in conjunction with the rocket approach "new truth" deliverance. Many wonder how the church financial condition could have fallen apart within three weeks of the "voluntary tithing" knowledge.

While all the "doctrinal change" is causing a great distraction with the membership at large as it bombards the sermons and WWN, we learned that several high level evangelists were working secretly to put together a "reform church." We were told the newly formed corporation will attempt to restore the WCG and possibly take it over. Now, it must be stressed that the early organizers of this reform church did not call the ESN directly and relay their plans to us; however, several insiders, close to the situation did offer their "bites" of information on an ongoing basis. That input combined with our investigations and research allows us to relay the events to you in close order in which they occurred.

By mid-Feb. to March, several names of men surface to reportedly be working behind the scenes, supposedly they were responsible for organizing a new corporation and possibly a big takeover. The men named at that time were Richard Helge (in Texas getting the legal/financial affairs together) Victor Kubik, Ray Wooten and Dennis Luker. [UPDATE: Dennis Luker was president of UCG-AIA when he died of cancer March 14, 2013; Ray Wooten died February 9, 2014.] Alex LaRavia's name was mentioned intermittently. Meanwhile, other ministers were starting to resign, for supposed doctrinal reasons. The pattern seemed to mimic a visit to the local region in question, from an HQ representative. Within a few days of visitation, the local minister would resign. This happened with Jim Franks and Roy Holladay, both of who were managerial ministers in areas that leaned conservative or legalistic. Within a few weeks of resigning, it was announced they were setting up their own corporation and bringing many members with them. The ministerial exits continued as stories piled up about in-house fights.

Big Sandy becomes enmeshed in the events as Don Ward and Tkach Company fight. JWT removes Ward, but the Board of Regents step up and vote Ward to remain in charge. Mr. Giese quits Big Sandy church; Carl Sable is kept out of services by armed guard only to be followed by Mr. Havir (who took over for Ken Geise) being blocked from the pulpit to give his sermon. [Phew.] Stories of firings, disputes about severance pays and pensions and ministerial battles were ongoing.

[UPDATE: Don Ward later went with United Church of God-AIA.]

By mid March the picture looked somewhat like the following: ·=

- United Church of God, Inc. from Alabama, Ray Wooten
- United Church of God, California
- Sacramento Church of God, Wayne Dunlap
- Phoenix Church of God, Zimmerman, Forester

• Worldwide Church of God, Texas, Steve Crow and son

Since then, we are told there are over "50" WCG spin-off Corporations set up, with over 100 Fellowships, with exiting ministers and over 250 full-time ministers who have exited since January.

Not all defectors have joined the new reform group, some have migrated to Global [with Rod Meredith] who now reports approximately "100" ministers. One researcher estimates the ministerial picture looks like the following:

WCG--200 ministers remain
United--100/150
Global--100/150
Other--50

This is a rough estimate based on Tom Lapacka's quote to the *LA Times*, **Another Schism Racks Worldwide Church of God.**

"In Pasadena, WCG spokesman Tom Lapacka estimated Wednesday that the new United Church of God will attract more than 100 of the church's pastors. There were 350 pastors in the WCG as of February, but 104 have since resigned or been terminated...."

However, we find a major discrepancy in what the officials report as JWT tells a very different story.

In a Dear Brethren letter, May 25 1995, JWT says:

> *"We praise God for the solidarity and faithfulness of the more than 550 full-time ministers and more than 1000 elders who are filled with enthusiasm and joy about Christ's gracious activity in the Church!"*

Is someone telling a fib? Officials should meet and get their stories straight because the multitude of discrepancies is allowing others to see the "hidden agenda."

Another discrepancy we find is the total WCG member count. OIU, Vol. TWO, estimates and explains why the roster listing never exceeded 45,000 to 50,000 baptized members total. Tkach Co. leaders seem insistent on floating the total around the 95,000 mark. This number would help disguise the condition of the church and financial accountability. Now that thousands have been reported to have defected to UCG and Global, JWT and son still insist the roster reads 92,000.

April--A memo dating April 5, 1995 states that three regional pastors met with Joseph Tkach, Jr. Dennis Luker, Bob Dick and Jim Franks met for the purpose of informing Mr. Tkach, Jr. on the current state of affairs in the congregations of Worldwide Church of God. All previous requests for a ministerial conference were rejected.

The note sites the irreconcilable doctrinal difference that has brought the church to the brink of destruction. It stated that all ministers and members who cannot accept the current doctrinal position should be permitted to begin fellowshipping together on the Sabbath and Holy Days without recrimination.

In an attached note it is stated that as a result of the decision made by JWT Jr., which was affirmed by his father, not to allow separate worship, it was agreed to have a meeting of interested regional pastors to determine the next step.

Oddly, even though plans were well in the works for a reform organization, regional representatives for the "legalists" were requesting to hold separate services with the old covenant keepers. When the "reform" leaders received a refusal, an immediate letter was sent out to the ministry regarding a conference in Indianapolis. Invited were all local church elders, full-time ministers, the formally employed and the disfellowshipped with ministerial title.

April 4, WWN, Pastor General's Letter:

JWT opens his Personal with:

> *"I am sorry to report that several beloved ministers have concluded that they cannot teach the Sabbath observance is not required for Christians under the terms of the new covenant and have chosen to resign from the ministry."*

He goes on to say,

> *"It is only natural that our minds fall into certain familiar patterns of thinking, and it can be very hard to break out of those patterns. As a Church, we have believed and taught for decades that the sign of God's true and faithful people is Sabbath-keeping. Once the basis of this belief, we saw ourselves as the one and only true Church, the faithful, end-time remnant of God's people, and conversely, we saw all other "professing" Christian fellowships as deceived "Protestant daughters of the great whore of Revelation."*

On the same page JWT, Jr. states,

> *"I am saddened to report that several full-time ministers have decided to step from their pastoral duties. We have had several calm and friendly conversations with certain of our ministers, yet some have decided to resign. These are men we know and love." "Some ministers, however, have chosen to become a divisive element in the church and have decided to start their own churches."*

Jr. goes on to list many ministers who have departed but stresses that "nearly all of them have told me that they would not join any of the splinter groups." Ironically, most ministers listed on page two have immediately joined with the "splinter" Churches of God upon exiting.

In the same issue, another article, called, "Coping with doctrinal change: Give yourself time," Jr. writes, "We are convicted that Christ is leading these changes, and it is our responsibility to help our members understand them. We are definitely not out to lose ministers." (emp. Ed.)

For an organization that did not want to "lose ministers," the facts state, they have lost a bulk of the ministry backbone.

Let's assess what is actually occurring.

The Tkach Company did expect to lose many members when they started the Protestant belief campaign. The Tkach leaders stated that on several occasions. I personally recall Tom Lapacka shouting at the Tucson FOT in 1992 that the train was moving ahead and those hanging onto the caboose would be cut loose and stranded.

Could the leaders have misjudged the membership's reaction to all the change these past few years? In April of '94, Joe Tkach, Sr. made the following statement in his Holy Day sermon video:

> *"And the rumor was that we were going to do away with unclean meats, and that we were going to do away with tithing. How on earth are we going to get out the Work? And that we are going to be doing away with the Sabbath and that we are going to be keeping Sunday instead."*
>
> *"A damnable lie!"*
>
> *"We are going to be doing away with the Holy Days? And we're going to be doing away with the law...? What are some of the other cockamamie rumors? Another one is that we are going to be doing away with unclean meats."*
>
> *"We are not doing away with the Sabbath, the Holy Days or doing away with the law!"*

Members started to see that they were victims of contradictions and confusion. While the Tkach Company thought they would subtly inject the mainstream changes, while simultaneously denying any change, the members were SLOWLY catching on. Even some ministers started getting angry over the duplicity.

The membership at large started to divide into the Tkachites and the Armstrongites. This division took time as most members had to fight off cognitive dissonance (trancing out, due to trauma and confusion). One must question whether it was a local church reaction that dictated what side the minister would follow. Certainly, HQ had a handle on the overall feeling of the area; the tithing barometer would be a foolproof indication.

> *"IF YOU PLAN SOMETHING LIKE THIS, YOU HAVE TO BE NUTS! WHY WOULD YOU PLAN TO DISAFFECT AND HURT THE MINISTERS AND MEMBERSHIP, ERODE CONFIDENCE AND CAUSE INCOME TO PLUMMET? WHY WOULD YOU PLAN SUCH A CRAZY THING LIKE THAT? --Michael Feazell (Festival Planning Conference, March /April `95)*

OIU Volume Three - Pt. 2 of 5

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD IS BORN

Well after we learn of **Dennis Luker**'s involvement with the "reform church," we learn of his resignation with the Worldwide Church of God. [UPDATE: Dennis Luke was President of United Church of God-AIA when he died of cancer on 3-14-13]

"Dear Mr. Tkach and Joe Tkach, Jr. [excerpts from a one page letter.]

I write to inform you that with this message, I hereby submit my resignation from the ministry and membership of the WCG."

"I therefore, remain a member of the Body of Christ, the true Church of God." "Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong ordained me a Pastor in Jan. 1967 and an Evangelist in Jan. 1979. I have faithfully obeyed and served God and His people for nearly thirty-two years in the ministry of Jesus Christ."

Before the date of 4/11, in a FAX to "Denny," JWT says:

"Regardless of how you wish to sugar-coat your efforts to divide the Church, division is still the game you are playing."

JWT acknowledges Denny's position and states:

"What you are about to do, do quickly."

The letter leaves the impression that the Tkach Company was not aware of the "reform church" being organized since February. This seems rather peculiar being that the organizers were significant WCG men on the payroll, men of whom have been involved in the WCG for decades, men who remained extremely loyal to HWA through all the exposed corruption, and transferred that loyalty to the JWT administration. These same men were and are VERY aware of the true history of the Worldwide Church of God. They are in the know! They did not only watch the turn of events these past decades, they were part of them.

[UPDATE: Dennis Luker died March 14, 2013 of cancer.]

David Hulme joins the pack of exiters with his early April resignation letter of six pages. The thrust of Hulme's letter focuses on JWT's contradiction--duplicity--and deception with doctrine. Now, this seems quite humorous in light of the fact the David Hulme was an "in-crowd" kind of guy. He was snugly positioned in HQ and functioned in many significant roles, such as, on the doctrinal committee with Ruth Tucker; Church Administration Dept. (CHAD), Public Affairs and Public Relations, The World Tomorrow telecast and administrator with Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF). He has corresponded with other cult watching ministries and even threatened to sue one ministry for questioning his authority regarding the doctrine change/duplicity. In a letter to Mr. Craig Branch, Alabama Director of Watchman Fellowship Inc. (WF, March 5, 1991) **Michael Snyder**, Assistant Director of Public Affairs, states the following:

"...you may be interested to know that David Hulme (who is presenter of the World Tomorrow television program and member of the Church's doctrinal committee) and I traveled to Chicago last week, where we participated in two days of open and intense discussion with faculty members and graduate students of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (the attached doctrinal summary was presented in front of more than 400 students and faculty members.) We also reviewed church activities and beliefs with various theological journalists who were present. We found all of these discussions to be helpful and were thanked for our honest approach."

In response to charges of duplicity and deception, Snyder writes:

"I am sorry to read that you regard our direct and explicit statements about Church beliefs as insufficient. When you write that you "do not appreciate any duplicity or deception," I hope you realize we hold the same

opinion about Watchman Fellowship. The church emphasizes the discovery and practice of Biblical truth over the maintenance of membership rolls."

"Clarifying points for doctrinal summary:

- *The WCG teaches the full divinity of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and affirms the oneness of God.*
- *The Church no longer promulgates the statement that man can become "God as God is God." This is impossible for anyone to accomplish for a number of reasons. The Church does believe that certain attributes of God--including eternal life-- will be conferred upon Christians.*
- *Upon acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Savior, a Christian is "born again."*
- *Herbert W. Armstrong's book, Mystery of the Ages has been discontinued.*
- *The Church's beliefs concerning modern identity of ancient Israel are currently under review.*
- *The Church's position concerning the annual Feast days is this: the annual Holy Days are an expression of personal worship, resulting from the conviction of the Holy Spirit residing in the individual Christian. Perfect observance of either the weekly Sabbath or the annual Feast days will not result in salvation."*

[UPDATE: **Michael Snyder** left WCG in 1993 accusing it of being a "cult." (*The Watchman Expositor*, Vol. 10, No. 7, **1993**, p. 3) However, after disappearing for awhile, he was found to have done a complete about face. Read: "The Marketing of Religion" where it reveals that Michael Snyder was giving "marketing" advice to UCG in 1998. (Note: This article is posted on an atheist site.) Michael Snyder joined United Church of God-AIA in 1998 where today he is said to be "an advisor to the Council of Elders and the President of the United Church of God on occasion since 1998." UCG-AIA is an offshoot of WCG that continues to teach Herbert Armstrong's dogma. Read: Michael Snyder Was a "Change Agent" for WCG (2014 letter to ESN)]

In a several page document with letters from **Hulme to James Walker**, Head Director of WF, Hulme repeatedly strives to convince Walker that the WCG is making honest changes:

Aug. 3, 1993

"It is no secret that Mr. Tkach wants to improve the doctrines of the Church wherever this is necessary. Neither is it a secret that some splinter groups have been formed, which you feel 'are perpetuating the errors of the past.' There is a sensitive way of presenting this material to the members so as not to encourage them into the arms of splinter groups."

"Your apparent love for a 'scoop,' however, did not give precedence to the lives of innocent members. If they get a misrepresentation from you, some might run to the splinter groups"

Hulme goes on to say...

"...you are prepared to circumvent our ability to make a wise announcement and presentation to the members. You are torpedoing the efforts of the Church to present truth in the right way."

Could Hulme have forgotten he left quite a documented trail citing his support for all the doctrinal changes in his **rush to resignation**? After all, nobody said it better than Hulme, that's why he had such an influential job as Public Affairs Director under the Tkach Company.

The publicized six page resignation letter turned many an eye as Hulme seemingly throws JWT quotes regarding change right back in JWT's face. Hulme leaves the strong impression that he was in the dark with the Tkach agenda.

Hulme states:

"As far as I know, today the church is in the worst financial condition in its recent history. Upwards of 170 ministers are alienated, some terminated under questionable circumstances. The church's doctrinal position is publicly in tatters, and a significant number of its members worldwide are deeply disappointed."

"It is obvious that many do not accept the so-called "new truths," which in most cases are in fact rather old errors, as I indicated to you in my memo of January 16, 1995. These concerned members and ministers are

anxious to preserve the truth and way of life they have learned and to which they are committed. They cannot be categorized fairly as legalists or Judaizers. Furthermore, they certainly are not willing to fall under the influence of Azusa Pacific University theologians, one of whom is reported to be writing "a new Constitution" for the Worldwide Church of God while others are said to be helping the church into the "Christian Mainstream" by advising on doctrinal matters."

[Mr. Hulme must have conveniently forgotten that he was the one who was meeting with the "others!"]

Hulme continues:

"My own persuasion is that we have had a more complete, though not perfect, understanding and explanation of these matters under Herbert W. Armstrong than ever we do today. Put simply, "it made sense." What is surprising and encouraging is that various contemporary scholars can be marshaled in support of the Church's long-standing beliefs. All of this is said without appealing to God's inspiration of Mr. Armstrong and the long history of the Sabbath-keeping people since the first century. These too are issues which I cannot ignore."

As Hulme attempts to construct chronological events of doctrinal change through his own eyes, he alludes that JWT has twisted his doctrinal position since the 1970s. Hulme centers JWT as the culprit of false teachings and sites examples that show JWT as a liar. Hulme neglects, however, to see that he, too, is very responsible for the exact same behavior that he accuses JWT.

Hulme continues...

"No wonder that my many protestations about radical change were never answered, and the changes proceeded as if no input had been given. And yet you continued to insist that nothing had really changed very much. Why? Prior to December 1994 did you feel it expedient to create the impression publicly that nothing had really changed in the church's view of the law? Was the time still not right? In any event, by mid-December as you said to me on April 13, Earl Williams was getting out in front of you, and that could not go on. You then had little choice but to agree with him openly in Atlanta on December 17, 1994."

"In light of the above it seems unlikely that you will reverse your present doctrinal and admini-strative course."

"Of course a list of contradictions and inconsistencies does not necessarily provide sufficient reason to separate oneself from fellowship, but the implications may."

David Hulme **announced his support for the changes publicly, many times**. Page after page, Hulme sights the contradictions as if he were oblivious to the HQ strategy all along and attributes his 23-year involvement to a parting of the ways. Is Hulme now trying to deny that HWA was a plagiarizer? Does his letter represent his support for Armstrongism? For Hulme to allude to contradictions as the thrust of his departure leaves a stench of deception in its own right! Hulme was one of the most integrated evangelists in the entire WCG operation. His appointment to evangelist by the Tkach Co. only enhanced his participation in the intricate decisions made by the top "inner circle" dignitaries for the modus operandi. If anyone was considered part of the "in crowd," certainly Hulme would occupy a top slot.

Throughout the last several years, Hulme was the chief church official to respond to the negative PR that circulated in the public arena. On June 10, 1993, Dr. Paul Martin [died 8-14-09] from "Wellspring" (post cult rehab center) was contacted with the following letter:

> *"A copy of your book,* **Cult-Proofing Your Kids***, was recently brought to my attention. In Appendix C of that work you list "recommended reading" that includes several books discussing the Worldwide Church of God. Since the Church was not contacted to verify the accuracy of these sources, I take the opportunity to inform you of their inaccuracy.*
>
> *For the record, all three of the publications you recommend for information on the WCG contain many serious errors and present a decidedly inaccurate view of the Church. In each case, not only was the work based on faulty and incomplete research on the Church's position on many important doctrines, but the books are out-of-date, discussing issues long since resolved, individuals who are deceased or no longer part of the Church.* [He must mean HWA.]
>
> *The Church welcomes responsible inquiries about its beliefs and practices and is very open*

about presenting these beliefs accurately and completely. However, it is puzzling to me how some continue to publish inaccurate statements concerning the Worldwide Church of God, all in the name of Christianity.

For your general knowledge, I have included our information packet. I respectfully request that in a spirit of Christian honesty these references to erroneous sources be deleted from future editions of your book. Please contact me directly if you have any questions about the Worldwide Church of God." (Copy to Tkach and Zondervan Publishing)

This represents **many letters of this nature that Hulme applied his signature**. Hulme was also responsible for sending many **PR kits** to mainstream (Protestant, Baptist, etc.) ministries. The kit included a brief description of changes, proving it has updated its beliefs since HWA's death. Tkach quotes are used to prove that the changes are sincere and that all the members are well informed of the "new changes." The PR kit speaks as if the new Tkach Co. is the "good-guy who, immediately following HWA's death, brought the church through apostasy, leading the reader to note that Herbert W. Armstrong was the only apostate and since his death, the "good-guys" were able to turn the church around.

Hulme is the leader of all this PR, the head honcho, the big wig, so the fact that he represents himself as he does through his resignation letter leaves no question as to a propaganda cover-up and a very shrewd attempt to discharge disinformation to the unsuspecting hopefuls for an Armstrong type church.

[UPDATE: David Hulme left UCG-AIA in 1998 and formed "Church of God, An International Community," Pasadena, California, a group which publishes a quarterly entitled, "Vision--Journal for a New World." He proclaims most of Herbert Armstrong's former teachings in his literature. (Hulme, along with seven other evangelists, were offered severance pay [hush money] from WCG).

[**Also read:** I Remember WCG's Moral Compromises and Politics (info on David Hulme who was handling the PR for WCG at this time; January 3, 2013 letter to ESN. More expose` on David Hulme is linked here on our Offshoots & Splinter Groups section.]

On April 26, JWT responds to David Hulme stating:

Dear Dave, "It is with regret that I accept your resignation, and with sorrow that I read your false accusations and misrepresentations."

In response to a quote that Hulme used from the April 1994 sermon, JWT says:

"You accuse me of having had a hidden 'agenda of doctrinal changes' Dave, there has been no 'agenda' set by humans."

"In April of 1994, I had no idea the Holy spirit would lead me to see that we had been wrong in our understanding of the old and new covenants and the implications of the fact on our understanding of Sabbath and Holy Day observance, clean and unclean meat and triple tithing. In hindsight, I can see now that there was indeed an agenda, but it was Christ's agenda."

"You seem to feel you have discovered some astounding revelation when you point out that last year I explained the Christian's relationship to the law one way, and then at a certain point this year began explaining it another way. I don't deny that. I began explaining it correctly as soon as Christ opened my mind to understand it correctly."

"You have twisted and misrepresented my comment that the recent changes have "been on my mind" since the 1970s to mean that I understood believed, and embraced these things at that time and have kept that fact a secret ever since."

How very interesting that a select few "resignation" letters from ministers, manage to become public knowledge and are accessible to many in different countries. After having read close to 50 resignation letters from the 1970-decade, it's immediately noticed that these modern select letters are short, sweet and emotionless while being tailored toward doctrinal issues only. The fact that Hulme pretends he was "in the dark" all this time offers a **red flag** to those carving away at the inner core agenda.

Dear Brethren, April 17, 1995: (four page letter) warning to members not to be pulled away by the newly

disfellowshipped ministers.

"I am saddened to have to write you this important emergency letter to let you know that certain disfellowshipped former ministers are now forming their own church organization and have pulled out all stops in trying to disillusion and overthrow the faith of our brethren. I have to warn you that a few of these ministers want to disaffect as many members as they can in order to finance their efforts to divide the Body of Christ."

"**Brethren**, I implore you not to allow yourselves to be pulled into these or any other efforts to divide the Body of Christ. We have now been informed that some of these men have been at work for months, secretly laying the groundwork for their rebellion. We have also received information that certain ones would like to take control of Ambassador University from faithful University members. Some of them have tried to convince members that headquarters is 'doing away with God's law.' Nothing could be further from the truth, and yet some have used such reasoning to lead people away from the Church."

"**Brethren**, it grieves me that certain ministers have taken advantage of our patience and kindness toward them to devour as many of God's flock as they have been able"

"**Brethren**, I must also ask you to be especially generous with your offerings on the last Holy Day of the Unleavened Bread festival. These offerings are a voluntary expression of our love of Jesus Christ and support of his work through the church. We take them up on the Holy Days as a tradition, and not a commandment of God. Yet, brethren, I must tell you that we do really need these offerings, and especially at this time, when this rebellion has so negatively affected the church's income. **Please give prayerfully and generously**."

"**And brethren**, I do thank you so very much for the love and support of our Master that you are reflecting in you regular tithes and offerings. So many have expressed to me how much more meaningful tithing has become for them now that they realize tithes and offerings are given out of a devoted and loving heart rather than a mere duty. Your devotion in this way reflects your personal stewardship of the blessings God gives you. **It is the way God has chosen to provide the financial needs of the church, and I thank you deeply for your generosity and faithfulness**. The need is surely great at this critical time." (emp. Ed.)

As the momentum builds, more strategic occurrences and documents surface that appear to be very compatible to an inside plan for a church division. It is vital that the observer considers the histories of the key player and notice the timing of the events listed.

Ellis LaRavia sends a letter to JWT on April 20, 1995

LaRavia prints two pages of accounts of his loyalty to JWT, pointing our errors and question-able behavior throughout the years. [Excerpts only]

"When it became obvious that you wanted to succeed HWA and did everything within your power to acquire the office of Pastor General, we still sought to support Mr. HWA in his decision."

"We did not leave the fellowship when you railed against HWA and then summarily modified, altered, or destroyed the legacy that he left."

"We did not leave the fellowship when my wife confronted you with your relationship with a secretary, that had all the wrong appearances."

"You have placed our very spiritual lives and salvation in jeopardy on this table of destruction. Abolishing the Sabbath and holy days, regardless of how it is shrouded, is still abolishing the law of God."

"You have apparently said to some recently that you have believed some of these so-called "new" understandings for over 20 years. I find this hard to believe with all the hours and days we spent together from 1979 when we endured the receivership together. We also spent many months traveling back and forth to Tucson getting direction Mr. Armstrong, oftentimes two or three days a week. You called me your best friend as I tried to assist in your ministerial services responsibility as well as your private life"

"Now we have come to this! I am incredulous as to how the condition of the church has so deteriorated. And it seems it continually worsens day by day."

"God's people have suffered enough! The prudent thing is to step down along with your administration and turn over the reins to the remaining members of the original Council of Elders with Leroy Neff presiding."

The letter closes by alluding to Mr. HWA's admonition about not masking any massive doctrinal changes. Of the several letters that mysteriously ended up in public domain, this latest achievement seems to be the most believable, unless, of course, you have some history on Mr. Ellis LaRavia. Interestingly, he never mentions **Stanley Rader**, when in fact LaRavia had several vital positions under Mr. Rader. The letter seems to offer information that paves the way for possible future events. The letter could be interpreted as the following:

- JWT was in charge all along.
- JWT was the mastermind behind all the changes. Acknowledgment of the "new truth" being around in the 1970s.
- All the blame for the "future events" on the shoulder of JWT (who has been the front man with fall-guy image all along).
- Puts HWA in a light that is not factual.

As far as propaganda goes, this letter is a success. If the JWT Co. was out to convince the media and members that they were not the plotters and planners, this would be the way to gain support.

[Note: Ellis LaRavia became a member of WCG in 1966.]

The Indianapolis Conference brings it all into focus

The conference convened on April 30-May 2, 1995. Over 345 ministers and wives flew from all corners of the United States to attend. Joining the WCG "renegades" were representatives from the Global Church of God and Church of God International. The goal was to organize as separate corporations under one umbrella or "Balkanize," as one we interviewed stated. The conference adopted the following:

A Mission Statement
A Brief Summary of Common Beliefs
A Transitional Plan
Attitude and Conduct During Transition
Financial Recommendations.

Several reported to the OIU that the conference was not as organized as they would have hoped and it left many with questions on various topics such as doctrine. Amazingly however, in just a few short months and supposedly behind the WCG leaders' backs, hundreds of ministers organized and UNITED to restore the noble teachings of HWA and re-institute the LAW, TITHING, SABBATH and HOLY DAYS. What is even more amazing is that JWT denies knowing that plans were in the making since January for:

The UNITED CHURCH OF GOD

The 1995 General Conference of Elders and Board of Director nominations, were as follows:

Bob Dick	s**elected**
Wayne Dunlap	
Roger Foster	
Jim Franks	**selected**
David Hulme	**selected/chairpers on**
Roy Holladay	**selected**
David Havir	Bill Jacobs
Victor Kubik	**selected**
Ellis LaRavia	
Dennis Luker	**selected**
Burk McNair	**selected**
Dave Meyers	

Richard Paneilli
Jim Servidio
Randell Stover
Guy Swenson
Richard Thompson
Gerald Waterhouse
Lyle Welty
Dean Wallace
Ray Wooten selected

These individuals have long histories with the Worldwide Church of God. They were educated in the college system and witnessed all the turn of events that have transpired throughout the decades. When names like **Gerald Waterhouse** surface as the new current defenders of the HWA system, one must wonder why and how he suddenly changed his pro JWT attitude as he so aptly described in his more recent sermon 1994: [Excerpts only:]

What is Jesus Doing At This Time?

"Now I hope I can build into your own thinking about how God looks on people who assume that they know more about how to run God's church than he does."

"It's God's church! He built it all! He controls it all."

"If Christ left the church, He ought to be disfellowshipped."

"So it's a very serious thing to raise your hand against God's anointed which is raising it against the one who is using him, which is raising it against the one who was appointed by Christ to build the Church. And people in this time don't fear speaking evil of dignitaries--and especially those who are ordained the leader in the church, Mr. Armstrong, now Mr. Tkach."

"So whatever decision is made by the leader of the church, God backs it up. And if he [the leader] changes that, God looses it. If He binds it again, God binds it again. God binds and looses whatever the leader makes his decision in the church. So we can all know what to follow. You follow the current decisions, the practices of the church that Mr. Tkach is responsible for authorizing. If they're wrong, Christ knows it perfectly; if they're right, he still backs up the decision whether it is right or wrong."

And regarding JWT as a true apostle of Christ, Gerald says:

"There is only one [JWT] who has it legally, through the authority of Christ. That's the one Mr. Armstrong, who was God's apostle, appointed to carry [on]. You need to have it hammered in your mind, and I hope you do; so etched into your mind, your thought process, nothing else can get in there and interfere with it!"

"So we need to stick with our calling and make it sure. You can't leave it and make it sure, and not let Satan in any way get you thinking that you ought to be elsewhere. You stay where you've been called!"

[UPDATE: Gerald Waterhouse later left WCG and joined United Church of God-AIA in 1995. He died September 4, 2002 at age 76 after a long illness (swollen prostate, collapsed bladder and extreme toxemia).]

[UPDATE: Dennis Luker died March 14, 2013; Ray Wooten died Feb. 9, 2014]

Somehow, the facts do not stack up to an honest agenda. Have all these men been opposed to the changes on an ongoing basis? Was it coincidental that the radical cutbacks (listed in Vol. TWO) were on the heels on the "new truth" videos? Was the decline in church revenue really the members' fault for withholding tithes? What would inspire David Hulme to purport "doctrinal contradictions" when he, in the past eight years, documented his supportive position on the change through many publicity measures?

Now, look who shows up as **CHAIRMAN OF THE UCG**. It's our suddenly unhappy, WCG camper. Hulme slides into position as top gun, within days after his rush to resignation. The following excerpts were taken from

articles placed in the *LA TIMES*. Keep in mind, it was Hulme and Lapacka who decided what the newspaper was to relay.

Another Schism Racks Worldwide Church of God, May 4, 1995:

"The new church-announced at the close of a four-day conference in Indianapolis-will be headed by David Hulme of Pasadena, who resigned from the Worldwide Church of God."

"Earlier this year, the church reported a dramatic drop in income from member tithes..."

"Irreconcilable doctrinal differences have brought the church to the brink of destruction,' dissidents involved in the Indianapolis meeting wrote."

"Tom Lapacka estimated that the new UCG will attract more than 100 of the church's pastors. There were 350 pastors in the WCG as of Feb., but 104 have since resigned or been terminated because they cannot accept the church's movement toward mainstream Christianity, church officials said."

"Directors of the new United Church of God include six of the 14 regional pastors. Before the six resigned, they had jurisdiction over nearly half of the Worldwide Church of God's local congregations in the US."

"Also elected to the new United Church of God board of directors were three former evangelists, the highest ranking clergy in the WCG and second only to Pastor Tkach."

Group Splits From Worldwide Church May 5, 1995

"A former pastor in the WCG said yesterday his defection to establish a new church was prompted by doctrinal changes. David Hulme of Pasadena said he will lead a new sect, dubbed the United Church of God, which was unveiled Wed. at the end of a four day conference of former Worldwide pastors and elders in Indianapolis."

" 'A number of us want to have continuity of belief and practice,' Hulme said, "We feel we had to do what we did."

"The United Church of God will emphasize Sabbath and mandatory tithing, which had been cornerstones of the Worldwide church until recent changes.' "

"The WCG finances suffered a major setback earlier this year when tithes, which the church suddenly deemed voluntary, dropped dramatically, and 10,000 members if the church's 92,000 congregates left the organization. The drop in donations caused the church to cancel the Ambassador Auditorium's popular concert series in Pasadena because leaders couldn't afford the annual $2,5 million subsidy."

"The crisis arose last year when church leaders traded the longtime teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong, who founded the church in 1933, for doctrine that was closer to mainstream Protestantism."

So, right in the middle of the article the viewer is entertained by an oversized picture of David Hulme, with the caption stating, "**HULME WILL ESTABLISH A NEW CHURCH**!"

How interesting! Every article stresses that the income has drastically dropped due to the changes in tithing. As Vol. TWO, "Special Edition" pointed out, it is becoming clearer to all that the sudden January doctrinal, "law keeping" release, allowed for an excuse and cover-up to the real agenda and quite possibly aids in masking what is currently going on with the shifting of money. Equally amazing is the smooth transition the many pastors and evangelists make on the crossover to the UCG, especially the ones who were Tkach's right hand men!

In quick review:

We recall how disinformation seemed to be surfacing from Pasadena. Evangelists were reported to have been fired and then re-hired, retired and then reinstated. It left onlookers puzzled as to the real Tkach Company agenda. Ralph Helge is one such person, a looooooong time head of the WCG legal department and one time partner with Stan Rader from the office of Rader and Helge. Reports surface that Helge retires; Helge leaves the church; Helge sets up legal format for "Global"; Helge sets up legal format for United COG; Helge is still in church, but not in the legal entity; Helge is just renting space in Pasadena. And it goes on and on. The funniest report we've had is, "Helge quit because he sees some things are wrong." Well, Mr. Ralph Helge has been thickly involved with the WCG in EVERY degree (and in many courts). We do not doubt that he is very aware of what is WRONG!

[UPDATE: Ralph K. Helge retired as legal head of WCG in 2005 and was replaced by Bernard Schnippert (now with UCG). Helge was referred to as an "unprincipled liar" in Jack Kessler's 1981 Letter to Worldwide Church of God Board of Directors.]

When we consider:

--The unique timing and smooth transition of the UCG developments.

--The "key players" such as David Hulme, Dennis Luker, Victor Kubik, Gerald Waterhouse and Ellis LaRavia.

--How the Tkach Company implemented these "changes" during the past few years.

--And the massive duplicity and confusion that the Tkach Company generated with the outside Christian Cult watching ministries. (The secular cult watchers never bought into the propaganda.)

We pause to consider whether this UNITED CHURCH OF GOD development is another INSIDE BUSINESS MANEUVER.!!!

Divide and Conquer

- The WCG was not in a healthy recruiting position in the 1970s or 1980s.
- The "apocalyptic" belief system generated resistance rather than interest. WACO and the televangelist exposure compounded the already lagging Christian public interest.
- Despite WWN propaganda about growth, local church buildings, open houses, etc., the local areas were stagnant and not generating income to cover their costs.

So what do you do???

1. A de-culting campaign combined with joining evangelical Protestantism would provide an avenue of recovery.
2. A strategy to fragment the congregations would push the non-tithers out, the legalists and Armstrongites to the offshoots and the dedicated enduring to the end Tkachites to be even more dedicated.
3. Dividing the congregations could be done by injecting confusion and contradictions, cutting off financial assistance from HQ and manipulating the "unknowing and deceived" ministers.
4. Organizing an offshoot such as, "Global" to attract the super Armstrongites. Attach the Islands through Colin as a test program.
5. Enforce the Protestant system on the membership fast and furiously just prior to the division and possible bankruptcy.
6. Segregate the conservatives from the liberals. Push/pull all the conservatives into the new United Church of God. Set them up as conservative local ministries and separate corporations, as to dilute the cult appearance.
7. Re-institute the WCG conglomerate under various names, United Church of God for the Conservatives and New Covenant Church of Christ (NCCC) for the Liberals. (We are told that this name was put on hold due to "legal" reasons. While it is unclear as to the exact name that will be used for new Protestant/Evangelical Church, assuredly, it will be changed. We nominate, The Weaver Church of God!) [UPDATE: In April 2009 WCG changed their name in the United States to Grace Communion International. (Some local church areas and countries may still carry the former name or a different one.)
8. Once the UCG is positioned, strongly-strip away any old WCG teachings. Start Sunday keeping, traditional holidays with Christmas trees and Easter eggs; start fellowships and evangelism; manage by discipling methods for recruiting and concentrate on the YOUTH all the way; have lots of emotionalism.... maybe throw in "speaking in tongues"--hey, a lot of Christians like that, don't knock it--with immortality of the soul and the concept of heaven and hell. That's a start!

Since the Indianapolis meeting, the UCG has been maneuvering with great speed spreading zeal across the land (and the computers) for their new (old WCG) church. The new UCG recruits instituted an "**Attitude Policy Statement**," which states:

"We will not criticize, judge, or condemn any individual or group publicly or privately." (point 3)

While many observers view the excitement emanating from the inner circle of the UCG, others are showing signs of discontent and lack of trust with the set-up at large. Some have voiced concern over a lack of doctrinal clarity. While the ministers continue to set up their own Corporations, the newly formed Elders concern themselves with how the tithes will be distributed. Zeal abounds while the members and UCG locals set up shop. Here is a typical zealot statement:

Los Angeles County: (May 9th) one UCG member tells his computer companions, *"What a relief to be back in fellowship with those that hold true to the Word of Almighty God! The SPIRIT of the gathering was so refreshing. The central focus of the UCG is once again to preach the Kingdom of God in the context of Christ returning to rule the earth. Mr. Hulme gave a brief run-down on the INDY conference and Mr. Brian Orchard gave the sermon. Truly inspiring message of open-mindedness towards all walks of faith with a single-minded purpose to preach the GOOD NEWS OF THE COMING KINGDOM OF GOD. A WORLD HELD CAPTIVE. Purpose of the church is to live Christianity, not to merely preach it. One overwhelmingly important aspect: NO PLACE IN UCG FOR THOSE DISPARAGING WCG OR OTHER SPLINTER GROUPS."* (emp. theirs)

Another member from Alabama stated to us that, Mr. Rick Beam held his first Sabbath meeting with about 50 members and the sermon was just like the olden days. Good old Lake of Fire, God's One True Church, the 3rd and perishing resurrection, God's Government, and all the rest of the goodies.

This member said people were in a trance and seemed to love the message. Bet they did!

Solid emphasis has been placed on controlling any discussion regarding other splinters. Could that be because WCG, Global and the UCG conglomerate are "woven" together by the weavers? As the data and the facts mount, we shall see!

An exact figure for the UCG attendance is not clear at this time, but it is estimated (from several sources) to be approximately 15,000 members with 50 Corporations and climbing. Global reports 100 ministers and 7000 members also. The future of the UCG remains to be seen as the dust is far from settled and many lower ministers are questioning those "in charge" of these breakaways. The benefit to all this "hoopla" that has taken place these past few years is that some have really started thinking. It is only a matter of time for those who are under the victim column, to wake up.

Letter from JWT, Jr. to the ministry: [excerpts only]

"I am very sorry to have to report, yet again, that a number of our fellow ministers have chosen to resign. Some have also chosen to leave the church. This is a personal blow to me, because some of these men and their wives were among my best friends."

"When anyone leaves the Church, it is a tragedy. But it is especially traumatic when it is someone we have worked with, relaxed with and laughed with for almost as long as we can remember. They have become a part of our lives, and their leaving hits us like a death in the family. So it is with an especially heavy heart that I find myself having to write these things."

"But even as we grieve, there are practical matters to be taken care of. Some congregations have been left without full-time pastors, and in some cases, we are not able to assign a replacement pastor until our personnel needs and resources can be assessed more fully."

Jr. goes on to say...

"It is not wrong to be different. ***It is wrong to be divisive, and to try to pull away from the Church to a competing group--especially if there is the ulterior motive of trying to obtain their financial support.*** *The Church--any church-- should be characterized by love, and not by strife and angry accusations. We hope that our brethren have learned to be aware of such tactics.* ***However, divisive people can sometimes give persuasive speeches and thus mislead people.*** *Let me be blunt: Sometimes the very gifts and talents that make someone an effective minister can be turned around and be used against the very*

people he used to serve."

"One example of deception is the claim that we in Pasadena are the ones who are teaching contrary to what we have learned--we have departed from the teachings of Mr. Armstrong. But surely the standard of truth is the Bible, not any particular teacher, even a highly respected one. Mr. Armstrong frequently warned us to avoid division and to avoid dissidents. In this, he was faithful to the message of the Bible."

"Dissident activity is sin. The Bible condemns those who cause divisions, who revile things they don't understand, who rebel against the authority over them and who are fault finders (Jude 8-19). Jude uses strong language, but it was understandable. I also have to fight anger and resentment when I learn how some have been actively working against the Church even while accepting paychecks. Some have even taken Church property with them when they formed their own congregations."

"False teachers generally seek more followers so they can have more power and money."

Jr. closes by listing 51 ministers that he classified as Disfellowshipped and credentials evoked.

From all points, his letter seems skillfully crafted and entrenched with "psychology." Also, when we think how litigious the "church" has been over the decades, one wonders why they haven't gone after the stolen merchandise with all the avenues available to them. Actually, it appears that HQ sends these ministers off to their next assignment with warm regards. We also notice how calm the WCG HQ remains while a supposed catastrophe in occurring within its fold. Considering the fact that the church only had approximately 50,000 members from the get-go, a 15 to 20,000-member loss would severely impact the financial condition--unless, of course, the church was held together by some other means. And, what about these hundreds of ministers who faithfully remained with the WCG until this point, supporting WCG all the way while the WCG paid them hefty salaries? Are we to believe that suddenly they had a massive change of heart and decided they could not preach heresy? Highly doubtful!

As some view this whole picture, they recall JWT's frequent commercials to "**go join Global**" if they didn't like the changes taking place in the Worldwide Church of God. You will recall Vol. TWO of the OIU discussed the possibility that Global was set up by the WCG to catch the law keeping, Sabbath-keeping and pro-tithing zealots before they were led astray.

Now that we see Global, UCG and CGI getting "buddy buddy," shall we say, the possibility of an inside set-up takes an even stronger hold.

The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive and judiciary, in the same hands... may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny --James Madison

Where Does "Big Sandy" Fit In With All This?

Here are some of the "rumors" that have been surfaced from various sources:

- The AU will have to file bankruptcy at the finish of 1995 semester.
- The AU will combine with Azusa Bible College and become one entity.
- AU will be (is) annexed from Pasadena HQ and will function as a separate entity.
- Funds to AU have been cut off by HQ.
- AU will be picked up by the UCG.
- UCG, Global and Church of God International will together combine and assume the AU.

As one reads the possibilities, it can be safely assumed that the AU will be repositioned strategically according to the entire agenda. As we witness all the major law-keeping/Sabbath- keeping offshoot churches uniting, we can be reassured that the AU will fit snugly into the scheme of things.

Recently, there has been much rumble on the AU campus regarding a new proposal for a student contract of beliefs. As we understand it, AU is hopeful to get their students to sign contracts stating they will uphold the beliefs set forth by the church. The contract would allow for doctrinal change by the organization and the contractee would be accountable to adhere to the change. This issue is full dialog these days within the AU area and will most likely be refashioned due to Amendment rights! The OIU will clearly define the decisions in the next issue. One person commented that what AU is attempting to do is analogous to a bank changing the

terms of mortgage loan without the lender's knowledge and then foreclosing because of a breach in the new mortgage contract.

A Sabbath Conference: JUBILEE `95 - The Sabbath in the 21-Century

Speakers and attendees from WCG, SDA, CGI, GCG, CG7, UCG, etc., combined on May 28--29 as Sabbatarian fellowships to attend many Sabbath related seminars, participate in Q&A, visit Educational booths, fellowship and to spiritually bond. This new conference sponsored by "*Friends of the Sabbath*" was held at Dana Point Resort, Dana Point, CA. The conference was open to all for $95.00 per person or $175.00 double.

The organizers stated that there would be no proselytizing, or nothing to join, just a reaching out across corporate and church bounds, to serve those in need. Attendees will be entertained by speakers: Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, Dennis and LeeAnn Luker/UCG, Ron Dart/CGI, Peter Nathan, David and Sandy O'Malley and others.

This is another opportunity for the "spin-offs" to come together and unite as one. Possibly, next year they'll be able to hold this conference in beautiful Big Sandy.

An Analysis

Observers scrutinizing the events of the WCG these past few years have been quite puzzled as to unfolding of events within the organization. There are some, however, who have not been so distracted by doctrinal persuasion and have looked deeper into the agenda of the Tkach Co.

The "selected" men on the board of United Church of God have been significant partners in the WCG leadership for the past decades. These are men who have witnessed ALL the behind the scenes occurrences with the HWA and JWT regimes. They were privy to "inside information" in every degree. It is likewise fair to state that they knew HWA's/Stan Rader's every move and have not only been in step with the directions of the Tkach Co., but have been instrumental in carrying out the plans.

Now these men claim, through resignation letters, to deny their knowing what was going on. As they hide behind the "HWA beliefs," they postulate as being naïve to modus operandi of their parent organization. At best their letters read like smoke screens.

How interesting to observe individuals such as Waterhouse, Hulme, Luker, Kubik and others pretend that they too were victims of the contradiction and confusion put forth by the Tkach Co. Do these men think they have not left a "sawdust" trail behind their impromptu exodus? Have they been so successful in the past to "snow" their public that this recent move should also obtain positive results?

After several years of postulating change, the "mainstream" strategy escalates on the heals of Earl Williams' Grace and Gospel preaching exposure. The Tkach Co. found itself displeased over **Earl William's preempting of the Protestant message to the WCG members.** Could Earl William's have been used as catalyst to expedite the "Tkach new truth?" Interestingly, the demise of Earl Williams came on the heals of the New Covenant Video. But why, some ask, did JWT wait so long to make the changes? Why hadn't he come out straight with the Protestant teachings from the beginning?

[UPDATE: **Read**: Was Atlanta a "Test" area?]

When that same question was posed to Joe Jr. and Mike Feazell by other Christian Ministries, their reply was, "We're mindful of a rapid loss of membership." Therefore, the leaders decided to make the changes in small increments in effort to placate the membership rolls. How uncanny that the Tkach Company decides to enhance the speed of Protestant changes as the UCG is well positioned to assume the previous WCG role.

As the legalists scurry over to the newly devised UCG corporations with their tithing dollars in hand, the WCG announces to the public that financial affairs are in danger.

The LA Times, *Pasadena Star News* and other publications have printed the financial distresses just the way the information was relayed to the papers by the WCG leaders. Whatever has been printed in the papers is exactly what the Tkach Co. wants printed. As the news about the WCG financial downward spiral is advertised, the leaders earn recognition for their courageous and faithful decisions regarding doctrinal changes. If all goes well, Joseph Tkach and Co. could be viewed as a man after God's own heart by the Christian ministries--

despite the fact that the church may, in the future, file for bankruptcy.

BANKRUPT?? IT SEEMS SO FINAL, but is it???

The Tkach Company might like observers to think that:

- Joseph Tkach is the decision maker on all doctrinal issues.
- The UCG was a rebellion or coup attempt formed by those who protested the changes. (All along the leaders were telling the outside Christian media that the ministers were not accepting the changes and protesting against the changes. Protestant Evangelical ministries were reporting publicly that the leadership was "doing it right, but the ministers were rebelling and refusing to teach the new doctrines.")
- The WCG leaders were completely unaware of the underground plans with the bulk of the ministry.
- The financial decline is due to the UCG exodus.

[UPDATE: In April 2009 Worldwide Church of God changed their name in the United States to Grace Communion International. (Some local church areas and countries may still carry the former name or a different one.)]

The old WCG will be demolished as if it never existed. Armstrong will live on through the offshoots; meanwhile, the "new church" will grow into an evangelistic association with discipling methods most likely holding home fellowships and video presentations. [Move over International Church of Christ. You have competition!]

Can anyone think of a better way to chop up the existing cult? If we really think about it, the plan is ingenious--something for everyone. The Christian cult watchers are happy because they think they finally won, the conservative/legalist members are happy because they think their ministers are faithful to the real truth, and the Tkachites are happy because they are enduring to the end where God placed them in the first place. The Tkach Co. is happy because all the WCG assets are in Joe Tkach's name, maybe even all the international bank accounts are too. Actually, the only unhappy ones are the ex-members who lost loved ones, had their lives destroyed by some of the same ministers that are in UCG today, were victims of intense abuse in every form and the ones who were robbed, deceived, manipulated and coerced throughout their WCG tour. [No small figure.]

If in fact, the leaders of the WCG orchestrated the events that have unfolded these past several years as a planned strategy, which inevitably would lead to Bankruptcy or demolition of the WCG, as it is known, would they not be guilty of Bankruptcy Fraud??? A VERY SERIOUS CRIMINAL CHARGE!!!!

Careful scrutiny of the WCG past indicates that serious activity transpired on numerous occasions. One cannot think that because the leaders or church were not shut down due to unsavory acts, that the WCG is left free from guilt. The leaders and legal leaders have used every bit of strength and tithing dollars to keep the organization protected under the rights for religious institutions within the Constitution. The only reason the WCG did not succumb to the receivership crisis is because they banded together with the Catholics, the Mormons, evangelicals and various cults to fight the government from peeking at the affairs of the "religious organizations." More on this in the future, but for now we must realize that there are "reasons behind the mounting events" and they have nothing to do with salvation in Jesus Christ!

Excerpts from Ecclesiastics 10:

"There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the ruler--Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place. He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh a hedge, a serpent shall bite him. Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better. The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city. Woe to thee, O land, when thy King is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning, By much slothfulness the building decayeth… and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things. Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter."

OIU Volume Three - Pt. 3 of 5

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

The WCG goes The "UNITED WAY"

As the ministerial exodus from the WCG Corporation continues around the globe, the UNITED CHURCH OF GOD (UCG) grows in strength with newly formed corporations coming together to reinstate the WCG that once was. There are, however, a few modifications regarding the "government" structure. We find this particularly noteworthy in lieu of the strategy discussed above. For that reason, an overview of the new UCG is outlined below.

"GOD'S GOVERNMENT IS GOVERNMENT FROM THE TOP DOWN!"

Remember that verbiage piped into your eardrums week after week? Your life was completely restricted from expanding your horizons, because if it didn't gel with whomever was lording over you at the time you were in trouble. The rules and laws were passed down from HQ to the Ministers, to the Deacons and then to you. The order of command was strictly forced upon the members. Deviate from the local law and you were out. Strict adherence to obedience and to GOD'S GOVERNMENT was mandatory. This extremist overture led to people following their leader like sheep to slaughter. Who dared to question? Who dared to act on self-thought? Who dared to tamper with God's plan of Salvation? Wow! Pages could be written on this one topic, but the point is, "God's Government from the top down" didn't work. The WCG leaders learned that the hard way. History and current events teach us how dictatorships fall. The Hitler approach ends in the infernos. The WCG leaders (HWA/Rader included) employed every totalitarian, authoritative and dictatorial method available to control a mass of people. As we view the tactics of secrecy, information control, thought control, behavior control and emotional control, one is reminded of the intense guilt and fear that was felt if one dared to tamper with the controls. These methods (also noted as mind control) were employed to obtain results for the leaders. The usage of the image of God served a vast purpose, which allowed the controlled member to submit his will, vanity, and self-purpose to an organization. On the surface it appears that the individual is exercising his own free will, but nothing is further from truth. The methodical process of mind control equals coercion. The victim is then manipulated into complete submission.

These cult tactics are useful to the cult leaders and serve the goals of power and money. There is, however, a great flaw to the program. People are humans; therefore, they are subject to error. The cult leaders (CL's) can only get so much run for their money, so to speak. The duration of a cult induced recruit can vary, depending on his personal situation and strengths. It could mean immediate dropout to a lifetime member. As cult leaders are well trained to spot those "waking up," they immediately cut off the member by disfellowshipping him, shunning him, setting him up for personal failure or ignoring him. Once one starts the wake-up process, there is usually no return to the intense programming application. Because of this "programming flaw" it is essential to concentrate on fever pitched recruiting methods. The WCG was an organization that ran amuck with recruiting because of the type of control system that was built in place from its inception with HWA. The "Apostle" or "Prophet" setup is not new to cults; all Bible cults have their "one man in charge" on top and directly linked to God. Where the HWA/JWT regimes failed is with the members. Instead of working through the members to obtain results (money and control), the HWA/JWT regimes required strict obedience, conversion, transformation and a personal destruction of the will and the identity. After awhile, the obedient WCG member became a clone to the style of the group. Very often, the members grew quiet, submissive, emotionless, non-thinking, non-creative, depressed, alcoholic, repressed, hopeless, aimless and with nothing to look forward to but the dream outlined by the leaders about the World Tomorrow, which often read like fantasy or science fiction. Now this psychological syndrome outlined here may keep the members anchored to the organization as if they were paralyzed from making a move, but the fact is, it prohibits creativity, enthusiasm, and energy which are the essential ingredients needed to evangelize or fund-raise.

The already failing WCG in the 1970s had no alternative but to gamble on different market strategies in effort to

recoup recruiting of the 1960s. *The Incredible Human Potential* and *Mystery of the Ages* campaign combined with the "Mr. Armstrong's return from Tucson to get the church back on track" propaganda of 1979 did seem to squeeze the last possible run out of the already exhausted membership [sort of like a shot in the arm effect], but the result was short-lived, as previously outlined.

In business (church), in order to obtain results through people (members), the manager (minister) must apply good managerial techniques (leadership). That would include creating an environment for the employee (member) to have a good positive self-image (self-worth). If the employee (member) considers himself garbage in his boss's (God's) eye, the prospect of any successful accomplishment is doubtful at best.

With all that said, one may understand why WCG had to make radical changes. GOVERNMENT FROM THE TOP DOWN--FAILED, for the long run! Crisis management also took its toll on success possibilities. In PLAIN English the name, Worldwide Church of God, could never recover from its massive and highly exposed trail. The PLAIN TRUTH is a finished name also. They both had their run. As the Armstrong image lives in the minds of the legalists, the new UCG recruits will be anchored to a modern semblance. The UCG ministers have now been trained by the Stephen R. Covey method of management. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* served as a guideline book these past few years while ministers learned, "Powerful Lesson in Personal Change."

The UCG has been set up to reap the benefits of the past, but not repeat the failure that restricted growth and led to the collapse of its Government structure.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD--ALABAMA LEADS THE WAY

Way back on March 18, 1995, Pastor Ray Wooten held his first meeting with 195 members newly transferred from the WCG. In a letter to the ministry of the Church of God, Ray Wooten states:

"As God's ministers, we must realize that we do not merely have a profession or a career; we have a calling from God our Father. Our calling entails two fundamental responsibilities:

1. *Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God.*
2. *Feeding Christ's flock--those whom He has called for us to serve to nurture.*

"We have, in the past, concentrated more on the first responsibility, enabling only a few people to do most of the evangelizing. The majority provided direct financial support, but were only vicariously involved with the evangelistic efforts."

"Historically, our relationship with God's people has been one of keeping them encourage to "pay and pray." As a result of this attitude and hierarchical structure of government, we have not seen the overwhelming need of God's people to be properly nurtured and respected for the gifts they have been empowered with by the Holy Spirit. Many ministers have tended to function as lords or governors over their congregations, which is abiblical."

[Note: The words "God's people" as spoken by Ray Wooten is a buzzword used often by those who were in WCG.]

He goes on to say:

"Times have changed--for the world and for God's people. In this age of rapid technological change, corporate and business decentralization--and of empowerment--the church simply MUST understand the importance of a SHARED ministry with ownership at a local level."

"God's people do not need a hierarchical structure where a central headquarters receives all resources and then doles those resources out..."

"There is no single human voice that God's people are hearing. Rather, they are hearing the voices of a group of God's ministers who stand loyal and faithful to the Truth."

"By reorganizing and nurturing God's people in a proper and peaceful environment, we will perpetuate and expand the preaching of the gospel through a SHARED ministry!"

UPDATE: Ray Wooten died February 9, 2014.

Mr. Ray Wooten's assistant, Mr. Mercer, spoke at length with the ESN regarding the initial start-up of the

UCG. Listed here are some of the points and opinions relayed to the ESN:

- Mr. Wooten was fired on March 1st and agreed to Pastor the congregation shortly thereafter. He was not involved in setting up the corporation.
- Corporation was originally set up for members to bank tithes and help ministers who were being fired with no provisions.
- Church development took on a life of its own.
- Corporation packages are being sent out to other ministers to explain how to organize and incorporate.
- The 1939 article that Mr. Armstrong wrote shows how the WCG government structure was wrong.
- We believe God's people have to be served and nourished with no one lording over them.
- We want no organization that breeds carnality, political infighting, or bureaucracy and being more concerned about some message that may or may not be relative to God's people. The work of HWA is over. Now we have distressed people out there that have to be nurtured and served.
- We have no agenda, no HQ movement. We're willing to support a central association. We do not want to be a part of any other big organization. · The people aren't willing to pay or pray any longer, and be fed garbage.
- What we did we tried to do ethically. No WCG member was involved in it.
- We have never been a member of the Worldwide Church of God. We've been members of the Body of Christ.
- The people want to be involved and fed the truth. They don't want the contention or satanic attitude.
- We are very against exploitation. The locally administered distinction will provide the Pastor to serve his people.
- Global and International are brothers, but we are not part of the spin-offs that have the more radical messages.
- We propose that churches go ahead and incorporate with tithes kept locally and get up and start running.
- The peoples' needs are more important than trying to have a work.
- We want what we're involved in to have the right attitude and spirit.
- We're not an elitist mentality. In AU we've seen the cream of the crowd. There are talented people in our Birmingham church and they can be used to serve.
- We have nothing to hide, if we're wrong we'll admit it.
- We've sent our packages to Australia and Scotland.

Mr. Mercer was very helpful and cordial and appeared to have the welfare of the membership at heart. As almost two months have passed since our conversation, I can't help but wonder if he still carries the same thoughts as some the facts above state. The innocent attempt to protect the WCG membership from being led astray has started to mold into a newly devised conglomerate of Churches of God with more and more demands targeted toward the "corporations." It is questionable whether Mr. Mercer had all the facts about who would be the "key players" or new leaders. What seemed to Mr. Mercer to be a "grass roots," "chips fall where they may" approach to saving a like minded people, actually, turns out to be a very organized and methodical strategy toward a brand new Worldwide Church of God type organization. The only difference is how the corporations are set up, and the intention to utilize the members in recruiting efforts. Several UCG ministers have told the OIU, they are not happy with some control problems they see surfacing. Some were quite surprised that the leaders of UCG plan on writing the ministers paychecks. "This, will mean they own us," said one minister.

THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT REORGANIZATION

The UCG uses the America Online to communicate with their ministry. As one insider stated, "You need to have the special code to access the special network." It is on this network that much material is relayed to the reorganizing ministry.

MARCH 17, 1995 Excerpts from The "*The Plain Truth*" about Reorganization:

"There is no need to document the failings of the Worldwide Church of God. Differing agendas require different actions. We can leave it at that."

"It is very important that each of us strive to have a RIGHT SPIRIT and ATTITUDE so that Christ can unify us through his Holy Spirit"

"It is very important, that we each strive to be agreeable, because the obstacles to our unification are great and the physical resources (at least at first) will be limited. We must learn to agree and to work together to serve God in a spirit of cooperation."

"The reorganization will involve local congregations having a much more important role. In fact, they will have autonomy. There will be no large headquarters and other carnal behavior. The local churches will each incorporate separately, collect tithes and offerings locally and have their own Board of Directors."

"There will be a central association (CA) that functions as a service provider for the local congregations located around the earth. The central association will be very small and will only have those employees that are absolutely necessary. The CA will receive a portion of the funds by the local autonomous congregations, which will be given as the local congregations see fit. The CA will provide the following kinds of services:

- Preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God.
- Recreating a body of literature.
- Helping with legal matters, particularly in the international area.
- Publishing a magazine, church newsletter and materials, which help local con-gregations.
- Possibly help provide services, which are more inexpensively purchased collectively, e.g. general liability insurance.
- Providing "how to" advice to local congregation who request it.
- Establish Feast sites.

March 24, 1995-- "General Statement"

This statement is from a 10-page document and intended for the ministers contemplating leaving WCG for UCG. [Excerpts only]

"The leading ministers are not trying to limit God, or what he can do. We are simply trying to follow Mr. HWA's classic and timeless advice, which is, Pray like it all depends on God, and then work like it all depends on you."

"If God were to choose to miraculously intervene and cause the leadership of the WCG to repent, or in some other way remove them, no one would be happier than us. We would very much like to go back to being able to live some semblance of normal life."

"This movement would be MUCH FARTHER ALONG, except for the fact that all the principal leaders are DEEPLY CONVERTED and have not wanted to seem as if they are trying to put themselves forward. But the sheep are being slaughtered and so now we must act."

"Some of the people who are being used as examples of excellent conservative leadership, within the WCG are fully aware of the need to separate and consider a separation imminent. They are preparing now both to separate and to work together toward the goal of helping God's people be united. We simply cannot be more explicit than that at this time."

"Do we think UCG has the only Christians? Of course not. There are Christians in the WCG, UCG, PCG, CG International and COG 7th Day to name a few."

"Let's be honest. The basic choices to most of us are as follows:

1. Stay in the WCG
2. Go with UCG
3. Go with Global
4. God intervenes and makes his will so abundantly clear that we can all see what to do and *then do it*."

The perils of local autonomy:

"It is not for the faint of heart. Local autonomy is an effort to avoid a large headquarters complex mentality and all the politics and other carnal behavior that tends to be exhibited there. Are there problems with a local body of believers having the authority to hire and fire ministers?" Yes there are."

"If you want another headquarters complex and like that kind of government structure and if you feel that you would be more comfortable with Global, then that should be YOUR personal choice. We would not feel negatively toward anyone who did join Global because we feel they are our brothers. But we do feel UCG is the best way for us."

"It would certainly be foolish to be out there on your own. Satan will pick you off, with relative ease. **All of the leading ministers of the UCG believe that UCG and Global will eventually be together.** And the olive branches have already been extended in EACH DIRECTION. Only God knows."

"A central point is that the members (and ministers) have been taken for granted and their talents have been under-utilized. Local autonomy can work, if converted individuals have the RIGHT SPIRIT and ATTITUDE and set their minds to agree to agree. The spirit of Christ can and will unify us, if we will get our carnality out of the way."

"In addition to destroying the WCG, he (Satan) wishes to splinter the COG into as many different pieces as possible. Denying us the collective resources necessary to do a Work, he will then try to pick us off one by one. The leading ministers believe that this splintering must be avoided, at almost all costs."

"A CA will have checks and balances on the local congregations. The local congregations will have to hold certain fundamental doctrinal positions to qualify for membership in the association and to have their members receive the literature, attend the Feast, receive collective legal/purchasing support, etc. The last thing a local congregation, with even a smidgen of wisdom would want, is to be out there by itself."

"It will definitely take a central association to effectively preach the Gospel. There is no question about that. And there will be significant moneys remitted to the CA to do so. This does not mean that there needs to be a large CA office. Television production can be contracted out, etc. Leading ministers can divide the writing responsibilities as we endeavor to recreate a body of literature and to publish a Plain Truth type of magazine. The Regional Pastors can be based in the larger cities so that the main incremental cost associated with them is travel. Only those employees who are absolutely necessary will be hired. And the services provided will be for a high quality and will be performed in a spirit and attitude of service, not in a controlling type spirit and attitude."

April 6, 1995 Legal--Accounting--and How to Memo: on how to organize and commence operations as a local congregation.

This 14-page document is very thorough and outlines how to set-up shop as a local corporation. The excerpts listed below are worth noting:

"We do not advise that you even consider the purchasing of a local church building for at least several years."

"Concentrate on establishing your local church and making it stable. Until you have that done, you are getting ahead of yourself in making plans for such a major capital asset as a church building. And there is another important reason. If the congregations with the surplus of cash, after paying for their own local operations, do not generously support the CA, so that the CA can also preach the gospel as a witness to the nations, but instead, spend all their surplus on a large local church building (and its maintenance), this "Work" is going to be ineffective at best."

"Also, the wealthier congregations are going to have to be willing to subsidize the smaller congre-gations

because fixed costs (like minister's salary and hall rental) hit the smaller congregations so hard."

"For the UCG to establish an entirely different form of COG corporate organization is to obviously imply that the old form of hierarchical structure, with a large central headquarters complex is not acceptable. Let's not dance around this central point. Many, many ministers and members want nothing to do with COG corporate structure that has the trappings of HQ. We are leery of having one corporate form of church organization seized and then used against the church. We are leery of the wrong spirit and attitude which has so often affected too many (not anywhere near all) of those employed at HQ. For those who are more comfortable with the hierarchical form of government and a large HQ complex you will probably need to consider other alternatives."

"It should be noted that the UCG does not seek to run like a fool out of the dictator ditch and into the pure democracy ditch."

[*Under the heading of* ***checks and balances*** *the memo defines the corporate structure and specifies 10 points including:*]

POINT 8: An additional check and balance is that the government will have a much more difficult time attacking the COG, like the State of California did during the receivership crises, if we are organized as local autonomous congregations.

POINT 9: We recommend that the central association, once formed, take steps to have its liquid assets located in at least two to three countries to further protect against any inappropriate government action against the COG.

POINT 10: An additional benefit to local autonomy is it would be more difficult for the collective COG to be sued and have to pay a large judgment. It's far easier for a plaintiff's lawyer to attack one large target that has a lot of central assets. The start up package for corporations include several other documents explaining how to incorporate and in what state the best deal can be found, along with more "Discussion of Local Church Autonomy VS. Central Control.

For your own copy write to: United Church of God, P.O. Box 361334, Birmingham, Alabama 35236-1334,
(205) 822-8524, FAX (205) 822-8529 [This is not an endorsement]

[UPDATE: February 19, 2006 letter to ESN, which exposed United Church of God / WCG connections with Dynamics Resource Group.]

After a careful review of the package; other considerations outlined above; and dialog with many individuals departing churches, we can plainly see that the old WCG is now fashioned into the new UCG with a government structure replacement that will do the job that the "Government from the top down" failed to do. The image of the UCG will serve to carry on the old WCG, avoid government investigation and scrutiny and prevent retaliation from those who sue for damages caused by the organization. Most likely, the cult watchers will also have a tough time tracking down the abuses and cult behavior.

The solution to pollution is dilution!

In April 1995, an Illinois congregation was entertained by a tape-recorded message sent to the minister from HQ. The tape was supposedly recorded from an impromptu meeting at the Festival Coordinator's Conference in Pasadena in March. Joe Tkach, Jr., Mike Feazell and Richard Rice answer questions from several ministers. This 30-minute dialog covers several major questions that most members have. The questions and answers are condensed for space. The message is available from ESN.

[UPDATE: Richard Rice died suddenly July 27, 2003 of a massive heart attack.]

Where did all this change come from? What? Who? The role of the Council of Elders?

Joe Jr.: The Council of Elders was never established for doctrine. The Council was used as a body to support decisions that HWA made. It rarely met together, only on a few occasions, at the discretion of HWA, but they never had a say in doctrine.

Richard Rice: Elders came together for the passing of the baton to Mr. Tkach. When HWA was about to die he called the elders together, was breathing heavily and in great pain and could hardly speak. We all heard

him pray aloud to God for the passing of baton to Mr. Tkach. We only met 2 or 3 times. We (the elders) signed the necessary documents.

Joe Jr.: My Dad would read the Bible, and study certain issues out and say, 'You know, I've seen for a long time that we've been legalists.' He'd assigned me and Mike to research and look things up. He's the one who got this thing going.

Does JWT lead the change or do Mike Feazell, Joe Jr. and Greg Albrecht make the decisions?

Joe Jr.: My Dad (JWT) is the one who got this thing going. These rumors that he committed improprieties and I (Jr.) hold them over his head is nonsense. He'd kill me before he'd let me blackmail him. (Everyone laughs)

My Dad is the first to admit that he's no writer. He's the one who directs this stuff. We (Albert--Feazell--and Jr.) are the presenters. We bare the major burden of presenting it. It falls on our shoulders.

Sometimes I don't explain it clearly, that's my weakness. We are all broken somewhere. I never claimed to be infallible in any of my presentations. I'm sorry, I tried to give you the package and the package is a good package and I'm sorry that I wrapped it poorly.

My Dad doesn't want to talk to reporters, he's gun shy, watching HWA all those years. It is my lot and Mike Feazell's lot to talk to the press.

Mike Feazell: Sometimes there is a theory, 'that they planned these changes sometime way back,' and that's just not true. One thing leads to another and demands another, and a lot of times it demands another because the implications of one thing bring too many questions from the field.

How did the changes come about?

Mike Feazell: We've been updating booklets all along. Mr. Tkach was checking the booklets. And questions arose. He saw they needed updating. HWA was too old to update, or out of the country. A lot of updating was done by Herman Hoeh. When JWT became aware that there were questions we started to research. [Gives example of contradictions with Revelations]

We saw things didn't make sense. The Spokesman's Club manual wasn't accurate. We saw holes in our arguments regarding doctrine. How could Mr. Armstrong have been wrong about this stuff? [Talks about how things surfaced that needed changing, i. e., Born Again, Two Gods, etc.]

We started to see there were Christians in other churches. I got that from Mr. Tkach, he didn't get it from me. We saw there were Christians that don't keep the Sabbath. [Gives examples of situations that arose in the past surrounding other Christians in other churches]

Joe Jr.: [Talks about Christians willing to go to Zaire] I'm not willing to go to Zaire or Rwanda to help carry the dead. How can I say these people aren't Christians? The idea that we're (not JWT) the ones driving this is ludicrous. We're the ones saying, 'don't know what to do here, Dad.' I think this is obvious to everyone that this hasn't been planned.

Mike Feazell: There were times when JWT would say what he was thinking to someone and then he would be rethinking and say the opposite in effect in another conversation. One day he would be feeling one way and the next day another way. So, then when he was confident enough to present the subject the way he was led to do it, someone would say, 'He just told me something different than that, so you guys are somehow deceiving us.'

Well, I guess it has to look like that sometimes, but that isn't what is really going on. [Explains away the duplicity regarding salvation, Sunday keeping, the covenant]

Like Joe says, 'If you plan something like this, you have to be nuts. [Everyone laughs] Why would you plan to disaffect and hurt your ministers and membership, erode confidence, cause income to plummet, why would you plan something like that.'

Minister: This will help more people than all the other information.

Joe Jr.: Did you get a tape to play to your members? [Responds to a question about the book, *Sabbath in Crisis* by Dale Ratzlaff] As of today I haven't read the book yet, I haven't had time.

What about the income?

Joe Jr.: The income began the first month this year 30% below last year. That slowly improved to this point to 15% below and that's where it's at. We hope it stabilizes, we expected there to be some decline on income when we explained you don't have the tithe on the NET, when we explained tithing is really part of the old covenant and that under the new covenant the principal is the commitment that stewardship of giving is to advance the Kingdom. There are those who are committed of giving more. I appreciate the sacrifices over the years like those who never had their teeth fixed; you know the story, never bought a car, or whatever. I think that's appropriate to do out of commitment. Some people will continue that commitment, other will get their teeth fixed. That's all we have time for.

"ON HIS DEATHBED, MR. ARMSTRONG HIMSELF COMMISSIONED MY FATHER TO LOOK INTO THE VERY CHANGES WE HAVE MADE. THEREFORE, WE ARE FOLLOWING THE WISHES OF MR. ARMSTRONG AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, GOD."
~Joe Tkach, Jr. 1991

The End!

Comment: One can't help but question the validity of sincerity of this supposed impromptu dialog. The method of delivery not only leaves much to be desired, but when assessed on the backdrop of all the other data that is compiled these past four months, the tape more appropriately plays out as a staged event in effort to handle some major objections that have surfaced regarding:

1. The council of Elders
2. The passing of Baton (Gerald Waterhouse didn't mention this meeting when relaying the events of JWT's appointment in his [GW's] sermon, "What is Jesus Doing at this Time?")
3. Why were the "changes" made?
4. Who is the one who started these changes?
5. Why was there so much contradiction with JWT?
6. Why were the "changes so poorly taught or explained?
7. Was this a plan and billed as "new truth?
8. Why doesn't JWT speak with reporters?
9. Who does JWT's writing?
10. What is the income situation?
11. Was there deception under all the reorganization?

Each of these points can be radically disputed, but for the sake of space we note that there is considerable documentation stating from HWA himself, that he met with the Council of Elders very frequently and they were in charge of overseeing all doctrinal issues. How Joe Jr. has the "guts" to make the statements he does is beyond our comprehension skills. Is the brainwashing so thickly applied to the members that he can make a statement in this manner, in his quietly smooth voice, and actually get away with it?

Future Forecast

- The leaders will continue the great division by separating the legalist (conservatives) from the true followers of the Tkach Company (liberals). Ministers in areas that do not conform to the "the change" will be shuffled over to the UCG by being forced to retire or resign. Members have been treated with continued abuse in the latest sermons from Joe Tkach (note below), which has forced individuals to make decisions to exit. "While the rhetoric has been, "Stay where God placed you," the actions spell, "Get over to Global and UCG."
- The HQ will deny any involvement in the separation or reorganization maneuver.
- Joe Tkach will be removed from Pastor General position and replaced with the Joe Jr./Mike Feazell

/Greg Albrecht team. JWT will most likely exit under the guise of ill health, possibly with a leave of absence. [UPDATE: Joseph W. Tkach died September 22, 1995 of cancer.]

- The WCG will file for a bankruptcy type of protection, which will allow a closure to all negative connections to WCG/Armstrong Corporation. The main land holdings in Pasadena will be shifted under non-profit organizations for legal/tax reasons.
- The Tkach Company will continue under a completely new format: new name, new magazine name, new doctrines; new associations. Sunday keeping will be instituted, as well as other modifications with traditional holidays, communion and other traditional teachings clarified by Catholics, Baptists, Protestants, Methodists, etc.
- They will set up their government structure similar to the UCG's new structure. Local areas will incorporate with HQ acting in a franchise type relationship. The HQ will be moved from Pasadena into a new state such as Colorado, or Arizona. [UPDATE: In November 2004 the Worldwide Church of God moved its headquarters from Pasadena to Glendora, California. In April 2018, GCI relocated its headquarters to Charlotte, North Carolina.]
- The main market for the new (WCG) corporation will be the YOUTH. Local Fellowships will be initiated with a very high emphasis on recruiting through evangelism and fund-raising. Discipling methods will be employed for control management.
- The UCG will combine as a Church of God conglomerate. They will join hands with Global, International, Seventh-day Adventists, COG Seventh Day and others. They will modify their doctrines to coordinate well with other Sabbath keeping denominations.

Ambassador University, Big Sandy possibilities:

1. Become universal and accepting of students from all corporations.
2. Connect with the UCG conglomerate only. (That includes, Global and International.)
3. Join with another organization, such as Azusa Pacific University.

Of course our forecasting can fall short or miss the mark, only time will tell. Whichever way the "dust settles" the leaders of the WCG conglomerate and operandi are extremely rich with holdings in many countries. The multi-million dollars in assets sit in the pockets of the Tkach Company. As several researchers view from all directions and scrutinize the propaganda machine at work, we think of what "Goebbels," Hitler's propaganda minister, said, "**All it takes to sell a lie is to take a little truth, mix it with false information and repeat it often enough, until the people believe it."**

[Note: Joseph Goebbels is often quoted as saying: "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it."]

The people have become overwhelmed and unable to tell the truth from the lies, as they have been victimized by purposeful misinformation from a propaganda machine bent upon the exploitation of the inalienable and inherent rights of the people. The gifts of pure spiritual fulfillment have been replaced by leaders who have set themselves up as speakers for God, while they deliver religious mumbo jumbo mind games and use psychology to attempt to outwit the converts and those in the cult-watching arena. The WCG PATRIOTS stick to their Klan and emulate their leaders as they are swirled and whirled into new directions with questionable destinies.

Divide and Conquer was the tool used in the past decades, and it remains to be the choice method used to fulfill the goal at hand---**POWER, MONEY and CONTROL**.

The End of Part Three...To Be Continued

Note: The OIU does not take any position in doctrinal matters. Personal belief is an individual matter. The OIU attempts to explain how doctrine has exploited as: 1. A massive propaganda tool, which in turn provides gross distraction to what is actually occurring within the organization 2. A way to elicit control and obtain specific behavior from spiritually minded individuals that financially pay extreme amounts of money into the organization.

HOT NEWS: WCG FUNDS THE UCG

As we are about to print, we learn of the latest development with the WCG/UCG connection.

A Southern states minister read a memo to his congregation on June 2nd, stating that Mr. Tkach has decided to award all exiting ministers a "generous" severance package. For those (which is most), who have started their own corporations will receive funds equivalent to the percentage of members who accompanied that minister to the UCG. In other words, if the minister took 50% of the local membership with him to UCG, he would be entitled to 50% allocation of the local church funds. Mr. Tkach states that it is the "Christian thing to do."

This shocking statement comes on the heels of so many ministers being disfellowshipped? Why, some question, in the world would JWT Co. hand over more money to the so-called dissidents that have rebelled together to divide the church? How, others wonder, can the church possibly afford to pay the UCG organization, more money? It was already reported by Joe Jr. that the UCG ministers were stealing the computers, other church property and local funds. All this doesn't make sense! OR DOES IT?

If the WCG is anxious to remove its money out of the WCG name, possibly the UCG is the appropriate place to store it. Does that mean Big Sandy Ambassador University will be positioned under the UCG umbrella anytime soon?

EVENTS CONTINUE TO UNFOLD

LA TIMES, May 12, 1995

"Faced with a deepening financial crises, the Worldwide Church of God has quietly auctioned off a trove of sterling silver purchased by its late founder Herbert W. Armstrong. The "high quality silver," used by Armstrong during formal dinner parties for heads of state and other luminaries, was sold for an undisclosed price last month by Christie's auction house in New York, the Pasadena-based church confirmed Thursday. Silver candelabra, wine buckets, platters, creamers, silverware and silver decorative items such as a miniature ship and horse were among the goods sold at the auction, said Tom Lapacka."

"Lapacka emphasized that the sterling silver was purchased by Armstrong for official dinners. I think that's important, least someone think Mr. Armstrong was buying this stuff just so he could have his scrambled eggs and toast in the morning," said Lapacka."

[Not Mr. HWA!!! NEVER!]

The article goes on/to say the money raised by the auction was definitely connected to attempts by the church to shore up its sagging financial condition. Other assets to be sold are the 54-acre Pasadena campus, church's private airplane and limousine.

Lapacka states that the church was undeterred from its new course, which moves the church closer to mainstream Protestantism. He stressed that most members accept the changes and the new course has been greeted with great rejoicing by members of other Christian denominations.

It has been relayed to us that the Christies sale apparently netted around $6 million--some of which went to the UK subsidiary before questions were asked, and not necessarily with JWT's approval. Once again, another opportunity to make it appear that the church's financial crisis is because of the doctrinal changes as the Tkach Co. creates the problem and offers the solution of choice. The following message appeared on the Internet, May 24, 1995.

"A teleconference transpired on 5/21/95 involving certain high WCG officials and was (unknown to some) video-taped. It has already been viewed by several people (one of whom is part of a non-profit group that is currently in negotiations with the WCG over some of the assets and took part in the video teleconference.)

Pictured on the Pasadena end of the video were: Joe Tkach; Joe Tkach, Jr.; Mike Feazell; Steve Andrews; and Leroy Neff."

"The basis of this video was the negotiation with this non-profit group to gift away (yes, GIFT away) some or all of the assets of the church. Contrary to general understanding, apparently the tax and legal aspects of selling the properties may make it advantageous to give them away to another non-profit group. Primary assets discussed in this video as being under consideration (in this order) were: 1. Orr grounds, 2. Ambassador University, 3. Pasadena HQ."

The reporter relays that Joe Tkach, Sr. said *the plan is to eventually dispose of all centrally controlled assets and become administered at the local congregation level.* This would certainly point to a "plan" or "agenda" for the church to shift to a congregational focus.

As already stated above, the newly doctrinized mainstream church will possibly structure its government similar to the new UCG style. Lots of little fellowship franchises.

Along with the many cutbacks, cancellations, repositioning of ministers, PT and other publication withdrawals, more "work related" cutbacks are occurring on an ongoing basis, such as, the reading program for the blind. The cassette Services Department no longer provides literature on cassette tapes for the blind and instructs them to tap into the local churches for assistance. The May 18th PGR explains that the self-insurance fund is being temporality discontinued and ministers should investigate getting insurance on their own. In addition to the latest cutbacks we learn that a number of departments no longer have a receptionist and must rely on the voice mail system to channel calls. One wonders, what will be left under the WCG name for the remaining ministers to enjoy? While the New Covenant ministers are losing their benefits and bonus, the UCG ministers seem to be doing just fine, with no reduction in living standards.

While it appears to many that the WCG, as it was always known, is breaking apart and possibly vanishing, it becomes more apparent that the only thing busting up is the remnants and affiliations related to the name **Herbert W. Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God**. As time goes on, ***The Plain Truth*** will also most likely take on a new name. The history cleansing operation might prove successful as the entire money machine lives on, under a whole new set of names.

"Attempt the end, and never stand to doubt, Nothing so deep but search will find it out."
~Izola Forrester, Granddaughter of John Wilkes Booth

THE PASTOR GENERAL IS SICK!

Joseph Tkach was reported to have had a gallbladder removal and was recuperating at home. Shortly after this report, congregations were told he had a tumor in the intestines the size of a grapefruit. Although benign, it required a new type of chemotherapy, which conveniently leaves NO side effects. As JWT is, in fact, in the Huntington Hospital as of early June, we do question whether this particular illness will lead to a timely announcement for a leave of absence for "illness reasons." This, in turn, could foster an early retirement for this very controversial man who was used as the agent of change. If the above does occur, it would pave the way for Joe Jr. and Brother Mike to assume the helm together and continue what they have started.

Medical professionals tell us that the possible side effects for such as large blockage in the intestines could include: constipation, restlessness, headaches, constricted thinking, anxiety, irrational behavior, poisons throughout the body and a host of other physical debilitation. While being unsure as to what side effects and symptoms JWT experienced, certainly he must have endured much progressive discomfort. Although, JWT has verbalized thoughts in recent sermons that members were praying for him to die, the ESN has never heard anyone state thoughts on this level (and we've talked to many). The ESN people join others in hope for a speedy recovery.

This recent illness incident reminds us of the time Loma Armstrong was ill prior to her death. HWA wrote a six-page letter basically blaming the illness on the sluggishness of the church and that God was using Loma's illness to rejuvenate the stagnant church. [Note: See March 2,1967 Co-Worker letter online] With many reminders that Christ will return in five years and those eligible will escape the terrible TRIBULATION and qualify for the Place of Safety, HWA goes on to focus on the MONEY. By the end of this guilt ridden exhaustive letter, he writes:

"We MUST have a spiritual AWAKENING! We MUST SPEND MORE TIME ON OUR KNEES with God in PRAYER, or stagnate, and be in danger of GEHENNA FIRE!" (March 2, 1967)

He goes on to manipulate the members about sending in special offerings, pledges and extra monthly offerings for property funds etc.

As this rambling despicable letter basically blames the members for Loma's illness, it offers a fine example of the treacherous abuse the victims of WCG endured throughout its duration. We can be assured the "illness" greatly improved the financial picture.

[UPDATE: Joe Tkach, Sr. died September 22, 1995 in Pasadena, California of cancer. Some insiders have said it was pancreatic cancer.]

OIU Volume Three - Pt. 4 of 5

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

What about the FESTIVALS? (Once upon a time known as feasts)?

Many reports have been relayed regarding the 1995 WCG festival cancellations. Within days of the cancellation reports, we learn that UCG moves right into the scheduled slot to occupy that "FEAST" site. Among many sites taken over by the UCG, are; Tucson AZ; Redding, CA; Keystone, CO; Orlando, FL; Jekyll Island, GA; Moline, IL; Lowell, MA and Corpus Christi, TX

Double Your Pleasure, Double Your Fun, There Is a Doublement Feast, Under the Sun

Can't help but sing that catchy tune when reviewing the plans for the NEW FESTIVAL OF TABERNACLES. While the UCG is diligently and zealously planning for their first Feast under their new name, the WCG has something very new on the horizon. Some might have caught the article in the WWN April 4th, where Joe Jr., is quoted as saying, *"Despite rumors to the contrary, we are not planning to stop celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles.*" Also quoted, *"In this time of doctrinal clarification, we have more clearly realized we are not required to keep the Festivals for salvation," however, we meet together because we love to worship God at the Feast of Tabernacles."*

"Ministers attended an annual conference in March to review the operation of the Festival: to talk about what we have been doing, what we can do to make the Festival more spiritually profitable to members." [Profitable to members?]

"The conference focused on the meaning of the Festival, the proper approach to evangelism, planning more effective church services, and organizing a week-long celebration for many types of people."

Unfortunately, a series of notes from the conference made the circuit through the FAX machines which left many stunned regarding the WCG plans for this.... festival. Four full pages outline excerpts from videotape from Tom Lapacka, which reviews the Worship service, Mission of FOT 1995, Timetable for sample services and schedule for the 8-day festival. What seems to have shocked members mostly was the list of New Testament elements of worship. Craig Bacheller outlines:

1. Music
2. Scripture reading
3. Prayer
4. Amen response
5. Sermons
6. Exhortation
7. Giving gifts
8. Doxology
9. Confession
10. Lord's supper, baptism

Craig also outlines goals for members, stating--We should leave with our: Faith stronger, Hopes brighter, Love deeper, Sympathy extended, Hearts purer and with Will more resolute to submit every part of our lives to our sovereign Lord. [You must admit, it is a new spin!]

Another upsetting piece to this document was the Timetable for Sample Service, which included Intercessory prayer, Thanksgiving, A word from our youth, Ministry update and INTERVIEWS/ TESTIMONIES.

Evangelism training will be big on the agenda, as workshops will be scheduled to train the members on how to evangelize effectively. Most multi-level marketing companies call this recruiting. All this should work in nicely

with the new WCG [which will probably have a new name by then] as the main mission is, "Bringing people (WCG) to Christ--coming entirely into the New Covenant; New Covenant focus on FOT and on worship."

Yes, it looks as if it will be a smashing sales convention. Whoops! That's Festival. Now, HQ was mighty upset about the release of the document outlining the big event and stated in the WWN that, "Unfortunately, a paper with some notes from an earlier brainstorming session has been faxed all over. Some members have been told erroneously that this paper contained the official list of Church activities for the 1995 Festival, and that was never true." [We'll see!]

Evangelistic-it is

Browsing the religion section of your local bookstore or used bookstore is a sure way of learning about evangelism. Evangelism strongly took hold this century in the U.S. while churches and denominations struggled to recruit the spiritual-seeking flock into their own doors and under their own spell. The American Heritage dictionary offers this definition:

evangelism n. 1. The zealous preaching and dissemination of the gospel, as through missionary work, 2. Militant zeal for a cause.

As the new "Moses," Mr. Tkach, leads his people out of Egypt, he explains that they are now disciples for Christ. Their job is to spread the "good news." As the Tkachee army becomes trained on how to express militant zeal, the JWT Co. is hopeful to drastically increase the grease on printing machines as they add names to the new, "first century-like church" roster.

One wonders what took the WCG empire so long to catch onto this recruiting strategy. In the past, HQ assumed all the recruiting responsibility. While their management style allowed for tight control on their "school of fish" if you will, it prohibited HQ from reaping the benefits of each fish bringing in their own babies, which would have resulted in a massive growth for the church. It must have been quite frustrating to watch other cults, or evangelistic movements by-pass the WCG, while the WCG stagnated and declined these past twenty-five years.

It's never to late, as the saying goes, because the WCG conglomerate has gotten into the act. JWT tells the fish that the "Church has a twofold commission." WWN, April 25th: [excerpts]

" 'If you love me, you will obey what I commanded,' Jesus said. (Jn.14: 15). And he repeated this in the great commission--his disciples were to teach people "to obey everything I have commanded you."

"Our message, our commission has two parts: 1) preaching the gospel and 2) teaching the disciples. The gospel brings people to the point of conversion, and the discipling process nurtures them after that. The gospel tells them that Christ died for them, and discipleship tells them how to live for Christ. The gospel invites them into the kingdom, and discipleship sends them back out to be ambassadors of that Kingdom."

"That is what we have been called for, brethren--to preach the gospel, to baptize those who believe and to teach them to live a Christ-like life."

"When we really believe Christ died for us and was raised to glory, when we begin to understand how profound his love for us is, 'Anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.' " [Ouch!] **In explaining suffering, JWT says...**

"If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps."

[**Possible translation**: The gospel of Jesus dying on the cross to bring us salvation is to be preached by you, Brethren. Christ gave you his gifts and your job is to be ever indebted with thankfulness. The goal is to catch the fish and "transform" them into our organization. We'll use the gospel to provide the guilt that will weaken the new prospects into submission to us. Once you have them, you will be assigned to them and disciple (hover) over them. Don't worry; you'll learn just how to do that at the upcoming feast. After we've converted the new fish into our kingdom, we'll train them to go out and do the same job your doing. You, brethren will reap the rewards, because it will be your recruit that you personally trained as an ambassador. So, lets go fish and baptize those babies and get them cloned into our school.]

The WCG is diligently joined by all the WCG spin-offs in this new evangelistic strategy.

- UCG will focus on using the "talents" of their members to bring new people to the truth. They will incorporate evangelism into their "Armstrong" program.
- Garner Ted Armstrong has made several mass mailings from his, "Garner Ted Armstrong Evangelistic Association." These mailings are additional to the "Academy Books" order forms for tapes, publications and "Inspirational Favorites" as "How Great Thou Art," "Amazing Grace," "His Eye is on the Sparrow," "When the Saints Go Marchin' In," and many more. Ted has placed a price tag on these publications and it will be interesting to see if they will be able to drop the "We'll send it free" routine. [UPDATE: Garner Ted Armstrong died of pneumonia at age 73 on September 15, 2003.]
- Rod Meredith is also moving in the "evangelism" angle, as his publications insert the word frequently.

Move over evangelicals---you've got big company!

YOUTH--YOUTH--YOUTH-YOUTH

And that's the "new church" story. The new WCG (whatever name that might be) will concentrate its recruiting efforts on the YOUTH. As the WCG hastily pushes the old folks (can't teach a dog new tricks) over to the Armstrong church, UCG, it rapidly penetrates the YOUTH markets and organizes its agenda around the YOUTH. Vol. TWO, "Special Edition" introduced this strategy, since that printing we have seen many endeavors that confirm the YOUTH thrust. As stated in the past, the church will move into the same direction of the "International (Boston) Church of Christ," an evangelistic and discipling method cult. This organization is one of the fastest growing church organizations. They have concentrated on the schools and college campuses. Their recruiting tactics are so strong that several IVY league colleges have had to have them removed from campus. This year, YALE was baptizing over six members a week, last time I checked. Most recruited members become school dropouts to get on with "Christ's work" and fund-raise for the cult.

The Plain Truth takes a back seat to the *YOUTH* magazine, which is anything but pabulum. The modified magazine is enhanced with topics dealing with emotional issues of teens, such as, loneliness, suicide, dating and SEX, SEX, SEX. It is carefully crafted to lure the unsuspecting into its fold; stuffed with mailers inviting the reader to send for "free material." The last issue offered a 16-page brochure on teen sexuality--"Yours free with your subscription to *YOUTH* 95."

The campaign for the "entertaining…encouraging… enlightening." *YOUTH* magazine, as it is billed, was kicked off with a subscription price of $9.95, which is about the cost of a movie and a box of popcorn, the magazine advertises. The PGR outlined just what to say to the members and instructed the ministers to read with enthusiasm (in other words, sell it!). HQ strongly urges the members to purchase their own subscription and possibly buy a subscription for a needy person. The WWN 4/25 states 33,000 requests for paid subscriptions were collected in the first month of the promotion and has plans in place to triple that number in the next few months.

The *YOUTH* magazine has shown up on Library shelves, in Pediatrician offices and most disconcerting, in Jr. High and High School Libraries. Just recently, a mass mailing to PT readers was sent from JWT asking all the "adults" concerned about their teenagers to mail a brochure called, "Relating." The letter contends that this informative brochure will cover topics on, getting along with parents; God; loneliness; broken families; and of course, drugs and premarital SEX. Any loving adult would want this brochure for their child. You can be assured that each brochure will be stuffed with lures to get the new *YOUTH* magazine. The highly advertised *YOUTH* magazine is the HOT recruiting vehicle that is being used to build the new YOUTH church.

What's new with Doctrine these Days?

APOLOGIES, or are they excuses?

April 3, 1994 Sermon, Pasadena and played on Pentecost:

JWT states the following in response to someone's letter:

"They have no compunctions at all about exaggerating. Like I read from this list of rumors that are going around: we're going to start keeping Christmas, and we're changing the Passover, and we're making changes to please the Protestants to get accreditation. We will ask members to start displaying crucifixes, doing away with

unclean meats, doing away with tithing and we don't believe that there's a place of safety, we're going to do away with the Sabbath, we're going to do away with the Holy Days and we're going to do away with the law."

JWT continued by stating that all liars…. those who deliberately mislead people, will have their place in the lake of fire. [Read excerpts from this "Rumors" sermon.]

PGR May 18, 1995

"I have not set the pace for doctrinal change. Jesus Christ has. As I was convicted by Christ, I told the Church everything the Holy Spirit led me to understand. Even last year, I still did not understand what I understand today. Some of you know I was still preaching that we would never understand what I understand today. Some of you know I was preaching that we would never change our position on the Sabbath, the Holy Days, tithing and unclean meat as late as last October."

He goes on to say:

"But when Christ led me to understand the simple and pure biblical truth, it was indeed, as so many ministers and members have described it, like a veil of blindness being lifted."

"Now some people want to accuse me of 'planning these changes for decades,' alleging that I had an 'agenda' from the beginning to make all the changes we have made. What astonishing nonsense! All I can say is that if I had been working from a prearranged agenda of changes, I certainly would have chosen a slower pace of introducing them to the Church. What I did was to teach what Christ led me to see at the pace he led me to see it, and I am the first to admit that I certainly did not foresee all the implications of some of those things."

"Looking back now I can see that one thing led to another. One thing is for sure: Our loving God knows what we need, and he knows how to lead us."

"I serve Jesus Christ, and I take the responsibilities he has given me most seriously. If the Holy Spirit had led me to understand the truth about the old and new covenants a year ago, I would have preached it a year ago. But I have been led as Christ determined to lead, not as I might have chosen for myself. The fact is, I have continued to grow in understanding about the covenants ever since I first introduced it to the Church last December." Joe Tkach, Sr.

Some insiders might think JWT's message answers some puzzling questions. But, it they dare to look back at the last ten years and scrutinize the documented trail left with the meetings of the outside Christian Ministries, theologians, Christian writers, publishers, etc., they would see that this message just doesn't cut it. The resignation letters and tapes left behind from the 1970 "rebels" would point JWT in the direction of telling a falsehood, if you will. How easy it is, to pass the old buck onto Jesus Christ. We see this happen everyday in many situations. All one has to do is say, "I prayed about it, so I knew that's what God wanted me to do." The old "Jesus made me do it," routine seems to serve as an absolute scapegoat. It seems so peculiar that leaders can say anything they want, at anytime, for any reason, and then blame the result on...Jesus Christ! What a racket!! Interestingly, the PGR message ties in nicely with the tape meeting with Joe Jr. Mike Feazell and Richard Rice.

JWT's finishes with: *"The future is indeed bright for the Church, because Jesus Christ is faithful. The gospel will be proclaimed, and that is a task that every part of the Body, all according to their gifts, are called to have part in. Our goals are still the same: 1) Nurture and equip our local ministers and ministers and congregations for spiritual growth, worship and evangelism, including providing youth programs, member assistance programs and local church facilities; 2) publish The Plain Truth, Worldwide News and booklets; and 3) support Ambassador University. And our Master is still the same. The only difference is that he has brought us closer to him."*

The new focus for the membership is that the "WCG church" is enduring the same pains as the first century church. Articles in the WWN, sermons by Mike Feazell and other documentation all demonstrate how the current WCG change relates to what Paul endured and the experiences of that time; a duality of sorts. JWT gave a sermon called, "Believe" in April where he talked at length relating Moses and the Israelites, as a likeness to himself and the membership. *"Moses didn't appoint himself anymore than I appointed myself to be Pastor General of the Worldwide Church of God."* With many other statements along that line, the message reads, God is leading his people into the Red Sea, are you coming or returning to Egypt? "Repetition is the best form of learning, Mr. Armstrong always said," relates JWT, as he and his team reiterate the message that

God has just now decided to take his people out of bondage. The message that this is God's Church and Christ is the head of it is clearly spoken, and that the members are really like the Israelites with Moses (TKACH) leading the way to freedom. Why, some wonder would God have left the WCG members in bondage so long while he was out freeing up the rest of the world?

Long time WWN writer Paul Kroll points out 4/25/95:

"Events in the last few years show we have a lot more in common with the church of the apostles than we might imagine."

" '**Connection to us.**' We can see the startling parallels between the Worldwide Church of God as it was and the Jewish Christians of the first century. We had the same general boundary markers of faith as they had. We were, in effect, a *Jewish Christian Church!*"

"But we've had to recently learn something about religious practices--as did the original Jewish believers in the first century. We have had to see that whether one eats a ham sandwich, whether on works on the Sabbath, or whether one eats leavened bread during the days of unleavened bread are not moral-spiritual considerations. These practices that identified a certain people at a certain time of history, they marked Israelites who were under the old covenant."

While the members are being prepped as the first century church all over again, we wonder if they are aware of the other changes creeping up slowly, such as, the practice of meeting together for corporate prayer. In the PGR, JWT tells the ministers:

"And I want to point out that there is an aspect of church-wide prayer that has been long neglected in the Church, and that was a vital part of the first-century Church and a vital part of this Church in the early days of Ambassador College. That is the practice of meeting together for corporate prayer."

"We should encourage pastors, wherever possible, to hold weekly prayer meetings, either before or following Sabbath services, or at a convenient time during the week. Plan the meeting ahead of time. Have members share what they'd like to have prayer for, and then take volunteers to pray for each specific issue that needs prayer. Allow all who wish to pray aloud to have an opportunity, one at a time. You may wish to include worshipful music, if possible, as well as hymn singing. I remind you that this is not a new thing. It was part and parcel with the experience of the first-century Church and Mr. Armstrong's practice in the early days of this Church." [So were speaking in tongues.]

[NOTE: Paul Kroll exited the Worldwide Church of God sometime shortly after 1973 and was listed among other leading men and women who left their positions because of "frustration, matters of conscience, and disgust over doctrinal and organizational problems" and who "no longer supported AC or the WCG." (*Ambassador Review*, 1976, p. 5) One must ask why he's back in again?]

The only thing missing is.... "Hallelujah BROTHER" and bring on the tambourines!

In Other NEWS

PGR May 3, 1995: Second New Testament Passover

- Baptized members of the Church who were unable to take the 'LORD'S SUPPER' in April will have the opportunity to do so..." [Emp. Ed.]
- Graven images are OK as long as they are not used for the purpose of bowing down to them.
- Illustration of Angels is fine.
- It is not wrong to illustrate Jesus. Such artwork can help us understand what the Bible describes.
- It is not a sin to eat unclean meat. It's only a sin if you think it's a sin. Actually, it's not unclean anymore; ALL FOOD IS CLEAN! [We'll, all is not lost, look at this way, you helped the lobster population and you were a pig's best friend!]

Along with the above changes, the Tkach Co. is still working out the 'kinks' with the New Covenant interpretation, keeping the Sabbath, and the UN-commanded-Ten Commandments.

How about the finances?

Good question--but good luck in finding out. The true financial picture has always been a WCG secret. The leaders have traditionally used figures to substantiate the condition of the church. However, the figures were easily manipulated with a psychology twist to lead others into thinking, all is well, or, all is in danger. Readers might recall the famous "30%" increase or "5% decrease, etc. What was portrayed at any given time depended on whether there were holy days approaching and whether the guilt routine was due.

Lately, we've heard it all: quotes indicating anywhere from a 10% to 50% drop in income. Who knows? What we do know, is that most of the church's income is derived from sources other than tithes and offerings. And, it is obvious those "other sources" are supporting the organization during this reconstruction of thought reform. Even if the church files bankruptcy, it will occur after the money has been protected and secured.

JWT says the following in his 5/25/95 letter to the Brethren:

"Thank you also for your faithfulness in tithes and offerings, brethren! Per person average of the offering on the last day of unleavened bread was 10.3 percent higher than last year, bringing the total amount of the offering to 19.5 percent under last year. This means that the faithful made up for those who have left, keeping the income within the budgeted range. As I wrote last month, this offering was much needed and at a critical time."

Providing these numbers are valid and our math is correct, this would support that there was a 25% to 30% drop in the number of individuals making an offering. Does that help?

In Business...

The WCG Travel Agency continues to expand its services as it keeps up the dramatic changes in the travel industry. This lucrative WCG business is hopeful "to have the opportunity to serve you as a partnership to financially serve both you and the church."

In Public Relations... Ministers Ralph Orr and Richard Burkey joined historians, scientists, theologians and educators from the U.S, Canada and Great Britain areas at the **Evangelical Engagement With Science** conference, March 30th to April 1st. **The Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals** sponsored the conference that included representatives from American and Canadian evangelical universities and seminaries, as well as Harvard, Notre Dame, Indiana University and others.

The WWN states:

"Mr. Orr and Mr. Burkey were there to strengthen the Church's contact within the evangelical and academic communities, and to gather information that could help the Church write on scientific issues."

"Topics at the conference included Charles Darwin's 'conversion,' environmentalism, women evangelicals in science, attempts to reconcile Scripture with geology, evangelicals and natural theology, and Canadian evangelical support for the social sciences."

We at the OIU couldn't help but wonder whether Mr. George Bush, Mr. Clinton and wife, Mr. Newt Gingrich, the Council of Foreign Relations, The Trilateral Commission and the Club of Rome, also attended.

Golf Anyone?

What's the story on "golf playing" on the Sabbath, some have asked? Well, JWT and Co. has reconstructed their thoughts on this topic, again and again. JWT sends the following quotes to his people:

Big Sandy Sermon Dec. 24, 1995.

"Does that sound like I am encouraging you to go play a game of golf on the Sabbath instead of being here? What I am saying is that if you came here and you did want to have some relaxation, you want to go play a game of golf, that would not be a sin, brethren! Does that shock you?"

January 7, 1995 Sermon to Pasadena and all the members:

"Paul; is telling us that the reality or the substance is Christ. And now that he has come, now that we have the reality, there is no more requirement for the substitute. See, some are going to take this fact as license that, well, they can go and golf because this is what I have been misquoted as saying. And now you can go and play golf on

the Sabbath. I never said any such thing!"

May 18, 1995 PGR, Dear Ministers:

"Please allow me to verify the now infamous golf statements in my recent sermons. I have been accused of denying that I preached that it is not a sin in my sermon in Big Sandy on December 24, 1994. I did have the statement edited out of the video that was played in all the churches; however, I had it edited out because I was informed that some people had misinterpreted my comment to mean that it was fine to play golf instead of going to services."

"That is certainly not what I intended. So I thought it best to avoid the misunderstanding by not including the comment in the video. Then in a later sermon, I tried to explain that I never said it was fine to miss church to play golf and the result was the accusation that I was lying about having mentioned golf in Big Sandy at all."

"Well, please forgive me if I have misstated my intent, or if I have not made this clear, or if I have confused anyone. That was not my intention. To make it plain, I do not believe that golf or other such things should take priority over coming to church services. But neither is it a sin to play a round of golf on the Sabbath. I hope that makes clear the point I was trying to make."

[Translation: The law is done away with, but it is still priority to obey it. For those members who wish to stay in good standing at the Big Sandy campus, we suggest you book in for your Sabbath golf slot early in the week, it is very likely that there will be a stampede from the church hall, up the path, and onto the golf course. Members last in line; of course, ministers have the right of way.]

WHAT GOLF COURSE???

You mean you didn't know that the WCG in Big Sandy, TX had a sprawling "76" acre golf course, meticulously manicured and privately available to those whom have special permission to use it? It is not surprising that insiders and outsiders, some of whom have been affiliated with the WCG over 30 years, deny ever having known of its existence.

On my recent trip to Dallas, TX, I stretched the days and visited the famous Big Sandy campus. After a 1 and 1/2 hour trip east of Dallas, I approached the little town of Big Sandy. My initial reaction was, "How quaint," but as I viewed the town of approximately 1,400 population, I realized that the Ambassador University was the big happening in the area. Big green signs announcing, "Welcome, Home of Ambassador University" led me through the small streets of the town to the impressively constructed, brick gateway that assured me I reached my destination. After riding past, what seemed to be an endless connection of high quality, glistening white, corral fencing, I proceeded to enter the main approach into the campus.

I was freely allowed to exit my car and walk the campus grounds. The large, rectangular white administration building greeted the entrance of the campus and offered Pasadena flair with its art structures and water decor. As I walked the very tailored paths, I was stuck by the **silence** that prevailed. If it were not for the slight breeze that unsettled the leaves, one would truly hear a pin drop. I carefully noted the stillness as I observed each passer by. The few students I saw around the campus during this mid week school day all had a pleasant and timely smile for me as they approached. The students appeared to have much in common, as it seemed they walked at the same pace and carried their back packs in the same position.

On my first day visit, I toured all the grounds that were accessible. Acre after acre I glanced at the dorms and buildings all nestled within rolling landscape which was spotted with gardens, streams and waterfalls. The many gardeners were actively cultivating the massive grounds with various machinery. Every now and then, I would come upon a young person, slowly raking between bushes as he sorted the debris from the mulch.

As I journeyed up the incline I came upon an airstrip. As my thoughts became increasingly reflective and somewhat flooded, I started to visualize Herbert W. Armstrong and son landing in their private jets, only to be greeted by mobs of members cheering them on and welcoming their footsteps. Oh, what magnificent times the 1960s and part of the 1970s must have been! I thought to myself. At this juncture, I started to have a most difficult time assimilating what I was viewing and relating it to what an insider's WCG world is all about.

"Is this the same operation that writes the WWN?" I asked myself.

"It couldn't be!" I thought.

As I proceeded onward I was confronted by a fence that noted the grounds were privately owned by the Worldwide Church of God. Being that, we too, paid (through coercion and fear) many thousands of dollars into the pockets of the leaders who owned this luxurious land, I felt very welcome to tour this off-the-path acreage.

To my right and mostly hidden by the bramble was the rolling and sprawling golf course. Slightly stunned, I glanced with amazement; I never knew it existed. Never was it mentioned in the church during my constant presence. Never did I see it in writing or view it on any WCG Newsreels.

"Was this another kept secret?" I thought.

As the big tractor manicured the lush sod in my presence, I became overcome and reminiscent of the many people who died with no medical treatment and the extreme amount of poverty members experienced. How many people suffered and sacrificed their families, their futures and their lives for this golf course?

As I walked a few yards, I entered the neighborhood of homes that bordered this golf course. Home after home demonstrated more obsessively tailored grounds holding large brick structures that represented home. On average, each home was approximately 2,000 to 2,500 square feet. Most of the homes had ample play yards that edged up to LOMA Lake. Now I realized where the ministers lived and how they lived.

The glistening water of LOMA Lake was a beauty to behold. But my moment of time was spoiled as I reflected on what a 30-year ex-deacon told me. **"I helped scrape the hole for LOMA Lake until my hands were cut up."** Now, I understood what he was relaying to me. At that moment, I wanted to hold his hand.

The journey didn't end at the lake, as the next day I visited the "Ambassador Farms." I leaned on the very high quality fence to gaze at the hundreds of beautiful Holstein cattle, as they grazed in the far distance on the sprawled out hilly farmlands. Suddenly, the funniest thing happened. About 20 of the cattle started a rapid approach toward me. Their pace was fast enough to alert any gawker. I skeptically waited for their approach, only to be rewarded by the friendliest cattle I ever came across. It was almost as if they were saying, "Please take me with you!"

I accomplished much detailed research of what I will note in future OIUs. I did interview several students and had several tours of inside buildings, including the dorms. The stillness within the wall of the buildings mimicked that of the outside. One student asked me what I thought about the campus. I remarked that it was so quiet, similar to being on a remote island in the middle of the ocean. He said to me, "Wow, I haven't heard it described that way; most visitors say it's like living in a bubble or under a dome."

Some visitors might equate it to Brigadoon, especially if they try to find the University listed in the local telephone book. The campus consumes miles of the Usher County geography. It stretches in length of approximately five miles and is three miles deep. With an entity the size of Ambassador University, you'd think it would at least be listed by phone.

As I wandered around the campus inside and out for two days, I never came upon a building named after the founder Herbert W. Armstrong, nor did I see his picture hanging in what would be termed the obvious places. As I walked into the Administration building I was confronted by a detailed oil painting of Joseph Tkach, Bible and all, proudly displayed on a golden easel, but no Herbert W. Armstrong. If there was a dedication to HWA, I missed it!

How could this school of about 1000 students support all this? How could the church carry this financial burden when it is supposed to be financially strapped? I'm told the enrollment is significantly down for `95/96. **Where does the money come from to maintain the opulence?** What else is going on in Big Sandy? So many questions to be answered. Why haven't many others wondered these things, or did they?

Only 15 miles down the same road going west, sits the Headquarters of Garner Ted Armstrong, just a hop--skip--and a jump from Big Sandy. The assessment of this and other mysterious findings gathered from this journey will be relayed in the future.

To Be Continued

OIU Volume Three - Pt. 5 of 5

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

OBSERVATIONS FROM CULT CENTRAL

By Thomas Holshouser

A recent business trip took me to Los Angeles, CA. With WCG HQ (cult central) in the vicinity, I decided to drive over and check things out. It happened that my trip had me in LA on the Last Day of Unleavened Bread and the weekly Sabbath. Initially, I planned to visit Cult Central only on the Sabbath, but I found that I had some spare time on the afternoon on the "Holy Day" so I went then also. I arrived at the Auditorium just as Mr. Tkach was winding up his sermon. I only caught the last five minutes or so, but since I got to hear him making desperate attempts at defending himself and recent doctrinal changes, I was happy to have at least gotten the "gist" of it.

Since I arrived so late, I watched Mr. Tkach by remote TV in the Auditorium lobby with a small group of members who were huddled together out there. Following the sermon, I went inside for the closing song. I spent some time looking around for recognizable faces; after all, this was a Holy Day and I reasoned that there should be several evangelist ranked ministers in the crowd. Mr. Tkach had mysteriously vanished, and try as I might, I could not spot a single other prominent minister. The only face I recognized was Ralph Helge's. I wondered at this, since on a trip here a couple of years ago I had seen at least a half dozen evangelists, including Herman Hoeh, Rod Meredith, Dean Blackwell, Joe Jr., Carn Catherwood, and David Hulme. Hmm, could it be that they've all left? Or maybe some have been sent to Texas to quell the "uprising" there. I didn't know. I asked a friend who attends there if either of the Tkach's were ever present for Sabbath services. He said that they rarely were, but went on to make the same excuse we always made for Herbert W. Armstrong--that they were either traveling or busy and probably had the sermons "piped" into their homes.

The following day was the Sabbath and I arrived with time to spare. I didn't want to miss the services that day because I was curious to hear the content of the sermon. Would it be on some irrelevant topic like the sermons back home had been before I stopped attending? If the topic were relevant, would it be full of double-talk like so much of the church's published material these days? I was anxious to see first hand. The sermonette was given by the editor of *YOUTH* magazine. His purpose was to defend the continued existence of the magazine. I thought that it was interesting that one of his main justifications for the publication is that it "gives the Church positive PR." Well, I thought, at least he's being honest. He went on to mention that the magazine would now carry a subscription price and that church members were encouraged to subscribe and also give gift subscriptions. This reminded me a lot of the 1970s *QUEST* magazine. The sermon was given by Bernie Schnippert, head of "Media Relations." His topic, I was glad to see, was mostly free of double-talk. The subject was on "Grace vs. The Law." I thought it was quite good and to the point. It sounded almost as if he had been listening to some tapes put out by Mr. Earl Williams.

Immediately following the sermon, I approached Mr. Schnippert and told him that I enjoyed his sermon. I mentioned that I found it very clear and helpful. I went on to ask him, however, why this kind of clarity was so lacking in local church areas and in the church's publications. His reply was that this was characteristic of a church "in transition." He said that I could not expect to see old ways of phrasing things, etc., eliminated right away. I could have agreed with him on this if it were only in local churches that the "old" ways still linger--but surely there could be some control of the publications at the editorial level! Given the quickness and nature of his answer I felt that I had received his practiced reply when fielding the same question from the "cult watch" media.

While we were talking, he mentioned that Holy Day attendance was down 27% compared with last year (while offerings were up 3%). I asked him if he thought that this drop in attendance was a positive sign or negative one? He emphatically replied that he thought it was negative. "Why?" I asked, "Wouldn't this indicate that people are getting it?" That is, that they really aren't required to keep the Feast under the New Covenant? "Well, they need to keep them even if they aren't required!" he stammered. Here is the double-talk that was

missing from the sermon, I thought.

I spent the next 30 minutes talking with him and Mike Carol, Head of Data Processing. I tried vainly to get either of them to come right out and say that, since there are Christians in other churches, WCG members were free in the sight of God to choose to worship elsewhere if they chose. No luck though. I closed the conversation by telling the two of them that the WCG would continue to be a cult-like organization until it came to the point that it could discontinue holding onto members by psychological coercion and make them feel free to leave if they choose--that is, that they will not fall from favor with God for doing so. The reply was that while individual members are in fact encouraged to find fellowship elsewhere if they are unhappy in the WCG, I should not look for any type of public statement in this regard. [I understand this to mean that "unhappy" members equal "trouble-makers" and are therefore encouraged to leave.]

As I walked around the grounds, I came upon a garden that was once pictured in *The Good News* magazine when I was a child. I was amazed at how small the garden was compared to the picture that made it look so impressively big. While I pondered the technical considerations of manipulative advertising, it made me think of a metaphor for the ways and means of Herbert W. Armstrong. According to the legendary Apostle who brought to light God's ONE'S TRUE CHURCH after 1900 years, the end was VERY NEAR, the world was VERY EVIL and he was a VERY IMPORTANT instrument of GOD, doing a VERY GREAT WORK. Now we see that that image was nothing but a created, enhanced picture that was planted in every member's mind--technical considerations to boot!

Canadian Update

By Brent

"Fellowship groups" seem to be the emphasis lately, although, many members are calling them "disfellowship groups." In one Canadian city a minister obtained from the head of the fellowship group a list of names of those that were not in agreement with the church and said that he was going to "get them." It appears these fellowship groups will be vehicles to the old "Deacon-Elder" spy and report meetings. This same minister will be moving to California to take over a WCG congregation in July. After his recent visit to California in April, he reported to his Canadian congregation that, "Everything is fine in the church and there are no problems."

I had the opportunity to talk to a Global minister and his wife from Edmonton. They were concerned about how quickly David Hulme went from the WCG to be President of the UCG (isn't everybody?). They also commented on how Richard Panelli had been in Edmonton a couple of months ago and telling people to stay in the WCG; shortly after that he joined the UCG. The people in the Canadian area have always adhered to the government commands and have been obedient to the WCG leaders. Now with the newest "double message," some are finding themselves in a greater state of confusion than in the past.

Frank Brown adds to that confusion quite nicely by announcing to the Canadian church that the WCG has recently lost 20,000 members while nothing has really changed. Frank Brown instructs the Canadian ministers to reassure the brethren that all will continue to honor the Sabbath and keep the Holy Days. It's too soon to tell, but Frank's rhetoric seems to support the UCG development. We may see **all** of Canada roll over to the UCG before all is said and done.

We still are hearing about people that left the WCG many years ago who are still living in fear that they left God's True Church and his Government. They live in guilt and emotional trauma because of the mind control that was used on them. These people are hurting and are very sincere, yet approach this matter with the WCG leaders or current members; they accuse you of dwelling on the past or of being bitter. When inquiring cult watchers ask the leaders about the past, they are appeased by small talk and statements in the fashion of, "We want to move forward, not dwell in the past." This may sound noble; however, it is dismissing their accountability for the personal destruction they have caused. The leaders have even stooped to stating that the past was in ignorance and they have been forgiven. [UPDATE: Read this footnote on our site which covers headquarters' "apologies."]

Some of the Christian cult watchers are so excited about the evangelical language the WCG is using; they simply accept and forgive the organization at face value. With so many distraught ex-members in Canada, we

are reminded that forgiveness does not mean that all accountability is gone. Actually with the forgiveness should come a greater willingness to be accountable and an urge to reconcile with openness and honesty.

The WCG leaders are using the same naïveté to some of the evangelical cult watchers in effort to further their own agenda. MacGregor Ministries of Nelson British Columbia recently met with the WCG leaders. Shockingly, they release an issue of their newsletter and write at length that the WCG can be given a clean bill of health. Individuals who received the newsletter were disgusted and baffled as to how former Jehovah's Witness cultists could possible ignore the cult leaders tactics and play right into the manipulation. What an incredible disservice to the victims of the Worldwide Church of God.

MacGregor Ministries was well informed by many about the tactics the leaders use. Much material was sent to them, which obviously was ignored. Christians here now question the motives and wonder what made them stoop to the cult leaders. It is puzzling how someone could spend their working life combating the falseness of the Jehovah's Witnesses and then set themselves up as an expert for the WCG while judging them as Christian. How would they feel if a non-JW cult watcher gave the JW's a clean bill of health without getting all the facts? MacGregor Ministries joins the Christian Research Institute, as many view both Ministries as grossly uniformed and a detriment to the thousands of ailing victims of a destructive cult. It is a shame they have lost credibility in the eyes of those who once supported their work.

[UPDATE: In 2008 The Canadian government ordered MacGregor Ministries shut down because they violated Canada's "hate-crime laws." (Read article) The ministry now operates in the United States under MM Outreach Media Ministries.]

Another cult watcher once explained to me that there is a heavy competition between the cult-watchers as to who is the expert. It does seem that there is more deception under some of these cult-watching groups than we're aware of. In MacGregor's newsletter, Set Free Ministries was being advertised. This is the same group under investigation with Hank Hanegraaff of CRI. Allegations were written about Hank being paid by Set Free in exchange for a cult-free status. Some question if the WCG possibly made the same sort of deal after CRI gave WCG cult-free status.

Some of the Christian cult-watching ministries are becoming as dangerous as the cults themselves. They set themselves up as speakers for God and then decide who else isn't. They seem to pride themselves in being experts on all the cult groups, but refuse to work with those who were part of the group. It's hard to believe there isn't an ulterior motive to such behavior, or an unseen dividend. On a funny note, the sign in front of the meeting hall for services in Winnipeg used to read, "*Saturday Services 10 AM, All Welcome.*" A few months ago some former members decided to go to services. Many members complained about the former member intrusion and didn't think the former members should be allowed. So, they have now changed the sign by deleting the "All" and leaving the, "Welcome!"

From the Mailbox:

We continue to receive many letters and will continue to share them with our readers. The following letters are printed in their entirety because the content can be helpful to others. We have many other letters on file; yours may be in a future OIU. Many of you have expressed how you do enjoy the letters, as they connect you to support. We assure you, **all letters printed are actual letters.** Please let us know if we can use your name.

Would you share your story? We have begun to compile a collection of stories of former WCG members. We deeply appreciate those who have taken the time to write about their experience and share their story with others. If our readers are interested in writing their personal "testimony" please email us. [UPDATE: This section now includes stories from those who were in PCG and other offshoots/splinter groups, plus child survivor stories.]

These stories may be published; however, your privacy is paramount to us. Please feel free to use a pseudonym, if you choose, and know that confidentiality is our top priority.

We at the ESN realize that many of you could write an entire book about your experiences in the Worldwide Church of God. We ask that you keep your "testimony" eight pages or less if possible. This will help keep the task of assimilating, storing and using these documents manageable. If you can, we ask that the stories be typed. This may not always be possible and we appreciate hand written papers as well. Please send your

"testimony--we will welcome stories on a continuing basis and add them to the files.

Growing Up in the WCG

By Lavonne

The Worldwide Church of God was my mother. She raised me from infancy--she was all I had ever known of the world and of God. For thirty years her doctrines and policies dominated every aspect of my life. Now that I've come out of church I grieve many things, but, most of all I grieve my lost childhood.

I have memories of myself and my two brothers, as young children, playing one of our favorite games. We called it "God's Kingdom." We would strip all the leaves off the bushes surrounding our home and cover the porch with them. These leaves were the multitudes of people who would come to "worship the King, the Lord of Host, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles" (Zech. 14:16). The WCG kept the Jewish Holy Days and taught that every one would be forced to do so when Christ established His kingdom on earth. My brothers and I would stand over the leafy multitude and demand in God-like voices (for we would be Gods in the Kingdom), "ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP THE SABBATH, NOW???" One of us would squeak a rebellious "no" and then we would proceed to thrash the "people" with whip-like switches. The switches were our "Rods of Iron" which we would use to rule the world at Christ's return. We would shout at the leaves that they must learn to keep the Holy Days and that Christmas and Easter are Pagan--that Herbert W. Armstrong was God's true Apostle and that they had persecuted God's true people. We shouted and thrashed until every leaf had been shredded to bits by our switches. When we were finished we swept the humbled and broken bits of humanity off the porch and admonished, "Go and sin no more!" This was how we played, "God's Kingdom."

I remember always knowing that I was different from everyone else - chosen, called out and blessed with special knowledge that no one else had. I remember sitting alone at a desk in the school hallway as my classmates celebrated Christmas. The gifts, the lights, the food and the laughter all looked so inviting but I would think of God's Kingdom and be comforted. I remember leaving the room for birthdays, Easter and Christmas and the curious stares and innocent questions from the other children that made me feel so alone. I always gave the careful answer that I had been taught, "It's against my religion." The children responded, "That's weird, I've never heard that before." And, "Don't you believe in Jesus?" This served to reinforce the teaching that Satan had blinded the eyes of every one in "the world" so that they could not understand what we knew. I knew with smugness and certainty that one day they would see.

I remember always carrying with me the knowledge that this evil world would at any moment end in a holocaust of human suffering from which I, if I remained faithful, would be spared, I was certain that I would never marry and have children. This world would end long before I had time for such things. At times I felt a great sense of loss over the fact that I would never marry--but I would quickly repent of such selfishness.

I remember having a recurring nightmare over the years, which I have since learned, was shared by many in the cult. In the dream I would come home from school and find the house empty. I would try to find my extended family (all members of the WCG) or other church members and they would all be gone. I would realize with horror that they had all fled to the "Place of Safety" and that I had not been counted worthy to escape. We were constantly admonished in church services and Bible Studies that the call to flee could come from Mr. Armstrong at any moment, and we must be ready and willing to leave everything and everyone behind. All those counted worthy would be protected in Petra, Jordan--the place God had revealed to his Apostle as the Place of Safety. I could not afford the luxury of a frivolous childhood.

The WCG taught that to train a child properly he must first have his spirit broken and, secondly, he must be punished for his attitude as well as his actions. My parents took to heart the things they were taught. I was often told that a "wrong attitude" left my mind open to demonic influences. Many nights I lay awake terrified that demons would possess me because I had allowed myself to cry too long over a hurt or because I had been angry at my parents.

We were taught that a spirit of rebellion was the ultimate sin--after all, it was the sin that Satan committed. Next to rebellion against God's government (i. e., Armstrong and his ministers) was the sin of deciding for one's self what was right or wrong (in other words--THINKING). The WCG held us all in a grip and we were bond slaves to all it dictated. Life for me was a constant battle to measure up to the church's standards. We

were encouraged to "see yourself as God sees you--a self-centered, hostile, shriveled up, rotten, vile, filthy, sinning hunk of rotting human flesh not worthy to breathe the free air God gives you. To be so sorry not only for what you have done but for WHO YOU ARE." (Herbert W. Armstrong, *What Do You Mean the Unpardonable Sin?*) I never received medical care, dental care, vaccinations. I also never ate pork or shellfish, and feared becoming physically ill should I accidentally eat a cookie with lard in it. I never dated anyone in high school--it was forbidden. I never attended a school dance or ball game at my school. I was baptized at the age of 20 after fasting once a week for a whole year.

I eventually did marry--within the Church of course--and gave birth to two sons. My husband was also raised in the church. Sometime after my marriage to a wonderful man, we had begun to do the unthinkable--question the church; I began to have my own doubts. I repented and fasted about the doubts, but the more I did so the worse they became. At one point I fasted and prayed to God all day and had come to the point that I thought I should leave my husband because he was dragging me away from God's church. I asked that day for my eyes to be opened to the truth. I was ready to begin the difficult process of facing reality. Although I felt wrong for asking such a thing, that day was the beginning of the end of my association with the Worldwide Church of God.

Three years later I was finally able to verbalize the fact that I was raised in a cult. What a shocking revelation! It turned my world upside-down. We began an extensive study into cults and mind control. We also began to research the history of the incredible corruption and deceit in the Worldwide Church of God. We made contact with the WCG Exit & Support Network™ and it was very helpful in the recovery process. The veil was lifted and we could see the world and the WCG clearly for the first time in our lives.

Fifteen members of my extended family are still in the church, including three who are local elders and one deacon. When our local minister heard we had left AND had done some research into the church he became very nervous. He immediately met with my family members to do "damage control" and to see if we had influenced them in any way. He instructed them on "how to handle those who have left." He then called us and threatened to disfellowship and "mark" us if we shared what we knew or tried to destroy anyone's faith in God's Church." (This was in the fall of `94).

Many coming out of this cult now are absolutely "shell-shocked." I was one of the lucky ones.

Leaving the WCG

By Yvonne (pseudonym)

Much of my life was devoted to "the one and only true Church of God." They turned out to be fruitless years spent in search of an abundant, peaceful, and happy life promised by Herbert W. Armstrong. They were years spent in anticipation of the soon-coming of Christ to set up the "Wonderful World Tomorrow" which never came. It was a life of striving for perfection, unfulfilled dreams, and misery.

When you're deceived into thinking something is "God's truth" because you really believe you've "proved it," then the fear is put into you not to ever depart from the organization that teaches it (as departing would be considered departing from God and His salvation). Therefore, one of the things which led up to my exit was that I dared to break this rule of "don't listen to those outside God's church."

After coming out of the WCG and re-dedicating my life to Christ and asking Him into my life again, I realized how much my relationship with Him had been hindered for those many years.

Although I have gone through much pain and suffering since I came out, Christ will be there to answer my prayers, strengthen me, and to always send someone to lift me up.

What Has Happened to Earl Williams

By Earl Williams

I want to thank you all for your prayers for my family and me. God has certainly been with us, and strengthened us through these difficult times. Just knowing that many of you were out there supporting us was a tremendous encouragement.

Many have wondered what happened to me, and how it came about. I'll give a brief story of the events that God used to bring me out of the WCG, and to start Christ Church of Grace.

Looking back on it all, I can identify with Joseph when he told his brothers: "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good." I believe this is how God has worked his will in my life for the benefit of many. We have suffered much, but God has taught us that his grace is greater than all my needs and suffering.

It all began about seven years ago as God began to show me that I did not really know Jesus Christ. I knew days and laws, but I did not know Christ and his grace. He began to break me from this by allowing me to experience the full futility of trying to keep the law.

Through brokenness and suffering I learned that I had misplaced dependencies, and that my identity was in the wrong place. I depended on my performance of the law (which I could not keep) for my sense of fulfillment. And my identity was bound up in the approval of men in an organization. I was drinking water that could not satisfy, from a broken cistern that could not deliver.

Out of my emptiness and frustration, God began to teach me about his Son, and his unconditional love. I began to depend on his unfailing love for my sense of fulfillment and well-being. I learned to rest securely in my unchanging identity in Jesus Christ. I was no longer able to be manipulated by the approval or disapproval of men.

I was now free to love, serve, and obey God from the heart. He changed my desires and wants to be his desires and wants. I was now free to learn the truth (Jesus Christ) for the first time. I was free to preach and teach the true Gospel.

I was also about to become a target for the attacks of Satan the devil. I was called all kinds of names and accused of being a heretic by other ministers. About four years ago I began to realize that God would eventually lead me out of the Worldwide Church of God. The more God taught me, the more I preached and the more I preached the more I was attacked, and the more I was attacked, the more God taught me. It was a bittersweet experience.

Then in early December, God convinced me that I should resign, and start a local church. When Mr. Tkach came to Atlanta I told him of my plans, and he asked me not to resign. He said he was going to make some changes. But he also told me that I had done wrong in preaching these things before him, and that I had pre-empted him. I later reminded him that the basis of everything I had preached was previously in church literature, I was just stating it clearer. I also stated that for the last two years I had discussed what I was teaching with Joe Jr. and Mike Feazell and they had no problems with it.

Before he left Atlanta he asked me what I was going to do, and I told him that I would stay. That was a big mistake. God did not tell me to stay if Mr. Tkach made changes, He told me to resign. I disobeyed God, and I have had to learn some hard lessons.

In late February, I wrote Mr. Tkach letting him know that I was resigning and that the attacks and pressure upon me and my family had increased tremendously after his visit to Atlanta. I told him that I was being made an escape-goat for the changes he had made, and that was not right.

I also told him that since I was being harassed out of my job, I felt that they should be held responsible for our security.

This was a mistake on my part, and I have repented of it. I withdrew my request. (By the way, I never brought a lawsuit against the church.). I made the request out of my hurt at the way we had been treated, and especially because of some of the things that had happened to my wife.

We have forgiven the parties involved, and wish them well. We are thankful to be free to be able to preach the gospel. We look forward to a bright, and growing future in Christ Church of Grace. Please remember us in your prayers.

Christ Church of Grace
Tape Ministry
2531 Berwick Walk
Snellville, Georgia 30278

[UPDATE: The above street address is no longer accurate.]

[UPDATE: Read: The Earl Williams Factor (Includes at end: "Was Atlanta a 'Test' Area?") and link to Earl

Williams and the Worldwide Church of God]

Such a Waste

By Mary Free (pseudonym)

My purpose in writing is, you know and understand the false doctrine that members of the WCG have been taught. I contacted the Christian Research Center in Calgary; spoke with Dean Crossley who referred me to you.

For 28 years I've believed everything I was fed. Now 1995 the old covenant is done away and the New Covenant is in!?

Well excuse me folks; I knew this as a child in Sunday school and it fine now to do away with all the old covenant stuff because God has shown Mr. Tkach truth!?

I've waited 28 years listening to a false doctrine, when I could have had 28 years of learning about my beloved Savior?! If I had stayed where God had placed me in the first place, my mind wouldn't be so screwed up now, by such wicked abuse.

Today April 1995, I rejoice that my family was never members of the Worldwide Church of God. My husband of 32 years still shakes his head, on how his daughters were so poorly treated and like sheep I allowed emotional and psychological abuse the likes the world, if it be known, would be stunned.

I've just completed the book: *Out of the Cults and into the Church* by Janis Hutchinson. It was excellent.

One thought nags me: The WCG seems finally to be on the right track. Is this truth or something I should guard against?

Mr. Tkach, from his video series, has called us stupid, dummies and thieves. I guess that should tell me if he's on the right track.

Thank you for listening and "being there."

These four letters [above] are representative of the letters the ESN receives ongoing. When we place an excerpt, it is difficult to capture the true heart of each message, although space and costs will not always permit us to write the full accounts, we will continue to print as much as possible. Please keep writing; others need to hear from you.

Once again, current events dictated what was written in this Volume of the OIU. As we look to strengthen the OIU with therapeutic topics, we felt it was absolutely necessary to provide our readers with the full accounting of the "inside story." Printing a letter or two does not encapsulate the real picture. We diligently strive to report everything accurately and look forward to comments or corrections.

The OIU stands for honestly, we deal with issues others "sweep under the carpet." Religious deception needs to be exposed; it operates like organized crime, with a high percentage of success. The masses submit to religious rhetoric and ignore the actions.

The next OIU will begin to unfold the story of the 1970s and report on topics listed in Vol. TWO. The topic of Mind-Control and Hypnosis will also be covered. We recommend you read the article on Brainwashing and Hypnosis: The Battle for Your Mind by Dick Sutphen. It is excellent and will provide a thorough explanation on its use to manipulate the masses.

Special thanks to all who continue to help the ESN help those in need. It takes all of us to care and make a difference.

L.A. Stuhlman, Editor

OIU Volume Four

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

Volume FOUR ... a newsletter of understanding ... Spring `97

VOLUME Four contents:

- PROPAGANDA and Dialectical Materialism (two techniques the WCG has used throughout its years in an effort to control)
- As the Whirlwide Turns™, Part Four
- When Prophecy Fails!!!
- Cognitive Dissonance
- The "HISTORIC" TKACHIAN THOUGHT REFORM PROGRAM
- Once Upon a Time (WCG has always operated as a secret society)
- Recapturing True History
- What Faulty Doctrine???
- The Pseudo Numbers Game (WCG manipulates the membership count)
- The Selling of Assets and Loss of Members
- The Evangelical Televangelist Scandal
- The Five Year Plan and the beginning of The Cognitive Dissonance Campaign
- F-E-A-R!
- David Hulme
- CRI Asks ESN for Help
- Spanky pays Hanky BIG $$$ for the PR propaganda
- What is Armstrongism?
- Divide and Conquer
- The Flock Scatters!!! Does it Really???
- In Transition??? How Appropriate a Name!
- Ronald L. Dart
- Armstrongism Adapts A New Identity
- Friends Of The Sabbath

NETWORK NEWS

Where have we been? A day doesn't pass without the phone ringing, requesting the latest OIU. Some have wondered if the Exit & Support Network™ (ESN) was still in operation. Those who have called have been updated and informed with up-to-the minute details regarding the ESN. To us it seems like Volume THREE was mailed just yesterday; others reading it for the first time conclude its content describes the exact events as they unfold this very day. We have good excuses why we have held off on re-issuing the OIU. Do you as a reader have a good reason not knowing what the ESN is up to these days?

The ESN is well into its fourth year although its accomplishments might suggest many years of operation. The successes of the ESN are largely due to the relentless dedication of several who are fully committed to assisting those caught in the web of religious deception. Listed below are just a few of the priorities and accomplishments:

1. Monitored the WCG's orchestrated agenda with the dismantling of the previous structure and employment of the evangelical marketing strategy.
2. Exclusively investigated and covered the Garner Ted Armstrong sexual assault lawsuit.
3. Issued SIX detailed investigative reports to hundreds. The ESN did the arduous detailed research work, while fringe propagandists plagiarized the writings, claiming self-seeking fame and recognition. Details will follow!

4. Maintained scrutiny on the evolution of the extension COG groups with research and investigation (R&I) detailing the reasons behind the events.
5. Built the only available WCG conglomerate archive that rivals none, including the WCG itself!
6. Attended several national conferences on topics such as: law enforcement, mind control, cults in today's society and studies of ancient religions.
7. Conducted several seminars at professional conferences on deceptive religious organizations and the mainstreaming of cultic groups.
8. Mailed hundreds of packets for info-requests and specific assistance.
9. Accomplished several Research & Investigative (R&I) trips across the country relating to the reasons behind the events.
10. Continued producing support assistance to hundreds seeking references, assistance or answers to their questions.

And that is only part of it! The ESN has been in the forefront of several traumatic events with individuals and breaking news. We have been active as a voice and proactive with the endeavor to expose the works of evil. The few of us who have dedicated the countless hours and sacrificed our personal lives carry the load of a major work force. The ESN's success is credited to the fact that we will not give up and our strong will-will continue to inspire us to unravel the rat's nest of decades of deception. Our collective voice will continue to help free those exploited by propaganda, mind control, religious fraud, corruption and political agenda. The sinister psychopaths who come in HIS name inflict slavery on the unsuspecting by cunningly assuming power and control while perpetrating their money hungry, occultic, New Age agenda on the souls of those who are looking for Christ.

The time lapse between reports has allowed us to gather critical information on those involved in the hypocrisy. There is no more time for ignorance or silence. While we cannot control the evil or do away with the perpetrators, we can expose them. Collectively, that voice will reach others as a warning. The least we can do in the name of God is help our fellow man from stumbling into the currently brewing cesspool refashioned from the leftovers of decades past.

The OIU mission remains the same as the day we started the first official WCG Network. We will continue to:

- State the facts.
- Report the true history of the WCG and counter the refashioned lies.
- Provide information that propels questions and critical thinking.
- Report the reasons **behind the events.**
- Foster accountability on behalf of those posturing as religious ministers or church organizations.

Yes! We've been very busy, now it is about time you know what is going on.

WARNING:

Please read the following articles carefully. The information covers techniques the WCG has used throughout its years in an effort to control. The OIU objective is to provide the necessary understanding of the composite theory behind the actual events of confusion. No one said it would be easy and we'd be happy to answer any further questions relating to the information in this OIU.

PROPAGANDA

What is it?

"Propaganda is the expression of opinion or action by individuals or groups deliberately designed to influence opinions or actions of other individuals or groups with reference to predetermined ends."

Propaganda and Democracy

Many opinions or propaganda are highly charged with emotion, prejudice and bitterness. People make a virtue

of defending their own opinions or propagandas. Many would deal with opinions or propagandas they don't like by suppressing them-by violence, if need be. But suppression of unpopular opinions or propagandas is contrary to democratic conceptions of government.

Propaganda conforms to democratic principles when it tends to preserve and extend democracy; it is antagonistic when it undermines and destroys democracy.

Democracy has four parts, set forth or implied in the Constitution and federal statutes:

1. Political: Freedom to vote on public issues, freedom of press and speech to discuss those issues in public gatherings, in press, radio, motion pictures, etc.
2. Economic: Freedom to work and to participate in organizations and discussions to promote better working standards and higher living conditions for the people.
3. Freedom from oppression based on theories of superiority or inferiority.
4. Religious: Freedom of worship, with separation of church and state.

Many are misled by propaganda antagonistic to democracy as few persons have had the opportunity to learn how to detect and analyze propaganda.

The chief danger of propaganda is its appeal to emotion and decisions made under stress of emotion often leading to disaster when the emotion crowds out cool, dispassionate thought.

"Free propaganda," wrote the Springfield Republican, Sept. 3, 1937, "is nothing but free publicity for views, interpretations, arguments, pleadings, truths and untruths, half-lies and lies of all creation. Propaganda is good as well as bad. We are surrounded by clouds of propaganda... It is up to each of us to precipitate from those clouds the true and the false, the near-true and the near-false, identifying and giving to each classification its correct label."

ABC's of Propaganda Analysis

1. All propaganda is associated with conflict in some form--either as cause, or as effect, or as both cause and effect.
2. If we check our own opinions with respect to conflicts about which we feel strongly--on which we take sides--we see the direction of our own propagandas or opinions.
3. Propaganda, which concerns us most, is today's propaganda associated with today's conflicts. It affects our incomes, our businesses, our working conditions, our health, our education, our rights and responsibilities in fields political, economic, social and religious.
4. Our own opinions, even with respect to today's propagandas, have been largely determined for us by inheritance and environment. We tend to distrust the opinions of those who differ from us in those ways. Only drastic changes in our life conditions, with new and different experiences, associations, and influences can offset or cancel out the effect of inheritance and long years of environment.
5. A fundamental step in propaganda analysis, therefore, is to analyze ourselves, to make clear why we act and believe as we do with respect to various conflicts and issues-political, economic, social and religious.
6. The most effective way to deal with propaganda, once we recognize it, is to suspend our judgment until we obtain essential facts and implications involved in the propaganda. We must ask: Who is the propagandist? Is he consciously and intentionally trying to influence our thoughts and actions? For what purpose does he use the common propaganda devices? How does he use words and symbols? What are their exact meanings? What do they mean to the propagandist's interests? Do his interests coincide with the interests of most citizens?
7. That fact that some words are "omnibus" words makes many the easy dupes of propagandists. Omnibus words are words extraordinarily difficult to define. They carry all meanings to all men. Therefore, the best test for the factual content of propaganda lies in specific, concrete definition of

the words and symbols used by the propagandist. Moreover, sharp definition is the best antidote against words and symbols carrying a high charge of emotion.

How to Detect Propaganda

We are fooled by propaganda chiefly because we don't recognize it when we see it. We can more easily recognize propaganda when we see it, if we are familiar with the seven common propaganda devices. These are:

1. The Name Calling Device.
2. The Glittering Generalities Device.
3. The Transfer Device.
4. The Testimonial Device.
5. The Plain Folks Device.
6. The Card Stacking Device.
7. The Bandwagon Device.

Why are we fooled by these devices? Because they appeal to our emotions rather than to our reason. They make us believe and do something we would not believe or do if we thought about it calmly, dispassionately. In examining these devices we note that they work most effectively at those times when we are too lazy to think for ourselves; also, they tie into emotions which sway us to be 'for' or 'against' nations, races, religions, ideals, economic and political policies and practices, and so on...

Abraham Lincoln must have had in mind citizens who could balance their emotions with intelligence when he made his remark: "but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

[The above introduction to understanding propaganda was excerpted from Volume 1 of the publications of the Institute For Propaganda Analysis, Inc.]

It is absolutely not possible to discern or properly examine the events of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) and extension groups, without understanding the sophisticated system of propaganda employed within its strategy. It is an art and a polished, learned skill, which is employed in and by every segment of our society in some degree. Many deceitful religious institutions along with their well-trained leaders have earned notable status in the pool of propagandists. They have successfully controlled and enslaved millions through their artfully postured techniques ensconced in manipulation and distraction as they propagandize one endeavor while simultaneously pursuing other goals surrounding political agenda and financial expansion.

In the 1930s professors of propaganda stressed:

1.) Learning to think independently, 2.) Coming to conclusions, and 3.) Respecting other men with opposite conclusions. "So far as individuals are concerned, the art of democracy is the art of thinking and discussing independently together." But times have changed since the 1930 propaganda tactics. The past sixty years have also introduced psychological technology beyond the thinking realm of the most scientific and prestigious intellectuals of that era.

"KNOW YOUR ENEMY is the first principle in any encounter, whether it be football or war (hot or cold)."[1] The American events of this century have served as spawning grounds for creating and enhancing diabolical techniques that attack the citizen's mind, disabling him from having the ability to learn how to think independently, let alone objectively analyze events unfolding before his eyes. The wars of this century have taught the leaders how to capture their target through psychological means, as the physical techniques of the past become antiquated.

Propaganda became a staple in the American diet with the birth of the radio. The more citizens listened to the box in their living rooms, the less they exercised their thinking skills. The cracker barrel discussions[2] of the last century gave way to opinions and thoughts entering the mind, leaving critical discussion a thing of the past. As the newspapers grew along with the radio monopoly, the citizen took on a new, more submissive role as sharp thinking skills eroded throughout each decade. Even before radio, the infamous KKK (Ku Klux Klan) propaganda movie, Birth of a Nation, paved the way for an onslaught of movie and TV propaganda.[3]

"Some of the devices now so subtly and effectively used by good and bad propagandists are as old as language. All have been used in one form or another by all of us in our daily dealings with each other.

Propagandists have seized upon these methods we ordinarily use to convince each other, have analyzed and refined them, and have experimented with them until these homely devices of folk origin have been developed into tremendously powerful weapons for the swaying of popular opinions and actions."

The point of stressing this topic as an introduction to OIU Vol. FOUR is to accent the importance of understanding what is propelling the unfolding events. When one earnestly puts aside his biases, to educate himself about the tactics used by the WCG system and ministers in an effort to inhibit critical thinking of its members, one's mind opens up to a world of understanding and discernment surrounding the deceptions. It is through the educational process of looking outside the closed tunnel vision fostered by the WCG way of life that leads to learning the real truth behind THE PLAIN TRUTH. Then reasons behind the events easily unfold before one's eyes.

Religion is the Opiate of the People--Karl Marx

Dialectical Materialism

"The end of war is the control of a conquered people. If a people can be conquered in the absence of war, the end of war will have been achieved without the destruction of war. A worthy goal... and the glory of Communist conquest over the stupidity of the enemies of the People."
--Brainwashing, A synthesis of the Russian Textbook on Psychopolitics, an exposé by Kenneth Goff

"Through clever and constant application of propaganda, people can be made to see paradise as hell, and also the other way around, to consider the most wretched sort of life as paradise."

--Adolph Hitler, *Mein Kampf*

"The beginning of wisdom is to call things by their right names."
--Chinese proverb

See Proverbs 8: 5-20.

Recently the OIU questioned several regarding their education on Communism. All replied that whatever knowledge they had was contributed through self-study. No one recalled covering the "topic" in any significance in their past education, which for all consisted of advanced degrees. Is there any wonder why?

As the 20th Century approaches its end, we become increasingly aware of the stronger governmental controls placed on individuals and society in general. Surely, many feel the controls and increased surveillance measures are welcomed as they, as citizens, are led to believe it is for their own well-being. That, along with the "security" feelings generated by those in charge of providing "these" measures, has led many throughout our society to be complacent and submissive toward the loss of personal freedoms.

Why, others wonder, do Americans sit on their laurels and allow the Constitution to be eroded by soft-sell propaganda? What creates such apathy and ignorance, which appears to replace the critical thinking, courage and energy needed to confront the issues of our day?

Unless one had majored in "history," chances are one's understanding of historical events are very shallow and rote at best. Schools certainly do not concentrate in this area and most students form a disdain for the word by 7th grade. This deficit of understanding has created a generous gap for exploiters or controllers with agendas opposite to the Constitution or our democratic society.

Those who neglect the lessons of history, are doomed to repeat them.

In our in-depth research the ESN was forced to delve into the history of the United States. We could not possibly understand the growth or history of the WCG without paralleling the events occurring in the United States or throughout the world. As time passes, the OIU will continue to define the reasons behind the events. As much as we'd like to sum it up in a few paragraphs, it is not possible due to the complexity and enormity of the issues related to our history in society and its connection with this century's Christianity.

First, a little history review will help to understand the origin of Dialectical Materialism.

"George Friedrich Wilhelm Hegel (1770-1831) was a German philosopher who was very influential during the nineteenth century. Though much of his writings are considered abstruse, what he was and is in reality, (as he continues to live through his ideas), is a master manipulator and an expert in the art of lying. The form of manipulation he espoused is what communists the world over use today. It is called the "dialectic," that is, thesis vs. antithesis which leads to synthesis."[4]

This is all very confusing! And that's just the point. If people knew of the manipulation and deceptions fostered upon them, the perpetrators would lose control. Two guides to dwell on: What we don't know, will hurt us and what seems laudable is actually a smoke screen for sinister purposes and motivations.

Karl Heinrich Marx (1818-1883) was a German economist, philosopher and revolutionist whose writings form the basis of the body of ideas known as Marxism. With the aid of Friedrich Engles he produced much of the theory of modern socialism and communism. Marx's father, Heinrich, was a Jewish lawyer who had converted his family to Christianity partly in order to preserve his job in the Prussian state. Karl himself was baptized in the Evangelical church. As a student at the University of Berlin, young Marx was strongly influenced by the philosophy of G. W. F. Hegel. Following in the footsteps of Ludwig Feuerbach,[5] Marx applied Hegel's concept of "alienation" to ownership of private property, which he said caused humans to work only for themselves and not for the good of their species. He elaborated on the idea of alienation of an economic base and called for a communist society to overcome the dehumanizing effect of private property. Marx's close relationship with Friedrich Engels laid the foundation for their materialistic conception of history. They argued that human thought was determined by production. They developed a method of analysis they called Dialectical Materialism (DM) in which the clash of historical forces leads to changes in society.[6]

Facts and Points about DM:

- Dialectical Materialism is the underlying philosophy of most contemporary Communist governments.
- Dialectics is termed from Hegel's philosophy, which is a way of thinking about the world, in all its complexity.
- With dialectics, the changes and interactions that anything undergoes are brought into focus and emphasized and special attention is devoted to whatever patterns emerge.
- The uneasy tensions between historical forces promoting change, and the systemic ones promoting stability are captured in the idea of 'contradiction,' understood as a progressive pulling apart of what is functionally united.
- DM is a synthesis of materialism and the dialectic developed by G. W. F. Hegel.
- Change is viewed as the result of the interaction of opposites. Each thing that exists (thesis) gives rise to the opposite (antithesis); the interaction of thesis and antithesis is ultimately reconciled (synthesis) to become a new thesis. Marx and Hegel used these assumptions to analyze and explain historical development.[7]

In her book, *The Rewriting of America's History*, author Catherine Millard states:

"...The Hegelian Principle can be explained as follows: Change in a society is brought about in a three-step process: Thesis, antithesis, and synthesis. The first step (thesis) is to create a problem. The second step (antithesis) is to generate opposition to the problem (fear, panic, hysteria). The third step (synthesis) is to offer the solution to the problem created in step one-change which would have been impossible to impose on the people without the proper psychological conditioning achieved in stages one and two."

This proper psychological conditioning is a major power component to mind control. Propaganda is blindly accepted through carefully orchestrated steps used by totalitarian regimes to control people. *"By deliberately creating chaos in economics, in crime control, and other societal problems, and then forcing change on people to supposedly 'solve' the problems they themselves created. Planned chaos brings about anarchy, and anarchy, being a terrifying state of lawlessness, finally causes people to throw up their hands and give up their freedom (change) for the relative stability of totalitarianism."*[8]

What does all this have to do with propaganda? Propaganda is the distraction; dialectical materialism is the method of delivery. Propaganda is the lie; dialectical materialism is the contradiction. Propaganda is successful

when the conditions are ripe and the audience is prepared. The following conditions are essential:

- Trust in the authority issuing the propaganda.
- An environment not conductive to inquiry.
- Information control.
- Apathy or submission created from confusion, trauma or change.
- Non-critical thinking; submission of personal will.

Dialectics can further be explained as logic of two opposites-meaning, two opposites fed in the mind at any given time. Anytime you accept simultaneously contradicting beliefs or concepts, you are rendered docile and indifferent to furthering arguments from either side. This is also known as **doublethink**. Contradiction is caused when two messages are stated at the same time. Opposing views, simultaneously stated, creates confusion and contradiction. The mental state of confusion and contradiction induces psychological trauma. The psychological trauma is equalized by submission to the newly propagandized view. Cognitive dissonance is the mental conflict caused by opposing views, which leads to a mental dissociative state, or trance-like state. The dissociative mental state allows the propagandist to manipulate his targets under his control without rebellion.

"Hegel's principles underlie Marxist socialism, where man is the measure of all things and the state is worshipped, inevitably leading to slavery. Socialism is simply a system, an idea, a mind state, a worldview that insists that people serve the government and man's arbitrary government is exalted uber alles. Heil Hitler! Have we learned nothing from history?

Hegel's dialectics (known also as the Hegelian Principle) is a glorification of the state over man and reveals an immoral end-justifies-the-means mentality. It is a crass manipulation of mind and matter, severed from vital spiritual principles that inform a normal, healthy person's bedrock character (don't lie, cheat, steal or murder)."[9]

The significance of understanding the origins of communism and the philosophies molded through the Marx/Engel era will be explored in future issues and reports, as it strongly pertains to what is happening in 20th century Christianity. An understanding of their Dialectics and Materialism is, however, pertinent to discerning the actual WCG events.

The carefully orchestrated events of these past eight years, initiated by the elitist controllers of the Worldwide Church of God have been largely implemented by the age old psychological techniques that have placed "historic" names such as Hegel, Marx, Lenin, Stalin, Hitler and Mao in bold print on the pages of history.

As Herbert W. Armstrong accurately pointed out in his letter to the Brethren, Nov. 1967, "The biggest mistake Mao Tse Tung made was not having a 'GOD' at the head of the government."

Just like there are **reasons behind the events**, so, too, there are reasons why a WCG member, when asked about changes, so often responds, "Nothing's changed." Further on in this report, will be explained how dialectical materialism was carried out on the members of the WCG and extension groups and the devastating effects that resulted.

AS THE WHIRLWIDE TURNS™ Part Four

"Well what comes from the 1994 Feast of Tabernacles? Another exciting family reunion! A dawning of a NEW AGE and the wonderful world tomorrow, when the Feast of Tabernacles anticipates a worldwide harvest of redemption, a time when the earth is filled with knowledge of the Lord. A time when nature, government, economy, culture will work in harmony in bringing His children to glory and fulfilling our INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL." Joseph W. Tkach, Sr. 1994

The one item left out of this telling statement of introduction made by Joseph Tkach, Sr. (JWT Sr.) way back in `94, is the fact that **God's Great Plan of Salvation** included one world religion along with the **one world government *system*** run by the **Great Architect of the Universe.**

Yes, it was a time when all would **dwell together in harmony with the lion and lamb**. A time when all leaders would turn their swords into plowshares and unite as one people. The truth would be open to everyone, as God's Way would rule the Universe. All would rejoice in the **Government from the top down**. All would be keeping the Sabbath, as it was the **sign between man and God**. Only those in the **one true**

church, who **endured to the end**, would be the **bride-to-be, changed at the twinkling of the eye at Christ's return**. The **one and only true church** in His universe was being trained to be the **leaders in the Wonderful World Tomorrow**. **The trials of this fleshy, carnal life**, along with strict **obedience to God's only true ministers** and HQ church on earth, were to guarantee a name in the **Book of Life**. The **Plan of Salvation** demanded **Sabbath Keeping and Law Keeping** as defined by His instruments that He alone ordained.

Disobedience meant **disfellowshipment** from the vine, the body. Once discarded into Satan's world, all would be lost-**Salvation-the Resurrection-the World Tomorrow-and Eternity** would be lost forever. The end would be met in the **Third Resurrection**, when the loving God would raise the failures and allow them to view the wonderful Satan-less world just prior to tossing them into the **Lake of Fire to be obliterated** as if they never were, leaving behind those who endured to the end. Ah, the **Mystery of the Ages**. How incredible to be **exclusively called** by the **living God**, or "**Great Architect of the Universe**,"10 as part of His **small flock of children, following His Apostle Herbert W. Armstrong**.

Note: The OIU does not attempt to discredit personal opinions of doctrines, or to persuade anyone toward a particular belief. We feel intentional deception and exploitation in the name of religion has no doctrinal barriers. The OIU attempt is to explain how doctrine is exploited as: 1) a propaganda tool which in turn provides gross distraction to what is actually occurring with the organization. 2) A way to elicit control and obtain specific behavior from spiritually minded individuals that financially pay extreme amounts of money to the organization in question.

WHEN PROPHECY FAILS!!!

One book, which clearly explains the Tkachian THOUGHT REFORM strategy, is, *When Prophecy Fails*, by Leon Festinger, Henry W. Riecken and Stanley Schachter. Its subtitle, "*A social and psychological study of a modern group that predicted the destruction of the world*," includes 250 pages of well-documented historical examples of various religious groups, which, like the WCG, gathered huge followings. The many examples demonstrate how these groups, headed by prophetic, often charismatic leaders claiming to be God's only true human instrument, grow--become fanatical--and attach their total allegiance to the man who dictates the future for them.

What sets this book aside from others is the detailed explanation of why adherents to apocalyptic groups continue to support the group, even after the leaders die or are proven false or frauds. Time and again throughout history, religious leaders have claimed the coming of Christ, dated His return and documented prophecy predictions for all to view. In our in-depth research of the WCG we learned the format presented in this 1955 classic is verbatim to the propagation of the WCG chronology of events throughout the past ten years. The insightful research also invites a closer look into the well thought out Tkachian methods used to manipulate and deceive thousands into a new THOUGHT REFORM program.

Cognitive Dissonance

If you are a current member of the WCG, you may have been privy to several comments made by Joseph Tkach, Jr. regarding "*cognitive dissonance*." We at the ESN were quite amused to hear the words flow from his lips starting on the January `96 "*Bible Answer Man*" show with Christian Research Institute's President, Hank Hanegraaff. The Tkachians take every opportunity to explain that the WCG change created a cognitive dissonance in its members. The ESN has been reporting on the subject of cognitive dissonance well before Tkach, Jr. started putting his public spin on the trauma-induced psychological problem. Our thorough and ongoing studies in mind-control, programming, hypnosis and on how cults operate, along with the real history of the WCG and Herbert W. Armstrong, were instrumental in uncovering and understanding the methods employed by the WCG leaders to recruit and maintain adherents. The well-trained ministers and business moguls have adopted the age old methods used by other "historic" groups and incorporated some of the latest mind control, manipulation and persuasion techniques known to man. The WCG psychological THOUGHT REFORM was keenly maneuvered and demonstrated through the "change" strategy stemming from the inner offices and secret compartments of HQ, which lead to the carefully orchestrated fraction of the WCG conglomerate.

What does all this mean? Most everyone who talks with us asks, "How have they fooled me like this?" or, "Why couldn't I see through the deception?" These varied questions always point to the same answer: "In our society today, what you don't know, will hurt you!" The deceptive, and often sinister tactics used throughout society in marketing, advertising and recruiting are aimed at the unsuspecting. No one can protect himself from being victimized by the spiritual rape artists' techniques, if not educated or skilled as to how to detect the

perpetrators. That, coupled with religiosity and emotionalism, leaves even the most intelligent a perfect target. Millions of *spiritual searchers* have fallen into the hands of charlatans and deceivers throughout history. The search for salvation and truth has historically led many into destruction, poverty and death. On the other hand, perpetrators have stepped up their enlightenment on the slick and evil techniques needed to exploit and conquer the human nature of their fellow man. The God, Gospel and Salvation business has earned fame, fortune and name place in the books of history.

Where does *cognitive dissonance* fit into the picture? It was one of the carefully orchestrated psychological techniques deceptively used on the membership of the WCG organization. It provided psychological disarmament of members' thinking ability, which allowed implementation of the new THOUGHT REFORM. This induced a psychological trauma technique paving the way for the controllers of the organization to manipulate their **well-planned re-structuring and eradication** of the multi-million dollar religious empire!

Psychological journals, countless books and volumes of research work on stress and trauma clearly define cognitive dissonance and dissociative disorders. There are hospitals and agencies devoted specifically to the cure for this disorder. A clear explanation relating to the WCG may be quoted from ***When Prophecy Fails*:**

"Dissonance and consonance are relations among conditions-that is, among opinions, beliefs, knowledge of the environment, and knowledge of one's own actions and feelings. Two opinions or beliefs, or items of knowledge are dissonant with each other if they do not fit together-that is, if they are inconsistent, or if, considering only the particular two items, one does not follow from the other. For example, a cigarette smoker who believes that smoking is bad for his health has an opinion that is dissonant with the knowledge that he is continuing to smoke. He may have many other opinions, beliefs, or items of knowledge that are consonant with continuing to smoke but the dissonance nevertheless exists too."

"Dissonance produces discomfort and, correspondingly, there will arise pressures to reduce or eliminate the dissonance. Attempts to reduce dissonance represent the observable manifestations that dissonance exists. Such attempts may take any or all of three forms. The person may try to change one or more of the beliefs, opinions, or behaviors involved in the dissonance; to acquire new information or beliefs that will increase the existing consonance and thus cause the total dissonance to be reduced, or to forget or reduce the importance of those cognitions that are in a dissonant relationship."

"If any of the above attempts are to be successful, they must meet with support from either the physical or the social environment. In the absence of such support, the most determined efforts to reduce dissonance may be unsuccessful."

"…Rationalization can reduce dissonance somewhat. For rationalization to be fully effective, support from others is needed to make the explanation or the revision seem correct. Fortunately, the disappointed believer can usually turn to the others in the same movement, who have the same dissonance and the same pressures to reduce it. Support for the new explanation is, hence, forthcoming and the members of the movement can recover somewhat from the shock of disconfirmation."[11]

The authors highlight this text with the history of the Millerite movement of the 1800's. When their prophecies, similar to HWA's prophecies, failed, the majority of the members did not disband, but instead regrouped and fractionated with renewed adherence to their leader's original prophecies. The history of the Millerites offers an insightful look into the behavior of those who are inflicted with "disconfirmation" and clearly defines the expected outcome for those who may choose to exploit the weaknesses in human nature.

For the full understanding of cognitive dissonance in this context, you should get the book. Though out of print, it may be located in the library or bookstores, which carry old books.

So what's the big fuss about cognitive dissonance anyway? As previously stated, it can be used as a destructive tool to manipulate and hurt the unsuspecting. Before explaining how the Tkachian strategy capitalized on this, let's take a closer look at what happens to an individual purposely inflicted with techniques related to cognitive dissonance. Psychological trauma causes mental stress. As the stress builds, normal mental capacity diminishes. The brain can hold only so much stress before it starts to shut down. When the stress is enhanced with contradictions and confusion, the person's mind is unable to exercise critical thinking skills. The contradiction and confusion leads to more stress and the cycle continues causing trancing and dissociation. Dissociation is a psychological component that mentally removes the person from his current stress. Normal dissociation could

be explained by daydreaming. Abnormal dissociation impairs memory and functionality.

Victims of severe abuse, or incest, often handle the painful trauma by disassociating. The dissociation can often lead to splitting or recreation of identities. That disorder is known as Dissociative Identity Disorder, or DID. The dissociation alleviates the pain and trauma at the time of infliction, but the repercussions of the intense dissociation are equally devastating which often results in the inability to discern reality from fantasy. Cognitive dissonance and dissociation affects everyone differently. Perpetrators who intentionally create an environment that induces these phenomena have a general idea as to what they expect regarding results and work within those confines.

There are many levels or degrees to the dissociation process. The degree we are concerned with is that which was manipulated by the WCG religiocrats™ to mastermind their THOUGHT REFORM program. The recipients of the clever trauma-inducing technique involved members of the church, Evangelicals in the greater Christian community and the public at large.

The art of propaganda teaches us that the propagandist mixes lies with truth. The skilled propagandists also preach against what they are directly guilty of committing. A good salesperson knows he should always meet his objections up front and leave his customer with no questions or concerns at the end of his presentation. No concerns usually mean a sell or sealed deal!

When Joseph Tkach, Jr. started announcing the cognitive dissonance within the organization as an excuse for the traumatized members, he may have well admitted to implementing the strategy that inflicted the trauma on the members. The cat's out of the bag; his only recourse is to meet the objection up front like a good little propagandist.

The "HISTORIC" TKACHIAN *THOUGHT REFORM* PROGRAM

Before delving into how the Tkachians strategized the cognitive dissonance, which aided their *Cult In Transition* historic campaign, please note the following:

- Based on Joe Jr's intellectual record, experiences and WCG history, we do not for a moment believe he has the in-depth sophisticated abilities to devise and orchestrate the THOUGHT REFORM program, or new marketing business strategy. For those who would attest that it is God or Jesus orchestrating the THOUGHT REFORM, we ask: "Is God a liar? Is God double-minded? Is God the same today, as He was yesterday?" Ponder these questions as you research the events regarding the history of the WCG organization and the men who held the power that corrupts.
- Tkachian is a term used to explain the methods and label current authors of the WCG revision and fragmentation.
- Based on the vast history of the WCG organization (some of which we reported and more of what we will report in the future) we strongly believe that the religious system/doctrines were used as a product to recruit members for one purpose, while maintaining subterfuge agenda pertaining to the covert multi-million dollar empire. The incredible unfolding of events has proven that the religiocrats are spiritually removed from the religious system they hide under, as they push doctrine in the forefront as a distraction to the actual game plan.
- Readers of the OIU come from all faiths and understandings; we at no time mean to insult personal belief. Our objective is to demonstrate how religion/doctrines have been used to manipulate and deceive thousands as the religiocrat™ capitalists conspire with power, wealth and political goals for their own personal gain.

Once Upon A Time!

The passing of Herbert W. Armstrong, in no way, marks the beginning of what many would term, the event of "change." Because the WCG has always operated as a secret society manifesting a cultic, closed system with severe information control, few have been able to critically consider the entire history of the organization. The leaders today and from the past are expert **propagandists** and **revisionists**. The WCG foundation has been historically supported by layers of lies surrounding the history of Herbert W. Armstrong; the inception of the Radio Church of God, the mission of the "church," and now the events of change, all of which domineered the

WCG news these past several years. Few could contemplate the enormity and complexity of the actual history of this 62-year-old organization. This lack of awareness is greatly due to the psychologically abusive system fostered by its creators and supposed spiritual leaders. Exploration of the WCG history unveils a very different picture than that acquired while under the influence of its system. Often, researchers are devastated over the newly learned facts that were deeply hidden under the facade of "*God's One True Church*." While under the programming of the WCG system (often termed as Armstrongism), members lived under strict obedience to a law outlined by the controllers. That law mandated that members never deviate from the ministers' rule in thought, word or deed. Mavericks daring to test the minister were analogous to testing God and were quickly discarded like Satan-inspired rubbish from the flock. The reader should recall that salvation solely depended on being a member of the Worldwide Church of God; if you were cast from the vine, your destiny was the third resurrection and obliteration in the LAKE OF FIRE. Once programmed, the method of fear and guilt induction guaranteed a tight sovereignty on the members. This **mental domination** often allowed the leaders to carry on business as usual with sinister or clandestine agenda. The little flock was not cognizant of the leaders' mind control regime inflicted upon them. The WCG history consists of two views:

A.) The members' view

B.) The reality, or actual history, of the Worldwide Church of God.

The Tkachian THOUGHT REFORM could not have succeeded had the leaders allowed healthy behavior to flourish. [Note: "Healthy behavior" as in non-controlling] The following tactics represent a long list of behavior control coercion used:

- Submission to "the authority"
- The attitude of "Be Like Children"
- Non-questioning
- Strict obedience to man-interpreted "biblical laws"
- No viewing of outside literature
- No listening to "Satan's" Christianity on radio or TV
- No furthering of education at "Satan's" institutions
- No participation in the world activities, including voting
- Reporting on other members to the minister
- Shunning those who left, or were discarded from the WCG
- Cutting off family and friends leaving the WCG
- Destruction of personal will and identity
- Replacing self-worth with self-loathing
- Control of emotional environment

The closed WCG system dictated every behavior of its adherents making it virtually impossible for critical thinking to occur. In the future the OIU will discuss how hypnosis was used by the authority to deceive and control the members. Once programmed into the thinking that HWA was God's Apostle and the WCG was His only church on earth, it was near impossible to break from the embedded phobic fears tightly instilled by its ministers into the members thinking patterns through the keenly presented propaganda and verbal, mind-image torture program.

The Tkachians propagate that they have led the church out of apostasy to Jesus Christ. They play the innocent born-again role, claiming ignorance to the actual history of the WCG. As we continue to closely monitor the continuing abuse and deception fostered by the current elitists, we can easily visualize their smirks behind closed doors as they count their successes in multi-million $$$, as they dupe the remaining WCG members and onlookers that have sucked up the propaganda. One could only wonder what their feelings of accomplishments are these days as they adulate themselves for having carried their destructive talents into what was traditionally considered mainstream Christianity.

Beware! Wolves coming in sheep's clothing? No more, dear readers. The wolves don't bother to change costumes anymore. They have conditioned their targets so well that they can come, as they are, to get the job done and gobble up the goodies. And worse…. they come **without conscience.**

OIU Volume Four - Pt. 2 of 5

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

What You Don't Know--Did Hurt You! So Where Did It All Start?

"It was 1969 when The Plain Truth took on a secular appeal for the first time. I recall being asked what my thoughts were regarding the fall of income. It was the beginning of a turbulent decade and the demise of the church." --J. W. Robinson, assistant Editor to Herman Hoeh. [ESN interview with J. W. Robinson on file]

The WCG **groupthink** trains one to look ahead for the coming of Christ--for the Great Tribulation. For His elect will be changed, in the blink of an eye, into a spiritual being and joined with Christ on the Mount of Olives in preparation for the 1000 year reign. The committed members glued themselves to the gloom and doom news in anticipation that the end would be soon and they would not endure physical death. Each news event would be translated as part of God's plan and proof text that the world was going to end--very soon. This mental outlook mandated a "here and now" attitude. The past was insignificant; the future was described in the *Mystery of the Ages*, or *The Wonderful World Tomorrow-What Will It Be Like?* All the thinking was done for the member. The repetition of apocalyptic spin assured the ministers that the flock would not have ears to hear, or eyes to see, what was actually going on, or reveal that the ministers were doing the opposite of what they were preaching. "Learn to discern," and "prove all things," were merely words with no meaning. It was this same thinking that propelled people to forego dental work, education, careers, retirement savings, purchases such as homes or cars and all other investments into personal futures. The daily message was, "all is vanity." To understand the past or to plan for personal physical future was considered casting pearls to swine. It was (and continues to be) this same **groupthink** that has fueled the energy for the deceivers to carry on their daily covert activities under the guise of a church.

To understand the current THOUGHT REFORM, we must take a closer look into the history of the WCG as an organization and stretch beyond the current *doctrinal distraction* and onto the real story that destroyed the WCG empire. The ESN has assisted over one thousand WCG affiliated members over a two-year span. Our one-to-one work with victims clearly demonstrates that members struggle to view past their own personal experiences within the WCG. The WCG destructive system strips adherents from critical frame of reference, pilfering the thinking tools to view the "church" from other perspectives. The limiting, "here and now," thinking destroys abilities to objectively view chronological events of history and compare them to current strategies being used by the controllers. This is a serious problem for victims under the mind control of deceivers.

We will be delving deep within the history surrounding the WCG and its leaders in future OIUs and on the ESN R&I Audio Outreach. For now, we will state an overview prior to 1969.

Recapturing True History

The 1970s followed two financially productive decades. The British-Israelism (BI) -- Lost Ten Tribes message gathered momentum as it sailed its way through years of depression, racial unrest, World Wars, Civil Rights movements and the escalating trauma of nuclear war threat between the U.S. and Soviet Union. By 1973, the once small Radio Church of God (RCG) grew to its all time high, 52,000 members.12

What many fail to acknowledge, or realize, is that the main Armstrong message was twofold: white supremacy and the pending Great Tribulation. God's people were the Aryan white race--the chosen ones who were selected to escape the fiery torture soon to demolish the land they inhabited. God's great plan, as outlined by the WCG writers (and documented throughout the archive of printed materials), consisted of shipping all the blacks back to Africa, Japanese back to Japan, Asians to their perspective countries, and so forth. [**Also read:** Herbert Armstrong's Racial Views]

Without intending to do a detailed report on *United States and Britain In Prophecy* at this time, it is important to parallel the church's events with what was occurring in society. HWA's main message from the beginning of

his ministry capitalized on society's unfolding events as it girdled the Aryan belief. His timely message rang out through the newly popular radio industry.

By the 1930s, the United States was in a major depression. The turbulent and corrupting 1920s left scars on the hearts of the U.S. people. The unpopular immigration laws fueled many secret societies and rebellions, such as the Ku Klux Klan. Shortly following the rebirth of the KKK (Ku Klux Klan), its organizers incorporated Fundamental Protestant Christianity into its agendum empowering its sinister and evil behavior with credibility. The little KKK group of a few thousand swelled to seven million under their new Biblical format. By 1924, the KKK and Freemasonry13 worked as one group with one main goal: **One government, one race, one religion!** The KKK was anti-Catholic, anti-Jew and anti-black--in that order. By 1927, the KKK lost its popularity due to the exposure of abuses and atrocities it inflicted on the people of the U.S. By the late 1920s, Freemasonry distanced itself from their brothers in the KKK. Meanwhile, not less than forty thousand KKK members became Protestant ministers and continued to carry their main message throughout the land--British-Israelism.14

The largest proponent of *British-Israelism* during the 1930s to 1970 was Herbert W. Armstrong.15 His message of anti-Catholicism (Romanism) and Lost Ten Tribes attracted those steeped in the racial thoughts from earlier decades. The BI system chose specific Scriptures to validate its belief and behavior. It is often stated that HWA said things that made sense--and for many Radio Church of God members, HWA was telling the world what it wanted to hear.

A future report will closely scrutinize and detail the events listed above, along with an in-depth report on British-Israelism. This OIU issue is concerned with the history of the WCG in relationship to its current fragmentation and alignment with mainstream Christianity.16

The BI message continued in popularity throughout the 1950s and 1960s. The year 1952 initiated the first booklet on God's way of living. As the years passed, the booklets and titles increased with thousands of free publications circulating throughout the U.S. The Armstrong message started gathering much more hate and negativity by other Protestant churches, Jewish synagogues and organizations such as the NAACP, than it did in recruiting results. British-Israelism, while strongly supported by the wealthy and power elite,17 continued to cause no small stir among advocate groups and civil right activists.

By 1971, Civil Rights escalated to all time highs spurring laws to be written. One such law mandated that minorities were not to be excluded from non-profit organizations. A trip through the *Envoy*s and church literature will verify that Afro-Americans were not allowed in the church, or the college. Even though the WCG started allowing a few black adherents to enter its system, repression continued and was joined by other problems, which prevailed and pushed the church on a downhill spiral.

The 1920s KKK anti-Catholic message was the bread and butter of Armstrongism. What fueled additional scrutiny and exposure from the Protestant community was HWA's message of disdain for all Christians. He crossed the line even with like-minded Protestants when he set up his own totalitarian system on earth calling it **the one truth**. HWA added fuel to the fire when he grouped the Protestants with the Catholics, as he labeled all other Christians deceived and of Satan. [A real no-no in decades past.]

By the mid 1960s, the total Armstrong message and empire was under strong attack by outsiders. As stated in past OIU Volumes, the *Evangelical community* was pointedly focused on the WCG and wrote very critical assessments of it--frequently.18

The 1969 introduction to the secular message in *The Plain Truth* was an indication to some insiders that the church was faltering. Ernest L. Martin, Head of the Theology Dept., was one of the first to confront doctrinal error. By 1974, he, along with several thousand members and ministers, exited the WCG, blaming "faulty doctrine" and gross corruption with its Apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong and his free-wielding son. [UPDATE: Ernest Martin died January 16, 2002.]

What Faulty Doctrine???

HWA's son, Garner Ted Armstrong, was disfellowshipped for "gross sexual sins" in 1972. This was just at a time when many high level evangelists and ministers were questioning the teachings of HWA. Previous OIU

issues touched on the history of the 1970s and the significant part it plays in the current restructuring and dividing of the organization. It became strongly apparent to Ernest Martin, Kenneth Westby, David Antion, Al Carrozzo, and many others, that HWA was not espousing inspired doctrines from the **Great Architect**. As HWA, GTA, Rader and other elites from the WCG ministry were living in extreme opulence with several homes each, personal aircraft, opulent cars (Rolls Royce), endless bank accounts, real estate holdings, diamonds, furs, crystals, free college tuition, lavish expense accounts, all expense paid vacations to resorts, **ETC., thousands** of members were living in impoverishment, while giving their last dime toward HWA's pleas for income. Some were so poverty stricken, they could not afford meat or fresh vegetables, or other necessary basics of life. Detailed testimonies of abuse have found their way to the ESN, but the personal tragedy of the Canadian woman who was shoved onto the streets, along with her son, to live, homeless, following a long abusive intrusion into her personal life by the minister is a story that cries out for justice. The OIU will share this, and many other stories, in the future.

What might seem like a broken record for some readers is actually crucial information toward the discernment of the blatant lies delivered to the current members of the WCG and its extension groups. Few recall or know about the massive doctrinal upheaval that occurred in the early 1970s. HWA was, for the first time, challenged from within the church for further explanations of his teachings. These certain ministers, who at the time were most dedicated to pleasing God, were pioneers in exposing a goodly amount of the vast corruption that prevailed behind the HQ wall in Pasadena. Among many erroneous doctrinal complaints the following were of grave concern:

- The splitting up of families and marriages.
- Suicides initiated by doctrinal demands and manipulations.
- The Tithing Fallacy: The stealing of New Testament "un-biblical" tithes from members.
- The Israel Identity and Lost Ten Tribes-Identity Movement.
- The Healing Doctrinal demands.
- The dictatorial, authoritative control on "Gods' people."
- Issues surrounding Grace vs. Law.

HWA's confrontation with his extreme financial opulence, misuse of funds, and corruption fueled the WCG turbulence throughout the 1970s and was compounded by the fact that the church did NOT have a doctrinal belief. Often misconstrued, as doctrine was a carefully crafted and borrowed system of theology known as "*God's Way of Living.*"

Archival documentation carefully scripts the momentous events that caused thousands to flee from the Armstrong empire and its teachings during the early 1970s. Pertinent documentation and knowledge that the Tkachians **chose to cover-up** was replaced by layers of lies and gross deception toward the unsuspecting. As we continue to expose the twisted deception by the "current leaders" from all the groups, it will become very obvious to the most skeptical that the supposed "Christian" leaders of the WCG, UCG, GCG, CGI, CEM, PCG have knowingly and blatantly lied and deceived the WCG remnant and continue to do so this very moment.

The lack of recruiting and doctrine problems propelled Robert L. Kuhn (Stan Rader's friend and close relative of Mr. Kuhn from *Kuhn and Loeb* bank [Kuhn, Loeb and Co.]), along with GTA, to devise the *Systematic Theology Project*. Despite their concerted effort, which compiles about eight inches of printed matter, the project was quickly dismissed by HWA upon his return from abroad, as he labeled the designers of the "new theology" liberals.

The Pseudo Numbers Game

The membership peaked at 52,000 in 1973 (men, women and children). Following the multi-thousand member exit in 1974, there has been a membership decline ever since. Despite a few new recruits during the 1970s, Garner Ted Armstrong's sexual encounters, the church's public exposure of the corruption, dictatorial oppression on its membership and grave doctrinal upheaval, led to an increased attrition rate. Readers must keep in mind that the WCG management always used "numbers" to confuse and defuse issues.[19] This tactic of contradiction of numbers, or inflation of the actual church membership, helped diffuse the financial imbalance, which could never support the actual member count. The church membership has always been considerably lower than what was propagandized. This is very significant, especially when one starts to scrutinize the "income" of the organization. The WCG's dual agenda has been cleverly disguised by mis-reporting actual

membership counts and income. Had the actual membership count been honestly noted, it would have been too obvious that such an opulent empire on earth could not have been supported by the tithes and offerings from the meek and lowly. Furthermore, it was well known and documented that money was not pouring in from the "co-workers." **Where did the multi-million $$$ come from?** That is another layered rat nest. More on this crucial topic soon.

[**NOTE:** Read: Myth 1 and 2 - the greatest of them all (in OIU #6, Pt. 1)]

The ESN will issue a separate report on how and why WCG manipulates the membership count. It is **imperative** to understand that this specific issue is crucial to the ongoing waste, fraud and abuse under the guise of a religious institution. If it were publicly known that the WCG acquired its massive non-profit empire in multiple devious ways other than running a respectable institution, its leaders, current and past would be spending their physical lifetimes in the same type of cell Charles (Chuck) Colson, was given prior to his infamous Prison Ministries.

The constant use of propaganda and history revision inhibits critical thinking necessary to scrutinize the events. Few realize that HWA, Stan Rader, Osamo Gotah, Aaron Dean and other select persons were away from the HQ scene during the late 1960s and 1970s up to 300+ days a year. Their visits to highly speculative Communist countries had nothing to do with "bringing the Gospel throughout the world." Significant dissension and disdain arose when some members learned that these trips had zero to do with the Gospel and **everything** to do with "political agenda." Millions of dollars were poured into an International deception that was largely carried out by the very same leaders of the current WCG conglomerate organizations: namely, Global Church of God and United Church of God, An International Association!!

For the most part, the little flock was shielded from the massive turbulence that gnawed at the very cornerstone of the WCG empire. Scandal following scandal permeated international newsprint exposing the core of deception. The gross WCG behavior cast deep shadows on what sheltered members wholeheartedly believed was God's **one and only true church** on earth. The volcano of 1970 events erupted in 1978 with the ousting of GTA. The WCG religiocrats™ continued displaying tacky, unethical behavior, as described and archived in hundreds of reports and resignation letters from high level ministers who dissociated themselves from the wicked corruption within the church. Less then a year following GTA's ousting from the WCG, several members approached the California Attorney General for assistance, which led to the infamous **receivership** and two year legal battle over Church and State. By the end of 1978, the volcano of pus exploded, introducing a fire drill management for the next two decades. The real story of the receivership crisis is deserving of its own book. Unfortunately, the only published account was skillfully crafted by **Stanley R. Rader**, author of, *Against The Gates of Hell*. This propaganda cover-up book was distributed through another Rader/HWA entrepreneur adventure called **Everest House Publishers**. Everest House publishing was supported by WCG tithes, but unbeknownst to the members, it carried hard-core occult publications. Ah, if the sheep only knew their hard-earned tithes were being funneled to corporations that espoused occult teachings and NEW AGE ways for living.

Adding salt to the already wounded Worldwide Church of God of the 1970s, **The Peoples Temple**, hiding out in the jungle of Guyana (their Petra) and under the guidance of Rev. Jim Jones (their Apostle), followed their one true God-inspired leader (their HWA) to their deaths. More recent, as we prepare to print Vol. FOUR, we are triggered again by the horrific mass murder-suicide committed with the obedience of a cult leader promising **a better kingdom**. The Jonestown event introduced an onslaught of public awareness of destructive cults in our society. Following the Jonestown event, many WCG dissidents distributed Kool-Aid packets to their "dictator" ministers as a wake-up call. While the ministers ignored the warnings, the world was waking up to the 20th Century under-standing of **Cults In America**.

[NOTE: Read this part in the Rules of Disinformation which talks about the CIA being involved in Waco and Jonestown. Our readers can do further research online concerning "Jim Jones being a CIA operative conducting mind control experiments."]

The Selling Of Assets and Loss Of Members

As pointed out in Volume THREE of the OIU, the Tkachians, in their heroic attempt to transform the cult into a

church espousing Christ, blamed the sudden financial crisis on the heroic doctrinal change. Within two weeks of the famous January New Covenant sermon, the Tkachians (David Hulme included) were issuing news releases to the *LA Times* and *Pasadena Star News* regarding the severe financial loss due to members withholding of tithes and offerings. Headlines read: Tithes and offerings wane because of doctrine change. Who would have known then that the WCG PR of doctrinal upheaval was a conditioning device targeted at the duped in prep for the next big event: the *United Church of God* breakaway.

Readers unknowing of the real WCG history had no way of discerning the newly devised deception and propaganda being played out before their confused eyes. Few realized that the organization, which touted 90,000 members, in reality, had about one third that number and was falling quickly. Fewer realized that assets were being *liquidated* with breathtaking speed starting as early as September of 1978. The secretive manipulations of (international) financial dealings were never exposed to the unsuspecting members. Despite the array of allegations permeating the church's headquarters surrounding financial corruption, the lavish multi-member WCG legal team spearheaded then by Rader, Kuhn, Cornwall and Helge employed unseen measures to hide the real financial WCG story.

As desperate members depended on the spin from the propaganda riddled *Worldwide News*, the real story played more like *The Godfather*. As mentioned earlier, the WCG has two histories: the members' view and the actual history. Those who viewed the movie, *The Godfather*, may recall how peaceful and joyful the baptism and wedding seemed to be. The viewer, however, was entertained with the duality of agenda splattered across the screens. Simultaneously occurring with the joyous events of the Corleone "Mafia" family, were murders, plots, corruption and evils of every description. Get the picture?

Secret liquidation of assets continued throughout the 1980s and into the 1990s. The church's financial condition **cannot** be determined by what is written to the members, or by the seldom-issued finance reports. Pastor General's letters trumpeting financial panic attacks were timely orchestrated like campaigns and always written in conjunction with pending "Holy Day" offerings. When one casually reads though forty years of member letters, the game plan becomes most obvious and quite unprofessional. One is able to discern many tricks to the WCG trade (scam). The few financial reports presented in the WWN were distortions of financial facts leaving nothing to be verified.

The WCG totalitarian government and dictatorial ministerial control provided the perfect medium for gross deception and despicable behavior to go unchecked.

Following the death of HWA in 1986, the multi-million dollar empire continued with business as usual-but don't be fooled into thinking the church or its members were the main event with the Tkachians, anymore than they were under the image of HWA. The WCG membership, as small at it was, was built through a carefully fabricated image of one man; that image was fashioned and orchestrated through propaganda and marketing, which created the image into an idol. That idol was **Herbert W. Armstrong**. It is uncertain whether the Tkachians were prepared to deal with the loss of HWA's image in 1986. Had it not been for Rader's keen marketing strategy introduced in 1979 called, "*Get The Church Back On Track,*" (GTCBOT) it is doubtful the declining membership would have sustained itself through the mid-1980s. The Rader plot did buy time and allowed for asset liquidation, while most members were distracted with the image. At the very least, the campaign maintained a holding pattern for the most dedicated and unquestioning adherents.

The newly devised **image** promotion of HWA is analogous to the same strategy used in Communist China with Mao Tse Tung. Huge picture promotions monopolized the presses as HWA's picture took center stage in every piece of literature shipped from Pasadena. The image of HWA was carefully carried out by God's ministers. A small increase in recruiting was noted following the early 1980s recession, but that, too, halted when Reagonomics spurred the happy yuppies era into financial oblivion instead of religion. The decadent 1980s showed more interest in Junk Bonds than they did following The Law. The death of HWA crushed the GTCBOT promotion leaving the Tkachians to handle the next fire drill. The Tkachians attempted to maintain the status quo, but soon found out that the WCG was a personality cult and the excitement from the sheep declined along with the "We Are "Family" membership. The declining membership did entertain a few baptisms mostly generated by fence-sitting members who believed that the Tribulation was closer at hand now that HWA was gone.

He Who Controls The Image Controls The Race. --Adolph Hitler

The see-speak-hear no evil mentality of members prevented critical questioning. As the leaders/ministers preached the party line to the church, they managed with a heavy fist to any who dared to buck their system The see-speak-hear no evil mentality of members prevented critical questioning. As the leaders/ministers preached the party line to the church, they managed with a heavy fist to any who dared to buck their system.

Tkach, Sr.'s role continued the image strategy with the "We Are Family" campaign. [**Note:** "The Family Album of the Worldwide Church of God" was distributed to all members in 1988.] The big message emulated the mission of HWA, while little notice was given to the cut backs such as discontinuing the international Sky Channel. While the Tkachians were propagandizing growth and "the power of the beast with ten horns," the duality was that *The Plain Truth* magazine, *The World Tomorrow* telecast and the HWA belief system was failing fast. **There was no market for any of it**. The presses cranked up the same old cold war propaganda booklets, but generated no growth or future perspective. The WCG may have been ninety-five percent corporate empire and political agenda, with five percent church, but how were the Tkachians supposed to continue the WCG duality if the five percent posturing as a church dried up?

At a time when the proposed income was looking healthy, shall we say, the "churchy part" was in steep decline. Because members were not included in on anything dealing with management matters, they were unaware of the depth of the WCG multi-faceted business machine. With hundreds of real estate holdings worldwide, how is one to track the WCG paper trail? How is one to investigate all the sub-corporations that seem to be dealing with everything but churchy things? Along with the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF), the WCG business shenanigans are as thickly woven as rat's nest. The U.S. and International investments have certainly been fruitful for the overall WCG picture. The liquidation of real estate was actually a wise move as the real estate hey day crashed by 1987-88 leaving those holding non-income producing property, in the bag, as they say. But where is ALL the money generated from the discreet selling of assets over the past (almost 20) years? Considering the current assets remaining, the figure must be in the billions. Certainly a question or request for assistance from the **Chase Manhattan Bank** or **Kuhn Loeb Bank** in is order! Wouldn't you think? Maybe the Rockefeller Foundation could lend a hand toward the investigation. Just a thought. [NOTE: David Rockefeller, Chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank is said to be the prime mover in the secret Bilderberg and Trilateral Commission elite groups. The reader is encouraged to do further research.]

As if the death of the HWA image wasn't enough, look what lurked around the corner!

The Evangelical Televangelist Scandal

"Please God, inspire 300 people to call with their credit card in hand to donate to your work." --Tammy Bakker

The Tkachians were well aware that the WCG propaganda picture was going to change dramatically as the 1990s unfolded. While the multi-millions were quietly changing hands throughout the previous decade, it would be a matter of time before the controllers were forced to radically change the failed religious product (traditionally known as Armstrongism), which concealed the multi-faceted financial pursuits. Some mistakenly think that because The World Tomorrow supposedly received high viewer ratings, that it generated tithe-paying recruits too. That was not the case. The telecast was a financial loss, as were all the other fire drill recruitment attempts with PT cardholders, PT magazine racks, junk mailings, etc.

Have you ever wondered why *The Plain Truth* did not feature an article about the deception in the Evangelical televangelist arena? Remember when Jim Bakker and Tammy were crying crocodile tears over the TV screens, only to be followed by Jimmy Swaggart with his "Forgive me, Lord, I have sinned against you" sobering routine for all the world to see? If that were not enough, Jerry Falwell was right on the transgressor's tails as he slid down that big expensive slide at Heritage Park to commemorate his proud purchase of the park. [UPDATE: Jerry Falwell died 5-15-07] What a display for all to see and what a learning lesson on human nature in the name of Christianity. Why, some wonder, didn't the WCG discuss this event the way it picked other events to capitalize? The answer is simple. Why would the WCG Tkachians want to draw attention to themselves? Instead, they used simple psychology as viewed in the WWN Dec. 12, 1988: David Hulme is quoted:

"Some astonishing changes are taking place in the religious viewing habits of the American public. The World Tomorrow is holding its own and even gaining ground in some age groups."

The article goes on to say the July Arbitron figures show that the religious audience is declining partly because of scandals. Out of a U.S. population of about 245 million, only some 13 million watch religious television. The top 10 religious television programs have lost more than 30 percent of their audience (2.6 million viewers) since November 1987.

Hulme adds:

"Meanwhile The World Tomorrow audience is proving to be stable. Audience levels for the telecast have generally remained at consistent levels, with slow but steady growth in all categories"

The article points out that Robert Schuller is the most-watched religious program, according to the Arbitron and has an audience of 70 percent women and 30 percent men. (Note: Robert Schuller died April 2, 2015.) Hulme states *The World Tomorrow* has even more viewers and attracts a younger group of people. Hulme defends the WT by stating:

"Other religious programs lost more than 50% of their audience and people are simply turning off, while The World Tomorrow audience is more broadly based than traditional religious audiences. Thus, many are exposed to God's truth that otherwise might not be reached."

Are we to believe the highly spotlighted WCG, with its corruption reports miles long, was not affected by the Evangelical corruption exposure? While New Ager Robert Schuller gathered no moss with his ecumenical message filling every seat at the famous Crystal Cathedral, the rest of TV "Christian" stars were having lots of problems. What is one to believe here? The reports given by Hulme shake out as mere propaganda leading members to think that *The World Tomorrow* is doing fine only to find the programming is pulled from television a few months later. Much could be expounded here, but the current point is that we should consider the implications that arose from the exposure of the Jonestown Massacre in 1978 to the Evangelical scandal of 1988. These episodes not only inspired (real) authorities to scrutinize supposed religious entities dressed in their multi-million dollar robes, but it started the viewing public thinking about Christian rip-off artists (for awhile anyway). The evangelical televangelist scam marked another event that worked against the already ailing Worldwide Church of God. By 1989, televangelists lost up to fifty percent of their TV income, including Pat Robertson's multi-million $$$ pursuit. The televangelist corruption exposure drew a mark for the WCG religiocrats™. Now the dung hit the fan and something had to be done to call off the dogs and attempt damage control.

The Five-Year Plan

and the beginning of The Cognitive Dissonance Campaign

Please take the time to review the next few pages, as the information is pertinent to understanding the reasons behind the events. Take special notice of the key planners. As you will learn through this and future OIUs, the very people in charge of the "breakaway" COGs are the same leaders who were highly involved in transforming the Worldwide Church of God into a **New Age Ecumenical** "church," espousing a mixed bag of unorthodox Protestant Evangelical teachings. To understand how the United Church of God was/is part of the overall strategy of **divide and conquer** the reader must assess the chronological steps that were taken and who were the designers of each step.

Future OIU reports about UCG will highlight the key players of the UCG development. These same players were the ones who placed the first slice in the WCG pie. Who said, **"You can run, but you can't hide**"? The incredible attempt to revise WCG history, past and current, is largely attributed to the key men who have been working together behind the scenes for decades. It is said, "Liars get caught because they trip over their own lies." Well, readers, there have been lots of falls, but sadly, few good people have been watching.

July 11, 1988 Worldwide News

"Bernard W. Schnippert, director of Media Production Services, was named coordinator in May of a task force to develop a five year plan for the entire work. Addressing the assembled group, Mr. Schnippert said the five-year plan is an organizational structure that allows for a planned approach. There is a danger of thinking it is set in concrete or in water. It will be reviewed and revised quarterly.... Satan would like us to think we can't

get there from here, but we can and we will."

April 3, 1989:

"It's amazing what you can do when you have people working together as a team," Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach said when reviewing the final version of the new five-year plan he commissioned last May."

"Bernard Schnippert, coordinator of the team Mr. Tkach commissioned to develop the plan, presented it to him March 16."

"The plan is a 43 page analysis of projected growth in the WCG, the Ambassador Foundation and Ambassador College."

"It begins with a discussion of the importance of planning and how it relates to Christian faith. The introduction opens by quoting Proverbs 29:18 'Where there is no vision, the people perish.' "

The article states the following:

- The bulk of the report is devoted to analysis of present program and expenses as well as projection of future needs.
- A natural consequence of preaching the Gospel, according to the plan, will be an increased and growing base of members and co-workers around the world.
- "The plan," according to Mr. Schnippert, "shows that Mr. Tkach values teamwork and is a planner, but that he follows God's lead."
- The task force put together a set of objectives that begins with a general overview and ends in specific details.
- Since the plan is ongoing, the task force will continue to meet. Although the first completed version of the plan has been given to Mr. Tkach, the group will present a revised plan (1990-1994) next year and each year thereafter.
- The task force included **Dexter Faulkner,** editor of the Church's publications; **Barry Gridley**, manager of Publishing Services; **David Hulme**, manager of Communication and Public Affairs; **Joseph Locke**, Ambassador Foundation vice president for international affairs; **Leroy Neff**, treasurer; **Larry Omasta**, producer of The World Tomorrow; **Rick van Pelt**, manager of Facilities Administration; **James Peoples**, manager of Computer Information Systems, Purchasing and Travel; **Richard Rice**, manager of the Mail Processing Center; **Larry Salyer**, associate director of Church Administration for international areas; **Mr. Stevens**, **Joseph Tkach, Jr**., associate director of Church Administration for the U.S.; Donald Ward, president of Ambassador College; **Mr. Wright** and **Ronald Sower** and **Scott Weiner**, who assisted **Mr. Schnippert** with the five year plan.

[UPDATE: Richard Rice died suddenly July 27, 2003 of a massive heart attack.]

July 3, 1989

Joseph W. Tkach states:

"As artisans we need to understand the blueprint to really begin to build the spiritual Temple that God is in the process of erecting."

"The mission statement of the church is "to proclaim the gospel of the coming Kingdom of God to all nations, to preach the Word of God and expound the doctrines of the Church, to develop and maintain a qualified ministry, to establish and support local congregations, to teach and spiritually nurture the members of the Church together with the co-workers and all who desire the truth of God and to provide assistance for the Church needy."

"Our work must be seen as a portion of a long continuum or process in which every person will be granted the opportunity for salvation."

Larry Salyer adds:

"The mission statement is the foundation for all planning. It shows us where to go and to whom we go. Without planning we make decisions based on money, opportunity, and emotion,"

[UPDATE: Larry Salyer is now with United Church of God-AIA.]

August 28, 1989

"If you fail to plan, you plan to fail," Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach said in his keynote address to managers assembled for the five-year plan workshop Aug. 2, and 3. The workshop was the first stage in the development of the ***1990-1994 Pastor General's Five-Year Plan.***

"This is the first year that the operation managers laid the ground-work for the plan in a two-day workshop. Mr. Tkach called the new format an important benchmark for the Work."

"This workshop "is one of the first times in God's Work that many of the leaders...have a forum to [discuss plans] as brothers in Christ, respecting one another, having tolerance for whatever differences of opinion might be, he said."

This article points out the managers and task force met in regular two-hour sessions to discuss goals and objectives for the Work throughout the previous year. Tkach explained:

- "That meeting was more than a spring-board for the five-year plan and that it also promotes communication among the departments, fostering the kind of team spirit that will make the operations more efficient."
- "For me to make decisions, I need to have accurate information funneled in to me."
- "Wherever you see success, a certain plan of action was employed to accomplish the objective."
- "Planning leads to success because it helps the planner focus on what he or she is doing."
- "When you have a plan, it enables you to meet challenges and to succeed when the unexpected comes along. No general goes into battle without planning his strategy. In fact, no successful general would go into battle without a contingency plan that his troops could fall back on."
- "Of course, one of the greatest benefits of right planning is that it involves teamwork. Two can't walk together unless they agree (Amos 3:3). Unless we plan, our operational managers won't be headed in the same direction. And what one department does affects the others."

February 19, 1990

"Bernard Schnippert, director of the five-year planning task force, presented the final version of the 1990-1991 five-year plan to Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach Jan. 12."

"The plan reflects presentations made by operation managers from many previous meetings and decisions based on the follow-up meetings Mr. Tkach conducted after he reviewed the outline of the plan in September."

"Mr. Schnippert explained that although the planning meetings and the plan itself are 'invaluable tools, the plan doesn't include every detail of every operation for the next five years.' It is rather a basis for decision-making and a springboard to more detailed planning on an operational level."

"The plan explains that the five-year planning meetings were a key element in a dynamic process that allowed the leaders of God's Work to identify the factors and conditions that must be considered and faced in the future. In addition, these meetings gave the managers a broader perspective, helping them see the future needs and challenges of the entire Work."

"The five-year plan goes on to say that the "Work will curtail the rapid growth in the media areas that it experienced in the mid- 1980s. As a result, US magazine circulation and television market penetration will decrease or remain flat."

"Farmers prune, or cut-back, to prepare for future growth. In the same way, the Church must prepare for future growth by cutting back in some areas, making it possible to upgrade the resources of the support departments."

August 13, 1990

"Vision is the art of seeing the invisible,' Pastor Joseph W. Tkach said in his opening address to operation directors and department managers assembled for the five-year plan workshop."

"Mr. Tkach summed up his thoughts about the need for Church management to be looking for new ideas and new methods to do the Work. People don't usually find things they're not looking for. If you're constantly looking for a better way, you're bound to come across it sooner or later."

"This workshop was the second stage of a three-stage process in the development of the 1991-1995 Pastor General's Five-Year Plan."

"Another reason the managers met for the planning workshop, Mr. Tkach pointed out, was 'to find better ways of doing their jobs.' "

August 27, 1990

Five-year reports emphasize conservative spending plan, says the main headline.

"Operation directors and department managers of the Work gathered for five-year planning meeting Aug. 1 and 2."

"This presentation was sobering, emphasizing the need for a conservative approach to spending," said Bernard Schnippert, director of Media Operations and leader of the five-year plan task force."

After an explanation of the sudden falling financial trend, Mr. Wright explains:

"In view of the present financial situation, the Church must build its financial base so it can preach the gospel message to the greatest number of people. That means first putting the message in the hands of individuals who can help support the Work in reaching others."

Evangelist David Hulme, vice president of Ambassador Foundation Domestic and Director of Communications & Public Affairs (CPA) *"spoke about the public relations efforts of the Church. The two most important objectives are to support and improve the credibility of the Worldwide Church of God and its activities; and to deliver information about the Church and its activities in a timely and appropriate manner to the media, community officials and other individuals or groups."*

"Discussing the difficulties of public relations, Mr. Hulme said, 'Staying out of the media is often tougher than receiving coverage.' But by using a proactive approach to provide personal briefings and information kits with accurate documentation, CPA helps the media better understand the Church and its activities."

"Because of this approach, during the televangelist scandals the Church was able to explain key positive differences between its activities and those of other religious organizations."

OIU Volume Four - Pt. 3 of 5

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

So was there a PLAN to DIVIDE and CONQUER the Worldwide Church of God? YOU BET THERE WAS!!!

If you were to quiz a member during the 1970s or 1980s about his reasons for remaining in the WCG, you would have probably been told it was because it was God's one true church and that Christ was coming "**in your lifetime**." This theme surrounded mountainous amounts of prophecy predictions, which provided the spiritual drug necessary to keep the obedient membership motivated and close to the vine. This wasn't just any prophecy-it was PROPHECY! Many forget its importance associated with each decision a given member would make. It was PROPHECY that determined everyone's future, be it the Kingdom or **Lake of Fire**. The common teaching was that one third of the Bible consisted of PROPHECY and the only person who had the code was Herbert W. Armstrong. The Armstrong spin with PROPHECY inspired members to adhere to the strict obedient demands termed as God's Laws.

Why was PROPHECY such a successful tool for the WCG system? Here lies another topic respectful of much space; however, for now, let's look at how PROPHECY (future telling) works on the spiritual minded. Taking the example from 1972, WCG old timers will recall how HWA prophesied that the end of the age was going to occur. The years building toward this event inspired thousands to give every available penny to HWA and to God's earthly headquarters. Thousands had their luggage packed and ready to run at the ministers' call. The ESN has files of letters and personal stories from those who were caught in the web of deception. Heart wrenching words depict stories of times when one would do anything to be counted worthy of the great escape to safety. The many PROPHECIES were delivered by scripted words and flagrant pictures describing torturous events. The WCG publications consisted of riveting pictures and stories about weather calamities, nuclear wars, crime, disease, death and mass destruction. All this "fear tactic" advertising coincided with society's fears surrounding the "cold war" era. **The WCG message clearly capitalized on despicable, traumatic "soon coming" events.** The big question for members, or those lured into the WCG's teachings, was, "Will you be worthy to escape the pending fiery Tribulation?" The answer is found throughout the WCG archive of propaganda books, reprints, tapes and articles.

F-E-A-R!

[NOTE: This part equally applies to the fear methods that are being used in all authoritarian, exploitive offshoots and splinter groups of WCG.]

The psychological base that placed WCG adherents into traumatized states was fear. Once a member was successfully entrenched into the fear indoctrination, that member became the property of the controllers. The syndrome became a "Catch 22" situation. All other teachings were anchored on the great escape from the dreadful, fiery, Great Tribulation that was to occur "in your lifetime."

Professionals call this manipulation "**fear phobia induction**." Once one is fear phobic, one becomes submissive to authority or events. For some, the trauma is so paralyzing it causes dissociative disorders. As mentioned above, dissociative disorders cause one to "trance out" once the trauma becomes too frightening or unbearable. This same syndrome is often observed with victims of physical or sexual abuse. The victim is under constant infliction, but lives in a state of denial. The overwhelming fears become compartmentalized as one functions in a state of cognitive dissonance.

[UPDATE: Also read: What do I do about phobias? (Q&A)]

It is difficult for many to comprehend that their leaders actually **intentionally initiated** these techniques and were very skilled in psychology and behaviorism. How, many wonder, could a man not be deathly fearful of using such deception under the name of Jesus Christ and God? This naïveté comes from the repression of

education or critical thinking fostered within the system. The very things the members were prohibited from learning or doing, were exactly what the "leaders" engaged in. While Joe Tkach, Jr., and the rest of the Tkachians were preaching against evil, satanic psychology, they were actively obtaining higher degrees in the very art they labeled satanic. While the member focused on obedience, God's great ministers were increasing their intellect on psychological theories and studies of human behavior. Only the educated are in tune with the Skinner box experiments, hypnotism techniques and latest developments with human brain conditioning. [Refer to the book, *Snapping: America's Epidemic of Sudden Personality Change*] Ministers received free (paid by tithe and offerings) university education to hone their skills in all these areas.

This scenario is indicative of how the entire system has been managed. The little members have been constantly kept off balance with phobic induction, distractions, propaganda, abuse and multi-faceted techniques of mind-control. Meanwhile, the controllers of the conglomerate are busy little beavers orchestrating their carefully contrived agenda and goals.

Church members from the early 1980s will recall the revival of strict obedience enhanced by *The Incredible Human Potential* and *Mystery of the Ages* publications. By 1990, the WCG members were heavily drugged with the large dose of PROPHECY in every form. *The Good News* and support publications, along with weekly injections of "sermon," instilled the twisted PROPHECY repeatedly into the already fearful minds. It certainly was "a people made ready," as Tkach, Sr. often quoted. The 1980 WCG membership was brutally traumatized with carefully administered psychological techniques of mind control that prepared the docile, submissive people for the Tkachian THOUGHT-REFORM program.20 By the time 1995 arrived, the Worldwide people were so traumatized they didn't know what hit them, which is the precisely why one often hears a WCGer say, "**Nothing's really changed**."

The Tkachian controllers may not have planned to take their "new doctrinal stance" to the current level of speaking in tongues, hand waving and high-level emotionalism. They did, however, fully plan on doing away with the Worldwide Church of God as it was reputed for all its history. The famous **Five-Year Plan** consisted of making whatever changes were necessary to carry on the "hidden agenda" under the guise of a church. Armstrongism was no longer a product that recruited members. There may have been 30,000 supporters prior to 1995, but those supporters were more of a financial drain for the WCG than a financial investment, due to the cost of carrying the local churches. While the duality of WCG agenda during 1970s-1980s supported the costs of carrying local churches, things changed by the 1990s. Considering the lavish expenses relating to salaried ministers (including housing and perks to boot) all the tithes and offerings of a given local area could not support the expense. Local churches operated in the red-always. Headquarters kept most all offertory/tithe money distributing the wealth into the physical empire and silk-lined pockets of worldly men with titles, not the local churches. So, even though each local area had faithful tithing members, compared with the millions needed to support the WCG machine and agenda, the members' offerings were nominal and unable to support the hidden empire. If there were hope of turning the physical "organization" into a profitable business, gain acceptance by the Christian community, expand the newly formed WCG or **Plain Truth Ministries (PTM)** for profit producing marketing of tapes, videos, music and publications, the controllers had to Stalinize Armstrongism (revise history without HWA in the picture) and manipulate a complete revision of its history in the eye of the public. That is exactly what the WCG has done.

The manipulative association with the Billy Graham evangelistic organization literally aligned the perpetrators with credibility distracting the public from learning the real history behind the waste, fraud, abuse and corruption of every degree.

It is vital to note here that 1993 marked the twenty-year anniversary regarding corrupt doctrinal exposure. To a minuscule member, it's almost impossible to conceive that Joe Tkach, Sr. and Jr., Greg Albrecht, Tom Lapacka, Mike Feazell, David Hulme, Herman Hoeh, Ron Kelly, Dean Blackwell, Rod Meredith, Victor Kubic and the other men who worked under them (too numerous to mention here), deceitfully stole money under layers of lies and pretenses starting around the late 1960s. Why can we call these men liars? Unlike the controlled members, these men knew the massive WCG doctrinal challenge brought forth in the early 1970s. **They knew** they were stealing tithes and offerings without merit! They knew about the rotten corruption on every level. And, with all their knowledge they continued to repress and abuse the members as they intentionally filled their fraudulent, greedy pockets with self-gratification. They are perpetrators of religious fraud skilled with

ability to exploit the (religious) loopholes of the Constitution. **Remember--all of these men** knew what occurred in the 1970s. Every current publication issued from the main COGs distort the truths of the past while the writers and thieves continue to disguise themselves in sheep's clothing, as they intentionally deceive, use and abuse God's children!

The Tkachians often use the excuse that they had nothing to do with the wrongs of the past. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is they who grew up in this organization, attended the Imperial school system, attended Bricket Wood and Pasadena and became witnesses to the pivotal events of the 1970 era. These mavericks, now in their forties and fifties, were well into their twenties when their mentors and parents wore the crowns as they sat on the thrones of the Armstrong kingdom.21

Secrets and Lies... will forever be used as the red carpet approach to change; the cult's perpetrators use this format as they manipulate their way through their next power and wealth agendum. Why? For the most part, they go unchallenged. They have successfully embedded trauma programming so deeply into the minds of their victims, few survivors are left with any strength to research and investigate this great hypocrisy. Once someone escapes the clutches of the perpetrators, they must draw on their remaining reserve of spiritual and psychological strength to just survive.

The Godfather Buys A New Bride

David Hulme is one character that could write volumes on the dual agenda. It was he who made the initial contacts with the "outside Christian cult watchers" as early as 1988. Some mistakenly equate Tkach, Sr. as a the main initiator of secret meetings with the "Christian counter cult organizations." That is not the fact! David Hulme was in the forefront with the PR campaign and was assisted by Michael Snyder. [**Note by ESN:** Radio interview with Michael Snyder, December 13, 1990, WMUZ, Detroit (tape with ESN), shows proof that David Hulme did not reveal all the truth in his resignation letter and was a principal architect with WCG's "transformation" behind members' backs.] The planning committee was tightly organized by Joe Jr.; Mike Feazell; Greg Albrecht and Tom Lapacka. There were others with significant roles such as Victor Kubik, Dean Blackwell, Joe Locke and Herman Hoeh, but these fellows remained in the background. David Hulme's cunning personality won the "heart" of Ruth Tucker by the late 1980s. Hulme and Tucker became close friends as they worked together on the WCG doctrinal committee. Ruth Tucker must have felt quite wooed by the impressive TV evangelist pleading for her assistance to discern the Bible. Readers should review David Hulme's role in the WCG double agenda in past OIUs.22 It wasn't long after Hulme's cozy relationship with Ruth Tucker was initiated that her face was featured in *The Plain Truth* with an interview article dealing with women and abuse. Coinciding with the **Five-Year Plan** strategy, Hulme, Joe Jr., Feazell and the rest of the task force repeatedly initiated propaganda meetings with the publishing anti-cult evangelical arena.23 The task force stretched out to anyone of significance that would eventually affect the "big picture." Seventh Day Church of God, Seventh-day Adventists and Pentecostal groups were among the long list targeted with the propaganda, "we're not a cult anymore" campaign. The astounding aspect to the real secret **Five-Year Plan** was that the entire membership was told nothing about the maneuvers taking place with the men in charge of the multi-millions. The subtle modifications to HWA's eighteen truths were positioned carefully and tucked under the increased pressure of obedience to the WCG Law. Few members were affected by Gerald Flurry's departure and fewer were concerned over those who suddenly fell away from the truth. By 1993, Ron Kelly, Joe Jr., Feazell, Blackwell and Hoeh introduced new ideas that were billed as **new truths straight from God to Tkach.** A total babble of spin is how one terms the delivery of the so-called new truths. Contradictions and duplicity monopolized every "headquarters" sermon. **The best of the bunch award for spin control** is awarded to Keriokus Savrenites for his famous rendition of "The Nature (Spin) Of God." Joe Jr. receives honorable mention for his series of sermons surrounding sinful self-esteem, wrongful use of emotions and the evils of psychology. [NOTE: Tkach, Jr. is known to have a degree in psychology and was formerly a social worker.]

By 1994, the counter cult coalition who befriended the WCG cult leaders began fluffing their own peacock feathers with confidence as they began jockeying for notoriety among themselves as to who was going to get the publicity and credit for bringing the Armstrong cult to "Christ." Individuals or ministries such as Lorri MacGregor, Ruth Tucker, Mark Kellner, Watchmen Fellowship and Christianity Today joined the race to publish their own personal renditions of the Armstrong cult in transition. The reader may recall HWA often alluding to

duality. What most failed to recognize is that the duality of the entire organization mimicked the split personality-the insiders and the outsiders. The secrecy measures kept the right hand from knowing what the left hand was doing at all times. While the Tkachians increased programming techniques through cognitive dissonance and reaffirmed the Armstrongism (all laced with lots of fear and guilt) with the members, the very same **ringleaders** were claiming the opposite strategy to their new publishing friends in the Evangelical arena!

One cannot jump in at the end of the Worldwide Church of God movie and get the theme of the picture. Nor can one discern the whole book from reading the first sentence of each paragraph. The controllers have a great advantage because few are in the know, thanks to the mind-control, manipulation and slick psychological methods inflicted on the unsuspecting. The awareness of the incredible chronology is essential to understanding the reasons behind the plethora of events that have occurred these past eight years. Those indoctrinated into the WCG system are at a grave disadvantage as their critical thinking skills have been repressed and replaced with embedded commands such as: "**God's in Charge-don't question**." Or: "**Anger is of Satan and it is bitterness**." No loyal insider escaped the embedded indoctrination that continues to mentally inhibit or paralyze those once targeted. No matter what one's personal religious belief is, if one is affiliated with the WCG indoctrination regime, or remains affiliated with the extension groups that still practice the deceptive mind manipulating techniques, he/she is part of another undefined group--the walking wounded.24

"The Little Rascals" featuring "Hanky and Spanky")

Some may be wondering why **Hank Hanegraaff** and **Christian Research Institute** have not been mentioned yet. Hanegraaff's part in the WCG spiritual fraud warrants special attention and is deserving of its own section and title. The ESN offers considerable reports on the Hank Hanegraaff story that unfolded over the past three years. The ESN, through its investigative research, exposed the inner workings of Hank and his affiliation with the Tkachians. The ESN research was documented as early as January 1994 and was in the forefront of exposing the deceitful shenanigans going on behind the scenes. As in other areas of our investigative research, a few propagandist opportunists used our work to write their reports and claimed it as their own investigative work. They, too, will be exposed in due time for what they are.

While the title **Hanky and Spanky** may spur a chuckle for some, it is not meant to remove the seriousness of what prevailed between these two "religiocrats" throughout 1995-96. When one observes and reviews the deception and manipulation that occurred at the expense of those spiritually and financially victimized, more unchristian terms of expressive quality come to mind. But, for sake of respect for the reader, Hanky and Spanky should depict the image in the likeness of their behavior. Spanky, as you recall, was the Little Rascal always conjuring up plots and often looking a little dumb by the end of the flick because his plotting failed or backfired. The duality of the Hank and Tkach story, although serious, lends itself to the Little Rascal theme. **Spanky is Joe**, and **Hanky**… Well, he's a new (age) character.

CRI Story

Those who have followed the CRI story for the past several years have been most entertained by its main character, Hank Hanegraaff. Christian Research Institute (CRI) gained a solid reputation under the direction of its founder, Walter Martin. Following Martin's sudden death on June 26, 1989, Hank assumed the role as president of CRI. Hank's takeover of CRI is shrouded in deception, prompting grave questions about Hank's history and motive. As a newcomer to CRI shortly before Martin's death, Hank suddenly moved his way to the top bypassing other commendable CRI employees who would have been more appropriate for the job. This sudden climb to the "big boss" position might deem appropriate had Hank had credentials for the position. Hank's background includes experience as Sears (washing machine?) salesmen in Florida. Despite what some may think, Hank had no ministerial credentials, no proper theology education and a questionable education history. Whatever qualified Hank for the position of the Bible Answer Man is anyone's guess, and how in the world Hank wiggled his way into the Presidential position of CRI is beyond comprehension. Guess you have to live in Southern California to understand! [UPDATE: Christian Research re-located to Charlotte, North Carolina in 2005, with an affiliate (CRI Canada) in Calgary, Alberta.]

Within a few years, Hank's real personality and behavior permeated the staff at CRI, causing a major uproar

with the employees and leading to a lawsuit confronting the massive corruption surrounding Hank. Hank was charged with a gamut of allegations relating to stealing, plagiarizing, abuse of almost every degree, added to the lawsuit were violations of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA).

[UPDATE: It has been alleged that The Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability (ECFA) purports to work on behalf of the donor but in reality exists for the spenders. Read: To Whom Is ECFA Accountable?]

There seems to be no end to the deception and manipulations with Hanegraaff. The ESN has ample documentation on Hank Hanegraaff's alleged abuses and corruption. Past OIUs and special reports have gone into greater detail about this CRI impostor. How uncanny that the highly publicized counter cult publishing organization was being run by a character whose style adulates the best of the cult leaders. One person described Hank's style as a Billy Sunday and Herbert W. Armstrong combination. After meeting him in person, we totally agree, but Hank's mentors had a far better command of the English language.

Hank's pseudo identity became exposed in 1993-94. His aberrant managing style left more than twenty-four employees screaming about his severe abuse. Testimonies point to his shouting authority, unchristian manipulations and blatant deceptions against his followers and employees.

The ESN started an investigative research project on Hank in April on 1994. We were lucky to have been "in the know" about **Hanky's** inner workings early on before he and Joe went pubic with the propaganda and deception campaign following the death of Tkach, Sr. The latest we've heard about the CRI is that original employees, with the exception of about three, have left CRI through being fired or through forced resignation. Sound familiar? Hank's corruption exposure forced many in the Christian community to lose respect for him.25 By 1995 CRI's reputation was worthless in the eyes of many. Anyone of merit or knowledge of his corruption involvement dissociated themselves from the organization. Among those who have departed is Paul Carden. Paul was previously in charge of the international work for CRI and was often heard on the Bible Answer Man radio broadcast.

CRI Asks ESN For Help

In April of 1994, Paul called the ESN out of a desperate attempt to gather information for a meeting he was having in Pasadena that morning. You can imagine how surprised we were to learn that CRI would agree to meeting with Joe, Mike and Greg, without any preparation. Paul confirmed that the CRI had no WCG materials on hand other than a few old booklets from the past. He was most grateful for our assistance as he jotted down at least fifteen questions to ask the cult leaders. Paul was anxious that day and very unprepared for a meeting with the skilled con artists. He promised he would call the ESN that afternoon with a follow-up from the meeting, but didn't. A week later the ESN spoke with his assistant and was told the meeting went well. Paul's avoidance of the ESN was a red flag that prompted us to scrutinize Hank Hanegraaff and CRI. Our thorough research has been praised by many and has assisted others who would have been manipulated by this charlatan. The ESN carries files of letters from many WCG exiters who reached out to CRI and requested assistance from Hank. Letter after letter went ignored by Hank, as he consummated his newly formed friendship with the cult's leaders. Why, you ask? Many wondered how Hank Hanegraaff could get sucked into the lies of the cult's leaders. Well readers, Hank didn't get sucked into anything; as we have said in the past, **Hanky and Spanky** are two peas in a big pod. Hank's widespread corruption exposure might have removed Hank from the WCG eye throughout 1994-95, but Tkach, Sr. wasn't cold in the ground before Hank reared his face to the WCGers for a grand appearance. The October 1995 WWN displays the first of many PR pictures with **Hanky and Spanky** doing their thing. Tkach, Sr. had little knowledge of **Spanky's** games with **Hanky**. It is unclear at this time who initiated the **Hanky Spanky** team, but we do know the marriage is self-serving on both parts. **Hanky**'s failure in managing the CRI created a considerable loss of income and reputation for the evangelical counter-cult ministry. It was a downhill battle for CRI to hold together, following the damage from **Hanky**'s managerial deception. Following the published picture in *The Worldwide News* of **Hanky** and **Spanky** hugging at Tkach, Sr.'s grave site, [WN, 10-3-95, pg. 8] **Hanky** started an all out Public Relations (war) campaign about the Worldwide Church of God no longer being a cult, but having embraced "true Christianity." **Hanky** became the official spokesman for the historic WCG cult turned church. Hank proudly picked up where David Hulme left off. What a commendable replacement for Public Relations man, David Hulme. And what a good job **Hanky** did. Week after week **Hanky** used the radio show to propagandize how the wonderful

"historic" Worldwide Church of God had turned to God while he credited himself as the one responsible for such an historic accomplishment. Even more laughable, are the carefully crafted letters to his readers blowing his own horn and begging for handouts (donations) so he (the hypocrite) could continue to witness to the "cults and the occult"!

Spanky pays Hanky BIG $$$ for the PR propaganda

Hanky's new WCG PR job gave him the money-producing product he needed, following the mess he made of CRI the previous years. We've learned that **Hanky** is well paid by **Spanky** and the gang. Not only did **Hanky** financially capitalize on all the WCG propaganda, but also **Hanky** is paid as a Consultant for his appearances that help dupe the public into the big lie. The ongoing WCG financial perks filling the pockets of **Hanky** must be sizable, as **Spanky** could not have performed such propaganda hypocrisy without the aid of **Hanky**. It takes a pro and a big mouth to spread disinformation throughout the land. **Hanky** must be worth his weight in gold. It's doubtful that those who incorporated the Hanegraaff lies and manipulations knew that Hanegraaff was being paid deceitful bucks from the cult to propagate the good news. **Hanky and Spanky** needed each other and served each other well. As usual, the propagandists' deceivers and controllers are the winners, and the losers are those caught in the web of despicable, sociopathic, religiously cloned deceit! The CRI counter-cult--cult leader and the WCG cult leader say it best when they call themselves--brothers!

In the words of **Hanky Hanegraaff** in his monthly money-begging appeal letter to: Co- laborers in Christ:

"As I extended my arms and embraced Joseph Tkach, Jr. at his father's funeral, comforting him in his great loss and encouraging him in the hope of the resurrection for all those who belong to Christ, I couldn't help but feel that Walter Martin, in another place [that's heaven folks], was extending the same embrace to Joseph Tkach, Sr."

"While the support of friends like you is making possible an unprecedented harvest today, I am absolutely convinced that "we ain't seen nothin' yet!"

Ain't that the truth!!!

The following lists some of the Hanky and Spanky propaganda that has taken place since the death of Tkach, Sr. (Dad):

- Hanegraaff's attendance at Tkach, Sr. Funeral.
- Hanegraaff's many letters to his followers about the WCG's historic transition.
- Hanegraaff's many meetings and activities with Jr. and Albrecht.
- Hanegraaff's frequent visits to Big Sandy campus for undisclosed reasons.
- The Tkachians join Hanegraaff on the Bible Answer Man show in January (Dec. 1996 and Feb. 1997).
- Glowing articles in the WWN about Hank Hanegraaff.
- Glowing articles in the *Christian Research Journal* about the WCG and Joe Jr.
- One of the most pathetic attempts with Hank's WCG money grabbing schemes was his telemarketing scam. We received reports from several currently on Hank's mailing list about calls they received from CRI.
- Apparently, the recipients picked up their phone to a tape recorded one minute boast session by none other than Hank himself. After Hank's big pitch about how he brought the Worldwide Church of God to Christ, he begged the listeners for a $40.00 minimum donation.

As the **Little Rascals** continue to be exposed, the more sinister agenda continues to surface. Hank remains under fire by many in the Evangelical arena not only for his immoral behavior, but also because of his ecumenical associations and propensity toward "Catholicism." It turns out **Hanky** has much in common with the New Age. His plushy job purporting his "historic views" on anything and everything gives **Hanky** the MO to market a wide variety of slick sales tactics to the unsuspecting to inspire donations into his pocket. He'll even take your stocks and bonds and stack the "CRI" portfolio. Hold on to your hat and money and stay tuned--these **Little Rascals** have only just begun.26

If you want to use the Internet to learn more about **Hanky** and his schemes, just type CRIsis, or his name, in the search engines and tune into all the web pages exposing the real Hank![27]

[UPDATE: CRI: "A bastion for orthodoxy" (exposé report on Christian Research Institute) [offsite article]

What is Armstrongism?

The word Armstrongism was coined during the initial counter-cult movement starting in the late 1960s. The intense scrutiny from cult-watchers-secular or evangelical-summed up the WCG behavior and theology with this one word. Armstrongism explained the teachings of Herbert Armstrong, Herman Hoeh, Rod Meredith and other old timers who devised the Armstrong package. Most actual teachings, commonly referred to as **God's way**, was largely derived from many other religious institutions such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Pentecostals, Seventh-day Adventists, Mormons, Quakers, Judaism and so forth. **The WCG was confronted on many occasions for plagiarizing doctrines, writings and teachings, while claiming them exclusive.** The British Israel (BI) teaching started penetrating the United States when the Ku Klux Klan adopted it as one of its prime "biblical" doctrines to verify that the KKK (Ku Klux Klan) was actually doing God's work. As BI gathered popularity in the Protestant arena starting in the 1930s, its understanding was refashioned several times over. Of late, it is popularly known as the *Identity Movement*.

The OIU often uses the term Armstrongism to describe the "teachings" and evolution of the teaching of the Armstrong organization. The error remains when Herbert W. Armstrong is hailed as being the originator of specific Biblical teachings he espoused. For instance, the doctrine of the God Family comes directly from the Mormon church, which he may have adopted from Freemasonry earlier on. Each and every specific teaching had a foundation prior to Herbert Armstrong marketing or packaging it as—his.

[UPDATE: For more on the origins of HWA's doctrines read: Herbert W. Armstrong's Religious Roots and ESN article: *Mystery of the Ages* (a critical review)]

The HWA teachings or "doctrine" was often used as an authoritarian device to control the membership. The system of **new truths**, which HWA claimed were given to him directly by God, was, in fact, a package that complemented the totalitarian regime and other agenda, which he headed. Here again lies a duality or duplicity.

Those questioning doctrine need to explore the origins and evolution of Seventh-day Adventism, Freemasonry, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and the Catholic dynasty.

It is often said, "Separate the message from the messenger." At times this is most helpful; however, with the incredible deception that has been bestowed upon all those who espouse the message once delivered, one should start looking deeper into what was taught then and what is being taught today by their respective minister. More often than not, it is old Armstrongism rehashed over and over and over again for the same (incredulous) purpose it was packaged in the first place. And that has nothing to do with truth.

The OIU respects personal beliefs, but will expound on specific teachings when appropriate to demonstrate the destruction and deception caused by the belief or behavior. I am thankful for the opportunity to have the acquaintances of many Independent ministers who, while continuing to teach many tenants taught from their Armstrong experience, have through research and study, explored the origins of these teachings and have moved away from the paradigm once delivered.

The ESN takes the position of strong exploration into the genealogy of religious groups and the difference between organizations and church. More on this in the future. One famous ESN quote is, "The story is not about doctrine."

OIU Volume Four - Pt. 4 of 5

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

THE HISTORY CHANNEL YEAR BY YEAR--1995 DIVIDE AND CONQUER

When Prophecy Fails

The OIU Volume THREE detailed the chronology of events that occurred starting from December 1995 with the departing of the **United Church of God, an International Association** (UCG) from its mother, the **Worldwide Church of God**. The OIU carefully documented the events and highlighted key characters involved in the setting up of the UCG. A 300-page Document Package supporting the OIU was made available for those who requested it. A future COP-AID investigative and research report will offer a biography of the men controlling the main extension groups and will expose many of the sinister or dual workings that have occurred behind the scenes. There is no question in the minds of those who have investigated the total unfolding of events, that the United Church of God was uniquely orchestrated and contrived. The plan that manipulated and captured WCG members was targeted to those prone to adhering to the Armstrong doctrines--without question. You may recall, shortly following the traumatic Tkach video series there was a barrage of rumors, disinformation, propaganda, and blatant lie--following lie--following contradictions--about everything from tithing woes to ministerial defections. All this sudden confusion was swiftly targeted toward the same members suffering traumatic affects following Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach's New Covenant sermon.

With the passing of time, more individuals are realizing that the United Church of God, spearheaded by David Hulme, was not an innocent defection from the naughty mother-church, but rather an intentional deceptive development to manipulate the 50% membership that would continue to adhere to Armstrongism. With approximately 35,000 members on the WCG roster pre-1995, it took about eight weeks to usher 17,000 of them over to the "**United Way**." David Hulme, one of the main architects if the WCG divide (and Ruth Tucker's chummy friend), was awarded the title of leader (Pharaoh) of the United COG pyramid shortly after **sudden doctrinal panic**.

By July, the WCG "operation **Divide and Conquer** was accomplished. Any local WCG church that could carry at least 50% of their membership into the UCG was carefully and timely shuffled into the new WCG clone (UCG) with the aid of the local minister. The Tkachians continued inflicting the psychological trauma on church membership with the continued doctrinal contradiction and dis-conformation. As the dedicated members (victims) were dissociating through cognitive dissonance caused by the deceptive scrambling programming,[28] the Tkachians continued traumatizing the flock with the careful division and fragmentation plans for dismantling the sixty-year old organization.

The slick leaders knew full well they would succeed with their plans years before carrying out the event. The facts cannot be distorted through careful scrutiny of the events despite the revision attempts by those involved in the deception. As one person stated it well, "The fact that they lied and lied and lied is proof enough for me that the leaders from the WCG and UCG have clandestine motives and have proven themselves heartless hypocrites, as they continue to manage with deception and abuse!"

As the book ***When Prophecy Fails*** demonstrates, "when dis-conformation is suddenly inflicted on a given membership, the adherents will regroup and continue to espouse the leaders' original teachings and messages, often leaving [them] traumatized, more fanatical and militant than previously practiced." Be it Jonestown, Omen Reike, Branch Davidians, Heaven's Gate, or Herbert W. Armstrong, the bulk of surviving members will continue proselytizing the message once delivered **without questioning the messenger or the origin of the message.**

The OIU has dedicated much space in explaining the business maneuvers behind the WCG restructuring, but has not to this point discussed the political agenda that permeates the WCG system. Because all view the event through their own eyes and experiences, consideration toward the WCG's political history is often overlooked. Added to that complication is the lack of available resource material or historical publications that

outlines the real history of the WCG and its leaders. The OIU Volume FIVE `97 series 1-8 will explore the depth of the NEW AGE Christianity and its relationship to the WCG conglomerate. While many have been closely focused on every whim of doctrine, the NEW AGEers are following their plans very nicely. The doctrinal distraction and confusion plays a big role in keeping the "little flocks" entertained, while the controllers are concerned with other, more global priorities.

There are "**reasons behind the events**" and as each month passes, the actual monarch butterfly spreads its wings and shows it colors. Those not watching and discerning the unfolding events will doubtfully catch up, or be able to extract themselves from participating in the thickly woven deception-spiritually, psychologically, or otherwise.

The Flock Scatters!!! Does It Really???

One of the big propaganda distortions (lies) the Tkachians often repeat is that the WCG:

1. Had 80,000 to 200,000 members before "the cult leaders turned to Christ."
2. At least 30,000 (recently quoted 40,000) are part of the "unchurched," meaning they abandoned the wonderful "Christ centered" changes and are now floating in "limbo" out in the prairies.
3. Several thousand have joined the splinter groups to continue "legalism."
4. At least 35,000 remain dedicated members of the Worldwide Church of God

All of the above claims are grossly false, but necessary statements on behalf of those masterminding the multiplicity agenda. Firstly, the Tkachians must convince the "public" that the membership was far greater than it actually was. As stated in past OIUs, if the truth about the actual membership was revealed, many questions regarding the annual multi-million dollar income would be asked by anyone caring about waste, fraud and abuse or other mishandling of non-profit 501(c)3 organization money. It seems doubtful the Tachyons forethought that the many false representations of actual church membership count would, in fact, be noted by others, or they would have been more careful-at least consistent with their statements. "**Oh what tangled webs we weave, when first we practice to deceive**!" says Shakespeare. It is often stated that one trips over his own lies mainly because he forgets them, or covers them up with new lies. When we view the enormity of the duplicity and contradictions put forth by the Tkachians since the day they "took charge," we are reminded how simple honesty really is, as it often makes sense and leaves little doubt for skeptical review. We might be entertained or distracted by propaganda, but eventually questions and doubt arise inspiring exploration of the questions.

Recently, the ESN noticed an increase of inquisitive minds that are now realizing that their WCG role to, "**be like children**" was just rotten manipulation that inhibited them from questioning "God's Government." Years of fear/threat phobia management inflicted on the members served the WCG mind control program, which kept faithful eyes-ears-and mouths shut!

If you watched the Tkachian PR campaign at work in early 1995 you saw how the Tkachians were manipulating the "public" to believe that the heroic act of bringing the cult into the church fold caused 30,000 (phantom) members to be "unchurched." Tkach, Jr. often describes this unchurched flock as being in a state of cognitive dissonance. The Tkachians are often publicly commenting on the lost and stray members, leaving less attention focused on where the bulk of WCG members really ended up. This is a very important point here. The Tkachians did not publicly discuss the details of the **United Church of God** on radio or newsprint through all of 1995 and 1996. It was amazing to watch the Tkach propaganda cover up and distract the audience from knowing any of the real important maneuvers that were occurring with the WCG breakdown. The Tkachian focus on the 30,000 (recently increased to 40,000) unchurched ex-WCGers gave Tkach the ammunition to cover the **real incriminating fact** that there were not more than 35,000 members (including men, women, and children) in the entire organization from the start of the 1995 UCG division from WCG. Now if the all-seeing-eye public were to discover that 19,000 of the 35,000 members were shuffled over to a WCG extension group along with 450 ministers, fingers would start pointing to the cult leaders of WCG. Questions would arise about how the WCG managed to accumulate such extraordinary wealth with such a small impoverished membership all those years. Simple math with numbers and average yearly incomes demonstrate that the WCG could NEVER accumulate the swaggering power and wealth it actualized. The necessity to inflate the numbers was

imperative to the welfare of those manipulating the purse strings of the multi-million $$$ empire. It is possible that through all the years of WCG's existence from 1930s to 1990s there could have been many thousands who exited the webby clutches of the whole COG organization. Considering all whom may have left from 1930s to current, it is doubtful that the number reaches the pseudo inflated number Tkach continues to propagate in effort to trick his public into thinking there really was a church of that enormity. If he, and the rest of the deceivers and exploiters, are ever called by IRS to give an answer, they better have their stories straight. Maybe there is someone in the IRS that can't be paid off with millions to keep his mouth shut! Maybe there is someone in the IRS and Justice Department that is a little smarter than the typical criminal religiocrat! [More info is in OIU#6: Myth 1 and 2 - the greatest of them all]

Despite the Tkachian frequent commercials29 drawing attention to Rod Meredith's Global Church of God, Rod picked up at most, a measly 6,000 members from the Worldwide Church of God. [UPDATE: Roderick C. Meredith later founded Living Church of God in 1998.] Fanatical [Gerald] Flurry possibly recruited 50 members following the fragmentation. But, the real story sits under the UCG with little over 18,000 ex-WCG followers along with the bulk of ex-WCG ministers. The UCG boasts over 450 in the ministry and has assumed many of the old WCG offices internationally. Little, however, is discussed how the incredible UCG extension group is organized or funded. A separate OIU will cover in detail the UCG story from development in 1995 to what is currently happening. We will detail events with its organizers and project what is in store for the UCG adherents.

For those who wish a hint, let it be said that the real Worldwide Church of God is alive and well, its new name is the United Church of God. The **Divide and Conquer** strategy, which separated WCG, positioned the bulk of members under the umbrella of UCG and allowed the same sinister-covert operation to maintain business as usual. All it needed to do was go underground with a new name. Thanks to the Tkachians, the UCGers were well protected and few of the counter-cult researchers knew what was going on. And who was going to tell them? Don't count on Larry Stammer from the *LA Times*. He is going to write what the cult leaders tell him too. That's the routine. The few super-duped, well intended, counter-cult researchers, such as ex-Mormon, Janis Hutchinson, took whatever the cult leaders said at face value when they were charmed by the priestly Tkachians. Hutchinson, like others, figured the WCGers rebelled against the new teachings by storming off in a **bitter and angry** manner about the changes, leaving themselves "unchurched." Like many other evangelicals **unqualified** to work with cults, Janis Hutchinson, when seduced by the cult leaders, parroted every word the Tkachians said--perks included of course!

And Another Thing...

One would think the Tkachians would be very concerned over the 18,000 Armstrongites "turning from Christ" to join a deceived group like the UCG. Just think what Mr. reborn again Tkach could have done to elicit help from their Evangelical cult-watching friends like Hank Hanegraaff or Ruth Tucker. With the vast printing press ability of the WCG, wouldn't it have made sense to have published a truth and honesty publication in hopes to save all those poor and deceived UCG brethren from following Armstrong apostasy? But nothing. Nothing was done in thought, word and deed to reach out to the poor and deceived UCGers. All was quiet. Just as quiet were the financial deals going on behind the scenes with termination payments, computer give-aways and extra cash allotments for UCG ministers bringing at least 50% of the WCG congregation with them. Oh, there was something for everybody at the time of the great divide. Some have wondered why at least ten or twenty ministers didn't stand for justice to reclaim their church. Few could bring themselves to believe that the same ministers who moved into UCG did so by deceiving their members and by withholding the overall plan from them, as the ministers continued to fill their pockets with **money, money, money**! The Machiavellian ministers, at the expense of the spiritually vulnerable and ignorant, pulled off one of greatest robberies in history. That is what is meant by: **Without Conscience**!

The Cream of the Crop

Throughout 1995 and 1996, Ruth Tucker and Hank Hanegraaff were publicizing their deceptive propagandist publications and writings supporting the Worldwide Church of God. **They should be hailed as the chief architects of the New Age WCG transformation of "God's great plan**" for transforming the cult to a

Christian Church. Without Hanegraaff and Tucker, the WCG conglomerate would not have been a bride made ready for **Billy Graham and team**. It would not have been possible to join hand in hand with **Promise Keepers**, work with **Chuck Colson's Prison Ministries**, sell and market Pat Boone videos, or to occupy various seats on **National Association for Evangelical (NAE)**. Tucker and Hanegraaff took the lead in publishing WCG history revision and absolute propaganda into the mainstream community.

[UPDATE: Chuck Colson died April 21, 2012 at age 80]

[UPDATE: Billy Graham died February 21, 2018 at age 99.]

By emphasizing a phantom "unchurched" ex-WCG population, the Tkachians were able to set up smokescreens and also protect the real WCG, now called, United Church of God (International association). The UCG extension group maintained concealment from scrutiny, as mother WCG protected her development. Despite a few hitches relating to doctrine and government control issues, the UCG is moving along on a holding pattern while the rest of the COG game plays out with time. While the UCG and Global Church of God (GCG) carry on the work of Herbert W. Armstrong, the WCG has less than 6000 actual members in the entire international organization and they are losing more members every day. But please don't be excited about the WCG demise--**it is part of the well-oiled plan.** The Tkachians couldn't kick the hanger on-ers out fast enough. The problem is, those remaining in the WCG, or those refusing to budge from the comfort of WCG dependency, are now in serious emotional health, putting a whole new meaning on the term "codependent." The ESN receives reports weekly about WCGers **deteriorating physically and psychologically**. In a future OIU we will expound on this phenomenon and will detail the continued abuse that contributes to WCGers' diminishing health. There is a group of approximately 3,000 ex-WCGers who are considered to be independent. Some of these are ex-CGI members. A few small groups are led by ex-WCG Independent ministers who are diligently attempting to regroup with increased understanding to doctrine clarity and with revision of management style away from totalitarianism. These smaller groups are striving to run healthy, non-abusive churches--independent of the HWA system. However, the bulk of the estimated 3,000 have attached themselves to sub-WCG organizations that have all been incorporated in 1995.

The Key players in the WCG conglomerate are as follows:

Worldwide Church of God	6000
United Church of God, An International Association	19000
Global Church of God	6000
Church of God International	1000
Independents:	4000
Living Room COGS	
Christian Educational Ministries (Ronald Dart)	
Friends of the Sabbath (Samuele Bacchiocchi)	
Philadelphia Church of God (Gerald Flurry)	5000

Other Adventist groups that are considered part of the ecumenical agenda of the COG conglomerate are:

- Church of God, Seventh Day
- Seventh-day Adventist
- Messianic Jews (Jews for Jesus)
- Sacred Names

There are over eighty small breakaway groups. The ones listed above is what the ESN considers part of the COG conglomerate and overall COG ecumenical plan.

[UPDATE 2005: Today there are hundreds of offshoots and splinter groups from the WCG.]

In Transition??? How appropriate a name!

Have you stopped to think how the great divide would have turned out without the help of the publication, *In*

Transition? Suddenly appearing in May 1995, just as UCG was forming, is a well-planned newspaper stating a goal of helping all the scattered brethren who have been hurt and scattered around the land by the big bad WCG. Hot off the press was a lengthy professional newspaper reporting all current news of COG developments. This pro-UCG publication spent its first several issues highlighting **Garner Ted Armstrong** with his **Church of God International**. [UPDATE: GTA later founded Intercontinental Church of God. He died of pneumonia at age 73 on 9-15-03.] Month after month this well staffed, well-funded, ecumenical COG publication was published by **John R. Robinson**, son of the late David Robinson. Many exiters have read *Herbert Armstrong's Tangled Web*, written by David Robinson, and published in 1980. Well, John R. Robinson just happens to be David's son. Strange it may seem to some people, John Robinson made little, if any, mention of his father's death in the Fall of 1995. Even stranger was the fact that since David Robinson was so thorough in exposing the works of Herbert W. Armstrong, why, one would think, did his son John spearhead a revisionist publication to further deceive the flock?

In Transition ranks with the best of propaganda publications. Why? Every issue has been filled with **distortions of events, half-truths and history revision**. Some questioned where John Robinson received the funding to produce a monthly magazine devoted to the WCG conglomerate. We asked John Robinson about this, but never received a reply. Knowing how costly it is to run the ESN on the few donations it receives, we were amazed to see the expedient, flashy and timely publication hit the presses just in time to keep the flock together, or from drifting from the "truth once delivered." The ESN was flabbergasted to see the *In Transition* getting off to a smooth start in May 1995; this startup coincided perfectly with the WCG/UCG **Divide and Conquer** operation. Within months, the I*n Transition* newsprint inspired a closer monitoring not only for the discrepancies it was reporting, but also for what is was not reporting. It was obvious to many readers that *In Transition* was very pro UCG, but its overall appeal was to capture the attention of the "Sabbath Keepers" with timely information needed for all those leaving the WCG and looking for a new Armstrong home. *In Transition* had an **important role** in managing the fragmentation. If an ex-member did not automatically run into the comfortable "Arms" of the UCG, the master-minds could be assured that the stragglers could be herded into the Armstrong fold through *In Transition* propaganda newsprint. ***When Prophecy Fails***, the bulk of the members of a given group will stick together and support one another on the faith once delivered. In Transition provided the necessary link to do just that!30 Had it not been for the works of John Robinson, his old time cronies would not be filling their pockets today with the sheep's' desperate attempts to stay as close to the vine as possible.

Issue after issue methodically propagated **history revision** at its best. Those without critical information to compare what was written were at a great loss and subject to re-victimization. Had there been an ounce of truth in John Robinson, or his investors and staff, just think about what could have been done to stop the great divide and hypocrisy that was permeating the whole WCG conglomerate. Few faithful readers knew who John Robinson was and his long history with the WCG. The OIU will feature his biography along with his significant accomplishments attributing to the divide and conquer.

[UPDATE: John Robinson died on January 5, 2006 at age 60 from complications of prostate cancer in an Austin, Texas hospital. (Also read: February 19, 2006 letter to ESN which exposes John Robinson, United Church of God / WCG connections with Dynamic Resource Group.)]

The first issue of *In Transition* was launched on May 5,1995 and included this statement:

"For many months members of the Worldwide Church of God have faced a situation unprecedented in the history of their church. Long-held beliefs members have dearly sacrificed for have been officially negated and replaced by doctrines that are diametrically opposed to teaching that led members into the church. The alterations have emanated from the top of the church hierarchy."

"With change of this magnitude, where do members go who believe the Sabbath is different from other days of the week and who believe that the Holy Days are to be observed? Where can a disenfranchised member look for positive developments in the realm of fellowship, worship and understanding? Several groups formed over the years trace their origins to the Worldwide Church of God, the most prominent of which have been the Church of God International and the Global Church of God. However, new groups based in Alabama, Texas and California have formed congregations."

"In an effort to furnish church members with information to help them make informed decisions, the publisher presents this newspaper. It is our belief that we have brothers and sisters in many of the groups formed in recent decades. Our goal will be to reach out to those who share so many beliefs."

So, with that said and right on the heels of the first United Church of God conference in Indianapolis, the COG ecumenical push was on. Once again, the sheep were being herded for the COG corral. God forbid that too many escape to freedom. There are still bucks to be snatched deep down in the pockets of the sheep and you can count on the WCG wolves to suck up every penny. While John Robinson and staff typed up the next moves and manipulations for the WCGers, David Hulme was transforming his personality again as he assumed his new role as chairman of the board for UCG. And what was David Hulme's main message to the Indianapolis crowd at the first UCG Regional meeting? **UNITY**! Lots and lots of **UNITY**! The first issue of *In Transition* gave Hulme lots of space for his unification message.

The first *In Transition* issue also gave priority space to Garner Ted Armstrong. The CGI Articles of Incorporation were listed with a positive emphasis on CGI doctrinal beliefs. It was obvious from the first issue onward, that Garner Ted was being hailed as a Church of God success. The first two issues of the *In Transition* laid the groundwork for the ecumenical move and history revision for the COGs. UCG developments and CGI's credibility was the focus right from onset of this "well funded" publication. It was the *In Transition* that introduced the timely arrival of **Samuele Bacchiocchi**. John Robinson writes:

"During our conversations, Dr. Bacchiocchi talked about his background and life's work. He said he is the first non-Catholic to graduate from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He received a gold medal from Pope Paul VI for earning the academic distinction of summa cum laude in his class work and dissertation on the change of the day worship from Sabbath to Sunday."

"Bacchiocchi said he believes 'that the Lord providentially opened the door' for him to study in Rome at the most prestigious Jesuit University."

[UPDATE: Read 2006 letter to ESN concerning the credentials of Samuele Bacchiocchi and how it shows he is presenting himself in a "less than accurate way."]

This Italian **Seventh-day Adventist** "Vatican Scholar" suddenly assumed the position of hero, or scholar of doctrine on the seventh-day Sabbath.31 The immediate and timely introduction of Samuele Bacchiocchi was strategic in countering any possible critical thinking by ex-WCGers. Bacchiocchi's Adventist spin provided the necessary distraction preventing WCGers from exploring the WCG origins of **God's Way of living**. WCG never considered itself "Adventist." The main WCG message was molded around **The Missing Dimension** of education. Armstrong theology had nothing to do with Adventism. Nonetheless, with the introduction of Bacchiocchi, came a pseudo doctrinal foundation for the past Worldwide Church of God teachings. ***In Transition* served as the main propaganda vehicle that kept the traumatized WCGers distracted while it fostered continued co-dependency on the Armstrong system**. In Transition was the vital tool that would anchor the exiting WCG members symbiotically together while the pre-planned, behind the scenes preparations were moving toward a Church of God unification.

Ronald L. Dart

"Birds of a feather flock together, and people settle down into predictable patterns. The bonding of the Spirit takes place as we fellowship together. People like you might help by establishing new connections between people otherwise not connected." Ron Dart--Internet

And connect they did just as history predicts. One of the contributing editors of *In Transition* was Ronald L. Dart, a very familiar name to anyone who is a WCG old timer. Starting out as a Baptist minister, he found his way to the WCG gold mine in the 1960s and his road has been paved with gold ever since. Dart held many significant corporate positions throughout his WCG history and continued to carry weighty titles following his departure from WCG in 1978 and into the Church of God International (CGI) [founded by Garner Ted Armstrong]. Following Garner Ted Armstrong's (GTA) ousting from the WCG in 1978, Dart assigned his loyalty to his good friend GTA and assumed the Vice President position of the newly formed GTA church. Further on, the OIU will summarize the events of the GTA sexual scandal of 1995. For now, just note that Dart darted in a timely fashion from the CGI under the pretense of "sudden heart ailments" just prior to the ESN exposing the entire GTA scandal. As a

matter of fact, it was Dart's deceptive excuse for departure from the CGI that inspired the ESN to release information it had two months prior to Dart's great escape attempt. The ESN then released its investigative reports and exposé of the real GTA event through a series of in-depth articles. **The reports were so thorough that John Trechak and William Dankenbring plagiarized and distorted the ESN investigative reports** to further exploit another sad and disgusting GTA sex scandal to benefit their own pockets.32 The fascinating unfolding events with Ron Dart are better understood by obtaining the entire series of GTA REPORTS from the COP-AID R&I Catalog. Significant to the "scattered flocks" is Ron Dart's conscientious endeavors toward his ecumenical "Sabbath Keepers" round up. Prior to Dart's sudden exit from CGI, he could be found dominating the Internet religion forums. Many Internet users found Dart to be most cordial and willing to devote many daily hours exchanging messages surrounding the WCG collapse. For those who were not aware of Dart's extensive WCG history, they certainly found him to be a friend indeed to those in need. While great "ecumenical" plans for "Sabbath Keepers" were being devised in private, Dart's cordial personality was gaining a following through the latest media tool, the Internet. Little did all know that Dart was paving the way for another Garner Ted Armstrong appearance. This time GTA was hoping for the title **King of the Sabbath Keepers**. The unfortunate and most untimely GTA sex scandal modified the original Sabbath-Keeper ecumenical plan, as it involved GTA very significantly33--now with GTA caught with his pants down. …Again the conspirators for the COG ecumenical campaign were back at square one. Dart's unplanned attempt to hightail his tail out of CGI forced the conspirators back to the drawing board to revise their plans.

Although Dart attempted to manipulate reasons behind his sudden CGI departure, many did see through his deception and discounted his excuses. While attempting to dissociate himself from GTA in November 1995 to save whatever credibility he thought he earned, Dart neglected to consider the littered paper trail he accumulated, linking him as a partner to covering up GTA's **disgraceful behavior-- in the name of God!**

Within weeks, Ronald Dart and his new partner Larry Watkin (GTA's accountant) started an outreach ministry called **Christian Educational Ministries (CEM)**. Dart claimed his goal was to serve all the walking wounded who had been left without churches and provide printed materials for ministerial leaders to guide their way. With the supportive help of In Transition, Dart was soon entrenched with his new marketing scheme providing sermons, Biblical reading, hymnals, music tapes, newsletters and Bible studies to anyone in need. The ESN had a chuckle when one Dart acquaintance stated that Dart had said he "**had a friend who was making millions with this kind of business**." There are millions to be made and lots of Ron Darts to make them! Within the next few months, Dart started buying time on radio stations across the country to market his new, **BORN TO WIN** message. Dart managed to recruit independent COG Armstrong supporters to finance his operation. He hustled to pick up the CGI defections and smooth-talked his way into the lives of those who never knew him during the years gone by. His catalog is filled with recycled sermons and other paraphernalia, which he now charges healthy prices. Dart also made it very clear that he intended not to start his own church, but as you will see in a soon coming ESN report on the life of Ronald L. Dart and *Christian Education Ministries*, Dart did just the opposite of what he said he would do. And as for GTA? Well, he's as cocky as ever and a busy little beaver. We'll give the full report on him in a separate issue.34

[NOTE: Ronald Dart founded Christian Educational Ministries in 1995 after he left the Church of God International during the scandal involving Garner Ted Armstrong and a masseuse). CEM produces his "Born to Win" program (Whitehouse, Texas), airing on Christian radio. He also founded Independent Church of God. He continues to teach a false gospel of works based on the dogma of Herbert Armstrong, a known false prophet. At Garner Ted Armstrong's funeral, Dart stated that he thought Garner Ted "knew the Bible as well as any man he has ever known and was gifted of God." (Tape 9/20/03, "The Indispensable Man") Ronald Dart is mentioned in ESN's exposé article on GTA and in the December 16, 2004 letter to ESN: Ron Dart Says He Has All the Money He Will Ever Need. UPDATE: Ronald L. Dart died January 24, 2016 at the age of 82 of cutaneous T-cell lymphoma.]

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OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

Armstrongism Adapts A New Identity

Even the staunchest Armstrong supporters are not aware of the subtle changes that are occurring within the Armstrong arena. The ESN often recommends George Orwell's classic books: ***1984*** and the other, ***Animal Farm*.** These brief books succinctly teach many vital lessons about the subtly of propaganda and manipulation. Just as enlightening is the instruction pertaining to human nature. Those unaware of the tactics, or trusting in the authority, are often lead astray by the exploiters. *Animal Farm* demonstrates how all the animal members of the farm slowly incorporate a new way of thinking through slow conditioning implemented by the leader of the farm. In this case, it is a pig. The ESN highly recommends reading it!

Have you ever wondered why there are not published books on the biography of Herbert W. Armstrong, or history of the WCG as an organization (unbiased of doctrine)? One of the biggest problems even for the best of propagandists is that there is very little positive material to publish. Added to that is the severe lack of foundation both for the teachings of HWA and for the founding of the RCG/WCG. One proof of that fact is WCG's disassociation from Armstrongism. The Tkachians were recently heard stating that many of HWA's teachings were groundless and that his personal interpretations were mistaken. However, they conveniently don't mention that these same allegations were highly exposed as early as the 1960s and that the current self appointed leaders of all the COGs **knew there were grave discrepancies and errors surrounding the Armstrong teachings**, but continued to support them as God's Truth, as the good stewards collected their millions as payment for being the keepers of the truth. We also see that the current Armstrong supporters (scattered flocks and GCG/UCG) are now slowly being introduced to a new **ecumenical** theme known as the "**Sabbath Keepers**." We urge our readers to heed this well for even the OIUs biggest skeptics will see the ecumenical events unfold. Here too, *In Transition* continued to play a unique role with what we assume will be transferred to the latest propaganda publication, *Journal of the Churches of God*. As mentioned earlier, *In Transition* played a strategic role in duping the unknowing with massive history revision surrounding the history of the WCG, the personality of HWA and revision of past HWA teachings. Editor John Robinson even managed to orchestrate a colorful revision of the 1995 events of the WCG/UCG breakaway.

As ex-WCGers become less entertained with the image of good ol' Mr. Armstrong and more in tune with the events surrounding the Church of God, Sabbath Keepers will hear much less of the icon and idol Herbert W. Armstrong. Just as interesting as the newly formed associations mentioned above are that the Armstrongites have also associated with Seventh-day Adventists. Now, some may be thinking, "Wait a minute, HWA has mentioned the Seventh-day Adventists in his past writings." Yes! He did. He often mentioned that he was never associated with SDA and the ESN has many documents verifying that. It wasn't until July 6, 1993 that the Tkachians introduced an "SDA association" in the WWN. Victor Kubik, Greg Albrecht, Michael Feazell and Joe Tkach, Jr. met in Denver, Colorado, May 19,1993 at the general offices of the Church of God Seventh Day to "**establish a friendly and cooperative relationship.**"

"There are groups with which we would not desire to fellowship because of their disfellowship status and their divisive teachings. However, the Church of God (Seventh Day) is not one of those groups. It is important to realize that we hold a majority of doctrinal beliefs in common and share the same organizational roots."

Joe Tkach, Jr. Oh really? Why then had the WCG leaders kept this a secret for sixty years? Through innocent ignorance, along with the insidious mind control seduction, those baptized into WCG accepted the lies purported by God's inspired ministers and Apostles. The WCG was supposedly the one and only true church because it was the only true Sabbath keeping church and all its "truth" was delivered to HWA right from the top of the pyramid of the *Government from the top down*. What pyramid you ask? The one with the **all-seeing-eye**!

As already mentioned, the Adventist association was necessary for establishing credibility toward Armstrong teachings. As *In Transition* slowly associated Adventism to the WCG "doctrinal" foundation (via the Pope decorated, Bacchiocchi), Tkach continued building his already chummy relationship with Adventist leaders. Go

figure, right? But in July 1996, J. Thomas Lapacka posted this announcement:

> Historic First Meeting Between Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Worldwide Church of God:
>
> J. Tom Lapacka
>
> For Immediate Release June 26, 1996
> Silver Spring, Maryland…
>
> For the first time since the founding of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Worldwide Church of God, leaders of the two denominations met at the Adventist Church World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, June 26. The historic meeting came about due to the interest on the part of the leadership of both denominations to discuss their mutual beliefs in light of recent changes in the Worldwide Church of God. Robert S. Folkenberg, Seventh-day Adventist Church world president, and Joseph W. Tkach, Pastor General of the Worldwide Church of God, led the delegations which included representatives of both churches' departments and administrative staff.
>
> In welcoming the guests, Pastor Folkenberg said: "It's with a great deal of Christian compassion that I view what the Worldwide Church of God has gone through." He also said, "We have appreciated your willingness to come and so openly share with us. We have a better understanding of the depth of changes in the Worldwide Church of God and how it sees itself in the wider Christian community. One thing we need to hold high is Christ and salvation through him."
>
> "We've always thought of the Seventh-day Adventists as spiritual cousins," said Pastor General Tkach, "but now we see you as brothers. We share a mutual church history and we have been so very appreciative of the welcome and the fellowship we have had with you."
>
> "I hope for two things," said Pastor Folkenberg. "One is that it be known that we had a positive and productive fellowship, and second, that we can have another meeting so that we might have more time to more fully explore one another's beliefs and mission." The one-day meeting included several presentations by representatives of the two churches covering issues of theology, mission and organization." -end-

[NOTE: Sexual, physical and spiritual abuses have been reported in the 7th Day Adventist Church.]

The 1970s exodus of over 7000 WCGers demonstrated that the teachings of HWA had many faults. Most exiters at that time easily discarded Armstrongism for mainstream teachings or for more modified forms of Sabbath Keeping understanding. When the Tkachians started introducing the Seventh-day Adventists, it was the first sign that preparation for something coming was in the works.

The "1995 scattered Armstrong flock," was in much disarray following the WCG divide. **The division inspired many WCGers to question the WCG teachings under Armstrong**. Had it not been for the brilliant Adventist conditioning manipulated by the Armstrong Sabbath Keeping COGs ecumenist master-minds, most exiting members would have started researching the past with critical thinking. The insidious association of Adventism quickly subsided most questioning as the "scattered flock" and UCG gravitated toward its new association with SDA.

The thousands who fled the Armstrong way of life during the 1970s did not flee to other breakaways. Most discarded Armstrong teachings as they researched the root and history of the organization. The architects of the **Divide and Conquer** of the 1990s were prepared to meet the traumatized WCGer with open arms to catch them in the web of the new association--Adventism.

Adventism was introduced through the *In Transition* and immediately upon the eve of the WCG breakup the *In Transition* provided advertisement for Vatican Sabbath Scholar, Samuele Bacchiocchi. Within weeks, the Friends of the Sabbath Seminars sponsored by Dr. John Merritt pulled the Sabbath Keeping groups together, along with the United COG. Adventist education quickly became the focus while it laid the framework for uniting the COG conglomerate.

Meanwhile, the Tkachians were working side by side with the Adventists in effort to introduce and condition their remaining members in preparation for the next step of the WCG divide.

The Greatest Plans of Mice and Men……

No one deserves more credit for introducing Adventism to the scattered flock than Dr. John Merritt. Dr. Merritt deserves all the credit for introducing the *Friends of the Sabbath*. Dr. Merritt initiated the expedient coming together of the **Jubilee `95-The Sabbath in the 21st Century.** Samuele Bacchiocchi was the featured guest at these "historic" Friends conferences starting as early as May 1995. Merritt's unique ability to organize and plan proved beneficial for the Adventist supporters, as the many conferences under the heading of *Friends of the Sabbath* proved to be perfect vehicles for gathering the flock and programming the sheep with Adventism and history revision galore. We can only assume that Merritt was the busiest of the architects as he frequented Big Sandy for meetings with GTA more than a few times for special dinner meetings to discuss future plans. Without knowing the full details of these meetings, one must question why Merritt had much to talk about with GTA during a time when Merritt was fully involved in a lawsuit between Ambassador University and Russell Duke.

Details about this lawsuit will be discussed at a later date. Noteworthy to mention now is that immediately following the GTA sexual scandal, the lawsuit initiated by Ambassador University board member Dr. Merritt[35] was quickly withdrawn by Dr. Merritt without a clear explanation. Within days of GTA being served lawsuit papers, the Merritt/Duke--Ambassador University petition was quietly and discreetly withdrawn. We will not, at this time, discuss the Merritt/Duke/AU lawsuit, but its significance warrants close scrutiny as this timely lawsuit was enmeshed with the plans of the COG ecumenical agenda. The significance of the legal battle inspired WCG's Atty., Ralph Helge, to popularize it through several articles in The Worldwide News. Oddly, the battle between Merritt and Duke/UA suddenly ceased immediately following the unexpected rebirth of GTA's sexual encounters.

GTA's role in the ecumenical agenda also ended, following the exposure of his sexual encounter with the masseuse. Few will ever realize how destructive GTA's sexual behavior was to the COG architects with big plans. The *Friends of the Sabbath* took on stronger meaning starting in July 1995. Where GTA left off, the *Friends of the Sabbath* gained strength. Dr. John Merritt was the man behind the scenes.

There are reasons behind the events and they will become more obvious to those who have watched and scrutinized the chronology of WCG events.

Friends Of The Sabbath

Dr. Merritt was again in the spotlight as he marketed Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi as the famous SDA scholar and professor of church history and theology from Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan. Internet forums were ablaze with the new doctrinal distraction by the SDA superstar. Dr. Bacchiocchi's presence was enhanced by the many articles circulating from *In Transition* and in the COG "flagship" publications. [UPDATE: Samuele Bacchiocchi died in December 2008]

As the Armstrong followers slowly assumed their new identity as Adventist ***"Sabbath Keepers,"*** Ron Dart, along with his Christian Education Ministries (CEM) ecumenical plans, busily assisted with organizing teaching seminars throughout the U.S. and abroad. [UPDATE: Ronald L. Dart died in 2016] The Bacchiocchi presentation was no small stir in 1995 and the distraction continued well into 1996. Bacchiocchi entertained all the "Sabbath Keepers" with his SDA interpretations, correspondence letters[36] with Joseph Tkach, Jr., and then, the big one! By Dec. 1995, ***Dr. Bacchiocchi accepts the Holy Days!*** Soon following Bacchiocchi's Holy Day revelation, a book with a price (of course) was available by Dec. 1995 for those hungry for new truth. Anyone and everyone with COG publishing power gave a boost to the Bacchiocchi publicity campaign. If you think the Tkach correspondence grabbed attention, just imagine the response generated by the article in the *World Ahead* magazine published by Global. When all was said and done, the Bacchiocchi campaign generated massive COG publicity, gave the WCGers a (pseudo) doctrinal foundation and generated lots of income from the seminars and selling of "educational wares." None of which would have been possible without the mastermind Dr. Merritt and.....

- *In Transition*, John Robinson
- *Prophecy Flash*, by Dankenbring [William F. Dankenbring]
- *Servant's News*, by Norman Edwards [Norman S. Edwards]
- *The World Ahead*, Global Church of God [Update: GCG is now known as Living Church of God]
- *The Good News* by United Church of God

- *CEM publications*, by Ron Dart [Ronald L. Dart]
- *New Millennium* - Ken Westby [Kenneth Westby
- And now--the Outsider's *Inside* Update by the ESN

The *Friends Of The Sabbath* moved quickly to set up groups in every state and internationally. Many Sabbath Keepers have been recruited as representatives for the newly formed ecumenical organization and are filled with zeal over their new association and identity. Hard for most to recall the past when so much has already replaced it. The ***Friends Of The Sabbath*** combine energies with the United Church of God, Seventh-day Adventists, most of the independent COGs, the Living Room COGs (the folks not attending a particular group but who listen to a variety of ministers), the COG Seventh Day, the Seventh Day Baptists, the Messianic (Jews for Jesus) groups and other Sabbath keeping churches listed in the Bible Sabbath Association. The COG ecumenists are striving to increase the market of Sabbath Keepers, which in turn will generate a sweet income for the caring ministers selling their wares.

All the Ron Darts, John Robinsons and Dr. Merritts, along with the rest of the revisionists, are busily penetrating the "Sabbath keeping" market, as they concentrate their ecumenical agenda and manufacture all the tapes, books, teaching aids, Bible Studies, etc. necessary to bring millions into the light, as they make millions in their pockets. One of the latest ***Friends of the Sabbbath*** attachments is the ***International Biblical Learning Center***.

The following is taken from various COG Internet forums. The OIU prints these letters in their entirety as they indirectly explain how, "When Prophecy Fails," the scattered flocks of Armstrong followers have taken on a new identity. As the revisionists erase Armstrong, they associate with new financial opportunities and so goes the merry-go -round. These open letters also represent the message that **George Orwell's** wonderful novel, **Animal Farm**, was trying to portray.

RE: DR. WARD HIRED!!!

Hi everyone,

This is an exciting development by the Friends of the Sabbath.

DR. Donald Ward, recent President of Ambassador University, has been hired as the new President of the International Biblical Learning Center (IBLC), a new institution of biblical studies, recently founded by the Friends of the Sabbath (originally called American Sabbatarian University).

DR. Ward has signed a one-year commitment to direct the new college, its curriculum, faculty development, marketing, and to oversee the college administration and to ensure the highest standards of biblical scholarship are available to Sabbatarian Christians worldwide. The new college will include faculty, students & advisors from a wide variety of Sabbatarian fellowships, and the governing board will cross a broad spectrum of believers. DR. Ward continues his ministry in the UCG and service on the UCG Council of Elders.

Watch for further exciting news.

The following will demonstrate what has been happening with the Friends of the Sabbaths. There have been many meetings throughout the US and now in the UK. Attendees pay tuition and local church areas cover the costs of the speakers' room, board and speakers' fee (which usually include Samuele Bacchiocchi and Ronald Dart). They are real moneymakers and the scattered brethren who have just a tiny part of the whole story support the efforts of the Friends of the Sabbath.

RE: FRIENDS OF THE SABBATH UNLEASHED IN AUSTRALIA!

By Craig White

Co-ordinator and Founder of Australian

Friends of the Sabbath

A report on the Friends of the Sabbath conference held in Sydney, Australia, 5-8 July 1996 It was all over in a flash. All the hard work, sweat, trials and energy paid off for the first ever inter-Sabbatarian conference to be held in Australia, as well as the first ever Friends of the Sabbath to be held outside of the USA. We had the

most unifying and uplifting conference possible. I personally received amazing complements from about 30 people over the last 2 days after the conference and together with phone calls and e-mails since plus feedback from others, it turned out to be much more successful than we could ever have imagined. In addition the survey forms handed in at the end of the conference indicated OVERWHELMING support for the continuation of the conference series and for it to be held in Sydney again next year. But all praise MUST be directed to God our Father for His inspiration and backing to the conference.

It should be mentioned at this juncture that this conference brought both Richard Nickels, President of the Bible Sabbath Association and myself together after about 19 years of correspondence and telephone conversations. [UPDATE: Richard Nickels died on June 4, 2006]

The Friday night session was held in the Chatswood Seventh Day Adventist Church with almost 300 in attendance. The spirit was electrifying and unifying. The rest of the conference was held in the Revesby Workers' Club. Attendance on the Sabbath was about 330; on the Sunday about 270; and 170 on the Monday (a surprise for a work day as we expected only about 80 to turn up).

The keynote speaker was Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, Professor of History and Theology at Andrews University. Other speakers were Richard Nickels, President of the Bible Sabbath Association; John Merritt, founder of Friends of the Sabbath; Larry Walker, pastor of a UCG congregation in the USA and proponent of inter-Sabbatarian dialogue; David Currie, one of the Presidents of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Australia; Bruce Dean' pastor of the Sydney--Wollongong UCG congregation and David Hill, President of the Seventh Day Baptists in Australia. All-in-all there were presentations by 16 speakers ranging from over an hour by DR Bacchiocchi to just a few minutes by several presenters on various Sabbatarian institutions of higher learning including the International Biblical Learning Center. They represented about 7 different Sabbatarian denominations.

Topics included "I call you friends" by Larry Walker; "The Bible Sabbath Association and Giving & Sharing" by Richard Nickels; "The Seventh Day Men" by Leon Lyell; "From Sunday to Sabbath" by Dan Gayman; "Britain's Sabbath Keeping Celtic Church" by David Currie; "How I came to accept the Holy Days" by Dr. Bacchiocchi; "Holy Day Parallels" by David Hill and "200 Years of Sabbath keeping in Australia" by Bruce Dean.

Dan Gayman's talks excited the audience due to his incredibly energetic and powerful presentations. His talk on how and why his Church switched from Sunday to Sabbath was viewed as one of the highlights by most in attendance. Dan Gayman may be contacted at his office in Missouri on (417) 432-3119. His story is simply amazing.

The room adjacent to the hall was set aside for literature distribution and the amount of literature distributed can only be described as "awesome". The room became a place for people to mix and socialize across corporate boundaries.

Lay members from about 10 different groups attended plus greetings to the conference from Calvin Burrell, President of the Church of God (seventh day), the local Christian Biblical Church of God, the Remnant Church of God, Central Highlands Church of God and others were read out. All Australian States and Territories were represented (with the exception of the Northern Territory) plus New Zealand.

At the end of the conference it was announced that conferences would be held in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane late March-early April next year, which was welcomed by the delegates. The conferences are planned for around late March. A National Committee is now being established to oversight the local committees that will be organizing next year's conferences.

A new newsletter was launched at the conference, "Sabbath History" focuses on the history of Sabbatarian groups over the centuries. Articles in the current edition include: "The Seventh Day Men" by Leon Lyell; "Church of God (Adventist)" by Richard Nickels; "John Traske"; "Columba of Iona - Sabbatarian and keeper of the Stone" by John D Keyser and "Sabbatarian Material and Resources Available" compiled by Craig White. Future editions will have articles on the Church of God in Chile, Britain's Amazing Celtic Church, the Nazarenes, Peter Waldo and so forth. A subscription is available by writing to the Editor and Publisher, Mr. Leon Lyell, PO Box 206, Bundoora, Victoria, Australia 3083. Subscription price for the newsletter is only $18.00 per annum. The newsletter will be published quarterly and will be about 24-30 pages per issue. Please make cheques out to Leon Lyell.

Media attention was exceptional: A sizable and balanced article appeared on page 3 of one of the largest circulation newspapers in Australia, the "Sydney Morning Herald" prior to the conference which generated at

least three radio talk-back shows to discuss the topic. Articles also appeared in the "Sun Herald". The Adventist "Record" magazine, which is circulated to tens of thousands of Adventists in Australia and the South Pacific, had a full-page article on the conference. On the Sunday night during the conference, the Rev. Dr. Gordon Moyes interviewed DR. Bacchiocchi for an hour on the "Sunday Night Live" show which is Australia's most popular religious radio program and is listened to by thousands of people each week. The next morning he was interviewed live on the popular channel 9 "Today" show at peak rating time at 7:50am. Both he and Richard Nickels were interviewed on 2BL Radio National, heard coast-to-coast.

After the conference Dr. Bacchiocchi sent the following to the SDANET, an Internet forum:

"It was by far the most successful Sabbath conference I attended. The participants came from all over Australia and New Zealand. Over 100 were told not to come because of the space limitations of the convention hall. The planners had not anticipated such an overwhelming response."

Audio and video tapes (in PAL format) of the conference will be available soon. For further information write to: Australian Friends of the Sabbath, GPO Box 864, Sydney 200. Or ring (02) 9745 2964. In the USA they will be available from Friends of the Sabbath, 27068 La Paz, #500, Laguna Hills, CA 92656 (the videos will be available in both PAL and NTSC format).

The END

Recently, the ESN attended a committee meeting with individuals from many faiths taking a stand against spiritual deception and abusive churches. I was introduced to a Pastor from a Messianic Church in New England. After a brief conversation, this Messianic Pastor relayed that there was a big Sabbath Keepers convention held in Hartford, CT that past weekend, but he was unable to attend and was very disappointed about that. His statement was made shortly after he spent several minutes descriptively discrediting Herbert W. Armstrong (without prodding). You can imagine how difficult it was to hold in a big roaring laugh, as I carefully explained that the people behind the ***Friends Of The Sabbath*** Seminars were Armstrong followers in all their glory. His reply, "You've got to be kidding!" That same response came from a supporter of the *Friends of the Sabbath* when I told him that the Messianic Jews and Seventh-day Adventists were Trinitarians through and through.

And that's the way the propaganda goes folks!

Once fooled, innocent; twice fooled, guilty! Do your homework!

Look how many pages it took to "summarize" the chronology of the Church of God developments. Additional detail will be brought forth in exclusive reports.

With the passing of two years since the UCG departure from WCG, many WCG members and past affiliates are now starting to realize that there is much more to the great divide than meets the hand of God. It is difficult for some to discern the possibilities that their leaders are anything but spiritually minded. Time and again we see adherents with allegiance to a particular organization or man defend their allegiance at all costs as they shut out critical information necessary to scrutinizing the total picture.

When one has the opportunity to view the incredible evidence and documentation of WCG history, it becomes evident that the entire WCG story is enmeshed in a web of sinister, destructive behavior. Sadly, we at the ESN have had an inside view of the depth of deceit that permeates the entire conglomerate, from the most heinous sexual crimes involving pornography, child molestation, and trauma-based abuse to the intentional psychological mind manipulation on the innocent, spiritually seeking person. Few can believe that well trained men with polished speaking skills could pose as ministers of Christ, when in reality are vindictive perpetrators managing a multi-million dollar religious scam with numerous business and political agenda.

Over the past four years, the ESN has witnessed the testimonies of many WCG related divorces, suicides, family breakdowns, severe psychological illnesses, heavy depressions and countless destroyed lives just **struggling to pick up the pieces** to finish off this thing called life with some respect toward dignity. We personally know women who have been raped by "ministers," children who have been victims of incest or sexual abuse, men who have donated their entire lives to a cause that turned out to be destructive to themselves and their families. We have listened to many single men and women who have suffered severe sexual illnesses stemming from the WCG "Way of Living." Pages could be written outlining the true testimonies

of the real history of the Worldwide Church of God and its handpicked ministry, but the point is, we should be looking beneath our personal rationalization that prevents us from seeing the truth of the real Worldwide Church of God as it stands this very day.

Few members, if any, could have seen through the WCG mind-control filter to view the total chronology of events. With such an enormous deficit of knowledge pertaining to the accurate WCG history, one needs to struggle through the "missing dimensions" in hope of discerning the continued hypocrisy and ongoing spin of deception.

There were **reasons behind the events** that propelled the leaders of the WCG to construct the moves necessary for protecting the business/political empire. The pawns in the game were, and continue to be, the members. The big story is the one the faithful do not see.

Few COG members have questioned why 450 ministers joined in unison with the United Church of God, under the control of David Hulme, instead of organizing a legal pursuit confronting the actions of the supposed Pastor Generals, Joseph Tkach, Sr. and Jr.! **Didn't it seem odd that 450 paid ministers quietly ignored the massive deception permeating Pasadena**? Isn't it shocking that the same ministers who controlled the lives of thousands through the teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong, suddenly and submissively move under a new umbrella organization without even attempting to hold the Tkach administration accountable for the multitude of lies passed onto the membership? Why would all these men allow the Tkachians to control the multi-million dollars empire without the slightest confrontation?

There are many more questions, and I hope there will be more members and ex-members confronting the deceit and **demanding accountability** for the waste, fraud and abuse that was inflicted on those cunningly deceived by men without conscience.

You will learn in Vol. FIVE many of the incredible events orchestrated by the mother organization these past two years, as it **reconditioned and traumatized the vulnerable with doctrinal confusion and contradiction**, as it spent 1996 on a campaign blitz of Public Relations; restructured the remaining 6000 members into an abusive discipling organization mimicking the tactics of the devastating cult, International Church of Christ, as they joined the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE).

Herbert W. Armstrong's political/financial empire existed under the guise of little church. That little church crumbled with the death of its leader. The church foundation was built on sand that washed away, along with the image of its founder. The political/financial empire orchestrated a plan behind the backs of its church members. As the leaders spoke words of "god," their actions plotted the next move, as they slowly connected the WCG with another political/financial empire. This time, the architects were smarter; their years of psychology training guided them as they joined the neo-evangelical establishment.

The WCG empire has a new **image**. His name is **William (Billy) Graham**--King of Evangelical Establishment. It's only the beginning for **Plain Truth Ministries** (PTM). As the deceptive architects continue their history revision and close the book on the Worldwide Church of God as most knew it, we will see the remaining members fade into oblivion, illnesses and all. The real WCG has gone underground; it is called United Church of God, an International Association. A small cash cow, as far as church business is concerned, but you can rest assured there are significant plans for the 450 well trained ministerial agents that cover this globe and are stationed in the most strategic areas to get the job done!

One can't help but wonder if all this is "the incredible march toward a changed, realistic and peaceful world tomorrow," as the booklet, ***This Is The Worldwide Church Of God*** (1970-79) so clearly states:

These people are members of the Church of God, known in our day as the Worldwide Church of God. This Church is unique in practicing Christianity as A WAY OF LIFE, as well as a faith-even as it did originally in the day of the first-century apostles.

Its members are motivated by a supreme goal, inspired by knowing the transcendent human potential. They know the true values. They have found THE WAY that makes life truly meaningful, rewarding, abundant! It is the way the whole world ought to be living. What is that WAY OF LIFE?

It's the WAY OF LOVE-the way of outgoing concern for the good and welfare of others equal to self-concern. It is the way of cooperating, serving, helping, sharing-of consideration and patience.

More important, it is the way of humility and of obedience to, reliance on, and worship solely toward God. It is

the GOD-centered way.

In this world the successful are considered to be those who have piled up the biggest fortunes in material good, not those who have given the most in spiritual gifts for the happiness of others.

Millions have read literature that changed their personal lives in many constructive, useful ways. The television and radio broadcasts and booklets about pollution, famine, the population explosion and the space race deal with big, worldwide issues. And our literature about drugs, alcohol, marriage, managing personal finances and the laws of success deals with daily, practical, personal information that literally changes lives.

The members of the Worldwide Church of God are so genuinely concerned for OTHERS, and with the problems of the world at large, that they GIVE of their own substance to aid in the worldwide effort to APPLY THE SOLUTIONS to the problems suffered in common by all mankind.

The divine commission to the Worldwide Church of God is to proclaim the coming world of peace under the soon-coming divine Messiah. The Church is merely in the role of a reporter, reporting prophecies as ADVANCE NEWS REPORTS.

It is giving hopeless nations with their masses the ONLY hope for the future-the hope never heard in those nations before.

And THAT is the Worldwide Church of God!

[Excerpts from: *This Is The Worldwide Church of God*. Emphasis HWA!]

This time around, the mission will be spearheaded by the King of Evangelicals, Mr. Billy Graham, alleged 33º Mason.

[UPDATE: Billy Graham died February 21, 2018 at age 99.]

Those interested in understanding the reasons behind the events might find the following reading exceptionally educational:

Christian Truth & Victory Publications
9088 CO. RD. 11 N.W.
Alexandria, MN 56308 320-846-0835
(Send $4.00 with catalog request, which will be deducted from your first order.)

New Neutralism II: Exposing The Gray of Compromise

By John E. Ashbrook (John Ashbrook documents the inner workings of the NAE and Billy Graham evangelicalism. A must read for those wondering why WCG has come together with Fuller Theological Seminary, NAE, Bible Missions, Promise Keepers, InterVarsity, Chuck Colson, and now, the Vatican.)

Read excerpts from the book or Order from Christian Truth & Victory Publications - see previous for address.

The Tragedy of Compromise: The Origin and Impact of the New Evangelicalism

By Ernest Pickering. (This 184-page book contains an excellent overview of the history and widespread influence of New Evangelicalism.)
Order from Amazon, etc.

The Deadly Deception (Freemasonry Exposed By One Of Its top Leaders)
By Jim Shaw and Tom McKenney
(Available on Amazon)

Please Tell Me--Questions People Ask About Freemasonry And The Answers
By Tom C. McKenney
(Available used from Barnes & Noble)

There are many excellent books on the market on Freemasonry. The above two picks are well written and easy to understand. WCG/COGers need to learn who the real Great Architect of the universe is--Freemasonry knows the answer. These two books offer a thorough introduction.

The goal of the OIU is to share our perspective as we put the reader in the center of our research. We publish

information we hope is useful toward critical thought.

Thank you for your continued support!

Footnotes for OIU 4:

1 *None Dare Call it Conspiracy* by Gary Allen
2 *The Fine Art of Propaganda - A Study of Father Caughlin's Speeches*, The institute of Propaganda Analysis
3 Ibid.
4 ASG Election Special Issue Nov. `96--"The Hegelian Principle of Dialectical Materialism"
5 Ludwig Feuerbach had written a book, The Essence of Christianity, arguing that God had been invented by humans as a projection of their own ideals. He wrote that man, in creating God in his own image, had "alienated himself from himself." He had created another being in contrast to himself, reducing himself to a lowly, evil creature that needed both church and government to guide and control him.
6 General Contents taken from *Grolier Encyclopedia*
7 *Grolier Encyclopedia*
8 ASG Election special Issue--Nov. `96
9 ASG Election Special Nov. `96
10 This description was routinely applied by HWA and the ministry.
11 Chapter One, *Unfulfilled Prophecies and Disappointed Messiahs*, pg. 27-28
12 Mike Hollman, Director of Data Processing and manager of the 10 million dollar IBM computer system installed in 1972.
13 *Fellowship Forum* (KKK newspaper)
14 List books
15 *Encyclopedia of Cults* (1970s edition)
16 The ESN has reference materials for further study on origin of the BI and Identity Movement.
17 Henry Ford was one such proponent and financial supporter to its message.
18 ESN Reading list for WCG/Protestant exposure
19 "A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper" is an excellent reference to the psychology of numbers. People generally remain anchored to the first number they hear, whether accurate or not. And round numbers-- especially multiples of ten-- have an unusually powerful psychological appeal.
20 Review *Good News* and *WWN* 1986-1993 and note repeat articles surrounding "beast power"--tribulation--God's Plan.
21 The ESN has compiled several document packages consisting of hundreds of pages outlining doctrinal events, corruption and church developments throughout the pivotal 1970s. To spot the current Tkach lie one needs to view the evidence of the cover-up from the past several decades.
22 Specific documentation on David Hulme is on file.
23 This evangelical arena consists of Watchman Fellowship, Bob and Gretchen Passatano, Hank Hanegraaff, Josh McDowell, Alan Gomes, *Christianity Today*, Jesus People USA (*Cornerstone Magazine*), Ruth Tucker, Fuller Theological Seminary, Azusa University, Four Square Gospel. Read: OIU Vol. TWO for details about the "WCG cult-coalition. [Read: Facts, Points and Questions Surrounding the Coalition of WCG Propagandists.]
24 The OIU and additional reports will concentrate on WCG indoctrination and its effects on personal lives. Recovery and healing issues will be discussed ongoing. [See: Healing From Emotional and Spiritual Abuse]
25 The CRI Documentation Report is in the ESN files. It details Hank Hanegraaff history and all the allegations against him.
26 The ESN archives tapes, letters and other research material noted.
27 The CRI report covers research on Hank Hanegraaff.
28 Scrambling programming is intentional confusion and contradiction of data that causes the victim to be in a trance state, or so traumatized psychologically that the victim can't think and takes on a facial stare or rote personality. The victim then follows the cults leader's command, usually without question.
29 Every time Tkach, Sr. spoke, he spent time updating developments with Global Church of God and Rod Meredith. Tkach often held up GCG publications and invited anyone not happy with WCG to attend the Global Church of God. [Read excerpts from: Video Sermon by Joseph Tkach, Sr. to Worldwide Church of God, January 1995]
30 COP-AID R&I Report--In Transition, the Tool of Distraction
31 The Samuele Bacchiocchi connection with WCG/COG will be explored in grater depth in future OIUs.
32 Refer to COP-AID R&I Report, *Ambassador Report*, and Bill Dankenbring.
33 GTA's role with the Merritt/AU lawsuit and his role as the main TV radio evangelist when the WCG "Sabbath Keepers" were to finally unite will be covered in the next OIU with the UCG report.
34 GTA and MASSEUSE REPORT is on file with the ESN. [Read: GTA and the Masseuse]
35 ESN special report--AU/Merritt lawsuit--1995 from R&I Catalog.
36 A must read for those following the events: Tkach/Bacchiocchi letters.

OIU Volume Five

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

Volume FIVE ... a newsletter of understanding ... Dec. 1997

VOLUME FIVE contents:

•From the Editor
•As The Whirlwide Turns™, Part Five -Transformed By Lies? Or Transformed By Truth!
•Ecumenical Movement
•The Evangelical Movement of this Century
•NAE Accepts the Worldwide Church of God
•The Goal of One World Religion
•Communism And the Churches
•Communism, Fascism, Socialism, Totalitarianism, or Armstrongism (explaining the mindset that deceives millions into pseudo religious organizations)
•Communism is the RESULT (HWA studied Communism; his own words)
•The Private Letters Of Herbert W. Armstrong and Loma D. Armstrong
•Stanley R. Rader
•What is behind "The Gates of Hell?"
•Dignitaries, leaders share loss of pastor general (many belong to this list of organizations!)
•What is the Architect's plan?
•Books, Ministries & Tapes/CDs--Ecumenism

OIU FIVE and SIX are detailed reports surrounding the **Ecumenical Movement (EC) and the current EC strategy** involving the **Worldwide Church of God** conglomerate. Those interested in researching the "**reasons behind the events**" and activities of the Worldwide Church of God, United Church of God, Global Church of God and other splinters, will find these two Volumes helpful, thought-inspiring and possibly shocking. The WCG propagandizes a doctrinal transformation. The OIU exposes the real activities and associations pertaining to the "transformation." One Global Church and United Religions is the force behind the WCG "transformation" and "fragmentation." It's time the real story behind the deception and spiritual destruction is **shouted from the rooftops.**

From the Editor:

Welcome to another edition of the **Outsiders' *Inside* Update (OIU).** This issue provides pertinent information about the real story behind the event. The Exit & Support Network™ (ESN) is well into its fourth year of service as **a support, research and investigative ministry** assisting those exploited by deceptive bible-based churches or pseudo news reporting services. The ESN has spent the bulk of its time and concentration on revealing the truth and **facts** behind the **Worldwide Church of God (WCG)** and its current strategic maneuvering into what is now termed mainstream Christianity. **No other organization has been in the forefront of the political evolution of the WCG conglomerate**. No other newsletter reported the detailed facts behind the massive marketing strategy and architects of this multi-million dollar empire. No other resource has painstakingly placed itself in the eye of the storm and monitored the chronological WCG events that propelled the WCG to be popularized as the "cult that turned to mainstream." No other Christian service has committed thousands of their personal dollars toward the spiritual, psychological and emotional well being of the countless victims traumatized by the works of the Worldwide Church of God, its leaders and current propagandist affiliates.

The ESN has had its challenges during our first four years. Lack of finances and lack of in-house help, along with ESN assistants being geographically scattered, has placed delays on many sought after Investigative/Research Reports. 1997 surfaced as one of our most difficult years due to personal afflictions

with family deaths and illnesses. Despite these hardships, the ESN continues to carry on its mission to: illuminate the real story behind the events, expose the works of evil, clarify the exploitation and bring the deception into full view, while continuing to assist and support victims of the spiritual, psychological, and financial fraud perpetrated by the Worldwide Church of God and its leaders and other associates.

The word "**historic**" has been largely publicized and propagated to positively explain the unique transition of a cult that became an evangelical church. As we continue to review and expose the decades of corruption, deception and lies the word "historic" takes on an opposite meaning. It depicts a destructive, pseudo church, which concealed a massive, deviant corporate and political empire. Yes, the Worldwide Church of God transformed into another dimension. As the facts of the WCG story continue to unfold, those who care will become enlightened that the WCG was not Transformed By Truth, as Joseph Tkach's latest book of publicity is entitled. It was however, Transformed By Lies™. And there are **reasons behind the event.**

The OIU readership has a vast mixture of spiritual affiliation and views. The OIU never intends to offend specific personal spiritual beliefs, nor judge others for their religious affiliations. Under the circumstances surrounding the spiritual and psychological traumas caused by the WCG, the OIU strives to be sympathetic and understanding toward all who have been caught in the web of such grotesque deceit. We realize our readers base their present positions on their personal biases and experiences. Few have been privileged to the vast amounts of resources or documents that enable us to view the bigger picture surrounding the WCG fragmentation. It is our hope and prayer that those who care and are committed to cutting through the deception and exploitation fostered under the guise of Christianity, become inspired to discern the greater story through education, research and evaluation of critical facts and analysis for the benefit of themselves, their children, their neighbors and their futures. If we ignore this segment of Christian history, the traumatism behind the WCG history and transformation will be repeated. We cannot stop the horrific works of evil; we can however, expose them. (Eph. 5:6-12.)

The ESN may be guilty of delays in reports due to financial and time/overload restraints, but the ESN is the only service that maintains an open email or phone line to answer questions and respond to all who need immediate assistance. For many, the ESN has been the only hand reaching out to those crying desperately for help. Let it be known that it would take no effort or expense to throw together a hodgepodge lightweight newsletter consisting of several legal size sheets filled with bits and pieces and recycled Internet clips and call it a Report. ESN policy from the start gate was to furnish the reasons behind the events. We're not an extension of the lies, distortions and manipulations behind the WCG conglomerate. We don't target the already exploited with spin print and propaganda that serves the goals of the WCG perpetrators. We're not funded by the perpetrators to continue the web of deception via a newsletter. We, at the ESN, work from our hearts and conscience, which is exactly what is missing from the frauds and architects of diversion.

If you haven't read OIUs Part One through Five and Part One of, "As The Whirlwide Turns," you might feel as if you are jumping in well after the WCG drama began. Understanding the events as they unfold with the "cult that joined Christian mainstream" is integral toward the discernment and big picture of the "historic" WCG. This New Age restructuring has roused gross distraction within the evangelical and counter-cult community since the death of Herbert W. Armstrong.1 The distraction and diversionary tactics have camouflaged one of the greatest religious cult deceptions in history--the *Worldwide Church of God Cover-up!!!*

Before you proceed, please read the five-page article attached, entitled:

Making An Obedient Mass

Then--continue:

For the sake of our varied readership, let's start with current events and review more recent WCG behavior. Below is a sampling of the impressive publicity maneuvers spearheaded by the WCG leaders of late. Note the names and associations that have been in the forefront with the WCG propagandists and marketers as we expose the significance of Tkach allies and associations.

"As The Whirlwide Turns", Part Five - TRANSFORMED BY LIES? OR……. TRANSFORMED BY TRUTH!

The inside cover of July issue of ***The Plain Truth*** released a full page ad announcing the release of Transformed by Truth, supposedly authored by Joseph Tkach, Jr.:

"THE TOP RELIGIOUS STORY OF THE DECADE…"
EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

"For nearly 70 years the Worldwide Church of God, founded by Herbert W. Armstrong, preached a 'different' gospel.' Then in 1995 only ten years after Armstrong's death, the leadership of the WCG publicly renounced it unorthodox teachings and entered the evangelical mainstream." What Happened?

"In this fast-paced and exciting record, Joseph Tkach-President, Pastor General of the WCG and a major player in the WCG drama-delivers the plain truth. Here is the remarkable story of how, little by little, men and women have been transformed by the power of the gospel."

"I praise God for His work of renewal in, and restoration of, the Worldwide Church of God, believing this to be one of the great miracles in the Body of Christ during the twentieth century. Rev. Joseph Tkach and the leaders of Worldwide Church of God are to be commended for their uncompromising dedication to the infallible Word of God and their courageous stand for its truths in the face of great opposition and criticism." **Dr. John R. Holland, President, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel)**

"Wow!!! What a story! Transformed by Truth was a healing balm for this old preacher's cynicism. Read this book and rejoice with the angels. You'll be glad you did." **Steve Brown, Professor of Preaching at Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, Florida)**

This full-page advertisement was etched in black and red print on the inside front cover of the July/August issue of *The Plain Truth Magazine*. The often-utilized picture of Herbert W. Armstrong sporting his six-pointed, multi-diamond, Star of David cufflinks, served as the faded gray-toned backdrop of this startling declaration. Armstrong's gravestone is enmeshed into the artwork with many subliminals for the observant eye. A striking crack pierces through the left side of Armstrong's head leading one to question the **occult significance** of such a depiction. Centered amidst the verbiage is a small color snapshot of the once highly esteemed exclusive home for the "Great Architect Of The Universe," the multi-pillared **Ambassador Auditorium.**

The word MULTNOMAH is highlighted but does not indicate that it is the publisher. Readers are informed that *Transformed By Truth* can be found in "Christian bookstores everywhere."

The eve of the now famous New Covenant sermon delivered by Joseph Tkach, Sr. in January 1995 commenced a well-contrived publicity campaign targeted toward the Christian arena. What prevailed during the past two and one half years to award Joseph Tkach, Jr. his self-awarded title as Reverend? Listed here are titles of publicity articles and media clips, which vindicated the residing Pastor General, President and now Reverend Tkach. It was through this medium that Tkach, Jr., Mike Feazell, Gregory Albrecht, Bernard Schnippert and other WCG spin artists falsified the real story of the Worldwide Church of God and replaced the facts with massive history revision. The uniquely orchestrated propaganda not only re-invented and restructured the multi-million dollar corporate empire; it attached undeserved fame to Joseph Tkach, Jr. the latest "image" of WCG hierarchy.

May 1994 --- **Bible Answer Man radio show**

Ron Rhodes and Paul Carden announce the WCG is no longer a cult but has embraced the true tenants of Christianity. [Copy of radio show with ESN]

January 28, 1995 --- **LA Times**

"Ambassador Concert Hall to Close in May"

January 30, 1995 --- **LA Times**

"And Then There Was Silence in Pasadena"

Feb 8, 1995 --- **USA Today** (from "Across the USA" section)

"A month after telling parishioners that tithing is voluntary rather than God's command, the WCG has lost 30% of its income…"

February, 1995 --- **MacGregor Ministries**

Visits the leaders in Pasadena and returns to British Columbia endorsing the WCG

[UPDATE 2008: MacGregor Ministries now operates in the United States under MM Outreach Media Ministries.]

February 11, 1995 --- **LA Times**

"Church in financial crisis"

February 25, 1995 --- **Dallas Morning News**

"Contributions down at Worldwide Church"

May 4, 1995 --- **LA Times** by Larry B. Stammer

"Another Schism Racks Worldwide Church of God"

May 5, 1995 --- **LA Times** by Larry B. Stammer

"Group splits from the Worldwide Church of God"

May 12, 1995 --- **LA Times** by Larry B. Stammer

"Worldwide financial crisis deepens - auctions sterling silver purchased by Herbert Armstrong"

July 22, 1995 --- **Longview New-Journal**

"Worldwide Church changes beliefs"

August 1995 --- **Living Light** - (Canadian publication)

"Worldwide Church of God seeking a new direction"

September 22, 1995 --- **Joseph Tkach, Sr. dies**

October 1995 --- **Worldwide News** (church publication)

Hank Hanegraaff makes his debut. Hanegraaff and Joe Tkach, Jr. embrace each other tightly at the funeral of Joseph Tkach, Sr. The image of brotherhood between Hanegraaff and Tkach, Jr. is magnified in the October issue of *The Worldwide News* and serves as an introduction of Hanegraaff to the WCG members. [NOTE: In February 2005, *The Worldwide News* in the United States was changed to *WCG Today*. In May 2006 it was changed to *Together*. A few years later *Together* was no longer available Their magazine is now *Christian Odyssey*.]

October 2, 1995 --- **Christianity Today**

> CT readers will be glad to know that they [WCG] are no longer considered among the harlot daughters of the Great Whore. But how will we respond? Sadly, Christians outside the WCG have been suspicious and slow to extend the right hand of fellowship. (A few leaders have been helpful, WCG leaders say: Hank Hanegraaff of the Christian Research Institute and Ruth Tucker of Trinity International University, for example; and faculty from Regent College, Fuller Theological Seminary, and Azusa Pacific University have also helped inform the transition."

Fall 1995 --- Greg Albrecht contacts Janis Hutchinson and requests the WCG not be listed as a cult in her next edition of *Out of the Cult and Into the Churches*. Letter writing campaign continues for several months. [See Letters to Hutchinson] [NOTE: This letter to Janis Hutchinson covers some of the questions Janis Hutchinson asked of Greg Albrecht and his answers.]

Fall 1995 through 1996 --- **Hank Hanegraaff repeatedly hails the WCG as a true Christian church** via radio broadcasts, and monthly advertisements to CRI readers. Hanegraaff uses the PR as a tool to collect donations. Greg Albrecht testifies that Hanegraaff is paid as a consultant.2

November 26, 1995 --- **L A Times**, by Larry B. Stammer

"Denomination Driven by Dramatic Changes in Doctrine"

January 1996 --- Tkach, Jr., Mike Feazell, and Greg Albrecht are first time guests of Hank Hanegraaff on Bible Answer Man radio show.

Winter, 1996 --- **Christian Research Journal**

"New Beginning, New Leadership for the Worldwide Church of God"

Winter, 1996 --- C**hristian Research Journal**

"The Worldwide Church of God: Resurrected into Orthodoxy"

February 1996, --- **Janis Hutchinson takes a WCG paid trip to meet with leaders**.

February 1996 --- **Tkach, Jr. is the radio guest of Pastor Helms of the Pentecostal Ecumenical International Church Four Square Gospel.**

March 1996 --- **The East Texas Christian Monthly**

Faith in the 90's

April 18, 1996 --- **Four Square Gospel Church** features Tkach, Jr. as guest speaker at services. [Copy of sermon with ESN]

April 1996 --- **Janis Hutchinson endorses the WCG**. Hopes to sell her book in WCG catalog and gain PR with interview in *The Plain Truth*.

April 30/May 1, 1996 --- Religious Right evangelist, D. James Kennedy's radio broadcast, Truths That Transform, host Tkach, Feazell, Albrecht, Lapacka as featured guests. [UPDATE: D. James Kennedy died 9-5-07 at the age of 76.]

June 1996 --- **Watchman Expositor**

"Are We There Yet?"

July 15, 1996 --- **Christianity Today** by Ruth Tucker

"From the Fringe to the Fold, How the WCG discovered the Plain Truth about the Gospel."

December 1996 --- **Ambassador University in Big Sandy, TX Closes** [UPDATE: In March 2000 WCG sold the Ambassador College Big Sandy campus to Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., who leased the campus to Bill Gothard, president of Institute in Basic Life Principles. Gothard bought all the property in the buildings. (*Calvary Contender*, May 15, 2000) UPDATE: Bill Gothard resigned from his organization in 2014 after allegations of rampant sexual harassment.

February 7, 1997 --- **The Tkach PR team makes its second debut on the Bible Answer Man radio broadcast with Hank Hanegraaff**.

Spring, 1997 --- **Religious Broadcaster Annual Convention**, Anaheim, CA. by Richard C. Dean "Open Arms: Welcoming the Worldwide Church of God"

March 1997 --- **International Church of the Foursquare Gospel,** Press Release "Let it be known to all, that the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel gives God praise for His work of renewal in and restoration of the Worldwide Church of God, declaring this to be one of the great miracles in the Body of Christ during the twentieth century."

May 10, 1997 --- **LA Times**, by Larry B. Stammer

"Evangelicals Accept Worldwide Church of God"

May 1997 --- **UK Evangelical Alliance**

"Coming into the fold--Hazel Southam investigates the soul-searching at the Worldwide Church of God" [UPDATE: Read 2006 letter to ESN: Worldwide Church of God in the UK Links to Evangelical Alliance]

May 1997 - **CornerStone Magazine** - Jon Trott, Jesus People USA

"The Saga of a 'Cult' Gone Good"

June 21, 1997 --- **The Huntsville Times**

"Church struggles for survival as it goes mainstream"

June 14, 1997 --- **Associated Press**

"Amazing Grace That Saved The Church"

June 18/19, 1997 --- **Life Outreach Internationa**l -with televangelist James Robison aired two publicity radio shows featuring WCG allies, James Walker of Watchmen Fellowship and Greg Albrecht, Chief Editor of *The Plain Truth* magazine.

August 24, 1997 --- **Steve Brown Show** - television Guest Joe Tkach, Jr., Michael Feazell and Greg Albrecht are glorified on radio by Steve Brown who also supports Seventh-day Adventists as true Christians. [Copy of radio show with ESN]

September 1997 --- **Marketing campaign for propaganda book, Transformed By Truth**, allegedly authored by Joseph Tkach, Jr. In a mass mailing under Plain Truth Ministries, Greg Albrecht writes the following excerpts:

"I'm writing to announce that Transformed by Truth, the new book by Joseph Tkach, is about to be released. It tells the inside story of what's happened among us."

"We have reserved a limited number of copies for friends of the Worldwide Church of God at a special discount price from the publisher, Multnomah Press. It will be in bookstores everywhere in September at $19.95 but we can have Transformed by Truth delivered to your door for $16.95 including tax and shipping."

He goes on to say:

"This is the only authorized story of the transformation of the Worldwide Church of God and The Plain Truth from the inside."

*"But we have only a **limited** number of copies available at this special price, so it's important to act soon to reserve your copy."* [Emp. Albrecht]

Hank Hanegraaff of Christian Research Institute, James Walker and Phil Arnn of Watchman Fellowship, Ruth Tucker of Trinity Evangelical University, Michael Kellner and Larry Neff of Christianity Today were among the most prominent mouthpieces for the WCG publicity campaign during the past five years. Watchman Fellowship conducted WCG update seminars in `94, `95 and `96 at the Evangelical Conference. Each seminar message propelled the WCG effort and propaganda into the ears of smaller Christian ministries and Evangelicals whose only venue to what was happening in the WCG was through the mouths of these main groups and spokespersons for the WCG. Hank Hanegraaff extended the WCG media blitz, as he claimed his own fame as the hero who guided the cult to orthodoxy and marketed that message as a money producer for his own agenda. Ruth Tucker claimed her fame through error-punctuated articles in popular Christian magazines. *LA Times* Religion writer, Larry B. Stammer, proved himself a pawn in the game as he honored the tailored press releases delivered to him directly by the WCG spin-doctors. He printed the party line-without question.3

The right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing!
Or does it?

The Propaganda Campaign effort receives its big payoff in 1997 through its newly established accomplices with The National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), the Evangelical Christian Publisher's Association (ECPA) and associate member, National Religious Broadcasters (NRB). The latest partnership is with the American Bible Society (ABS). The March/April issue of ***The Plain Truth*** offered an exclusive interview with NAE promoter, **Billy Graham.** All the above associations must have marveled over Billy Graham's face on the cover of this once considered "un-American" political magazine of propaganda.

Popular Christian media evangelists such as popular Religious Right evangelist, D. James Kennedy,4 were useful tools in advertising the reinvented WCG. At the very least, their endorsements had to add credibility by association, a necessary propaganda stunt. But what did the selected propagandists have in common that inspired them to accept the cult leaders' words at face value? What motivated these mouthpieces to hail words regarding doctrinal manipulations, while simultaneously ignoring evidence and documentation surrounding abuse issues, financial improprieties and allegations of grave deception within the current WCG? Why would MacGregor Ministry endorse a "cult" as changed and concurrently report that Adventistism and **Promise**

Keepers are dangerous? Doesn't Lorri MacGregor know that the WCG leaders highly esteem both organizations? In fact, WCG has become a major mouthpiece and proponent for the Promise Keepers. Did she and other WCG promoters just frivolously participate in the WCG propaganda without cause? Why would the *LA Times* Religion reporter, Larry B. Stammer, print news about the WCG based on WCG press releases delivered directly to him? Whatever happened to investigative reporting? Stammer directly told the ESN he printed what the press release stated and was disappointed when the WCG leaders didn't even say thank you. Why would the *LA Times* allow themselves to be used as a propaganda journal for the Worldwide Church of God?

These are just a few of the questions many researchers have offered as they investigate the uncanny chronological events with the WCG and its main extension/splinter groups.

There have been several ministries that have spoken out against the **rush to judgment** such as Biblical Discernment Ministries and Way of Life Ministry. Many others take a "no comment" stand or refer questioners to Christian Research Institute or Watchman Fellowship. The propaganda has been very controlled by a tight **ecumenical association of evangelicals** that have, in fact, been aligned with the WCG for several years now. What is really going on here? **What are reasons behind the event?** How in the world did forty-five year old Joe Tkach, Jr., with a full cult life experience and minimal business knowledge, suddenly become the chief holder (on paper) of the massive WCG investment corporation, plus qualify for his newly promoted title as **Reverend Tkach.** The party line wants to promote the idea that a miracle has taken place. Be assured there will be those that swallow the nonsense. However, the WCG architects, no matter how hard they try to re-invent or cover up their actions, past and present, can't cover their multiple agenda or personalities. The legacy of this organization spells holocaust, and no matter how much the truth is bulldozed, there will remain bone fragments that will stand as a testimony to the truth behind the "historic" cover-up as the cult that converted to orthodoxy.

Within the past few years, conscientious researchers in the field of Christianity/religion/politics have monitored the intensifying developments of the Ecumenical Movement among the Catholic and Evangelical denominations. While many adherents from each spiritual camp frown upon the uniting of two opposite doctrinal beliefs, the Catholic and Protestant ecumenical partnership is gaining lofty ground through the combined and planned efforts of the ecumenist honchos using massive media propaganda. Before we can comprehend the convoluted WCG deception with doctrine and corporate organization, we must delve further into the political infrastructure behind the strategic ecumenical marketing of the WCG wealthy corporate empire.

Ecumenical Movement

The often repeated Marxist quote, "religion is the opiate of the masses," has definitive meaning when we observe the complex history of religious development. Centuries of historical documentation demonstrate how the course of history was often changed by the hand of a charismatic leader. Time and again the proletariats (rank and file) flocked down the commanded paths with unquestioning faith, as the masses accepted their leaders' rule at face value! As we monitor the permeation of re-invented NEW AGE thinking into our current society, fundamental Christianity becomes less recognizable each day as its definition molds to media indoctrination.

As political and powerful architects pour millions of dollars into marketing and development of the ecumenical, one world religion, the populace in search of faith and salvation are being swept into a cesspool of deceit in the name of Christianity.

In the OIUs continuing effort to explain the **reasons behind the events,** it is often stated that the reader must broaden his critical thinking and understanding of the bigger picture through education and discernment of the religio/politico developments through the past two centuries. Taking the initiative to explore the historic events that mold Christianity today provides foundational understanding of the current adaptation of what was once considered, mainstream fundamental Christianity.

Words such as, global, unity, bridge builder, equipped, interdenominational, one world, volunteerism, reconciliation, environmentalism, along with many other common words and phrases, are repeatedly downloaded into our minds through the visual and print media. Those joined to Protestant or Catholic denominations are currently being conditioned to accept the mission of global unity in Christianity. While not every church, denomination or pastoral leader is participating in the uniting of Christianity, the majority is

jumping on the bandwagon through the ever-present conditioning process escalating the international Christian amphitheater. On the surface, it's tempting. Unity masks itself as love in a spiritual sense and as history has proven repeatedly, the masses can be united through **utopianism**, as in communism or with one **kingdom ideology**, as in fascism . As history teaches, when an ideology represents answers for contemplative questions and provides purpose and hope, the populace manifests a fanatical or militant response. The **Ecumenical Movement** (EC Movement) of this century is the mortar cementing unsuspecting Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims and other non-traditional religious organizations together as **one religion**, which will further the **quest for one world religion and global government.**

What is currently viewed as ecumenicism has been a keenly orchestrated work in progress starting before the nineteenth century. The rise of Protestant Missions between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries provided the groundwork for the Evangelical Awakening of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. A basic study of the history of the EC Movement enlightens the researcher on the chronology of events that have been culminating these past few years. As author William Richy Hogg states in his well-documented work, *Ecumenical Foundations* (1952):

> *"It has become common knowledge that the nineteenth century marked Christianity's greatest period of missionary expansion. The now familiar words of the late William Temple have indelibly stamped in our mind another closely related reality: the Ecumenical Movement, "the great new fact of our era," has resulted from the missionary enterprise of the last one hundred and fifty years. While the Ecumenical Movement is greater than the sum total of the so-called "ecumenical organizations," these have helped to give what is essentially a movement of the Spirit tangible reality. One of the earliest of these bodies, worldwide in membership and outreach, was the International Missionary Council. Engaged today in an ever-broadening program, it stands as a progenitor of the World Council of Churches. While virtually unknown to most church members, the International Missionary Council affords, for one who will observe its emergence, a key for understanding the spirit of the Ecumenical Movement and it organization."*

The history of the EC Movement is as astounding as it is appalling, inasmuch as few that profess Christian faith have any knowledge of it at all. A century of significant, historic International and Foreign Mission Conferences prefaced the most significant event with the Ecumenical Movement of this century. Under the genius of John R. Mott the World Missionary Conference convened in **Edinburgh, 1910**:

> *"High on 'The Mound,' not far from Edinburgh Castle and close to St. Giles Cathedral, stands the University of Edinburgh's New College. Its buildings surround the Assembly Hall of what in 1910 was the United Free Church of Scotland. In this great room, so admirably suited for discussion, the World Missionary Conference met from June 14 to 23, 1910"*

The **Edinburgh 1910 Conference** established an international common mission that would change the definition of Christianity forever more. Attention must be given to Edinburgh's significance. As Hogg highlights:

> *"Edinburgh has distilled the best from past missionary co-operation and offered this powerful concentrate to the churches. Yet Edinburgh was more--did more--than this. Something new had happened. Those present knew that from within their midst something different was emerging. It was a desire for an inclusive togetherness unknown before. From Edinburgh sprang a new willingness to respect and recognize wide differences and at the same time to work together as Christians. Here was born the kind of international and interdenominational Christian co-operation that has increasingly characterized the twentieth century."*

Edinburgh 1910 Conference, instituted phenomenal ecumenical objectives. Among them, Hogg notes:

- Edinburgh stood as a prototype for all world conferences.
- It hastened the Ecumenical Movement started by the Evangelical Awakening.
- It established the principle of bringing together delegates from around the world that would in turn prepare their churches for unity with the Ecumenical Movement.
- It instituted the principle of broad, denominational inclusiveness. It deliberately sought to bring together people who disagreed with one another and established co-operation without compromising

their own fundamental beliefs.

- Edinburgh marks the twentieth century beginning of the two most representative embodiments of the Ecumenical Movement, the International Missionary Council and the World Council of Churches.
- Edinburgh first brought British, continental and American Christians together in the equality born of shared endeavor.
- Edinburgh is uniquely responsible for the World Council of Churches, chief symbol of the Ecumenical Movement of today. The World Council of Churches founding as a world body resulted primarily from the extension of the Edinburgh's influence through four decades. [1910-1950]

Hogg also relays:

> *"One may define the Ecumenical Movement as that growing consciousness in all churches of the church universal conceived as a missionary community. To this end the whole of Edinburgh contributed. Three of its topics were especially relevant: 'Carrying the Gospel to the Non-Christian World,' 'The Church on the mission Field,' and 'cooperation and the Promotion of Unity.' "*

The World Council of Churches (WCC) was formed in Geneva by Oxford University and Edinburgh in 1937 to monitor and combine the efforts of various ecumenical denominations. In 1938, those appointed at Oxford and Edinburgh, together with some co-opted Christian leaders, devised a constitution for a **World Council of Churches**. From 1910 to 1948 the ecumenical logic put forth at Edinburgh evolved into the mission of the National Council of Churches. Within slightly less than four decades, what in 1910 only few had dared to dream was realized. "The great confessions of Protestantism and representative Orthodox churches had come together in a permanent council. In its ecumenical meeting they shared a 'foretaste of the unity of His People.' "

The OIU highlights some of the historic facts about the Ecumenical Movement in hope that the reader will be inspired to broaden his knowledge of the significant events that have shaped this century's evolution of organized religion and religious politics. As we probe through the propaganda strategy obscuring the deception of the supposed transformation of the Worldwide Church of God and its main extension groups, we must extend ourselves toward viewing the bigger picture and not hide beneath our comfort zones, fears and biases.5

As we travel through the ecumenical progress of this century we find before us the astounding reasons behind not only the deceptive fragmentation of the Worldwide Church of God, but the real architects of the **unification one religion scheme under the camouflage of Christianity.**

Before we can fully discern the Ecumenical Movement post 1962-Vatican TWO, an historical view of the Evangelical Movement is necessary.

The Evangelical Movement of this Century

The term Evangelicalism has been used since the Reformation, often representing a variety of definitions. Martin Luther's followers often classed themselves as Evangelical to distinguish themselves from Reformed Calvinists. In his book, *The Young Evangelicals*, Richard Quebedeaux explains:

> *"The Evangelical revival in the eighteenth century was represented by pietism in Germany, Methodism in England, and the Great Awakening in America. Since that time, especially in English speaking countries, Evangelicalism has been looked upon as the school of Protestant Christianity, affirming salvation through faith in the atoning death of Christ and denying any saving efficacy either in good works or in the sacraments. This Evangelical tradition, which has included both a wing of the Anglican communion and churches that developed as a result of the eighteenth-century Evangelical revival, also regarded as central tenets of the Christian faith the inspiration and authority of the Bible, man's inherent depravity, and the more or less symbolic nature of the sacraments."*

With the division between Modernists (now referred to as Liberals), and Fundamentalists in the early twentieth century, particularly in America, Evangelicalism took on another shade of meaning. After 1940, **Neo-Evangelicalism** became recognizable in the United States as a strong force within conservative Christianity--one which holds firm to what it believes is biblical or historic Orthodoxy, but at the same time repudiates the

theological and cultural excesses of Fundamentalism.

"Contemporary Evangelicalism is characterized as a school of Christianity espousing a Christian faith that is experiential. As an ideologically conservative Movement, Evangelicalism's purpose was to transcend denominations and their politics with intentions of spiritually uniting in an organized fashion to evangelize the world for Christ while seeking the conversion of sinners. Without unity of doctrine, the Movement attested to three major theological principles:

1. *The complete reliability and final authority of Scripture in matters of faith and practice.*
2. *The necessity of a personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior from sin and consequent commitment to Him as Lord.*
3. *The urgency of seeking actively the conversion of sinners to Christ."*

At the time of his writing in 1974, Quebedeaux stressed the following:

> *"Evangelicalism is rooted firmly in what it understands as historic or biblical Orthodoxy. The late Edward John Carnell of* ***Fuller Theological Seminary*** *[in Pasadena], one of the most highly respected Evangelical apologists, describes Orthodoxy in The Case for Biblical Christianity*[6] *as 'that branch of Christendom which limits the ground of religious authority to the Bible.' "*

[UPDATE: Read exposé article on Fuller Theological Seminary.]

Protestants Splinter

Fundamentalists and Liberals divided during the 1920s and `30s. Following the Civil War and thereafter, Protestant theology was greatly influenced by the intellectual climate of the United States. Between Darwinian biology and numerous studies conducted by psychological and sociological scholars, along with criticism from German universities that undermined the authority of the Bible, increased threat permeated Protestant theology.

Soon to take hold was Social Christianity, later called the Social Gospel.

> *"Supported by the general optimism of the age, Liberal pastors and seminary professors espoused the centrality of the kingdom of God in Christian doctrine. Inherent in their interpretation of the kingdom was a belief, later considered naïve, that the kingdom of God could, in fact, be established on earth primarily, if not exclusively, by the efforts of men and women working for political and social reform. For these clergymen and religious thinkers, social salvation was often the message of the Gospel."*

In 1908, the **Federal Council of Churches**[7] was formed and adopted the "Social Creed of the Churches." The Social Gospel became the mainframe of orthodox Christianity by World War One.

> *"For the Liberals, the social dimension of the Gospel, with its almost exclusive attention to the horizontal needs of man in society and its neglect of the vertical desires of the heart for God, became orthodox Christianity."*
>
> Dissension among Protestant camps increased throughout the early twentieth century causing denominational splits. Liberalism permeated most Protestant denominations, causing fighting within many of the denominational ranks for ecclesiastical standing and their jobs. Great controversy prevailed over the Orthodoxy rival giving rebirth to Dispensationalism.
>
> *"This Orthodox school of theology was based upon the speculations of J. N. Darby (1800-82) in England, then popularized by the Scofield Reference Bible (1909) which imposed a rigid schematization and periodization on the biblical materials by relating every part of the Bible to a timetable of dispensations, of which signifies a different way in which God relates to man. Inherent in this theological stance was a feeling that all established denominations had become apostate, and true Christians, therefore, would do well to separate themselves from those inclusive ecclesiastical bodies."*

To the Dispensationalist, Liberalism was the work of Satan! In 1910, the same year the Ecumenical Conference

convened in Edinburgh, "**The Fundamentals: A Testimony to the Truth**" was widely distributed throughout the Protestant arena internationally. Funding these treatises of doctrine were two wealthy Los Angeles businessmen, Milton and Lyman Stewart. The extensive distribution ultimately led to the establishment of a doctrinal basis by some of the most powerful voices of Orthodoxy not only in America, but also in Canada, England, Ireland and Germany.8

The turbulent decade of the 1920s gave rise to more Protestant fragmentation and theological debate continued throughout the 1930s. Fundamentalism was declining but held on through development of colleges, seminaries, publishers and periodicals, missionary and evangelistic associations, boards and councils of churches. Many social factors and historical experiences such as World War Two influenced individual commitment to the Social Gospel. The divided Protestant Church sought to restore basic Christian unity internationally. The **Ecumenical Movement** would become the force to unify Protestantism.

> *"Ecumenical comes from the Greek oikoumene [inhabited earth]. Upon the analogy of the application of the term oikoumene to the Greek [and later to the Roman] world, the Ecumenical movement designates the contemporary attempt to restore Christian unity throughout the inhabited globe. In 1908 the Federal Council of Churches (which became the National Council of Churches in 1950) was established. Later, in 1948, the World Council of Churches was organized in Geneva. Added to these conciliar Ecumenical efforts were various denominational mergers and the new rapprochement with the Roman Catholic Church effected by Vatican TWO."*

[NOTE: Modernism denies the Deity of Christ, the Virgin Birth, Christ's Blood for the propitiation of all sins, and the Bodily Resurrection. Refer to the book *New Neutralism: Exposing the Gray of Compromise* which has excerpts online and *The New Evangelicalism: The Deadliest Ism of All* by Rolland C. Starr. Also read, *7 Men Who Rule the World From the Grave* by Dave Breese, noticing especially Chap. 6 on Julius Wellhausen, the man who initiated higher criticism and modernism. (Available through Amazon)]

Ecumenical Movement Regroups

In 1942 **The National Association of Evangelicals** (NAE) was formed under the leadership of Harold Hohn Ockenga for the purpose of strengthening unity among Neo-Evangelicals. Scholarly interest of Evangelicalism resulted in the founding of ***Christianity Today*** in 1956 with its first editor, Carl Henry. ***The Christian Century*** and ***Christianity and Crisis*** became the official periodical voice of the new Evangelicals.

Enter Billy Graham -- 1950 into the NEW AGE

No person has been more credited for the popularization of the Evangelical Movement than Billy Graham. Recruited in 1945 by Youth for Christ, Graham quickly gathered world notoriety with his charismatic, evangelistic personality that emanated from the podiums of highly funded revival campaigns.

[UPDATE: Billy Graham died February 21, 2018 at age 99.]

Throughout the 1950s Neo-Orthodox theology struggled for definition surrounding political and social change.

> "Evangelicals insisted that only men and women who had been born again and thus were personally transformed by the Spirit of God were adequately equipped to build a more righteous national and world order."9

As Neo-Orthodoxy passed out of existence, a new radical Liberalism moved into its place and became known as mainstream Ecumenical Liberalism. While some more radical Christian thinkers strove to connect the Social Gospel to revolutionary social and political movements, the layperson in the Liberal churches became disenchanted with the messages and the goals of the Ecumenical endeavor and the lack of solid Biblical theology. Many Protestant adherents lost interest for lack of purpose, identity and meaning.

The era of the 1960s and 1970s not only spawned the hippie movement, it also motivated many Protestants and Catholics alike to question their Christian heritage and make radical personal changes in their "spiritual" allegiance toward their traditional Christian organizations. **It was during this decade that hundreds of newly formed cults recruited thousands of new members.**

Establishment Evangelicalism

The **NAE** significantly impacted the growth and cohesiveness of the Evangelical Movement. Despite constant fighting and disputes among the Orthodox scholars, evangelicals agreed that evangelism or proclaiming the good news was their primary concern. Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, along with other less prominent organizations provided cohesiveness for the Evangelical Movement. Their cause has been propelled by founding of *Christianity Today*, an ecumenical Christian magazine.

Establishment Evangelicalism is represented by denominations that are members of the NAE such as the Baptist General Conference, Assemblies of God, the Brethren Church, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Conservative Congregational Christian Conference, Christian Catholic Church, Evangelical Free Church of America, Free Methodist Church, Churches of Christ, Conservative Baptist Association, Christian Reformed Church, Church of the Nazarene, Southern Baptist Convention, Evangelical Presbyterian Church, International Church of the Four Square Gospel, International Pentecostal Church, Mennonite Brethren Churches USA, Pentecostal Church of God, Reformed Episcopal Church, The Salvation Army, The Wesleyan Church, Reformed Churches of America and Conservative Lutheran Association. In addition, it is representative of individual churches related to the NAE whose denominations are members of the National and World Council of Churches. Establishment Evangelicalism is a stance held by small to large contingents within most of the Ecumenically aligned denominations apart from any separate affiliation with the NAE. The latest official member "denomination" of the NAE is none other than the **Worldwide Church of God!!!**

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OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

NAE Accepts Worldwide Church of God

Transformed Church Finds Acceptance and Fellowship in Evangelical Community

May 7, 1997

WHEATON, IL - The Board of Directors of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) has voted overwhelmingly to accept the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), headquartered in Pasadena, Calif., into membership. The application process included examination of doctrinal changes, which have taken place in the once-controversial denomination.

NAE is founded on the premise that the Bible is the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. "I respect Joseph Tkach and the leadership of the Worldwide Church of God who did not rest in the refuge of their historically held doctrines, but sought the Truth through careful study of the scriptures - even at significant cost to the denomination," said NAE President Don Argue. "And we thank God for his faithfulness to them. We appreciate the gracious and open manner in which this church's leaders answered questions about the struggles that led them to a biblically-based theology."

WCG members once followed the teachings of church founder, Herbert W. Armstrong, who rejected the Trinity as a pagan doctrine, while also insisting that tithing and observance of the Old Testament Sabbath were necessary for salvation, among numerous other old covenant practices. After Armstrong's death in 1986, denominational leaders began to study and reflect on the validity of the church's teachings. In light of the Word of God in the Bible, they could not find support for many of the denomination's most controversial doctrines.

These dramatic changes, however, have cost WCG nearly half its membership that once topped almost 90,000 people in the United States. Today the denomination has nearly 50,000 members in the United States and 73,435 members worldwide. More than half of its 802 churches are located in the U.S. There are 1046 ordained WCG ministers worldwide; 678 in the United States.

"The greater Christian community is just beginning to realize what God has done with the Worldwide Church of God; and understandably many still tend to view it with extreme skepticism," WCG leader Joseph Tkach told the Board of Directors of the association in March. "We have experienced what Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 3:15-18, '...whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away... And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.' "

"For years, people have been praying for their friends and relatives who have been a part of the Worldwide Church of God, asking that they would be able to see the truth of God's word," said Don Argue in announcing their acceptance into membership. "We see the dramatic changes that have occurred among our friends as God's continuing efforts to bring renewal and revival for His glory.

The Worldwide Church of God joins 48 other denominational members in the fellowship of the National Association of Evangelicals, including Reformed, Pentecostal, Free Church, Holiness and various other traditions. "In essentials unity, in distinctives liberty, in all things charity" is the motif of the association, which serves as a forum, a voice, and a resource for the evangelical community.

For further information about the Worldwide Church of God, please call Greg Albrecht at (818) 304-6181.

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http://www.nae.net

The National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) is a voluntary association of individuals, denominations,

churches, schools and organizations comprised of approximately 43,000 congregations nationwide from 49 member denominations and individual congregations from an additional 27 denominations, as well as several hundred independent churches. The membership of the association includes 250 parachurch ministries and educational institutions. Through the cooperative ministry of these members, NAE directly and indirectly benefits over 27 million people. The association maintains its national offices in Carol Stream, Ill., and an office for governmental affairs in the nation's capital.

[NOTE: Read: Worldwide Church of God's Faulty Orthodoxy (shows why Dr. Robert Sumner in his booklet, *Is Armstrong's Cult Now Orthodox? A New Look at the Worldwide Church of God!* believes there are strong reasons to be skeptical in accepting the new WCG as now Orthodox.)]

The following ministries of NAE's affiliates have likewise been strategically formed to serve the broader evangelical community:

- The Christian Stewardship Association is assisting evangelical churches and organizations through networking and education in the areas of strategic planning and development.
- The National Religious Broadcasters provides a recognized forum and identity for hundreds of Christian broadcasters and related ministries nationwide.
- The Evangelical Fellowship of Mission Agencies serves thousands of missionaries around the world by providing an integral liaison with the State Department of the United States of America and other governments around the world.
- The Evangelical Child and Family Agency provides social service ministry to children and families, including adoption and foster care services.
- The National Association of Christian Child and Family Agencies provides a networking structure for family service agencies.

The National Association of Evangelicals is one of 117 national fellowships worldwide, which are members of World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF). WEF exists to establish and help regional and national evangelical fellowships empower and mobilize local churches and organizations to disciple the nations for Christ.

[UPDATE: The Evangelical Alliance/World Evangelical Fellowship [1846].

Richard Quebedeaux points out:

> *"Among the long list of NAE Intellectual centers of Establishment Evangelicalism are Wheaton College in Illinois (Billy Graham), Westmont College, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Ruth Tucker) Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, and many, many more."*
>
> *"More important than the NAE as a symbol of Establishment Evangelicalism, is Billy Graham. William Franklin Graham, Jr. graduated from Wheaton college with a degree in anthropology in 1943, and began his career shortly thereafter as an ordained southern Baptist evangelist. In the wake of his early revival successes in 1949 and the following year, Graham launched his "Hour of Decision" radio broadcasts and formed the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in Minneapolis during 1950."*
>
> *"Evangelicals regard Graham as the most effective mass evangelist in history. It is he who propagated the twentieth century definition of Born Again Christian."*

[Excerpt paragraphs taken from *The Young Evangelicals* - 1974]

[NOTE: Richard Quebedeaux and The Young Evangelicals are quoted in The New Evangelicalism (the deadliest ism of all) by Rolland Starr.

As the NAE continues to enhance its vital stand with Ecumenical, one-world religion goals, we find the following points of interest:

- President Bill Clinton asked the Reverend Dr. Don Argue, president of the NAE of Evangelicals, to lead a prayer for the President in a Monday morning church service prior to Clinton's second inauguration.

- Billy Graham led prayers for the 53rd Presidential Inauguration. This marked Graham's eighth invitation.
- President Don Argue serves on a special State Department taskforce to help investigate and recommend actions to stop religious persecution of Christians worldwide. In addition, Clinton requested Argue's input in developing a new TV ratings system to help parents better screen TV programming for their children.
- Millard Fuller, founder and president of the ecumenical Habitat for Humanity International, received the Faithful Servant Award by the NAE's Social Action Commission in 1966.

While these accomplishments may seem impressive, the reader should be aware that the NAE is very controversial and speculative in view of the strategic events propelling an ecumenical-one world religion. The research references provided below are highly recommended to further one's understanding as to the significance of WCG's partnership with specific organizations and individuals that are politically wrapped with global architects.

[NOTE: Read: Letter to NAE and other concerned Christians.)

The purpose of taking additional space in the OIU to present a brief historical synopsis of the Ecumenical Movement and Evangelical Movement is to lay a foundation of understanding to what is occurring today within 1) the Worldwide Church of God and 2) the Evangelical arena. The massive deception behind the WCG's propagandized transition must be exposed. The Tkach/Hulme associations are significant to discerning the reasons behind the events. The very shrewd architects of the WCG/UCG/GCG multi-million dollar political power conglomerate are entwined with NAE, the WCC and its many supporters toward one world ecumenical religion. The NAE, its political history and its current influence on millions of professing Christians is hidden from the populace for good. (Excerpt paragraphs taken from *The Young Evangelicals* - 1974)

As we incorporate greater understanding of the World Council of Churches and the NAE, it should become clear to most how the current WCG is very much supportive of the United Church of God and together they continue the same stratagem of the past decades.

The NAE's "Strategic Plan for the Dawn of the 21st Century" called, **An Evangelical Manifesto** requests all "evangelicals to join in a commitment for five things: a call for prayer, call for repentance and reform, call for unity and cooperation, call for evangelism and a call for cultural impact."

The grand entrance into the WCG fold with **Billy Graham** along with his son Franklin warrants far greater reporting. Upcoming OIUs will take an in-depth look into the real Billy Graham story. Much has already been well documented on the man and the myth, by significant Christian researchers and investigators. We urge our readers to forge ahead with personal research. Included in our suggested reading are proofs that give the affiliation of occult freemasonry, counterfeit Christianity, cults, covert government activities involving church fronts and clergy and other sinister relationships. What does all this have to do with the WCG rendition of the "**Church of God**"? Everything! So get educated--don't take our word for it.

Ecumenicism becomes a way of life.

What started as an Evangelical **Movement** has more recently evolved into an Evangelical Faith. The Ecumenical Movement has made enormous strides since the inception of the William Randolph Hearst funded Billy Graham's crusades. Progress was augmented through the financial assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation. Throughout the decades, hundreds of meetings and conferences convened with the main purpose of Ecumenical enhancement. One significant event well documented by William Richey Hogg in Ecumenical Foundations (1952) occurred in 1947:

"The Churches Commission on International Affairs"

> "Responding to a suggestion submitted to it from the Geneva consultations, the Commission on a Just and Durable Peace of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America agreed to arrange for a meeting of Christian leaders on problems of peace and war. The conference, enlisting some sixty persons from fifteen countries, met at Cambridge in August 1947, under the chairmanship of John Foster Dulles.10 Sponsored jointly by the World Council of Churches and

the International Missionary Council, the gathering established a joint and permanent Commission on the Churches on International Affairs to serve the churches as a means of common counsel and action on world affairs."

"One of the Commission's most notable achievements was its role in making known the views of the churches toward and its influence on the United Nations' Declaration on Human Rights. It also brought to the attention of the churches in different countries relevant problems in the solutions of which they could take constructive steps; e.g., religious and missionary freedom, refugees, human rights and general problems involved in the peace settlements. In 1948 the Commission gave every indication of becoming an important arm of the Ecumenical Movement."

THE GOAL OF ONE WORLD RELIGION

The Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium

"A formal declaration boldly documents the Evangelical and Catholic commitment to work together to evangelize and bring about social reform in the world. **The Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium** (ECT) has, in effect, laid the groundwork for Evangelicals to set aside their distinctive doctrines and unite with the Catholic Church and other religions which are coming together by 2000 A.D. The ECT Document was authored and presented in **May of 1994 by Charles Colson of Prison Fellowship and Roman Catholic priest, Richard John Neuhaus.** In 1993, Chuck Colson was the recipient of the $1,000,000 "Prize for Progress in Religion," given annually at the Parliament of World Religions by New Age financier, John Templeton. Father Neuhaus is the director of the Institute on Religion and Public Life who, as former Lutheran and a seminary student, rejected the doctrine of justification by faith in Jesus Christ. "

[UPDATE: Chuck Colson died on April 21, 2012 and Richad John Neuhaus died January 8, 2009.]

The ECT Document was signed by 20 Catholic leaders and 20 Evangelical leaders including Dr. Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ, Pat Robertson, President of CBN, J. I. Packer of Christianity Today, Richard Land and Larry Lewis of the Southern Baptist Convention, Jesse Miranda of Assemblies of God, Dr. John White of the **National Association of Evangelicals** and President of Geneva College, Os Guiness of Trinity Forum and Dr. Mark Noll of Wheaton College.

Supporters of **The Evangelicals and Catholics Together Document** maintain that it is not a statement of theological agreement, but of unity for the cause of moral and social reform. However, ECT states, 'Evangelicals and Catholics are brothers and sisters in Christ' And 'existing divisions that obscure the one Christ and hinder the one mission of the Church' are confessed as 'sins against the unity that Christ intends for all his disciples. The scriptural support presented for cooperation and unity between Evangelicals and Catholics is Jesus' prayer for his disciples in John 17:21: "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they may also be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." ECT conveniently removes this verse from its context and misinterprets it by failing to mention verses that identify Jesus' disciples as those who "received His words."

The presentation of this historic document has caused no small stir in the evangelical arena. Since the origination of this unification treaty, its popularity has increased significantly. Evangelicals who strongly oppose its agenda have trumpeted their concerns. Watch Unto Prayer offered the following comments:

"Evangelical leaders who promote unity with Roman Catholicism are either ignorantly or intentionally leading Christians into the apostate religious system of the new world order. This final earthly kingdom will be the political-religious beast of Revelation 17 and Daniel 7, which 'shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.' Will Christians be led to worship the Antichrist because their spiritual leaders encouraged unity with pagan religions? That the elect may be deceived is truly a hard saying (Matt. 24:24) -- until it is understood that the deception will come from the highest ranks of Evangelicalism.

"The accelerating momentum toward ecumenical unity within the evangelical church makes it difficult to resist the suspicion that organizations such as the New Age Movement, Catholic

Church and Illuminati have successfully infiltrated the church via the large parachurch organizations. There is much documented evidence of such a conspiracy, including statements which express these intentions. In her book, ***A Planned Deception***, Constance Cumbey assesses Jeremy Rifkin's **Emerging Order** with the observation that, 'The evangelical church would be the primary instrument to bring the new world order to birth.' "

What does the document say?

The following first three paragraphs of the ECT document offer an overview of its nature: [quote]

THE CHRISTIAN MISSION IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

March 29,1994

Introduction. I. We Affirm Together. II. We Hope Together III. We Search Together. IV. We Contend Together. V. We Witness Together. Conclusion.

We are Evangelical Protestants and Roman Catholics who have been led through prayer, study, and discussion to common convictions about Christian faith and mission. This statement cannot speak officially for our communities. It does intend to speak responsibly from our communities and to our communities. In this statement we address what we have discovered both about our unity and about our differences. We are aware that our experience reflects the distinctive circumstances and opportunities of Evangelicals and Catholics living together in North America. At the same time, we believe that what we have discovered and resolved is pertinent to the relationship between Evangelicals and Catholics in other parts of the world. We therefore commend this statement to their prayerful consideration.

As the Second Millennium draws to a close, the Christian mission in world history faces a moment of daunting opportunity and responsibility. If in the merciful and mysterious ways of God the Second Coming is delayed, we enter upon a Third Millennium that could be, in the words of John Paul II, "a springtime of world missions." (Redemptoris Missio)

As Christ is one, so the Christian mission is one. That one mission can be and should be advanced in diverse ways. Legitimate diversity, however, should not be confused with existing divisions between Christians that obscure the one Christ and hinder the one mission. There is a necessary connection between the visible unity of Christians and the mission of the one Christ. We together pray for the fulfillment of the prayer of Our Lord: "May they all be one; as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, so also may they be in us, that the one, may believe that you sent me." (John 17) We together, Evangelicals and Catholics, confess our sins against the unity that Christ intends for all his disciples.

The one Christ and one mission includes many other Christians, notably the Eastern Orthodox and those Protestants not commonly identified as Evangelical. All Christians are encompassed in the prayer, "May they all be one." Our present statement attends to the specific problems and opportunities in the relationship between Roman Catholics and Evangelical Protestants.

The Big Picture The Ecumenical Umbrella

While the word "ecumenical" might seem newly popularized, the fact is, the ecumenical mission has made strident accomplishments throughout this century. Many wrongly attribute its origins to Billy Graham's Evangelistic Association, but excellent documentation clearly chronicles decades of incredible ecumenical accomplishments that have propelled recent ecumenical events to emerge.

The many groups responsible for the New Age Ecumenical Movement are too numerous to detail here. Below, references a brief list demonstrating how uniquely planned this one world religion mission is through collaborating associations:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)-Department for Ecumenical Affairs (DEA):

"The ELCA seeks 'to manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love

of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.'"

"The quest for Christian unity, 'they may all be one', (John 17:2) inspires the faith and shapes the life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Department for Ecumenical Affairs (DEA) has the task of assisting this church in that quest. One of the responsibilities of the DEA is to interpret 'Ecumenicism: the Vision of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,' the official policy statement. As the statement affirms, the ELCA is "bold to reach out in several directions simultaneously to all with whom it may find agreement in the Gospel."

The DEA has achieved the following documents of proposals that state the following:

Concordat of Agreement - the document proposing full communion between the ELCA and the Episcopal church.

A Formula of Agreement -the document proposing full communion between the ELCA and three Reformed Churches, [Presbyterian Church (USA), the Reformed Church in America, and the United Church of Christ]

The proposals are based on dialogue reports that acknowledge a common agreement on the Gospel. They and the thirty-year history of dialogue that led to their formulation mark an important step in American Lutheranism. Both proposals define full communion in congruence with the characteristics outlined in 'Ecumenism: The Vision of the ELCA.'

These two proposals, along with the Lutheran-Roman Catholic proposal, are described in a Department for Ecumenical Affairs brochure for congregations. 'Together, Making Christ Known,' which highlights the mission aspects of these ecumenical developments. Another, 'Why Unity?,' explains the Biblical, confessional, and constitutional foundations of ecumenism in the ELCA which have lead to the proposals. Other resources include a video, 'Ecumenism: the Vision of the ELCA,' and a Lutheran-Episcopal audio tape, 'The Unity we Share.'

This year witnessed numerous meetings between ecumenical partners in an effort to sign all the necessary documents proving the **Protestants and Catholics are ONE**!

"**August 23, 1997** - "Today, the ***Associated Press*** reported that the Lutherans had taken a step toward lifting the condemnation they and the Roman Catholic Church heaped on one another during the 16th century battles that split Western Christianity."

"Protestants Blindly Accept Papal Infallibility and Current Movement to Proclaim the Virgin Mary as Co-Redemptrix"
"This issue of papal infallibility reached worldwide media exposure in Newsweek Magazine when it was disclosed that 4,340,429 petitions from 157 countries, 500 bishops and 42 cardinals are asking Pope John Paul 2nd to exercise the power of papal infallibility to proclaim the new dogma of the Roman Catholic Faith: that the Virgin Mary is "Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix of all graces and advocate for the people of God."

LUTHERANS APPROVE "FULL COMMUNION" WITH REFORMED CHURCHES

PHILADELPHIA (ELCA) -- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America today approved a proposal declaring "full communion" with three churches of the Reformed tradition -- the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Reformed Church in America, and the United Church of Christ.

Voting members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted 839-193 (81.3 percent - 18.7 percent) on the "Formula of Agreement."

A few minutes later a similar measure declaring full fellowship with The Episcopal Church fell six votes short of approval.

The declaration of full communion is not a plan to merge, but it commits the churches to sharing in their mission work locally and internationally and to develop procedures whereby clergy in one denomination may pastor a church in another denomination.

The proposals grew out of several decades of theological conversation.

Following the vote, a statement from the Rev. Daniel Martensen, director of the ELCA's department of ecumenical affairs, said, "The Christian community in the United States is less fragmented than it was just a few months ago." Martensen said the decisions set the stage for "exciting ecumenical advances to be made as we move into the next millennium."

The failure of the Episcopal proposal dampened the spirits of the representatives of the Reformed Church who nonetheless enthusiastically welcomed the other decision.

"It is a moment of mixed feelings, a difficult moment for us." said the Rev. John Thomas, ecumenical officer of the United Church of Christ. "Many of our colleagues are feeling pain and sorrow." "We are committed to the whole of the ecumenical movement, not just a piece of it," Thomas said. "Whenever a church finds itself unable to move forward, we have a deep sense of disappointment."

Though his church came under sharp criticism from some speakers at the assembly, Thomas expressed "appreciation of the way the issue was debated and discussed."

Lutherans have helped us all be aware of the theological ground on which we stand and the need to tend that ground," Thomas said. "Full communion allows us to call each other to tend that ground, to help and to admonish one another."

The Rev. Douglas Fromm of the Reformed Church in America expressed satisfaction at the declaration of fellowship and recalled that he had hoped such an action would have been taken years ago. Such action was indeed taken by the American Lutheran Church -- one of the three bodies that merged in 1987 to form the ELCA. Because the other partners to the ELCA merger had not taken that action, the decision was set aside at the time of the merger.

A statement, prepared by the heads of the four denominations, and released when the vote total was announced said the decision marked a "decisive milestone in our journey towards unity and signals the beginning of a new chapter in the history of these four churches of the 16th century Reformation."

Noting that some in the churches opposed the decision, the statement said, "we know that some in our churches will not be able to receive this action with enthusiasm. Their continued questions and reservations are to be heard and respected."

A joint commission of the denominations will now begin to formulate ways to implement the decision. The individual presbyteries -- regional units - of the Presbyterian Church (USA) must also ratify the decision of their general convention.

OIU readers may receive full copies of the above documents
and further their enlightenment by contacting:
Department of Ecumenical Affairs
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631
800/638-3522

Ecumenicism EVERYWHERE

The following organizations work cohesively by holding international meetings with the mission of ecumenicism. Please keep in mind that each organization comprises hundreds to thousands of smaller religious or denominationally affiliated organizations.

- The World Council of Churches
- Lutheran Church of America
- National Council of Churches
- National Association of Evangelicals

- Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches
- Synagogue Council of America
- United Presbyterian church of the USA

Yes, there are many more, this is just a **sampling** of the big guns. Added to this list are the American Bible Society, Mission America, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and the one and only PROMISE KEEPERS!!!! Keep these names in mind as you read about the Tkachian **allies** and WCG's **propaganda ministers**.

Organizational projects such as: March for Jesus, International Prayer Day, Habitat for Humanity, DC/LA Conferences, Youth Projects, Mission projects, Forty Day Fasts for Hunger, etc. are part of the ecumenical mission toward one world religion and are shared projects by denominational supporters. A quick profile of the many combined "humanitarian" efforts render a positive view; however, when one assesses the big picture and evolution of Christianity it becomes easier to peer through the layer of propaganda at inner "ecumenical" agenda.

Communism And the Churches

The ESN engaged in an extensive research pertaining to the topics in this OIU. The OIU will be a monthly publication of shorter length following this base issue. We felt it was necessary to cover foundational topics such as: propaganda, dialectics, cognitive dissonance and ecumenicism in hope that the reader will be inspired to dig deeply into the **reasons behind the events** with the WCG/splinter conglomerate. It is not a difficult task to be swept into the magnetic distraction and decoys uniquely placed by the corporate architects. Not only does it take strength, but also it takes enormous commitment to educate oneself on peripheral subjects and historical events of this century that succinctly pertain to the real WCG current agenda. The Ecumenical Movement can't be summarized without mentioning the vast infiltration of the Communist Party and ideology into the American Christian denominations starting early this century. The reader should consider this topic of utmost importance as many are struggling to understand what is going on with Christianity. The following research books offer excellent historical information on the subject:

- The Roots of American Communism by Theodore Drapper
- The Communists and the Schools by Robert W. Iversen
- The Decline of American Communism by David A. Shannon
- American Communism and Soviet Russia by Theodore Drapper
- Marxism: the View from America by Clinton Rossiter
- Communism and the Churches by Ralph Lord Roy
- The Molding of Communists by Frank S. Meyer
- The Social Basis of American Communism by Nathan Glazer
- Writer on the Left by Daniel Aaron

In Ralph Lord Roy's extensive research: *Communism and the Churches*, we're awakened to the momentous events that involved the Communist Party and American churches. As the battlefields of France ravaged human life in 1917, the Bolsheviks, led by Lenin, quickly claimed Russia. By 1921, the Red Army was prepared to "challenge Capitalism." Church leaders were sympathetic toward the United States intervention against the Bolsheviks in 1918 when the U.S. landed in Siberia. As the war progressed, religious leaders became divided over American participation. The Federal Council of Churches provided the platform that fueled emotions among church leaders.

> "The most outspoken opposition to the war among religious circles came from a group of idealistic Protestant ministers, largely members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, formed in 1915. Among this group some were initially to sympathize with the Bolshevik revolution. Theologically most of them were liberals. They were not pacifists in the precise sense that Quakers or Mennonites were. They had been influenced, to a greater of lesser degree, by the economic interpretation of history and were convinced that wars were rooted in economic competition camouflaged behind deceptive slogans. World War One, they contended, was a needless and ugly blood bath to advance the imperialistic aims of the opposing powers. The blame for such criminal warfare rested with greedy business interests in their rivalry for raw materials and markets. This in turn could be traced to the very nature of the capitalist system." [Pg.15]

Many Protestant ministers espoused this view. Strong influence was generated by Paul Jones, graduate of Yale University and Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge, MA, president of the Church Socialist League, and Episcopal organization. Irwin St. John Tucker, an ordained Episcopalian and member of the Socialist Party, was drawn to socialism by the conviction that it was a practical application of Christianity. Others responsible for recruiting religious leaders into socialist sympathy were: John Haynes Holmes, Church of the Messiah, Harry F. Ward, professor at Boston University and leader with Methodist Federation for Social Service, John Nevin Sayre, an Episcopalian from Suffern, New York, Rabbi Judah L. Magnes and Presbyterian Norman Thomas.

> "It was among these clergymen that the revolutionary government of Russia received its most cordial reception. Their support aroused condemnation and their opponents argued in this manner: these ministers were theological liberals who had brazenly discarded the sacred doctrines of Christianity. They had joined the Socialists, a motley assemblage of radicals largely from abroad who were already demanding, in their broken English, the overthrow of democratic clergymen and openly gave aid and comfort to the ruthless autocracy of the Kaiser. Now they were lauding saboteurs of the Russian resistance and whitewashing Bolshevism's suppression of democracy, its slaughter of innocent thousands, and it persecution of religion. As Americans heard and read of these clergymen, they asked themselves quite naturally: What kind of ministers are they?"
>
> "In January 1918, amid the war fever, a new publication was launched. Known as the World Tomorrow, it served as the unofficial organ of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Norman Thomas was the managing editor; Holmes and Ward were among the original members of its editorial committee. It was intensely religious in its idealism and continued to promote pacifism and democratic socialism until the thirties, when its financial failure forced it to merge with the Christian Century. The World Tomorrow viewed the Bolshevik revolution with sympathy. In April 1918, the editors observed: 'Only those who have felt something of passion for social justice and industrial democracy can realize how truly revolutionary Russia, with all its faults and excesses, is the promised land, the fatherland of the spirit to multitudes of radical workers throughout the world.' "

The Revolutionary flame was set afire by many significant religious leaders turned Socialist. Bishop William Montgomery Brown stole center stage with his radical philosophy blending Marxism, Darwinism and Christianity. In 1920 he published *Communism and Christianism*, which was considered bizarre by many camps, but read by many. His controversial appeal was supported by the Daily Worker, which funded Brown's speaking tours for the International Labor Defense, and for other party causes.

> "The church, a Daily Worker columnist wrote in 1927, is a 'gigantic fraud, manned by the greatest collection of specialized hypocrites that ever lied themselves out of working for a living.' This summed up the attitude of the American Communist movement toward organized religion during the twenties-contempt liberally seasoned with ridicule."
>
> "The principal Communist argument against the churches was that they served only to buttress the exploiters, as in Czarist Russia and other countries. In America, the myth of church-state separation exists, communists argued, and the working class may be easily misled into viewing religious institutions as independent. 'To the revolutionist…' said a 1928 Daily Worker editorial, 'All creeds, all churches, all temples of ignorance and superstition and fear, no matter what god or sets of gods they profess to worship, are useful to the capitalist class.' "
>
> "The communists produced considerable 'evidence' to support their view. For one thing, they laid great stress upon the wealth of the churches and the support received from vested interests. 'Most Protestant churches are supported by millionaire capitalists.' "
>
> "When it was announced that John D. Rockefeller, Jr. would be the principal financier of the new Riverside Church, where Harry Emerson Fosdick would serve as pastor, the Daily Worker commented: 'Fosdick is a 'modernist,' but Rockefeller knows that he can be relied upon to philosophize about the bible and keep the minds of the workers from their troubles with the bosses, and the 'silk stocking' crowd entertained."
>
> "A second proof of the church's role in preserving capitalism was the alleged antagonism of religious forces toward the core of the revolutionary forces, the American proletariat. While some

> Americans viewed the churches, and especially the Federal Council of Churches, as too pro-labor, communist ideology taught that they could be counted upon to serve the bosses. 'The true reason why the capitalists support the church,' wrote a Daily Worker, 'is that they, more than any other means of propaganda, succeed in effectively doping the workers."

The OIUs point in discussing this matter is that, as we shall see, the Radio Church of God [it was renamed Worldwide Church of God in 1968], which was richly rooted in Fascist ideology, openly embraced the agenda of the American Communist Party by the late 1950s, if not earlier. Was it **Herbert Armstrong's relationship with Alger Hiss at the first United Nations meeting in San Francisco** that served as the inauguration for distribution of massive printed socialist/communist ideology? [NOTE: See this part in OIU 6, pt. 1 about how HWA's proclivity to center himself amidst the world's most controversial Communist dictators proved to be his greatest asset during his later years."] Or, did the Armstrong/WCG international mission change when Stanley R. Rader embarked on his lifelong pursuit with the multimillion-dollar Pasadena gold mine? As this unfolds, be assured we will discover the **reasons behind the events**.

The shocking chronology of events pertaining to the development of the American Communist Party demonstrates how the communists learned they could go further with their ideological mission by **infiltrating the churches in America** rather than antagonistically rallying against them. And that is exactly what occurred. *Communism in America* gives minute details of how this infiltration was accomplished.

As Sinclair Lewis' 1927 novel *Elmer Gantry* was greeted with enthusiasm, bitter words were aimed toward organizations such as the YMCA and Salvation Army. Theological ridicule was fueled by the cleavage within American Protestantism. Earlier in this issue we discussed the faction within the modernist-fundamentalist arenas. Prior to the introduction of William "Billy" Sunday [1862-1935], clergy and laymen either rejected or reinterpreted orthodox affirmations about the nature of man, sin, history and Jesus. The fundamentalist movement sprang up sporting the fundamentals of Christian faith. Alongside the fighting over religious dogmas and ecumenical pursuits, many religious affiliations were taking sides against the Communist Party in America. Once Billy Sunday was quoted as saying: *"The next job of house cleaning will be to rid our country of this gang of good-for-nothing, God-forsaken, weasel-eyed, hog-joweled, bull-necked, rag-shagged, bob-tailed, riffraff bunch of radical, revolutionary, Red WW1 Bolshevism."*

"Fundamentalism served as a target for all leftists who sought to discredit religion:"

"The Principal crusade of fundamentalist partisans in the twenties was to stop the spread of Darwin's theory of evolution."

"The mass revivals of Billy Sunday also occasioned caustic comment in the communist press. Sunday was variously described as director of a 'three-ring religious circus in the interests of the Lord and his own pocketbook,' 'campaign manager for Jesus and the saints,' and 'the human windbag who has made…. money [by] making Christianity ridiculous.' "

"Other fundamentalist spokesmen were lampooned mercilessly. The Pentecostal leader Aimee Semple McPherson, controversial founder of the **International Church of the Four Square Gospel,** frequently was accused by the Communist press of operating a religious racket as a facade for a debauched personal life." [Quotes from the *Daily Worker* listed in *Communism and the Churches*]

The Communists Discover the Churches

You've heard the saying: "There are many ways to skin a cat," or, "If you can't beat em-join!" And that is exactly what occurred with the American Communist Party. By 1935, the Communists were well on their way to occupying many podiums throughout American religious institutions. At first, infiltration was slow and unorganized. The testimony of Earl Browder before the House Committee on Un-American Activities offered what some researchers term as the best source of information on church infiltration at that time.

> *"By the mid-thirties, the American Communist Party was not putting its principal emphasis upon recruiting members. Out of Moscow came a new set of instructions. Comrades around the world were to co-operate with all others--Socialists and New Dealers, believers and atheists, workers and bosses-who would help resist the rising tide of fascism that appeared to threaten*

the security of the Soviet Union. This lead to the emergence of a new strategy-that of the united front. It was an effective maneuver that was to change the course of the entire communist movement in the United States."

The **United Front** worked toward securing support within the churches. Harry F. Ward, ordained Methodist minister, key figure in the Methodist Federation for Social Service, chairman of the American Civil Liberties Union, and on the faculty of the Union Theological Seminary in New York City, was sympathetic upon many reform movements against American capitalism. He trumpeted his passions upon others urging all to engage in a "holy, impersonal hatred against an evil system that is wrecking human society." Following a trip to Russia in 1931, the ecstatic Ward maintained: "the Soviet Union would bring to the world a new concept that was in reality a fulfillment of the ethics of Jesus. Communism, he said, was systematically crushing the evil profit motive that spurred on the American economy and replacing it with incentives of service and sacrifice. The United States should set for itself the same goal."

On March 18, 1933, the executive committee of the communist International, known as the Comintern, gave its official blessing to the United Front. At first its aim was to wean laboring people away from "reformist" leadership, but when this met with little success and the specter of Hitlerism became more frightening, the Comintern in 1935 called for unity among all antifascist forces. The Communists in the United States embraced President Roosevelt and the New Deal, became loud champions of religious liberty and sought friends within the churches. Their main goal was the creation of a network of front organizations through which they could win the sympathy and co-operation of millions of Americans.

[NOTE: "Religious liberalism...developed an early alliance with the political left. Indeed, conservative Christians who had seen these tides wash upon them in Europe and in England and who now saw the same ideas taking hold in the United States described some of the great denominations of that time as ***nothing but Communist front organizations***." (*7 Men Who Rule the World From the Grave* by Dave Breese, p. 99) [emp. ours] [book may be ordered through Amazon]

The American League Against War and Fascism was one of the most important fronts stemmed directly from the 1932 Amsterdam congress. Religious pacifists divided over co-operation with Communists through the League. Debates and fights lingered among religious organizations. Many key men influenced thousands into communist ideology. Harry F. Ward became chairman of the League. Four Protestant ministers, three Jewish rabbis and a scattering of active church laymen and women signed the Second Anti-War congress in 1934. Ward's keynote address at the Second Congress stressed the necessity of broadening the League to reach Americans of all political and religious persuasions. Communist publications were widely distributed throughout churches. A major campaign to enlist churchmen in the American League was well underway.

> "Reporting to the Third Congress, leader Reissig stated boldly that churchmen in the League had the duty 'neither to commend nor to vindicate religious beliefs or organization. Our function is to use religious forces in the defense of masses of people."
>
> "Much of the actual planning for work among the churches was done by the executive committee of the American League in 1935 known as the Natal Bureau. In a message of August 9, for example, the Bureau singled out trade unions and three religious groups for special attention. Roman Catholics were the first target. Specifically designated were the International Association of Catholic Alumni, League of Catholic men, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Association for International Peace and various sisterhood groups. Jewish religious, cultural, fraternal and Zionist groups were also listed as targets. Among Protestants, increased attention was to be given to the YMCA ministerial associations, local parishes, and to adherents of the Lutheran and Reformed faiths, 'because of their German traditions and friendships.' "

Although Communist infiltration plans were elaborate "and impressive on paper" success was prolonged due to failure to carry them out. The League claimed 3,291,906 Americans in 1935 and climbed to 7,836,691 by 1939. Although there were 20,000 actual dues paying members, the League claimed 241 affiliated groups with eighty of them in New York City. By 1937 the American League Against War and Fascism changed its name to the **American League for Peace.**

The devastating depression of the 1930s introduced the National Council of Methodist Youth, which grew into

a massive youth movement "aflame with love for Christ." The American Youth Congress (AYC) arose in response. The AYC was hailed as the most successful and effective communist front. By 1939 the movement boasted 513 affiliated organizations with a combined membership of 4,697,915. Religion and idealism was kept in the forefront as the Communists exploited the youth of the Great Depression. Peace remained the focus as the United Front evolved. Many combined religious idealism with socialist theories about the cause and cure for war.

The historical account of *Communism and the Churches* is most likely foreign to most professing Christians. It's not talked about on the pulpits and certainly not embraced in educational materials. Nonetheless, lack of knowledge about this segment of Christian history prevents one from understanding the intricate fights over doctrine, the growth of the Ecumenical Movement, the tangled web of the Evangelical Movement starting from the 1950s, **and what was really behind the growth of cults and subversive movements after World War Two.**

The Cold War propagandized an image of fear and desperateness through which many cults successfully expanded. As seekers of faith and victims of fear gravitated toward spiritual protection, few realized that the Communists they were running from were actually the gatekeepers to man's religious kingdom.

As we continue to explore what is behind the ecumenical movement it will become more clear to the reader why it is essential to include this segment as an integral part of understanding the **reasons behind the events.** Outlined here is a brief summary up to 1940. Religious/political events continued to influence our country throughout each decade. Whoever said religion and politics don't mix…was ignorant.

In his incredible personal account, author Whittaker Chambers, in his 1952 book, *Witness*, wrote of being recruited into the American Communist Party. A Christian cannot read Chambers' testimony and not circumspectly relate to the **commitment** Communism captures. More pointedly, those who have exited religious cults such as **Worldwide Church of God**, Unification Church or Jehovah's Witnesses, could most assuredly identify with every word Chamber shares. We highly recommend the book! It was one of Herbert Armstrong's favorite works. Read it, and you'll understand why.

> "What are the ways in which Communism may be said to be a religion? Certainly, Communism has a faith, a sacred literature, a concept of a Kingdom of God, a devil and saints, of a chosen people." [Quoted from *Communism and the Churches*]

There is no educational research more vital relating to Christianity in our century, than the understanding behind the faith of Communist allegiance. Thousands exit cults yearly and struggle awkwardly for years striving to understand what it was that conquered the core of their inner faith and being. It is rare that one is educated in the history of Communism, or even the history of the past two hundred years. That ignorance has allowed evil exploiters to capture the hearts of the spiritual seeker. When visiting the National Archives in Washington DC, research lead to the unscrupulous history of the American Communist Party and Un-American Activities. It is ever so shocking to learn how **thousands of individuals and organizations were masking as churche**s, **or "men of God**," only to carry out their Communist mission in America. The OIU will have more to say about this in upcoming months as it hits the heart of all who were deluded into thinking the WCG was "God's one true church, God's government, or God's way of life." The topic of Communism is so vital as it largely relates to the "**reasons behind the WCG and splinter group events**." As we continue to explore the uncanny breakup of the WCG empire, we will learn more details explaining why and how, in May of 1995, four hundred WCG ministers were able to manipulate over two thirds of the entire WCG membership, to abandon "God's House," without question, under the newly formed United Church of God umbrella with WCG evangelist, David Hulme. There was a method to this madness. That method required expert understanding of human nature and the psychology behind programming and exploiting it.

The following excerpt was taken from, *An Idea To Win The World*, by Peter Howard, 1955:

"William Penn gave the keynote for true democracy when he said: 'Men must be governed by God or they condemn themselves to be ruled by tyrants.' Government by God-that means God-controlled statesmanship, a God-controlled press, a God-controlled standard of morality with the rule of tyrants as the only alternative. It means that leaders and people must face the colossal cost of our compromise, personal and national, to the whole world. If democracy begins to live what he talks about, to accept an ideology of change, and give it to

the world, Communism will be cured.

> "A waterfront worker who had been twenty-two years in the Communist party, who had been changed by Moral Re-Armament, put the truth clearly and simply to some of the leaders of America. They had summoned him to Washington. They asked to cross-examine him in private. Senators, Congressmen, members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, all were present. They asked him why he became a Communist, what his training and activities had been, and what changed him, what his aims in life were now.
>
> "Around midnight they had finished and arose to go. The worker said, 'You men have asked me many questions. Can I ask you one or two?"
>
> "They were surprised, but agreed and sat down again.
>
> "The worker said, 'You have all talked much about Communism. How many of you have ever sat down with a Communist and changed him?'
>
> "There was silence.
>
> "The worker said, 'Very well then. Only one more question. How many of you know how to sit down with a man who is not a Communist and change him?'
>
> "Again silence. "The worker said, 'When democracy learns that secret, democracy will win the world.' "

OIU Volume Five - Pt. 3 of 4
OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

Communism, Fascism, Socialism, Totalitarianism, or Armstrongism

WILL GOD'S "ISM" PLEASE STAND UP!

The following letter, written by Herbert W. Armstrong, November 24, 1967 to the PLAIN TRUTH subscribers, offers an extraordinary view into the **dialectical manipulation** that lured thousands into Armstrongism and to this day prevents thousands from escaping the continued slavery in the name of GOD and FAITH. This too is the same tenacious mindset that deceives millions into pseudo church organizations that are actually **fronts** for the WORLD TOMORROW agenda.

STARTING IN PARAGRAPH FIVE...

I always want to give our listeners and our reader the frank, straight forward explanation.

I want to tell WHY there's nothing else on earth like this Work.

So let me tell you what inspired this letter. A few weeks ago I was reviewing an article that appeared in the November PLAIN TRUTH, "The Unfinished Revolution," by our managing Editor, Dr. Herman L. Hoeh. He returned recently from Russia. He spent a large part of the summer traveling through much of the USSR. Things in his article inspired this letter. You will see, differently than ever before, the answer to the question: Just WHAT is our motive in this Work--and WHO is back of it and WHY! It will also make clear some things you probably never knew about Communism, traveling in the exact OPPOSITE direction from this Work.

Right now a supreme CRISIS exists--a crisis OF THE WHOLE WORLD and it threatens YOUR life at every point--just as it threatens mine, and the lives of everybody else.

Communism is the RESULT. That is, one result!

Forty years ago **I began to study and research into Communism.** I wanted to understand what it is. At about that time United States Communists were offering a "home study course" about Communism. I read it. In the early years of the WORLD TOMORROW broadcast, beginning 1934, 1 had an arrangement with a secret investigator, working in connection with a major city police department, to receive regular weekly bulletins, containing inside information in regard to Communist activities in this country. I always suspected --though he did not say so-- that this secret agent was in reality connected with the FBI.

I knew the Communist purpose and goal. I knew the Communist methods and tactics. I knew their philosophies and teachings. I knew how actual Party members are yielded completely to Communist Party discipline, obedient at any cost-willing to make any sacrifice for it.

But what I never could understand was WHY American college professors, and educated Americans, could ever become inner-core Communists, actually working for the overthrow (by violence, finally, if necessary) of the government of the United States.

WHY? And yet I knew many did!

Knowing that Communists are taught to use every deception, to lie, to pretend they are what they are not, to resort to the most unethical, dishonorable tactics, it simply didn't make sense that professional men--some in high position, like, for example, **Alger Hiss**--high in the State Department--would join such a movement. Incidentally, I met Alger Hiss--never dreaming he was a Communist. He signed my special State Department Press Card, at the United Nations Conference in 1945, at San Francisco. [**Note:** Read: Herbert Armstrong and His Communist Friends (March 6, 2006 letter to ESN which tells about this.)]

I could never understand WHY such brilliant, intelligent and able men turned Communist--and I wondered--

until I read Whittaker Chamber's book, *Witness*, published in 1952.

I want YOU to understand why such men turn against our country, and become loyal to Communism. For it EXPLAINS the real REASON for The WORLD TOMORROW and the PLAIN TRUTH.

The world crisis had already started prior to World War I. Only most of the people of the world were not yet aware of it. But men like Karl Marx and Nikolai Lenin knew. This world crisis resulted from the impact of science and technology--and injection of godless "German rationalism" into education. World Wars are the military expression of that crisis. Worldwide depressions are the economic expression. The so-called "New Morality" is the moral expression-"plummeting morals into the cesspool." Universal desperation is the spiritual expression. This has spawned the beatniks and hippies-the riots-the marches-the "civil disobedience"--the breakdown of law and order.

Teen-agers (sic)--many from affluent homes-turn beatniks and hippies because they see NO HOPE for the future. There is no longer PURPOSE. It is now possible to erase all life forms from this earth. They see NO FUTURE, but more wars, and, perhaps, human extinction.

THAT IS THE SOIL THAT SPAWNED COMMUNISM. Communism is the VULTURE of decadent, dying politics, religion, and society.

Whittaker Chambers explained WHY educated, intelligent people become Communists: "It is" he says, "a simple statement of Karl Marx, further simplified for handy use: Philosophers have explained the world; it is necessary to change the world."

And there--when I read it--was the answer!

These men are intelligent enough to know SOMETHING IS FATALLY WRONG with the world! They were not perceptive enough to recognize that Communism could never SAVE the world--but ONLY ENSLAVE IT!

One of America's most lucid, clever writers is Philip Wylie. He is fluent in picturing a world's eye view of WHAT'S WRONG in the world. But he doesn't offer the solution. Like the philosophers, he explains the world--but offers no way to change the world.

Communism does offer a program to CHANGE the world. But not the kind of change Americans and Europeans--as a whole--want. But Communism appears to those who "fall" for it as the ONLY straw they can grasp. It offers THEM a chance to help CHANGE THE WORLD. They know it needs changing. Communism is the WRONG way to change it--but they don't see that. It's the ONLY way they know--the only one offered them. THAT EXPLAINS WHY COMMUNISTS ARE SO DEDICATED-willing even to sacrifice career, fortune--even their lives--TO HAVE A PART IN CHANGING THE WORLD!

They become dedicated. They submit to military-like discipline.

As Dr. Hoeh points out, "Communism appeals to faith--faith in the power of MAN to change the world! He continues: "What does the United States send the world to counter this revolutionary faith? Not a more powerful or righteous faith, but GUNS and MONEY!"

"The Soviet Union knows that the United States cannot supply the world's desperate millions with enough food…. But the only power that the United States could provide the world to defeat Communism -- the strength of a more powerful FAITH than Communism--that faith America does not have!"

"Though Communism," Dr. Hoeh continues, is thriving on human faith and human works, it nevertheless lives. It lives, as cancer cells live and spread."

"Under the lead of the USSR, all Asia and Africa are becoming alive, even as a cancerous growth in the world system. Their peoples have found an active faith in the doctrines of Communism. Amid their poverty, they have something to live for." (So they are led to believe--though deceived!) "They are out to change their environment by human sweat and toil apart from God."

Then Dr. Hoeh continues: "For two centuries the Western World dominated the Orient and Africa. But the West failed to deliver these peoples from squalor and misery. The West failed to give them the right kind of education--failed to show them the PURPOSE of life--failed to give them a real goal or a right knowledge of God. Why? Because the West does not itself know the purpose of life or why man was put on earth! Hence,

the deception of Communism looks alluring to ignorant and even to educated minds who have no knowledge of the Plan or Purpose God is working out here below."

"The dead faith of missionaries from America and England has not dented Oriental thought. But the active belief of Communists is moving millions.... The U.S. might as well face the facts. THERE IS NO HUMAN WAY FOR THE WESTERN WORLD TO RESCUE ASIA FROM THE CLUTCHES OF COMMUNISM, unless the nation can somehow acquire a more POWERFUL faith!

"But national leaders have turned their backs on the Good News of the Kingdom of God. They have cast the Bible aside ... It is time we opened our eyes to the real cause of Western weakness."

And THAT, dear subscriber to the PLAIN TRUTH, explains what THIS GREAT WORLDWIDE WORK IS ALL ABOUT.

Biblical prophecies have been fulfilled--precisely ON TIME--in every case so far! Biblical prophecies are being fulfilled TODAY! This world and all its present-day sickening conditions are described in the prophecies. The only possible SOLUTION is in these prophecies. And the OUTCOME is written plainly!

There is only ONE HOPE--ONE SOLUTION!

Man doesn't have it! Man has FAILED! Man has demonstrated. by 6,000 years of human experience, that he is incapable of rightly governing himself--so as to produce universal abundant well-being!

We are in the prophesied CRISES AT THE CLOSE--the close of the AGE--and the Beginning of the happy and peaceful WORLD TOMORROW!

YOUR BIBLE SAYS that God is now ready--in VERY FEW years-to send Jesus Christ again to earth--this time in all the Supreme divine POWER and GLORY of the AWESOME, ALL-MIGHTY GOD--to restore PEACE to this earth and universal right education, universal prosperity, and good health, and HAPPINESS to all peoples and nation!

The Almighty God has raised up THIS WORK--HIS WORK--using us as His instruments, to pave the way--to WARN this world--to proclaim the GOOD NEWS of the soon-coming KINGDOM OF GOD to bring abundant well-being for all this earth!

This work, for 34 years, has grown in power and scope and impact on the world, at the rate of 30% per year continuously! There is nothing like it because it is GOD'S WORK!

It has a tremendous MISSION. It is actively, dynamically, performing that Mission! It grows mightily because the POWER OF GOD, AND HIS SPIRIT, empowers it--the living JESUS CHRIST heads, directs, and blesses it!

And WHO sponsors it? ONLY GOD!

(Armstrong includes several paragraphs about how…)

God opened the door of MASS COMMUNICATION--radio and printing press to proclaim Christ's' Gospel to the small few, who had living faith, and could HAVE A PART in not only CHANGING THE WORLD, but SAVING THE WORLD in total world peace, prosperity and happiness--that little few voluntarily contributed their tithes and offerings.

ARMSTRONG'S CONCLUSION.....

God does conduct HIS work through human instruments--through those whose hearts are willing, whose minds are yielded to Him. I didn't have to ask or solicit people for support. The living Christ whom I serve was able to move those yielded to Him to recognize His Message, and voluntarily to want to have a part in His Work. Jesus said "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

THEY--and we who now devote full-time to God's Work--are gratefully having a part, not only in CHANGING, but also in SAVING the WORLD--yes, soon THE WHOLE WORLD, after Christ's second coming. And we have a part, now in preparing THE WAY for the world-shaking blessed event!

Millions have been deceived into dedicating their lives to godless Communism, in the misguided faith they are having a part in CHANGING THE WORLD. Actually they are only enslaving it--all but the FREE world. In all candor, how REASSURING it is that, in the Free World, there are a few thousand who want to have a part with the living CHRIST in the glorious WORK OF GOD, leading not only to changing, but SAVING the world--with

Peace, and universal prosperity, happiness, abundant well-being, and ETERNAL LIFE!

There is, indeed, an astonishing parallel in the progress of atheistic Communism and THE WORK OF GOD--a contrasting parallel in OPPOSITES! They are doomed to ultimate failure--but we by the grace and power of the living GOD are destined to glorious SUCCESS bringing eternal life to the MILLIONS!....

THAT is my explanation. That tells you, in frank and straight forward manner, WHO we are, WHAT are our purposes and goals, and WHO is in back of this great WORK OF GOD!"

THANK YOU, sincerely from the heart, for your interest - for granting us the GREAT PRIVILEGE of serving you. We know it's indeed true, as Jesus said, that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." This explanation is NOT intended to solicit your money. We do want to GIVE--to SERVE--to HELP--as God has graciously enabled us to do.

Sincerely, with love, in Jesus' name,
Herbert W. Armstrong

[**All** emphasis is HWA's]

[NOTE**:** "...you can't even begin to understand Communism without understanding deception..." -- Joseph D. Douglass, Jr.]

Herbert W. Armstrong certainly did find the secret to the "ACTIVE FAITH that people dedicate and sacrifice their lives for at ANY COST." But what makes Armstrong brilliant is how he then proceeded to successfully place an image of GOD at the head of the helm of the same concept that recruited Whittiker Chambers and makes Communism work. HWA so pointedly indicates how intelligent professionals were deceived into A WAY of thinking. Read the book *Witness* and you too will understand how you were deceived and may very well still live beneath the deception perpetrated by ministers of "faith" indoctrinated by the massive ideological history of the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD. No matter what organization claims to be the Church of God, the leaders of today were the students of yesterday. Their education was certainly the **foundation of their knowledge!**

Ah, where would the world be without propaganda? Have you ever wondered why the school system does not cover nineteenth and twentieth century history? How astute are you in understanding the Communist/Fascist Revolutions? How many history books do you have on your shelf that covers such vital topics? Prior to the introduction of radio and television as information sources, the American people assumed more responsibility in understanding current historical events. That's until the boob tube provided the perfect media device for public manipulation. In just a few short decades, millions of thinking brains retired to the easy chair to suck in Rosanne, Seinfeld and Friends, sandwiched between Dan Rather, Larry King and Ted Kopel. Is there any wonder why most Americans know nothing about the Ku Klux Klan, World Wars, Fascism or Communism? And without historical background knowledge, how can current events be understood? The **reasons behind the events** become categorized by simplistic explanations. The blissful 1980s were pivotal years that changed the course of history as it redirected individual focus onto self-indulgence. The selfish distractions produced a blind public and while few are observing the incredible global events unfolding, even less are aware of the erosion of American democracy. This erosion commenced decades earlier and continues to destroy whatever is left of a free nation. Propagandists conditioned the public into thinking that the threat of Communism ended when the Cold War ceased. How naïve and ignorant are we to surrender to such a big lie?

As you read through the next few pages about Communism in America, think about the development and growth of Bible-based, totalitarian cults post World War Two. Consider what is happening with the well-orchestrated Protestant/Catholic Ecumenical Movement. Reflect on the degradation of American society along with the insidious erosion of Constitutional rights, privacy issues, education and religion.

Communism - An American Threat!

Committee On Un-American Activities
House of Representatives
Eighty-seventh Congress
First Session
December 30, 1961

Three References on Communism:

1) On December 30, 1961, the **Committee of Un-American Activities** issued: **The New Role of National Legislative Bodies In The Communism Conspiracy**, along with a reprint of, "**How Parliament can Play a Revolutionary Part In the Transition To Socialism**" and, "**The Role of The Popular Masses**," by Jan Kozak, Historian of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

These government publications document and predict the extraordinary events that were to penetrate America in the coming years.

Introduction: From behind the Iron Curtain, has come one of the most amazing Communist documents of our time. Brazen, boastful and alarmingly frank, it is a detailed account of treachery and intrigue employed by the Reds during the three years preceding their 1948 conquest of Czechoslovakia. The document offers the case history of Czechoslovakia as a Communist blueprint for subversion and coercion in all free world nations. It places special emphasis on the use of parliaments in bringing about Communist revolutions."

"The authorship of the document is of great significance. It was not written by a Kremlin theoretician, but by Jan Kozak, a communist member of the Czechoslovak National Assembly. Kozak, now the official historian of the Czech Communist Party, is a chest-beating, battle-wise conspirator who knows from first-hand experience that bold and deceitful Communist tactics can overcome strategic and numerical disadvantages when the UN-communist opposition fails to comprehend a threat to its existence until it is too late. Kozak was a participant in the new communist parliamentary tactics which proved so successful in achieving and maintaining victory "from within" in Czechoslovakia and other countries that the Kremlin departed completely from long-standing strategy and adopted a new post-revolution role for legislative bodies in Red-conquered nations. Whereas destruction was formerly the Communists' plan for a national legislative institution, it is now their policy to convert it into "an active revolutionary assembly."

"Our experience," says Kozak, "provides notable and practice proof that it is possible to transform parliament from an instrument of the bourgeoisie into an organ of power for the democracy of the working people [i.e. a Communist dictatorship], into a direct instrument of power for the peaceful development of the socialist revolution."

OIU readers may obtain a the full copy of this extraordinary Kozak document through the ESN Resource Listing as the following paragraphs offer only a general synopsis of what is taking place this very day in America. [NOTE: This document is no longer available from the ESN. Check other resources online.]

"Quite obviously, the Communists consider the Kozak document a work of great significance and did not want it disseminated on the free world side of the Iron Curtain. For three years, they resisted all attempts by the West to procure copies of it through normal channels.

The Kozak document provides a unique insight into the techniques employed by the Communists in their takeover of Czechoslovakia and other Eastern European nations which were formerly governed by democratic, parliamentary institutions. By the same token, the committee believes that it serves as a clear warning of how Communists in this country will attempt to subvert the Congress, as well as state and local legislatures, if unwary voters present them with the opportunity to do so. The history of the fall of Czechoslovakia should strongly impress upon the American people why a thorough understanding of the strategy, tactics, and objectives of the communist conspiracy is vital-if we are to make true the expression, "It can't happen here."

In the October 29, 1961, issue of "Thus Week" magazine, Petr Zenkl, vice premier of Czechoslovakia and a member of its Parliament at the time of the Red takeover, confirms that the Communists used his country as a "dress rehearsal" for new "techniques to undermine free governments without the use of military force." He compares Kozak's document in importance to Lenin's "State and Revolution" and Hitler's "Mien Kampf." He describes it as "a frightening blueprint of the things the Communists hope to accomplish." Zenkl also points out that the Reds are now repeating in the United Nations the same parliamentary trickery which succeeded for them in Czechoslovakia. (Ironically, the Soviets used the "parliament" of the United Nations to veto a 1948 move to study the circumstances surrounding the fall of Czechoslovakia.) In reflecting on how the Reds were able to overthrow the non-Communist majority in the Parliament of his native land, Zenkl says:

"While democratic Czechoslovakia's defeat was composed of many factors, one important element facilitating

the Communist march to power was our wishful thinking. We believed that Communists could be transformed into partners in the parliamentary sense. The contrary happened. While taking part in Czechoslovakia's Parliament, they successfully followed Kozak's commandment: 'not to lose sight for a single moment of the aim of a complete socialist overthrow.'

"But now the secret is out-in Kozak's book of revelation. Read it and heed it, gentlemen of the Free World, while you are free. For those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Facts On Communism - Volume One,
The Communist Ideology
Committee On Un-American Activities
December 1959
House of Representatives-eighty-sixth Congress

2) This 135-page document meticulously articulates the fundamentals of Communism ideology. While many books have been published on this topic, we find the Committee for un-American Activities to be one of the most thorough. The study certainly inspires connections and discernment surrounding the development of modern day Christianity and its relationship to Communist/Socialist ideology. The Washington Archives hold many files relating to churches, and individuals who were tools for the Communist Party and endeavors. The topic is so pertinent to the history and current events of the WCG. The OIU will be addressing these relationships in many upcoming reports.

> "Communism is called, by it own followers, a 'philosophy in action.' As a philosophy, it is characterized by a basic attitude of uncompromising hostility to all non-communist societies and the ideas held in them. Beyond this, however, it is a philosophy armed with means of power."
>
> "First, it is armed with the strength and resources of a big country and the more than 200 million people living there. Using this country's might, it has added to itself the further strength of an empire of over 700 million more people. Second, this philosophy is the guiding motive for a network of organized adherents in all countries whose loyalties are basically alienated from their respective nations and fellow citizens and committed to the overthrow of the existing social order in favor of the Communist alternative."
>
> "At present, communism has concentrated its hostility on the United States as the most powerful among the nations not yet under its sway. The United States thus finds itself under attack by an enemy whose motive for hostility is not any practical grievance of limited aspiration but rather the basic will to destroy the order of life in the United States in order to make room for a Communist rule."
>
> "The enemy has engaged us on many fronts at once. In the field of international power relations, he has pursued an aggressive policy seeking to isolate the United States in order to destroy our power, an objective toward which he has pressed with or without war, by means of diplomacy, propaganda, trade and subversion. In the framework of internal political and social order, the enemy has sought to influence, paralyze or disintegrate the processes of our common life, operating under the facade of ostensibly responsible citizenship. In the realm of ideas, finally, the enemy has attempted to use many kinds of intellectual and cultural activities (education, science, literature, art [religion, churches, missionaries]) in order to destroy all loyalties other than those to Communist leadership."
>
> "This multifarious attack, unprecedented in history, differs so much from the normal pattern of relations between nations or political groups within nations that many people fail to grasp the full extent of the threat. Some tend to mistake communism, for a mere part of what it is and does. Others are not informed about the concealed aspects of communism. Still others find the Communist philosophy strange and incomprehensible."
>
> "Ignorance of communism in all its aspects is a dangerous weakness in this struggle. The committee has therefore considered it one of its most urgent tasks to assemble all the salient fact about communism for a full, undistorted, and revealing picture of communism's true

nature."

This Introduction in "Facts On Communism," House Document N0. 336, speaks volumes toward what is currently engaging the United States, almost forty years later.

Communism is UN-American
The American magazine
Constitutional Educational League, Inc.

3) Frances Cardinal Spellman, along with J. Edgar Hoover, participated in the Patriotic Action Committee's attempt to educate Americans on the horrific infiltration of Communism, Socialism, Fascism and other totalitarian "isms." Many patriotic publications were distributed as warnings to Americans to educate themselves on the massive deception permeating post War America. Unlike today, many government officials were alerted and provoked by the devious forces attempting to strip America of its freedoms. Spellman writes:

> "If Communism triumphs, Americanism will die."
>
> "In America the seed of confusion and disunion are spawning and spreading, and Communism is growing. In their efforts to wean American from Americanism, Communists unanimously revile and defile everyone whose opinions and convictions differ politically, socially, or morally from their own. Their subtle, sinister scheming sway and mislead Americans who, in ignorance or weakness, yield to Communism their loyalty to God, to country, and to their fellow man."
>
> "Today, communists, suppressing and distorting truth, are intimidating men and inflicting despotism on America, trying to convert Americans to Communism. In government, in industry, in labor unions, in our political and educational systems, even in the armed services of our country, Communists and Communist sympathizers hold responsible positions, while members of their party use the press, the radio and the films to influence and divide us against ourselves."
>
> "America is no safer from mastery by Communism than was any European country. There we witnessed the killing and enslavement of whole peoples by Communists who, with the shedding of blood, have become as if drunken with it. "
>
> "There is no middle course between Democracy and communism! Americans believe that all men are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights, while Communists deny the very existence of God and man's God-given rights. In our country's concepts the dignity of each man depends upon his spiritual independence, while Communism's concept is seeded in materialism and rooted in tyranny. It attempts to cure one abuse by substituting another. Wherever Communism appears, slavery reappears. America and Americans need only to look at the record and the wreckage of those bigoted governments and peoples who became gods and laws unto themselves, in order to be convinced of the nobility of our own free and democratic government and life."
>
> "Wherever communism rules, the press conforms, or dies, and radio is an absolute state monopoly."
>
> "If we want to protect America against the invasion of Communism, we must act wisely and promptly to check its poison propaganda through the anti-toxin of truth and patriotism"
>
> "I feel that I would not be a true American if I enter into the conspiracy of silence and did not raise my voice above those who, privately and in whispers, talk about Communism, but neither act nor speak publicly against this insidious enemy of Americanism."

[UPDATE: Read "The Truth About the World Council of Churches" by the late Marion H. Reynolds, Jr. This article is very informative. The W.C.C. are a major voice behind ecumenism: "...ecumenical church leaders are seeking to replace capitalism with some form of socialism or communism under the false label of the Kingdom of God."]

The Private Letters Of Herbert W. Armstrong and Loma D. Armstrong

Herbert and Loma Armstrong documented their first venture off the Northern American continent as they sailed their way into Europe on the R.R.S. Queen Elizabeth in February and March of 1947. This unique trip took place just two years following Armstrong's first United Nation's meeting in 1945. The personal letters recorded in a fifty-eight page book complete with pictures reveal many interesting historical facts surrounding this journey. Many questions arise about Armstrong's early connections with international Heads of State. Worth noting, is that Armstrong started connecting with dubious international associations from the time Armstrong worked out of a little Hollywood office in the early 1940s. Was it really a "strong hand from someplace" that inspired Armstrong's long and tangled career?

On February 27th, Armstrong writes:

"Just about noon the private Secretary to his Excellency the Saudi-Arabian Minister, Shiek Hafiz Wabba, called up to ask if Mrs. Armstrong and I would be able to attend a Reception this evening to meet E.R.H. the Crown Prince Emir Saud. Later a specially engraved invitation was sent by private messenger."

"They tell me that this affair will be the most colorful international social event held in London since the war. It's a Royal affair, you know."

"It was very colorful. About 200 invited guests-Earls, Dukes, with their monocles and flashing decorations, Admirals, Commodores, dozens of Ambassadors-we saw those from Turkey, Chile, Albania, etc.-I suppose undoubtedly the United States Ambassador was there, but didn't happen to hear him introduced."

"The Arabs in their flowing robes stood in line. Mother advanced first, then I. First we shook hands with Sheik Hafiz Wabba (His Excellency). Then, next the tall and very handsome crown Prince, whom they addressed as "Your Royal Highness" - then the remaining five or six top Arabs."

"We had a nice brief private talk with the Sheik and got a statement for my article on Palestine for the next Plain Truth."

"The Labor Government here has decided to compete with Hollywood and try to run Hollywood picture out of England, by going into the movie producing business on a major Hollywood scale-government backed people here complain that the government is spending a large part of the American loan, they got from us, on building a British film Industry, instead of using it to start trade that would produce food."

And from Loma's letter:

"We just returned to our room from the Royal reception. I felt just like little Lord Fauntleroy. It was all so interesting. We were announced in a thundering voice to all. Presented to Sheik Hafiz Wabba (His Excellency) who in turn presented us to the Crown Prince and on down the line."

"We were among the Lords and Ladies, Sirs and Earls, etc., Admirals and Ambassadors of so many countries. They are all just folks."

What propelled HWA into international affairs? Who connected him to the international transatlantic Elite? This 1947 letter marks the beginning of the Herbert W. Armstrong "hidden agenda" with international politics. Is there any wonder why the WCG and current Armstrong leaders refrain from writing about HWA's twenty-five years of travel abroad? The dogmatic attempt to revise the WCG history on behalf of Rod Meredith, David Hulme, Tkach/Albrecht and Gerald Flurry is essential to **cover-up** the real story **behind the event**.

This brings us to the decade of the 1950s; much happens after World War Two. The riveting depression of the 1930s is well past. The prospering United States hails its political achievements as the Cold War psychology develops. The Baby Boomers are young and preparing to enter a new age of technological advancement. Ozzie and Harriet, along with Father Knows Best, model the American family on America's favorite pastime-television. The Civil Rights movement is barely out of the starting gate. And McCarthy? Well, he's itching to blow the lid off the American Communist Party infiltration within Washington. The mainstream Protestant and Catholic churches experience a fallout of members inspiring development within the Ecumenical Movement--first: the World Council of Churches, and then, with Vatican Two.

Thousands exit their birth religions in search for answers to questions triggered by the nuclear destruction of Japan and war devastation. As mainstream Christianity and Catholicism fails to fulfill the needs of post war religion, individualism paves way to the development of "cults in America."

The 1950s and 1960s were action packed decades emanating contradictions between freedom and fear of annihilation. The Civil Rights movement complemented the hippie movement. But all movements were negatively affected by constant Cold War fears, Cuban Missile Crises, along with the Kennedy and Martin Luther King deaths. Drugs became the rage, as did the CIA's connection with Timothy Leary's LSD experiments. Internationally, the Cold War image gave way to increased political unrest which few nations escaped.

As we stroll down memory lane in search of the "big picture," we parallel historical events and compare them to the chronological development of the Worldwide Church of God.

When released, the *"Chronology of the Worldwide Church of God*" will detail the real history behind the organization. History revision propaganda has distorted the incredible account on this multi-layer, multi- faceted operandi. Missing from the Tkachian testimonies purporting the "cult that turned to Christ," are the riveting details involving political agendas, associations with the Elite Establishment, the connection with "Rockefeller bankers," the double lives of its front leaders and many ministers, involvement with International assignments, programs involving human development research, Masonic fraternal relationships, multi-million dollar-non profit corporations and its riveting exposé surrounding the "alleged" fraud, sexual exploitation, ritual and sex abuse, prostitution, money laundering, drugs, murders, Mafioso and so much more… but you get the picture?

This lengthy OIU highlights important issues connected to the WCG big picture. The reader's job is to broaden his education to more fully understand how the WCG is webbed together. The propagandists and spin artists have done a commendable job setting up a defense of confusion. The strategists behind the Tkach regime should be noted as experts in the art of distraction and decoy operations. Through fraud, the WCG architects have acquired millions of dollars to hire the best manipulators the market offers. And thus far it appears their investments are paying off. What a shameful testimony to the thousands who have collaborated with such corruption and deception. Silence from the hundreds of "ministers" fully explains their own involvement with works of evil. They have much to hide.

Introducing the Ambassador of Peace

Where was your head in the 1960s? If you were in grammar school during these years, you may recall "bomb scare drills." At the tone of the bell, all the children squatted, covered their heads and huddled under their desks. With the threat of Russian nuclear attacks invading Americans' thoughts, ever-increasing fear phobia permeated the national mindset. America was brainwashed into thinking the big one was just about to land.

Armstrong's most alluring message targeted listeners' "fears" or "fight or flight" emotions. His repetitive theme of annihilation and destruction complemented the public Cold War hysteria. *The Plain Truth* magazine heightened and capitalized on the Cold War psyche. Millions of pieces of "free literature" were distributed around the world masking as answers to the world's problems. The WCG experienced its major growth during the 1960s. Timing was perfect for the Armstrong message. The package was complete with all the answers to wars, society breakdown, religions of man and to every question from: Why Were You Born? Why Man Suffers? and What Will Happen After Death? Hooking on to Armstrong ideology offered one a sense of being privileged to hidden, secret knowledge. The formula for eternal life was summed up in Armstrong's, "God's Plan of Salvation." When we assess what was occurring simultaneously in society, there is little wonder why thousands gravitated toward a dogma that today might seem scripted from pages of science fiction or Scientology. Much of the massive literature described a "way of life" that would result in "true happiness, peace and prosperity." What readers didn't know is that the same ideology and mission described in thousands of pieces of Armstrong literature was exactly the same ideology and **Quest** of Communism's utopianism. They both had a **World Tomorrow** -- message.

Stanley R. Rader's initial contact with the Worldwide Church of God came in 1956 (age 25) when he was working as an accountant for Hollywood advertising mogul Milton Scott, who bought radio and advertising for the church. When Armstrong's accountant died in 1956, Scott sent Rader to Pasadena to help straighten out the church's books. Scott says that young Rader came back to the office enthusiastic about "the gold mine out there. " The American Lawyer, August 1979 article, offers an exposé of Stanley R. Rader called, "**The Devil And Stanley Rader**." Its eye-opening account about "How a Jewish lawyer from White Plains, New York found Jesus, big bucks, and lots of trouble doing 'the Work' in California." This article offers a closer look at the individual who was lauded by Armstrong and his chief evangelists as being Armstrong's chief assistant. What

the article lacks is Rader's scrupulous history involving international transactions under the auspices of Ambassador College, followed by the extravagant multi-million dollar Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF). For over twenty years Herbert Armstrong accompanied Rader (including David Antion, Osamo Gotoh and others) on jet hopping excursions 200 to 300 days a year, to far away lands. Propagandized to lowly church members as "Ambassador of Peace" and "humanitarian efforts," the "unofficial Kissinger-type" team spear-headed by Stanley R. Rader established intimate relationships with totalitarians, dictators and Communists. One of the finest reports documenting the "Ambassador For Peace" agenda is retrieved from Rader's personal account from, *Against the Gates of Hell*, 1980.

As you read through these astounding excerpts taken from Chapter Nine of *Against the Gates of Hell*, **question the agenda relayed in Rader's own words**. Why would the State Department clear such extensive jet travel? How did the globetrotting occur during a time of political unrest and the Cold War? What did Rader and Armstrong have in common with national "Masonic" leaders? Was Rader recruited into the Central Intelligence Agency following his remarkable law school accomplishment, graduating top of his class? Who really funded and organized such an "Intelligence" adventure that cost millions and millions of dollars?

What in the world was the Worldwide Church of God?

OIU Volume Five - Pt. 4 of 4

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

What is Behind THE GATES OF HELL?

[The following direct excerpts by Stanley R. Rader are quoted in sequence.]

The "Work" of the Church is defined as announcing the news of the coming Kingdom of God through all means and media of communications that are available.

We come to all nations and all people with an announcement, awesome and transcendent, yet at the same time, pure and uncomplicated:

As surely as the day dawns and the night follows, we inform them there will be upon this globe a government of God ruled under the laws of God, and those laws will be based upon the Ten Commandments--the love of God and the love of man. His rule will end all poverty, ignorance, sickness, disease, all moral and physical filth, all crime and ugliness. He will end war and to all who accept Him bring a universal prosperity, happiness, and joy.

Personal evangelism was the only answer, so in 1954 Armstrong toured England and Scotland. Even he was astounded by the throngs that jammed the halls, auditoriums and stadiums in which he spoke.

[Stanley Rader begins his career with Armstrong and WCG in 1956. HWA's eldest son and chief Director of the church, Richard Armstrong, is in a tragic car accident driven by Alton Billingsly. Richard Armstrong dies of shock due to lack of medical assistance.]

Unlike a business that set about the formation of branch offices, stores, or plants, churches almost literally create themselves. And so, with the desire of the British people to form a Church plainly evident by their enthusiastic response, one rose in Britain in 1956… An estate was purchased at Bricket Wood, in Hertfordshire, just nineteen miles north of London's Marble Arch… One by one, as years went on, offices were opened in Australia, France, Germany, and the Scandinavian countries, after Armstrong had made journeys there and brought to their people the revealed ways of the living Creator God.

In 1966, a new phase was begun. Mr. Armstrong decided the Work had reached the point where the Church must reach out its arms as far as it could in an intensive effort to bring the message of His next Coming to all humanity.

[Loma Armstrong, wife of Herbert W. Armstrong, dies in 1967 due to lack of medical treatment for bowel obstruction]

A traveling evangelism, unprecedented in the history of world religion, was launched…. Herbert Armstrong has gone to virtually every corner of the planet by many types of conveyance, endured hardships and risked his life many times over to obey the commandment of Jesus Christ. I have been privileged to accompany him on most of these travels and to share in the joys and satisfactions, not to mention the dangers, of the unique globe-girdling effort.

The list of countries we have visited read like a Baedeker guide: every nation in Europe, the Middle East, northern and Southern Africa; through most of Asia, including Japan; to every country in South and Central America. And, in the fall of 1979, I took the commission to the People's Republic of China on three separate visits.

We travel between 200-300 days every year. With a small staff we fly aboard a Church-owned jet aircraft because our schedule is so full and demanding that much precious time would be lost and we could rely on seeing fewer persons with commercial transportation. Usually we remain away from one to more than three weeks at a time. The number of persons aboard can range from about eight to a dozen or more, depending upon the destination. The airplane, a white twin-engine Gulfstream II, about half the size of a Boeing 727, carries a crew of four, including a captain and co-pilot and two stewards.

From the beginning, Mr. Armstrong received astonishing welcomes from kings and presidents, prime ministers and cabinet members, legislators and educators. These summit and near-summit sessions are of overriding importance because, as Mr. Armstrong stated: "When I get Christ's vital message of the Kingdom of god to the king, president, prime minister, and others high in the government of such nations, I have, in God's sight, gotten His message to that nation or Kingdom."

Along with the announcement, there is a full explanation and a proof that what we say is, in truth, coming to pass. An integral part of the message, too, is moral and ethical education. As Mr. Armstrong put it in October 1974 in Cairo, when he addressed a glittering assemblage of Egyptian citizens (which included four government ministers, many members of the legislature and a number of university presidents); "What are we? Why are we here? Is there a purpose? Where are we going? What is the way to peace? What are true values?

…It is one of our major efforts to preach and publish the Gospel to all nations. The message we bring to the nations of the world is that even worse calamities are in store, but that they will be followed by a great new God-enthroned world in which there will be peace, joy, abundance, and eternal life for those who have embraced Him.

Living in such close proximity to Herbert Armstrong for so many months of so many years, listening to him talk about every aspect of the Work, the people we meet, the theology of the Church, discussing the plans for the immediate and distant future, thinking and planning with him, having three meals a day in his company-all this has given me a deeper insight into the mind and spirit of the Apostle of God than any human being who ever lived. If Herbert Armstrong is an ambassador without portfolio, I have functioned as his secretary of state, though similarly uncredentialed.

As Mr. Armstrong's servant, it has been my responsibility to manage his massive program of meetings, dinners, and rallies in country after country. This I have done for up to ten months of every year since 1960. As his servant, too, I see to it that the meetings go well, that the Church's needs are taken care of, and that the programs we institute are carried out. [Rader graduates first in his class from the University of Southern California Law School in 1962]

In 1960 I made my first trip for the Work to British Isles to help Mr. Armstrong buy more property in Bricket Wood, to help the British solicitors in organizing the British version of Ambassador College, to work with the auditors whom Mr. Armstrong had engaged, and to assist in general with management problems. In 1961 I spent a considerable period of time in England in the on-the-job training of the new business manager, Charles F. Hunting. Each year thereafter, I spent time in England, Germany, Switzerland, and other parts of Europe with Mr. Armstrong, resolving various management problems, negotiating new property purchases, analyzing bank financing, establishing banking relationships; and also letting architectural and building contracts while Mr. Armstrong developed the British campus.

As his unofficial secretary of state, I have been present at most of the conferences he has had with world leaders, and gone alone to bring the announcement and carry on adjunct programs when he was elsewhere.

During July and early August 1977, Mr. Armstrong and I traveled to Tokyo, Israel, Liberia, the Ivory Coast and Ghana.

[In 1977, during HWA's heart failure, Rader relents:]

By October he [HWA] was well on his way to full health, and I was able to leave for almost three months of activities in Tokyo, Europe, and New York-much of the time filling in for Mr. Armstrong.

As a result of our pilgrimages and our efforts to foster and cement world understanding, a number of foreign counties have called on me to function as "expert adviser" in their dealings with the United States. In 1971, I was asked to be an official advisor to the Japanese delegation, headed by then Prime Minister Eisaku Sato, at the U.S.-Japanese ministerial conference at San Clemente. Late the following summer, I was again advisor to a Japanese delegation that accompanied Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka to his summit conference with President Nixon in Hawaii, where the two chiefs reaffirmed the mutual cooperation and security treaty that existed between their governments and announced that the U.S. and Japan had reached accords under which Japan would buy $1billion worth of aircraft, uranium enrichment, and various agricultural products. Three years later, I advised a Japanese delegation in the Middle East during Israeli-Egyptian negotiations on withdrawal from the

banks of the Suez Canal.

It may seem surprising that the doors of imperial palaces and official residences are open wide for a smiling, white-haired man and his aide. Yet there are sound reasons. In addition to the announcement we bring, our travels abroad have two other great purposes:

First, to establish and develop programs that are meaningful, relevant, and important to each nation we visit and to the people involved, so that they many live fuller and more abundant lives. And second, to create a better understanding between people to further the cause of world peace.

Herbert Armstrong has become widely recognized and accepted as a man of God, an individual who possesses throughout the world a moral influence capable of moving mountains. National leaders have read about, and often seen for themselves the throngs surging to hear him and the ovations he has received. They have received, too, reports from around the world of the confidence other leaders have placed in him. They have heard, through their intelligence reports and other means, of his reputation as a "**builder of bridges between nations**."

High officials have come to trust Mr. Armstrong as few other influential persons could be trusted in this imperfect world, accepting him, in his own phrase, "an ambassador without portfolio for peace." They feel free to discuss their most pressing international and domestic problem with him in intimate detail. I have had the honor of attending may of these conferences and have noted the depth of sincerity with which he has been greeted, the deference paid to him, the close attention given by state heads of counsel.

Herbert Armstrong has found a certain advantage in his status as unofficial ambassador that no credentialed envoy could enjoy. "In meetings between a government leader and other heads of state," he says, "a great deal may be at stake." They cannot be as free to relax. But in meetings with me they feel more free, and they are often interested in hearing of the problems, opinions, and views of other leaders." Occasionally, too, **Mr. Armstrong has been asked to be the bearer of personal messages from one leader to another, messages that could not be sent over usual diplomatic channels.**

The Prime minister of Lebanon, Takieddine Solh, told Armstrong in 1973: "People like you are like guiding navigators who are seeking the paths of true life and humanity."

And that year, too, Dr, Kharni Singh, Maharafo of Bikaner and a member of the Indian Parliament, wrote: "Mr. Armstrong…is devoted to the cause of eradicating poverty and of bring international peace. In this endeavor of his it is the duty of every citizen of the world to give him all the support he deserves."

We are close with King Hussein of Jordan and yet have maintained equally strong ties of friendship with Israel. At one time, during a four-year period, Armstrong and I made about fifty trips to Israel, meeting with prime ministers Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin, and Menachem Begin, and with Moshe Dayan, Defense Minister Shimon Peres and dozens of cabinet members, legislators, military men, and leaders of industry and academia.

The Prime minister of Lebanon, Takieddine Solh, told Armstrong in 1973: "People like you are like guiding navigators who are seeking the paths of true life and humanity." And that year, too, Dr, Kharni Singh, Maharafo of Bikaner and a member of the Indian Parliament, wrote: "Mr. Armstrong…is devoted to the cause of eradicating poverty and of bring international peace. In this endeavor of his it is the duty of every citizen of the world to give him all the support he deserves." We are close with King Hussein of Jordan and yet have maintained equally strong ties of friendship with Israel. At one time, during a four-year period, Armstrong and I made about fifty trips to Israel, meeting with prime ministers Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin, and Menachem Begin, and with Moshe Dayan, Defense Minister Shimon Peres and dozens of cabinet members, legislators, military men, and leaders of industry and academia.

We met with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Alexandria in the summer of 1974, years before the Camp David accord, when he knew that we would fly first from Cairo to Jerusalem. As President Sadat's special guests, we were the only non-Arabs present while he spoke to members of his cabinet and other distinguished representatives of the Egyptian government and society.

In the Indian subcontinent, we were received by President V.V. Giri and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. We talk with President Suharto of Indonesia, with President Jomo Kenyatta, the father of independent Kenya, with

President William Tolbert of Liberia, with the Prime Minister of Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Argentina, and Peru. In Japan, we have met with former Prime Minister Sato and every one of his successors: Tanaka, Takeo Miki, Takeo Fukuda, and Masayoshi Ohira. The list is almost literally endless because the journeys to proclaim the message of God must go on.

That message which Herbert Armstrong is proclaiming wherever he goes, that the days of this world are now numbered as biblical prophesies have foretold, is being signaled by a curious sequence of developments. These have occurred---are still occurring---too often and too regularly to be disregarded as mere coincidences.

Mr. Armstrong himself has made note of it. **"It seems," he says, "that every time we visit a place, something happens in the country or region that changes it in some significant way." In some cases, these events occur within three weeks, almost to the day.**

Let me call attention to these facts, all of them documented. In late August 1973, Mr. Armstrong and I met in Santiago with president Salvador Allende of Chile, the first Marxist chief of state in the Western Hemisphere to be elected in democratically run elections. After our lengthy conference in the great stone presidential palace, the country's chief of protocol, a worried look on his face, confided to us: "We advise you to leave the country at once before total chaos occurs."

The nation was in ferment; strikes were crippling the economy and demands were rising that Allende halt his efforts to impose a socialistic system upon the nation. We left. Later, in the same room where we had talked with the president, on a carpet by the same desk in which he had sat, lay the body of the Chilean president, a bullet in the back. he had been murdered by a military junta opposed to his Marxist philosophy in a coup supported by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the then Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. As an official of the Worldwide Church, I take no side except to decry the eruptions of violence, which are shredding the fabric of human decency and morality in country after country. The violent upheaval in Chile? It took place just three weeks after we talked with Allende.

In mid-September 1973, we visited Lebanon, our arrival covered extensively by the three Lebanese television stations broadcasting in Arabic, French, and English. After a series of meetings with government ministers and other leaders, we met with President Suleiman Franjieh at his summer palace in Ehden, 7,500 feet in the Lebanese mountains. Lunch over; we strolled out onto his terrace when suddenly three Israeli jets zoomed overhead, flying at a low altitude in a northeasterly direction. Lebanon is on the eastern end of the Mediterranean, on Israel's northern border. To the northeast lies Syria.

Surprised, I asked the president: "Is this an everyday occurrence?" He replied: "Oh yes, they fly over every day on reconnaissance." There had been three Arab-Israeli wars in the past quarter-century, the last only six years before. The Israelis had known Syrian forces were massing in the Golan Heights to their northeast. What they did not know was when--or if they would attack. On October 6 of that year, Egypt and Syria struck simultaneously on two fronts, invading territory Israel had occupied since the 1967 war. This, the famous Yom Kippur War, launched on the Jews' holiest day, occurred two days short of three weeks after we departed from Lebanon.

We met in Bangkok with Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn of Thailand and, not long after, violent student demonstrations forced him from office. Field Marshal Kittikachorn had been in power about twenty-five years, head of one of Asia's oldest and most secure military dictatorships.

Mr. Armstrong paid his first visit to South Africa in June 1976. On June 16, when he arrived back in Johannesburg after a tour of the country's Southwest Africa dependency, the evening newspaper carried black headlines reading: SIX DIE IN RIOTS. Soweto, the area where the black population is sequestered, had erupted. The old order in South Africa was shaken to its foundations by those "flaming nights."

Coincidence? Or Providence? Chance? Or advance warning to a still-unheeding civilization that the first rumblings of what will be massive upheaval, not just in individual nations but the world, as we know it, are already being heard?

National leaders not only talk intimately to Herbert Armstrong but also reveal to him their candid views of events and their opinions of other leaders who strut and fret their hour on the world stage.

Some of the national leaders we have met, including a number in our own country, were not the most democratic of individuals. Power often creates arrogance. Others, however, have been remarkably humble,

gracious, and outgoing in their personal relationships with people. Ranking high as a man of true humanity is King Leopold III of Belgium, who succeeded his father, Albert I, in 1934.

An upcoming OIU issue will expound on the Rader/Armstrong "humanitarian evangelism" as it opened doors in Communist China. This inter-tangled "globe-girdling effort to **build bridges** between nations" seems to warrant keen scrutinization, as the "Heads of Nations" Rader gloats about just happen to be some of the most wicked violators of human rights this world has entertained to date. It has been well documented time and again; Armstrong's message never included the words "Jesus Christ." The word gospel proved to be a euphemism. While the "little dumb sheep" (HWA's term of WCG members) sacrificed their life for a Kingdom they thought was of Jesus, the Totalitarians, Dictators, Communists and Armstrongites translated the word Kingdom to mean "One World Government."

As Rader describes the long relationship with China and Japan in Chapter 10, he quotes Armstrong:

"We could not offend our hosts, a nation without religion, by delivering our message as we had in other nations. In his own preparation for the visit, Mr. Armstrong was planning to tell their leaders of the coming of world government, though not, as he said, 'in Christian or Bible-sounding words.' "

Rader: Again I worked out a rigorous and wide-ranging schedule of activities and, on December 2, Mr. Armstrong flew to Peking-the first leader of a Christian church to be officially invited to meet with leaders of the People's Republic of China. For five days and four nights, Armstrong had formal and informal talks with leaders from government and education as part of what he described as his "most important and successful trip."

Armstrong: **"Although in a Communist and atheist-oriented country I did not use bible language, I did get over to them the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, announcing the coming one-world government of God,"** [Rader] he assured readers of *The Plain Truth* in his Pastor General's Report. He wrote that speaking to the leaders of Communist China is akin to reaching one fourth of all the people on earth, one billion people.

[UPDATE: Stanley R. Rader died July 2, 2002, at age 71, in Pasadena, California, two weeks after having been diagnosed with acute pancreatic cancer.]

The Wonderful World Tomorrow

If you were involved with the Worldwide Church of God in any capacity, you must remember the sole purpose for giving up the "rotten self" in effort to build Godly character and prepare for qualification into God's glorious KINGDOM. Only the elect would meet Christ on the Mount of Olives to wage war with the beast. Shortly following, all weapons would be converted into plowshares and all who remained following the Great Tribulation would begin to build a utopian society where all mankind would dwell in peace with the lion and the lamb.

The New World Government

"Now notice just HOW the new World Government will function!

"It will not be so-called Democracy. It will not be "Socialism." It will not be Communism or Nazism. It will not be human Monarchy, Oligarchy or Plutocracy. It will not be MAN'S government over man. Man has proven his utter incapability of ruling himself!

"It will be DIVINE Government--the Government of God. It will not be government from the bottom up. The people will have NO VOTES. It will not be government of or by the people-but it will be government FOR the people! It will be government form the TOP (God Almighty) down!"

The Perfect Government

"Yes, Jesus CHRIST very soon is going to return to this earth! He is coming in POWER and GLORY! HE is coming to RULE ALL NATIONS!

"But HE is not going to do this ruling, supervising, all alone, by Himself! He is coming to set up WORLD

GOVERNMENT! It will be a highly organized government. There will be many positions of authority. It is the GOVERNMENT of GOD"

Both Church and State

"Another principle is made clear in God's Word. Church and State will be UNITED under Christ. There will be ONE GOVERNMENT, over all nations. There will be ONE CHURCH--ONE GOD--ONE RELIGION. And as in God's original pattern in ancient Israel, they will be united."

What About DISTRIBUTION of Population?

"Will there be ROOM for the multiple BILLIONS of humans on earth-on up to the 2300's and beyond?

"Of course! Remember, only 15 percent of the earth's surface is inhabitable today-and not more than 10 percent is CULTIVATABLE! But when God makes ALL the earth inhabitable, even changing the whole weather patterns of earth, the ocean currents, and flow of arctic air, the jet streams, the pattern of mountain ranges and placement of continents-ALL EARTH WILL BE PEOPLED!

God shows individual races returning to their own lands, repopulating them!"

One World Government at Last!

"Statesmen, Scientists, Editors know the ONLY HOPE FOR SURVIVAL and for PEACE is one world government! We could quote many scores of world leaders affirming this.

"We could quote other scores of world leaders saying IT IS IMPOSSIBLE!

"So it's 'WORLD GOVERNMENT - or ANNIHILATION!' on the one hand, and it's 'WORLD GOVERNMENT is IMPOSSIBLE!' on the other hand!

"That is the stark paradox of TERROR facing all mankind today! No wonder God Almighty says 'The WAY OF PEACE THEY KNOW NOT!'

'But what man cannot do for himself, the GREAT LIVING GOD will do for him! WORLD GOVERNMENT-perfect government - is coming IN OUR TIME, in the hands of the Great Ruling Christ, and unnumbered thousands of Co-Rulers given immortality with and under Him!

"And that GOOD NEW IS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!

How WE Can Enter

"How fervently MILLIONS ought to be praying, 'THY KINGDOM COME! THY WILL BE DONE on earth, as it is in heaven!"

"Yet, how much MORE fervently ought millions to be praying:' OH GOD! Be merciful to me, a sinner! Help me to turn FROM this world's false ways-help me to SEE what a filthy, rotten, selfish rebellious character I have been-HELP me to really SEE Jesus in my heart-to REPENT and BELIEVE, that I may receive YOUR Holy Spirit, and become one of Christ's Co-rulers, made IMMORTAL in His Kingdom, Helping to CHANGE the world-to SAVE the world-to have a part in this soon-coming WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW!' "

[*The Wonderful World Tomorrow, What Will It Be Like,* 1966--all emp. Armstrong's]

For decades, Herbert W. Armstrong, along with his ministerial entourage, rapidly prepared for "one world government." All who read the church literature could verify that the multimillion-dollar gospel consisted of those words. What wasn't revealed was the secret, **duplicitous meaning** of "one world government." The decade of 1990s could be considered the era of globalization. For years, wealthy men in high places have pursued the goal of "unity" for the sole purpose of ultimate power and control. As this decade closes, it is now grossly apparent that Herbert W. Armstrong, along with his chief assistant, Stanley R. Rader, were significant defenders of "one world government and one world religion." It is without doubt these men, along with the Klan of ministers (many still operating), bowed down to their GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE! The Masonic god was their guide, as they defrauded thousands via their double agenda.

Here is a list of letter excerpts distributed to the membership following the death of Armstrong. If there is any question as to what "the work" of the Worldwide Church of God conglomerate is, the answer should be found below.

Dignitaries, leaders share loss of pastor general

"These tributes only begin to cover the many facet of Mr. Armstrong's life and work. Much more could have been written, but space did not permit. As Mr. Tkach writes: 'The tireless dedication to God's Church and work, the long hours, the drive, the energy and enthusiasm for doing God's will, are burned into our memories of him.' "

"Many of the writers share personal glimpses into how their lives were affected by Mr. Armstrong and what it was like to work for God's apostle."

"The Church received many condolences by telex, letter and telephone, including some from dignitaries around the world."

United Nations: "I was greatly saddened to learn of the passing away of Mr. Armstrong. From the time of the San Francisco Conference, which he attended as a journalist, Mr. Armstrong took a strong and supporting interest in the United Nations. With his wide ties throughout the world, he pursued the cause of peace and harmony among all peoples. My wife and I indeed recall our meeting with him in San Francisco last June and had looked forward to seeing him subsequently in New York. We would like to express our sincere condolences on this sad occasions." **Javier Perez de Cuellar Secretary-General.**

United States: "To the congregation, Worldwide Church of God: Nancy and I join all those mourning the loss of Herbert W. Armstrong. A founder and leader of the Worldwide Church of God, Mr. Armstrong contributed to sharing the word of the Lord with his community and with people throughout the nation. You can take pride in his legacy. Our prayers are with you. God bless you." **Ronald and Nancy Reagan, President.**

"I read in the press of Mr. Armstrong's death minutes before receiving your telegram. As you know, the Committee to Commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Signing of the U.N. Charter in San Francisco was very grateful to him and the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation for its generous contribution last spring. We were delighted that Mr. Armstrong could be present for the events. Please accept my condolences and deepest sympathy. Peter Tarnoff, Executive director World Affairs Council of Northern California [As of 1995-- **Tarnoff was Undersecretary-State Dept.; President (Fmr) Council on Foreign Relations and a member of the Trilateral Commission.]**

"All of us at the Law Center extend sincere condolences to you and all your colleagues associated with the Church and the Foundation on the passing of Herbert W. Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong was one of the world's leading evangelists, and his distinguished career contributed much to the causes of religious faith and world peace." **Scott H. Broce, Dean, The Law Center-University of Southern California.**

China: "I had the privilege to meet the late President Armstrong in Beijing, China. I have been deeply impressed by his enthusiasm and friendship toward my country, and his sharpness in the international affairs. His meeting with our leader, Mr. Deng Xiaoliping, is of great significance…" [Toward what is not indicated] **Ji Xiaolin, State Educational Commission, University of Chicago, Ill.**

England: "The Ambassador was very sorry to learn of the death of Herbert W. Armstrong, and would be grateful if you would pass on his condolences to family and friends. We have, as you requested, passed the sad news to London." [The following direct excerpts by Stanley R. Rader are quoted in sequence.]

[The following direct excerpts by Stanley R. Rader are quoted in sequence.]

"I hope that you will accept this [condolence] as an expression of our sympathy. I am sorry that our absence prevented us from attending the funeral service on 10 January." **D.F. Ballentyne, Consul General of Britain, LA Calif.**

"On my return from traveling abroad I was saddened by your telegram. Please convey our sympathy to all concerned with Mr. Armstrong's important work." **Leopold de Rothschild, London, England.**

Belgium: "It is with great sadness and emotion that I learned the news of Mr. Armstrong's passing away…. I remember I met him shortly after my arrival in 1982, and he told me about his love for Belgium and his relationship with King Leopold. I also remember how kindly and generously he reacted to Belgium connected activities. Please convey my sympathy and sentiments of condolences to Mr. Armstrong's family and to those whose mission it will be to continue his formidable task, in the religious, the charitable and the educational

fields." **Andre C. Adam, Consul General of Belgium, Los Angeles.**

West Germany: "I would like to express my heartfelt condolences at the death of Mr. Herbert W, Armstrong. Although I met him personally only once, I was strongly impressed by his personality. I deeply appreciate his work for international understanding, and for the arts. It is gratifying to learn that his efforts will be continued." **Guenter Joetze, Consul General of West Germany, Los Angeles.**

"Deeply shocked by news of the death of unforgettable Mr. Armstrong. Am with you all in prayers for him and hopes for successful continuation of his life's work." **Otto von Habsburg, Member of European Parliament.**

Austria: "I will always remember Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, whom I had the pleasure to have met several times, for his great personality, his deep humanity and culture. Austria will never forget his lasting merits for the promotion of culture and the strengthening of the contacts between the United States of America and Austria in the field of music." [Music???] **Rudolf Kirchschlaeger, Federal President.**

Czechoslovakia: "We were very much grieved to hear of the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, president of the Ambassador Foundation and chancellor of Ambassador College. We shall always remember the last visit of Mr. Armstrong in Prague. Please accept our sincerest sympathy in you sad bereavement." **Vaclav Pleskot, President of Cedok Tourist Agency.**

Israel: "It is with great sorrow that we learned the passing of President Herbert Armstrong. One could only be deeply impressed by his vast efforts to promote understanding and peace among peoples. His good deeds were felt in many corners of the world. In Jerusalem his care and concern can be seen in the many projects he undertook: the archaeological excavations uncovering the history of millennia, the children's playground and activities he helped sponsor, the dedicated work of the Ambassador college students. His visits to Jerusalem were always very special and I was privileged to share these with him He helped foster the goals we set to ensure the future of Jerusalem, King David's City." **Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem.**

"….His feeling for Israel and Jerusalem was manifested in his true interest in the archaeological excavations near the temple mount and in the City of David. His name will always be attached to this most important undertaking carried out in Jerusalem." **Benjamin Mazar, Joseph Aviram of Israel Exploration Society.**

"Heard with extreme sadness about the death of President Herbert W. Armstrong. We in Jerusalem have lost one of the best and devoted friends of the City of David." **Yigal Shiloh, Director -City of David Archaeological Project.**

Israel: "Very sadden to hear of the death of Herbert Armstrong, a tireless worker for the brotherhood of man and an inspiring religious and public and educational personality, whom Israel regarded as a true friend. Our sincerest condolences." **Meir Rosenne, Israeli Ambassador to the United States.**

"We learned with deep sorrow of the passing away of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, the leader of the Worldwide Church of God. Please convey to his family and to the members of your Church our sympathies and condolences. Mr. Armstrong will be remembered as a great spiritual leader and a true friend of Israel." **Jacob Even, Consul General of Israel Los Angeles.**

Jordan: "Their majesties instructed me to convey their heartfelt sympathies and condolences on the passing away of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and their hope that the life of benevolence, altruism and the drive for better understanding among peoples which Mr. Armstrong led will continue to be the inspirational path for others to follow." **Adrian Abu Odeh , Minister, Royal Hashemite Court.**

"My wife and I were very sad to hear of the sudden passing away of Herbert W. Armstrong the great humanitarian and philanthropist, a loss the world can... ill afford at times such as these. Please convey our condolences to his immediate family and friends and to his memory. Both the Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped and the Jordanian Sports Federation for the Disabled would be pleased to make a $500 donation toward the Herbert W. Armstrong Memorial Fund." **Majda and Raad Zeid El Hussein Their Highnesses Chief Chamberlain of the Royal Court.**

Japan: "I am deeply shocked and grieved at the news of the sudden demise of Mr. Armstrong. Recalling his valuable contribution to the enhancement of cordial relations between our two countries, my colleagues and I

share the deep grief of your organization and his family. Please accept my deep condolence and convey my profound sympathy to you, your organization and to his family." **Eisaku Sato, Member, House of Councilors.**

Japan: "Deeply shocked and grieved at the sad report of the passing away of Dr. Armstrong. I wish to express my profound sympathy and sincere condolence to you and through you to the bereaved family." **Bunsei Sato, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications.**

Japan: "Please accept my belated but sincere expression of condolence in the passing of Doctor Herbert W. Armstrong. His loss will be felt by all those who shared in his tireless dedication toward world peace and especially by those whose lives have been enriched by the outstanding cultural programs presenting world renowned artists at Ambassador College over the past many years." **Hazeltaizo Watanabe, Consul General of Japan, Los Angeles.**

Tokyo: "Deepest sympathies and prayers offered." **Yasuko Yamashita, Bunky College.**

Japan: "We are aware of the vital contribution which President Armstrong made for world peace. And his benevolent love shown to our people and our country is always in our heart. Moreover, his generous aide to our Tel Zeror Archaeological Project in Israel through your Foundation will long be remembered by us all. We extend our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to you and to all whom President Armstrong loved in the world. **Koichiro Ishikawa, Tel Zeror Archaeological Project.**

Philippines: "I have just learned about the passing of Mr. Herbert Armstrong who has been a great benefactor to the rural workers in the Philippines for many years through the Ambassador Foundation. Having known Mr. Armstrong was a privilege and an inspiration and memory of his friendship will always be cherished by me and my associates in the ministry of Labor and Employment. Considering the global scope of his philanthropic concerns and the immense responsibility this imposes may I wish you the very best as you enter into the duties previously held by him at the Ambassador Foundation. I look forward to a continuing partnership with you and your organization; carrying out the lofty aims that animated Mr. Armstrong's deep ties with us and we place ourselves at your disposal for the completion of projects already initiated under Mr. Armstrong's stewardship." Bias F. **Ople, Minister of Labor and Employment.**

Nepal: "The royal Nepalese Embassy wishes to transmit the following message of condolence from their Majesties the King and Queen of Nepal to the Ambassador Foundation: are grieved to hear 'The Queen and I of the sad demise of Herbert Armstrong. He was a man truly dedicated to the cause of serving humanity. May his soul rest in peace.' **" Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, King of Nepal.**

Jordan: "I was saddened to learn of the death of our good friend Herbert Armstrong. It has been a great shock to members of my family and I am sure also to the numerous friends he had in Jordan. He was truly a great man of vision and his campaign for understanding and co-existence are very much valued. I am confident that his colleagues will carry on with his mission and his great work." **Mohammed Kamal, Jordanian Ambassador to the United States.**

Thailand: "The queen and I have learnt with deep sorrow and profound sadness at the news of the passing away of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, the founder and chairman of Ambassador Foundation who, through his understanding, wisdom and humanitarianism, has sought to give encouragement and assistance to people all over the world, particularly to Thailand, where he has devoted much of his time and resources, thereby becoming a close and valuable friend of our country. We hasten to express to the members of Mr. Armstrong's family, his colleagues at the Ambassador Foundation and Ambassador College our sincere sympathy and heartfelt condolences for this sad and irreparable loss, which will be felt not only in the United States of America but also in Thailand." **Bhumibol Adulyadej King of Thailand.**

Thailand: "Members of the Royal Thai Embassy's staff join me in sending our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the Armstrong family on the passing away of Mr. Herbert Armstrong, a great friend of Thailand and a truly fine human being. It was a privilege to have know worked with Mr. Armstrong and we will always be thankful for the fine efforts and contributions that Mr. Armstrong has made to the betterment of understanding and friendship between the peoples of Thailand and the United States." **Kasem S. Kascmsri Ambassador, Thai Embassy, Washington, D.C.**

Thailand: "I am instructed to convey to you a message from the prime minister of Thailand tendering his deepest sorrow and condolences on the demise of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong." **W. Sumet, Consul General of Thailand, Los Angeles.**

China: "Grieved and shocked to learn the passing away of Mr. Herbert Armstrong, chairman of Ambassador Foundation, a good friend to the Chinese people. His contribution to mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of China and the United States will remain forever in our hearts. Please convey my condolences to his family and relatives." **Tang Shubei, Consul General of China, San Francisco.**

China: "Shocked [to] learn [about the] unfortunate passing away of President Armstrong. Please accept my sincere condolences and convey my solicitous sympathy to his family." **Lin Qing Vice President of the Friendship Association and former Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations.**

Sri Lanka: "Heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies on passing away of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and founder president of Ambassador Foundation. Irreplaceable loss for the world at large. His message of peace and humanitarianism will glow forever. May he rest in peace. **Festus Perera, Minister of Fisheries.**

Sri Lanka: "Our deepest sympathies on death of Dr. Herbert W. Armstrong, founder president of Ambassador Foundation. Grateful for services rendered by him to Sri Lanka and for carrying the message of peace throughout the world. May he rest in peace." G.M. **Premachandra, Deputy Minister of Fisheries.**

Japan: "I am deeply shocked and grieved at the news of the sudden demise of Mr. Armstrong. Please accept my heartfelt condolence and convey my profound sympathy." **Zenbei Ootaka, York-Benimaru Foundation.**

Other condolences were received from many other individuals and organizations in the following countries:

United States: the **Pasadena Boys Choir**; the Community Dispute Resolution Center, Pasadena; **Men's Organization for Rehabilitation through Training (ORT)**, Los Angeles; **Heber C. Jentzsch, president of Church of Scientology International**; Mukunda Goswami, minister of public affairs, ISKCON International, Los Angeles; **Edmund D. Rothschild**, New York, N.Y., and Shaw Concerts Inc., New York.

China: Han Xu, Chinese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary; and the Chinese ambassador to England.

Belgium: Leopold III Foundation.

Sri Lanka: D.T.L. Guruge, competent authority, ITN; and Mapalafama Wipulasara Maha Thera, director, Institute of Mount Lavinia.

Israel: Institute of Archaeology, Hebrew University; Michael Ravid, former consul general in Los Angeles; and J. Bistritzky.

Thailand: Somdej Praputhajarn, director, Pramahanakorn Kemapale, secretary, Maha Chulalongkorn Buddhist University; and Suvit Yodmani, member of Identity Board of Thailand. Japan: Wichian Watanakun, ambassador of Royal Thia Embassy; Kazuo Shionoya, former member of House of Representatives; Masao Inagaki, Asatsu Inc.; Mr. Takayoshi, Mr. Yamaguchi and Yoshikazu Shibata; Mr. and Mrs. Mikio Higa; and Ryu shionoya.

[Relayed from WWN, Feb. 10. 1986 - bold highlighting added for clarity.]

Comment:

Many of the names you have just read are individuals who belong to one or more of the following organizations:

- United Nations
- Masonic orders
- Council of Foreign Relations
- Trilateral Commission - David Rockefeller
- Bilderbergers

Millions of dollars exchanged hands under the auspices of the International Ambassador Cultural Foundation, with Thailand, China, Japan, Asia and Buddhist markets.

Not one letter mentioned the name Jesus Christ!

Notice what countries have benefited by the work of the WCG's "**Great Architect of the Universe.**"

What is the Architect's plan?

Ecumenicalism = one world religion = one world government = a mindless, powerless society controlled and enslaved by the so-called "hierarchical government." In order to seduce the people into submission, a god must be at the head of the helm. That god is assisted by a trained and conditioned mass called "god's army." And "god's army" is deceived and manipulated into thinking it is doing the work of Jesus Christ. It disguises itself as "inter-faith," "non-denominational," "building bridges" and "peace." God's army is conditioned by hypnosis (auto-suggestive prayer) and emotionalism and psychological mind control. Spiritual ideology is used to numb the will. The Ecumenical Movement and unification of all religion is managed by debased frauds. Ecumenism is the platform of the great Masonic obelisk. The Ecumenical Movement is accelerating at rapid speed. The New Age mysticism ushering in millennia 2000 is New Evangelicalism. Dangerous movements such as Promise Keepers are in training and preparing for its marching orders. Those deceived will be enslaved into "god's army."

The Ecumenical Movement adheres to socialism, occultism, mysticism, emotionalism and collectivism.

"**It may be that the Work God has given me to do is complete, but not the Work of God's Church, which will be faithfully doing God's Work till Christ, the True Head of this Church, returns.**" [HWA-January 10, 1986, Dear Brethren letter]

Yes, Herbert, the work does continue. But the Christ of the "one world government" and the ecumenical "god's church" is the god of this world [age]--the GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE. And that is the eye of god!!! While the Armstrong extension groups continue to announce the gospel of "one world government," the ecumenical, New Age evangelical Worldwide Church of God continues with its newly formed mission of "advancing the kingdom of god."

The reasons behind the events continue in

Outsiders' Inside Update Volume SIX

L. A. Stuhlman, Editor

Please follow up on the following references to substantiate the material and information in this OIU research report:

Books, Ministries, & Tapes/CDs on Ecumenism:

BOOK: *New Neutralism II: Exposing The Gray of Compromise*, by John E. Ashbrook (chap.6: "Billy Graham's Catholic Connection")
Order from: Christian Truth & Victory Publications, 9088 CO. RD. 11 N.W. Alexandria, MN 56308; Phone 320-846-0835. Send $4.00 with catalog request, which will be deducted from your first order.
Read excerpts online.

BOOK: *The Legacy of Billy Graham: the accommodation of truth to error in the evangelical church,* by Brad K. Gsell (chap. 9: "Billy Graham & Communism)
Order from: Fundamental Presbyterian Publications, P.O. Box 26164, Charlotte, NC 2822l-6164

BOOK: *Billy Graham and His Friends: The Hidden Agenda*, by Dr. Cathy Burns. (2002) Dr. Burns has exhaustively researched Dr. Graham's ministry and his association with many other leaders in the Christian community.
Order from: SHARING, 212 East Seventh St., Mt. Carmel, PA 17851-2211 Price: $21.95; postage is 10% of order. (NOTE**:** This address may no longer be valid. Book is available through Amazon)

BOOK: *All Roads Lead to Rome: Ecumenical Movement*, by Michael De Semlyen

Order from: AbeEBooks.com

BOOK: *Today's Evangelicals Embracing the World's Deadliest Cult*, by Wilson Ewin
Available through your library or order from: Christian Truth & Victory Publications, 9088 County Rd 11, N.W. Alexandria, MN 56308 - extensive book list, send $4.00, deducted with your first order. Phone: 320-846-0835.

BOOK: *The New Evangelicalism: The Deadliest Ism of All*, by Rolland C. Starr
Order from: Amazon

BOOK: *N.E.A.- Trojan Horse of American Education*, by Samuel L. Blumenfeld
Order from: Christian Truth & Victory Publications, 9088 County Rd 11, N.W. Alexandria, MN 56308 - extensive book list, send $4.00, deducted with your first order. Phone: 320-846-0835

PUBLICATION: *The Ohio Bible Fellowship Visitor* (Geo. Bailey), 3865 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43214-3797 (614) 262-2006 (exposes Billy Graham, World Council of Churches, Catholicism, ecumenicalism)

PUBLICATION: Christian Truth and Victory Publications, 9088 County Rd 11, N.W. Alexandria, MN 56308 - extensive book list, send $4.00, deducted with your first order. Many selections--too numerous to list here.

AUDIO TAPE (or CD): Billy Graham by Tom McKenney (exposes Graham's ecumenical compromises and liberal stance; given at a 1999 Ministry to Masons Conference; thoroughly documented) Available through ESN.

Suggested reading for the serious researcher who is motivated by critical thought with a desire for critical analysis. The following books provide content analysis: (Order through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or an interlibrary loan)

In God's Name: An Investigation into the murder of Pope John Paul I by David A Yallop (1984)

Windswept House: A Vatican Novel by Malachi Martin (1996)

Communism and the Churches by Ralph Lord Roy (1962) [check your library]

A History of the Ecumenical Movement, Volume Two 1948-1968, Edited by Harold E. Fey (1967) (Published on behalf of the committee on Ecumenical History--Geneva)

The Deadly Deception, Freemasonry Exposed By One of its Top Leaders by Jim Shaw and Tom McKenney (1988)

God's Bullies: Power Politics and Religious Tyranny by Perry Deane Young (1982)

The Faith Healers by James Randi (1987). (Exposing the frauds that prey on despairing people)

Gods and Beasts: The Nazis and the Occult by Dusty Sklar (1977) (An easy reader with valuable information for victims of Bible-based totalitarian, dictatorial cults. Valuable for all ex-WCGers)

OUTSIDERS' *Inside* UPDATE, Volume SIX, offers many more resources including secular and Christian Internet Web research links pertaining to the reasons behind the Worldwide Church of God events.

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Before proceeding on to OIU SIX, read the following offsite article:

Now the Flood! The Paganization of Christianity Nearly Complete

OIU Volume Six

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

Volume SIX ... a newsletter of understanding ... January 1998

VOLUME Six contents:

- Propagandist Hank Hanegraaff Makes It Big Promoting the Tkach/Albrecht Transformation Deception - The New Age Evangelicals hop the bandwagon and "profitize"
- Myth 1 and 2 - the greatest of them all
- UPward--Inward--OUTward and Ecumenical All The Way!!!
- Gerald Waterhouse in a Tkach sanctioned WCG sermon in 1994 to all the churches
- "Fallen Angels" Reside in Pasadena -Where is Satan Working Today? (The Worldwide Conglomerate and its Allies, the Ecumenical Apostates)
- The Ecumenical Allies Erection (Greg Albrecht attends Azusa Pacific University in 1977)
- Plausible Deniability
- The Ecumenical Web Woven by the Deceivers
- The Good News
- Tkach and Albrecht become partners with Ecumenical Collaborators
- Birds of a Feather Flock, Flock Together - The Worldwide Church of God RE-Invents Itself
- Year by Year Highlights
- Ecumenical Timeline
- The WCG Goes Public With New Agenda
- Full Blown Ecumenicism
- Business --NOT-- as usual
- Is the Ecumenical brigade attracted to Tkach??? Or does it have its eye on the prize!(covers some of Pasadena's occult history)
- Cult Cuts
- A member writes to ESN(regarding tongues speaking in WCG)
- Where is all the money going?
- Postings From the Net
- Email to ESN

OIU FIVE and SIX are detailed reports surrounding the Ecumenical Movement (EC) and the current EC strategy involving the **Worldwide Church of God** conglomerate. Those interested in researching the "**reasons behind the events**" and activities of the Worldwide Church of God, United Church of God, Global Church of God and other splinters, will find these two Volumes helpful, thought-inspiring and possibly shocking. The WCG propagandizes a doctrinal transformation. The OIU exposes the real activities and associations pertaining to the "transformation." One Global Church and United Religions is the force behind the WCG "transformation" and "fragmentation." It's time the real story behind the deception and spiritual destruction is **shouted from the rooftops**.

Propagandist Hank Hanegraaff Makes It Big Promoting the Tkach/Albrecht Transformation Deception - The New Age Evangelicals hop the bandwagon and "profitize"

The propaganda continues to permeate the radio and television airways promoting the mega myths about the

"miracle of the Worldwide Church of God transformation."

Now in the tenth year of its multimillion-dollar corporate restructure agenda and marketing campaign, the WCG, with its front men, Joseph Tkach and Greg Albrecht, has successfully infiltrated its devised religious package into the greater **Ecumenical** Evangelical Party. The in-house PR team, spearheaded by Greg Albrecht, continues to manipulate press releases, Christian radio talk shows, Christian magazines and freelance writers, with the "true transformation" of the WCG. Without fail, the same deceptive myths, propagated by WCG PR front men, stand as a testimony to what Hanegraaff considers, "the greatest miracle since the Reformation."

> *"Earlier this year, the Worldwide Church of God was accepted into the National Association of Evangelicals. The church's movement from the fringes of Christianity into evangelical Christianity has been called the 'top story of this decade by the Evangelical Christian Publisher Association." [Sect Moving Headquarters Here, by Stephen Huba, The Cincinnati Post, 11/17/97]*

The same **myths** seem to appear in every article or within every interview. Discerning listeners can see through the layers of deception just by observing the techniques of propaganda used to confuse, dupe, and distract the audience away from the real story behind the WCG "transformation" event. What are the myths? There are many, but the incessant myths you can expect to hear repeatedly are those directly pertinent to the cover-up of multi-million dollar empire liquidation. The front men claim: "If this transformation wasn't genuine and from God…"

1. Why would we risk losing significant income?
2. Why would we risk losing half of our members from our 1986 membership count of 140,000?

Other Tkach/Albrecht myths:

1. We never understood orthodox Christianity. We didn't know we were part of heresy.
2. We never intended to mislead anyone.
3. Our lives have been threatened because of our stand for the truth.

Myth 1 and 2 - the greatest of them all

[NOTE: This info about the Myths is also covered in ESN's Letter to author Janis Hutchinson and "Worldwide Church of God History & Changes" (audio tape by L. A. Stuhlman, founder of ESN).]

Plenty of totalitarian cults transform after their leaders die. WCG is no exception. What makes the WCG unique is that this destructive cult was managed by a greater political machine than ninety-three year old Herbert W. Armstrong. Despite the propagated falsehood of membership around 150,000 in count, the ailing WCG church, which at the time of HWA's death, was below 40,000 in membership. As far as the "little flock" was concerned, it was a church, but to the big boys handling the multimillion-dollar enterprise, layers of corporations, multitudes of businesses, and last but not least, the non-taxed massive real estate empire, The Worldwide Church of God was anything but a church. That's right, the WCG church was a front. It fronted a mega-investment/political empire that allowed sleazy con men the power to control and operate the scam of the century.

The only explanation that seems to rationalize public acceptance that the "destructive Armstrong cult," (as it was notoriously described in thousands of exposés), honestly transformed into "orthodox Christianity" via a miracle, is the extensive and costly Public Relations/Marketing Campaign organized by many deceitful, unconscionable men affiliated with the multimillion-dollar non-profit empire. The real story behind the event is **power, control and wealth**. That political nucleus is well masked by the fraudulent marketing campaign focusing totally on issues of *doctrine changes*. Every "evangelical" participant responsible for furthering the WCG cover-up joins the evangelical team of apostates who serve their own deceived, self-centered egos. The Worldwide Church of God successfully covered-up most forms of corruption throughout its wealthy, political, totalitarian and dictatorial history. The latest BIG LIE, termed transformation, is no exception. As the WCG architects carry out their daily financial activities under the guise of a church, onlookers fall prey to the psychology of deception, distraction and decoy maneuvers. While most are looking in the direction of the BIG STORY marketed by lifelong cult leaders, the real agenda operates daily, sight unseen. The lies pertaining to

WCG history, Herbert Armstrong and every other aspect of the conglomerate are so extensive, it leads the uninformed, believing they must be true. So the deceivers carry on their daily activities, for the most part without challenge. They cannot, however, become too cocky, as they must preserve the secrecy surrounding their true selves, their personal activities and the financial empire they are controlling. The **myths** are essential to their selfish welfare.

The WCG did not lose members and income due to doctrinal teachings; it changed teachings because it was losing members and money!!! True, members did exit following the trauma of deception, but the impetus for changing strategies was due to the decline of the WCG, starting in the 1970s. The myths, however, support the secret financial disbursements of millions of dollars and assets.

Every time Joe Tkach, Jr. and Greg Albrecht hit the PR trail, you can be assured they will announce the great myths in an effort to manipulate the audience away from the real facts. If it were revealed that the WCG never had the membership to support the outrageous income it suckered into WCG headquarters throughout the years, what would that mean for the architects orchestrating the WCG agenda? Let's rethink the televangelist exposure. What happened to Jim Bakker? Jimmy Swaggart? Robert Tilton? and others who were caught with their pants down…financially?!!! The WCG **transformation miracle** has been wrongly promoted by self-appointed, egomaniacal marketers of Christian products, like WCG's paid consultant, Hank Hanegraaff, or David Hulme's good friend, Ruth Tucker. [For more info, see: Research Letters on WCG Changes] This historic reformation and "WCG revival," along with the fragmentation of this destructive cult, should be top investigative priority for the **Justice Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, the State Department and all investigative organizations pertaining to fraud and non-profit charities.**

Instead, we hear or read about the "historic transformation" of a "fringe church" that embraced true Christianity through accepting evangelical orthodox doctrines. While the financial swindle continues under the guise of "spiritual" matters, few are looking at the real history of this church front, or scrutinizing the massive financial mendacity surrounding the multimillions that line the pockets of swindlers, commonly called ministers.

On November 18, 1997, Tkach, Jr. and Albrecht were once again Hanegraaff's guest on the "Bible Answer Man" radio broadcast. Tkach, Jr. commented that the WCG, at one point, grossed over one hundred million a year prior to the "miracle transformation." Let's take a look at the Income Statements audited and approved by Arthur Anderson & Co., and Cooper and Lybrand in the 1990s, to see how accurate Tkach, Jr. is:

YEAR	WCG INCOME
1993	175,639,000
1992	191,391,000
1991	196,985,000
1990	211,563,000
1989	211,777,000
1988	201,259,000
1987	192,081,000

That certainly is "over one hundred million dollars." Tkach, Jr. didn't even round off his estimate to the nearest 100 million. A soon to be released ESN report will list membership figures, contradictions, and lies as they were reported over the past several decades. There is excellent documentation testifying to WCG member count and growth since the 1950s. Equally documented is the significant loss in membership throughout the 1970s and 1980s. The orchestrated "transformation" of the 1990s WCG is inspired by WCG's demise prior to the Jonestown Massacre! The church front became even more of an eyesore following Jonestown but the obliteration of cult members at Waco compounded the problems for the already ailing structure. These factors, combined with *Religion 2000* goals, prompted restructuring and financial "transformation" of the cult.

In a pamphlet printed July of 1994 and distributed upon request by the WCG Public Affairs Office entitled, "Financial Overview," we note some interesting findings. It states the following:

> *"The vast majority of the Church's income is contributed by Church members. Although it varies slightly from year to year and from country to country, about 85 percent of income from contributions comes from Church members or those who regularly attend services of the Worldwide Church of God. About 15 percent of contributions come from others who choose to make donations."*

Interesting to note is the fact that the WCG has not issued an income statement since 1993. The ESN has not been able to obtain a statement from the IRS, as the church is not required to submit an income accountability report. For that matter, it is not required to produce an IRS non-profit 990 form upon request. Those attempting to verify statements made by international WCG wealth holders, find it a difficult task to get answers. The ESN is preparing a very thorough report on this topic, which will surely raise the eyebrows of those who care about organized financial church fraud.

"Expenditures of the Worldwide Church of God are disbursed through nine general categories," states the brochure:

Support for Local Congregations	34.3%
Publishing activities	11.6%
Electronic Media	9.90%
Mail Processing	5.00%
Support of Ambassador University	7.00%
Aid to Needy Members	5.80%
Operation and Maintenance of Property	6.90%
Support Services	14.2%

Anyone with experience of how the WCG operated and managed its "little flock" would surely be amazed to learn that 34.3% of 175 million dollars went to support local congregations. The fabricated percentage is preposterous and outright insulting in light of how the impoverished congregations were managed. While many area congregations met in MASONIC HALLS, others were renting bargain facilities like school auditoriums. In addition to the three-tiered tithe system the local churches were always feeding Headquarters additional financial support with generous offerings. The BIG MYTH about membership is equally disturbing as it is telling. A trip through the voluminous archive of WCG related materials reveals statement after statement pertaining to membership counts in the WCG. The **1993 WCG Income Statement** printed in *The Worldwide News* member publication, revealed the following by Tkach, Jr.:

> *"In international areas, we employed 275 ministers who serve 30,350 baptized members in 372 congregations with an average monthly attendance of 38,000. The international ministry baptized 1,344 new members, conducted 220 funerals and removed 1,045 individuals from membership."*
>
> *"In the United States, we paid salaries and expenses for 478 ministers serving 67,444 baptized members in 469 churches with an average monthly attendance of 84,892. The church received 12,238 new visit requests, and the ministry baptized 1,751 new members, performed 542 marriages, conducted 621 funerals and removed 2,907 individuals from membership."*

Let's compare other published totals from the same Income Statements:

The 1993 totals:

Membership (baptized) 100,889
Ministers employed 753
Congregations 742

The 1992 totals:

Membership (not listed)
New baptisms 3,333
Ministers employed 623
Congregations 838

Other membership totals:

1991 -- 99,000
1990 -- 97,000
1989 -- 95,000
1988 -- 92,000

Please note: *Financial Reports* between the years 1988 to 1993 were the only available statements offered for member viewing. It's ironic that the only time WCG demonstrated any financial accountability was following the 1987 Internal Revenue investigation into fraudulent religious institutions such as Jimmy Swaggart's and the Bakker's. There has not been a Financial Report published in the WWN since 1993.

While attending a guest appearance on James Robison's New Life Ministry television show in Texas this summer, Greg Albrecht stated that the church, at one point, had 150,000 members, but due to doctrinal changes half the members have left leaving 70,000 members. The 1989 Income Statement published in the WWN posted the highest yearly income, being $211,500,000 (that's million), but notice--the membership was supposedly 95,000. That's right! 95 thousand members. So, again we see another false report of phantom membership totals. The question remains, what church is Albrecht talking about, and who exactly are all these members? Could he be distorting the facts and quoting from 1934 onward? If we were to believe that there were 95,000 members (only one third of which would be working, tithing males) generating over 211 million dollars, let's see the income statement when WCG supposedly had 150,000 members. Should we estimate the income at $350,000,000!!!? [NOTE: This is not to discount those few who were working wives within the WCG and who contributed to the husband's income.]

Now, let's take a look at what the 1994 brochure "Financial Review" states regarding membership:

> *"The Worldwide Church of God is primarily a pastoral organization serving its members. It has more than 840 congregations in the United States and abroad. More than 1,800 ordained ministers serve members and others attending these congregations. While 96,000 people are baptized members of the Worldwide Church of God, attendance at Church services averages 120,000. Pastoral expenses, hall rentals and other support needs of these congregations generally comprise about 34.3 percent of the Church's overall annual expenses."*

In Tkach's latest propaganda release, *Transformed By Truth!* He states the following:

> *Page 105: "So after all the doctrinal changes over the past few years this is where we stand. Close to 70,000 people remain with us, which means that we have lost about 70,000 members. Only 30,000 people, perhaps less than that, attend the splinter groups. A larger number of 40,000 people sit at home confused, frustrated not knowing what to do or what to believe."*

[Note: Read: An Open Letter to Joseph Tkach, Jr. (mentions these "40,000 people sitting at home")

Tkach, Jr. and Albrecht have found it necessary to enhance the exaggeration of inflated church membership numbers making the latest account higher than all other false statistical statements. The reader should see the relationship surrounding the continuous contradictions and false presentations of membership in relationship to the reported income during the years an Income Statement was released. Statistical analysis will pose vital questions as to where the WCG amassed such an **extravagant income**. And what are they currently doing with the cumulated millions of dollars extracted from the spiritually deceived sheep? An income that exceeds that of Focus On the Family, Benny Hinn, Jimmy Swaggart, Jim and Tammy Bakker's Theme Park, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and Promise Keepers certainly leads to speculative questions. Bear in mind these organizations are well established and popular in the evangelical arena giving them a very large "religious" audience that fills stadiums by the multi-thousands and provides a juicy market to…. sell, sell and sell religious products to boot. How did the aberrant, heretical cult derive such vast corporate income per year especially

when many were called but few chosen as picks for the one true church? Added to that question, is the multimillion-dollars in real estate holdings and assets. An extraordinary article written by James A. Haught, **The God Biz** (*Penthouse*, December 1980) demonstrates how the religion business was more **profit**, than **prophet**, as early as the 1970s, before the New Age evangelicals were barely **slain with the ecumenical spirit**.

> The United States always had a fringe of scripture literalists obsessed with sin, of one-preacher denominations, of Pentecostals who spout "the tongues," of faith healers who grab the lame, of hillbilly congregations picking up rattlesnakes, of Adventists who periodically announce the end of the world, of sex-haters who burn books and rock albums, of tabernacle-goers who "dance in the spirit" and writhe on the floor, of Bible prophecy fans who think that the Lost Tribes of Israel moved to England and became American settlers.
>
> Why did they cease being a fringe and seize the foreground with such numbers and money? What -- besides changes in the national mood -- caused the billion-dollar gospel boom? Much of it was created by three electronic marvels: (1) super-slick videotape production that gives a "class" look to television shows; (2) fixed-orbit satellites that relay broadcasts all over America for pickup by stations and cable systems; (3) computerized fund-raising centers able to receive millions of letters bearing $10 and $20 checks and to mail back machine-written responses selected by coding and disguised to appear personal.
>
> As television's drawing power grew apparent, a crowd of celebrity preachers took to the air, competing for listener-donors. Today more than 1,000 different gospel shows are bounced off the satellites or distributed by radio tape and videotape to stations and cables. It's a bonanza for the broadcast industry. A typical clear-channel radio station, WWVA of Wheeling, sells $1 million worth of evening half-hours to revivalists annually. Billy Graham pays up to $25,000 per television station per hour for his prime-time crusades.
>
> Listeners foot the bill. Most shows work like this: Watchers are invited to write for a free gift, such as a four-cent "Jesus First" lapel pin. Once a viewer's name and address go into the computer, he gets letters urging him to become a "faith partner" and send monthly donations. The computer keeps track of big givers and little givers -- and ejects names that don't produce after three mailings. (Some evangelists raise extra money by selling their donor lists to others.) Computers also dispatch monthly newsletters and sometimes choose pre-written replies to viewers who write about spiritual or personal problems.
>
> The more magnetic a revivalist is, the more watcher-supporters he draws, which allows him to buy time on more stations, which draws more donors, which buys more air time, which draws more donors, etc. His operation also can expand by sale of books, records, magazines, gospel novelties, and tape cassettes. A big entrepreneur usually starts his own gospel college and creates an overseas mission. So far, the top evangelists, their shows and the best estimates of their yearly grosses rank like this: [At the time this article was written, 1980]

The World Tomorrow (WCG)	**$75 million (#1)**
Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association	**$60 million**
Pat Robertson (700 Club and Christian Network)	**$58 million**
Jim Bakker (PTL Club and Network)	**$51 million**
Jerry Falwell (Old-Time Gospel Hour)	**$46 million**
Billy Graham Evangelistic Association	**$40 million**
Rex Humbard (Cathedral of Tomorrow)	**$25 million**
Jimmy Swaggart (Camp Meeting Hour)	**$20 million**
Robert Schuller (Hour of Power)	**$16 million**

James Robison (Man with a Message)	**$15 million**
"Rev. Ike" Eikerenkoetter (United Church)	**$6-15 million**
Ernest Angley (Grace Cathedral)	**(secret)**

> Established, mainstream denominations worry that one-man television sects are siphoning off members and money that would otherwise go to hometown churches. Dr. Martin Marty, a Lutheran scholar, says the "ruffle-shirted, pink-tuxedoed pitchmen" are formidable rivals, and "the loser is the local church." Presbyterian Survey magazine sneers at "show-biz religion" and "TV salvation for sale" and "the hucksterism of big-time religious broadcasting." Everett Parker, communications chief of the United Church of Christ, says, "They are on television to make money so they can expand their television exposure and make more money."

Haught goes on to say:

> The suspicions, the talk of charlatans, arise partly from the fact that U.S. evangelists are allowed to keep their finances as secret as they wish. Under federal law, anything that calls itself a church is exempt from taxes and disclosures. (Even a saint might be tempted if he handled secret money everyday. A revivalist always begs, "Give to God," but he knows God's name isn't on the bank account; he knows who gets to spend the money.) Michigan has passed a state law requiring churches that solicit from the public to file financial disclosures, as charities do. The Michigan law already has been challenged in court as a violation of freedom of religion. *Reader's Digest* published an appeal last November for a U.S. law to force disclosure of all church money. It wouldn't harm reputable denominations, the *Digest* said, but actually "would help them by exposing the spiritual con artists who cast shadows on all religious fund-raising."
>
> "The evangelical bandwagon continues to roll, spanning all the way from born-again President Carter to Manson cult killers Tex Watson and Susan Atkins, now saved and selling paperbacks about it. And the gospel gold mine continues to produce billion-dollar revenues, with **no end in sight.**" [End of excerpts]

Notice: "**no end in sight**." Here we are, almost 20 years later, and the God Biz is bigger than ever imagined. Millions of dollars line the pockets of the "hucksters," operating without accountability. Meanwhile, spiritual seekers from all walks of life are being swept into religious fraud at a record pace.

Isn't it astounding how the Worldwide Church of God was ***number one*** **for the top religious moneymakers?** That's a lot of millions of $$$$ per year marketing a message that is now considered "**apostate**." Even more suspicious, is how the WCG income increased to $211,000,000 within ten short years. But what about recruiting?

By most documented accounts, the WCG had under 40,000 members in 1986 when Joseph Tkach, Sr. assumed Pastor General position. Church statements reflect that recruitment of new members sharply **decreased through the 1970s and 1980s**. The ESN report, **Transformed By Lies**, will document the evolution of membership growth and decline using WCG's documented sources. Throughout the decades, WCG pacified its members by stating the church grew by 30 percent yearly. Inside church documents obtained expose the secrecy surrounding the actual membership count and need for gross exaggerations. Inflated membership counts clearly define the need to verify the giant multimillion-dollar income.

[MORE INFO: Read: A Church in Decline? which tells what Mike Hollman, director of data processing in WCG from 1972-1973, revealed. Also see this part in OIU 2, Pt. 2 about "discrepancies with the growth picture starting around 1978" and this part in OIU 4, Pt. 4 about the manipulated numbers and the IRS.]

When the *orchestrated* splintering of United Church of God occurred in May 1995, it brought with it approximately 17,000 members. Combined with the Global and Philadelphia Church of God separations prior to 1995, the WCG was left with approximately 10,000 remaining members. Several thousand of which fragmented into the arms of the Seventh-day Adventist, pro-Vatican author, Samuele Bacchiocchi and John

Merrit of *Friends of the Sabbath*. Through the assistance of propagandist, John Robinson, the *In Transition* newspaper timely launched in May 1995, successfully manipulated and distracted the wounded and spiritually distraught WCG exiters with issues of doctrines and history revision. Numerous articles complimented the WCG re-structuring agenda. If that were not enough, those who read the *Ambassador Report* (since 1994) were tossed into **deeper mystification and complexity by Carl Jungian apprentice and Editor, John Trechak.**

[UPDATE: In the beginning Trechak and the team he worked with appeared to have a very noble goal. But after awhile, the message in his AR became mixed, causing people to become bitter instead of being on the road to healing. Later reports were referring readers off to agnostic, aberrant, meta-physical, humanistic, and anti-Bible sources through comments, letters, addresses and book titles. John Trechak died September 2, 1999. The AR is now posted on an atheist website.]

Read: "Brother of John Trechak Confirms Trechak Drifting Into Jung, Etc." (2014 letter to ESN)]

[Note: Carl Jung's family had occult linkage on both sides.]

Do the Tkach/Albrecht myths stand to cover-up a massive financial corruption? The Worldwide Church of God is built on the foundation of multi-layered lies and deception. What in the world would induce anyone to accept the hyperbole of a transformation marketed as "**truth**"?

What is in store for Hanegraaff and his personal financial future with his close friends, Tkach, Jr. and Greg Albrecht? Only time will tell as we continue to see the benefits that Hanegraaff and others reap for their WCG PR propaganda contribution. Amidst his globetrotting travels to Israel with Albrecht and wife, Hanegraaff's face can be seen in *The Plain Truth* magazine, and his signature highlights the Forward on the Hanegraaff promoted book, *Transformed By Truth*, supposedly authored by Joe Tkach, Jr. Has anyone wondered how the WCG could manipulate such a deception without its good ecumenical consultant, supporter and friend, Hank Hanegraaff? The ESN has been monitoring every aspect of the event for several years now and while Hanegraaff's streets may be paved with gold, many are following the yellow brick road, right through his pearly-gated community at 30852 Via Colinas, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92679-4013. Hanegraaff's 14 room, 4,656 SF mini-mansion was assessed at $731,000.00 in 1991. God only knows what the selling price would be in today's market value. Sadly, many of his deceived contributors are not aware that his house alone commands over $10,000 in taxes yearly. Little do they know their meager donations add up to Hank's kingly living arrangements.

[UPDATE: Christian Research re-located to Charlotte, North Carolina in 2005, with an affiliate (CRI Canada) in Calgary, Alberta.]

OIU Volume Six - Pt. 2 of 7

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

Volume SIX ... a newsletter of understanding ... January 1998

UPward - Inward - OUTward and Ecumenical ALL THE WAY!!!

Grace the lobby of the Ambassador Auditorium (formerly known as God's House) in Pasadena and you'll find the words: Upward, Inward and Outward. The very first mission statement put out by the Tkachites stated, *"The Worldwide Church of God is a Spirit-filled community of believers. As such, the focus of our mission is, at once:*

-Upward: We exalt Jesus Christ in all our worship and in all our outreach activities.

-Inward: We minister to all those called into fellowship with us, encouraging believers to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior and to discover and develop their spiritual gifts for use in fulfilling the great commission.

-Outward: We evangelized the world around us, teaching all who will hear to obey the commands of Jesus Christ, to repent from sin, and to embrace the free gift of salvation by grace. We also joyously proclaim the return of Christ and the coming establishment of the fullness of the kingdom of God."

Now some might say, "Sounds good to me, what's the problem?" On the surface, nothing is wrong with this mission statement outside of a few minor contradictions. But let's look beneath the surface and see what Tkach, Albrecht, Feazell and the other front men have been up to these past few years. Those subjected to Tkach/Albrecht propaganda have no resources to investigate the allegations of their transformation, nor are they able to see all sides of the busy religious capitalists. Time will not permit a detailed report on the WCG associations and activities, but anyone who wishes more in-depth enlightenment to the total WCG picture need only request it by contacting the ESN. Various WCG Press Releases have espoused the WCG message and myths along with several radio and television interviews with Tkach and Albrecht. Of late, the message has gotten quite boring as the same old verbiage defending the myths and proving how transformed the cult leaders have become seems stale. One wonders why such supposed transformed Christians need to market themselves and peddle their wares to prove their innocence. Amazingly, we find what is not said to be most exposing. I hope this will offer a better understanding of the real intent and agenda.

From Whence We Came

- We are not changing any church teachings, we are just making enhancements
- We are not joining Protestantism
- We are not going mainstream
- We are not Pentecostals

These four statements are among hundreds of intentional untruths mouthed by the architects of the WCG transformation.

On the shirt tails of the latest Christian craze is where you'll find WCG and friends hanging out. While the Ecumenical Movement **is to be taken most seriously** because of its sinister and nefarious agenda for one world **UNITED** Religion, we find Tkach's strong entanglement with the ecumenical apostates to be most revealing and corroborating the multitude of lies and manipulations that have emanated the Pasadena Headquarters of the "modern" WCG throughout these past ten years.

OIU readers have learned in earlier OIUs of the many sordid details involved in manipulating the restructuring of the cult into a pseudo church financial shell. Pre 1993, very few WCG members had an inkling that times were changing with the "one true church." Even with the duplicitous PR maneuvers by David Hulme (then President of the main Armstrong splinter, The United Church of God), the majority of members hadn't a clue as

to what was about to befall them by 1995. It was a cinch for the WCG architects to play a double game of lies. Who was going to challenge them?

Early WCG allies such as Ruth Tucker, Watchmen Fellowship, Alan Gomes, Mark Kellner and then Hank Hanegraaff, were most instrumental in sounding the proclamation to the evangelical arena that the WCG cult was "making changes." Article following article sold the WCG in a positive light. David Hulme started PR negotiations as early as 1987, but the real PR thrust manifested following January 1995. It was then that the Tkachites constructed their multi-level marketing PR kits and set out to peddle their wares to and with the ecumenical apostates. It was an enigma to many as to why any so-called Christian would take the cult leaders' words at face value. What was not known at the time was that the monstrous **ecumenical machine** guided the multi-million dollar cult into their fold. If the reader hasn't read OIU Volume FIVE, we recommend these lengthy reports of foundational education material that unveils religious deceit.

Since the 1950s, each decade represents its own religious manifestation. Norman Vincent Peale introduced the positive thinking [autosuggestion] in the 1950s and paved the way for Robert Schuller's drive-in theater extravaganza. Throughout the sixties and seventies America witnessed the mass marketing of the business of Jesus. Television offered the newest tool for advertising and that put Jesus on the airways and millions of dollars in preachers' pockets. The message came from all arenas: cults, televangelists and preachers galore. The TV media was so powerful, it built a Crystal Cathedral from Schuller's "Hour of Power" and a mini empire for Jimmy Swaggart to D. James Kennedy and back to Oral Roberts. Something for everyone could be found on the big TV screen. The boom of the Pentecostal movement during the 1980s gave rise to emotionalism, speaking in tongues, and "feeling Jesus" which in turn birthed the 1990s concept of **being slain in the spirit.**

[Note: Norman Vincent Peal Peal, a 33° Scottish Rite Freemason, founded *Guideposts* magazine in 1945. He died in 1993 at age 95. Robert H. Schuller was mentored by Norman Vincent Peal. He died in 2015 at age 88.]

The Religious Coalition with Pat Robertson stole the limelight, but the Charismatic activity became the "in" thing, making the Vineyard Church and Toronto Blessing not only vogue but controversial, too. The latest Charismatic phenomenon is none other than the rebirth of a nation, under the umbrella of the Promise Keepers. After the televangelists were exposed in 1987 for their financial rip-off agenda, we saw an end to the TV marketing era, as we once knew it. That included the World Tomorrow!!!

The success of Billy Graham's Evangelistic Crusades taught the ecumenical architects how to market emotionalism and charisma under the umbrella of unity. Just like emotionalism mixed with theatrics made old time preachers Aimee Semple McPherson and Billy Sunday famous, the 1990s introduced motivational icon Bill McCarthy to inspire masses of men to join hands and sing songs of oneness. Although the decades may have changed, the Worldwide Church of God architects and money handlers used the same method to **transform its cult under the guise of mainstream Protestantism and Pentecostalism.** It has made all the changes necessary to transport the WCG shell into and under the ecumenical movement of the day.

[UPDATE: Read 2004 letter to ESN: WCG Sells Part of AC Campus to Radically Charismatic Church (associated with the Toronto Blessing).

[UPDATE: Billy Graham died February 21, 2018 at age 99.]

I know we've written it before but it's worth repeating as no one says it better than the infamous traveling minister **Gerald Waterhouse in a Tkach sanctioned WCG sermon in 1994 to all the churches:**

[We quote verbatim starting with the following excerpt:]

> "Matt 24:14--This Gospel shall be preached to all the nations and then shall the end come. The purpose of the gospel has always been from the beginning to reach the world at the end of Satan's world, when the nations are in such turmoil, such trouble. **People have lost hope.... we have to get the message out to all the nations and then its going to be just at the time in the end. So we got to get to that position, we have the philosophy through which is to go to all nations. To become all things to all men.**
>
> Greek to the Greece, Roman to Roman, Jew to the Jew, to know how to reach the whole world, French, Roman, Jews, etc. We cannot reach effectively with the gospel unless we can reach

them [other countries] as one of them. It's going to take real inspiration of Christ and the right people to relate to all people. **So when we get the message geared to that nation, it's coming as one of them. It's a matter of learning how to apply it so it comes to the people as one of them, and that's no easy thing. We got to have enough time to get to where we ought to be. So guess how God is getting us to that place? He stripped away which would enable Satan to identify us, single us out and bring on persecution. He's got us in the mainstream of religion.** Most people don't realize how Christ has worked down throughout the ages. They just think he always should work the way he works right now. No, he's working based on the conditions and circumstances.

Now what if you've been back in Jerusalem back when Jesus was born, and say you knew he was the savior...God had Joseph take Jesus and hide him in Egypt. God says take Jesus down and hide him from King Herod. God could have protected them, but he didn't do it. It's not the way God works now. He's dealing with this world; it is Satan's world. **HE'S WEAVING HIS PEOPLE IN AND OUT OF SATAN'S TACTICS TO GET US WHERE WE OUGHT TO BE**. You know when Jesus Christ was functioning on this earth; you know he hid himself quite often. One time they took him up to the brow of the hill, said he walked right through them, they didn't even see him couldn't recognize him. He just snuck right through them. You find another time he could no longer walk openly because he became to be well known, because he knew it wasn't his time. It became his time in 31 A.D.. He said I know my hour has come. Do you know why Judas had to kiss him? Because they couldn't identify him in the crowd.

Christ looks so much like the average Jew, that if Judas did not kiss him they would not have been able to identify him. **So God used the method of hiding Jesus until it was time. Now this [WCG] is his body. So it's up to Christ to hide his body, until it is ready do the job for which it has been raised up. To get us where we ought to be. So God has trimmed off a lot of those things that make us look like a cult or sect.**

Right now it's a very sensitive world, much more sensitive then when HWA died. He didn't face the Jimmy Swaggarts, Jim Bakkers and Oral Roberts. Their scandals have muddied the water. Then ABC, Diane Sawyer, had two one hour programs exposing other televangelists back just under a year ago. **Remember that's where the work has to be financed from and has to be geared from. So that made every televangelist be suspect.** So in order not to be singled out here as one of those that are suspect like Jim Jones, Koresh... **trim off those things that make us look like them,** Mr. Tkach lets us get out here and be exposed so if they question us, and say what have you been doing for your community, your city? We've been out here serving and helping. **There's a reason for these things. So Satan cannot get the attention on us. Now when we get to that place when it's time to reach the world with the gospel, it may not last very long before we're ready.**

Oh, is that going to bring on religious persecution, because they will realize we prepared the way they didn't. And they're not able to get a message of hope out when nations have no hope. And then we get a message of hope out and say God has paid the penalty for your sins, the condition you are in, through his son, and God loves you and he wants to turn you around.

[All excerpts in sequence. Full transcript available upon request. Bold emphasis for accent]

"FALLEN ANGELS" RESIDE IN PASADENA

Where is Satan Working Today?

The Worldwide Conglomerate and its Allies, the Ecumenical Apostates

As previously mentioned, the Ecumenical Movement is an extremely serious infliction on all society. The ESN recommends all readers to engage in research pertaining to the ecumenical agenda and its occult associations. Refer to the references listed in **OIU FIVE** and continue to broaden your understanding of this grave deception under a religious guise that will advance the agenda of the powerful leading to massive control and

slavery on human life. Ample critical educational material is available pertaining to every facet of this ecumenical progression. This movement is in the advanced stages of deception and, while not supported by all Christians, it has infiltrated every denomination and belief system. Some think of it as the **Protestants and Catholics coming together** in unity, but the participants include a far greater array of belief associations. From Christian to Jew, Wicca to Buddhism and Hindu to Adventism, all are moving toward **unity in religion** for the coming New Age of a global world. Many church members are greatly fooled from the sugar-coating of ecumenicism that has been subtly conditioned into spiritual thinking through the channels of the umbrella Ecumenical organizations such as the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) World Council of Churches (WCC), and Lutheran World Federation (LWF), just to name a few. [UPDATE: The NCC (National Council of Churches) and WCC (World Council of Churches) can now join the NAE. Also read: Letter to NAE and other concerned Christians.] Hundreds of leading ecumenical organizations have linked bodies to bring together one world religion. Thousands of world religious organizations are listed under these major ecumenical conglomerates. All are working diligently through major conferences, conventions and publishing to encircle the entire religious world into a oneness under a god. The Ecumenical Movement of the New Age has been termed the most dangerous war the world has experienced. Most dangerous because few realize they are in the midst of a powerful, totalitarian, socialist regime that is anything but God-fearing.

The WCG Architects of Deception Form a Coalition of Allies with the Heavyweights with the Ecumenical Mind Benders

WCG propagandists: Tkach, Albrecht, Feazell et al, have spent large sums over the past two years scurrying about the United States and abroad on a major publicity campaign. With portfolio in hand the Public Relation brotherhood has been making numerous appearances and interviews with the mission of convincing the "ecumenical evangelicals" that this "*historic transformation*" of the WCG, was directed by God and will serve as an example and pioneer for other "cult denominations" to transform into *interdenominational unification.* Tkach credits the transformation as the start of *building bridges* with *all* Christians, while breaking down the walls of doctrinal division.

The Tkachian main message always centers around two points: 1. We were once legalistic, now we are free, and 2. The transformation comes from doctrinal changes following Herbert W. Armstrong's death. As all men do err, the propagandists have offered many duplicities and contradictions in their numerous interviews, which we shall make available at a later date. The current concern focuses on the insulting, arrogant, condescending distortions of the real facts behind the WCG secret cult empire and its relationship to the thousands of lives destroyed by the WCG controllers of this horrific organization. Lies replace truth until they are refuted! But **who** is refuting the lies and distortion? The Tkachian propagandists bask in glory as the New Age ecumenical evangelicals collaborate with the thought control-conditioning mission. The largest religious movement of this day is the *New Evangelicalism.* As the WCG shell shed its failed Armstrong marketing, it incorporated the next best religious hypocrisy to replace it--"New Age Evangelicalism." As the architects from each ecumenical evangelical camp combine talents, they promote the most destructive spiritual fraud and deception of this century. It's a perfect match. The propaganda snowball has manipulated many Christians unaware of the massive history and escapades behind the propaganda of the very men who claim their innocence and humbleness to Christ. The *non-taxed wealth* supporting the snowball of deception discourages many who know the truths behind the lies from speaking up or from being heard. Hope for justice and accountability seems doubtful by the day.

While the ecumenical "Praise the Lord" for the heroic humbleness of Tkach/Albrecht et al., the Tkachians center their publicity game plan on **legalism and doctrine** verbiage. As Tkach's book, *Transformed By Truth*, demonstrates the focus on these words **trick** one from **discerning** what the real Worldwide Church of God was really about for almost seven decades. **They not only blind observers from the *reasons behind the events*, they serve as a cover-up to the real atrocity behind the Herbert W. Armstrong image.**

Reconciliation, forgiveness, unity, bridge-building, equipping, sacrifice, grace, interfaith, world peace, etc., etc. are the words spitting from leaders' mouths these days. But the lip service that promotes "*transformation*" does nothing to recompense, reconcile or repent from the horrific fraud and abuses in the form of mind control, personal and family wholesale destruction, individual coercion, financial fraud, spiritual genocide and psychological damage from intentional manipulation and exploitation. Not least on the list is the

residual holocaust being lived out in thousands of lives this very day due to actions of men without a conscience--the same men who preside over the Worldwide conglomerate of extension groups this very day!

Committed WCG members remain uninstructed to unfolding events with the newly formed Tkach partnerships. The general Christian community is likewise blinded to the big picture due to its lack of critical information. Those reporting on events, such as *Associated Press*, are **negligent** with research and investigation, as they print whatever comes their way via WCG press releases. Initial propaganda spearheaded by Ruth Tucker, Hank Hanegraaff and *Christianity Today*, provided the platform for the Tkachites to penetrate other ecumenical avenues for support. The repetitive propaganda articles from New Age evangelical ecumenical publishers such as *Christianity Today*, *Associated Press* and *Charisma* magazine, manipulated many into the web of deception. [UPDATE: Read how *Christianity Today* has turned to promoting contemplative spirituality and the New Age.]

The Ecumenical Allies Erection

Our research indicates that the most visible influential spokesperson for the "transformation" campaign has been, from its inception, Gregory R. Albrecht. Presently Executive Director of The Plain Truth Ministries (PTM), Albrecht spearheads public relations, media and marketing of WCG products. He is the man in the forefront of all current WCG maneuvers.

Since its inception, the ESN engaged in painstaking research and investigation surrounding the entire history and current events of the WCG. Through scrupulous content analysis, the ESN unveiled much evidence of collusion surrounding the entire breakdown of the WCG and the main splinter groups. Understandably, it might be hard for some to discern the big picture, as it requires research commitment, full archives and money to cover the vast expenses incurred to uproot a spurious agenda beneath the cover story of "transformation." Nonetheless, the other side of the story must be told if for no other reason than a testimony to the victims of the WCG holocaust. The current architects of the "new WCG and splinters" remain perpetrators of intentional abuse inflicted upon thousands in the name of a god!

Before we take a closer look at the WCG's new Pentecostal, New Age and ecumenical associations, let's get to know WCG's most prominent front man. The following was taken from WCG *Envoys*:

Gregory R. Albrecht:

1965, Graduated Imperial School, Pasadena

1966, Freshman, Pasadena Ambassador College

1967, Sophomore, Pasadena Ambassador College

1968, Junior, Bricket Wood, Hertfordshire, England

1969, Senior, Bricket Wood, Hertfordshire, England

[Also attending Bricket Wood in 1969 were: David Hulme, Clint Zimmerman, Larry Watkins, Paul Linehan, Victor Kubik, Neil Earle, and David Wainwright]

1972, Faculty-Bricket Wood, Instructor in Oral Communications

1973, Faculty-Bricket Wood, Assistant Lecturer in Speech

1974, Faculty-Bricket Wood, Assistant Lecturer in Speech

1977, Attends Azusa Pacific (ecumenical, Trinitarian, and Pentecostal) University, receives an M.A.

[NOTE: Greg Albrecht in *Transformed by Truth* tells how he started going to Azusa because Ambassador College was "pursuing accreditation" and he needed at least a master's degree. He was asked to get one and received it in 1977. He does not say who asked him to get this. See chap. 8, p. 118a in Myths in Transformed by Truth - Is the book truth or propaganda? which shows AC didn't pursue accreditation until 1988 (ten years later). See this part about how the AC faculty pursued their college degrees while members were discouraged from pursuing theirs. Also read: *New York Times Los Angeles* 1997 article posted on our site which also shows it was not just Albrecht who began "quietly attending" attending Azusa at this time, but Bernie Schnippert, Michael Feazell and "the church's inner circle." Keep reading below for more on Albrecht and his being at Azusa.]

1980, **Administrative Officer: Dean of Students, Administrative office of Pasadena** [Other main officers: Herbert W. Armstrong, Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor; Stanley R. Rader, Treasurer and General Counsel; Ellis LaRavia, Facilities Manager; William Stenger, Registrar; Richard F. Ames, Director of Admissions]

1981, **Administrative Officer: Dean of Students, Administrative office of Pasadena. Faculty: Assistant Professor of Theology**.

1983, **Administrative Officer: Dean of Students, Administrative office of Pasadena. Assistant Professor of Theology**.

1986, **Administrative Officer: Dean of Students, Administrative office of Pasadena. Assistant Professor of Theology**.

1987, **Administrative Officer: Dean of Students, Administrative office of Pasadena. Assistant Professor of Theology**. [Other main officers: Joseph W. Tkach, Chancellor; Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor; Leroy Neff, Treasurer; William Stenger, Registrar; Richard F. Ames, Director of Admissions]

1989, **Administrative Officer: Dean of Students, Administrative office of Pasadena. Assistant Professor of Theology** [Other main officers: Joseph W. Tkach, Chancellor; Donald L. Ward, President; William Stenger, Dean of Instruction; Richard F. Ames, Register, Director of Admissions]

1990, **Administrative Officer: Dean of Students, Administrative office of Pasadena. Assistant Professor of Theology and Principals of Living, under Donald L. Ward**.

Now let's take a look at what the May 2, 1988 *Worldwide News* printed announcing Albrecht's Evangelist promotion:

"Mr. Albrecht was born in Herlington, Kan., June 8, 1947. About 15 months after he was born, his father was killed in a work-related accident. He and his mother lived with relatives until he was about 7, when they moved to Longview, Tex.

"His mother began dating Lewis Greenwood (now a deacon in the Pasadena Imperial P.M. church), who listened to the World Tomorrow broadcast. They married, began attending services and were later baptized.

"His family moved to Pasadena in 1956, and Mr. Albrecht, his sister and brother attended Imperial Schools.

"After high school graduation in 1965, Mr. Albrecht attended Ambassador College. After two years he transferred to the Bricket Wood, England, campus, where he met his future wife, Karen Kruegger. They were married during graduation weekend, June 15, 1969.

"He was asked to be a ministerial trainee in England shortly before graduation, and later pastored several churches there.

" 'After being ordained, there were two things that I really wanted to do, though I never voiced them to anyone but my wife,' Mr. Albrecht said. 'One was to teach freshman Bible at Ambassador College, and the other was to be dean of students. In the years to come, I was able to do both.'

"Mr. Albrecht was ordained a local elder June 9, 1973 and returned to Pasadena to teach theology classes at Ambassador College in 1974. In 1978 Chancellor Herbert W. Armstrong asked him to serve as dean of students.

"He was ordained a preaching elder in May 1977, and a pastor Sept. 16, 1980."

It seems most odd that this article did not relay that Albrecht had attended the ecumenical, Trinitarian, Methodist and Pentecostal aligned Christian College: Azusa Pacific, for his M.A.

[UPDATE: Azusa Pacific University, considered a theologically liberal institution, is also a member of Willow Creek Association. Read: Willow Creek Hegelian Dialectic & the New World Order for more info on WCA.] It is also puzzling that Albrecht makes light of his weighty role as faculty member which started immediately after his Bricket Wood graduation and followed by a top Administrator Officer appointment in Pasadena CA. Each

Envoy depicts large colorful pictures of the most significant leaders through the 1970s and 1980s. We find Albrecht among the **most privileged** positions, year after year. His appointment to Dean of Students in 1978 placed him directly under the mentoring of **Stanley R. Rader.** We also highlight that Albrecht was **in the heart of the 1970s corruption that led to international exposure encircling financial, sexual and doctrinal corruption.** When Stanley R. Rader's assistant, Joseph W. Tkach, Sr., assumed the role of Pastor General, Albrecht maintained his critical influence with Tkach, Sr., Tkach, Jr. and Mike Feazell. Emphasizing these points hopefully inspires those without critical information pertaining to the propagandized "innocent transformation" to see the pattern of **absolute intentional deception**. Why was Albrecht not disclosing his intimate association with Azusa Pacific? How did he qualify for an M.A. without an accredited B.A. degree? How did Albrecht assume faculty and administrative roles as a babe out of college? What was Albrecht's motivation for obtaining an M.A. from Azusa Pacific? Why didn't any WCG ministers, such as David Hulme, Rod Meredith or Donald Ward (Department head of Theology) spot the grave conflict of interest? Most importantly, how could Greg Albrecht tell his audiences that he "never realized there were others speaking 'truth' "? So many vital questions without answers. What is certain, is while Gregory R. Albrecht resides a few feet from one of Stanley Rader's lavish (church purchased) homes at 360 Waverly Drive in Pasadena, he continues to intentionally deceive his audience every time he testifies his innocence and ignorance that he never knew the church was doing wrong, abusing members, or making errors. The report, Transformed By Truth or Transformed by Lies?? will bullet historical events that demonstrate **Gregory R. Albrecht** manages his life through a veil of deception!

Greg Albrecht, along with James Walker, President of an evangelical anti-cult watch group, Watchman Fellowship, were guests on James Robison's Life Today Ministry television show aired in Texas. Robison, a Pentecostal ecumenical evangelist, promoter, and fund-raiser with Promise Keepers, held two 30-minute shows in August of `97. We find Albrecht's comments most interesting and conflicting with the actual WCG chronology.

Robison: comments on *The Plain Truth* magazine:

Albrecht: Finally it's the Plain Truth, the Plain Truth; finally the Plain Truth.

Albrecht: We give God the glory, we know it wasn't done by us; it was done in spite of us. We give God the glory for this wonderful, miraculous transformation occurring in our church.

Robison: It IS a real miracle!

Robison: Let's talk about Herbert W. Armstrong. Was he a sincere religious leader?

Albrecht: I believe Herbert Armstrong was sincere. He started the Worldwide Church of God in 1934; he came out of the Church of God, Seventh Day and had a group of eclectic teachings from a number of different groups. He grew up in a Quaker home, he was influenced by Jehovah's Witnesses' teaching, he was influenced by a little bit of Mormon teaching, he was influenced by a lot of fundamentalist teaching but mainly some of the more bizarre forms of fundamentalist teaching, some of the more fringe elements of fundamentalist teaching. You put all those together sincerely--ah, believing that you could only be a Christian if you only worshipped on Saturday, believing in British-Israelism, believing in the old covenant as required for salvation, and a variety of things. And over time, that church, and his media ministry, which primarily it was a media ministry; we were always a small church. You mention 8 million *Plain Truth*s. Well, really, our money went into the media, and some members came out of that!!!

Robison: *The World Tomorrow* television, very high class, well-produced television.

Albrecht: Yes, in fact we give Mr. Armstrong kudos for that. He insisted on quality, and it was a quality program.

Robison: In what ways do you see that "they" were wrong in their teaching?

Albrecht: Well, we didn't see this until Mr. Armstrong died in 1986.

Robison: Did he have that kind of power and control that it was hard to see through?

Albrecht: Oh definitely, definitely, he had the power and control and in fact as I told people, **I didn't know it at the time, but I gave him that kind of control over my life.** I willingly believed he was the only true apostle, the end time apostle, the man whom, through whom, God revealed things that no one else knew--and

that we were the only true church. Since that time, of course, I found out there were quite a few others who thought they were the only true church as well. We were the only true church because of these teachings. Well, when Mr. Armstrong died and Joseph Tkach, Sr. became his successor--hand picked successor by Herbert Armstrong--after a couple of years, Joseph Tkach began to think, "Well, you know, some of these things are not right."

He began to see--at first it was minor things; one of the first things was healing. We believed that essentially apart from setting bones and having a baby, and what we called repair surgery, whatever that meant, you couldn't go to a doctor, and it was a lack of faith to go to the doctor. We found out later that other people believed and taught that and unfortunately still do. Well, we began to see that was wrong because Herbert Armstrong himself used doctors--two doctors paid house calls to him the last year of his life. Certainly that couldn't be, something was wrong with that teaching. So, we began to change that and we began to change a number of other things until we really began to get into the central elements of Christianity. Some of those you might say were "fringe," but we began to get into central issues like, who is God? Is Jesus divine? Was he always divine? And is he still divine? And is he the only way of salvation? And are we the only true church?

Robison: Did you add to Jesus? Did Armstrong's teaching seem to teach that it was Jesus plus another thing?

Albrecht: Oh yes, oh yes. I don't know if in his heart of hearts. I don't wish to judge the man. I don't know if in his heart of hearts he did, but in practical fact, we did as the Worldwide Church of God, added. It was Jesus plus, it was. We often said, law plus grace. It wasn't just grace, it was grace plus law.

Robison: So you say, Tkach came out and others came out? When did you begin to sort it out?

Albrecht: I would say by ya, the ya, late 80s, I began to see that there were some very, very wrong things about what I had believed all my life. I have been taught that my main job in life as a father, as a husband, as a teacher in our college for twenty years, dean of students, was to control people. That was my main job; control my wife, control my children, control church members, control students. And I found out I couldn't even control my own life let alone control anyone else's. (Albrecht laughs) And I found out that Jesus didn't talk about controlling in his ministry. He did talk about surrendering to him*, but he didn't talk about going around controlling people. I began to study our doctrine in teachings in British-Israelism, which basically say the white people, are God's, let's say, better people in terms of the promises given to Abraham, than the people of color. And I began to see that there was a lot wrong. Joseph Tkach, Sr. at the time began to see a lot of those things. A lot of ministers and members around the world were seeing these things. We got letters from church members. So the Holy Spirit was moving without discrimination, not just in some person of authority or ministerial rank, but within our church, and we see back on that now that that's exactly what was happening. He was moving within our church.

*ESN note: Jesus did not talk about "surrendering to Him" but believing on Him. The word "surrender" was a word used by HWA that correlated in our minds to surrendering to his organization.]

[All grammar is Gregory Albrecht's; bold emphasis added for clarity.]

Plausible Deniability

The above transcript of the televised taping offers another example of "spin control" with the contradiction addiction so prevalent with the WCG leaders. Considering the air-flight travel to Texas, hotel accommodations, meal expenses, car or limo rental, the above message might have cost over $2000. What did anyone learn? From what the ESN has observed, the content of the interview represents the extent and depth of most WCG publicity engagements with the Tkach/Albrecht et al. The audience is left thinking a miracle has taken place in the WCG. That's it! What makes this debasing is that Albrecht appears to treat the whole issue as a light-hearted big joke. **Notice how he states he didn't see the wrongs until Herbert W. Armstrong died, and that he started sorting wrong teachings out in the late 1980s.** Albrecht, a WCG evangelist minister, a THEOLOGY instructor, the Dean of Students for the entire WCG college and top administrator operating out of plush, wealth lavished offices, denies knowing that the "WCG" was teaching wrongs? Added to overt, flagrant denial is the fact that Albrecht attended AZUSA PACIFIC (Trinitarian, ecumenical) University and obtained a Masters in theology. **Does deception get bolder?**

[UPDATE: Russell Duke (still a member of WCG) was formerly in Azusa's theology department and was

responsible for putting together training courses for WCG ministers. Read update on Russell Duke and Azusa.]

Albrecht alludes to early "changes" as "minor!" He goes on to describe the "healing doctrine" as the first change. Would all the families who have lost loved ones due to "lack of medical attention" call these deaths "minor?" Hundreds of lives lost due to coercion through fear of damnation in the LAKE OF FIRE is not minor! Allowing a believer to die through mind-control deception seems analogous to killing them.

Do you recall the scene depicted in many Hitler documentaries where thousands of emaciated tortured bodies were thrown into a deep dirt hole piled upon one another, stark naked, extremities entangled? Can you visualize the dirt being plowed over the deep earth wound covering the scorned bodies, individual identities and personal testimonies?

I hope you can understand how this same "historical" scene parallels what the Tkach / Albrecht / Feazell / Earle / Brown / Halford--and Hulme / Dick / Kubik / Meredith / McNair / Adair, et al., are currently doing to the thousands who have lost their lives under their dictatorial, totalitarian, mind-bending, fear inducted government. Did Hitler's victims **willfully** succumb to his evil control and power? Does Albrecht think they did?

The ESN receives hundreds of letters and testimonies describing the everlasting effects of the intentional abuse. A light hearted statement buried in the pages of *The Plain Truth* (which no ex-members receive as it bares a subscription price of $12.95), such as, "**We're sorry for the wrongs of the past, had we understood, we would have changed things**," just doesn't describe true repentance or remorse. [NOTE: Read this part in OIU 6, pt. 2 which confirms this.] The incredible archive documentation proves **they knew** exactly what **they** were doing, but they exploited and deceived the vulnerable anyway. The WCG/UCG/GCG leaders and ministers abused, pilfered and spoiled humanity. No matter what the Tkach/Albrecht et al., say or do that may appear as "good," it will never, never atone for the horrific transgression against WCG victims.

[NOTE: See this section on our site where these "apologies" by WCG are discussed.]

Below are three letters we received today, at this writing. They say it all.

"Someone gave me your email address and I was wondering what kind of support you offer ex-WCG members. I gave 29 of the best years of my life to them and now have no job, no income, no home and a failed marriage. Anyone out there to help me pick up the pieces???" --Email

"My mother and her family were members of the WCG and it destroyed my family. I was kidnapped and hidden from my father and brother for one year. I have been in therapy for years. The word Armstrong sends a chill up my spine. I want to know what happened! My mother still believes! She had had no contact in years with the church but continues to believe…(I think)! My experience with this group almost destroyed the rest of my life. I hope they are drained of every dime they stole from all those poor people. There will never be enough money to pay for what my family has been through." --Alabama

"I was in the WCOG for 28 years and under its influence for over 30 years. I am trying to put it all behind me and I need help. Any help will be appreciated." --Texas

The Tkach/Albrecht et al., enjoy traveling within elite *New Age ecumenical circles*, celebrating their undeserved wealth, while filling their bellies off the spiritual and psychological blood shed of the meek. But those violated by the immoral corruptive behavior due to their gross deception have a different perspective. As one survivor put it:

"Charity begins at home! Stop conniving with ecumenical Elites for your own self-serving gain, piling one deception upon another. Repent to the thousands of lives you have helped to destroy. Repent by giving back to them, what is rightfully theirs!! You deceived thousands to gain your wealth. You live a huge lie. You took all under deception. You operate without conscience as you glean glory and honor for your selfish deeds. History shows us how one made of flesh and blood can trample on the life of another while on the way to his feast!! History also shows us how these human "specimens" bow down to the god of this world! Your deeds are a mockery to the Gospel of Grace and Jesus Christ! God spare the weak in your paths" –Email

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OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

The Ecumenical Web Woven by the Deceivers

The February 1996 issue of ***The Plain Truth*** does what the WCG writers do best-write against what they are guilty of doing. The phenomenal articles emanating from Pasadena these days never cease to amaze many. Monte Wolverton's article entitled: "How to Avoid Being a Spiritual Weirdo" superbly exemplifies the two-faced personality of the WCG "transformation" architects. Gregory R. Albrecht sets the stage with his introduction comments:

> "For more than 15 years, Proctor & Gamble has been the target of malicious rumors. Among other things, the rumors maintain that the company endorses Satanism, and that its logo promotes a satanic agenda. Some believe the allegations originated with a small group of zealous but misguided Christians who were sincerely trying to thwart the work of the devil. Rumors and gossip about mysterious agenda and conspiracy theories form a backdrop for Monte Wolverton's "How to Avoid Being a Spiritual Weirdo."
>
> Monte not only offers a lighthearted look at some of the extremes that can befall well-meaning Christians, but he creatively depicts his thoughts with his own unique graphic style."

Who Are The Spiritual Weirdoes?????

Remember the Bible Stories, Bible Studies and all the horrid booklets filled with abominable pictures? [Note: These were drawn by WCG member Basil Wolverton.]

Let's review a few quotes from important sources before we tie all this to current ecumenical events with the Albrecht and Tkach front men.

The Wonderful World Tomorrow, What It Will Be Like

New World Government -pg. 41:

"It will not be so-called Democracy. It will not be Socialism. It will not be Communism or Nazism. It will not be human Monarchy, Oligarchy or Plutocracy. It will not be man's government over man. Man has proven his utter incapability of ruling himself!

"It will be DIVINE Government-the Government of God. It will not be government from the bottom UP. The people will have NO VOTES. It will not be government of or by the people-but it will be government for the people! It will be government from the TOP (God Almighty) down!"

The Perfect Government-pg. 47:

"Yes, Jesus Christ very soon is going to return to this earth! He is coming in POWER and GLORY! He is coming to RULE ALL NATIONS!

"But He is not going to do this ruling, supervising, all alone by Himself! He is coming to set up WORLD GOVERNMENT! It will be a highly organized government. There will be many positions of authority."

Church and State -pg. 52:

"Church and State will be UNITED under Christ. There will be **ONE GOVERNMENT**, over all nations. There will be **ONE CHURCH-ONE GOD-ONE RELIGION**. And, as in God's original pattern in ancient Israel, they will be united."

The International Level-pg. 57:

"It seems evident that the resurrected NOAH will head a vast project of the RELOCATION OF THE RACES AND NATIONS, with the boundaries GOD has set, for their own best good, happiness, and richest blessings. This will be a tremendous operation. It will require a great and vast organization, reinforced with POWER TO MOVE whole nations and races. This time, peoples and nations will MOVE where God has planned for them, and no defiance will be tolerated."

A Headquarters' Church-pg. 64:

"With only ONE CHURCH-ONE RELIGION-ONE FAITH-there will be many church congregations in every city, other scattered through rural areas. There will be district superintendents over areas and Pastors, Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses in every local church.

"This, then, gives an insight into HOW THE WORLD WILL BE ORGANIZED.

"This shows HOW a super WORLD GOVERNMENT can, and will be established on earth."

WHY Supernatural FORCE-pg. 66:

"Sir Winston Churchill, speaking in Copenhagen, said, 'The creation of an authoritative all-powerful world order is the ultimate aim toward which we must strive. Unless some effective world SUPER GOVERNMENT can be brought quickly into action, the proposals for peace and human progress are dark and doubtful!' "

[all emphasis Herbert W. Armstrong]

Pope's U.S. Visit Focuses On World Unity, Sept. 1987

WORLDWATCH, by Gene H. Hogberg, *Worldwide News*

"The Pope's longest, and perhaps most significant, stopover (with 12 separate events) was in Los Angeles. I obtained press accreditation for the coverage Sept. 16 and 17.

"The theme of this papal visit was, '**Unity on the Work of Service.**' All events in Los Angeles focused on this theme. On display in the papal press center at the Hilton Hotel, for example, were drawings made by Roman Catholic schoolchildren. In picture after picture the pope was depicted as the central figure in the quest for peace and brotherhood among the nations, races and nationalities of the world.

"The highlight was when John Paul II landed by helicopter, entered the stadium and toured it in the popemobile. The thunderous applause was almost frightening.

"There is little doubt that John Paul II, while not budging on doctrine, has changed the perception of the papacy to Catholics and non-Catholics. Having been trained as an actor before entering the priesthood, the Pope knows how to use the media, specifically television.

"Television, particularly, moves to focus on a single face. When it wants a picture of the Catholic Church, it can capture the face of one man--as it cannot do with respect to Protestantism. It is as if God gave the Catholic Church the papacy with the 20th Century in mind. Never has the papal office been so magnified in power.

"The Pope's policies are firmly tied to larger themes of world peace and justice, [quoting *Newsweek*] 'But the jewel in the pope's international design is a utopian vision of a unified-and re-Christianized-Europe stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural Mountains.

"Phase one would be an end to the division between Eastern and Western Europe. Phase two: reconciliation between Roman Catholics and the Orthodox Christians of the Soviet East. Only a Pope from Poland could dream of such a thing."

The Good News

Herbert W. Armstrong, along with his wife Loma, were very active in international governmental affairs following the United Nations (UN) first meeting held in San Francisco in 1945. Not only was Armstrong involved with the League of Nations, he, too, had a vested interest in the Security Council of the UN. Armstrong's penchant for hobnobbing with the elite and power-hungry may have stemmed from his earlier rebelling Fascist days with the Ku Klux Klan, but his proclivity to center himself amidst the world's most controversial Communist dictators proved to be his greatest asset during his later years. Armstrong's intimate

association with Communist leaders from countries such as Japan, Arab nations, Israel, Philippines, South Africa and Chile, among others, largely surrounded covert "one world government aspirations." We now discern Armstrong's activities with the "ecumenical agenda" of "one world religion." He often boasted about his many speaking engagements with the Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Lions Club, Knights of Columbus and other Catholic organizations. Few, however, realized Armstrong was actively and secretly supporting what he so overtly preached against to the small flock that financially supported his nefarious adventure-few, that is, with the exception of the ministers and evangelists who are currently engaged in the **Worldwide Church of God cover-up**. Armstrong states in his autobiography, Vol. 2, pg. 113, that he attended Catholic mass at the first United Nations meeting in 1945. Why didn't thousands of followers see through the duality of agenda and conflicts of interests throughout the six decades? Didn't the hierarchy of the multimillion-dollar corporate empire see through the hypocrisy? Or were the bulk of "God's ministers" actually part of the big "Aryan" lie?

The Ecumenical Movement apparently was on Herbert W. Armstrong's agenda from the start of his international Communist propaganda printing business. The WCG archive chronicles the duplicitous activities escalating throughout the 1960s into the 1970s. The ESN has received several cogent testimonies indicating very strong ties between Stanley R. Rader and Vatican interests. Certainly this seems contradictory to Stanley R. Rader's Jewish background, but as the data continues to surface, the strong Catholic and papal WCG ties will be clarified. The WCG literature is brimming with telling articles related to what we now know to be the NEW AGE, or Ecumenical Movement. It would have been difficult for insiders to discern any pro-ecumenical stand with WCG, as the inside teaching propagated the Catholic Church as the **whore and beast power** of Revelation. We find on pg. 15 and 16 of the 1974 *Good News* magazine, an array of pictures with Herbert Armstrong; Stanley Rader, Legal Counsel, and Osamo Gotoh (the overseas campaign director, and head of Ambassador College Asian studies). The article chronicles Armstrong's visit with President Marcos in Manila. A caption describes the pictures:

> "On arrival at Manila Airport, Mr. Armstrong is presented with a lei. A government highway patrol car and motorcycle escorts Mr. Armstrong's party from airport to hotel. Mr. Armstrong, guest of honor at **Kiwanis Club** luncheon, is presented bronze plaque. Mayor of Manila presents Mr. Armstrong with the key to the city. Mr. Armstrong speaks at the **Knights of Columbus**."

The article goes on to say:

> "Mr. Armstrong spoke before over 200 members of the Knights of Columbus and the Daughters of Isabella at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. In the evening he was honored dinner guest, along with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and an Associate Justice, at the home of former Philippine vice-president Lopez.
>
> "Mr. Armstrong traveled north to Angeles City to visit **Angeles University**, where an honorary doctor's degree in humanities was conferred upon him. Mr. Armstrong spoke to the assembled crowd concerning the missing dimension in education."

Why would Herbert Armstrong receive an honorary Ph.D. from a **Catholic University**? Why would he engage with the **Knights of Columbus** Catholic organization? Why would he and his ministers preach one belief and act on another? What was going on here? Do the evangelical allies supporting Tkach myths know the answer?

Angeles University was opened in 1962 by Dr. Barbara Angeles in the Philippines.

Herbert W. Armstrong befriended many international "dignitaries" that were later exposed for horrific crimes. We **strongly question** if it was just coincidental that Armstrong and Rader consumed over 300 days a year during the 1960s and 1970s, intermingling with corrupt leaders involved with intelligence agencies, the Mafiosi, drugs, money laundering, pornography, arms weapons, and associated criminal activities. As we continue to delve further into Armstrong/Rader/Gotah history and compare it to international events, facts should continue to clarify events and associations.

In a future OIU issue, the history, aspects and the WCG's involvement with post World War II **Mind Control Operations** will be addressed. We recommend preparation study by reading: *Psychic Dictatorship in the U.S.A.* by Alex Constantine. This 1995 exposé reveals the sordid details of the CIA and its use of religious

cults. Read more about Ferdinand Marcos and his tight relationship with CIA operatives, Savings and Loan scams, and money laundering. A true, but sad, story unravels, depicting the CIA's relationship with the most devious cults in operation. Constantine states:

> *"The Agency uses the cults to further the techniques and technology of mind control. In exchange, the CIA provides behind-the-scenes legal assistance and public relations.*
>
> *"Despite public pronouncements to the contrary, the CIA is still very engaged in mind control research. Communities around the world have been converted into laboratories. Cults in their midst are led by operatives practiced in the techniques and technology of behavior manipulation. And medical disinformation conceals the work of this mid control fraternity." [pg. 90]*
>
> *"That cults are dangerous has been proven time and again. That they are often fronts for intelligence activity is indisputable (as anyone who has dug into researching CIA mind control experimentation knows full well).*
>
> *"Pathetic. I have watched in horror time and again as otherwise intelligent people have fallen for the whining of cult leaders and the CIA's hired guns in academia and the media, and it is a painful thing to observe.*
>
> *"But it is infinitely more painful for the true victims, particularly children, who are traumatized for life by the sadistic intrusions of mind control, and forced by public denial to swallow their rage at the transparent deceptions of cult apologists..." [pg. 148]*

[UPDATE: Was WCG Conducting Psychological Research Without Informed Consent?]

The ESN offers extensive reading resources for those interested in understanding personal WCG mind control abuses. Power, control and money propel the subversive systems that operated under the mantle of church or religious organizations. The WCG "transformation" plan is nothing more than another mind control operation heaped upon an already victimized public. The Christians are hoodwinked and scarred by spin manipulations while society is burned by another capitalist corporate empire operating absolutely TAX FREE!!!

Thank God for the Constitution!!!!?

Tkach and Albrecht become partners with Ecumenical Collaborators

If you have read OIU FIVE, Part One and Two, you should have background information that will relate to WCG's current *new deal* with transformation. We will now bullet events that depict double-dealing behavior. Azusa Pacific University plays one of the most significant roles with the "*transformation*" agenda as its faculty was corroborating with the WCG leaders years prior to anyone hearing about "changes."

- Current WCG ministers were trained by Azusa.
- Azusa faculty was commissioned by WCG to instruct at regional ministerial conferences.
- An Azusa Professor was obtained as head of the theology department at Ambassador University in Big Sandy.
- Azusa and WCG have instituted a partnership following the closing of AU in Big Sandy in May of 1997.
- 1977: Albrecht received an M.A., from Azusa Pacific University.

Less there be any confusion about Azusa's philosophy and requirements, note these excerpts from Azusa's literature while considering Gregory R. Albrecht's association when teaching theology under Donald Ward, and functioning as Dean of Students for the whole organization. Quoted from Azusa literature:

Mission Statement-*Azusa Pacific University is an evangelical Christian community of disciples and scholars who seek to advance the work of God in the world through academic excellence in liberal arts and professional programs of higher education that encourage students to develop a Christian perspective of truth and life.*

Statement of Faith *-We believe the Bible to be the only inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe in the*

deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return to power and glory. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The following are fundamentals held to be essential and the university expects students and staff not only to believe in them, but to practice them in daily living:

Caring, *effective love both of God and man (1)A Christ-like unity and acceptance between believers (2)A lifestyle dedicated to God's will in society (3)A growing, victorious state of mind because of the indwelling Christ (4)A daily affirmation of Christ as Lord (5)A willingness to serve the Lord, even if it means sacrifice (6)A desire to be more sensitive to the personal work of the Holy Spirit (7)A working faith in God's promises for all needs and daily life situations (8)A witness for Christ without hypocrisy (9)A firm, committed desire to be God's person.*

Essence Statement, *the essence statement of Azusa Pacific University is a philosophical description of the institution and its people students, staff, faculty, trustees, administration, alumni who we are and who we are becoming. We are an institution of higher education with a tradition of Wesleyan evangelical Christianity. While acknowledging that as individuals we are at different points along the way, we are all nevertheless journeying toward the ideals described in the four perspectives that follow: Christian, Academic, Developmental, and Service."*

Christian
We are Christians who:

show love toward God (holiness of heart) and a love toward each other (holiness of life) which express themselves in worship, self-denial, and a special concern for the oppressed and which encourages us to abandon those distinctions that divide us; and practice community among ourselves as members of the one body of Christ and maintain a nonsectarian openness toward all Christians.

Academics
We are scholars who:

recognize that a knowledge of history is a key to understanding ourselves, our world, and our future; have a thorough command of the primary sources, methodology and research skills, major issues, vocabulary, and facts in at least one academic field of study and understand how the skills acquired in this way may be adapted to other fields of endeavor; and encourage and make provision for any person to learn at any period of life.

Azusa History:

*In **1965**, Azusa Pacific College emerged as a new name among institutions of higher learning in Southern California. The college possessed a rich and historic tradition. Two independent schools, Azusa College (founded in 1899 as the Training School for Christian Workers) and Los Angeles Pacific College merged to form the new college. For 60 years, they had administered academic programs as private church-related colleges. Their goals, curricula and missions were similar. Azusa Pacific College inherited this legacy. **The merger made it the official college for the Free Methodist Church in the Southwestern United States.***

In 1968, Arlington College of Long Beach, California, merged with Azusa Pacific College. Arlington was founded in 1954 by the Church of God in Southern California (headquarters in Anderson, Indiana).

In 1981, Azusa Pacific's breadth of academic and co-curricular programs qualified the college for university status.

Azusa Pacific University is an independent church-related university. Five religious organizations: Brethren in Christ, Church of God, the Free Methodist Church, the Missionary Church, and the Salvation Army-are affiliated with the university and represented on the Board of Trustees. Many individual churches representing various segments of the conservative biblical tradition actively support Azusa Pacific. The student body is represented by students from more than 38 denominations.

Were the architects of the WCG transformation being truthful about Albrecht's association and history? Albrecht attended a Trinitarian evangelical, ecumenical institution years prior to the secret marketing campaign, which was largely spearheaded by David Hulme. **Why** didn't hundreds of United, Global and Philadelphia Church of God ministers question Albrecht's grave conflict of interest when he attended Azusa?

Why would Herbert Armstrong support Albrecht's attendance at Azusa when thousands of church members were drilled about Satan's institutions? All these whys lead one to ask the big why? Why would anyone who calls himself Christian support such hypocrisy and deception? Why would "they" be so blinded not to question the WCG leaders' intentional craftiness?

Past OIUs have well documented the double activities of the leaders following the death of Herbert W. Armstrong. Grave attempts to **revise history** and cover up "historic" events were brought about by all the Church of God leaders including David Hulme and Rod Meredith. Their endeavor to propagandize falsehoods might dupe the vulnerable, but that won't change the real story behind the events, nor will the documented manipulations and mass deception totally mask the lie. The pockets of the perpetrators may be stuffed with gold, Swiss bank accounts, real estate and Wall Street investments, but for many who discerned the bigger picture, the deceivers will forever be known as the scam artists who orchestrated the WCG shakedown. Not that they care, but God forbid they slip up!

Birds of a Feather, Flock Together The Worldwide Church of God RE-Invents Itself

Good salesmen understand the key to success is to give the people what they want---in due season. Merchandising Christianity follows the same advertising and marketing rules that capture the attention and appeal of mass audiences. The Christian market must target:

- spiritual seekers
- distraught or depressed individuals
- idealists
- those looking for answers to universal questions such as: Why Are We Here? Why Were You Born? Does God Exist? etc.

There are, of course, many reasons why one is lured to a special calling or recruited into commitment-control groups. There is something for everyone and they need not search far. As we approach the end of this millennium, we continue to see a rapid buildup of religious "unity." True, much of this is carefully orchestrated by the Ecumenical Agenda, but others manifest a more maverick "anything goes" Christianity, strongly laced with occult teachings. As often said, the New Age is nothing but the Old Age re-enhancement. During the past four years the ESN has witnessed the unification of many evangelical organizations. While the lower level adherents are victims of deception, those orchestrating the agenda and holding the bank accounts shamelessly display a phony Christian façade. Those affiliated with the WCG conglomerate delude themselves into thinking the WCG's re-invention is spiritually driven rather than a con scam for personal gain or political hyperbole. WCG capitalized on the 1990s millennial Christian/cult evolution. The WCG architects were privy to the Christian craze and religious unification trends aiming for 2000 A.D.. As Albrecht and Tkach frequently feign "ignorance" to WCG history, manifesting innocence and a "true spirit-filled" transformation, they remain inconsistent in promoting their "new image and associations." The death of Joseph W. Tkach, Sr. launched the open propaganda Public Relations.

September 1995-Hank Hanegraaff makes his first public WCG appearance. He and Joe Tkach, Jr. hug over Joseph Tkach Sr. grave. [photograph printed in *Worldwide News*]

Oct. 6, 1995-Hanegraaff writes [in his co-worker letter]: **"It is, quite simply, one of the most significant breakthroughs in the history of the Christian Research Institute."**

"It was an overcast southern California morning. Fall leaves drifted haphazardly from the tress to rest quietly on the green grass below.

"It was a mournful time. A time of loss. But it was also a glorious homecoming for a Christian leader who had been called home by his Lord.

"A man who risked losing his reputation, his livelihood, his career, and world respect in his all-out devotion to finding and proclaiming the truth.

"As I sat there, I couldn't help but think back to preaching the funeral of another man who exemplified that character and courage. A man who had been a champion of orthodoxy in the midst of proliferating cults and false

doctrines. "I could not help but think of how much these two men had in common… One was Dr. Walter Martin, founder of the Christian Research Institute and the father of the modern-day countercult revolution. The other was Joseph Tkach, Sr., head of the Worldwide Church of God-the man who led a multi-million dollar worldwide Sabbatarian religious movement from the status of a cult to a firm standing in the church of Jesus Christ.

"As the funeral continued, I thought about how God's hand had worked over the years to lay the foundation for this unparalleled event: a contemporary cult willing to lay it all on the line for truth as revealed in God's Word.

"I pondered how CRI's commitment to essential Christian doctrine, rather than denominational divisiveness, had earned the confidence and respect of leaders within the Worldwide Church of God.

"Yet as they listened to the Bible Answer Man and read the *Christian Research Journal*, they realized that our goal was redemption, not ridicule; to reach, not repel. **They met privately with me, behind closed doors, and discovered that CRI did not have a personal agenda, but a biblical agenda. And they came to trust CRI, not because of human eloquence of persuasiveness, but because we had found common ground around the truth of God's Word.**

"But I also wanted to let you know that this extraordinary breakthrough set the stage for a critical phase of ministry: **To help the leadership of the Worldwide Church of God fulfill their vision for evangelism!** Those words are so incredible, so mind-boggling, that someone familiar with the Worldwide Church of God might think that I had absolutely taken leave of my senses. But evangelism and sound teaching are exactly what's needed. Consider for just a moment the magnitude and delicateness of the task now facing leaders of the Worldwide Church of God:

- How do we tell people who have served faithfully in the church that they have been misled for decades?
- How do we teach our people to read the Bible for what it says rather than through the lens of years of false teachings?

"Well, these are only a couple of the critical questions that leaders of the Worldwide Church of God are now wrestling with. And with the support of partners like you, CRI is committed to helping them through this tactical jungle. Helping to guide them past the pitfalls that endanger the work of complete redemption and restoration in this far-reaching movement. **More than merely witnessing this dramatic transformation, however, you and I have been privileged to have a part in bringing it to pass. Yet much like the collapse of the Berlin Wall, while we should rejoice, we must understand that our work is far from over."**

*[Hanegraaff throws several paragraphs pitching the need for **strategic generous gifts** to be mailed quickly as the needs are great and the opportunities staggering.]*

"P.S. As I extended my arms and embraced Joseph Tkach, Jr. at his fathers' funeral, comforting him in his great loss and encouraging him in the hope of the resurrection for all those who belong to Christ, I couldn't help but feel that Walter Martin, in another place, was extending the same embrace to Joseph Tkach, Sr.

P.S.S. While the support of friends like you is making possible an unprecedented harvest today, I am absolutely convinced that 'we ain't seen nothin' yet!"

[all Emphasis, Hanegraaff's]

By the end of 1995, Hanegraaff was quoted in WCG literature several times and paid as a consultant to WCG.

[UPDATE: The following is excerpted from a 1996 letter from author Janis Hutchinson to former members of the Worldwide Church of God. She was reporting on a WCG Ministerial Conference she had just attended in Portland, Oregon, and the questions she asked of Greg Albrecht: [emp. ours]

Question: Was Hank Hanegraaff given a *bribe* for his support?

Answer: No, he was given a fee for his appearance.]

The WCG insiders were sheltered from the previous years of secret meetings and planning events with ecumenical associations. They were not privy to the duplicitous agenda. While strong indication does point to

fire drill management by WCG architects, protection of the financial corporate empire proved to be top priority. Prior to this date, all meetings with ecumenical evangelicals were held secretly behind closed doors. The leaders played a double game for many years. And why not? They carried duplicitous, covert and secretive missions for decades. The 1987 IRS crackdown on the scam evangelists spotlighted fraudulent church organizations, as did the exposure of cults in society. The WCG shell needed a new image, it needed a cover-up and it needed to get rid of the failed Armstrongism and bring in something attractive, addictive or popular. It needed to protect its millions. Most of all, it needed to align with the "united global mission." If it were to continue reaping from a non-taxed business under the benefits of "church status," it had to embrace a market that was not only acceptable in society, but also profitable. The ecumenical, New Age interfaith mission provided the greatest shelter. As the Protestants and Catholics unify through "reconciliation" and "bridge-building" a wide market base for WCG "Christian" business exploiters is provided. The architects and designers of the last ten-year WCG strategy planned their "transition" into the New Age ecumenical global brotherhood. Such bold deception focuses our attention to the resourceful, Hollywood celebrity, Stanley R. Rader. Who else would have engineered such a clever deception?

The following WCG *Ecumenical Timeline* helps the researcher understand the conditioning process of the insiders toward the New Age ecumenical agenda. The timeline is offered, by request, as a research report highlighting chronological events. Excerpts were taken from church literature. Please note the conditioning process toward the ecumenical, one world, interfaith, New Age, Pentecostal/Charismatic renewal. Pay special attention to the agenda and associations that prove strong conflicts of interest. Future OIUs and reports will continue to expound key ecumenical figures and the unification agenda.

Year-by-Year Highlights

1986 TO 1987-Herbert Armstrong dies [1-16-86], Joseph Tkach, Sr. (Stanley Rader's assistant in the 1970s) assumes the Pastor General position. The church membership is reinforced with all Armstrong teachings and the theme, "We Are Family" is launched. [**Note:** "The Family Album of the Worldwide Church of God" was distributed to all members in 1988.]

1987-1988-Clapping is instituted for short duration and then recanted. Modifications with the teachings and "laws" of healing and use of medicine or medical assistance are announced in September of that year.

1988-1989-David Hulme, Head of Public Relations, starts Publicity Campaign targeting the counter-cult evangelicals with new teaching positions. Insiders are completely unaware that the WCG leaders are changing any doctrines and are, in fact, strongly reinforced with Armstrongism. Any long-standing changes are billed as "modifications Mr. Armstrong wanted to make." Gerald Flurry starts Philadelphia Church of God, brings few members with him. His departure goes unannounced but Flurry places large ads in the *New York Times*, promoting Herbert Armstrong and announcing the WCG's doctrinal changes.

1989-1990-Major Publicity regarding WCG doctrinal changes escalates within the evangelical arena. Insiders remain oblivious and remain under the death threatening teachings of Armstrongism. Leaders flatly deny any changes are taking place.

1990-1993-The publicity campaign spearheaded by David Hulme, Victor Kubik (and many others now with United Church of God) proceeds. **Ruth Tucker**, along with other members of the National Association of Evangelicals, is actively involved with David Hulme. Azusa Pacific and Fuller Theological Seminary are active participants in WCG's mind-transformation process. Questioning members are disfellowshipped and shunned "for spreading rumors of any changes. The Branch Davidians and Waco standoff brings much attention to cults in the United States espousing similar teachings as WCG. Tkach, Sr. claims that a Catholic priest approached Tkach, Sr. about the Trinity, which inspired an in-house research of "God Is… The concept of "hypostasis" is announced." Albrecht warns Feast attendees in Tucson that the train is on the move with change and those on the caboose will be cut away.

1993-1994-Ambassador College receives accreditation. Major cut backs occur in Pasadena. Booklets canceled, Bible studies re-edited without warning to members, *The World Tomorrow* is canceled, *The Plain Truth* changes its marketing approach, again. Church corporations undergo major transfer of business corporations. All college corporations and land deeds are moved under the Worldwide Church of God name. Many affiliated corporations

are closed. Tkach, Jr., Albrecht and Feazell meet many counter-cult publishers and hold interviews regarding the miraculous changes going on in the church. Paul Carden, then host of the Bible Answer Man, meets with Tkach, Jr., Albrecht and Feazell. On May 5, 1994, Carden announces WCG has embraced the Trinity. Members know nothing about the double agenda with WCG and evangelical media. Members are instructed NOT to read Satan's literature (outside Christian literature). Insiders are kept in the dark, while WCG evangelists and ministers orchestrate the planned restructure and alignment with (New Age) evangelicals. Members are threatened with tithing issues. They are told they are robbing God if they hold back. Sermons from headquarters are filled with distortions, denials, guilt, contradictions, duplicity and manipulations. "Open Houses" for recruiting are tried, and met with failure. Several headquarters' sermons introduce new thoughts on prophecy, born again and Kingdom of God. Sermons are dialectically confusing and contradicting.

1995-Tkach, Sr. gives January "New Covenant" sermon announcing some "doctrinal changes." Majority of members are shocked and traumatized due to unexpected announcements. WCG planners immediately shut down the Ambassador Auditorium, claim big loss of income and send out press releases blaming members for rebellion and not tithing. Church programs are cut out; along with many ministerial perks such as car leases. By May 1995, David Hulme, Dennis Luker, Victor Kubik and other headquarters evangelists launch United Church of God under the statement that the United Church will follow in Herbert Armstrong's teachings but the hierarchy government will change. 400 ministers, along with 17,000 WCG members regroup under the guidance of David Hulme [see OIU Three and Four]. May 5th (one year to date of Christian Research Institute's endorsement of the WCG into the Christian fold), David Robinson's son, John Robinson, issues Vol. ONE of the In Transition publication. It is announced that Tkach, Sr. is ill. Conflicting stories about Tkach's state of health emanate from Pasadena. Tkach, Sr. dies suddenly in Sept of 1995. **Hank Hanegraaff makes his first appearance at Tkach, Sr.'s funeral. Tkach, Jr. embraces Hanegraaff and announces friendship.** Tkach, Jr. induces strife at Ambassador University over doctrinal beliefs. Tkach approach sabotages growth for Ambassador University. AU loses students and enrollments decreases.

1996-Tkach/Albrecht/Feazell/Schnippert openly launch new strategy. Ambassador University announces shutdown. Plain Truth Ministries incorporates and assumes business and financial role of WCG. Ecumenical associations become apparent. *Plain Truth* costs $12.95 and includes advertising and marketing of Christian products. WCG emphases on unity, evangelism, small groups, prayer meetings, discipleship management, spiritual gifts, personal ministries, Gospel of the Kingdom of God, transdenominationalism, women ministries and building bridges. New Age verbiage replaces Armstrong's loaded language. Tkach claims African Christians want to be part of WCG; claims 14,000 new members in Africa. Lay ministers (non-paid pastors) replace paid pastors. Public Relations continue with radio appearances, interviews, magazine articles and news releases, all centered around the "wonderful changes in WCG." Spotlight is on Tkach, Jr.

1997-January starts with a bang announcing the partnerships with major [ecumenical] associations: the National Association of Evangelicals, Mission America, Bible Radio Broadcasting, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Four Square Gospel Church, and Promise Keepers. The WWN highlights Chuck Colson, Richard J. Foster, [UPDATE: Read more about New Ager Richard J. Foster], Promise Keepers (in every issue), Azusa Pacific University, Fuller Theological Seminary, Focus On the Family, Evangelist Luis Palau, Ralph Woodrow (has a new pro-Catholic stand), Pat Boone, Ron Taggert, Jack Hayford from The Church on the Way in Van Nuys, California. (a Pentecostal, tongues-speaking and Promise Keeper board member), among many other strong ecumenical associations. The membership is guided into ecumenical activities such as: March for Jesus, National Day of Prayer, mass fasting, Billy Graham Crusades, reconciliation (race unity) seminars, recruiting training for members, Teen ministries, Women ministries, Minister training by Azusa and Fuller Theological Seminary, etc. 1997 ushers in many restructured changes with ministers, small groups, publishing, and product sales. There are many claims about growth in third world countries. As WCG continues to promote itself as a cult transformed into "truth," it is pushing corporate registrations in many (banking) countries that refused WCG presence in the past. The Pasadena hierarchy announces regional reorganization. *The Worldwide News* will be printed regionally, which in turn will increase information control.

Transformed By Truth was released.

Plain Truth Magazine covers for 1997

Jan-Feb--- Reggie White, All-Pro Pastor

Mar-Apr--- Billy Graham, Just As I Am
May-June---Star Parker, A Star is Born Again
July-Aug.--- Johnny Hart, At the Hart of B.C.
Sept-Oct--- No magazine received
Nov-Dec--- Mother Teresa, In His Service

ECUMENICAL TIMELINE 1995

"**Habitat for Humanity International** called *Plain Truth* offices to report that their telephone lines were overwhelmed by calls responding to John Halford's article, 'Little Houses on the Prairie,' published in the January issue. The article includes an interview Mr. Halford conducted with former President Jimmy Carter…" [WWN March] [UPDATE: John Halford died of cancer on October 23, 2014]

National day of prayer collectively turn to God

"Joseph Tkach, Jr., director of Church Administration, said: 'Those who believe in the value of prayer know that focusing public attention on the need for prayer is always beneficial, especially in times like these when anything righteous and holy seems to be under massive secular assaults.' "

"In Pasadena, ministers will attend a mayor's prayer breakfast along with community leaders." "An article by Clayton Steep in the May-June *Plain Truth* will explain how in Gallup polls published less than a year ago nearly two-thirds of American surveyed said they were dissatisfied with the way things were going in the United States. Likewise, two thirds felt that religion as a whole was losing its influence on how people live. Still, nearly two-thirds of those polled thought that religion 'could answer all or most of today's problems.' "

" 'The basic idea behind a day of nationwide prayer is that we would **collectively** turn to God and seek his guidance,' Mr. Steep wrote. 'History proves earnest, believing prayer works.' " [WWN March 21]

"**Congregations report on community projects: some listed are**: Meals on Wheels; Food for Families; Adopt-a-Highway; Educational tutoring; Volunteerism; Drug Education; Feeding the hungry; Children's telethon; Visiting the sick." [WWN March 21]

"**AU logo wins award**: The 1995 Addy Awards competition conducted by the East Texas Advertising Federation awarded the silver award to AU for outstanding achievement in advertising, marketing and design. The logo, features a **lamp of learning within a triangle** depicting the letters AU, and the entire graphic element is circled by the words Ambassador University." [WWN March 21]

"**Church contacts strengthened at conference:**

Wheaton, Illinois-Historians, scientists, theologians and educators from the US, Canada and Great Britain gathered at Wheaton College March 30 to April 1, to attend the ***Evangelical Engagement with Science Conference***. Present were Ralph Orr, from Editorial Services and Richard Burdy, from Church Administration."

"The Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals sponsored the conference. The Pew Charitable Trusts provided funding."

"Participants included representatives from American and Canadian evangelical universities and seminaries, as well as Harvard, Notre Dame, Indian University, the University of Chicago, the University of Georgia, Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and the Oxford and Cambridge universities in England."

"Topics at the conference included Charles Darwin's 'conversion,' environmentalism, women evangelicals in science, attempts to reconcile Scripture with geology, and Canadian evangelical support for the social sciences." [WWN June]

Festival (Feast Of Tabernacle) Messages for 1995

"The One Hope of Church and World-Christ's Return: **At the resurrection, the saints will take their place in a new world order under Jesus Christ. The coming of that wonderful world tomorrow** is the only sure hope, not just for Christians, but for all humanity." [WWN June 20, -- Emp. added for clarity]

Music unites churches of common faith

"The congregations in western Washington are building bridges with others of common faith. More than 400 members of various **Seventh Day COG** fellowships met for an evening of inspirational and entertaining gospel music. Performers were from the WCG, the General conference COG (Seventh Day) and the Port Orchard COG (Seventh Day). [WWN June 20]

International PT editor Interviews UN pioneer

"San Francisco, CA-Neil Earle, *Plain Truth* International Editor, met with retired consul **Herbert Spivack of the United States Foreign Service**, June 15, in connection with celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations."

"Mr. Spivack spoke on: 'The U.N. Failed Dream or Hope for the Future.' "

" 'A club of victors (in 1945) has emerged as a universalist organizations,' Mr. Spivack said: 'the General Assembly is still the closest thing we have to a world town meeting.' " [WWN July 4]

September 1995

PASTOR GENERAL JOSEPH TKACH SR. DIES OF CANCER AND RELATED ILLNESSES

H. B. London gives address: Live above reproach

"H. B. London Jr., vice president of Ministry Outreach and Pastoral Ministries for **Focus on the Family**, spoke to headquarters personnel and area ministers." [Oct. 27]

"**Focus on the Family** is a ministry based in Colorado Springs, Colorado that spreads the gospel of Jesus Christ by promoting traditional values and the institution of the family."

"Pastor General Joseph Tkach (Jr.) introduced Mr. London. Mr. Tkach met Mr. London last summer [1994] when Mr. London addressed a Church of God Seventh Day conference in Colorado Springs. **For several years Mr. London lived across the street from church headquarters in Pasadena."**

"Pastoral Ministries under Mr. London is a catalyst for the spiritual renewal and restoration of ministers and their families and assists them in better management of time, finances and family. The ministry serves nearly 130,000 pastors in 75 denominations."

"Mr. London serves as a pastor to pastors. He communicates with hundreds of pastors and church leaders each week through 'the Pastors Weekly Briefing,' a fax network, and produces a bimonthly 'Pastor to Pastor cassette and newsletter."

"Mr. London is a first cousin of James C. Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, and the two grew up together." [WWN Nov. 14]

[UPDATE: H. B. London is on the steering committee of Renovaré, known to be a mystical movement. Also see: Focus on the Family Ties to The Theosophical Society.]

Thai temple conducts memorial service for Mr. Tkach (Sr.)

"Los Angeles-A memorial service for Joseph W. Tkach was conducted at **Wat Thai** of Los Angeles in North Hollywood, CA, Sept.30. Phra Wichian Thammakunathan, Abbot of Wat Thai, conducted the service along with three other resident monks..."

"Gifts prepared by Herman and Isabel Hoeh were presented to the monks by church members Raymond Epperson, Daniel Reedy, Ronald Reedy and Mitchell Vasseur."

"Wat Thai of Los Angeles and the Worldwide Church of God have enjoyed a warm relationship for many years, including joint participation in teaching English and Western culture to Laotian refugees in Thailand from 1980 - 1985." [WWN Nov.]

Charles Albrecht and John Halford attend European conference: interacting within a uniting EC.

"La Roche Sur Foron, France-Ministers from 10 European countries met at the foot of the French Alps for a three day European conference, Oct. 24 to 26."

"The group met to answer administrative questions and develop an organization structure and European vision

for 1996. Attending for the first time were **Carlos Tavares** and **Leo Kaagjarv,** representatives from Portugal and Estonia."

"Participants agreed that four aspects must be included as part of a European vision. These aspects are: The kingdom of God is on the offensive; the European work should be on the offensive; we are called to harvest; everything must be geared to change lives; everything revolves around a relationship with God and one other."

"Mr. Tavares and Belgian pastor **Jack Brunet** gave reports from the Feasts in Angola and Zaire."

"In addition, evangelist Carn Catherwood discussed the need for European unity, and John Halford addressed general European administrative issues." [WWN Nov. 4]

Church to offer Christian video by Pat Boone

"Christian entertainer Pat Boone had a luncheon meeting with Pastor General Joseph Tkach and other officials Nov. 27 to discuss and agreement of the church to offer Boone's video Israel, O Blessed Israel, a gospel music journey in the Holy Land."

[UPDATE: Pat Boone is listed as CNP (Council for National Policy) Board of Governors 1982, member 1988.) Boone is also an elder in Jack Hayford's (Foursquare Gospel) The Church on the Way, Van Nuys, California, where Paul and Jan Crouch (Trinity Broadcasting Network) are members.]

Church to offer books, videos, audio tapes and other religious works

"The benefit of offering such products is that they will generate revenue for the church. A tax deductible donation is included in the set price."

"Pat Boone is one of the best known and best loved Christian entertainers in the United States and in international areas." [WWN Dec. 19]

OIU Volume Six - Pt. 4 of 7
OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

Canada Clips from Canada Regional News: 1995

Neil Earle, International Editor of *The Plain Truth* and Pastor of Glendora Church in California visited Brandon Church Canada June 24, 1995. He addresses over 100 brethren.

[UPDATE: In November 2004 the Worldwide Church of God moved its headquarters from Pasadena to Glendora, California. (*Pasadena Star-News*, October 25, 2004)]

At that time Neil Earle was still the pastor in Glendora. The church's name has now been changed to New Covenant Fellowship. UPDATE: Neil Earle retired from New Covenant Fellowship in 2016.]

"Mr. Earle said the Nov./ Dec. *Plain Truth* article entitled 'The Challenge of Africa' brought in $20,000 unsolicited."

"The money was passed on to Orphan Housing and the Nursing sisters in Zambia."

"Our church continues to preach the gospel around the world, **and seventh-day observing churches such as in Angola are seeking affiliation with us through our headquarters in Pasadena."**

" 'We find ourselves drawn into mission work… and shifting from a strong emphasis on prophecy,' he told the audience."

"We used to lead with prophecy-we made our name with prophecy."

" 'Today we are a non-prophet organization because prophecy can get you in trouble,' joked Mr. Earle."

["Regional News," Aug. 1995]

Gospel now people driven, not media driven

By Colin Wilkins:

"Under Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach's leadership, the church entered a new phase" 'people-driven,' rather than, 'media driven.' For over five decades, the 'Word' had been spread, mainly through massive distribution of The Plain Truth and The World Tomorrow."

"Congregations had sprung up around the world under the care of Ambassador College-trained ministry, but the individual member of the body of Christ had received little training in 'practical,' 'people-directed' Christianity."

"A decade ago we were a closely-knit group of people, secure in our righteousness, ill at ease with the 'world' and certainly uncomfortable about spreading our faith."

"Mr. Tkach taught us to respect those who attend different churches and to love one another rather than being judgmental."

"...the focus of the preaching and publishing of the gospel of the kingdom has been shifting away from a media-driven activity to personal evangelism."

"A sudden decrease in income has forced us to place a different emphasis on the way in which Christ's mission can be accomplished. Instead of a highly priced telecast, local congregations have been conducting open houses. The church has 'come out of the closet.' "

["Regional News," Nov. 1995]

"If you find a turtle on a fence post-- know it didn't get there by accident."
- Hilary Clinton

Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship Ministries:

"The idea for an in-prison ministry was proposed by Philip Rice, pastor of the Lancaster church."

"Prison Fellowship was started by Chuck Colson. Mr. Colson, who served in the administration of President Richard Nixon and spent time in prison for a Watergate-related crime, founded the outreach program for inmates in 1976 after his release."

"Its mission is 'to exhort, assist and equip the church in its ministry to prisoners, ex-prisoners, victims and their families, and in its advancement of biblical standards of justice.' "

"Prison Fellowship with the help of thousands of volunteers, now ministers to inmates at most U.S. prisons. The organization also helps volunteers in other countries to provide a similar service."

"The 20 hours of training Prison Fellowship requires of volunteers before entering a prison consists primarily of familiarizing participants with various rules and regulations of prisons, various teaching methods and how to deal with inmates."

"For more information about Prison Ministries contact Prison Fellowship Ministries General Headquarters, 1856 Old Reston Ave., Reston, Virginia, 22090." [WWN Jan. 4]

[UPDATE: Chuck Colson died at age 80 on April 21, 2012.]

Gene Hogberg, former Plain Truth news editor and church writer of 34 years, retired in March 1995, was interviewed by Neil Earle:

"I appreciate the confidence both Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach showed in me over the years. I will always remember the occasion in December 1993, when Mr. Tkach invited my wife and me to accompany him to the Kennedy Center honors ceremony in Washington D.C." [WWN March 16]

US Regional Pastors meet for Pasadena Conference:

"The regional pastors were asked to read two books before the conference: The New Reformation: Returning the Ministry to the People of God by Greg Ogden, and, In Name Only: Tackling the Problem of Nominal Christianity, by Eddie Gibbs."

"Godfried Fritz, a management consultant from South Africa, gave a day and a half presentation on developing effective strategies."

"Godfried Fritz is an organizational psychologist from South Africa who has helped numerous corporations restructure and renew." [Joseph Tkach, WWN Feb. 27]

"Earl Grant, professor of Practical and Intercultural Studies at Azusa Pacific University, spoke on Ministry for the 21st Century.

"Earl Grant, who has done extensive work in church renewal spoke to us about church goals and involving all the members in the ministry (that of service), each according to his or her gifts." [WWN Feb. 27]

Prayer meeting leads to greater ties with Christian community:

"Group prayer forms closeness with people, but it also pleases God as he sees us share our deepest convictions with one another."

They [those at the meeting] represent the Southern Baptist, Assembly of God, Nazarene, Christian, United Methodist, American Missionary Fellowship and community churches."

"Not long ago I was talking with leaders in our own congregations about the things that would need to happen for our church to reach out to the unchurched of the community. The first thing we had to do, they felt, was to shed the cult label. We talked about ways to do that but made no decision."

"I've been invited to put our church services on radio for four weeks running each year. I can submit articles for the religion page of the newspaper."

We've sponsored a **Prison Fellowship** training class for all churches."

"Some ministers have discussed our changes with their churches. The governor of Wyoming was present when a Lutheran pastor asked his fellowship to welcome our members into the household of faith. Our cult status in this small town? It seems that God has largely taken care of it. It's wonderful to be part of the Christian community."

"Christ's prayer for unity has so much meaning. I see that he is speaking of unity that will bridge denominational walls, a unity that is nothing short of a miracle. And the success of the gospel depends on it:

'May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me' " [WWN Feb. 13]

"Joe and Larry Omasta, manager of Electronic Media, attended the National Religious Broadcasters convention Feb. 3 to 6 in Indiana to make contacts with other Christian radio producers and managers of stations...." [NRB is a major arm of the NAE]

Ministers attend Promise Keepers convention:

"Forty-three WCG ministers attended Promise Keepers clergy convention at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta Feb 13-15."

"In spite of differences in doctrine and practice these 40,000 voices were singing in true unity because they all agreed on who their Savior is and what he has done for us."

"**Bill McCartney**, former coach of the University of Colorado football team, and founder of Promise Keepers, in **casting the vision** for this historic event, said that this convention was a clear invitation to leaders to send a strong trumpet blast for biblical unity. McCartney said that division in the church was the cause of this nation's problems-that it was time to repair the breach. **He portrayed two giants that needed to be slain: racial discrimination and denominational discrimination."**

"Speakers Tony Evans, Phillip Porter, Jack Hayford, John Maxell and others encouraged pastors to remember their calling from God...."

"One of the most moving sessions for me was the one led by Chuck Swindoll, host of radio program Insight for Living."

"**Max Lucado** asked, ***'If unity creates belief, could it be that unity is the key to reaching the world?' "***

Mr. Tkach summarizes church's transition in university address:

"Pastor General Joseph Tkach gave a presentation title 'From Jerusalem to Antioch' at Azusa Pacific University's president's Luncheon Feb. 28."

"In his address, Mr. Tkach summarized the church's transition from an unorthodox group, with doctrines reminiscent of Judaism, toward orthodox evangelical Christianity."

"Mr. Tkach explained that most of the church's erroneous doctrines originate from within Protestant circles, although they were typically unpopular minority views that were discredited at various times in church history."

"On Feb. 29, Mr. Tkach and J. M. Feazell, director of Church Administration, appeared on the Los Angeles area radio program Christian Commentary. The host of the program is **Pastor Helms of the Angeles Temple Church, headquarters of the International Church of the Four Square Gospel."** [WWN March 12]

New requirements for youth volunteers:

"Most congregations have instituted a children's ministry."

"We have decided that we should standardize our volunteer selection process based on appropriate concern for parents and youths of the church."

"The screening process involves the two following procedures: 1) **Completing a Youth Volunteer Application** form requiring applicant signature granting permission for the church pastor, or his

representative, to check references. 2) **Fingerprinting the applicant."**

"Fingerprinting can be done at your local police department. Some police departments will come to your group and do everyone at once. The cost is generally around $30 for processing." [WWN April 16]

Regional office staffer, Roger Griffiths comments on Promise Keepers In Australia:

"We are having two **Promise Keepers** conferences in Australia over the next few weeks, and I'm booked to go to one of them. Anticipation is building and I'm encouraging all to go. **It seems to me to be a route to revival."**

U.S. churches honor God in National Day of Prayer:

"In Pasadena 515 people attended a prayer service in the Ambassador Auditorium. The keynote speaker was Les Blank, dean of the school of theology at Azusa Pacific University."

[Others attending: Kent Puls, pastor of Canoga Park Lutheran Church; Charles Yuill, a major in the Salvation Army; Garner Scott Odell of Westminster Presbyterian Church; Father Efstathios Mylonas of the St. Anthony Greek Orthodox church]"

"Mr. Lapacka said: 'This service was a much-needed step for the Worldwide Church of God in becoming a part of the local Christian Community.' " "That morning several headquarters employees attended the annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at the Pasadena Civic Center.

"Dave Smith, director of computer Information Systems for the church, attended a ceremony near City Hall, dedicating a prayer monument."

"A. Ebeling, pastor of the Boston, Massachusetts, church took part in a public prayer session on the steps of city hall in Boston. That evening Protestant and Catholic clergy met for a prayer banquet." [WWN April]

Big Sandy church participates in resurrection celebration:

Don Mears: "I joined the Gladewater Ministerial Alliance in January and received a warm welcome from those pastors who form the active core of the **Alliance**."

"During that meeting I was invited to participate in two multi-denominational services sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance…"

Building Bridges - "The March 31 service was at Gladewater Methodist Church. It was a Service of Tenebrae, or darkness, a traditional format going back to medieval times. Sixteen readers, from five denominations, read passages…" [WWN May 21]

87 attend ministerial conference in Europe:

"AIX-LES-BAINS, France-Taking advantage of the English Channel tunnel, the church brought British and continental ministers together for a joint European ministerial conference in the French alpine spa Aix-les-Bains, April 29, to May 2."

"Eighty-seven attendees from 15 European, Middle Eastern and African countries took part. In addition to ministers and wives, administrative personnel from the British and German offices and the French sub-office attended."

"Those present from Pasadena were Pastor General Joseph Tkach and his wife, Tammy; Randal Dick, assistant director of Church Administration International, and his wife, Susie; and Charles Albrecht, international operations manager in Church Administration, and his wife, Susi."

"On Tuesday morning, Mr. Tkach answered questions for the participants before leaving with Mr. Dick for Washington, D.C. to attend a Mission America Conference."

[UPDATE: WCG was listed on The Mission America Coalition as one of the churches endorsing the 40 days of Purpose initiative and also the Passion of the Christ. That webpage has since been removed, although we saved a copy of the page. They are now listed as a Mission America Coalition Partner under their new name Grace Communion International on their site.] *The Worldwide News*, 1999, gave a report on a Mission America meeting in which WCG attended: "Dan Rogers, superintendent of ministers, and his wife, Barbara, represented

the WCG Jan. 21 at Mission America's annual meeting in San Francisco." ("Mission America: Sharing Christ by the end of 2000")]

"They returned to Europe for the weekend to honor commitments made before the Washington opportunity came up, including a board meeting in Britain." [nothing mentioned about the expense involved] [WWN May 21]

South African conference:

"CAPE TOWN, South Africa-forty-seven ministers and wives from Southern African region gathered at the regional office April 22 to 25 for a regional ministerial conference."

"Godfried Fritz, a consulting psychologist form Cape Town, gave a lecture on the second day of the conference entitled 'Career Management and Development of Pastors.' Mr. Fritz said that we often need to go outside our comfort zone to get results."

"A video by H. B. London of Focus on the Family on the subject of accountability was shown to the men. They were shown two videos. The first, by Tammy Tkach, was on women's ministries, and the other, by Ruth Tucker, author of various books on women's issues, was on, 'Tough Choices.' " [WWN May 21]

Regional pastors meet in Pasadena:

"…the regional pastors heard Robin Webber, a professor of theology at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois talk about blending contemporary and traditional worship styles.

[UPDATE: Robin Webber was disfellowshipped in 1996 and joined United Church of God-AIA.]

" …Earl Grant, a professor in the school of theology at Azusa Pacific University, spoke about how the pastors can move from a dependency model to an interdependent model of being a pastor.

Mr. Tkach's address:

"He recommended two books about our identity: *Victory Over the Darkness*, by Neil Anderson, and *Christ-Esteem*, by Don Matzat. He also recommended two tapes by Hank Hanegraaff of the Christian Research Institute entitled "Christianity in Crisis," in which **Mr. Hanegraaff uses audio recordings of ministers' own words to expose their heresies.**

"George Mather, a Lutheran scholar, told me, 'I'm jealous of your Christian journey, because it is nearly identical to the first century Christians,' " [WWN May 21]

Church of God leaders seek common ground:

"Representatives of the Church of God (Seventh-Day), the parent organization of the Worldwide Church of God, visited Ambassador campus April 11-14 to become better acquainted with the university and to seek common ground between the two church organizations."

" 'It was inspiring to see that the people of our two churches can forgive and reconcile,' said Benjamin Martinez.

" ' It seems like there are a lot of Christ-centered churches out there, including us, that want to reconcile with all the other churches that cling to Christ as Savior and Lord.'" [WWN May 21]

Plain Truth Ministries Launched:

"Plain Truth Ministries Worldwide (PTM) was formed in May as an affiliated corporation of the Worldwide Church of God."

"PTM plans to focus its media efforts on encouraging believers and nonbelievers to rise **above the issues that often separate Christians.** This will be done through *The Plain Truth Magazine*, booklets, videos and radio program."

" 'Media has always been an important part of the Worldwide Church of God,' Mr. Feazell said. 'Expertise in media is, I believe, a gift God has given our church, and one that we can and should put to good use in his service. Something else God has recently given us,' he continued, 'and something much needed in the Christian world, is recognition of the need for unity in the faith and in the work of the gospel.'" (Comment: Did

God actually give the WCG the gift of media expertise to spread heresy and deception throughout the Christian world for sixty years causing death and destruction of thousands of lives???)

" 'Because of our recent history, we have a heightened sense of the need for Christians of all denominations to rally around the vital, core doctrines of biblical Christianity--the gospel essentials--while respecting one another's nonessential, or peripheral, interpretations or traditions.' "

"Mr. Albrecht said: 'PTM, as a **transdenominational ministry,** will be a strong voice for breaking down the artificial walls Christians so often erect between themselves and for standing together in proclaiming the gospel to the world, reaching out to nominal Christians, or Christians in name only, as well as strengthening committed Christians, will be the hallmark of Plain Truth Ministries.' "

"The Worldwide church of God provides financial subsidy to PTM, as well as general administrative support, while PTM responds in serving the church by **handling mail processing**, some video services, proofreading, printing and **mailing of receipts and letters."**

" 'Consultants have informed us, and findings from a survey conducted by The Barna Research Group show that people who benefit from our ministry efforts and want to help us share the gospel **will be more inclined to donate to a ministry rather than to a church they do not attend,'** Mr. Wolverton said." [WWN June 18]

Commencement exercises were held on the Ambassador Campus May 20:

"Dr. Les Blank, dean of the C. P. Haggard graduate school of theology at Azusa Pacific University, gave the commencement address exhorting students to build their lives on Jesus Christ: 'Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.' "

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Hanegraaff lecture:

"Before the inauguration ceremony Hendrik 'Hank' Hanegraaff…conducted a lecture entitled 'Back to Basics: Essentials of Christianity.' His message focused on preparing Christians to communicate what they believe, why they believe it, and where non-Christians and pseudo-Christians deviate from historic Christianity." [WWN June 18]

Pasadena Church members participate in MARCH FOR JESUS May 25.

International Directors conference: diversity within Unity By Joseph Tkach, Jr.

" 'Diversity within unity' emerged as a key theme of the international directories conference in Palm Springs, California, June 10-13." [WWN July 23]

WCG and Seventh-day Adventist Church officials meet:

"Silver Spring, Maryland-Leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Worldwide Church of God met for the first time at the Adventist church World Headquarters in Silver Spring, June 26.

"The historic meeting came about because of interest on the part of the leadership of both denominations to discuss their mutual beliefs in light of doctrinal changes in the Worldwide Church of God."

"Robert S. Folkenbur, Seventh-day Adventist Church world president, and Pastor General Joseph Tkach led the delegations, which included representatives of both church's departments and administrative staff. Attending with Mr. Tkach were Greg Albrecht, executive director of Plain Truth Ministries; Randal Dick, assistant director of Church Administration International, and Tom Lapacka, manager of church relations."

"In welcoming guests, Pastor Folkenbuerg said: 'It's with a great deal of Christian compassion that I view what the Worldwide Church of God has gone through.' "

"We've always thought of the Seventh-day Adventists as spiritual cousins, Mr. Tkach said, but now we see you as brothers. We share a mutual church history and we have been so very

appreciative of the welcome and the fellowship we have had with you."

"The one-day meeting included several presentations by representatives of the two churches covering issues of theology, mission and organization." [WWN July 23]

Ralph Woodrow: author of Babylon Mystery Religion:

"Pastor General Tkach joined Greg Albrecht, Tom Lapacka on April 19, to talk with Ralph Woodrow, author of *Babylon Mystery Religion--Ancient and Modern*, a book that was once read and studied by the WCG." (Comment: The WWN relates how Woodrow made many changes to his book about pagan origins. Ralph Woodrow's revision of pagan understanding aligns him ecumenically with other New Age proponents.) [WWN July 23] [**Note:** Ralph Woodrow now holds the preterist view of N.T. prophecy.]

Christianity Today article features Worldwide Church of God:

"The article was written by **Ruth Tucker**, a visiting professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Dr. Tucker wrote: 'The changes-as they are referred to by insiders-are truly historic. Never before in the history of Christianity has there been such a complete move to orthodox Christianity by an unorthodox fringe church.' " (Comment: see back issues of OIU regarding Ruth Tucker's secretive association with David Hulme, current president of the United Church of God.) [WWN July 23]

[UPDATE: *Christianity Today* has turned to promoting mysticism, contemplative prayer and other New Age, anti-Christian practices.]

Pastor speaks to Croatian Adventists:

"Munich, Germany-Wilhelm Mandel, WCG pastor of the Nuremberg and Munich Germany, and Salzburg and Vienna, Austria churches spoke to Seventh-day Adventist church in Slavonski-Brod, Vroatia, during Unleavened Bread."

"Mr. Mandel was invited to speak by Pastor Duvhjak, who is acquainted with the church's doctrines through *The Plain Truth* and his visits to the Salzburg church." [WWN July 23]

News From Plain Truth Ministries Greg Albrecht:

"The audience, as you know, was never asked for money, and they simply continued to receive the magazine and booklets, and the television program, free of charge. We are in the process of converting this group of people into paid subscribers and product buyers."

"We also feel that we have both experience and gifts in the mass media. God has blessed us with human resources as well as background in both electronic and print media. We are zealous to use this gift and experience for his glory and to lift up our Lord and Savior."

(Comment: How does God bless HERESY and BLASPHEMY, DECEPTION, MANIPULATION and FINANCIAL, EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, PHYSICAL and SPIRITUAL CORRUPTION?)

"As you know, Plain Truth Ministries is a **transdenominational ministry.** We exist to bring people to Christ, and to bring people who already enjoy a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior into a closer walk with him. Therefore, we minister across denominational barriers, and do not exist to bring members into one denomination opposed to another."

"…We are **building bridges** to believers and nonbelievers alike, helping them focus on the life-changing gospel of our Lord and Savior."

Press release distributed by Plain Truth Ministry:

"We are delighted to announce the formation of Plain Truth Ministries Worldwide. PTM will proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through the mass media-challenging nonbelievers to investigate the claim of Christianity and leading nominal Christians toward a closer walk with their Savior, while distributing inspirational Christian resources of value to all believers."

"A transdenominational ministry, Plain Truth Ministries will emphasize the historic, core beliefs of Christianity. Affiliated with the Worldwide Church of God, a church that has recently undergone a miraculous

transformation by the grace of God, PTM will not promote any denomination over another. PTM will offer a variety of Christian products, including books and booklets, as well as audio and video cassettes."

"Reflecting its historic transformation and fresh vision for faithful Christian ministry, the church has launched PTM as a semi-autonomous media ministry. Please refer to the seven-page article, "From the Fringe to the Fold," by Ruth Tucker in the July 15 issue of *Christianity Today*."

"PTM is a member of the Evangelical Press Association (EPA) and the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (ECPA)" [written by Greg Albrecht - WWN Aug 27]

Racial healing for all:

"We are planning to publish and interview with Tom Claus, president of CHIEF Inc., in Phoenix, Arizona."

"Tom is a Native American pastor to native American pastors. He believes that the best way to reach Native Americans with the gospel is through the tribal leadership."

"Tom is becoming known because of his work with Promise Keepers. At the Promise Keepers Clergy conference in Atlanta in February, more than 90 Native American tribes were represented." [WWN Aug. 27]

Carl George--In an Aug. 17 session, church consultant Carl George (author of: *Prepare Your Church for the Future*) said that each movement is chastened so it can do more. He said that it is through adversity that God makes us able and competent ministers.

Ruth Tucker teaches at **Ambassador University:**

"Ruth A. Tucker a visiting professor at Trinity Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois, taught History of Christianity at Ambassador July 28 to Aug. 2." "…she has taught at Calvin College, Fuller Theological Seminary (Pasadena) and Moffat College of Bible in Kenya." [WWN Aug. 27]

Good Will Tour--Plain Truth Ministry was invited to meet with Four Square Gospel personnel July 25:

(Tkach, Jr. was Pastor Helm's guest on radio in Feb. `96 and was guest speaker at the Pentecostal tongue-speaking church in April `97. This visit was never publicized to the ministry, but for those interested in hearing Joseph Tkach speak to the Four Square members during the tongue-speaking services, request the tape from the ESN. Include a donation to cover the costs of tape and postage)

Promise Keepers: life-changing experience
By George Kuo:

"Having read reports from our ministers who have attended Promise Keepers conferences, I would like to share the following comments about the Promise Keepers conference I attended May 24 and 25 in Washington, D.C."

"I felt uncomfortable in the beginning with the open expression of worship such as standing up and clapping hands as we sang worship music, or people raising one hand or two hands during prayers. Since I couldn't see anything wrong with this kind of worship, I joined the fun and learned to enjoy it totally."

"One thing that was refreshing for me was the fact that even after one whole day of participating in the conference, I was not tired or energy-drained at all. Instead, I was excited, inspired and energized. These kinds of worship service involve our total being, including our heads, our minds, our spirits and our emotions. Maybe we can learn something from these types of worship services and incorporate some of them into ours." [WWN Aug. 27]

Lunch Meeting-church officials meet with Paul Cedar, director of Mission America, Aug. 23:

Shown in picture on back page of WWN -- Randal Dick, superintendent of missions; Mr. Cedar; Greg Albrecht, director of Media Services; and Pastor General Joseph Tkach, Jr. [WWN Sept. 17] (Comment: Mission America, like the National Religious Broadcasters is a division of National Association of Evangelicals (NAE). Ruth Tucker and Trinity Divinity are associates with the NAE.)

Feast of Tabernacles:

"In Rotorua, New Zealand, Monte Ohio, one of New Zealand's foremost Maori Christian leaders, spoke of God's

guidance in the planned **World Christian Gathering of Indigenous People** to take place in Rotorua Nov. 10-17. Mr. Ohia, strategy manager for the Qualifications Authority of New Zealand, and co-chair of Vision New Zealand, a congress of Christian leaders from throughout the nation to meet in January-shared his vision of all people being able to come to God through Jesus Christ not as white men, but as themselves worshipping him in all their languages, dances, cultural forms, dress and crafts."

"In Lake Tahoe: Dr. and Mrs. Ron Jenson conducted a two-day seminar on family relationships. The Jensons are featured presenters with Family Life Ministries Weekend to Remember seminar. Dr. Jenson is a leadership trainer for Promise Keepers. [WWN Oct. 29]

Prayer breakfast: testimony to what God can do:

"More than 200 Los Angeles area ministers of various denominations met in the Ambassador Auditorium Nov. 5 to pray at the quarterly meeting of **LOVE LA**."

"Love LA is a group of pastors who meet regularly to pray for the city at various host churches."

"One of the co-founders of the group is Jack Hayford, pastor of The Church on the Way in Van Nuys, California."

"Harold Helms, senior pastor of the Angeles Temple in Los Angeles, introduced Pastor General Joseph Tkach."

"Pastor Helms said that the changes the church has made have 'blessed us as a Christian community. We are absolutely delighted that you would call us brothers now.' "

Joseph Tkach: "It grieves my spirit that the picture that Christianity has presented, especially in Western society, is one of division. I think the Holy Spirit is starting to deal with that. I think the Holy Spirit is moving in many people to bring a new spirit of unity that I think has been lost in the church for too long a time. But praise God that he is starting to bring it about." [WWN Nov. 19] *(Comment: Both pastors listed are Pentecostal. Hayford is on the board of Promise Keepers.)*

PTM: Helping to bring people to Christ:

"The church uses Plain Truth Ministries as a major vehicle for providing doctrinal and Christian-living instruction for members of the CG. All doctrinal positions proclaimed by PTM are those of the WCG. Even though *The Plain Truth* is transdenominational, leading readers to Jesus Christ first and foremost and not promoting one church or denomination over another, *The Plain Truth* is nevertheless an educational and instructional tool for promoting the fundamental doctrinal position of the WCG, **which is historical biblical Christian faith in the evangelical tradition.** [WWN Nov. 19]

Plain Truth Ministries Advertisements:

"…Plain Truth Ministries placed ads in a variety of publications. The advertisement for the creation-evolution video appears in *Christianity Today*, Sunday *Parade* supplement and *Group* (a magazine for Christian teens). Advertisements for subscriptions to *The Plain Truth* appear in *Saturday Evening Post*, *Charisma* and *New Man*, while the just-released video *Babylon--Past, Present and Future* is advertised in *Biblical Archeology Review*." [WWN Nov. 19] *(Comment: The New Man is Promise Keeper's publication and published by Stephen Strang of Charisma magazine. Strang has been exposed for occult and New Age writings.)*

You're half way through this OIU.
Yes, it's lengthy, but worth the effort if you want the untold story.

"The devil is in the details."

A demonstration of Christian co-existence:

"Grand Bay, Dominica-Wednesday, June 19, marked a magnificent demonstration of Christian co-existence in Dominica. The occasion that brought this about was the burial of Lambert Henderson, deputy principal of the Grand Bay Secondary School. Mr. Henderson was a member of the Worldwide Church of God for 22 years until his battle with abdominal cancer ended June 13, at age 42. Simply put, Henderson was an exceptional Christian man, whose life was dedicated to the service of God and fellow humans. **These qualities were so visible that Jerome Moody of the Roman Catholic Church offered the facilities of his church and**

cemetery for the burial service and interment in the event of Mr. Henderson's death."

"This offer could only have been accepted today because of our understanding that there are Christians in other churches." [WWN Nov. 19]

The Church is a *priesthood* of believers:

"In the opening session Mr. Tkach noted that 40,000 former members of the WCG are not attending anywhere. They have not joined one of the splinter groups." *(This is the first introduction of this myth. Embellishing the member count helps support and substantiates the $200,000,000 (average) a year income from 1987 to early 1990s.)*

Church officials attend Bible Society meeting:

"NEW YORK, Pastor General Joseph Tkach and Greg Albrecht, Plain Truth editor, were invited to attend the annual American Bible Society (ABS) National Church Advisory Council (NAC) meeting in New York City Dec. 3 and 4. The council addressed the challenges facing denominational and ministry leaders as they proclaim the gospel of **Jesus Christ**."

"Mr. **Tkach** and Mr. Albrecht addressed the council, explaining the historic changes in the Worldwide Church of God."

"Mr. Tkach said: "The American Bible Society does the godly work of spreading the Word of God to people of various languages. They are the largest translators of Scripture, and it is our joy to become associated with their work of making Bibles available to people in all the world."

"Denominational leaders, pastors and representatives attended the conference from the following churches: African Methodist Episcopal Church; Armenian Orthodox Church; **Assemblies of God**."

"Church of **God**, Anderson, Indiana; Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; Church of the Nazarene; Evangelical Congregational Church; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America."

"Free Methodist Church; Greek Orthodox Church; International Church of the Foursquare Gospel; Lutheran Church/Missouri Synod; Mennonite Brethren; Moravian Church; National Baptist Convention."

"North American Baptist Conference; Pentecostal Church of God; Presbyterian Church (USA); Reformed Church in America; Roman Catholic Church; Seventh-day Adventists; Southern Baptist Convention; United Brethren in Christ; United Methodist Church; and the Wesleyan Church."

Mr. Tkach, Mr. Albrecht attend church council:

"BEAVER CREEK, Colorado. Pastor General Joseph Tkach and Plain Truth editor Greg Albrecht attended the North American Ministerial Council of the Church of God (Seventh Day) in Beaver Creek, Nov. 11-15."

"Mr. **Tkach** said that 'the invitation to attend as observers is yet another positive cooperative development between our two fellowships.' Mr. Albrecht commented: '**We** attended all-day meetings that discussed doctrine and teaching. In addition, we were invited to join in worship and praise services, as well as a concert of prayer.' "

" 'Not only do **we** know these fine people as friends, we know many of them personally, as brothers and sisters in the Lord.'"

"Mr. Tkach and Mr. Albrecht had several lunch and dinner meetings with Church of **God** (Seventh Day) officials, including Whaid Rose, chairman of the board of directors; Calvin Burrell, president of the General Conference; Jerry Griffin, director of the Summit School of Theology; and Robert Coulter, coordinator of the Southeastern District, member of the board of directors, and past president of the General Conference."

"Worldwide News readers may remember that Mr. Rose spoke at the Worldwide Church of **God** fall festival in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina."

"Both fellowships plan to continue to meet and explore future cooperative projects. [WWN Dec.17] [Comment: The reader should be aware that counter-cult evangelicals such as Lorri MacGregor speak strongly against Adventists, while highly supporting the Tkach propaganda cover-up!]

1,000-voice choir praises God:

"The Worldwide Church of God headquarters choir, with director Ella Marie Schatz, united with 19 other church choirs to form a 1,000 voice choir at Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena, Nov. 24. This event marked the 100th anniversary of the Lake Avenue Church. [Dec. 17 `96]

1996 Regional News from Canada

Regional News is targeted to Canadians in the WCG. Members from the U.S. are not privy to this publication. U.S. members are briefed minimally on any Canadian activities. Joseph Tkach, Jr. is president of the Canadian board. Refer to Canadian update for WCG developments with real estate, investments and reorganization.

Bill Hall appears on Vision TV

Canadian editor answers questions on church's doctrinal changes:

" 'Some members were shocked,' said Mr. Hall. 'But the thing that Mr. Tkach (Jr.) and the church have been trying to do is to inform members. As the church is changing he has tried to educate members where we're going and not leave anything unsaid.' "

"Mr. Opneer noted the WCG has been considered a cult by Christian leaders, including Walter Martin in his book *The Kingdom of the Cults*."

" 'We practiced isolationism, we had a strong leader who was charismatic and also in some respects we were very intolerant to other believers. And these things do tend to have us labeled a cultish practice'"

"Mr. Hall stressed the church's current teaching that 'Christians are those who have God's Holy Spirit. It's not the denomination that you belong to.'"

"Noting the WCG's 'enthusiasm and tremendous skill in communication,' Mr. Opmeer asked if the church is going to throw its weight behind evangelicals' efforts to preach the gospel to the world." [*Regional News*, Canada Feb. `96]

Building a better Canada:

"Liberal Member of Parliament (MP) thanked Neil Earle for ideas he submitted for a government discussion paper on national pride. A non-partisan group of MPs plan to publish a discussion paper containing 40-50 ideas submitted by Canadians. The paper would then be circulated to all Members of Parliament." [Feb. `96]

Brownies savor awards - Vancouver:

"The Religion in Life program is open to all Girl Guides and Boy Scouts in Canada. The program encourages the spiritual growth of children within the context of their own religious denomination." [Feb. `96]

Youthquake `96 rocks Saskatchewan town:

"Imagine a chapel filled with 3,500 Christian teens all bursting with energy and anxious to enjoy a 48-hour retreat with ministry, youth workers and each other."

"Youthquake `96 Christian Teen Retreat was the culmination of 10 months of planning. Buses rolled in from Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Yukon Territories, Northwest Territories, Newfoundland and all across the United States."

"Our teen's words best describe their first experience at a multi-denominational Christian retreat."

"After registration we walked into the main chapel and saw about 5,000 people, mostly teens. There was an illusionist on stage and he was talking about what was real and what was an illusion. He told us that Christ and his works were real and not a cheap magic trick."

"Saturday and Sunday followed with lots of church services and Bible studies plus great Christian rock bands like PFR, Sixpence, None the Richer, and the Kry."

"On the last day we had a massive prayer meeting and a couple of minutes of silence…"

"The one thing that we all had in common was our Christianity."

"There were so many activities to choose from: garage bands, a comedy hour, and Operation Underground, which is an activity where you are taken and placed in a setting from the past--for example, Hitler persecuting

the Jews--to show what it was like years ago not to have religious freedom."

"Sight for Blind Eyes was the motto for the weekend. We learned how to help others understand what we are all about, to show them why we are special and to make them aware of what we believe and why we believe it." [*Regional News*, May `96]

Neil Earle presents paper in Seattle:

"At the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS) biennial conference in Seattle Nov. 16, *Plain Truth* international editor Neil Earle presented a paper entitled 'Three Stories, two visions: the West and the building of the CPR in Canadian culture.' "

"The paper looked at Canada as a complete nation from the point of view of three Canadians."

" 'We as Christians must come out of our cocoon and engage the culture,' Mr. Earle said. [*Regional News*, May 1,`96]

Canada-MARCH FOR JESUS

`96 Brampton: Sunshine, banners, music and prayer:

"Joy is contagious at this assembly of Christians from churches of many denominations."

"All along the route the air is ringing with the joyous voices of Christians of many denominations singing the praises of Jesus with sounds of music emanating from the speakers atop our vans."

"With cheers, clapping, whistling and waving of banners from the marchers, the leaders say: 'The Lord has prepared a feast of welcome for all who will come. Let's take the invitation to the ends of earth.' "

Pedestrians do about-face; join 4,500 at march in Ottawa:

"Attendance was approximately 4,500 with 145 church groups registered from various denominations."

"Every denomination walked in their assigned order, under homemade banners declaring Jesus as Lord and Savior. Some had dancers in costume-with flags, tambourines, etc. who performed along the route."

"After arriving at Parliament Hill for a celebration service, the March music was played until every group had arrived, at about 3 p.m."

"Over the next two hours, we enjoyed praise and worship groups from two Ottawa churches leading us in songs giving glory to Christ, moving testimonials, prayers and scripture readings, and a time for group prayer."

"All over the Hill, strangers formed circles and prayed spontaneously for our political leaders, national unity, world peace, and freedom to worship, and thanked God for Christ the Savior of the World, for whom we gathered to honor that day as a witness to our community." [*Regional News*, Oct. `96]

We're not the only ones going through change

By Kevin Armstrong (pastor of the Montreal English congregation):

"It's understandable enough, but you may be surprised to know that ours is not the only denomination experiencing change-and I'm talking change with a capital C."

"It's understandable enough, but you may be surprised to know that ours is not the only denomination experiencing change-and I'm talking change with a capital C."

"I first noticed this in recent issues of Faith Today, the national magazine of Canadian evangelicals."

"Many of their recent cover stories mirror our own progression, such as 'Retooling the Pastor' and 'Marketing the Church,' both of which dealt with the church's need to rejuvenate the way it engages society in this present age."

"Michael Green, in his book Evangelism Through the Local Church, sums up the net effect this way" 'We Christians have become very settled in our ways and those ways no longer reach out effectively to society.' "

"He points out that only those churches that are able to change to meet the needs of the 21st century will

survive. Cell groups, discipleship training, contemporary worship services-all are part of the same movement or change within those churches that desire to be God's messengers in the future."

"It's true that our journey has also included sweeping doctrinal changes; but I believe that those must be seen in light of this other, greater change, which is the redefining of the Church in the Western cultures."

Cornwall hosts worship concert, 650 attend:

"Some 650 Christians stood shoulder to shoulder and hand in hand, launching Cornwall's first Concert of Praise on Oct. 11."

"The free event... was organized by Christians from many denominations, including Roman Catholic, Baptist, Pentecostal, Anglican, Christian Reformed, United Church of Canada, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, Salvation Army, Worldwide Church of God, and other independents."

"It was the inspiration of key organizer Bernie Fortier, a Pentecostal, who got the idea after participating in Cornwall's third annual March for Jesus earlier this year."

"The concert brought together some 20 community churches which have likewise been stirred to re-open to Christ's call for unity within the body of believers."

"We prayed that the many denominations represented… would unite in proclaiming Jesus Christ and his gospel of love and salvation for all humankind." [Regional News, Dec. `96]

Sheridans attend evangelism conference:

"More than 600 pastors and wives from 55 denominations, eight provinces and 33 states shared four days focusing on our Lord's command to 'go make disciples.'"

"The intensive training focused on the spiritual and physical preparation necessary for evangelization and the appropriate discipling of those who put their faith in Christ."

"Some of the statistics given were staggering! Last April, Billy Graham's global telecast to 200 countries in 20 languages was watched by 2.5 billion people! This is the actual audience, not the potential audience of five billion."

"A recent crusade at a new football stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina, attracted 75,000 each night with another 13,000 watching on a giant screen outside!'

"Over the four nights, 22,249 people walked down the aisle to make a commitment for Jesus."

"The gifted speakers included: Dr. Joseph Aldrich, President of **Multnomah School of the Bible** and author of Lifestyle Evangelism; Dr. H. Eddie Fox, world director of evangelism for the World Methodist Council."

"A personal highlight was the message given by Franklin Graham, oldest son of Billy Graham. He is president of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief organization that meets emergency needs around the world."

"Just as our Pastor General Joseph Tkach succeeded his father, so Franklin Graham is slated to take over when his father, now 78 and suffering from Parkinson's Disease, chooses to step down."

[UPDATE: Franklin Graham has been President of Billy Graham Evangelistic Association since 2001.]

[UPDATE: Billy Graham died February 21, 2018 at age 99.]

"Overall it was a thrilling and spiritually exciting time of personal renewal. The opportunity to spend time with those from other denominations, ranging from conservative to charismatic, was priceless." [*Regional News*, Dec. `96]

1997-FULL BLOWN ECUMENICISM

In effort to bring readers up to date with the WCG planned agenda, we will now bullet the organizational changes that coincide with the WCG partnership with the Catholic/Protestant Ecumenical one world religion and unification goals of the United Nations.

The key factors surrounding the WCG division, fragmentation and propagandized transformation are:

1. Business--
2. Financial--
3. Political--
4. United Religion-unification of all religions and leaders by 2000 A.D.

Some reasons for the WCG restructure, reorganization and downsizing are (not conclusive or in any order of priority):

- The WCG's mass Marxist message was declining since 1969--
- The exposure and exposé of cults drew media and public attention since the Jonestown Massacre--
- The WCG leaders were widely exposed for financial, sexual, and criminal charges starting from the early 1970s--
- The corruption with televangelists drew acute awareness of duplicities and religious frauds with other TV ministries into the public eye--
- The international bankers, elite, and governmental agencies behind the WCG's multimillion-dollar conglomerate, modified investment, political and global strategies--
- The WCG non-profit church corporation embraced the New Age religious global mission in preparation for the coming millennium.
- All cults modify after their leader dies--
- The failing WCG, with less than **40,000** members at the time of Herbert Armstrong's death, plotted the downsize operation and distribution of the financial empire. An operation, such as this, takes keen planning using propaganda, distraction, decoy, manipulation, deception, diversion, flanking, along with surprise attacks on different fronts or skirmishes. Any and all tactics of war are used to subvert the real story behind the event. The WCG perpetrators have used a plethora of these tactics to liquidate assets and redistribute WCG financial holdings of the fraudulently acquired multimillion-dollar enterprise as it prepares for its New Age agenda.
- Switching from "destructive cult" status with aberrant religious teachings (considered by Catholic and Protestant markets to be "satanic"), into the widely growing, prosperous, United Nations supported, ecumenical, inter-denominational, New Age, evangelical and Catholic Churches (all of which support the World Council of Churches) propels the (tax-free) WCG financial and political agenda to prosper in many ways. The new WCG image has paved the way for acceptance and penetration into countries once barring any WCG associations. Now the banking and investing opportunities are endless. While the "Armstrong cult" had zero products to sell, the New Age ecumenical package is a gold mine that can serve many associations. And as far as membership in the "Armstrong cult" was concerned, few passed the stringent mind-control test of initiation; now, however, the new global ideology of "collectivism" cemented by New Age emotionalism, and enforced by auto-suggestion and hypnosis through prayer, could manipulate thousands into the everlasting web of the WCG. And just think about all the FREE PR.
- Last but not least--the WCG controllers were given new orders from their superiors!!!

As the WCG corporate empire, along with its latest corporate entity, Plain Truth Ministries, functions behind the guise of a "church," it's necessary to embrace the ecumenical, New Age, occultic, religious game plan which encompasses Catholic, Protestant and Jewish denominations, along with various sects, such as Mormons, Unification Church (Moonies), Seventh-day Adventists, Reformed Churches (such as Robert Schuller) and thousands of other belief systems. The Ecumenical strategy aims to incorporate a global ideology of submission, mission, and mass control of the populace. Ecumenism sells itself under the guise of "love" and "Jesus Christ." That dear readers, is a BIG LIE! As you will soon see, sweeping emotionalism, Charismatic Pentecostalism and new mass movements such as **Promise Keepers**, will replace the Christian church of the 20th Century. The development and historical account of the post 1950 cults serves as an excellent declaration to the mind control techniques currently targeting the entire society under the guise of "reconciliation and unity."

[UPDATE: Willow Creek - Hegelian Dialectic & The New World Order (Covers the new church growth movement and its agenda; includes Willow Creek Community Church and Saddleback Church.]

OIU Volume Six - Pt. 5 of 7

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

1997 Ecumenical Timeline

As we continue the WCG ecumenical timeline, chronology of events is added for discernment. Excerpts are taken from the WWN.

JANUARY

Pastor General set goals for church in 1997--

Excerpts by Joseph Tkach Jr:

To increase small groups to 25 percent of church:

"We hope to see at least 25 percent of every congregation actively involved in a successful and meaningful small group by the end of next year."

To increase circulation of *The Plain Truth* to 150,000:

"Our goal is that next year Plain Truth circulation will be 150,00, and I pray it will be more. It will be more if we work together to support it."

"I pray that by the end of 1997 everyone will know his or her spiritual giftedness and begin learning how they can use their gift-mix to serve the work of God and how he has placed them in the body."

For everyone to discover his or her spiritual gifts:

"God wants to use us as instruments in his hand, so I urge you to commit yourself to God, like you never have before, with your new hearts."

"For all members to be actively involved in some kind of ministry."

"Pray for the sale of the campus property. Our goal is that it will be sold by the end of 1997."

Our worldwide family:

"We have about 8,000 members in 122 congregations in 20 countries in Africa."

"God is performing a miracle there with what is known as a people movement. More than 4,000 have joined us in the last 18 months."

"In Australia and Asia we have more than 4,600 members in 65 congregations in 10 countries."

"In the Caribbean and Spanish-speaking areas we are in 31 countries with 74 congregations."

"We're 81,434 people in the WCG. Now given a week as a sample, you might find that attendance would be about two thirds of that." *[Comment: OIU readers, if you believe the above, contact the ESN for excellent deals on land in Florida!]*

Our core values:

Repentance

"…we have made doctrinal changes to repent of errors of the past. God has done something in our church that is unprecedented in the history of Christianity. He has chosen us, and that is an incredible thing to consider. What an honor." *[Comment: Ex-members may recall the same words being used when they entered into Armstrong teaching. Members needed to repent from their Catholic and Protestant backgrounds. Now they need to repent from the teachings of Armstrong's ministers so they may embrace Catholicism, Protestantism*

and New Age occultism.]

Reaching

"We all have a goal of serving to spread the gospel, and according to our spiritual gifts, and to do that in harmony."

"Now, we don't want to abandon the gift God has given us. God has blessed us with experience in publishing."

"Our international areas are free now to publish *The Plain Truth* magazine, although they are going to use names that are more culturally appropriate in their countries."

"In the United Kingdom the magazine is already the No. 1 Christian magazine with only a circulation in the mid-30, 000s. I hope to see them double that, and I hope all our regions will promote Christ in their literature."

Reconciliation

"Christ's atoning work has reconciled us to God, and he has given us the ministry of reconciliation. He commissioned us to preach that gospel. And sharing the gospel can be done in part through our preaching and publishing efforts, but the most effective way that people of God are evangelized is through personal evangelism, friend to friend. Friends inviting friends. Person to person contact."

"The first step to giving that message of reconciliation is spiritual renewal for ourselves. We need to express to others what we believe and feel, and you can't express love for Jesus if you don't feel it and believe it."

[Comment: Insiders relate to the gospel as being "the kingdom of God." We recently interviewed several current members of the WCG, not one related the gospel as "salvation by grace from Jesus Christ. The trendy method of "church" recruiting is replicated by the multi-level marketing or "party plan" method of recruiting new sales people.]

Relationships

"Miracles happen when people pray together. We have just over 1,000 small prayer groups in the United States in our fellowship."

"We have just over 200 prayer groups in South Africa and more than 200 in Canada."

[The following is excerpted from the WWN in length as an excellent example of the current spin control, mind control and manipulation toward the WCG insiders.]

Doing God's bidding

Joseph Tkach, Jr.

"God has given me his love for all of you. You are my family. I pray that he give you that same love for each other and for me."

"God is pleased when his people respond in obedience and faith. That's what the Worldwide Church of God has done, in doing something unprecedented in all of church history. And you're a part of that. Every one of you is a part of that, and it is to God's glory."

"Through what God has done here, he is moving other churches to take the word of God more seriously. To submit themselves to his will. To reexamine how they are doing."

"I have heard from hundreds of pastors and denominational leaders across the country and internationally who say what the WCG has done has been encouraging to Christians everywhere. It has given them hope."

"We are honored that God used us in this way. God has touched the hearts of pastors to say that their churches need to grow that way too."

"God is active here, brethren. What an inspiration to know that he has used us in such a way, because we are so unworthy of it. What a blessing to know that he loves us so much."

"On Jesus' behalf I thank all of you for what you've been doing. For following God's lead in the church. I thank you for staying, for praying, for donating. For giving your treasures."

"God has acted on our behalf with glory and power. But now how are we going to respond to his love? Partially or totally?"

"God has used us in a way that is good for all of Christianity. That's wonderful, but now what are we going to do? Will we allow God to continue to use us in a profound spiritual way?

"We just had a national election where US citizens voted for a president, voted for congress and voted for certain issues."

"I ask you to vote today for the kingdom of God. I ask you to vote with your mind to determine for yourself that God wants you to preach the gospel. I urge you to commit yourself to God with your new hearts like you never have before. Let's commit to working together. Let's stop worrying about our individual disagreements and views about how we think the church should be run and let's commit to work together."

"I ask you to vote with your hands and feet. We don't want people to just pay and pray. We want people to pray and pay, yes, but we want them to participate as well. We all need each other to promote and advance the kingdom of God."

"I ask you to vote with your checkbook. You are a steward of your time, your talent, your treasure, your energy and your health. If your heart is in doing God's work then you will manage your treasures to properly support these goals for the next year."

"Until we sell the Pasadena property I ask every member who is able to commit to giving $10.00 more a paycheck to the church. I know everyone can't do that, but I ask you to commit to what you can give beyond what you normally give."

"If you can't do that, don't feel guilty. You don't have to write me. Dozens of people on fixed-incomes write to me and tell me they feel so guilty, they want to do more. But I am impressed with those widows who do make sacrifices and give. We're going to see them in the kingdom of God when it comes in its fullness and they will be the brighter lights and surprise us all."

Ambassador University Closes:

Tkach: "In recent years, we have all begun to see that a church-owned and operated university is not absolutely necessary for the church to be used by God. As an accredited university, Ambassador was not church-owned and operated, though it did rely on the church for the major part of its funding, and the majority of its students were and are church members or children of church members."

"…I can certainly say that I believe God directs our paths and knows our situation and our needs. I know he is with us, and that when he closes one door, he opens another."

"We will be investigating ways of partnering with other accredited Christian institutions to create a place where WCG young people can come together who want to get a Christian education while being mentored by WCG professors and ministers." *(note below: AU combines with Azusa)*

"This would provide an opportunity for our young people to share their university experience with other WCG youths and be prepared for Christian service in our church without the church having to bear the cost of operating its own university. I would appreciate your prayers that God will open whatever door is according to his will."

Russell Duke:

"Several alumni have asked me why this decision was made so abruptly, sending such a shock wave through the church, especially since it comes on the heels of my letter in Dec. 17 Worldwide News, which held out hope for the independence of Ambassador. Let me rehearse the major difficulties of the past two years, and then address what has happened since my last letter was written."

"As church members know, the defections from our church have greatly impacted the income to the church, limiting its ability to sustain financial support for auxiliary functions."

"Ambassador Foundation had to be closed in 1995, then Imperial Schools in 1996. Many employees in Pasadena had to be terminated in significant downsizing measures."

"Subsidy to Ambassador began to diminish in significant proportion in 1994, falling from $8 million cash support in 1994-95 to $5 million cash support in the 1995-96 academic year."

"Continued decreases in income to the church led the church board to eventually discontinue our cash subsidy for the 1996-97 academic year."

While the publicity surrounding the "sudden" decision to close the Ambassador University (AU) focused on losses due to doctrinal changes, other factors point to the closing as another well-planned event in **liquidating** the conglomerate under false pretenses. Notice how Duke points out that the Pasadena subsidy began to diminish significantly in 1994. This was one year prior to the Tkach "New Covenant" sermon which culminated with the expedient development of the United Church of God under David Hulme. Refer to past OIUs for the many downsizing accounts that occurred prior to insiders' knowledge of any "doctrinal changes." In the case of AU, the following must be noted:

- The Tkach regime pushed for accreditation and made the required changes in effort to pass accreditation.
- Shortly after receiving an accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges, all former Ambassador College graduates were eligible to replace their "lost diplomas" by sending a payment of $25.00 to the WCG at which time all would receive a replacement diploma stating that Ambassador was an accredited institution.
- Deceptive as that is, many benefited from the lie.
- One of the accreditation stipulations was that the college could not be subsidized or owned by the church. The WCG was on a subsidies cutting program due to accreditation requirements.
- The deceptive "transformation" PR agenda to the evangelical cult ministries was implemented as early as 1987. Certainly the architects knew the AU would be affected after the new evangelical marketing plan was in effect.
- Following the 1995 formation of the United Church of God, and departure of 400 ministers and 17,000 members to follow David Hulme, Tkach leaders created division within the student body by threatening to remove any student who did not adhere to "the new teachings." If the future and welfare of the AU were important in any degree, sabotaging the student body with confusion and duress would not have occurred. The AU lost many UCG students due to the abusive management.
- Little, if any, recruiting measures for enrollment increase were pursued by Russell Duke during his appointment.
- While the AU received government grants to build a "men's dormitory," the corporation derived additional income from cutting, logging, and selling the vast acreage of pine trees on the Big Sandy grounds. They never told the members they were destroying the beautiful age-old pines, nor have they reported the substantial income from such a profitable sale.
- AU did not have an endowment, nor did it receive needed donations from Alumni. The WCG leaders knew a college future would not be self-sustaining without adequate tuition revenue.
- The closing of AU was no surprise to WCG's wealth benefactors. Neither was the fact that AU was going to lose its accreditation by 1997 due to a failure in complying with accreditation criteria. As Duke states: "Either the church had to reduce or eliminate Ambassador's financial shortfall and at the same time change the composition of Ambassador's board (to have a majority of non-WCG members), or it had to grant much of the Big Sandy property fully to the university to allow its freedom to realign the board and move to a broader constituency in the student body. The latter move was viewed as one that would severely undermine the assets of the church, so the church chose to review its commitment to education through the university structure." [the Articles of Incorporation state Joseph Tkach as the sole asset holder]
- The AU stopped advertising in the *YOUTH* `96 magazine (while the magazine was still a WCG entity). While the *YOUTH* magazine advertised other schools, we found no advertising in any form for AU throughout 1996.

There is so much more detail describing the events pertaining to the AU during the past ten years; it's a report

in itself. The ESN has tracked the many events with lawsuits, campus controversies, key figures and repercussions following the WCG marketing strategy. The story behind Ambassador Farms, the agricultural department, the fertilizer business, Buck Hammer, and the entire history of the Big Sandy development is another part to the massive web of the Worldwide Church of God. The closing of AU was just another moneymaking deception heaped onto the unsuspecting supporters. And for our Canadian readers, the request for donations for a hockey field was another deception. According to an inside employee at that time, there were no plans for a hockey project. Could it be the deceivers know Canadians love their hockey and would support any measure attached to the word?

[UPDATE: Buck Hammer, son of Roy Hammer, died of a heart attack at age 81 on November 15, 2003. He was an elder in the Radio Church of God/WCG and later in United Church of God. Two of his sisters were Shirley Armstrong (Garner Ted Armstrong's wife) and Molly Antion (wife of David Antion). Roy Hammer was one of HWA's largest financial contributors in the 1950's and donated the original acres that became the Big Sandy Ambassador College Campus. Also read: Herbert Armstrong and His Communist Friends (March 5, 2006 letter to ESN which mentions Armand Hammer.)]

{Note: Roy Hammer died in 1962 at age 64. More info about the Hammers can be found in Armstrongism: Religion or Rip-Off by Marion J. McNair.]

[UPDATE on Ambassador College Big Sandy campus: In March 2000 WCG sold the AC Big Sandy campus to Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., who leased the campus to Bill Gothard, president of Institute in Basic Life Principles. Gothard bought all the property in the buildings. (*Calvary Contender*, May 15, 2000) UPDATE: Bill Gothard resigned from his organization in 2014 after allegations of rampant sexual harassment.

Ambassador University joins Azusa Pacific:

Within a few weeks of the closing announcement, new plans for an Ambassador Center in conjunction with Azusa College were announced. [Note: Restored Church of God now has a college named Ambassador Center.]

[UPDATE on Russell Duke and Azusa Pacific University:

An informant who phoned Azusa Pacific in 2005 related the following to ESN:

"Dr. Russell Duke (member of WCG and former Ambassador University President) works full time at Azusa in their Theology department. He is responsible for putting together training courses for WCG ministers. He also gave the idea that they like their ministers to receive additional training in WCG doctrines.

"I found it interesting this guy is the head honcho in training ministers at this college that I've never heard of AND also belongs to the WCG." (email with ESN)

WCG said Russell Duke was moved from Azusa Pacific University to full-time work in Ambassador College of Christian Ministry. (May-June 2006 Together) The website of Azusa Pacific University currently lists Russell Duke as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the Haggard Graduate School of Theology (HGST is connected with APU).]

Timeline continued:

Churches combine for service in Huntsville:

"Alabama-The Huntsville congregation of the Worldwide Church of God was host for combined worship services with the Church of God (Seventh Day) Dec. 28."

"Five hundred people from 13 church areas attended the service, which took place at the Space Center Marriott Hotel in Huntsville. Guest speakers were Calvin Burrell, president of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) in Denver, Colorado and Joseph Tkach, pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God.

"Mr. Burrell expounded on the doctrinal, social and moral test of Christianity described in 1st John, and Mr. Tkach told the story of a father who chose to sacrifice the life of his son in order to save the lives of many

other people."

[Comment: The Church of God (Seventh Day) does not espouse "orthodox doctrine." Herbert Armstrong was removed from this denomination due to his pursuit in British-Israelism and for taking money from church accounts. The new partnerships and relationship between the WCG and COGSD, pose serious awareness of conflict of interest.]

Patterns of deception

Paid Ministers replace "LAY" ministers

Jan. 1997 Worldwide News introduced many of the planned strategies for the reorganization of the "it doesn't work anymore" WCG, to the trendy ecumenical format most ecumenical denominations are incorporating. When the WCG was highly financed, the church entity hobbled along year after year as the reclusive, polarized cult it was. While many business corporations started their downsizing process in the early 1980s, the WCG found itself way behind the times. Its church--non-profit--status had to be protected and that could have caused some delays in restructuring the WCG money tree. Nonetheless, plenty of documentation establishes early collusion of leaders to convert the Armstrong entity into an acceptable Christian religious business shell by the hands of its ecumenical allies. Earlier OIUs listed the changes the ESN expected to see within the coming months and years. As we look back on these "predictions," we find we were right on! The WCG has been re-indoctrinating members into the new "evangelism" multi-level methods. Those methods consist of the tactic, "work smarter, not harder," for the leaders, along with "**work harder with no pay**," for the members.

Lay pastors equipped in intensive sessions

" 'We hope to train you, to equip you, to work with you and to help you so that you in turn can help your congregations to preach the gospel to the whole world,' Dan Rogers, superintendent of ministers, told 31 lay pastors (not employed by the church) and wives meeting in Pasadena Dec. 26 to 31."

"**Mr. Feazell** encouraged the lay pastors to read two books, *The Spirit of the Disciplines: How God Changes and Lives*, by Dallas Willard and *Celebration of Discipline*, by **Richard J. Foster**."

[UPDATE: Dallas Willard died in 2013.]

[UPDATE: Read more about Richard J. Foster and Renovaré as a mystical movement. WCG has accepted New Ager, Richard J. Foster from Renovaré. They have quoted from him and endorsed his book *Celebration of Discipline*. See ESN article: Grace Communion International - New Age and Ecumenical Connections. For more on Dallas Willard, including his connections and endorsements, see: Dallas Willard - Promoting Contemplative Prayer and Mysticism Through Spiritual Formation.]

"Thursday afternoon, **Dan Rogers**, superintendent of ministers, spoke about The Pastor's Ministry."

"Mr. Rogers said that there are no bench-warmers in the Worldwide Church of God anymore. Everyone participates."

" 'Don't sit on the sidelines cheering, get in the game,' Mr. Rogers encouraged pastors and members."

" 'We are working toward headquarters being a support facility that takes care of the needs of the pastors, who take care of the needs of the members, who do the gospel work,' said Mr. Rogers."

" 'Headquarters equips, trains and develops the pastoral ministry,' he said. 'This does not mean that church government has changed.' He then noted the three types of church government in the New Testament: Episcopal (government by the hierarchy), Presbyterian (government by a board of elders) and congregational (government by the congregation)."

" 'We have an Episcopal government. The churches that are growing the fastest tend to be those that can make quick decisions in an ever-changing, technologically advancing world.' "

" 'The function of the leaders of the church is to serve the church. And that's how Mr. Tkach and all of us at headquarters see our roles.' "

" 'This model for church government is given in Ephesians 4:7, 11-15. When Christ ascended into heaven 'he

gave gifts to his people.' 'The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry.' "

Bernie Schnippert:

" 'Membership has declined, but members are still scattered over wide areas. What was an inefficient model (to have full-time pastors serve widely scattered members) from a financial perspective is now more inefficient. The solution is to have lay pastors.' "

"Under the media church model it took $40,000 in the United States to bring someone to become a Plain Truth subscriber and become a member of the church.' In Italy it cost $400,000, added evangelist Carn Catherwood." [*Comment: About that Florida land deal???*]

[UPDATE: Carn Catherwood retired from GCI in 2005 after 45 yrs. in WCG, but continued as a member of the council of elders.]

[UPDATE**:** Bernie Schnippert died September 12, 2014.]

Greg Albrecht, director of Church Relations:

"He related that sharing the miraculous reformation that God has worked in our fellowship has helped many pastors to find churches that will lease their buildings to us for worship."

" 'The growth that God has given PTM these past seven months has been remarkable, and members of the church have every reason to be excited and proud about this work in which we are all involved,' Mr. Albrecht said." *[The WCG, prior to its "transformation," was literally despised in many avenues. It encountered much difficulty renting space for "Sabbaths." Although many areas met in MASONIC buildings, others relied on schools and local rental facilities. Now that the architects have incorporated a new acceptable religious product to sell, the opportunities for registering in other countries, selling religious products, getting free PR, etc., have opened up to the non-profit/tax free business enterprise.]*

S.Y. Tan:

"…. a world class psychologist who is director of the doctor of psychology program at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. Dr. Tan spoke about referral counseling, about when and to whom to refer counselees to professional help." [WWN, Jan. `97]

FEBRUARY 1997

WCG: THE ONE GLOBAL MISSION PENETRATES ECUMENICAL WORLD

Personal from Joseph Tkach

Local churches to benefit from evangelical associations:

"I want to share some important news with you that will directly benefit your local congregation! The Worldwide Church of God is now a partner denomination of the American Bible Society and Mission America and has been invited to join the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE)."

"The NAE, founded in 1942, is a voluntary fellowship of theologically conservative denominations, churches, organizations, institutions and individuals."

"The association is comprised of about 42,500 congregations nationwide from 47 member denominations, individual congregations from an additional 30 denominations and fellowships, and several hundred independent churches."

"The membership of the association includes more than 250 parachurch ministries and educational institutions. Through the cooperative ministry of these members, NAE directly and indirectly benefits more than a million people."

"The ministries represent a broad range of theological traditions (including those as diverse as Calvinist, Arminian, Wesleyan, Anabaptist and Charismatic), but all describe to the distinctly evangelical NAE Statement of Faith."

"The association is a nationally recognized entity by the public sector with a reputation for integrity and

effective service. The NAE demonstration of the unity of believers is Jesus Christ."

"A great scandal of Christianity is the division, the factions, the gossip, and general disobedience to Jesus' command between denominations and traditions in the Christian church. The NAE is committed to bringing Christians of all traditions together in cooperation without compromising the basic truths of their faith." [UPDATE: The NCC (National Council of Churches) and WCC (World Council of Churches) can now join the NAE (National Association of Evangelicals).] Also read: Letter to NAE and other concerned Christians.

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This WWN issue dedicates several pages describing the NAE's goals, beliefs and mission. To clearly understand why the NAE is considered destructive and apostate by many conservative and fundamental evangelicals, the reader must embark on a deeper research than the OIU can offer. Understanding the Tkach/Albrecht/WCG newly formed partnerships is imperative to understanding the thick layers of deceit within all the WCG leadership and all its extension offshoots such as: the United Church of God, David Hulme; the Global Church of God [changed to Living Church of God], Rod Meredith; and Philadelphia Church of God, Gerald Flurry. We must even consider the immense propaganda deception permeated into the *In Transition* by John Robinson [son of David Robinson, author of *Herbert Armstrong's Tangled Web*], the *Servant's News* and the *Ambassador Report*. None of these publications attempted to report the reasons behind the events, or the real issues behind the multimillion-dollar "one world religion conglomerate."

OIU FIVE offers an outline of historical development and introduction to the ecumenical web. It is not inclusive but offers an overview. The researcher must scrutinize the overlapping associations and key supporters of the WCG hypocrisy to understand that the main mission is to consolidate and unite with the global United Churches by 2000 A.D. Please expound on the references offered to further educate your awareness on this vital subject.

The historic document called, ***The Evangelicals and Catholics Together***, was signed by 20 Catholic leaders and 20 Evangelical leaders including Dr. Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ, Pat Robertson, President of CBN, J. I Packer of *Christianity Today*, Richard Land and Larry Lewis of the Southern Baptist Convention, Jesse Miranda of Assemblies of God, **Dr. John White of the National Association of Evangelicals** and President of Geneva College, Os Guinness of Trinity Forum and Dr. Mark Noll of Wheaton College.

For additional information on the NAE, contact: National Association of Evangelicals, PO Box 28, Wheaton, IL 60189, (630) 665-0500, or http://www.nae.net

The association maintains its national offices in Carol Stream, IL and an office for governmental affairs in the nation's capital.

For critical research and investigative information use the references provided below, or contact the ESN for additional references.

Tkach continues:

"NAE brings Christians from all traditions together."

"The National Association of Evangelicals is now producing a daily, 60-second radio release to encourage evangelicals with reports of ongoing revival. These concise radio spots, called Fanning the Flames, feature revival updates from Don Argue, aired on the USA Radio Network, potentially reaching 1,200 media affiliates and evangelicals across the country (from NAE leadership Alert-Nov. 15, 1996).

"Along with the church board of directors, I believe the goals, values and work of the NAE are in keeping with Jesus' teaching and commission to his church, For that reason, we are pleased and excited that the WCG has been invited to become a denominational member of the association."

"*Charisma* magazine recently carried an ad by Plain Truth Ministries. In letter to the editor, one reader complained that the magazine should not include ads for *The Plain Truth*.

"The editors responded: 'The WCG has made a dramatic shift away from heresy since the death of its founder, Herbert W. Armstrong in 1986.'"

[*Charisma* magazine, along with *New Man* (Promise Keepers publication), is published by

Stephen Strang. Strang is highly criticized in numerous Christian research documents as heretical and New Age.]

Tkach:

I am also pleased to announce that the WCG was invited to join and is now a partner denomination of Mission America. Mission America is also a coalition of local churches, denominations, ministry networks and ministries, committed to working together for the renewal of the church and the evangelization of the United States. Mission America is a member of the Evangelical Council on Financial Accountability."

"Paul Cedar is the chairperson of Mission America. Bill Bright, John Perkins and Billy Graham are honorary chairpersons."

"In addition, the WCG is now a partner denomination of the American Bible Society (ABS).

[Mission America and American Bible Society are united with Catholic denominations as well as evangelical and are fully ecumenical.]

PTM welcomed with open arms at NRB convention:

"Plain Truth Ministries was host to a breakfast at the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) annual convention Jan. 27 at the Anaheim Hilton."

"Mr. Tkach related that under his father's direction one of the duties he performed, along with Plain Truth editor Greg Albrecht and Mike Feazell, director of church Administration, was to answer questions that came into church headquarters challenging the doctrinal teaching of Mr. Armstrong."

" 'As we assumed these roles, Mr. Tkach said, 'new questions were coming in. Challenges were being made with questions that had never been posed to us before.' "

" 'We were doing our own individual study, and at first we were afraid to talk to each other about what our discoveries were.' "

" 'Eventually we began to share notes and found that we were all on the same page. With each new explanation of what was wrong with our previous teachings it was like an earthquake would occur, which resulted in three major denominational splits.' "

[Comment: This spin propaganda blatantly insults hundreds of Christians who witnessed and confronted the WCG leadership for decades. Hundreds of papers and books exposed the WCG heresies. The WCG literature of the past serves as proof text that the above statement is false. On one recorded meeting with ministers, Tkach, Jr. claims his father was inspired with all the changes and requested that he (Tkach, Jr.) and Feazell research the "inspirations."]

OIU Volume Six - Pt. 6 of 7

OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

COMING SOON IN THE PLAIN TRUTH

"Mar-Apr cover story: In an exclusive interview with evangelist Billy Graham, *The Plain Truth* shares insights on Dr. Graham's family, his ministry and his dedication to proclaiming the gospel to all corners of the world."

[UPDATE: Billy Graham died February 21, 2018 at age 99.]

"Off the Air With the Bible Answer Man: Hank Hanegraaff's 'Bible Answer Man' broadcast is heard daily around the world. He explores the importance of apologetics (defense of Christianity) in a Christian's life." [WWN Feb. 18]

What you do to the least of these, you do to Christ:

Mike Feazell

"Some of us in the WCG have for so long been content and even thrilled to be part of a work that sent out magazines 'into all the world' and broadcast television and radio programs 'into all the world,' yet never called on ourselves as the people of God to go personally 'into all the world' to minister the grace of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

"As you know, our church is struggling for identity, for our niche in the 'Christian marketplace.' Many of our members are looking for what this church can give them, what the return is 'on their investment.' "

"Just like any good `90s consumer, we want to put our time and energy and money where they will get us the most return. Is it possible that is not the right goals?"

"Pastor General Tkach has focused on our new identity in Christ. This new identity isn't like other identities, because with Christ, it's all or nothing."

"What will Christ ultimately do with our church? What trails will he use us to blaze? What blazes of the Spirit will he use our little sparks to ignite?"

"One thing is for sure. Whatever his plan for us, he wants all of us. He wants all of all of us. All of you. All of me. All of all of us. Nothing less will do."

"It means there are sacrifices ahead I haven't thought of yet. It means I have to die to self so I can live for him. I'm not sure I'm ready for that. I'm not sure I even know what that really means yet."

"Mr. Tkach has developed a habit of measuring the potential of the worldwide church by the number of active small groups. That's because he knows that when God's people pray, mighty things happen. And when God's people don't pray, things take their natural downward spiral."

[UPDATE: In April 2009 the WCG changed their name in the United States to Grace Communion International. (Some local church areas and countries may still carry the former name or a different one.)]

Glendora celebrates Martin Luther King Jr.

"Glendora, California-the Jan. 18 worship service here commemorated the birthday of the late civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, Jr. Visitors from the community and other congregations swelled Glendora's usual attendance from 160 to 262." [UPDATE: In November 2004 the Worldwide Church of God moved its headquarters from Pasadena to Glendora, California. (*Pasadena Star-News*, October 25, 2004) By May 2006 all their offices were moved to Glendora. (*Together*, May-June 2006). In April 2018, GCI relocated its headquarters to Charlotte, North Carolina. Joseph Tkach, Jr. will retire at the end of 2018 and Greg Williams will replace him as GCI's President. (*GCI Update*, March 14, 2018)]

"In a sermon entitled Perspectives on Racial Healing, Herman Hoeh said: 'We need to understand the behavior and cultural differences of others. We need to try to do whatever we can to reach out to other groups.' "

[WWN Feb. 18] [UPDATE: Herman Hoeh died 11-21-04]

[Comment: Neil Earle, International Editor of The Plain Truth, also Pastors this local congregation. Services have been held at the Glendora Masonic Temple for the past 25 years.]

Acquire the Fire: every teen should attend:

"Longview Texas-Ten young people and two adults from the Longview and Lufkin churches attended an Acquire the Fire (ATF) teen convention in Dallas, Texas, Jan. 10 and 11."

"The building was filled beyond capacity with more than 3,500 teens eager to learn more about their Father, their Savior and their Comforter and to commit to recommit their lives to following God."

"The convention included alter calls, where the teens were encouraged to acknowledge their need for Jesus and affirm a commitment to following his way of life."

"Ron Luce, president of Teen Mania Ministries, the organization that presents the conventions, explained the purpose of ATF teen conventions: 'God is doing something profound in the lives of young people in our generation.' "

"The teens were challenged to become world changers, and they were motivated to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others."

"Cheri Ray, who was leery about attending, called it a life-changing experience. Others said they would never look at things in life the way they had before." [WWN Feb. 18]

Give me the heart of a world changer:

"Long Beach, CA-Twenty-one teens from the Pasadena churches locked arms with more than 3,000 other youths at an **Acquire the Fire** teen convention at the Long Beach Convention Center."

"Energy filled the air as young believers joined in spirit-filled worship. These teens, from many churches, poured their hearts out in praise toward the Savior."

"Hundreds, including most in our group, made life-changing commitments, taking up the Acquire the Fire challenge to be world changers."

"Our group experienced a reconciliation, bonding and renewal that can only be explained as the powerful working of the Holy Spirit."

"Relationships skits, live upbeats music and videos interspersed the sessions. Words were on overhead projection screens, **which was great for interactive worship**."

[Comment: Acquire the Fire conventions target interdenominational teens for the purpose of pushing the interfaith agenda. Attendance requires ticket charges and travel expenses. The programs are highly emotional and charged by open praying, singing, bands or videos, and altar calls. This endeavor is the teen's equivalent to Promise Keepers.]

Our Children: a major part of the body of Christ:

"Children ministry is touching children's hearts with the good news of who Jesus is and what he has done for them. It's helping them to get to know their Best Friend for life."

"Children are not merely a resource for the future. They are a major part of the body of Christ now. They need to be nurtured in the gospel as do teens and adults, and, given age-appropriate opportunity for spreading the good news to others." [WWN Feb. 97]

[Comment: Who was it that said, "Give me a child before the age of five, and he will be a Catholic for the rest of his life." Was it the Pope?]

Church officials on Christian talk show:

"Rancho Santa Margarita, CA-Pastor General Joseph Tkach and Greg Albrecht, Plain Truth editor, were interviewed on Hank Hanegraaff's 'Bible Answer Man' Christian talk radio Feb. 7."

[Comment: Despite Hank Hanegraaff's grave financial difficulties due to the many allegations surrounding corruptive behavior starting in 1994, Hanegraaff has acquired a new building as CRI headquarters. Several have asked ESN about how Hanegraaff found the money to move into a new building. The ESN is puzzled about this, too, and upon visiting the location early in 1997 we found it odd that: 1. A telephone number was not listed; 2. There were no signs directing to CRI location, nor were there any visible signs on the building stating it was Christian Research Institute and 3. The building is located in an industrial type park. Our visit left many more questions surrounding Hank Hanegraaff's real purpose and agenda along with his involvement with WCG, so the ESN will continue to explore and report.]

[UPDATE: Christian Research re-located to Charlotte, North Carolina in 2005, with an affiliate (CRI Canada) in Calgary, Alberta.]

Northwest members join in fast:

"Spokane, Washington--Inland Northwest churches are participating in a 4 day fast this spring. The idea for the fast, launched by Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ, is for Christians to humble themselves in repentance and reconciliation so God can restore, refresh and empower the people of God."

"A few years ago Mr. Bright went on a 40-day fast and felt moved by God to call America to fast. He and others felt moved to ask two million people to do a 40-day fast by the turn of the century. They hope to have 100,000 participate this spring." [WWN Feb. 18]

[Comment: Bill Bright's Campus Crusade for Christ ministry is listed on the top five non-profit fund-raisers in the U.S.]

[UPDATE: Campus crusade for Christ dropped "Christ" from their title in early 2012 and officially changed the name of their U.S. Operations to "Cru."]

Promise Keepers at Ambassador--Promise Keepers conducted a **Keyman-Ambassador Wake-Up Call** at the Ambassador Auditorium Feb. 9."

[Comment: Dave Wardell, co-founder of Promise Keepers along with Luis Madrigal, a field representative for Promise Keepers attended.]

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1997 WCG Ecumenical Timeline,
To Be Continued in OIU SEVEN

Tune in to the amazing developments with WCG and the apostate Promise Keepers. Learn what is happening in Canada region. Read for yourself how Tkach/Albrecht/ Feazell/Schnippert slowly transformed the Armstrong multimillion-dollar corporate empire into the Ecumenical multimillion-dollar machine. Find out why over 400 hundred ministers and evangelists passively abandoned their "one true church" as they gave it away to the Global ecumenical associations. Discover why the WCG architects are not challenged or confronted for their transgressions. Find out the reasons behind the events.

[UPDATE: OIU #6 is the last newsletter; visit our section Expose` on Worldwide Church of God (GCI) for newer articles]

Past Present and Future:

As the Tkach/Albrecht, et al. team, gear up for another exciting year of "transformation" developments, we can only imagine what is in store. In just ten short years the WCG developers and advancers implemented a stratagem that deceived thousands, inside and outside the Christian arena.

The "little flock":

- Lost Herbert Armstrong as God's earthly representative
- Adjusted to Joseph Tkach, Sr.
- Endured approximately eight years of contradictions duplicity, distortions, and confusion over doctrinal issues

- Was subjected to abusive, destructive, authoritarian pastoring
- Was intentionally, psychologically coerced into cognitive dissonance causing emotional, psychological trauma and related illnesses such as, severe depression, and for some, suicide
- Was victim to the divide and conquer plan of church fragmentation with Global and United Church of God
- Suffered losses from family and friends due to the division
- Was quickly manipulated into New Age ecumenicalism
- Became enmeshed in spiritualistic New Age agenda

This list could be lengthened greatly by those who were part of the scene over the last ten years. Although the Tkachites have restructured the remnants of what was once called the church, about 5000 members continue to support the agenda. Ironically, Tkach, Sr. was heard stating he didn't care if the membership fell to 5000. What counts now, is how the multimillion-dollar conglomerate will participate in the one world global religion and government mission. One can only imagine who will occupy the real estate? What ecumenical message will pass through the printing machines? How will WCG's technology system be used to advance the one world kingdom? How will the ecumenical cabal use the AS/400 computer? The massive computer worth millions financially, tracks every minute detail with membership, business, church activities, etc. What about the millions of names accumulated on the mainframe from every *Plain Truth* recipient and past member? Who is receiving the profit from selling the mailing list to religious hawkers? So many questions as we watch the transformers ride the beast!!

Business -- NOT-- as usual

WCG's **way of doing business** has been under grave renovation over the past few years. Interestingly, the publicity propaganda doesn't announce the behavior modifications incorporated into the Tkach/Albrecht cabal. The propagandists cleverly keep the focus on "legalism" or, "pork" freedom. In effort to bring our readers up to date (and not have to wait until OIU SEVEN), we provide this "behavioral transition" summary as a useful tool toward understanding the reasons behind the events.

From: Total submission to ministers and WCG leaders
To: Personal relationship with God

From: Whites sit on the right; "Negroes" sit on the left
To: Inter-racial marriages

From: Can NOT marry outside of the church
To: Marrying outside of the church

From: Plagiarized monotone hymns
To: Rock music and gospel revival

From: God, and God alone, does all the calling
To: Personal evangelism

From: No advertising, and high-level secrecy
To: Open Houses

From: God imparts knowledge and discernment
To: Feast of Tabernacles training seminars

From: Large congregations
To: Small groups (cells)

From: Private prayer
To: Speaking in tongues and prayer groups

From: Don't judge your neighbor
To: Discipleship

From: Unemotional/intellectual

To: Total emotionalism, and "slain in the spirit"

From: Conservative and reserved
To: Hand waving - feet stomping

From: Anti-Catholic
To: PRO -Catholic

From: Psychology is evil
To: Psychology is good

From: The gospel of the soon coming Kingdom of God
To: The gospel of enhancing the Kingdom of God

From: Everything is FREE, "you'll never be charged"
To: Nothing is FREE, everything has a price tag!

From: Paid ministers
To: Lay ministers

From: Come out of the world
To: Go INTO the world

From: Don't make promises
To: Promise Keepers -Stand In The Gap

From: Icons
To: Wearing crosses

From: Sabbath services
To: Worship services

From: Prophecy
To: Spiritual Weirdo

From: The LION and LAMB logo
To: A Cross, a triangle and other Masonic symbols

Let's stop right here, as the list can go on for pages. The point being, while the Tkach propaganda is selling "orthodox Christianity" to the ecumenicals, the real WCG centers around behavioral changes necessary to convert residual members into the new religious party plan method of recruiting. You know, you tell a friend, and they'll tell a friend, and they'll tell another friend, and on and on. While **true Christians rejoice in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ**, impostors combine methods of evangelism, pieces of the Bible, crowd manipulation, subliminal techniques, mind-control, the occult, and a host of other methods to recruit workers into servicing the goal of the institution. True, much of the behavioral flip-flop appears positive, but the reasons for the WCG overhaul point toward enhancing and protecting the decades old, TAX-FREE multimillion-dollar empire that masks as a church as it upholds its power based cabal. Little do the vulnerable supporters realize they are being conditioned into another web of deception for profit and a self-serving, collectivist agenda. They are putting on the whole armor of a "god" as they embrace the 21st Century, one world religion and government. There is nothing unifying about it!!! It is slavery!!!

A word about PROMISE KEEPERS

The next OIU will feature this subject as it significantly relates to the latest WCG developments. Readers should avail themselves to the list of references from OIU FIVE. **Promise Keepers is a dangerous movement**, as many are learning, but few realize its interconnections and roots in Pasadena. It is a story to behold, and we shall tell it! Each 1997 issue of the WWN glorifies the works of Promise Keepers. WCG ministers have been ushered to the football stadium extravaganzas, and now members are attending combined meetings with Promise Keepers cell groups. Joe Tkach, with a flock of WCG men, proudly Stood In The Gap under the biggest phallic symbol in America, the Washington obelisk, as they waved their $12.95 caps for the Promise Keepers mission. WCG members are now attending Promise Keepers training sessions and

much of the WCG behavior mimics the Promise Keepers "way of life." Where is all this going? Considering the fact that Promise Keepers also trains military men, the destiny looks ghastly.

Where did Promise Keeper's come from and how did it grow so fast? What are the reasons behind this movement? How is the Worldwide Church of God involved, and why have hundreds of (Armstrong supporting) ministers remained silent about the Tkach/Albrecht activities? Could it be UCG, GCG, PCG, actually support the "one world religion/government mission"? And what about Samuele Bacchiocchi? Does his silence indicate approval of the Catholics and Protestants unity? Why are WCG and Seventh-day Adventists holding planned meetings? All this and more will be explored in future updates.

[UPDATE: Read Research article on Promise Keepers]

Shining the light of day on the dark doers

Is the Ecumenical brigade attracted to Tkach??? Or does it have its eye on the prize?

Pasadena history is rich in religious history and "historic events." Adopted on April 22, 1875, as Chippewa (Indian language for "**Crown of the Valley**,") this once considered west coast haven attracted millionaires from around the country as an unspoiled retirement refuge. As Pasadena grew with prestige, so did the eclectic and occultic atmosphere. A little research divulges activities and associations of occultists: John Whitened Parsons, one of America's foremost explosive experts; L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology; Alister Crowley, father of Black Magick; Anton LeVey, founder of the Church of Satan; and David J. DuPlessis, "father of American Pentecostalism," just to name a few significant Pasadena influences.

As we continue to explore the **reasons behind the WCG events**, we must consider the many historical attachments to the founding and evolution of the Worldwide Church of God. Members were often imbued with the understanding that, "God placed his headquarters in Pasadena, California." But as the ESN unravels the rat's nest of ecumenical associations, we find there may be other reasons leading to Herbert Armstrong's acquisition of the famed Orange Grove real estate.

As you shall soon see, the current WCG *transition* aligns with the **New Age Revival, United Religion Mission**, which is being brought about through the art of Pentecostalism and interfaith movements. Before we address how this relates to Pasadena, we must quickly review some important "historic" events that occurred near the "*Green Street*" location and home of WCG since 1947.

Author Linda Blood describes related events in her book, *The New Satanists*, 1994:

"The most infamous black magician of the twentieth century was Aleister Crowley. Crowley was born in England in 1875, the son of devout members of the Plymouth Brethren, a puritanical Christian sect. Crowley's obsession with occultism was focused on sex. His many books include works of pornography and sadomasochism as well as voluminous writings on occultism. In 1908 Crowley joined the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, the most influential of several British occultist societies that flourished at the time. Its membership included W.B. Yeats, Dracula author Brain Stoker, and several other prominent literary figures. The Golden Dawn emphasized the psychological element of magic, the occult power in imagination, and the concentration of willpower that would enable the magician to achieve the supreme power of an Ipsissimus, the highest level of the order's system of degrees."

"In 1907, Crowley formed his own occultist Order of the Silver Star, but it was as the head of the British branch of the Ordo Templi Orientis (O.T.O.), a German esoteric order, that he had the most influence. The O.T.O.'s secret teachings_ involved the practice of sexual magic, in which Crowley indulged with prostitutes, children, animals, and male associates as well as with numerous wives and mistresses--some of whom he designated his Scarlet Women. In 1916, he assumed the grade of Magus (a high-level title in occultism) during a ceremony in which he ... declared his triumph over Jesus Christ."

"After World War I, Crowley established the abbey of Thelema--'will' in Greek-in a Sicilian villa, where he indulged in two of his favorite pastimes: no-holds-barred ritual sex magic, and drug abuse. There were rumors of child sacrifice at the abbey, and when an adult follower died on the premises the scandal resulted in Crowley and his followers being expelled from Italy in 1923. Crowley "died alone and impoverished in England in 1947, having tried unsuccessfully to cure himself of an addiction to heroin."

So what does all this have to do with Pasadena, you ask?

"By this time, Crowley's followers had established a beachhead in the United States. One such devotee was Dr. John (Jack) Whiteside Parsons, a brilliant physical chemist and founder of the California Institute of Technology, who became head of the Agape Lodge of the O.T.O., based in Pasadena."

"In 1945, Parsons was joined by Lafayette Ronald Hubbard, who would later go on to found the church of Scientology. Parsons was impressed by Hubbard's understanding and appreciation of magic. He and Hubbard embarked on a series of sex-magic rituals aimed at procuring a `familiar spirit,' that is, a woman willing to participate in future sex-magic rituals with Parsons in order to persuade a demonic spirit to incarnate itself in a child whom Parsons was to father. Hubbard acted as onlooker and scribe-known in occult circles as the Babalon Working [sic]-had been a great success."

"Hubbard and Parsons had a falling-out, and Hubbard subsequently claimed that Parsons had infiltrated the O.T.O as an agent of Naval Intelligence."

"In an article in the June 1983 issue of Penthouse magazine, Hubbard's estranged son, Ron DeWolf, insisted that his father had been secretly immersed in black magic going back to his teenage years, when he first read Crowley's ***Book of the Law***. According to his son, Hubbard was one of many black magicians who claimed to have inherited Crowley's mantle: *'He was very interested in ... the creation of what some people call Moon Child. It was basically an attempt to create an immaculate conception, except by Satan rather than by God... getting a satanic or demonic spirit to inhabit the body of a fetus. This would come about as a result of black magic rituals, which included the use of hypnosis, drugs, and other dangerous and destructive practices.' "*

"In 1964, Robert and Mary Anne DeGrimston, two former members of the Church of Scientology formed a group in England called Compulsions Analysis. Out of that grew the Process Church. This fledging group attracted wealthy young people, many of whom had connections in business, entertainment, government, and finance."

"The group produced slick, glossy magazines filled with images of death, Nazi symbolism and exhortations by Satanist members to 'release the fiend that lies dormant within you' to rape, kill, and destroy. The Process was officially disbanded by 1974, but offshoot cults are said to operate underground."

"The year 1966 marked the formation of Anton LaVey's Church of Satan, the organization that would officially orchestrate the public coming-out of Satanism, from which most of today's active 'religious' satanic groups are directly descended."

[The historic account of Anton LaVey's influence in society is worth the effort for those intending to discern the current transition to New Age Christianity. For now, he serves as a preface to Michael Aquino, founder of the Temple of Set.]

"As Aquino tells it, he first encountered Satanism on the night in 1968 when he spotted Anton LaVey and a group of his robed followers in the lobby of a San Francisco theater where the film *Rosemary's Baby* was showing. Aquino's attraction inspired many satanic writings which impressed LaVey leading to Aquino's appointment as left-hand man and editor of the church's newsletter, *The Cloven Hoof*."

"Aquino claimed he was born in 1946, 'precisely nine months after the *Working* by Crowley's California disciples (Parson) to create a homunculus [an artificial being created by magic] per a secret instruction of Crowley's to the IX degree of his Ordo Templi Orientis.'

"Jack Parsons, the Pasadena O.T.O. leader, died in an explosion in his home laboratory in 1952. It has been reported from occult sources that Parsons, who performed the Babalon Working with L. Ron Hubbard, had been 'working on some very strange experiments (in 1946), trying to create what the old alchemist called a homunculus, a tiny artificial man with magic powers.' "

Did Parsons succeed with the birth of Michael Aquino? Aquino seems to think so! Jack Parsons resided at 1003 South Orange Grove Avenue. The large house became headquarters for his black magic group, which practiced deviant sexual rites. A portion of the house was converted into a temple for the O.T.O. lodge.

No wonder Nikita Khrushchev declared "History is dangerous. We must redirect it."

From Living Waters… Taking a stroll down Pasadena Lane offers a romantic view of how an Indian colony laced with Quakers developed into what some call the heart of the modern day occult (things hidden). In the book, *California Yankee*, the author describes the many growth problems with Pasadena. Water development proved a major difficulty.

"To the modern thousands who have parked their cars beside the Rose Bowl in the present day dry Arroyo, few could fathom the disputes that raged between settlers in the late 1800s over flowing waters from Devil's Gate."

"From the very beginning (of Pasadena development) there had been trouble over the ownership of water rights. When colonists purchased their lands, their deeds included rights to two undeveloped springs, '**Sheep Corral**' and '**Adobe**' in the lower Arroyo, as well as a portion of the waters flowing through '**Devil's Gate**' from the high springs so vital and so troublesome in Pasadena's water history."

We find it ironic that over 130 years later, water distribution remains a major problem for the sale of the Pasadena church acreage. The whole WCG acreage has only two main pipes feeding the entire complex making subdivision unlikely.

One does wonder then if the old Devil's Gate still controls the 'Sheep Corral.'

Satanic graffiti:

Author of *Cults That Kill*, Larry Kahaner, quotes Detective Pat Metoyer:

"By the Pasadena Freeway there are drainage ditches that drain into the arroyo. If you walk there you'll see satanic graffiti, evidence of red candle wax, white and black, and some sort of sacrificial offering evidence, the bones of some small animal of some kind. They may go out and buy a small white rat for all I know. They're probably involved in some kind of satanic offerings. If I wanted to truly honor the devil, where do you think I would go? I'd go some place that was slimy, that stinks like hell; that was secretive. Where better could I go than some drainage ditch?"

Pasadena-an origin for many bizarre movements-- a few examples…

Pasadena was home to many architects of the British-Israelism system. **J.H. Allen (1847-1930)**, vice patron of the British-Israel World Federation and author of one of the movement's central texts, ***Judah's Sceptre and Joseph's Birthright,*** resided and evangelized in Pasadena in the early part of this century giving rise to the Identity Movement throughout the 1930s and 1940s.

Fuller Theological Seminary - one of the New Age WCG mentors, houses the extensive archive of David J. DuPlessis (1905-1987). DuPlessis, a South African British agent, was head of the imperial "cultmaster" Apostolic Faith Mission denomination, who came to America and supervised the creation of Pentecostalism. He was consultant to International Missionary Council and World Council of Churches. DuPlessis was characterized as "**Mr. Pentecostalism**" for his success in infiltrating American denominational churches with Charismatic Pentecostalism and British-Israelism. The World Council of Churches put their stamp of approval on DuPlessis, as the designated-by them-world representative of the new, "improved" Pentecostalism. (refer to article: *"Who is wagging your neighbor's tongue? The militias and Pentecostalism,"* by Anton Chaikin, EIR, August 22, 1997)

[NOTE: Most of the "church growth movement" can be traced back to Fuller Seminary.] [UPDATE: Read: exposé report on Fuller Theological Seminary.]

Tkach's "good tongue-speaking friend" **Jack Hayford**, pastor of **The Church on the Way in Van Nuys, California**, got his start from Dennis Bennet, an English-born Episcopal priest, who in May of 1960, told his parishioners that he had begun speaking in tongues after baptism in the Holy Spirit. Pasadena is home of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship, a denomination founded by hyper-charismatic, signs and wonders "healer" John Wimber (now deceased). This now famed church is credited for starting the Holy Laughter phenomenon. Many Promise Keeper leaders are actively involved with the Vineyard Church.

Los Angeles Azusa Street Revival of 1906 was spearheaded by **Charles Fox Parham**. Parham is credited for introducing *speaking in tongues* throughout the California Pentecostal community.

[Note: Charles Parham also taught many sermons including, "Anglo-Israel--Where are the lost tribes and the

scepter of David."] [offsite article: A Little "Identity" Crisis ~ British Israelism; link is broken. **Note:** This website and article are no longer up, but we have excerpts from the article at the end of our article on BI.]

[UPDATE: Read excerpts from the booklet "Evangelicalism and the Charismatic Movement."

Pasadena - home of the Fallen Angels?

The New Age WCG is streaming full speed ahead as it prepares for the coming millennium. Few are monitoring the incredible ecumenical events. Without the knowledge of Pasadena's history and current ties to British-Israelism, hyper-Charismatic Pentecostalism, the Vineyard movement, Billy Graham's Evangelistic Association, Promise Keepers, the occult, Rosicrucianism, Knight's Templar and other Masonic secret societies (just to name a few in the brotherhood), one cannot realize the current horrific deception of "one world religion" under United Religions. This is a big, complicated story involving a major portion of the New Age Evangelicals; cult groups; fraternal orders; the Worldwide Church of God (along with its extension groups--United Church of God-AIA, Global Church of God [now known as Living Church of God], Philadelphia Church of God, etc.) and its propaganda newsprint, the former *In Transition*, the current *Journal of the Churches of God* and, yes, *Ambassador Report*.

This lengthy OIU introduces the tangled web. What may seem confusing now will continue to be clarified throughout each issue. We look forward to continuing the exposé in OIU SEVEN.

The Tkach/Albrecht PR men have publicly aligned with the one world government through the one world religion political machine. We will NOT be surprised if the Worldwide Church of God real estate empire becomes the future headquarters of a newly organized "ecumenical monstrosity." Replacing the Herman Hoehs and Gerald Waterhouses of yesteryear, will be hyper-Charismatic Pentecostals such as Joe Tkach's "good speaker of tongues friend," and Promise Keeper leader, Jack Hayford and evangelist, Luis Palau. Remember--it was the OIU that warned you.

CULT CUTS

"**Pat Boone dumps milk for metal**--It's true America, Boone-the milk-sipping, church-going, whitest of white-bread singers-is in a head banging mood these days, cruising Hollywood with Black Sabbath and Megalith blaring from the stereo of his muscle car." [*Associated Press*] *[Comment: Let's not forget his support from the Tkach/Albrecht cabal.]*

George Mather teamed up with (New Age) InterVaristy Press to launch a newly published pro-WCG book. Mather's close association with Joe Tkach, Jr. first surfaced following the death of Tkach, Sr.:

> Dear Pastor General Tkach,
>
> I just heard the news of your father's passing. The members of Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church and Children's Center wish to be among those offering sincerest sympathy at this time.
>
> One did not have to know your father personally to realize how much he will be missed and mourned in the religious community for which he did so much. His mantle has now been passed on and it is with our many prayers for your leadership and church this letter is sent. As you may already know, he will always be remembered in history as the central figure who brought your church into the truth found in Jesus Christ alone.
>
> In the love and friendship of Christ.
>
> Reverend George Mather, Pastor
>
> Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church and Children's Center

In *Transformed by Truth*, Tkach states: "George was introduced to us about the same time we were getting to know our Foursquare Gospel friends. George was so moved by what he saw happening among us that he started telling his Lutheran colleagues. Soon we received a call from Al Barry, president of the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. He wanted to meet us. We flew to St. Louis, where we met with Dr. Barry and other church

leaders. We also appeared as guest on Don Matzat's radio program, Issues, Etc., broadcast on the Jubilee Radio Network based in St. Louis." [Chap. 4. p. 56, "George Mather Extends His Hand"]

George Mather, along with co-author Larry Nichols, are currently peddling a 104-page PR/Tkach account called: "*Discovering the Plain Truth: How the Worldwide Church of God Embraced the Gospel of Grace*" The words, "Plain Truth" leap out in big white letters on black on the book cover. It says: "If you've ever doubted God's willingness to make the *impossible* things in your life *possible,* read this stunning account! For the first time in church history, the Lord has turned an entire fringe movement--the Worldwide Church of God--toward biblical Christianity. Discover how he did it, and share in the wonder of God's awesome power.
– InterVarsity."

George A. Mather also authored: ***Masonic Lodge***, 1995, distributed and catalogued at the British Library in England. Mather's bias toward freemasonry is illuminated through his writings. *Masonic Lodge* is: **"Dedicated to the loving memory of Harold T. Dodge, who was a past Massachusetts district Deputy Grand master and a 32º Consistory Order of the Eastern Star**. More important, he was a loving father and faithful husband who now rests in Christ."

A member writes to ESN:

I just finished reading June 24, 1997 *Worldwide News*. I'm shocked! Tkach's "Personal" prepares us for more tongues-speaking in the WCG. He says it just "may be" an "authentic gift of the Holy Spirit," and some have even started doing it "in private." But he does admit that people can be ("like hypnotized people") "psychologically susceptible to such suggestions." (pg. 6)

Tkach, Jr. goes back and forth in his DOUBLESPEAK. First, saying things like, speaking in tongues occurs in a "pleasant" psychological state and is "liberating for those who practice this to get rid of inhibitions"; and it "encourages to put oneself in a responsive states," and it "encourages people in their walk with the Lord." Then he goes on to say (in a different vein) "tongues causes the most problems, and needs the most caution." But still "affirms" it as a legitimate gift and it is "therefore good." He tells them that they are "spiritually worthless" if they don't have love.

He says his "friend" Jack Hayford (who has spoken at Promise Keepers, by the way) says "he speaks in tongues in his prayers every day."

He says in one Pasadena church that he knows of people can speak in tongues, but only in "their own small group meeting if two or more interpreters are present." The interpreters have to write down the interpretation, and then see "if the interpretations match." (pg.14)

He mentions how he loves "our Pentecostal brothers," especially "The Four Square denomination in particular." "Pentecostal churches are the fastest-growing part of Christianity." "Pentecostal churches encourage people to express their emotions…"

In this article, one is left wondering whether Tkach is for or against tongues. First, he says it can be good for those who are "spiritually yearning," and an "enormous spiritual boost," and "has happened in the WCG," but then he turns around and says it "doesn't mean it is true," or that everyone "should have the same experience."

"He emphasizes that, "We are not slowly turning Pentecostal." In the closing, he calls Jesus not only our Redeemer, but "our Owner."

This writer concludes: *"I found this article very upsetting and even angering in parts. We should walk by faith, not by feeling."*

[QUOTES: "We do not forbid tongues speaking." "We welcome tongues-speakers into our fellowship, as long as they do not use their gift in a contentious or offensive way." (*Worldwide Church of God Articles About Speaking in Tongues, Pentecostalism, and the Word of Faith*, "Does the WCG forbid tongues in church?" July 1997.)]

WCG Financial accountability:

Not any factual evidence of financial accountability on behalf of Tkach/Albrecht/Schnippert/Feazell has been

made public other than hearsay. The Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability (ECFA) was founded in 1979. It is comprised of over 850 charitable, religious, missionary, social and educational tax-exempt nonprofit [501c(3)] organizations. The Worldwide Church of God is not (as of Dec. 1997) one of them. More on this hot topic very soon. For further information contact:

ECFA, P.O. Box 17456, Washington, DC 20041-0456. Tel. (703) 713-1414, email: ecfa@aol.com. Or, visit their web at http://www.efca.org/

[UPDATE: It has been alleged that **The Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability (ECFA)** purports to work on behalf of the donor but in reality exists for the spenders. Read: To Whom Is ECFA Accountable?]

National Charities Information: 800-501-6242.[UPDATE: This is now known as National Charities Information Bureau.]

Where is all the money going?

Over the past few years, Victor Kubic from UCG and WCG has been involved in collecting donations for many Third World countries. Much caution is advised from the California Attorney General to get the facts before giving money to any non-profit fund-raising endeavor under the heading: "needy causes."

"For the past seven years, the Montreal area French churches have been involved in marketing vanilla, produced in Haiti, where we have a small active congregation. Profits from sales have been ploughed back into Haiti, where Worldwide Church of God members have started a training program to help Haitians acquire skill in masonry, welding and electronics, leading to job opportunities in that severely depressed country."

"In Victoria, about 40 individuals are participating in Plan International, which provides assistance to villages and communities in Third World countries. Our members make financial donations every month and correspond with villagers in Third World countries three of four times a year." [Spring 1996 National Update-Canada]

Real Estate Purchases:

The Winnipeg congregation secured a mortgage and took possession of their own church building. This is the second building purchase following North Battleford, SK congregation which purchased their building in early 1995.

Gary Moore, Alberta Regional Pastor, reports the purchase of an 80-acre parcel of land for a provincial camp. He says, "We will focus on the needs of our youth, but hope the camp will eventually serve all WCG youth--and hopefully even those outside our fellowship. We hope to gradually develop our land purchase into a multi-use regional camp. We also hope for at least one local church building in Alberta this year. I would also like to help develop specific plans for the camp, and see to it that any attractive proposals for building purchases are presented to Vancouver for decision." [Comment: The exact location of the 80-acre parcel is not mentioned. Several Canadians have voiced concern over what they consider to be, suspicious purchases at a time when finances are supposedly at an all time low.]

Commercial real estate transactions over $35,000 recorded in Duval County December 1-5. #32299: Worldwide Church of God purchased property at 7216 Old Middleburg Road from Martin Davey for $170,000.

In the spring of 1996 the Canadian WCG learned the following details:

"Since the church is a charitable organization, it has a Board of Directors. The officers and members of the Board of Directors are: Joseph Tkach, pastor general and president; Frank Brown, director and vice-president; Ely Ventura, director and secretary-treasurer; Keith Stoner, director; Bert Burback director; Richard Rice, director; and Joseph Locke, director."

[UPDATE: Richard Rice died suddenly July 27, 2003 of a massive heart attack.]

Ford's Motto?

Ford Burden works in the Canadian office. He was profiled in the WCG Canadian National Update.

"His aversion to red tape can be traced back to his stint at the Italian office in Bergamo, where he worked from 1988 to 1993.

"…Ford has worked in the computer information systems (CIS) department since 1993. His first task was to help Guy Moss coordinate the yearlong transition from a mainframe system to the quicker AS/400 computer in Pasadena. Since then he has focused on making the AS/400 a valuable tool for the Canadian office staff."

"Change is as fast-paced as ever. Ford (and Mike) are constantly striving to provide effective solutions within the context of a non-profit environment. 'Our job title might not change,' said Ford, "but what we support changes quite often. New programming is constantly coming out.' "

"Ford's Motto? 'No matter who you are in the Worldwide Church of God, never forget that your job is to give people a spiritual glass of water.' " [Excerpts from Office Profile]

BETRAYED

That is the term some people used on CNN to describe how they felt about their President of the United States following the allegations of sex, lies, and audiotape. As I watch the whole scenario play itself out, this writer can't help but think of how much it relates to what thousands have gone through as their church leaders betrayed them. The public is, without doubt, in pain. Surveys indicated that many Americans were willing to ignore or dismiss President Clinton's proclivity toward sexual promiscuity. Few, however, would be willing to ignore the lies or obstruction of justice. You may have heard voices indicating that the President should be held accountable for his actions just like any other corporate head. Whatever one's political leaning, most would agree that one's life is not safe in the hands of a President who might have betrayed them with lies and deception. Why then, are so many Christians willing to submit to the abuses perpetrated by leaders of church organizations? Silence actually legitimizes the abuse. Lies are truth until they are confronted and refuted.

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OUTSIDER'S *INSIDE* UPDATE™

WCG Town Meeting

The ESN receives many letters and testimonies. Here are just a sample of some of the Email ESN receives. The OIU has many postal letters to share. Names are withheld unless specified otherwise. If you wish your letter not to be used, just note that when you write. Join us at the cracker-barrel and share your thoughts.

POSTINGS FROM THE NET:

The Worldwide Church of God is an incompetent ministry. The ministers of the Worldwide Church of God are new to the game of orthodox Christianity. Ministers in other churches do it better. Many WCG ministers don't understand the New Covenant. Since they don't know the new theology, and they can't preach the old, they preach dull, middle of the road sermons that don't teach very much. About the only people helped by their sermons are insomniacs.

The WCG leadership will not own up to the sins of the past. True, Joe Tkach, Jr. has apologized, but he has apologized to the evangelical Christian world. His apology was more for external consumption, not for the membership of the church he leads. In his book *Transformed by Truth*, he stated he cannot prove some of the stories circulating about Armstrong and his minions, and he will not bother to investigate. This answer is not good enough, especially for those who have suffered under abuses of the Armstrong ministry. Most of us will not be satisfied until the WCG leadership comes clean about the past. Even Nikita Khrushchev revealed the sins of Stalin in his Secret Speech after the Soviet Union's Twentieth Party Congress. No such confession has come from Herbert Armstrong's successors. In *Transformed by Truth*, Joe Tkach, Jr. paints a picture of Herbert as a well-meaning heretic whose heart was in the right place. Armstrong haters will view this as a whitewash. Armstrong lovers will be offended by this portrayal. In his attempt to appease everybody, Joe Tkach pleases nobody.

The WCG's half-assed approach to Christianity will appeal to very few. The WCG still observes the Old Testament holy days, and pays very little attention to traditional Christian celebrations like Christmas and Easter. Why would a Christian join a church that rejects Christian customs and traditions? The WCG is trying to sell a product that is half Christian and half Armstrongism. It's true that half a loaf is better than none. But why settle for half a loaf when you can easily have a whole one? Even worse, why settle for a loaf that is half rotten? The WCG's hybrid version of Christianity will have very little appeal to a Christian, and it will have no appeal to an Armstrongite. A church that is half Christian and half cult is still a cult.

Denial among the WCG ministry. I sat in dumbfounded amazement when a WCG minister told me that the WCG was never a cult, Herbert W. Armstrong was not a heretic, and the WCG never practiced mind control. This was in 1997, not 1987 or 1977. He was willing to admit there were abuses, but he believes the system was fundamentally sound. In one recent sermon, he said that the Worldwide Church of God has a history the members can be proud of. Perhaps I should not be so surprised. He is a minister, after all. He is a member of the abuser class. The ministers had it pretty good, so it is no wonder that they failed to notice that anything was wrong.

HERBERT DUMPTY

Herbert Dumpty sat above us all
Herbert Dumpty had a great fall

Herbert Dumpty is now dead and gone
But before he died he passed the baton Whose got it now? We haven't a clue
Could it be Joe, Dave, Rod or you?

Every Tom, Dick and Harry climbs out of the tree
Saying, "I'm God's minister, tithe to me"
They give many quotes by HWA
"Follow me if you want to obey"
All the dumb sheep have gone astray
If you're not a team player get out of the way
Some claim to be apostles, God sent
While Dave sits on top as president
They tell you they're the ministers of right
Until they're finally brought into the light
Rod says, "Submit to government, don't do the thinking"
Dave counts his money while UCG is sinking
Joe's turned Protestant, but he's paying the price
Ted's losing members because of his vice
They waited too long to leave WCG
The paycheck's important, you see
All of Herbert's horses and all of Herbert's men
Can't put Herbert back together again (by Steve K.)

Thought you'd like to hear about WCG Feast 1997. Sad news from the South. WCG disfellowshipped most of the Meridian congregation this last spring. Of course, WCG doesn't call it being disfellowshipped. The WCG word used was "disbanded" and members were told that they are not allowed to attend any WCG services -- if they show up they will be tossed out. The break came when WCG told members that in order to remain in WCG they would have to sign a document attesting belief that Tkach, Jr. and their pastor are being led by the Holy Spirit. The people could not sign it (why should they have to?) and WCG booted 'em out.

In other news, some liberals in WCG woke up during the last 5 months. Quoting one of them, "We got a fast forward look at where this is headed. . . . It was really hard to have to admit that our minister was being led by Satan. I kept trying to defend him, but then . . ." The "but then" occurred one morning after a bizarre incident in a small group wherein the minister held another church member hostage until this person would allow the minister to lay hands on him. Two days later, the individual physically (and spiritually) woke up. They took their spouse and held a big family meeting. That minister since resigned and left, but their current pastor is headed (albeit slowly) in the same direction. They are hanging in there.

At the Feast itself, services were heavy on emotionalism, not much basis in Scripture at all and even blatantly contradictory with Scripture. The people are not encouraged to read the Bible. All Scriptures used are put up on a big screen and citations are not always given or accurate, so the people (unless motivated to verify the statements) are more inclined to rely on what the minister says. The emotional tactics used grew more and more during the course of the Feast. Regarding music, no hymnals were used. All song lyrics were projected onto the screen and many of the songs were used over and over again. The musical accompaniment was reminiscent of a 60's band -- tambourines, electric guitar, with nauseatingly sanctimonious "worship leaders." A group of church youth (teens) was less than moved by the spectacle (finding it ridiculous). Some adults seemed nonplused; and others even commented that they felt the church had "gone too far." Someone was carried out of the services on a stretcher and another individual had a heart attack in the parking lot -- no announcements were made in either case.

At the bottom of the ditch is a fluffy layer of millions of dollars from the sale of assets to ease the crash for the leaders and their paid. Do you get the point? They will prove themselves righteous.

With cognitively dissonant members falling away like fall leaves, what choice will the leaders and ministers

have but to award themselves comforting pensions with the spoils?

After all, the sheep refused to hear their voice and fled to other folds. It is not the leaders fault. Who would be so cold to deny them their due? Who would want to throw these loyal employees out and force them to work for their keep? So, the demise of WCG approaches as day follows night. But, the leaders will escape the pain. They have a plan. They will use the tithes of Christians made over many decades of self-sacrifice to soothe their feeling of failure and avoid sacrifice themselves.

These same blind members thought they were called to help fund the preaching of a powerful Gospel message and provide a Bible-centered college for young people and disciples to learn God's way of life.

I screamed when AC sought the accreditation of the world. It all went downhill as soon as the blind took control.

As a realist, especially regarding the manner of incorporated organizations, history teaches that some things are more likely than others. Incorporated organizations have legal immunity from bad judgment. They all operate on the world's law of "**Show me the money**!" When the roof caves in; when there are no sheep left in the flock and the money is gone (the last often used for pensions and golden parachutes), they file, reorganize and combine with another organization.

This preserves their personal reputation of the blind leaders and gives them security. The entity and body of members, once filled with life, dies a miserable, agonizing death with nothing to show from their sacrifices except perhaps some memories and lessons learned.

Problem is that the blind, who remain loyal to the blind to the end, often remain blind and can't see what the Lord was trying to get them to see--to seek Him, not tax exemptions. There is nothing new under the sun when it comes to the heart and mind of man. The sign of Christians is their love, not their sales or membership or circulation list. Only the Holy Spirit can change the heart and mind of men. Without the H. S., we all fall off the narrow road into the ditch.

Heaven help us! God grant us mercy. Christ said to forgive them that killed him, those leaders who knew not what they did. Pray for the leaders of WCG that their eyes may be opened and the ditch of antinomianism is avoided. Just the other day I listened to a sermon on cassette tape. The sermon was given by a WCG minister in Europe about two months ago. He said that the current ecumenical movement underway in Europe, with its goal of presenting a unified church to Jesus on his supposed birthday in the year 2000, is a movement to be dominated by the anti-Christ. He also said that the identity of WCG could be preserved by not being a part of this or other similar movements, since the WCG really believes Jesus (the un-stated conclusion being that the others don't).

The WCG minister also quoted extensively from the book of Revelation. Am I missing something in the official literature of the WCG that is being passed on "low profile" to WCG ministers for sermon material? Is anyone else aware of similar sermons having been given recently? ~Germany

****

Email to ESN

I am a survivor of the WCG system and endured 34 of my 37 years in the cult and believe my experiences could greatly add to your survey.

Writing about your WWCG-get-away-site on the Internet. Some impressive file material, to be sure. ...

I remember the interview between the Jewish Mike Wallace and Stanley Rader on 60 MINUTES of 25 years ago. A great deal of evident venom and vile nature was much evident in the interview on the behalf of Rader--he could clearly see that the game was up.

I also am pleased with your analysis of Dr. Walter Martin and his phony successor at the Christian Research Institute. On the Internet with DejaNews there are a lot of "fronts" [for different organizations and cults]--you name it. Nothing is quite as transparent as it may seem.

Getting back to so-called "cult experts" such as the deceased Dr. Walter Martin, another expert is the

acclaimed author J. Gordon Melton, "Professor, Santa Barbara." You will notice that, in fact, Melton is NOT a professor at UC Santa Barbara at all. The User Group messaging shows the good professor to be fronting for Scientology. Though I am not a member, I have no opinion on that religion either.

[UPDATE: J. Gordon Melton is alleged to be a prominent New Ager. (Go to: "Constance Cumbey on EMNR Disinformation Conferences" in this offsite article.) Other sites have reported that he has received money from groups considered cults. In addition he is also listed as a professional referral on the new Cult Awareness Network site which was bankrupted by Scientology. More information on CAN can be found in this offsite report.]

I would like to request a copy of Vol. FOUR of the Outsider's *Inside* Update. Is it possible to get copies of volumes 1, 2 & 3? You are one of the few that seem to be getting the truth out about Armstrong and his cronies. I just wish that I had heard this 20+ years ago.

I was happy to see Church of God Accountability Coalition (COGAC) info on the Internet. My husband and I left the WCG in Feb 97 after 30+ years each in this destructive organization. I am glad to see there is a lot of help for wrecked lives -- emotionally, spiritually and physically. I had a lot of support from ex members, going to a therapist for several months, reading numerous books on cults and just getting educated on truths that were hidden from us. Now I am having to deal with the shockwaves that are beginning to surface. I can't even begin to tell you what it has done to my life and others I have known over the years. So many needless suicides, child abuse, broken marriages and broken lives...

I came across your website the other day and have been reading it for hours until there was nothing left unread!

I grew up in the WCG, attended AC in Pasadena (working for Ambassador International Cultural Foundation [AICF] in the Auditorium) and was a senior the year of the closing of Pasadena and consolidation to Texas. Growing up I respected the church more than anything...including my parents. However, once I got to Pasadena and was involved with Headquarters, Ambassador and the Auditorium, my respect for "God's" Church began to lessen each year I was there. I watched as hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent in auditorium/AICF events that had absolutely nothing to do with religion or spreading of a gospel. From the looks of it, the church may not have known how to manage themselves, *But they could really throw one hell of a party!!!*

Once I got to Big Sandy I was very bitter about many things I witnessed at headquarters. And the general thinking among many was that the Pasadena campus closed to get the "curious, question-asking" student away from the corruption before something was exposed. (i. e., many purchase orders having descriptions left blank which would be filled in later and copies never to be seen...to name just one of many).

Upon graduation I was over the whole thing. It was amazing to me that I grew up in total support of the WCG and was prepared to give my life (literally) for what I believed, only to graduate and have such animosity toward the church.

As Tkach, Sr. marched forward, making the church (and himself) look absolutely silly with double-talk, I decided to get out while I could. I was confused, hurt and exhausted. I literally came to a point where I could just not find the energy to continue with the continual banter I heard from the lectern each Sabbath.

I have been out of WCG (and not attended anywhere) for nearly four years now. This past year I have been dedicating much of my free time to researching the WCG and its history (biased, distorted, and sometimes created as it is). I appreciate sources such as yourself, and others that provide other sides of the story. For some reason I must prove to myself that I made the right choice. You know, it is interesting how I could have become so bitter over the WCG and have left over four years ago and still have such horrible fears entrenched within my mind about leaving the "one true church." All those "Lake of Fire" sermons . . . what "fond" memories . . . memories that just won't go away.

I am interested in your organization. I am trying to piece together exactly who you are and what you do. If

you have any information that you could pass on to me, I would greatly appreciate it. There are so few places to turn!

Thank you for your site. I am hoping to read more posts soon!

I'm a former member of the WCG in the Hamburg congregation. My reasons for leaving the "church" were lies, hypocrisy, abuse of authority, manipulations etc. of the pastor of the congregation of Hamburg and the leadership of the German-speaking area. I had to recognize that the leaders were not willing to follow Jesus Christ and practice what they themselves teach the members. I saw this couldn't be a church having the spirit of God. In this "church" the spirit of God is getting depressed. Yes, it's a cult filling new wine in old skins.

Therefore, I'm glad to learn about your organization through friends. I think many members and former members of the WCG in the German-speaking area are in need of information about the "church." It's very important. I know that you have in the Internet a Web Homepage. It would be very helpful for many people to get more information about the WCG cult.

I just wonder if it (the ESN Website) will open any more eyes of those still in WCG. I know that down here in El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico, those still in WCG have no idea as to what is going on in Pasadena and Joe Jr.'s connections with the NAE, among many other things. Some people act like nothing has changed. Keep up the good work. Make sure your webpage is safe from the WCG Gestapo.

Just read the information you posted on Billy Graham!! Yes, Ecumenicism is gaining ground. It's the gospel of WORKS!! Have you read anything about Catholics and Evangelicals together? Things are definitely moving to the "World Tomorrow."

I want to thank you for all your hard work and for the great Opus Magnum, which is the Outsiders *Inside* Update Newsletter. I have already started to "wield it as a sword" to open someone's eyes. Best Wishes from South Africa.

Thank you for this labor of love you have provided. Tomorrow 9/13/97 will be my second week not attending WCG. I had been a member since 1986. I am interested in any correspondence pertaining to the WCG deception.

Attended WCG for 20+ years. "Grew up" in WCG--parents started attending in early '70's. Left in 1994. Please send me info you have on [contacting] ex members. I would like to be able to discuss what happened to me and my family with others who understand. Thank you.

Hi guys. I'm just anxious to see the next newsletter. Don't mean to be pushy, I know you've got to live, but I'm curious as to what's happening with UCG now. Thanks for all you've put out so far and .....hurry? with the next.

I would very much like to connect to ex-members who are trying to put their lives back together. Perhaps sharing experiences would help the healing process. Nobody could possibly understand who has not come out of a cult what one goes through. Most people I know who left WWCG float in and out of the same old cult. It's just a rehash and they can't even see it. The therapist I counseled with said they just do not want to face the pain. Anyway, keep up the good work. Hope to hear from you soon.

I am a graduate student at Kansas State University in industrial psychology and an ex-WCG (teenager) and ex-CGI (adult). I am interested in helping to protect the people in the various branches from abuse by the leadership.

If you have anything on financial corruption in United [UCG], please send it to me when you get a chance (I know you have a lot going on so whenever you get a chance). Thanks for your love and concern for the people in the churches!!

Thanks again for your efforts. Two weeks ago I received a call at my place of business from CRI. I listened to Hank's pitch for money. I told the caller to tell Hank to get a real job. Do these people have a clue how offensive they are?

Congratulations ESN. Welcome to the elite group of the strong, the few, the Gladiators. You are recognized by your faith, your strong heart and your good deeds. May truth continue to light your path in the darkness, and your faith act as your shield against evil, and your strong heart continue to carry you through the perilous journey of exposing those abusive tyrants over God's people. You will at times come face to face with the wrath of Satan, but the greater wrath of God will be on your side. This Gladiator stands with you in your noble deeds. God bless you.

Thank you

How I Found the Truth of the New Covenant

by Rachael

Having been born and brought up in a typical Christian "Bible believing" denomination with the usual legalism, I was nicely set up to go into a more legalistic church that is actually a full blown cult--the Worldwide Church of God. As a sincere and devout "born-again" Christian I naturally wanted to please God in every way possible. The WCG mandated that if one does not obey all the moral law (i. e., the Ten Commandments), he is guilty of all. By living under the law, I was commanded to be obedient to the law or face the Lake of Fire. Obedience to Sabbath and Holy Day keeping was essential to be counted as one of God's children. I went deeply into bondage even to the point of going off of life saving medicine. The WCG preached against relying on doctors and medicine. I personally knew people who died because they stopped using insulin or other medicine under the mandates of ministers who were, at the time, obtaining medical help for their personal well being. I, like others, have suffered greatly because of these hypocrites. I'm thankful God allowed me to survive.

I remained a devout follower thinking I was in "God's True Church" for about eighteen years. Then in 1978, I learned of some of the awful corruption and wrong doctrine. At one of the last Holy Day services I attended I heard Garner Ted Armstrong say that the New Covenant will not be in effect until Christ returns. I knew immediately that was a false statement because it went into effect the minute Christ died. I left the WCG and attended several other churches and groups for fifteen years. Then in the wonderful providence of God I learned of a book, *Classic Christianity*, by Bob George. I read the sequel, *Growing In Grace*, and started listening to the "People to People" broadcast with Bob George. Through him, I understood the New Covenant. I now realize that the WCG and SDA's are not the only ones that do not understand the New Covenant, but the greater part of Christianity doesn't discern it. I highly recommend these two books to all who are involved in controlling, obedience commanding, legalistic churches. For those seeking love, reverence and trust in God, reading these two books will be an eye-opener. I have counseled with several from law-keeping groups who have been greatly helped by Bob George, even ex-WCG ministers. Once we see how the Bible is often twisted to make false doctrine sound like truth we begin to understand the Gospel of the New Covenant. [UPDATE: Bob George passed away on June 1, 2018. His books, Bible study guides, and teachings on MP3s and CDs, are available from Bob George Ministries]

Transformed by what?????

I have just finished reading ***Transformed by Truth*** and I'm currently documenting the distortions with the real facts. Practically every sentence in the book is twisted and there are manifold lies and omissions on every page. The worst thing beyond the lies is his obvious lack of feeling for the abuse, suffering and trauma the members and exiters have endured. Almost all of the important dates for significant happenings, i. e., when

the WCG leaders met with evangelicals are cleverly omitted, and there is also no index in the book to enable one to quickly compare statements.

In chapter 7, "What We Believed," Tkach uses the word, "doctrine" in its various forms, twenty times, yet "heretical" is only used three times. In chapter 11, "How Could We Have Believed These Things?" he uses "heretical" once and "doctrine" in its various forms, four times. Instead of using the word, "heresies," for what HWA taught, he labels these beliefs with such terms as, "unique teachings," "doctrinal distinctions," "esoteric doctrines," "unbiblical interpretations," "error," "misunderstanding," and the best one of all--"cognitive dissonance," which was used twenty-four times in chapter 11 alone! He used the word "denomination" in its various forms, seventeen times throughout the book, the word "cult" in its various forms, sixteen times, and the word "we" was used so extensively as to be beyond counting.

Tkach is so cunning that he has studied thoroughly not only the doctrines, but also the terminology, of the evangelicals today. He uses words such as, "minister to," "a blessing to me," "came to know the Lord," "my personal testimony," "godly," "lordship," etc. The WCG members don't talk like this unless they have been around other Christians for a long time; therefore, this language will be completely foreign or uncomfortable to them for quite awhile. Yet Tkach starts right off using these words like he has no problem in the world doing so. In other words, he is now one of them-or so he wants others to believe. He's also an expert at using a lot of psychology words, which should be of no surprise, since he has a degree in psychology-no doubt to use to his own advantage.

When Tkach tries to present his own--almost nostalgic view--of HWA, he fails to quote the "miracles" from HWA's autobiography. You know the ones--about HWA praying for and receiving ten cents for a vitally needed bottle of milk for his baby (p.401-402 Vol. 1), about the angel taking hold of his steering wheel and forcing him to go down the street where he talked to the "Pentecostal" crippled man (p. 336 Vol. I), and many others. This surely would show those evangelicals HWA was a "sincere Christian man," as Tkach describes HWA!!!

Lastly, Tkach tells the world that the WCG is "Trinitarian" now, but his mention of the Holy Spirit in the book approaches zero. Furthermore, when I talk with current WCG members about the Trinity, they have this blank stare on their face like they don't know what I am talking about. I'll send you the report when I complete it.

[Read the finished report: Myths in Transformed by Truth - Is the book truth or propaganda?]

An Internet opinion:

Several things about the WCG turn me off and have caused me to stop attending in exasperation. First, the ministers simply don't know what they are talking about. They did not learn Christian theology at Ambassador College; they learned Armstrongism. Since they can't preach Armstrongism any more, and they don't know anything about Christianity, they really don't preach anything at all. Attendance at my WCG congregation continues to drop, and most of those who have left tell me that they will come back only if the sermons become more interesting.

Secondly, the WCG administration is trying to play both sides of the fence. They will not address the abuses of the past because they don't want to alienate the Armstrongists. There are too many people in the WCG who still reverence his memory and have no idea what Armstrong wrongs he committed as pastor general (e.g., using the third tithe fund to purchase and operate his jet plane, permitting the use of make-up to convince his second wife to marry him, prohibiting make-up when he wanted to divorce her, taking advantage of the medical profession while at the same time forbidding the membership to see doctors, paying 106,000 British pounds for a meeting with Prince Charles and Margaret Thatcher [**Read:** "Kinky Churchman Fools Charles and His Cheque Bought Meeting With Maggie," Special Inquiry by Andrew Drummond, *News of the World, Aug. 1, 1982)*, paying half a million dollars to meet with the leaders of Communist China, paying $5 to passers-by in Manila to attend a lecture he gave in the Philippines so that pictures of a packed meeting hall could be printed in his magazines, his estrangement from his family, including allegations of an incestuous relationship with his youngest daughter, etc., etc., etc.).

All I would like to see is for the WCG leadership to be straightforward about the past. Instead, you can't get a straight answer from them. Joe Tkach can have all the friends he wants in the evangelical community, but they are not going to tithe to his organization. They have their own to worry about. Meanwhile, the neglected

membership continues to shrink, and he worries how the WCG is going pay its bills. In almost every member letter he sends out, he implies that the true Christians in his organization send in lots of money while those who hold back really don't love God. Shades of Armstrong. ~M. M.

Stay tuned with the OIU for details on:

- The latest attempts to unite the COGs--just as they planned
- WCG 1997 ecumenical timeline
- The architects behind the cover-up
- The Church of the Foursquare Gospel and Pastor Helms
- The ecumenical Charismatic Pentecostal men behind the WCG transition
- George Mather, Pasadena based Freemason apologetic and author of the latest pro-WCG propaganda book, *Discovering the Plain Truth: How the Worldwide Church of God Embraced the Gospel of Grace*
- The WCG's support and partnership with Promise Keepers
- The Promise Keeper deception
- The WCG's Masonic and political connections
- Hank Hanegraaff's support of the Roman Catholic Church
- The National Association of Churches and its push for the hyper-Charismatic Pentecostal mission
- The mission of United Religions
- WHO is behind the conspiracy?

newsflash!!!

The United Church of God, an International Association is currently faltering. With membership now at 13,000 and declining, the leadership is falling apart. January 21, 1998, David Hulme suddenly steps down from President of the UCG. The following was recently posted:

STATEMENT TO BE READ IN ALL CHURCHES

From the Council of Elders, Monrovia, CA. January 21, 1998

The Council of Elders of the United Church of God, an International Association, announced on Tuesday, Jan. 20, that David Hulme will no longer serve as President. Robert Dick, Chairman of the General Conference of Elders and the Council, assumes that responsibility until a new President is appointed.

In a meeting with the Home Office employees, Mr. Dick announced Mr. Hulme's departure, and stated, "According to the governing documents of the United Church of God, an International Association, I will serve as President, until a new President is appointed by the Council of Elders."

The OIU will explore the reasons behind these events as we continue to piece together the real story. Of course, the ESN is not surprised at these developments as earlier OIUs indicated the UCG was keenly orchestrated for purposes complementary to WCG goals. It has been our position that the UCG was splintered and functioned as a holding pattern while the mother church transformed into its new ecumenical image and re-transformed its financial empire.

Garner Ted Armstrong; reluctantly resigned from the Church of God International and formed an independent ministry as the Garner Ted Armstrong Evangelistic Association. This latest development comes on the heels of Criminal Charges filed against him by Sue Rae Robertson for sexual assault. Attorney for the Plaintiff is filing a writ before the Texas Supreme Court for another hearing, requesting that the Church of God International remain on the lawsuit. More allegations of another "affair" have induced another COG media frenzy. A plethora of sordid details are attached to this latest development that most likely have much to do with sparing the church assets from the Sue Rae Robertson lawsuit. Brace yourself for the continuing saga with Garner Ted Armstrong and **the reasons behind the event.** It was the ESN that broke the Garner Ted Armstrong and the Masseuse report!

[UPDATE: Garner Ted Armstrong died of pneumonia at age 73 on September 15, 2003. His son, Mark Armstrong, has taken his place in Intercontinental Church of God with the same HWA doctrines.]

Please bear with us

Yes, ESN is over-extended and our costs are so much higher than we ever anticipated. Producing the OIU while maintaining a support, research and investigative ministry requires help with associated expenses to keep the ESN in operation. We continue to succor those in need. We are committed because we care. We gratefully thank everyone who has been so patient with us as we continue to move through obstacles towards consistency with publications. We can only continue through donations. We do need your financial support and please, keep us on your prayer list. If you feel you can assist with computer work, editing, writing, research, etc., please email us or contact us post mail. Now, do your homework, your future depends on what you do for you.

[UPDATE: The above was written at the time the OIU Newsletters were being snail-mailed. Volume Six was the last one; visit our section Expose` on Worldwide Church of God (GCI) for newer articles]

References / Resources:

We recommend the following research pertaining to every topic discussed in this issue.

Jack Hayford--"Though I Speak in Tongues."

United Religions Initiative (Making Peace Between Religions)

Promise Keepers research:

The Promise Keepers Movement (connections; Vineyard movement, etc.)

What's Wrong With the Promise Keepers? (espousing views that are antithetical to the Bible's teachings)

Organizations outwardly connected to WCG:

Church of the Foursquare

Gospel Mission America

National Religious Broadcasters

Fuller Theological Seminary [NOTE: Most of the "church growth movement" can be traced back to Fuller Seminary.]

National Association of Evangelicals board members (you will find "Dr." Joseph Tkach listed on here)

Azusa Pacific University (APU is a member of Willow Creek Association) [UPDATE: Read: Willow Creek Hegelian Dialectic & the New World Order for more info on WCA.]

Organizations indirectly related to WCG:

World Council of Churches (WCC) General Assembly [NOTE: In 1985 the WCC changed, or questioned, some of the basic Christian beliefs about Christ while promoting a one-world religion.]

The Lutheran World Federation (Department of Ecumenical Affairs)

National Council of Churches in the USA

WCG has no membership with:

Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability

Other important webpages to research:

Discernment Ministries (see their newsletters)

Letter to NAE and other concerned Christians

To Whom Is ECFA Accountable? (The Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability) (mentions several evangelists including Billy Graham and Franklin Graham)

Consumer Fraud (Protecting yourself against scam artists)

California Attorney General Report on Charitable Solicitation ("Where Does That Money Really Go?")

Discernment & Research sites (on our Links)

Seek God (covers the Global Ecumenical Movement) [site is down]

ADDITIONAL Reading and Resources:

The following references carry research and investigative materials on freemasonry, occult, Promise Keepers, ecumenical issues, Roman Catholicism, Billy Graham, deceptive/false groups and much more.

Christian Truth and Victory Publishing
9088 Co. Rd. 11 N.W.
Alexandria, Minnesota 56308 USA
(320) 846-0835
(Extensive catalog carrying books on Christianity, history, economics, politics and secret societies, freemasonry, Billy Graham, ecumenical one world globalists, and so much more. Send $4.00 with catalog request, which will be deducted from your first order.)

Ohio Bible Fellowship Visitor
Dept. V 3865 N. High St.
Columbus, OH 43214-3797
(614) 262-2006
(OBF left the Independent Fundamental Churches of America because of the IFCA's drift into New Evangelicalism. Their magazine exposes Ecumenicalism)

BOOKS: (For documentation and reference purposes)

Promise Keepers: Another Trojan Horse by Phil Arms, 1997
(Order from: Shiloh Publishers, P.O. Box 770, Alief, TX 77411; 800 829-9673)

The Occult Roots of Nazism by Nicholos Goodrick-Clark
(The racist and nationalist fantasies of Guido Von List and Jorg LanzVon Liebenfels and their influence on Nazi Ideology)
(Order through Amazon)

The Magic of Obelisks by Peter Tompkins
(Learn the meaning behind the crystal obelisks that Herbert Armstrong gave to dignitaries on his international trips with Stanley R. Rader)
(Order through Amazon)

Without Conscience: The Disturbing World of the Psychopaths Among Us, by Dr. Robert D. Hare (Order through Amazon)

The Secret History of Alcoholism: The Story of Famous Alcoholics and Their Destructive Behavior by James Graham
(Order through Amazon)

PROPAGANDA: Its Psychology and Technique by Leonard W. Doob
(1935, out of print, check the libraries or used book stores)

In God's Name: An Investigation Into The Murder of Pope John Paul I by David A. Yallop
(Order through Amazon)

ESN BOOKLIST:

If you are just learning about spiritual abuse, mind control, cults, post-traumatic stress, and related issues to the WCG experience, check out ESN's Booklist.

Check it out:

The editor of the OIUs, was guest speaker on the World of Prophecy radio program in November for two

airings with Texe Marrs. The topic was "The Worldwide Church of God Cover-up." (Part One and Two) [Update 2014: This is not an endorsement of everything espoused by this ministry.]

The mission of the **Outsiders**' ***Inside*** **Update** is to provide the chronology of historic events and current activities, involving the Worldwide Church of God conglomeration. The OIU strives to provide vital and factual information pertaining to the **reasons behind the events**. The Exit & Support Network™, along with the OIU, is a Christian service ministry reaching out to victims and survivors of religious hypocrisy, violation and exploitation. We strongly believe all religious leaders must be held accountable for their negative behavior and undo influence on the unsuspecting. Destructive behavior must be impugned. The OIU: 1) is sympathetic toward Christians who have endured much spiritual abuse and therefore will not, at anytime, degrade personal beliefs; 2) opinions expressed in this research report are not intended to substitute for readers own personal research and investigation pertaining to matters stated. It is with hope, that those who have succumbed to WCG (splinters groups included) spiritual corruption will be freed from spiritual manipulation and psychological slavery through their own education, research and investigation. Recovery is only possible when we understand the cause of the affliction.

Romans 1 vs. 28-32:

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient: (29) Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, (30) Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, (31) Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: (32) Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." **To be continued...**

With heartfelt thanks to all ESN supporters and affiliates that made this OIU possible.

L. A. Stuhlman, Editor

Related Material:

Letter from L. A. Stuhlman, ESN Founder & Editor of OIU Newsletters, to author Janis Hutchinson (contains much exposé regarding the reasons behind the WCG changes and history on Herbert W. Armstrong)