

**“And the Gospel shall be Preached”
The Biblical Doctrine & the Pattern**

Preface

This purpose of this article, as well as all of the articles that have been written, is to restore the key doctrinal truths that were revealed by Jesus Christ to the Philadelphia Era of the Church on a specific subject. In order to accomplish this, as much pertinent information as possible is gathered, researched, studied, and is cited in each article to paint a complete picture and to provide an accurate representation of the truth that was once delivered unto the saints, on the topic being covered. This is the way that every subject on a Biblical truth should be studied:

“The third way is to study the Bible by topic. And I think some of us do it that way. And we take a particular subject, and then we'll try to find all the places in the Bible that speak on that particular subject, that's another way to do that.”

Sermon, “Study God’s Word”, Leroy Neff, 1978

“Now I just want to pause to remind you of one little point here in how to understand the Bible. You know, a lot of people think they find contradictions in the Bible because one writer will mention something that another doesn’t.

“One will mention a certain fact and another, a different fact and they say there’s a contradiction. Oh, there’s no contradiction. They don’t all tell all of the same facts and you have to add the writings of the different writers on the same subject. Add them up and then you have the correct attitude, the sum total of all of it...

“And that’s why we need to read all of the gospels to know what Jesus said. **We need to read all of the passages on any one subject, anywhere in the Bible, if you would know the truth of that part of the Bible.**”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Christ’s True Gospel”, Herbert W Armstrong

During the 20th century, a vital truth was restored by Jesus Christ to the Philadelphia era of the Church on the method and manner in which gospel is to be proclaimed to the world. This understanding has been lost to the splinters and to the scattered brethren.

The manner in which this commission was accomplished in the 20th century involved restored truth, which is doctrine. The way in which the gospel was proclaimed in the last century also involved a pattern. And when the gospel was preached in the 20th century according to the doctrinal truth and according to the pattern just mentioned, the historical evidence left behind confirms that the gospel was proclaimed to all nations and that an apostle was sent forth by God to announce this message.

The preaching of the gospel to the world is a work that an apostle, or one that has been selected to serve in this capacity, is commissioned by God to carry out. And he is also responsible for its overall supervision and

success. Any person or any group who deviates from this Biblical doctrine has deviated from a key truth that Jesus Christ restored to the Church during the Philadelphia era.

But I don't expect anyone to believe me just because I say this. You should believe the truth on this subject that is found in your Bible and you should believe the words of a faithful apostle who was selected to lead the Philadelphia era of God's Church in the greatest work that has ever been accomplished on this earth.

It is important to remember that Biblical doctrine and truth are synonymous words. They both mean any teaching that originates from the Bible. The Bible contains the teachings that come from God the Father which he passed down to Jesus Christ who in turn restored and revealed them to the Church of God. And these doctrines and truths cannot be altered or modified by man. An entire article on this subject has been written and posted for all to read.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Have you ever stopped to think about the incredible work that took place in the 20th century, the proclamation of the gospel to the world? It was an era that began with 19 members during the Great Depression, but before the work was over, there were over 150,000 people in attendance in the *Worldwide Church of God*, and it was a direct result of great work that took place during that century.

The gospel was being proclaimed by way of the *Plain Truth Magazine* which had a hardcopy distribution that surpassed 8 million. The World Tomorrow was broadcast throughout the world by radio and in the 1980's it was telecast on national television every Sunday morning in the United States. And for 2 decades, it is estimated that God's apostle met with one third of the world's heads of state and proclaimed this message to them. And hundreds were being baptized every month throughout the globe as a direct result of this message.

But what made this possible? Why was there such stunning growth in the *Worldwide Church of God*? The key to finding the answer lies in the ministerial office of the one who is commissioned by God to proclaim the gospel to the world and in the pattern that he used to accomplish this task.

Many of the groups that splintered from the *Worldwide Church of God* profess that they are proclaiming the gospel to the world. Even individuals who have a Church of God background are posting and announcing this message in their social media accounts such as Face book and chat groups. And material relating to the gospel is also being posted on YouTube and other outlets.

Key truths on this subject that were once restored to the Church by Jesus Christ have been widely overlooked and ignored by many and it is no longer being adhered to by the offshoots of the *Worldwide Church of God*, or by those who are or who were once members of these groups. Is it then a surprise that such phenomenal growth has not occurred in these groups and that the gospel has not been announced in all nations as history proved it happened during the Philadelphia ear of the Church in the 20th century?

The proclamation of the gospel is a commission that is not to be taken lightly. It is an assignment that is given by the highest authority to a select few who are first trained and who have special abilities to fulfill this mission. And this commission must be accomplished according to the Biblical truth that Jesus Christ restored to the Philadelphia era of the Church.

The truth of the Bible on this subject will soon come to light and all that is involved in fulfilling this special mission. You will hear from a faithful apostle who was known for not compromising one inch on the Biblical truths entrusted to him. And this is why God was able to use Mr. Herbert W Armstrong to fulfill the greatest work that has ever been accomplished in the history of the Church of God.

It should be noted that the truths contained in this document on this subject are part of the “original truths” that many in the *Worldwide Church of God* once understood and once adhered to. May the spirit of God help everyone to remember the “original truth” on this subject:

“Many of you have read the Bible through many times. Yet, none of you could really understand God's Word as Christ did. It was by means of the Holy Spirit and the way He constantly exercised it day in and day out that He was able to remember, recite and apply scripture!

“Notice what Christ Himself said, ‘But the Comforter which is the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, he shall teach you all things, and [shall] bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you’ (John 14:26). God's Spirit will give you the power to understand His word!

“But you need to do your part. You need to study scripture daily, concentrating deeply on it as you study. Ask yourself questions about application of what you read to daily Christian living. As you do, the Holy Spirit will begin actively to guide your thoughts as it in turn is nourished by what you read. Gradually you will realize with amazement that you do remember verses, chapters and books of God's Holy Word. That blueprint of Christian living will become an open book to you!”

Good News Magazine, “What You Need to Know About the Holy Spirit!”, Selmer L Hegvold,
June-July 1966

What is the Gospel?

The first brick that must be laid is the understanding of what the true gospel entails. The true gospel was revealed to Mr. Armstrong and then to the Church of God in the 20th century. The true gospel is the good news of the kingdom of God. This is the same gospel that Jesus Christ preached (Mark 1:14) and that He committed unto the apostles (Matthew 28:19-20) in the 1st century.

Once the true gospel was revealed to Mr. Armstrong by Jesus Christ, it was obvious that traditional christianity was not professing this message. Furthermore, Mr. Armstrong learned that a false gospel infiltrated the Church of God only a couple of decades after the Church was founded. Throughout history, men have altered the true gospel that was once bestowed unto the original apostles.

The true gospel, as it was restored to the Church of God in the 20th century, is the gospel of the kingdom of God. No other subject matter, other than the kingdom of God, is what encompasses the true gospel. The following is the gospel that was proclaimed to the world by Mr. Armstrong in the 20th century, just as it was prophesied in Matthew 24:14 and in Revelation 3:7-8:

“Well, brethren, ALL THOSE THINGS have been restored and there is a mission for this Church that never applied and has never been done by any other Church, ‘This gospel of the kingdom’ has been restored and ‘shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations’ [Matthew 24:14]. Has that been done? Has that been restored? Is that gospel going out to the world? You listen on television tomorrow...”

Sermon, “Mission of Philadelphia Era Part 1”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 17, 1983

“From the year 1931, exactly 1,900 years (a century of time cycles) from the foundation of the Church, this small remnant of **the original true Church of God began to take on new life as the Philadelphia era**. It had come to the ‘time of the end.’ A new spiritual vitality was infused into it. **The time had come for Jesus' prophecy of Matthew 24:14 to be fulfilled-‘this gospel of the kingdom shall be [proclaimed] in all the world** for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.’ **Such vital truth that had been lost was gradually revealed and proclaimed ...**

“This era of the Church was to produce fruit. **To this era-or to its human leader-God had set before it an open door**. It is recorded in II Corinthians 2:12 and also Acts 14:27 how Christ opened the door for Paul to go into other countries to preach the gospel. This Church and/or its leader had but little strength. Neither were of great and powerful stature in Satan's world but **those of this era were faithful to the Word of God**. Though much of **the original gospel truth**, imparted to the original apostles by Jesus in person, had been lost, it **was restored through the Bible to this era of God's Church who were faithful in keeping it ...**

“The human leader to be raised up somewhat shortly prior to Christ's Second Coming was to prepare the way-prepare the Church-for Christ's coming, and restore the truth that had been lost through the preceding eras of the Church. **Also a door was to be opened for this leader and/or the Philadelphia era of the Church to fulfill Matthew 24:14: ‘And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world** for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong, Page 290-291

“Church at Philadelphia: ...These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, **that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth ,and no man openeth**. I know your works: behold, I have set before thee an open door.

“NOW, if you'll trace that ‘open door’ in Paul's writings, you will see that God set an open door before him. An ‘open door’ merely means (it's a figure of speech) that God opens the way to get the gospel message out. Now He's opened to us a door to go to the Gentiles and the nations of the earth

and the kings of those nations. He didn't open that door for the Sardis Church. And no man in the Sardis Church, Thyatira or those before ever announced the gospel of the Kingdom to kings, heads of government and other top men in the governments of the Gentile nations around the world. They just never did.

“I have been doing it and **I am the one Apostle that God has chosen and with whom and through whom He built this church. The Gospel did not go to the world until this church came and started taking it to the world.** It absolutely was not preached at all.”

Pastor General's Report, “Excerpts of Mr. Herbert W Armstrong's Sabbath Sermon”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 26, 1978

“**The apostles later preached that same message of the coming world government of the Kingdom of God. This is the only gospel message acceptable to God.** ‘But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed’ (Gal. 1:8).

“Strong words those! But it does show just how important it is to God that His Church be preaching the right message. No other gospel will do! ...”

Booklet, *Where is God's Church Today?*, Ambassador College Publication, Page 34

Note: In the 20th century, the *Worldwide Church of God* produced a booklet that was written by Mr. Armstrong on the subject of the true gospel. The booklet is titled *What is the True Gospel?* and it explains what the gospel is about. One can use this booklet to compare and to confirm whether the true gospel is being proclaimed by the offshoots of the *Worldwide Church of God*.

One Must Believe the TRUE Gospel to Be Saved

In 1933, Mr. Armstrong went on air over the radio and began preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. It started as a local broadcast and later became a national and then an international broadcast. He also traveled and met with the leaders of many nations proclaiming this good news. A booklet on the subject of the gospel was also written in 1972 titled *What is the True Gospel?* And by the end of his life, Matthew 24:14 was fulfilled which states “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations.”

Therefore, any modification or addition to this truth is doctrinal error, including narratives about Jesus Christ or the way in which Christ will return. The next several statements from Mr. Armstrong express the significance of believing the one and only true gospel and the consequences of accepting a false gospel:

“Jesus then said: ‘He that BELIEVETH and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned’ (Mark 16:16). Notice! Jesus said, ‘He that BELIEVETH.’ Believeth *what?* Why, BELIEVETH that

which they PREACHED, of course - THE GOSPEL! Not *a* gospel. Not *any* gospel. THE Gospel! **On the authority of Jesus Christ, it is necessary to believe THAT PRECISE IDENTICAL GOSPEL in order to be saved!** And to BELIEVE the true Gospel, we must first come to KNOW what it is!"

Booklet, *What is the True Gospel?*, Herbert W Armstrong, 1972

"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ' you'll read in Mark 1:1. 'Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel' (Mark 1:14-15).

"It is necessary to believe that GOSPEL to be saved! And how can you *believe* it, unless you know what it is? And for 1,900 years, the world did not know. That gospel was suppressed and replaced by man's gospel about Christ."

Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong

CHAPTER TWO

“AND THE GOSPEL SHALL BE PREACHED”

The Two Great Commissions Proclaiming the Gospel and Feeding the Flock

Many organizations in this world have a mission that they believe they need to accomplish or a purpose that they understand must be fulfilled. In this regard, the Church of God is no different. Mr. Armstrong came to understand that the spiritual missions the Church had been entrusted with was **to proclaim the gospel to the world** and to **feed the flock** the spiritual food that they.

It is the first commission, proclaiming the gospel to the world that will be the focus of this chapter. It is the first building block that needs to be established. You will soon hear the apostle of the 20th century who was used as an instrument by Jesus Christ to fulfill the greatest work of God that has ever been accomplished on the face of this earth. He will expound on a number of important points related to this subject. But first, we will hear him clearly establish what the Biblical commissions of the Church are:

“The two spiritual areas, which are the real purpose and mission of the Church are, one, **proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God** for a witness to the nations of the world...

“Now the second mission of the Church is to **feed the flock**, as Jesus said, on the spiritual food of the Word of God.”

The Worldwide News, “Congress of Leading Ministers Hears Defined and Reemphasized Spiritual Organization of Church”, Herbert W Armstrong, March 6, 1981

“There are two main parts in the Work. First is **the Great Commission of preaching the Gospel** of the Kingdom for a witness to the nations of the world. And second, **the feeding of the flock**, those whom God Himself has added to the Church.

The Worldwide News, “Congress of Leading Ministers Hears Defined and Reemphasized Spiritual Organization of Church”, Herbert W Armstrong, March 6, 1981

“The Church has been called for two purposes. One is, to get the gospel to the world and God has given us that job as the training, to train each of us to develop the spiritual character, that we can finally be trained, for the position of rulership in the kingdom of God so that we can be born of Christ and be in the kingdom of God.

“We have to undergo training. We have to grow in grace and knowledge. And how do we grow in grace and knowledge? God has set the Church here to teach its members. The Church is the mother of all of the members. It is like an embryo or a fetus in the mother's womb. It has to get its physical food from

the mother. It's a physical being. It's going to be born a physical person. The mother protects it. It gets all of its physical food from the mother. The Church is an exact parallel, but the church is spiritual, and the members are in the church. **And the purpose of the Church is to feed the Church spiritual food, on the Bible.**

Bible Study, "1 Corinthians 12", Herbert W Armstrong, September 5, 1980

The Dual Purpose of the 1st Commission

The 1st commission, the proclamation of the gospel is found in Matthew 28:19-20, it states "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Christ gave this commission to his apostles and it includes **going to all nations** and announcing the good news of the kingdom of God.

Matthew 24:14 contains a prophecy that the 1st commission would be fulfilled before the end of the age, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Notice that the prophecy states that the gospel was to be **preached in all the world for a witness** before the end of the age and not as an avenue to convert this world's population. This is the first purpose of the 1st commission.

But there is a second purpose that preaching the gospel to the world fulfills. The second purpose is also found in Matthew 28:19-20. And the second purpose it serves is that it provides and **avenue by which God can call His Church** out of the world. These are the individuals that will be taught God's way of life and will be baptized into the body of Christ:

"Why did God send the gospel? Well, it was sent so that the peoples of this earth could hear a warning message about what God said was going to happen. And so that God could also use the gospel as a vehicle or a means by and through which his Church would announce that news to the world, and God would thereby call out of the world, those that God had chosen, those that God had predestined to be called at this time, so that they could develop the character, they could grow and overcome, and eventually inherit the kingdom of God, and serve as part of the very Family of God, in the kingdom of God to rule over the nations of this earth under Christ and His Second Coming."

Behind the Work 1982

"I do not conceive that the preaching of the Gospel is to go out and force people into being converted. It is not a crusade to make conversions. It is a proclaiming of the Good News.

"God calls certain ones and puts it in their hearts to respond. They come to us.

“How often have I said to our great audiences at a Feast of Tabernacles, we didn't try to talk you into becoming a member; you came to us. I have never tried to talk you into being converted. **But God does add those of whom you'll read in Acts** the second chapter. **God added to the Church daily such as were being saved.**”

The Worldwide News, “Congress of Leading Ministers Hears Defined and Reemphasized Spiritual Organization of Church”, Herbert W Armstrong, March 6, 1981

The First Purpose of the 1st Commission To Preach the Gospel to the World as a Witness

It has already been mentioned that the 1st commission given to the apostles is found in Matthew 28:19-20 and that there is a prophecy in Matthew 24:14 that this commission would be fulfilled on a worldwide scale before the end of this age. But it is important to remember that this is not a commission to convert the world, as many of those in the world tend to believe. It is only meant to announce the gospel to all nations as a witness.

Mr. Armstrong understood that the preaching of the gospel to the world by the Church of God is non-proselytizing, which means that it was not intended to convert the vast populations alive on this earth. It is only intended to notify all of the nations on this earth of the good news of the soon coming kingdom of God that will establish peace, happiness, equity and everything good on this earth:

“So I no longer write articles condemning communism, or their governments. Instead I go to them with the message of HOPE—the Kingdom of God, when God WILL open all minds, and bring them to salvation.

“Jesus DID NOT COME ON A SOUL-SAVING MISSION! The GOSPEL is GOOD NEWS, which **God has called me to proclaim.**”

“On this basis, not judging or condemning them, but bringing to the leaders of the most populous nation on earth **Christ's MESSAGE OF HOPE**, I was enthusiastically welcomed. The most universally believed lie and false doctrine with which Satan has deceived the whole world of ‘Christianity’ is that all not now “saved” are LOST. That is not true. They are neither saved nor lost—they are NOT YET JUDGED.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, December 18, 1979

“God's Message for OUR day is: “And this Gospel OF THE KINGDOM shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the END come” (Matt. 24:14). **Not to convert all people—** not to reach all people with the message— **but merely for a witness UNTO all nations**—not even within all nations.

“We are living in a time when God has CUT OFF THE WHOLE WORLD from Him, or access to Him, EXCEPT the very infinitesimal FEW God would specially call in preparation for His Kingdom.

“The world is spiritually BLINDED by Satan (II Cor. 4:4). Judgment now is ONLY upon God's Church (I Pet. 4:17). All others are to be judged later—during the millennium, or during the "Great White Throne" Judgment—when Satan shall be banished.

“God wants His Message of the KINGDOM OF GOD to go out merely as a WITNESS to a world which cannot and will not understand it NOW!

“But broadcasters in the religious field have found, as have we, after years of checking and testing, that each letter received from a listener or viewer represents 1,000 actual listeners or viewers. Only one out of a thousand who HEAR the Message write in. The MILLIONS of letters we have received from The WORLD TOMORROW program and from ads in Reader's Digest, TV Guide, and other magazines, indicate we have reached MULTIPLE MILLIONS through the years.

“Based on ACTUAL TESTS on a massive scale, I estimate we have reached, through the years, fully 80% to 85% of all people in the U.S. (and probably in Canada) of 20 years or older.

“BUT, how many heard our program, say, two years or more ago, had no interest, did not respond, did not listen again? MILLIONS! Multiple MILLIONS! They may not now even remember it. BUT WE SOWED THE SEED OF THE WORD, AND SOME OF IT FELL ON THEM!

“But by far the largest number we have reached—whose ears HEARD the Message to some extent, perhaps more than 99.9%—have HEARD the Message, and it took no root in them. **It reached them ONLY AS A WITNESS!**

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, October 26, 1979

“I'm sure you understand the Ambassador Foundation is not religious. It is neither political nor religious. It is separate. It is supported by the Church but it is not religious in itself at all. **Even the Church is not proselytizing. It is not seeking members.** And so we have nothing to gain, but perhaps we have something to give.”

Behind the Work Film 1985

“But I have said, that is a wonderful door that God has opened to us that we can reach people like that on the Wall Street Journal. On the other hand, don't for one minute think that's going to get a lot of great big important members in the Church, because that kind of people don't come in the Church. But God wants it given to them as a witness. That's all. It isn't going to change them, it isn't going to move them one iota.”

“But someday, when they come into their judgment, they're going to say, “Well Lord, we didn't know. Why didn't you tell us?” He will say, I told you. Do you remember reading those ads in the Wall Street Journal with my servant Herbert Armstrong? Well yes we have. Who was Herbert Armstrong? We didn't pay much attention to that. You had a mind to listen with and those ads made sense. They carried my message. And you didn't listen.

“Don't ask me, “Why didn't I warn you?” I did. You didn't pay any attention. **But God wants them warned. God wants them told.** And I'm going to tell them. **But it won't change their minds.** I don't expect to. I know their minds. I speak their language. I liked their language and these ads all speak their language.”

Bible Study, “Review of I Corinthians”, Herbert W Armstrong, November 21, 1980

The Second Purpose of the 1st Commission The Avenue that God Uses to God Calls His Church

So it is understood that the second purpose for preaching the gospel to the world is to provide an avenue through which God can call His Church. These are the individuals in Matthew 28:19-20 who are taught and who are baptized into the body of Christ. But these individuals also serve a very important function in the Church.

It is this membership that is called to support the apostles in their mission to preach the gospel to the world. And they do this with their tithes, offerings and prayers so that the gospel can truly be proclaimed throughout the entire globe. The gospel could not have reach a worldwide audience in the 20th century, and it cannot be proclaimed to all nations in the 21st century, without a large membership who can support the work of God:

“But now, once again, there is a dynamic, super-important SPECIAL COMMISSION — to proclaim the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM in all the world as a witness to ALL NATIONS, just before the END OF THIS AGE — and also to prepare the way for Christ's Second Coming!

“And, just as **God caused His Church in the first century to GROW RAPIDLY**, even to MULTIPLY in numbers (until the persecution set in) — **to BACK THE APOSTLES, support them financially, support them by fervent prayers — EVEN SO God caused His Church of our day to GROW at the phenomenal rate** of 30% a year, multiplying itself in numbers eight times in eight years — 64 times in 16 years, 4,096 times in 32 years — and maintain that rate of growth over a 35-year span in OUR TIME.

“WHY? — to make possible and to support this very SPECIAL DYNAMIC COMMISSION FOR OUR DAY (Matthew 24:14)!!

“And THAT, brethren, is the REASON God has called you and me TODAY — ahead of time — before He calls the other 3,600,000,000 people to salvation.

“We are called, NOW, for a VERY, VERY special commission!”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 22, 1974

“And God has set before us HIS WAY of preparing us — by GROWING in spiritual character, in grace and the knowledge of Christ, ready for our part in the Kingdom, reigning under Christ! And THAT WAY is OUR PART in fulfilling the special end-time WORK of Matthew 24:14: ‘This Gospel OF THE KINGDOM shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the END come’!”

“It would have been utterly IMPOSSIBLE for me to carry out this great commission alone. THAT is why God has called YOU now, instead of later, in the Millennium! And this great WORK OF GOD is THE WAY God has set before us for each to GROW and develop SPIRITUALLY. God's WAY — that of HIS LAW — is the way of GIVING, not getting. Those who try to simply GET their salvation are in danger of losing it!

“God's WORK is a work of GIVING — GIVING the GOSPEL of the KINGDOM OF GOD. In 40 years I have observed that ONLY those whose hearts are in this great Work are themselves growing spiritually.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 22, 1974

“The CHURCH of God will be changed into — will BECOME — the KINGDOM OF GOD. When the CHURCH becomes the Kingdom of God, where will those be that broke themselves off? That is a question for YOU to answer. God is the judge. **The Worldwide Church of God is DOING THE WORK that Christ commissioned.** It started out doing that Work. **That is THE PURPOSE for which God caused the membership, for the first time in generations — or since the first century — to MULTIPLY in numbers, so that there could be enough to grow into a WORLDWIDE Work.** The Commission is: ‘Go ye INTO ALL THE WORLD’ — ‘Go ye, and teach ALL NATIONS;’ — ‘for a witness unto ALL NATIONS.’”

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, May 2, 1974

“The Work growing WORLDWIDE was all G I V E!

“God did, as in the first century, continually ‘add to the Church such as should be saved.’ And, as the Bible commands, these members paid their first tithe (10% of income) to GOD through His Church.

“That money is GOD'S money—not public money. In addition, a small percentage of listeners to the broadcast and subscribers to the ‘no-subscription-price’ PLAIN TRUTH began—unsolicited—sending regularly tithes or freewill offerings. But these STARTED CONTRIBUTING V O L U N T A R I L Y of their own free will! It was GOD'S MONEY—not public money.

“God had built this great worldwide Work through me as His chosen Apostle. I OBEYED HIS COMMAND TO GO INTO ALL THE WORLD WITH HIS GOSPEL MESSAGE. It was HIS money that came—

without solicitation or charging—and I was accountable to HIM, not the California attorney general for the way HE directed it to be handled.”

Coworker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, July 28, 2980

Does the Gospel have to reach Every Nation & Every Individual?

By now, you have probably asked yourself, “What does it mean to proclaim the gospel to the world?” Does everyone in the world have to hear or read about the good news of the kingdom of God? Must this message be heard or read about in every single nation? The man who God used as an instrument to proclaim the gospel to the world in the 20th century, Mr. Armstrong, will answer these questions in his next few excerpts:

“Now then you come to Mark's version of the great commission and in Mark 16 and it's in verse 15 will actually beginning, oh back here about a, what is it, verse 9 or 10 and in most translations it is not even given and they say that most of the rest of it was added was not in the older manuscripts at all and probably was added by some uninspired editor later.

“However whatever it is whether it is or not inspired, in the fifteenth verse, ‘Jesus said unto them, Go ye unto all the world and preacher the gospel to every creature.’ That is to preach the gospel, and if you read it in the revised standard, in all nations. **Not to every individual on earth. You know, that that would be impossible and isn't intended, but go and teach in all nations, but it is to get it out.**

“Now for our time in Matthew 24 and verse fourteen is the prophecy of the great commission being fulfilled in our time. ‘And this gospel of the kingdom’, not some other gospel, ‘shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations.’ Not in all nations but, ‘In the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end of this age come.’

“Now it is being proclaimed and I have had a little something to do with it myself and that's one reason that Satan is so angry at this church and trying to do anything he could to destroy it because this is the only church doing that and Satan knows that very, very well.”

World Tomorrow Telecast, “God’s Church in Action”, Herbert W Armstrong

“For forty years there was no way open to us by which we might get this vital end time message to the great nations of the world China, India, Russia, Indonesia, Japan, Bangladesh (just to mention the six largest nations on earth, not including the United States). Now the doors are opening.

“For one great purpose you were called, as well as I. That is: to get Christ's Gospel of the Kingdom of God proclaimed as a witness to all nations. **The term "all nations" does not necessarily mean every little tiny nation**, including many whose names most people never heard. **But it most assuredly does include many or most of these big population nations.**

“Think what that means right now!

“For forty years in this Work the doors to these nations were closed to us. God opened the doors of radio and the printing press in the U.S. and Canada, and more recently, television in the U.S. and Canada. I walked through those doors. But we got the message into, primarily, only the United States, Canada, and Australia. We managed by those media to get the message to a portion only of Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, and the Philippines. Yet none of these nations is as large, in population, as Bangladesh, Indonesia, or Japan.

“I'll put it another way. Doors were opened for us to reach possibly, say, 300,000,000, but doors were closed to the other 3,300,000,000.

“But now, at last, God is opening the doors in several of these big population nations. Already the doors are opening in Japan, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Nepal, Iran, Ethiopia, Kenya, Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, Korea, Costa Rica, and the South American nations. I have an invitation through the Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia (who is the former Chief of Protocol in Peking) to visit Mao Tse tung and Chou En lai in Peking. The Russian Ambassador to Nepal is working on a meeting in Moscow with Mr. Leonid Brezhnev. Doors have started to open in Holland, Germany, and France for meetings with their heads of state.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 11, 1974

The Gospel Reaches the all Nations in the 20th Century

Most may not know or may not be aware that Mr. Armstrong recognized that the gospel was not truly proclaimed in every nation and that the commission in Matthew 24:14 was not completely fulfilled until he began meeting with the heads of state and the leaders of some of the larger nations in this world. This is when he recognized that the gospel had finally reached the world and when Matthew 24:14 had actually been fulfilled:

“For forty years there was no way open to us by which we might get this vital end time message to the great nations of the world China, India, Russia, Indonesia, Japan, Bangladesh (just to mention the six largest nations on earth, not including the United States). **Now the doors are opening.**

“For one great purpose you were called, as well as I. That is: to get Christ's Gospel of the Kingdom of God proclaimed as a witness to all nations. The term "all nations" does not necessarily mean every little tiny nation, including many whose names most people never heard. But it most assuredly does include many or most of these big population nations.

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Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 11, 1974

"But when it came to getting this LAST MESSAGE FROM GOD TO ALL THE WORLD — AS A WITNESS TO ALL NATIONS, I found we were STUCK!

"I could not buy time on radio in Britain — nor in France, Germany, nor in Russia, China, India, Japan, Indonesia.

"THIS IS IMPORTANT. PLEASE UNDERSTAND!

"I found the governments in these other nations around the world CONTROL RADIO, TELEVISION, and COMMUNICATIONS! The GOVERNMENTS try to control the MINDS, and the thinking of their people! It is different from the United States.

"So what did we do? I was able to buy time on Radio Luxembourg, wedged in between France, Germany, Belgium and Holland. I tried to reach these nations from outside their borders — from Radio Luxembourg. But they would only sell time between 11:00 p.m. and midnight. We went on the air there at 11:30 p.m. It was the best we could do. It reached A FEW people in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. BUT IT DID NOT REALLY GET GOD'S MESSAGE TO ENGLAND. Only partially!

"I found I could buy time on Radio Ceylon. It was beamed, by shortwave, on the eastern coast of Africa, and down into south- eastern Asia. We received a SMALL response from those areas. BUT WE DID NOT REACH INDIA! Apparently it was beamed DIRECTIONALLY AWAY from India, probably demanded by the government of India. Also apparently it was beamed over and beyond even Ceylon, for we received almost no response from there!

"I tried to reach China by buying time on Chiang Kai-shek's station on Formosa island. There was absolutely NO RESPONSE from China. I remember one letter came from a girl student in Taiwan. That was all. I tried buying time on Radio Monte Carlo, to reach Russia. Supposedly, it was beamed over all other countries from Monte Carlo, on the Mediterranean, all the way to Russia. I hired a supposedly

fluent Russian interpreter to translate my scripts into Russian, and record them by his voice in the Russian language. **THERE WAS NO RESPONSE, except one letter I remember, from one of the satellite countries — but NOTHING from Russia.**

“We were able to buy time on a number of stations in Australia, but not the best stations, and always poor time.

“Then about five years ago I began praying earnestly that God would show us how HE wanted to use us in getting HIS MESSAGE as a witness into those major countries around the world. We did the best job we could. We DO have a good circulation of The PLAIN TRUTH in many countries — Britain, France, Germany, Holland. Through ads in Reader's Digest we have gained circulation of The PLAIN TRUTH in Mexico, and other countries. **But we were not reaching the BIG countries with sufficient EFFECTIVENESS!**

“About the same time, doors began to open for personal contacts and private meetings with heads of governments — kings, presidents, prime ministers, etc. I KNEW by the absolutely unusual favor I was given in their eyes that this was of GOD. I said then, I did not yet know WHY — but I knew God was providentially opening these doors — giving me this unusual warmth, confidence, even affection in their eyes. I myself made no effort to open these doors, or to work my own way into these contacts. For example, when King Leopold of Belgium gave me a handwritten personal note to deliver to his friend the Imperial Crown Prince Akihito of Japan, I made no effort to make contact myself, because I did not want to make any personal effort myself to get to see the Prince. I was well acquainted with his uncle, Prince Mikasa, brother of the Emperor. But I had never met the Crown Prince. So I had the note taken to the Belgian Ambassador, asking him to deliver it.

“Even though I made no personal effort to meet the Crown Prince, some months later the invitation came from him for a private meeting. And it proved to be a very interesting meeting of 45 minutes...

“But these doors kept opening. And finally, about a year ago, I came to realize WHY God was opening these doors. This, unrealized at first, was the answer to the prayers. God was opening THE WAY to get HIS MESSAGE into these great nations where all doors had seemed to be slammed completely SHUT!

“This past year, 1973, I have spoken to highly distinguished guests at dinners in Bangkok, Saigon, Manila, Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, Tokyo, and New Delhi, India. At New Delhi I spoke to one hundred of India's very top people — members of the Cabinet, members of Parliament, judges, leading businessmen, some ambassadors from other nations. At Tokyo, I spoke before 57 very distinguished guests, all invited by Prince Mikasa, including members of the Diet (their Congress), of the Cabinet, presidents of the two largest and most prestigious universities, leading businessmen.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, January 27, 1974

“The Living GOD has moved, these past four years to give me, as your fellow Minister whom YOU call **God's Apostle, and as God's chosen servant for getting His true GOSPEL into all the world, for a witness to ALL NATIONS** just before the END of this age, **almost unbelievable prestige, favor, and**

stature in the eyes of many kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers and OTHER HIGH LEADERS OF MANY NATIONS. I am now, by God's grace, received in many world capitals as an AMBASSADOR FOR WORLD PEACE. I can assure, with authority and confidence, world leaders and heads of state that WORLD PEACE not only is possible, but is definitely coming in our time. And this in spite of the fact that the efforts of world leaders for six thousand years have brought no peace but repeated WARS."

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 22, 1974

"Now I am eagerly looking forward to the NEXT public Appearance campaigns. I have received a PERSONAL REQUEST from the world-known Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, that the next campaign be held in Ethiopia's capital city, Addis Ababa. Leaders in Saigon, South Vietnam's capital, are PRESSURING me, now, to hasten the campaign there.

"Other world capitals where the preliminary work toward Public Appearance campaigns already is well under way are: New Delhi, capital of INDIA; Jamaica; Djakarta, Indonesia; Costa Rica, in Central America; Nairobi, Kenya in Africa; Tokyo, Japan; Seoul, South Korea; Beirut, Lebanon; Cairo, Egypt; Jerusalem; Katmandu, Nepal; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Singapore, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Santiago, Chile; Dacca, Bangladesh; and capitals in Europe. And possible meetings with heads of state in Peking and Moscow are pending. If God wants His Message to go to them, He has the power to open those doors!

"Co-Workers, THAT is getting the GOSPEL 'into all the world for a witness in all nations' for the first time in 18 1/2 centuries! It is a TREMENDOUS worldwide WORK! I have to ask you to PRAY EARNESTLY for me, personally, that God will prolong my life in dynamic, vigorous HEALTH, until I can get to ALL THESE WORLD CAPITALS, AND MORE!"

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, May 21, 1974

"Now we're in a world ruled by Satan, but Satan has governments over each nation. I know many of the kings of these nations, and they don't know themselves that they're in part of a world ruled by Satan. They don't know that. Satan is invisible. They don't see him. A lot of them don't even believe he exists.

"I know that they have problems they can't solve. I talk to them about their problems, all around the world. **I've probably talked to more kings, and presidents, and prime ministers, and emperors in their own offices, which is the thrones where they sit, than any other man on earth today,** because God is sending His apostle to those places, and I go there representing you. You can't all go there.

Sermon, "Are You Ready", Herbert W Armstrong, October 15, 1980

The Magnitude of the Great Work

It is worth going back in time and taking a glimpse of the awesome work that was accomplished during the Philadelphia era of the Church. The magnitude of the work was truly astounding and it should paint a picture in one's mind of what it truly entails to preach the gospel worldwide.

Many splinters, offshoots and even individuals who have a Worldwide Church of God background claim they are proclaiming the gospel to world. This section was added to help God's people understand the scale and the degree and the amount of work that it takes to preach the good news across the globe. The following is just a glimpse in time of the work that took place in 1982:

"Like the Plain Truth, the Good News, the Worldwide News, the correspondence course, the Bible Correspondence Course, Youth 82, soon Youth 83 and all the books and booklets, the weekly report going out to all of our ministers all over the world. Publishing has done more for the growth of this work, than any other one thing.

"Through the printed word and by radio and television, God works through His Apostle to reach this world with the Good News of the world tomorrow. That message is the same as was preached by Jesus Christ and the early apostles. On with the advances in communications technology, the means by which the gospel is preached has been changed drastically. **When Christ's end-time apostle sits down before the cameras in his studio in Pasadena, he has at his fingertips the means to reach millions of people around the world.**

"It is Sunday morning in Los Angeles. The 'World Tomorrow' telecast is being aired across the United States. As Mr. Armstrong announces the special toll free number, in Pasadena, nearly 100 operators are responding to viewer's requests for the literature and the Plain Truth. In August, Mr. Armstrong, accompanied by media services director Larry Omasta and media liaison David Hulme, visited the watts line area to see firsthand the response to the world tomorrow television program.

"This year, there were twice as many stations as we were last year. But the calls have tripled, over the last year. **We were averaging around 2,700 calls a program last year, and now we're averaging around 7,700. And we went up to about 70 stations to over 145.** So the work this past year has certainly grown."

Behind the Work Film 1982

"During the last year, Mr. Armstrong has traveled 148,000 miles in the service of the Work. The **circulation of The Plain Truth topped five million for the first time in 1982.** The circulation of the **September issue was 5,205,906.** The *Plain Truth* is the world's fastest growing magazine. **It is now**

circulated in 199 countries. In the last year, the Work has mailed out 69 million pieces of literature worldwide. The World Tomorrow program is aired on 244 TV stations and 245 radio stations around the world. In September 1982 there were **71,482 church members in 119 countries.** Worldwide, there are **720 congregations served by 542 elders and 517 local elders.**”

Behind the Work Film 1982, Ending Caption

“There are more than 14,000 locations distributing the Plain Truth in the United States and many more in other countries. How does the program work? The newsstand program is made possible by the enthusiasm and energy of members of the Church. One of the most successful programs is run by the San Jose California congregation. 140 Local brethren, ranging in age from 8 to 89, contribute their time and talents to distributing over 28,000 magazines each month. By teamwork and cooperation, member participation in the newsstand program saves the work, over one and a half million dollars a year. **Since 1976, over 50 million plain truths have been distributed from newsstands.** In 1982 alone, over 16 million were made available to the public. **Since it began, the newsstand program has been responsible for adding more than 900,000 subscribers to the Plain Truths subscription list.**”

Behind the Work Film 1982

“You think about it. **There's a scripture in Psalms, I get 68, 11, which says great was the company of those that published it.** Now for the first time in the history of God's work, we've got 7,000 Church members that are involved in this massive publishing work getting that gospel out. We are actually reaching, one out of every 25 households in the United States.”

Behind the Work Film 1982

The Mission of the Philadelphia Era of the Church

The Philadelphia era of the Church was specifically prophesied to accomplish the commission of Matthew 24:14 which states “And this gospel of the kingdom of God shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Mr. Armstrong understood that he had been specifically selected and called as an apostle by Jesus Christ to fulfill this mission in the 6th era of the Church.

Mr. Armstrong also knew that a special “open door” had been given to him and to the Philadelphia era of the Church to accomplish the task of preaching the gospel to the world, Revelation 3:7. And by 1985, near the end of his life, he wrote in the *Mystery of the Ages* that the prophecy of Matthew 24:14 had been fulfilled. You will soon read this statement the following excerpts:

“And there is a mission for this Church that never applied and has never been done by any other Church. This gospel of the kingdom has been restored and shall be preached in all the world for a

witness to all nations. Has that been done? Has that been restored? Is that gospel going out to the world? You listen on television tomorrow.

“Or do you have something more important to do? You might think about that. Maybe the telecast of the Truth of God is not important. Maybe you have something more important to do. And maybe, when you do something else, you'd better think "Was it more important, or should I have been listening to the program?" I'm afraid a lot of you don't listen. Well, I hope it's not a lot of you either. Maybe it's only a few. But I know that some are bound to be a little bit careless.

“But thanks and praise to God. He has restored knowledge. That is all God's doing. None of us can be anything more than human instruments. If I have been willing to do anything, it is only because God Himself brought about circumstances to compel me and make me willing, whether I wanted to be or not, and even then I can take no credit whatsoever. It was all the doing of God, through Jesus Christ.”

Sermon, “Mission of Philadelphia Era Part 2”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 17, 1983

“Most prophecy in the Bible refers to our time now, and is concerned with our time, not with the time back in the First Century, not in the Middle Ages. How many times do you find in the Bible "in that day"? Such-and-such will happen "in that day." "In that day" again and again, especially in the Old Testament prophesies. And it is referring to the time now and leading on into the Second Coming of Christ, the Coming of Christ the Messiah, **and these events and these days just preceding, when there is the greatest mission of the Church. And that is the mission that has devolved down on us.**

Today's mission of the Church, you will find in Matthew 24 and in verse 14. Matthew 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom", that is the same gospel that Jesus preached, "shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come." Now, the early apostles had been asking Jesus about this time. They were somewhat familiar with the prophecies, especially prophecies like Isaiah and Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and then the so-called "minor prophets." Hosea, Amos, Micah, Daniel, all of those prophets, and how many times they said "in that day."

“Jesus had said to them, He said "If I go, I will come again and receive you to Myself." He had taught them about the Kingdom of God. And He had taught them in a parable that He would have to go to heaven to receive the kingdom and then to return, **and that we had to occupy, or continue on the job that He had given us, until then.**”

Sermon, “Mission of Philadelphia Era Part 1”, Herbert W Armstrong, December 17, 1983

“Signs are now fast appearing that **our Work of the GREAT COMMISSION** may be much more near completed than we have realized.

“Mark you, I say ‘may be’. It is not yet so.

“World conditions may force European nations and possibly some Balkan nations (10 in all) to unite, bringing to pass the revived "Holy Roman Empire" of A.D. 554-1814 even yet this year — or possibly next. **Our Work (Philadelphian era) probably will be finished** about the time this European empire is united. Those nations have WANTED to unite politically, with a common currency and common military force, for some time — but have been unable. It can be accomplished only through the Vatican.”

The Worldwide News, “Completion of Work Near??”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 16, 1980

“There are more than 14,000 locations distributing the *Plain Truth* in the United States and many more in other countries. How does the program work? The newsstand program is made possible by the enthusiasm and energy of members of the Church. One of the most successful programs is run by the San Jose California congregation. 140 Local brethren, ranging in age from 8 to 89, contribute their time and talents to distributing over 28,000 magazines each month. By teamwork and cooperation, member participation in the newsstand program saves the work, over one and a half million dollars a year.

Since 1976, over 50 million plain truths have been distributed from newsstands. In 1982 alone, over 16 million were made available to the public. Since it began, the newsstand program has been responsible for adding more than 900,000 subscribers to the *Plain Truths* subscription list.

“You think about it. There's a scripture in Psalms, I get 68, 11, which says **great was the company of those that published it. Now for the first time in the history of God's work, we got 7,000 church members that are involved in this massive publishing work getting that gospel out. **We are actually reaching, one out of every 25 households in the United States.**”**

Behind the Work 1982

“Also a door was to be opened for this leader and/or the Philadelphia era of the Church to fulfill **Matthew 24:14: ‘And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.’**

“It was to be at a time when, for the first time in the history of mankind, the weapons of mass destruction were produced that could erase all humanity from the earth (Matt. 24:21-22). This also was to occur just before the Second Coming of Christ (verses 29-30).

“These prophecies have now definitely been fulfilled. The true gospel has been restored and has now gone in power into every nation on the face of the earth.”

Mystery of the Ages, Herbert W Armstrong, Page 289, 1985

The Preaching of the Gospel Was to Continue After the Death of Mr. Armstrong

One final point remains to be mentioned and it is an important item that needs to be disclosed. The most wonderful news that this world will ever hear is the good news of a soon coming kingdom that will bring peace, happiness and salvation to this earth. The kingdom of God is a government that will be established on the earth that will end all of the suffering, all of the injustices and all of the horrible things that now plague this globe and this kingdom will usher in a utopian civilization on the earth.

The work of God, which is the preaching of this incredible wonderful news, was a top priority in the life of Mr. Armstrong. Even in the final years of his life, he did everything within his power to announce the only real hope for mankind. He dedicated his life to accomplishing this goal because he was truly concerned for the welfare of humanity. And he made sure that the Church understood that this work was to continue in the event of his death:

"Until the present moment I felt that God might provide a way for complete recovery, and he still may. So I have withheld this statement until now, but I feel it is better that you all know the condition. I am now in my 94th year. God may grant that I continue in this very limited manner to direct the work for some time, but the occasional severe heart pains that I have endured have made me feel the necessity of letting our co-workers know of the condition as it is.

"Remember, this is the work of the living Creator God. We are now very near the end of this present age. **I will continue to give my all to the work of God up to the last breath.** I hope you will all realize the seriousness of the time in which we live and that nothing is important any longer other than to be close to God and assured of a place in his very soon-coming Kingdom.

"This world is not God's world, and of that we may all be thankful. It is now in its very last days. This illness has impressed heavily on my mind, more than ever before, the uselessness of this present evil world. Thank God we are all very near to its end. And closer to God's wonderful world tomorrow. I thank you, beyond words to express, for your loving concern and for the many thousands of cards and well wishes that have been coming in from great numbers of you from all over the world.

"I thank God that he has organized this present work of his so thoroughly that regardless of the outcome of my present illness, the work will continue right on to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Meanwhile, dear brethren and co-workers, I and the work of God, need, as never before, your continued fervent prayers for the continued progress of this great work. Christ is the Living Head of this work, and He will continue guiding those He has chosen right up to His Second Coming, which grows daily nearer at hand."

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, December 23, 1985

"This is my first letter to you in 1986, and could very well be my last. Now in my 94th year I am in a very physically weakened state enduring severe pain and with virtually no strength whatsoever. I briefly described my condition in last month's co-worker letter to you, and now it has worsened. **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.**"

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, January 10, 1986

“Brethren, this world is being destroyed for lack of knowledge of and from GOD, as we read in Hosea 4:6. **Through my personal visits, and the PLAIN TRUTH magazine, on TV and radio and through other literature, we are proclaiming that knowledge in POWER and AUTHORITY. Some listen. It is God's last witness against those who do not. BUT WE MUST DRIVE RIGHT ON UNTIL CHRIST COMES!**”

“More than ever I need your earnest prayers. God's great Work needs your generous support. And YOU need the great matchless blessing that comes from having YOUR PART in such a wonderful Work.”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, November 18, 1984

CHAPTER THREE

THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE

Proclaiming the Gospel Only Through the One True Church

A key Biblical teaching that was readily understood in the Philadelphia era of the Church is the subject of the one true Church. It is such an important topic that Mr. Armstrong expounded on this important truth in many of the articles that he wrote and in numerous sermons and World Tomorrow Broadcasts and Telecasts that he gave. God only works through and Jesus Christ is only the head of only one organization, and that group is called the body of Christ and the one true Church.

Therefore, if the gospel is proclaimed, the one true Church is the only organization through which Christ will use and work through to announce this news to the world. Therefore, only one organization is authorized by God to proclaim the gospel to the world. This is important to understand because God does not work through many organizations nor does he use multiple groups to proclaim His good news to the world.

There are dozens of splinters and offshoots of the *Worldwide Church of God* in this final era of the Church who claim they are preaching the gospel to the world as a witness. In the 1970's, there were a few groups splintered from the *Worldwide Church of God*. These offshoots were claiming they were preaching the gospel to the world, just as many of the splinters are making this claim today.

The subject of producing fruits is of vital importance when the gospel is proclaimed because it can reveal whether Christ is has given a man this special commission and is thus working through an organization to proclaim the gospel to the world as a witness. Both of these subjects will be covered more thoroughly in the sections ahead. But first, the following is the Biblical truth that if the gospel is proclaimed, it must be announced only by and through the one true Church:

“God has ONLY ONE CHURCH on earth, which He directs in the doing of His Work — not TWO churches — not MANY denominations and sects, and ‘groups.’ ‘But now are they many members, YET BUT ONE_BODY’ (I Cor. 12:20 — see also v. 12, 13). ‘For by one Spirit are we all (not part of us) baptized into ONE_body.’”

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, May 2, 1974

“Brethren, GOD HAS ONLY ONE CHURCH, just as in King David's day He had only ONE NATION ISRAEL. In His ONE CHURCH ONLY, Jesus Christ works with the Holy Spirit!

“He has not called SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS, each working in his own way, to GIVE His Message to the world—and it's the WHOLE world— Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, beside the U.S., Britain and British peoples.

“For...the body is ONE, and hath many members, and all the members of that ONE body, being many, are ONE BODY, so also is Christ.... That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another (outgoing concern—love).... And GOD hath set some in the church, first apostles (I Cor. 12)....”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, September 25, 1978

“God forbids and condemns going off separately, one being of Paul, one of Apollos, one of Cephas— one of Garner Ted, one of Raymond Cole, one of Ernest Martin, one of Ken Westby.

“WHERE have all those who went out gone? **What fruit have they borne? How much of this whole world has heard the TRUE GOSPEL MESSAGE through them?**

“BUT THE ONE CHURCH OF GOD, TODAY WORLDWIDE, is NO LONGER DIVIDED, and is rapidly now picking up momentum, as Jesus Christ has now purged the schism and RESTORED HIS BLESSING to the ONE CHURCH of which HE is HEAD!

“So many were leaving JESUS HIMSELF that He said to His disciples, "Will ye also go away? (John 6:67). Will any of you, now, brethren? Jesus Christ said the gates of the grave would not prevail against that ONE BODY of which HE is the Living HEAD! His CHURCH is where HE is working.”

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, September 25, 1978

“Two or three have broken off from God's Work, seeking a personal following, trying to draw away members from God's Church so they may devour God's sheep for Satan. **But they have no way to get Christ's vital message as a witness into these great nations now opening their doors.**

“Brethren, **let's pray more for the true Work of God.** For 18 1/2 centuries Christ's Gospel the Kingdom of God was not proclaimed to the world. **No one except the true Church of God is proclaiming it now.** We need your prayers now, as never before!”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 11, 1974

Apostles are the Only Individuals Sent Forth to Proclaim the Gospel

The special commission of preaching the gospel to the world is not a mission that just anyone is authorized to engage in, it is a work that is specifically assigned to a living apostle or apostles, or those who are called to serve in this office. And this duty is assigned to them directly by the living head of the Church, Jesus Christ. Mr. Armstrong came to understand this Biblical truth during his lifetime. But it was Christ who truly revealed this Biblical doctrine to him. He learned that the word apostle means one who is “sent forth” with a message and more specifically, one who is “sent forth” with the gospel.

This is the special commission the original apostles were entrusted with in Matthew 28:19-20, including the apostle Paul. The true gospel, which is the good news of the kingdom of God, was revealed to Mr. Armstrong during his initial calling. He began fulfilling this endeavor over the radio for the first time in 1933. By the end of his life, the preaching of the gospel spanned the entire globe. And thus, it became apparent that Jesus Christ had “sent forth” an apostle with this message in the 20th century:

“What does the Bible reveal about the office of an apostle in the Church of God? How many apostles — are listed in the New Testament? What does apostleship have to do with the Church today?

“The word apostle comes from a Greek term that literally means one sent forth. Some authorities explain that it means one commissioned. Others define it as one sent with a special message or commission.”

“This word was also used in the Greek-speaking world in reference to people who were not of apostolic office in God's Church. A person who was sent by another person or group might be referred to as an apostle. **It is important to know who does the sending, and therefore the power vested in the individual sent forth.**”

The Good News Magazine, “How Many Apostles Were There?”, Leroy Neff, February 1980

“Peter therefore was kept in prison: but,” now notice, notice the function of the church, to back up the apostles. **The apostles are the ones that were sent forth with proclaiming the message.** “But prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him,” for Peter. And the result is that God sent an angel, and just simply broke the chains, the big steel or iron chains that held his hands and feet, and opened the doors and released him, and got Peter out of there...

“Notice now in Acts 4:23. “And being let go” from prison, “they went to their own company,” the company of newly converted Christians now, “and they reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them, and when they heard this, **they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and they said, Lord, thou art God which hast made heaven and earth and the sea,**” **and they asked them to give these apostles the power, and the courage, and to make it possible for them to go ahead with the mission, and to carry on this great commission of getting the announcement of the kingdom of God on out.**

“Now, I would like to show you that the great commission was given not to the church, but to the apostles. It isn't a message to the church, that the church is given the great commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel. **If you will turn with me first to Matthew 28, beginning with verse 16 (Matthew 28:16): ‘Then the eleven disciples...’** Now Judas had left them, you see, and they had not yet chosen Matthias to take his place.

“‘Then the eleven disciples’ who became now apostles, ‘went away into Galilee into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them, and when they saw him they worshipped him but some doubted’ **and Jesus came and spake unto them, that is the eleven, not the whole church, only the eleven. And**

said, 'all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.'"

World Tomorrow Telecast, "The Church and Its Purpose", Herbert W Armstrong, July 29, 1978

"The Apostle Paul, telling us under God's inspiration of how he came to KNOW God's Truth, said: **'But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is NOT AFTER MAN. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.'** He received it, as he implies, from an appearance of the living Christ, in person, even after His resurrection and ascension.

"I, too, received Christ's Gospel NOT from MAN. I, too, certify that the Gospel I have taught and proclaimed is NOT AFTER MAN. I entered no theological seminary, where I would have received a particular denominational teaching and set of doctrines and practices. **I was not taught by MAN. But I was taught, as was Paul, by the revelation of Jesus Christ — Paul from the living Christ IN PERSON — who is the Word of God in PERSON — but I from the WRITTEN WORD OF GOD — which is the SAME revelation, now set in print."**

Tomorrow's World, "The 19-Year Time Cycles - What HAPPENED January 7 - What My Commission IS!", Herbert W Armstrong, February 1972

"Now, I tell you, if you look into the New Testament, you will see that **Christ did not train all of the people.** And there were, oh within a few days after the Day of Pentecost, it might have been the very next day, the Church had grown up to a total of 5,000 people. **But Jesus Christ had not taught them how to go out and carry the gospel message. It was only those that became His apostles.**

"Later, He taught, and apparently appeared, after He had gone to heaven, and yet came down, and **appeared to Paul the apostle, in Arabia. And taught him just as He had taught the other apostles. God sent them! Apostle is a word that means one sent forth, One sent forth.**

"I am sent forth! And if I go forth, and leave here, some people say, "Well, why isn't Mr. Armstrong staying here in Pasadena and taking care of the Church?" I'll tell you why! The Church is supposed to help me, not me take care of you! **I am one sent forth with the gospel message! That's what God has laid on me!"**

"The apostle is the one sent. Not you. You are to back. You will find, in the New Testament, the Church didn't go out. The apostle's went out. Then there was one who had the Holy Spirit and had been beaten, who went out preaching, and that was Philip. And God blessed him because he had been with the apostles. But he then became a minister, and became an evangelist.

"But the people as a whole were just back of those sent. **An apostle is a word that means one sent forth with Christ's message.** And I just look back at the fruits of the last fifty-one years. And I know by the same way that John the Baptist knew whether Christ was the real Messiah or not. I know, because "by their fruits" you know, and that's how I know.

Sermon, "Zerubbabel's Temple", Herbert W Armstrong, July 21, 1978

Selected for a Special Mission

People have different abilities and varying talents. Some are born with unique gifts and special capabilities and others gain these abilities by way of training. In addition, the spirit of God grants those whom God has called the ability to fulfill the various functions that may be needed in the Church including any special missions that God deems necessary. It gives Gods people special capabilities to help them serve in the capacities and in the assignments required by God. The office of an apostle is no exception:

“We don’t all have ability to do the same things. God is showing us that He gives special abilities to special people for different performances, different operations in the different functions of the Church. Now then, to another, the working of miracles, and to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, and to another different kinds of tongues and so on. All these different things are the different operations to be administered in the work of the Church. Now, verse 11, ‘but all these worketh the one and self same spirit’ it’s the same spirit working in each one of us.

“Now that is explained a little more in Ephesians 4 where it says in verse 11 that ‘God gave some’ or ‘Christ gave some apostles and some prophets’ now there are no prophets in the New Testament Church now. The prophets, as I say, were Old Testament prophets ‘and some evangelists, and some pastors and some teachers.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “Gospel of Government”, Herbert W Armstrong

“Mr. Armstrong was a seasoned professional communicator, widely recognized for his outstanding ability in writing and advertising. While millions around the globe tacitly recognized this brilliance in the clarity of Mr. Armstrong’s writings, **we here in Editorial Services were privileged to receive an inside view of a master communicator at work ...**

“Mr. Armstrong wasn't interested in what Herbert Armstrong wanted in the publications - he was interested in what God wanted in the publications. And he insisted that every headline, every article, every advertisement bring this world a little closer to God's Kingdom.”

The Good News Magazine, “Friends Remember Mr. Armstrong”, Dexter H Faulkner, May 1986

“[I Corinthians 12:1-2, 4-6] **‘Now concerning spiritual gifts brethren’ that's to the people in the Church, ‘I would not have you ignorant.’ Now he says ‘there are diversities of gifts, but only one Spirit the same Spirit of God.** And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.’

“Now you notice there that there are different administrations and different operations. For these different operations we have to have different administrations, in other words a different group of people administering those operations, In other words different departments, and each department is an administration.

The World Tomorrow Broadcast, "The Gospel and the Church are Concerned with Government", Herbert W Armstrong

"The living CHRIST raised up this Work to proclaim THAT GOSPEL to the world as a witness! He called and chose me to get this job done! The living CHRIST started this Work, through me, putting this Message ON THE AIR by radio, beginning January 7, 1934. The PLAIN TRUTH was started February 1, 1934.

"Gradually, Jesus Christ, the LIVING HEAD of this Work, has called more and more of you in our inner family, as Co-Workers with HIM, and with me, in proclaiming this Good NEWS of HOPE, of ASSURANCE, of LIGHT in a dark world, of His coming Kingdom to bring PEACE, and happiness, and JOY and abundance to this earth. It will be a WHOLE NEW AND DIFFERENT WORLD — the wonderful WORLD TOMORROW!"

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, January 27, 1974

Trained for a Unique Commission

Once a man has been selected to serve in the office of an apostle by God, they are ready to begin the special training that will help them fulfill their mission. The first century apostles, including the apostle Paul, were specifically chosen and educated by Jesus Christ for this special mission. They spent three and a half years with Christ as He preached the gospel to the masses. After their training was complete, they were entrusted with the gospel and were instructed to take this message to the masses.

Just like the original apostles were selected by God and trained by Jesus Christ to preach the gospel to the world, Mr. Armstrong was also selected and trained for this mission. This specific commission entailed announcing the gospel of the soon coming kingdom of God to the world at the end of the age:

"During Jesus' 3 and a half year earthly ministry, He called out, chose and trained, to begin with, the second co-foundation, His original 12 apostles.

"During His human earthly ministry, Jesus announced publicly the future KINGDOM OF GOD. He taught and trained His apostles as He proceeded...

"The apostles were chafing at the bit to GET STARTED — to go forth proclaiming the Gospel Message. But God has wisely used restraint, with patience, taking a proper step at a time. So Jesus cautioned His apostles to WAIT! 'Tarry ye,' He commanded (Luke 24:49), 'In the city of Jerusalem, UNTIL ye be endued with power from on high.'"

Plain Truth Magazine, "A Voice Cries Out Amid Religious Confusion: Part 9", Herbert W Armstrong, January 1981

"Jesus spent 3 ½ years teaching and training His disciples to become His apostles and He was preaching the kingdom of God to thousands of people. And of all those thousands that heard him speak, how many do you think really believed Him, and really followed Him at the end? How many

were still with him after those 3 ½ years? Only 120, you read that in the 1st chapter of the book of Acts, only 120. In the 15th verse of the 1st chapter it says the number of those together, all that were still there together after Christ's 3 ½ years of preaching was 120, only 120."

World Tomorrow Telecast, "The Church and Its Purpose", Herbert W Armstrong

"What kind of men did Jesus choose as His first apostles and leaders in founding God's CHURCH? Men *Christ*-EDUCATED, yet considered by the public as unlearned and ignorant men (Acts 4:13).

"That's why Jesus Christ had to choose as His apostle for the present time one UNinoculated with this world's satanic educational poison, but whose SELF-education Christ directed — who was finally educated BY JESUS CHRIST as were the original apostles — except by the SAME Word of God in print instead of the Word of God in Person!"

Good News Magazine, "How Christ Chose and Educated His Apostle", Herbert W Armstrong, October-November 1980

"Now that 6,000 years is almost up, the KINGDOM OF GOD is about to take over and GOVERN this earth. **The time has arrived when God wants the imminency of His KINGDOM to be ANNOUNCED to all the world.**

"The living Christ trained and chose me to carry out that staggering and tremendous GREAT COMMISSION."

Plain Truth Magazine, "How I Came to be Going to Kings and Heads of Government", Herbert W Armstrong, February 1977

"Often, I have wondered, why did Jesus Christ chose me, and trained me, and bring me up, and trained me, to be His Apostle for the Church in this day?" Now, I look at religious leaders. I look at men like Billy Graham. All right, take this, Jerry Falwell now. He is starting a big political movement and he has a full hour program on television, here in Tucson. Just in one hour before I come on the same station, he goes off and I come on with my program. Or, take Oral Roberts, or take this man of the 700 Club, Pat Robertson. Why did God choose me instead of one of those men?"

Bible Study, "1 Corinthians 15", Herbert W Armstrong, October 3, 1980

Imparted with Power and Authority

As we have learned, a man is specifically selected and trained to serve in the highest ministerial office. Once this man is selected and trained for this special service, he is "sent forth" with the power and by the authority that comes from the living God and Jesus Christ to proclaim the message that he has been entrusted with, the announcement of the kingdom of God to the world:

“God made me the leader. And God works through one man, he doesn’t work through committees. God almighty is running this Church and He is running it through Jesus Christ. And Jesus Christ called me and appointed me. You didn’t. I wasn’t elected. **I was appointed by Christ and the authority within me is from Jesus Christ and the power of Christ through the holy spirit.** It didn’t come from you. God never deals through committees.”

Sermon, “God’s Government Top Down Period” Herbert W Armstrong, FOT October 9, 1976

“[I Corinthians 5;3] ‘For though absent in body that, as he was not there in person, I am present in spirit, and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment, in the name of the Lord Jesus’. Now, I want you to notice something there the apostle can pronounce, judgment. **The apostle has authority. And that authority is to act in the name of Christ. In other words, he has been given the authority of Jesus Christ,** and it is Christ that is back of His order, when he said here, I have already pronounced judgment, in the name of Jesus Christ.

“A man comes banging on your door and says, ‘open up in the name of the law’. What does he mean in the name of law? He is himself and not the law. The law is something that was passed by a state legislature or by Congress or some lawmaking body. He is a representative of the law, but he is the same, has the same as power of attorney to act for the law.

“It’s just like I give an attorney representing me power of attorney to act for me. And when he does it, he does it in my name and it’s just as if I did it, and it’s just as authoritative. **So I want you to notice there’s authority in the church and the apostle bears that authority. Now some of them don’t like that today in the Church, either. We’ve got them in the Church today that don’t like that.**”

Bible Study, “I Corinthians 5-6”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 8, 1980

“Chapter one, verse one, the book of I Corinthians ‘Paul called to be an apostle’. Now notice this, Jesus said, ‘No man can come to me, except the Father which sent Me, draws him’. God had drawn Paul, knocked him down blind, opened his eyes, and he was one of the called. Many are called, but few are chosen. **Paul was one of the called so, he says, ‘Paul called’ and what was he called? To be an apostle of Jesus Christ.** He didn’t call himself, God did, through the will of God. You see, not through his own will, through the will of God...

“This is just an introduction ‘Grace be to you and peace from God our Father’. **Now notice He has the authority to tell them that God is sending them grace and peace. He’s speaking for God.** He is God’s spokesman. When he says grace and peace under you, from God our Father, he’s speaking for God as God’s representative. **If I am God’s apostle, that’s the way I speak to you, as His representative.**

“You know, a man might come to your door, and he represents a certain vacuum cleaner corporation. Now, he's a representative of that company. But he has authority to speak for that company. He represents that company. **Well, now in the same way, Paul represented God, and I represent God.**”

Bible Study, “1 Corinthians 1-2”, Herbert W Armstrong, July 18, 1980

“Came the crucial Monday morning. I was well prepared. One minute before that zero hour I was nervous. I had never spoken through a microphone before.

“‘If I need any instruction, you'd better give it to me quickly,’ I said to the announcer. ‘I've never been on the air before.’

“‘Just stand before that mic and begin talking when I give you the signal,’ he said indifferently. That reassured me. I said to myself, Why, I'm not a bit nervous now.

“The announcer announced me and gave the signal. Suddenly nerves gripped my whole body and mind! But somehow I began talking, and after 30 seconds or a minute the ‘mic-fright’ was gone. My mind was absorbed with the subject. **The GOOD NEWS of the Kingdom of God was ON THE AIR for the first time!**

“I began with God's promises to Abraham. The whole true Gospel is based on those PROMISES to Abraham. Soon I was revealing to listeners that the promises were NOT heaven, but this EARTH as an everlasting possession, coupling other scriptures with God's promises beginning in Genesis 12.

“Through the week I carried on the theme of the WORLD TOMORROW — the KINGDOM OF GOD!
That message had not gone out to the world publicly since about A. D. 53! **But my heart was in it, and it began coming in POWER!**”

Good News Magazine, “The History of the Beginning and Growth of the Worldwide Church of God – Chapter 4”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 1980

The Role Evangelists, Pastors and Ministers have in the First Commission

In God's Church, including the *Worldwide Church of God*, the proclamation of the gospel was and is primarily accomplished and spearheaded by a living apostle or apostles. Mr. Armstrong was the one who met with the heads of state of this world. He was the one who primarily announced the gospel message by radio and by television through the World Tomorrow Broadcast and Telecast. He wrote articles that appeared on a monthly basis in the *Plain Truth Magazine*, the *Good News Magazine* and in the *Youth Magazine*. This is not to mention the numerous books and booklets that he wrote.

There are a number of ministerial offices that are given in the Church for various reasons. Some of these offices may be provided to fulfill the various spiritual and administrative functions of the Church. Offices such as evangelists and pastor rank ministers may be used by an apostle to help him with the first commission. But when they assist an apostle in this work, they are limited in the functions that they may perform. The reason is because the great commission is a work that is assigned to and must be fulfilled by a living apostle or apostles:

“Now came another example of how the Church stood back of the apostles. Remember, **the word apostle means ‘one sent forth.’ Jesus had given the great commission to Peter and the apostles. The other members of the Church were not sent forth with the gospel.** They were called to support and encourage the apostles in getting out the gospel message, as GOD’S MEANS of developing in them God’s holy, righteous CHARACTER, qualifying them for places as kings and priests in the KINGDOM!”

Plain Truth Magazine, “7 Proofs Of God’s True Church: Part 5”, Herbert W Armstrong, June-July 1979

“It’s the same spirit working in each one of us. Now that is explained a little more explicitly in Ephesians 4 where it says in verse 11 that God gave some or Christ gave some ‘apostles and some prophets’, now then there are no prophets in the New Testament Church now. The prophets were, as I say, Old Testament prophets. ‘and some evangelists and some pastors and some teachers’.

“Now, the preaching of the gospel is primarily to apostles and evangelists. An apostle is one sent forth with the gospel, one sent forth. **Well, an evangelist is one who also carries the gospel out.** And they’re called evangelists in the New Testament who went out preaching the gospel to the world. But pastors are pastors over a local Church and preach to those who are already in the Church. **But a pastor even can carry the gospel into the world in his own community or neighboring communities.**”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, ‘Gospel of Government’, Herbert W Armstrong

“**This first and great commission was given to the apostles. To a lesser extent evangelists were used in carrying forth the message.** Other leaders—ordained ministers—were stationary, yet even the local pastor of a church may hold evangelistic services in his area—not the ‘soul-saving crusade’ type, but lectures ANNOUNCING and PROCLAIMING as a witness the coming KINGDOM OF GOD (the true Gospel)!”

Plain Truth Magazine, “A Voice Cries Out Amid Religious Confusion: Part 11”, Herbert W Armstrong, March 1981

Supervision of Gospel

Not only are the apostles selected for their commission, trained for this duty, and imbued with the power and authority from above, they are also responsible for the supervision of the gospel. The apostle or apostles are the ones entrusted with and responsible for delivering the most wonderful news the world will ever hear.

They are the ones that are accountable for ensuring the true gospel is proclaimed to the world in the manner that was revealed to them and in the way that they were trained. This is why they are not only accountable for the success of this mission, they are also responsible and given the supervision over those who are used to assist them in this work and in the manner that this message is delivered to the world:

“An apostle is ‘one sent forth’ with Christ's gospel message, including the supervision of proclaiming that message to the world by means and persons other than himself. Also an apostle was given supervision over all the local congregations or churches (1 Cor. 16:1). The apostle Paul had oversight over the churches of the Gentile world (II Cor. 11:28)…”

Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong

“To administer these many operations, God — not a vote of the members — ‘hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers.’ Or, as stated in more detail in Ephesians 4:11 (Revised Standard Version): ‘And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers.’

“An apostle is ‘one sent forth’ with Christ's Gospel message, including the supervision of proclaiming that message to the world by means and persons other than himself. Also an apostle was given supervision over all the local congregations or churches (I Corinthians 16:1, II Corinthians 11:28).

“The prophets set in the foundation of the Church are those of the Old Testament, whose writings were used to form a considerable part of the New Testament and Gospel teaching and functioning. The word prophesy is often used in the sense of ‘to preach, or proclaim’. So some of the preachers might well be termed ‘prophets’ — but no prophets are mentioned as having either administrative, executive or preaching functions in the New Testament Church.”

Book, *A Voice Calls Out Amid Religious Confusion*, Herbert W Armstrong

The Role of the Membership

The greatest news the world will ever receive is that a time of peace and happiness is coming. The pain and suffering that are a result of the diseases that plague this world will be gone. And a utopian society will quickly spread and engulf the earth. The members in the Church, those who are called by God, play a crucial role in supporting an apostle as he proclaims this message to the world.

The work of God that is assigned to an apostle is made possible through the tithes and offerings, prayers and words of encouragement that come from the membership. Without their support, the gospel could not be announced to the world in the manner and power that was accomplished by the apostles:

“And Peter then was led out of the prison because the brethren had prayed. You see, the lay members of the Church were given the part of backing the apostles who were to get the gospel out. The word ‘apostle’ simply means ‘one sent forth’ with the gospel. **And it was the apostles that were taking the gospel to the world, not the lay members, but the lay members backed them with their prayers, with their tithes and in every way with their encouragement, every way that they could.**”

Sermon, "Receivership and Prophecy", Herbert W Armstrong, January 5, 1980

"Notice now the King James translation, 'Afterward he [Jesus] appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat... And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...' (Mark 16:14-16). Of course NONE could believe and be baptized EXCEPT those God the Father specially called. So there is NOWHERE ANY CONTRADICTION. **The GREAT COMMISSION was given to the APOSTLES — those 'sent forth' with the message — NOT the lay members of the Church.**

"What then? **Did not the lay members have any part in proclaiming the Gospel?** Definitely they did, as we have seen. **Their part was to back up the apostles — stand behind them with their prayers, encouragement, tithes and offerings.** They are PART OF A WELL-ORGANIZED TEAM, as we shall show in more detail."

Special Topics, "Where Is The True Church?", Herbert W Armstrong

"So here came another incident showing how the Church supported the apostles. Continue, verse 5 of Acts 12: '... but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him'—Peter. **The brethren stood loyally 100 percent back of God's apostles...**

"Jesus gave His GREAT COMMISSION to the apostles—those sent forth with the message. **The lay brethren were added to the Church to support the apostles.**"

Plain Truth Magazine, "7 Proofs Of God's True Church: Part 5", Herbert W Armstrong, June-July 1979

"Now the apostles, **the word apostle means "one sent forth,"** the apostles are the one Christ taught the message and sent forth with the message. **He didn't call the ones He added to the Church to go out with the message.** I'm going to prove that to you in just a few minutes. That He called them to stand in back of the apostles...

"Now the purpose and function of the Church then, number one, **to back up the apostles as they, as their part. That is the Churches part of backing the apostles in the great commission, and the great commission was given to the apostles was not given to the laity of the Church at all.**

"I just read that to you and whether you take Mark's version or Matthew's, Jesus was speaking only to the apostles and not to the Church as a whole. But the Church as a whole was to back them up and I have shown you the two cases where their prayers enabled the apostles to continue right on and that was as Gods means. God gave the Church now this duty of backing the apostles as Gods means of giving, giving help, to develop the character so that they could overcome Satan."

World Tomorrow Telecast, "God's Church in Action", Herbert W Armstrong

Note: What you have read thus far are some of the “original truths” that Jesus Christ restored to the Church during the Philadelphia era. The true gospel, the mission given to only the one true Church, the commission assigned to the apostles to proclaim this message, and the role of the membership were all doctrinal truths that were once understood and adhered to by the *Worldwide Church of God* when it was led by Mr. Armstrong. Any deviation from any of these original truths is a departure from Biblical doctrinal. Remember, “truth” is any doctrinal teaching that comes from the word of God, John 17:17.

The Proof of an Apostleship

So far, we have seen the Biblical doctrine and the pattern that was used in the 20th century to announce the gospel to the world. But a couple of natural questions that need to be answered arise at this point in time. Since it is a Biblical truth that there has to be a living apostle to proclaim the gospel to world, how does one know whether the office of an apostle has been given?

And the second question that comes up is who ordains an apostle into this office? These are questions that all of God’s people need to understand. The office of an apostle is the highest office in the Church of God and it is essential to understand how one can tell whether this office has been given. The ordination into this office is not something that is visibly seen or conducted by a man. It is an office that is given by Jesus Christ.

The only proof that the office of an apostle has been given are the fruits that become apparent from the one who is serving in this office, Matthew 7:16. These fruits are a direct result of proclaiming the true gospel to the world. It is the only way that one will know whether this office has been given and/or whether an individual has been “sent forth” by the authority of God to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God:

“Now, you say I am Christ’s apostle for our time now today. The first time I ever heard that was Dr. Herman Hoeh speaking before the Feast of Tabernacles up at Belknap Springs, and the year was 1951. And I never had dreamed anything about being an apostle and he rang out, he said there before the small group because we weren’t very big yet. He says ‘Mr. Armstrong is not a prophet, Mr. Armstrong is an apostle’. I thought, an apostle, where’d he get that. Immediately afterward I called and said, look Herman, don’t you ever say that again. Don’t you tell anyone that I am an apostle. I never claimed to be an apostle. **Now, it wasn’t until some years later I look back at it and see by the fruits what has happened.”**

Bible Study, “I Corinthians 1 & 2”, Herbert W Armstrong, July 18, 1980

“I am not here because a lot of people decided to vote for me, or put me here. You had nothing to do with me becoming God’s apostle. **Someone says to me, ‘Well Mr. Armstrong, how did you know you’re God’s Apostle?’** Did Christ appear to you? Did He speak to you? Did He say, ‘Now, Herbert Armstrong, I make you My Apostle?’ I answer, ‘No.’ ‘Did you know back in 1933, when this era of the Church was started, that you were God’s apostle, that you would be?’ ‘No, I didn’t.’ ‘Did you know how big, or how great, this work was going to be?’ ‘No, I didn’t.’

“I just knew that God had called me. He was using me. And, I would go as far as He wanted me to go, no further and no less, whatever that is. If it meant the whole world, I knew I would be able to do it, because I would do it in the power and strength of the living Christ! So then, how do I know today?”

“Well, I will answer just as Jesus Christ answered when the messengers of John the Baptist came to Him and said, ‘Well, John wants to know, are You really the Messiah that was to come?’ Jesus didn't say yes or no. He said, ‘You go tell John what you hear and what you see being done. Go and show him the fruit of what you see coming from Me’ and **by their fruits you shall know.**”

“No, back in 1933, I didn't know. Well, how do I know now? **Because I looked back on all these years and I see the fruits.** And you're here as part of it! **You're part of the evidence!** Because you're here and I had something to do with that and so did Jesus Christ.”

Sermon, “Zerubbabels Temple” Herbert W Armstrong, July 21, 1978

“It is eminently clear, and has been for some time, **that Jesus Christ and God the Father have specially sent forth Herbert W. Armstrong with a commission, and his fruits have shown that he is an apostle:** For many years, Mr. Armstrong did not claim that he was fulfilling the office. Probably he did not need to, as the Church recognized him as an apostle whether or not he took that title. But in recent years, he has consistently said that he is an apostle. Some few people have resented this.”

Good News Magazine, “How Many Apostles Were There?”, February 1980, Page 11

The Fruits of an Apostle

We have just covered that the only visible sign to God's people that an “apostle” has been “sent forth with a message” are by the fruits that proclaiming the gospel yields. So what are these fruits? What fruits reveal the presence of an apostle? The fruits that reveal that a true apostle has been sent is directly connected to the message that this office is “sent forth” to deliver.

The fruits of a true apostle are the conversions, the baptisms that are a result of announcing the greatest news that mankind will ever hear which is the good news of a soon coming kingdom that will bring peace to this earth. You and I are the living proof and the fruit of an apostle. The apostle Paul referred to these living fruits of an apostle as the seal of an apostleship in I Corinthians 9:2. The fruit that was evident during Mr. Armstrong's apostleship was truly stunning:

“In I Corinthians, chapter 9, the apostle Paul shows the proof of his apostleship: ‘Are not ye my work in the Lord? If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord’ (I Cor. 9:1-2).

“Just as proofs in the life of Paul set him forth as an apostle of Jesus Christ, **in our time another has also been used by God in a powerful way. Through him, the Worldwide Church of God was established. Through him, the doctrines of God were restored to the Body of Christ. Through him,**”

directly or indirectly, all of us in the Church have come to the knowledge of the truth, repentance and baptism. Through him, demons have been cast out and many have been healed_ even of cancer. **Isn't that the fruit, the seal of apostleship?**

"Directly, or indirectly, you are all MY children in the Lord. This Church is GOD'S Church. Jesus Christ is its living HEAD. He chose and has used me as His Apostle — as His human servant and instrument through whom HE, not just I, raised up all this Church. It was God the Father who called me, and later all of you. Jesus Christ founded and built God's Church. **He raised up and built the present Philadelphia era of God's Church. But He used me as the human instrument in so doing.**

"WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR BELIEF — THE DOCTRINES WE ALL HOLD SO DEARLY? Every doctrine — every point of belief — you received directly or indirectly through me as Christ's Apostle!"

The Worldwide News, "Satan Intensifies Persecution", Herbert W Armstrong, June 16, 1980

"The great Work of God proceeds full steam ahead all over the world. In the first five months of this year a new all-time record was set in number of letters and cards received worldwide. A total of 3.8 million cards and letters were received, as against 3.1 million last year. In 1984 we averaged 465 baptisms per month worldwide — and **for the first four months of 1985 the average was 597 baptisms per month. God is adding an average of one new large church congregation per month.** This year our ministers have averaged 1,972 new contacts requesting a visit, compared to 1,292 last year."

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, July 25, 1985

"We have twelve hundred and six ordained ministers visiting prospective members, counseling about baptism — but they are swamped and unable to visit and counsel with all who have requested this spiritual counseling and help. These ministers have up to more than 75 new prospective members waiting for each minister to call personally for counsel toward baptism and complete conversion."

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, April 30, 1985

"It doesn't seem possible, but the time has already come to direct our attention toward **the 1985 Feast of Tabernacles!** Focus your mind now on the most joyous Festival — and also **the largest convention — held anywhere on earth. About 133,000 of our brethren will gather for eight days** in the glorious and happy reunion with those God has chosen and brought to Christ out of the billions on earth who do not know God and the joys of his way of life.

"This year will be the biggest Feast since the days of the first century church. **We shall assemble at 89 Festival sites in 49 different countries all around the world.** This year there will be a new site behind the Iron Curtain in Cracow, Poland, and once again in China and also in Jerusalem."

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, March 11, 1985

"Paul shows that he had the oversight of the charge of all of the churches in the Gentile area under Christ. He was quite a leader. Now he says 'Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? For I've never bragged very much about being an apostle.' As a matter of fact, I've never claimed I was an apostle until a few years ago. **I never myself admitted to being an apostle or claimed I was until I could look back and**

see by the fruits that God had made me an apostle, until I was sure that the fruits, which not only I saw it, but plenty of other people saw it too. Did I ever say that?

“And I only say it now because I think that sometimes saying it and having people understand it helps them. That's the only reason I say it now. ‘Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?’ Now notice Paul says ‘He had seen Jesus.’ He wasn't converted in any way. He didn't mean he saw Jesus one time when he was going the wrong way. He saw Jesus and was with Jesus personally over in Arabia right after his initial conversion. So he was taught privately and personally by Jesus just like the other apostles were.

“‘Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?’ Now I say that to all of you people and all that are listening in, are you not my workmanship in the Lord? Directly or indirectly, you are all my children in the Lord. Now some of you who have only been converted because you heard one of our ministers and God brought you into the church and maybe you've never even seen me yet. Nevertheless, those through whom you were brought in got all of their knowledge from me and from what God has used me in doing. So in a sense, you are all my children in the Lord.”

Bible Study, “1 Corinthians 8-9”, Herbert W Armstrong, August 22, 1980

God Gives the Increase

The *Worldwide Church of God*, when it was led by Mr. Armstrong, has a well documented history of what occurred in an era that proclaimed the gospel to the world according to the Biblical doctrine and according to the pattern that was revealed to a faithful apostle. The gospel was spearheaded by a living apostle and a ministry and membership who understood and adhered to their role. And the gospel went out in a number of spectacular ways including broadcasts/telecasts, a printed magazine, and by way of personal meetings with the heads of state of many nations in the 20th century.

All of this history is proof that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was “sent forth” and proclaimed the message that was entrusted to him by Jesus Christ in the Biblical manner and in the pattern that was revealed to him. He did not falter, waiver, compromise, deviate or fail in his commission. This is why God was able to bless the Church of God in the 6th era and give it such a large increase.

No other *Worldwide Church of God* offshoot or splinter in the Laodicean era has been able to accomplish even a fraction of what the Philadelphia era achieved, even though the Biblical doctrine, the pattern, and the historical evidence of how the gospel is to be proclaimed was left behind for the 7th era to continue in. And even with all of the advancements in technology and communication, the 7th and final era of God's Church remains splintered, scattered and with little to no fruit.

Remember the 6th era began with 19 members and it started during the Great Depression which was one of the most difficult times in the history of the United States. In addition, there were only 2 or 3 doctrinal truths still intact from the Sardis era. This was a most humble beginning to a Church era that is given no criticism by God.

The growth in the 6th era was all made possible because the *true* gospel was proclaimed to the world, unaltered and unfiltered from the way it was received from Christ, and it was spearheaded by the ministerial office that God has appointed for this message to be proclaimed and supervised. In addition, the Church was kept on track and in the full truth by a faithful apostle who led the Church for over half a century. And this is why it was possible for God to call so many people and to give such a large increase to the Church of God:

“And Peter said, ‘Repent, and then be baptized’ and be baptized meant believe in Christ and believe His message. Now, it was Peter’s message that he had given them that pricked them in their hearts. In other words, he gave them a little bit of God’s knowledge, that otherwise, we would never even want. **Now you can’t do it unless God Himself opens your mind to receive a little bit of that because no man can come to Jesus.** Now there’s only one way you can get to God and that’s through Jesus Christ. **But you can’t even come to Jesus and get started on the way to get to God the Father, unless God the Father calls or draws you. Jesus said so...**

“But he doesn’t call them all, all at once. **Now then, when we have been converted God has called us.** Somehow it’s like the sower and the seed, the seed has been sown and some of it took root in our minds and brought us to the place of repenting and being baptized, and we received the Holy Spirit.”

Bible Study, “I Corinthians 3-4”, Herbert W. Armstrong, July 25, 1980

“[I Corinthians 3:5] ‘Paul, Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each of you to believe’. In other words, as God called you. That makes that meaning a little more plain there in the Revised Standard. **Now, he said, ‘I planted, Apollo’s watered, but God gave the growth’. In the King James it says, ‘God gave the increase’ or it means that God gave the growth.**

“Alright now Paul went out and planted. Here, he’s talking about planting in a garden or a field. Paul took the seed. The seed is the Word of God and Paul planted some of that word of God. However, you just plant. If a farmer plants corn in Iowa, and he just lets it alone, he’s not going to have a very big crop of corn.

“Now I have had uncles and aunts or uncles rather that were farmers in Iowa and I’d go down as a boy and I’d watch them and I know they would plant their corn in the spring but boy, believe me, they had to plow and harrow and they had to even water it or the rain had to come and water it. But in a lot of

countries, they have to use irrigation and they have to humanly water it and see that there is enough water and do all that. But that doesn't cause it to grow. That doesn't make the corn grow.

“Now notice how he says it here ‘Apollus watered’ or maybe he harrowed it or plowed a little bit, but **God gave the growth. So, neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything but God who gives the growth and causes it to grow. God is the one who's really doing the big thing, we're not doing much.**”

Bible Study, “I Corinthians 3-4”, Herbert W. Armstrong, July 25, 1980

“**It is GOD the Father who adds to the Church such as he calls to be saved (Acts 2:47).** It is GOD who sets members in the Church (I Cor. 12:18) - not the emotional oratory of the evangelist in the emotional altar call!

“God sets individual members in his Church in order that his holy, righteous perfect CHARACTER may be developed in them. And WHY? To prepare them to become GOD BEINGS in the KINGDOM (family) OF GOD, to GOVERN and RULE the whole earth with the government of God!”

Book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W Armstrong

When God’s Blessings are Withdrawn from the Church

God’s blessings that come from the proclamation of the gospel are withdrawn when the one true Church veers off track. This happens when doctrines are watered down, when false teachings infiltrate the Church, or when doctrinal truth is not adhered to. And one should also remember that when the truth has been compromised, if the Church is not put back on track on a timely manner, it will eventually cease to exist as the one true Church.

If the gospel is proclaimed by organizations or by individuals outside of the one true Church, it is not a work that God has authorized. This is because the individuals or organizations who claim they are preaching the gospel to the world as a witness have not been assigned that commission by God since God only works through the apostles and through the one true Church in announcing the gospel. Remember, only apostles are authorized to proclaim the gospel and this mission is only authorized to be carried out by the one true Church. Therefore, it is easy to reason that since God is not working through groups outside of the one true Church to preach the gospel, God will simply not bless their why they have engaged in:

“UNTIL ABOUT 1969 we in God's Church *did* all "speak the same thing." By 1978 many of the ministers were speaking *different* things! **God had withdrawn from us His blessing and power that for 35 YEARS caused the Work of His Church to grow** at the approximate rate of 30 percent every year over the preceding year!

“WHAT CAUSED GOD TO WITHDRAW HIS BLESSING AND POWER?”

“Precisely the same thing that choked the growth of the Church of God at Corinth from A.D. 56, 25 years after the Church was founded at Jerusalem. They were following different leaders, speaking different things, **watering down the sacred and precious truths of Christ!**

The Worldwide News, “And Now Christ Sets Church Back On Track Doctrinally!”, Herbert W Armstrong, February 19, 1979

“WHY has God's blessing been withdrawn from His Church these past ten years? CHRIST was being PUT OUT—a more liberal lifestyle was, during my absence, being ushered in. The teachings and doctrines Christ put in His Church through His Apostle were being WATERED DOWN— Ambassador had become no longer GOD'S College that I had labored, sweat, bled and ‘died’ to build as GOD'S College.

“Christ had called me, during the past ten years, into all parts of the world, where HE WAS OPENING DOORS to kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers, giving me miraculous FAVOR in their eyes— opening the doors for CHRIST'S MESSAGE to go into their countries where doors previously had been CLOSED to it. In THAT area the Work was making strides it never could before. **But, back home, secularism and worldliness and a ‘more liberal approach’ was leavening completely the College and beginning to spread through the Church.**”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, September 25, 1978

“When this Work has PLEASED GOD, He has prospered us and the Work has GROWN steadily. When the Work does not please God it DOES NOT GROW! From 1968 through 1978 THE CHURCH AND ITS WORK CEASED ITS GROWTH. Those were the years I was away proclaiming the Gospel in nations all over the earth (Revelation 10:11) and my son was in executive administrative charge at Pasadena. In those years the Work, especially in the United States, DID NOT GROW!

“In many ways, I have been appalled at the HARM done to God's Church during those years!”

The Worldwide News, “Reports About Garner Ted False”, Herbert W Armstrong, March 6, 1981

“The ‘fruits’ of the rebel leaders and ‘liberals’ of the 1970's should now be clear to all. After some 35 years of steady growth in all facets of the Work of God's Church, the rate of growth began to slow, then ceased entirely in some areas, and, finally, even decreases began to be experienced in the number of radio and television stations, Plain Truth circulation, number of prospective members, number of co-workers, amount of income for the Work, etc. — all under the ‘leadership’ of the liberal element. These are well-documented facts that cannot be denied.”

The Worldwide News, “Recent History of the Philadelphia Era of the Worldwide Church of God”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 24, 1985

“I have mentioned how the early Church GREW and MULTIPLIED in those God added to the Church. But soon the persecution came. Soon the false preachers came, with the different gospel — a different spirit. They came fomenting a spirit of criticism — of DOUBT! They came saying Jesus' true apostles were preaching WRONG DOCTRINES.

“They said to people: ‘Peter, and Paul, and those apostles won't admit they are teaching erroneous doctrines. Look how many are FALLING AWAY from them. Their credibility is at an all-time low. Don't follow them — forsake them and the Gospel they are proclaiming, and COME OVER WITH US.’

“Yes, brethren, and THOUSANDS DID — TO THEIR OWN ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION IN THE LAKE OF FIRE!

“Look at the Fruits.

“But LOOK AT THE FRUITS! The work of the original apostles BORE THE TRUE FRUITS!

“The Worldwide Church of God has always produced the GOOD fruits — ABUNDANT fruits. It is the ONLY Work in 1850 years that has proclaimed the true Gospel of Christ — the Gospel OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD to the world — now GOING TO THE ENTIRE WORLD!”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 22, 1974

A Worldwide Work

There is final but very important Biblical truth that must be mentioned regarding the 1st Commission. In the 20th century, God's faithful apostle often mentioned the scope of the Work in his sermons, in the articles that he wrote, and in the broadcasts and telecasts the he produced. He understood that the scope of the work, the scope of his commission, was to preach the gospel worldwide.

The 1st Commission is found in Matthew 24:14 and also in Matthew 28:19-20. In both instances, it is clear that the commission to proclaim the gospel is a worldwide mission, and as Mr. Armstrong clarified, it means that this message must be proclaimed throughout all of the major nations of the world. This point has already been expounded upon in Chapter 2. This point is Biblical truth and is also part of the overall doctrinal truth of preaching the gospel to “All of the world for a witness unto all nations.”

The population of the world in 1985 was almost approximately 5 billion people. It is estimated that the population has now reached 8 billion people. To proclaim the gospel in this day and age involves a significant amount of work. This is why it is often called the work of God and it is why God called such a large membership in the 20th century:

“Yet today it (The Worldwide Church of God) carries on a great worldwide Work. As a public service, it is reaching, by radio, television, and large-space advertising in many mass-circulation magazines and

newspapers, 150,000,000 people with the inspired message of the WAY OF LIFE that is the CAUSE of all GOOD-of peace, happiness, prosperity, abundant well-being-the truly successful life.”

Plain Truth Magazine, “This Is The Worldwide Church of God”, December 1976, Page 44

“You think about it. There's a scripture in Psalms, I get 68, 11, which says great was the company of those that published it. Now for the first time in the history of God's work, we got 7,000 church members that are involved in this massive publishing work getting that gospel out. We are actually reaching, one out of every 25 households in the United States.”

Behind the Work Film 1982

“But we will not boast beyond limit, but we'll keep to the limits that God has apportioned us to reach even to you. For, we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. We were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ. We do not boast beyond limit in other men's labors. But our hope is that as your faith increases, our field among you may be greatly enlarged, so that we may preach that gospel in lands beyond you without boasting of work already done in another's field.’

“And he said, that we may preach in lands clear beyond you. In other words, **Paul preached over great areas of hundreds upon hundreds of miles, and even over a thousand miles in those days, when the going was by sailboat or rowboat, or by walking or by a donkey, or a mule, or horse, or something of that kind.** They had no kinds of transportation or communication like we have today.

“God didn't say, stay where you are and preach the gospel. He said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel.” And that's what I get criticized for, sometimes today. But I still do, do it. **And I still shall continue to do it, because that's what Paul did. That's what God wants done today.”**

Bible Study, “II Corinthians 9-10”, Herbert W Armstrong, November 11, 1980

“Now He taught twelve apostles, and after He taught them, He sent them into the world and said, ‘Go into all nations and preach the message I have preached to you. Teach them, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever things I have commanded you.’ Now **He said go into all the world and teach all nations in Matthew 28. That was the great commission.**

“Jesus had taught them, the gospel, but Jesus also said, John 6:44, mark that down, John 6:44. Jesus said, ‘No man can come to me for salvation, except the Father which sent me draw him.’ No man can. I could read that from the Bible but you'll find it there. No man, Jesus said, could come to Him except God the Father draws him, and calls him out of the world.”

Sermon, “Called To Be Teachers”, Herbert W Armstrong, June 10, 1984

CHAPTER FOUR

THE PATTERN UNSEEN IN THE 20th Century

The Pattern used to Proclaim the Gospel in the 20th Century

In the 20th century, a 3 point program for spearheading the gospel was established by Mr. Armstrong. It yielded an amazing amount of fruit. This 3 point program is the pattern that was used and it included a broadcast/telecast of the World Tomorrow Program, the circulation of a hardcopy printed magazine called *The Plain Truth Magazine*, and personal evangelism which later blossomed into personal visits with numerous heads of states and world leaders.

It was a pattern that was blessed by the almighty God because there was a living apostle present who was “sent forth” to preach the true gospel to the world and who did not compromise or deviate from the truths that were entrusted to him by Jesus Christ, including the truth on how the gospel should be proclaimed to the world:

“I had planned a **‘Three-Point Campaign’** — spearheaded by the **radio broadcast**, followed by **The Plain Truth** and reinforced by **personal evangelism** holding six-nights-a-week meetings...

Good News Magazine, “The History of the Beginning and Growth of the Worldwide Church of God – Chapter 5”, Herbert W Armstrong, September 1980

“The World Tomorrow grew from 1 program at a 100 watt station to a radio and television program that is now heard and seen on hundreds of stations around the world.”

“From an even humbler beginning, The Plain Truth has steadily increased in quality and circulation until today it reaches unto nearly every country on earth in many languages with a readership of millions.”

“The third part of the 3 point plan also began small. Mr. Armstrong held meetings in rented halls in the towns and villages of the Willamette Valley. As the work grew, he planned campaigns in other parts of the United States, and eventually overseas. But God had even bigger plans for this part of the 3 point plan. The turning point came in 1968. As the world grew closer to its destiny, God thrust his servant into the international arena.”

Presentation, “Behind the Work 1981”, Herbert W Armstrong, First Day of the Feast of Tabernacles 1981

“As author, radio and television broadcaster and editor-in-chief of several magazines, Herbert W. Armstrong was well versed in world events. **His travels included numerous visits with world leaders, especially during the past two decades. These meetings with emperors, kings, presidents and prime ministers gave him a unique perspective on world affairs and were a continual focus of his writing and broadcasting.**

“Among those with whom he had personal meetings are Their Majesties King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit of Thailand, the late King Leopold III of Belgium, Emperor Hirohito of Japan, Deng Xiaoping of the People's Republic of China, King Juan Carlos of Spain, the late King Mahendra and Their Majesties King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya of Nepal, the late Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, King Hussein of Jordan, the late President Allende of Chile, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain, the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India, the late Prime Minister Golda Meir and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel, the late President Anwar ElSadat and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, President Suharto of Indonesia and all of the Japanese Prime Ministers since 1970, including Prime Minister Nakasone.

“Many honors were bestowed on Mr. Armstrong, including Japan's Order of the Sacred Treasure, Commander of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand and the Order of the White Elephant, the Presidential Medal of Merit from President Marcos of the Philippines, a special peace award from Belgium's King Leopold III and honorary doctorates in humanities from both Iloilo University and Angeles University in the Philippines, all in recognition of his work for world peace.

“On March 24, 1985, Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand, by special appointment of King Bhumibol, conferred on Mr. Armstrong the Ratanaporn II Class for his assistance with humanitarian projects of King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit. This decoration is normally reserved for members of the royal Thai family and in special cases is given to close friends of the royal family.”

Good News Magazine, “Herbert W Armstrong 1892-1986”, May 1986

Note: An important comment is needed here. The 3 point program that was just mentioned is part of the pattern that was used by Mr. Armstrong, by God's apostle of the 20th century, to announce the good news of the soon coming kingdom of God. The pattern used, the 3 point program, is not doctrine, but it is certainly a pattern that worked extremely well, yielded much fruit, and was blessed by God.

The Timeline of History

It is worth noting the timeline of the main events as they occurred in history of the *Worldwide Church of God* when it was led by the one who was “sent forth” to deliver a special message to this world, the one fulfilled the commission described in Matthew 24:14 and who was given the open door that was prophesied in

Revelation 3:7-8. This brief history is found in an article titled “After 54 Years – Christ’s Apostle Was Still Ahead of His Time!” which came out in the 1986 May issue of the *Good News Magazine*:

- 1927 - Mr. Armstrong is called
- 1931 - Mr. Armstrong is ordained into the ministry.
- 1933 - God used Mr. Armstrong to raise the parent Church of the *Worldwide Church of God*, and thus, the Philadelphia era of God’s Church came to life.
- January 1934 - The broadcast of what would become The World Tomorrow Program went over the airwaves.
- February 1934 - The first 250 copies of the *Plain Truth Magazine* were produced.
- 1947 - Ambassador College was founded in Pasadena California.
- 1953 - Doors open to preach the gospel to Europe by radio.
- 1955 - The World Tomorrow program went on Television.
- 1968 - A turning point in the personal evangelism of Mr. Armstrong’s 3 point program began as he was thrust into the international stage when visits with world leaders started to take place.
- 1985 - Mr. Armstrong completed what might be considered the most important book of his life, *Mystery of the Ages*.
- January 16, 1986 - Mr. Armstrong died.

The Biblical Doctrine

It is worth clarifying that there is a difference between the Biblical doctrine and the pattern by which the gospel was proclaimed in the 20th century. The Biblical doctrine involves an apostle who is commissioned by Jesus Christ to preach the gospel to the world. The apostle, under the direction of Jesus Christ, is given the leadership role and the overall responsibility at the human level for announcing the gospel to the world through the one true Church. It is the duty of an apostle to guide, direct, and supervise the Church in the manner in which the good news of the kingdom of God is announced to the world. This is an “original truth” that was restored to the Church by Jesus Christ through Mr. Armstrong in the 20th century.

The Pattern

The pattern that Mr. Armstrong used to proclaim the gospel in the 20th century proved to be extremely successful. It was a 3 point program that involved proclaiming the gospel by print, through a radio and television broadcast, and by personal evangelism which later blossomed into meetings with the approximately one-third of heads of state and leaders of this world.

The pattern that was used in the 20th century to proclaim the gospel is not a Biblical doctrine. It is a pattern that proved to be extremely successful in an age where the printing press as well as broadcasting and telecasting and even high speed travel by airplane became the avenues through which the knowledge of the good news of the kingdom of God was announced across the globe in the modern age.

The pattern that was used by Mr. Armstrong was not the same pattern that was used by the original apostles. It is obvious that the advancements in technology such as the printing press, radio and television and even the methods of travel that are available today were not available in the 1st century to the original apostles.

The Gospel Proclaimed in the 7th Era

It should be noted that the preaching of the gospel after the death of Mr. Armstrong was reestablished in the Laodicean era by the *Restored Church of God* (RCG) in 1999. The true gospel was announced in the 7th era by RCG in almost every manner of the Biblical doctrine of announcing the gospel to the world that was restored in the Philadelphia era of the Church.

Even the pattern used in RCG to announce this message most closely matched the pattern that was used in the *Worldwide Church of God* in the 20th century. This of course was true up until another gospel, a strange and unusual teaching referred to as "The Greatest Untold Story" TGUS infiltrated and took root in RCG in 2015.

Many in RCG sold and gave everything they had so that the world could hear the wonderful message of the kingdom of God when this group was on track. No other group of people in this age have done what those in RCG did.

The Mission of *The Remnant of the Worldwide Church of God*

The mission of *The Remnant of the Worldwide Church of God* is to hold fast to the "original truths" that were restored to the *Worldwide Church of God* by Jesus Christ through Mr. Armstrong and to feed the flock these truths. And it is our goal to assist anyone who is willing to attain this objective.

Before Mr. Armstrong died, it is clear that he understood and wanted the gospel to continue to be preached. And it continued to be proclaimed shortly after his death by the *Worldwide Church of God*. But after the apostasy of the early 1990's, this announcement ceased. Its proclamation began again in 1999 by the *Restored Church of God*. And it was preached in almost the same Biblical doctrine that was restored to the *Worldwide Church of God* in the 20th century, that is, until a different gospel and different teachings infiltrated RCG in 2015.

For a number of reasons, the preaching of the gospel is not an endeavor that can be engaged in or accomplished at this point in time and this late into the Laodicean era, according to the same Biblical doctrine that was restored to the 6th era of the Church, which was outlined in Chapter 3.

One reason is that most of the brethren that are holding fast with us are from RCG and have given all that they have so that the gospel could be preached in this final era of the Church, and now we have very little left to give.

Another reason is that there is no longer a significant membership or ministry left that is holding fast to the "original truths" that were restored to the Philadelphia era of the Church, who can be used to fulfill this work again according to the Biblical doctrine and the pattern that was once used.

"Before the end of the first century, the persecution had reduced the true Church. Many members had gone out of the true Church by the nineties A.D. (I John 2:19). John was warning the brethren against the false ministers (I John 2:4; II John 7,10, etc.). Soon the false counterfeit church greatly outnumbered them.

"Then came the "Lost Century" in Church history. The first-century commission had been carried out. The great false "Christianity" grew great and strong physically and politically — but not spiritually — until it became the largest religion, in number of adherents, in the world.

"Through this 18 1/2 centuries, God's true Church existed, much of the time very SMALL, impotent, teaching and even meeting secretly, and unable to proclaim the GOSPEL of the Kingdom of God to the world."

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 22, 1974

A third reason is that an apostle has to be called, trained and "sent forth" by Jesus Christ to fulfill this commission. Only the apostles are authorized by God to lead the Church in proclaiming this message. Those who claim they are preaching the gospel to the world without an apostle heading, directing and supervising this endeavor have deviated from the Biblical truth that was restored to the Philadelphia era of the Church on how the gospel is to be proclaimed or they have forgotten these truths.

“HOW has He used me, since bringing me back from total heart failure and death? Recently I asked myself this question. Although **Christ has made me His Apostle to carry HIS GOSPEL around the world,** He has used me since my recovery primarily in SETTING HIS CHURCH AND HIS COLLEGE BACK ON GOD'S TRACK! GREAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE! But the job is not yet complete.

“I know **I have been chosen to carry the true Gospel around the world as a witness** before Christ returns. BUT HE ALSO HAS COMMISSIONED ME WITH SOMETHING MORE—and VITALLY—IMPORTANT.”

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, July 24, 1979

“Now Jesus Christ, in person is the personal word of God, that the Bible is the Word of God, in writing, the same identical word of God. **Now, the second generation of the Church, had to get it's doctrine, not from the apostles after they were dead, but they receive the truth, the doctrines, of practices of the Church, and everything through the first generation of the Church, and the third, third generation from the first. And so, men in succeeding generations received the truth from other men. And gradually, they began to forget a lot of the things.**”

Opening Night Message 1981

An addition reason is that there is not enough time left in this age for anyone to begin this commission again. The *Remnant of the Worldwide Church of God* formed in October of 2020 after the last group who was holding fast to the truth apostatized. We are now well into the Laodicean era and at the tail end of this period. Since the commission is to preach the gospel worldwide, it would take a significant amount time and effort and a large membership would have to be called to announce the gospel to all nations.

“Brethren and Co-Workers, **our Commission is getting the Gospel to THE WHOLE WORLD. It has taken YEARS to develop ourselves and the organization to be ABLE to do it,** even if GOD had opened these massive doors to the heads of governments ten years ago, we could not have carried the Work right on in there — WE DID NOT KNOW HOW THEN! Now God has given me the know-how, provided the facilities, and this new dimension of the Work is proceeding forward FASTER AND FASTER. Yes, it's a MIRACLE!”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, June 27, 1974

“Now, at last, after 40 years of building toward it, the living Christ has opened STUPENDOUS NEW DOORS for getting HIS MESSAGE into the nations whose doors, those 40 years, were closed!”

“In all these HUGE POPULATION NATIONS — China, India, Russia, Indonesia, Japan, Brazil, Bangladesh, the nations of western Europe, Asia, Africa, South and Central America — God is opening doors AT THE VERY TOP!”

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 22, 1974

One must ask the following question of the groups or the individuals that claim they are preaching the gospel to the world as a witness, “What fruit have they borne?” If they have not borne any fruit, it is because they have not been “sent forth” by God to proclaim this message and are not truly preaching the gospel to the world:

“God forbids and condemns going off separately, one being of Paul, one of Apollos, one of Cephas— one of Garner Ted, one of Raymond Cole, one of Ernest Martin, one of Ken Westby.

“WHERE have all those who went out gone? **What fruit have they borne? How much of this whole world has heard the TRUE GOSPEL MESSAGE through them?**”

Co-worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, September 25, 1978

“Two or three have broken off from God's Work, seeking a personal following, trying to draw away members from God's Church so they may devour God's sheep for Satan. **But they have no way to get Christ's vital message as a witness into these great nations now opening their doors.**

Co-Worker Letter, Herbert W Armstrong, February 11, 1974

A fourth reason is that a certain amount of character is necessary to qualify for the kingdom of God, especially as a firstfruit. The development of character takes time and involves making the right decisions, overcoming sin and enduring hardships. It is something that does not happen overnight. And once again, as was just mentioned, we are deep into the Laodicean era to begin this work again so that it can go out to the entire world. That is not to say that those who are not called now are lost. Those who are not called in this age will be given their chance on the Last Great Day.

And the final reason is the prophecy in Romans 9:28 which states, “For he will finish the work, and cut *it* short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.” This scripture indicates that the work of God, which is understood to be the preaching of the gospel, will be cut short at the end of the age.

The work described in Romans 9:28 most closely resembles the work that was accomplished in RCG from 1999 until 2015. When RCG was on track, it was understood it was fulfilling this scripture. RCG proclaimed the gospel in the Laodicean era in almost every manner of the Biblical doctrine that was revealed to Mr. Armstrong but in a smaller scale, that is, until a different gospel and different teachings infiltrated the Church in 2015. And thus, the short work of proclaiming the gospel in the 21st century was cut short. An interesting item to note is that this scripture does not describe a worldwide work as Matthew 24:14 does.

CHAPTER FIVE

A SUMMARY

Hera a Little, There a Little

This article contains a plethora of Biblical truth and excerpts from Mr. Armstrong on the subject of Matthew 24:14, which is the first commission. It took a large number of hours to research, accumulate, and write this article and to put it all together so that the “original truth” on this subject can be fully understood. It was written so that God’s people can have a complete understanding on this key truth.

But this document also composed to prevent individuals, organizations, or groups that have splintered from the Worldwide Church of God from citing a single scripture or a citing a few excerpts from Mr. Armstrong in order to convince, or to justify their claim that the reason that they are “preaching the gospel in all the world as a witness unto all nations.” It is not as simple as just posting this message on a website and hope the people will see it.

As you have already learned, if the gospel is proclaimed according to the “original truth” that the Church once understood. It must be proclaimed and supervised by an apostle and through only one organization, the one true Church:

“And if you read the Bible a little further, one scripture interprets another, and one adds and completes another, and one of them alone might not be quite complete by itself. God doesn't always tell all of the truth in any one place. You have to read other scriptures. But He does give us all of the truth that we need, if you take all of the scriptures.”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “The Feast of Tabernacles to be Kept Forever Part 1”, Herbert W Armstrong

“No one scripture can OF ITSELF, taken OUT OF CONTEXT, be used to establish the Truth. ‘Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any PRIVATE interpretation’ (II Pet. 1:20).

“God has put His Bible together in a very unusual manner. He has written it so that men could study it intricately in its original languages, pouring over its pages for their entire lifetime — AND YET NEVER COME TO A KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH. Many people have memorized great sections of the Bible and yet not come to realize what those sections mean. **You must take the whole Bible in its entire context, getting ALL OF THE SCRIPTURES in that Bible ON ANY ONE SUBJECT BEFORE you can come to the knowledge of that particular subject from God's point of view.**

“Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little....”

“That is how the converted mind is to study the Bible. Yet, when the unconverted study God's Word a little here and a little there they are STILL NOT ABLE TO UNDERSTAND the Message of God's Truth because they do not have His Holy Spirit guiding them. That Holy Spirit — the very mind and understanding of God — is the power that inspired those words in the first place, and WITHOUT THAT SPIRIT TO INSPIRE THE UNDERSTANDING, THE DOOR TO THE WORD OF GOD REMAINS SHUT!”

Plain Truth Magazine, “TWELVE RULES for Bible Study”, David Jon Hill, August 1964

“The preachers tell us there's no works to salvation and Christianity. "Just believe." That's what they tell you. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved." Well, you know, there is a dead faith and a live believing faith. **And if you read the Bible a little further, one scripture interprets another, and one adds and completes another, and one of them alone might not be quite complete by itself. God doesn't always tell all of the truth in any one place. You have to read other scriptures. But He does give us all of the truth that we need, if you take all of the scriptures.** And so, you'll read in James and other places, and even in Hebrews, that "faith without works is dead." In the very Faith Chapter of the Bible, the eleventh of Hebrews, you'll find it was by his faith that Abraham, the father of the faithful, proved his faith, until he was called ‘the father of the faithful.’”

World Tomorrow Broadcast, “The Feast of Tabernacles Part 3”, Herbert W Armstrong

Summary

Below is a summary on how the gospel is to be proclaimed to the world. This was an “original truth” that was restored to the Philadelphia era of the Church by Jesus Christ through Mr. Armstrong in the 20th century. Deviation from any of the Biblical points listed below is a departure from a key truth that was once delivered unto the saints.

1. The gospel must be proclaimed through only one organization, the one true Church.
2. The gospel must be proclaimed by an individual who has been called, selected by God and trained by Christ to fulfill the office of an apostle since they are the ones who are “sent forth” with this message.
3. The announcement of the gospel is to be supervised by a living apostle. Evangelists and other ministers may assist an apostle in this commission, but it must be done under the direction and supervision of a living apostle.
4. The Church, those that are called out of this world as a result of proclaiming the gospel, is called to a supportive role. They are to support the apostle or apostles with their tithes, offering and prayers.

5. If the gospel is proclaimed according to the Biblical truth just mentioned, and if the Church is on track doctrinally, God will bless the work financially and he will provide the increase in membership.
6. The conversions that are a result from proclaiming the gospel are the seal of an apostle. This is also the proof and the method by which the membership can know that an apostle has been “sent forth” by Jesus Christ to proclaim the gospel.
7. The announcement of gospel must span the globe. It is a worldwide commission and it involves reaching all of the larger nations in this world. This involves a significant amount of work which is why it is often called the work of God. And in a world with 8 billion people, a significant “company” or membership is necessary to reach such a large population.

Conclusion

An “original truth” that was restored to the *Worldwide Church of God* in the 20th century is the Biblical doctrine of how the gospel is proclaimed to the world. That commission is entrusted by God to only one organization, the one true Church. If the gospel is to be proclaimed by the one true Church, God will select and “send forth” an individual, an apostle to announce that “special message” to the world. Apostles are the ones who are specifically trained by Jesus Christ to engage in and accomplish this task.

And if an apostle has been “sent forth” to proclaim the gospel, it will be made apparent to the membership of the true Church that this man has been sent by God through the fruit, the conversions that occur as a result of preaching this good news. And this is how those whom God has called can be assured that an individual has been vested with the authority from above to engage in the 1st Commission.

A living apostle is also responsible for the overall supervision of the 1st Commission. It is the duty of an apostle to oversee and direct the manner in which this message is delivered, according to the pattern that is established by him. Evangelists, pastors and ministers may assist an apostle, to some extent, with proclaiming the gospel. But this must occur under the supervision and direction of an apostle, since it is the apostle who has been entrusted by Jesus Christ with this unique mission and message.

The membership plays a vital role in proclaiming the gospel to the world as well. Their function is to support an apostle with their prayers, words of encouragement, and with their tithes and offerings so that this message can reach its intended audience. Even though the brethrens responsibility is a supportive one, it is a task that is absolutely necessary because the gospel cannot be announced to the world in this age by an apostle without their support.

And since the commission is to proclaim the gospel worldwide, it must reach all of the major nations in the world as described and clarified by Mr. Armstrong. We were left with picture in time of what occurred in the

20th century when the gospel was proclaimed to all nations, and the evidence of what a worldwide work entails and looks like in the modern age.

And there was also a pattern that was used in the 20th century. The pattern involved the printing press, broadcasting and telecasting, and personal evangelism which later blossomed into meetings with the leaders of many nations. And it was a pattern that was blessed by God and yielded much fruit.

The commission of proclaiming the gospel to the world is not one which should be taken lightly. This mission is not one that just anyone should engage in. It is a work that must be performed by an individual who is selected for this commission from above. It is a commission that one is trained in by Jesus Christ. It is a task that takes place under the authority and by the power of the living God.

And when one has been “sent forth” with this mission, it will be clear and evident to all of God’s people that the extraordinary office of an apostle has been given and that an apostle has been “sent forth” with a “special message”. One final excerpt is in order. It comes from a man who was a first hand witness to the proclamation of the true gospel that took place in the 20th century. The following is what he observed:

“I have often been asked, ‘How was Mr. Armstrong received?’ **For those who already had met him the reception was warm and often affectionate. To those meeting him for the first time, they quickly saw him as a man of understanding and wisdom.** As Mr. Armstrong would say, ‘It makes sense, and it is the only explanation that does.’ **Although they often didn't want to admit it, and didn't believe it would happen, the Gospel was given as a witness to them. It was clear that God was guiding him in what to say.**”

Good News Magazine, “Friends Remember Mr. Armstrong”, Aaron Dean, May 1986

*With sincerity and love
And in Christ’s service,*



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