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PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

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Greetings, ministers and wives!

Haggai 2:23 is one of the most revealing verses in the Bible. "In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts." That says volumes about what God did through Mr. Armstrong and how important that work truly was. By clinging to that signet, we have GOD'S SIGNATURE *through* Zerubbabel!

Having a *signet* presupposes that there is a man there to stamp it! Without government in the Church today, you would have only confusion!

Why would God put this prophecy here if He didn't know there was a great apostasy coming? He wants to know if His people learned to build the way Zerubbabel built—if they learned what God taught them—or if, on the other hand, they are going to foolishly follow a man with a position that means nothing if he doesn't have the signature!

You must look to the *signature*—the gold stamp of God's authority!

HOW WOULD WE KNOW HOW TO RAISE UP THE RUINS (Amos 9:11) IF WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MR. ARMSTRONG'S WORK? We are not trying to be original—we are just raising up the ruins, building the same way he did!

Mr. Armstrong came on the scene and died. "Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever?" (Zechariah 1:5).

Prophets die—apostles die. We are all going to die. But God is getting at something important here: *If you live at the same time as a prophet or apostle, you're going to be held accountable!* The prophet won't live forever—BUT GOD DOES! God sends those men and teaches us through them—or restores all things—or builds a temple! But then that man dies, AND WE MUST CLING TO WHAT GOD TAUGHT.

"But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us" (verse 6). In one sense, the man is irrelevant! It is GOD'S commandments and achievements that we must be concerned about.

When a great man of God comes along, we must ask, how did he live so successfully? We must study his example in detail and *learn from that!*

Herbert Armstrong is dead and gone. Many believe that the words he spoke and wrote should have died with him. BUT THEY ARE GOD'S WORDS!

This passage is leading up to the prophecy about Joshua, a man who didn't learn that lesson.

"And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?" (Zechariah 3:1-2).

Joshua is pictured as being in bonds to the devil! After all the wonderful words by Zerubbabel, Haggai and Zechariah, Joshua still ended up enslaved by the devil!

That certainly happened in this end time, and I'm sure it occurred anciently as well—Zechariah probably got this information from what he *saw*.

Joshua was clothed with filthy garments. These were taken from him, and a "fair mitre" set on his head and new garments given him (verses 3-5). The mitre, or turban, is a symbol of authority. When Joseph Tkach worked with Mr. Armstrong for the last seven years, he fulfilled the Joshua role. He was the leader of that church after

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no PGR next week due to the Herbert W. Armstrong College campout.

Mr. Armstrong died. This verse indicates that Joshua had authority and abused it—and then there was a great falling away in God’s Church.

What happened after Zerubbabel died anciently? Joshua was probably put in charge, and things went bad. Forty to fifty years later, Malachi had to rebuke the temple priests. God’s temple tends to degenerate—and we have to watch that very carefully!

We are carrying that same message to the Laodiceans today—but we also take a message *to the world* that Malachi didn’t. We take his message and a lot more to the *whole world*.

Zechariah 4:6-9 and two thirds of verse 10 are the Zerubbabel inset. An inset is an insertion that is added later by the editors after the original story was written. The *Critical International Commentary* (and a few others) even put this inset in another section of Zechariah.

Why an inset? It was put there after the Joshua story was recorded by those who canonized the Bible. The story flow of Zechariah 3 and 4 is about Joshua and the two witnesses who prophesy in the Great Tribulation, and is concluded by Christ’s return (Zechariah 3:8). That is the time setting. The two olive trees (Zechariah 4:11-12) are the two witnesses (Revelation 11:1-4). Zerubbabel is not an active part of this story flow—the flow is better if you skip the inset.

Joshua and “his fellows” repeated the sins of the 1970s. They relied too much on their own power—not the power of God’s Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:6). Verse 6 is a part of the Zerubbabel inset. God says Zerubbabel (Mr. Armstrong) built the house with God’s Holy Spirit, but the Laodiceans REFUSE TO FOLLOW. They have a great example to follow, but they REFUSE. God considers this a rejection of HIS AUTHORITY AND GOVERNMENT!

Sometimes you have to fast longer, or pray longer, to make sure you are doing what you are doing by God’s Spirit!

THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD IS NOT LEAVING GOD’S PHILADELPHIA STANDARD. The Laodicean leaders today are doing the leaving! They are taking a Laodicean turn away from Christ—because they ignore what CHRIST ESTABLISHED through Zerubbabel (Mr. Armstrong).

Joseph Tkach said he wouldn’t let Mr. Armstrong rule from the grave. But we must—if those rulings are from God!

“For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth” (verse 10).

Mr. Armstrong wrote this in his member and co-worker letter dated February 7, 1979: “Brethren in Christ, we need to REALIZE WHAT WE ARE INTO! This is really a war between Satan and Christ—and Christ SHALL WIN, and God’s Work shall be FINISHED! It is crystal clear now to me—and I hope to you—why God raised me up from the dead a year and a half ago! But, as the people with Zerubbabel had to pitch in and work with their might, how much MORE must we! Christ has promised that He will NEVER LEAVE US NOR FORSAKE US! This is now HIS battle more than ours. The invisible Satan inspired it and deceived disloyal ex-members into taking their rebellious grudge to the state attorney’s office, and unknown of course to the men involved, Satan put it into their minds to start this unconstitutional lawsuit, to take possession and operation of the VERY WORK OF GOD WHICH JESUS CHRIST IS DIRECTING THROUGH HIS PEOPLE! ...

“Remember, any tithes or offerings sent to the Pasadena address will go to the ex-judge receiver. Most of our mail processing department has been moved here to Tucson, Arizona.

“Before closing let me again say THANK YOU! THANK YOU for your dedicated loyalty, your sacrifice and quick response! All departments are now operating again in Pasadena, except most of the mail processing department, which has been temporarily moved here in Tucson. YOUR RESPONSE IN THIS TIME OF WAR TO KEEP GOD’S CHURCH AND WORK ALIVE HAS BEEN JUST AS SUPERB AS THOSE BROTHERS IN THE PASADENA AREA IN RE-TAKING POSSESSION OF GOD’S PROPERTY—ALL DEEDED IN GOD’S NAME—AT PASADENA! Your part in God’s Work is just as necessary as mine.”

With love, in Christ’s service,



MEDIA SERVICES

PODCASTING THE KEY OF DAVID

The Key of David is now available for download on Apple's iTunes. iTunes is the hugely popular on-line application that allows consumers to buy individual songs or entire music albums for playback on either a computer or an iPod. Portable iPods can play back music and some models also playback video. Along with being able to instantly purchase and download music, iTunes now offers audio and video podcasts. A person can go to iTunes and search for "Key of David" or "Gerald Flurry" in the Podcast section and will be given several *Key of David* episodes to choose from. These programs can be downloaded and watched on their computer or iPod. In the near future, visitors to the *Key of David* website will be able to subscribe to *Key of David* podcasts. This means that every time they turn on their iTunes service, iTunes will automatically check for pro-

grams that the person has not downloaded yet. These programs can then be downloaded and viewed.

KEY OF DAVID SCHEDULE

Program Title: "The God Family Vision"

Airdate: February 26, 2006

Literature Offered: *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?*, *Conspiracy Against Fatherhood* and *The God Family Vision*

Synopsis: Why are families in such turmoil today? Why such high divorce rates? What even constitutes a family? God has the answers to all these questions. Few realize why God created the family and how He designed it to work. But now you can understand why family! This week on *The Key of David*, Gerald Flurry discusses the God Family vision.

MINISTERIAL TRAINING SERIES

Ministerial Recommendations for PYC Applications

By Dennis Leap

THE DATES for summer camp this year are July 5-25. Those of us who administer the summer camp need your help and cooperation from the field to ensure that summer camp operates smoothly.

As always, we are requiring a ministerial recommendation for each applicant. *These evaluations are a must.* The regional director must approve each application. Obviously, where there is a local minister, that local minister should be giving his input on the application. However, the regional director should be made aware of all summer camp applications. For those areas where no local minister is present, the regional director must provide all of the input.

BASIS FOR EVALUATION

Consider the following items when recommending a camper: health, maturity, attitude, discipline and his or her commitment to the truth and standards of the PCG. Please do NOT recommend campers who have serious health problems. Summer camp is rigorous. Our campers are exposed to the Oklahoma heat and humidity. In July, temperatures are generally in the 90s, mixed with high humidity. Our campers must do considerable daily walking to and from activities. Campers are also expected to participate in sporting events such as archery, biking, soccer, softball, volleyball, and more. Campers with serious medical problems such as arthritis, glaucoma, and being overweight have in the past had a very difficult time at camp.

Be sure that the campers you approve to come to camp are *mature* socially and mentally. Rarely should a 12-year-old be approved for camp. Some 13-year-olds are ready for camp, but many are not. The ages 14 to 19 are the optimum years for attendance at summer camp. Here is why: Campers are placed in dorms of 10 to 12 campers. These campers must participate in all classes and sports events with their dorm. Each dorm has

campers that range in age from 13 to 19. Each camper is expected to carry his or her own weight in terms of dorm neatness, participation during Bible class, speech class, leadership class and in all the sporting events. The dorm is expected to function as a team almost immediately. *Immature 12- and 13-year-olds have a difficult time quickly fitting into the team concept.* Our Bible and leadership classes are also rather challenging. In our Bible classes we do discuss the *Missing Dimension in Sex* and other similar topics. Mr. Flurry's Bible study and sermon are also directed toward the more mature teenager and young adult. In the past, we have found that some of our younger campers fall asleep during Mr. Flurry's messages and Bible classes.

FOCUS ON ATTITUDE

It is also imperative that you recommend ONLY those campers who have a positive attitude and demonstrate good self-discipline. Remember, attitude is *far more important* than athletic or scholastic aptitude. In order to make things run smoothly, summer camp is very regimented—we maintain an extremely tight schedule. Campers wake up as early as 5:30 a.m. and must stay on schedule until lights out at 10 p.m. Teenagers who are not used to schedules, or who have self-discipline problems, have difficulty with our summer camp schedule.

Please do NOT recommend a teenager you know to have difficulty with parental or other authority. Please do not recommend teens who have created problems in your local areas. Teens who have smoking, drinking, drug or sex problems should *not be recommended*. Many think that summer camp will help these kids. *Summer camp cannot fix authority and other problems in three short weeks.* Authority-type problems are very contagious. Rebellion can spread very quickly through the camp. It is far better for you to work with our troubled teens in the field before sending them to camp.