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CAN WE FELLOWSHIP THE DISFELLOWSHIPED?

By Herbert W. Armstrong
Are some of us trying to be more kind, merciful and considerate even than GOD? Are we actually

disobeying God in our soft, fence-straddling approach toward certain others?

To those disfellowshipped



BIBLE STUDY — Herbert W. Armstrong expounds the book of James April 23 in the Ambassador Auditorium. The service was one of several conducted by Mr. Armstrong during the Spring Festival. [Photo by Nathan Faulkner]

Pastor general conducts Passover, four services

PASADENA — Battling a sore throat and a mild case of the Asian flu, Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong delivered three sermons, conducted Passover services for the Auditorium P.M. church and gave a Bible study during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

After addressing Ambassador College student body forums April 9 and 14, Mr. Armstrong conducted April 17 Passover services for about 900 members in the Ambassador College gym. The pastor general spoke briefly about faith and reminded the group of the seriousness of the occasion.

Prophecy sermon

The following afternoon Mr. Armstrong spoke to the Auditorium P.M. and Imperial congregations, this time on prophecy. Expounding Revelation 12, Mr. Armstrong traced the history and purpose of the Church.

The pastor general took the afternoon service on the first Holy Day, following a record offering for the Pasadena area, according to evangelist Joseph Tkach. Mr. Armstrong addressed an overflow crowd of 2,750, some of whom watched on closed-circuit television from the college gym, said Robin Webber, the assistant pastor of the Auditorium P.M. congregation.

Mr. Armstrong explained the meaning and significance of each

the relevance of the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Later in the week Mr. Armstrong surprised 1,100 brethren gathered in the Auditorium by taking the April 23 Bible study, reported Mr. Webber. Two Bible studies were scheduled for the Days of Unleavened Bread, with evangelist Herman L. Hoeh speaking April 21.

The pastor general spoke to the assembly on the book of James and related it to the Days of Unleavened Bread. He exhorted those present to "come out of the world."

As an example, Mr. Armstrong went through a Sunday edition of the Los Angeles Times. Taking each section of the paper, he showed how newspapers report on the interests of the world instead of the interest of God.

New York trip

Following his April 23 Bible study, Mr. Armstrong left the next morning with assistant Robert Fahey for New York. He was met there by pastors Frank McCrady, Jr., Leslie Schmedes, Ed Faulk and deacon Bill Lubon at the New York Regency Hotel for a brief meeting, according to Mr. McCrady.

The next day, the final day of Unleavened Bread was a "day that will not soon be forgotten by the New York brethren," said Mr. McCrady.

Robert Fahey conducted the

from the Church, Christ will say, "Depart from me..." (Matthew 7:23). There have been those disfellowshipped for cause and who have tended to want to "hang around" the Ambassador College campus and God's Church — attend basketball games, fraternize with members, enjoy what is here to be enjoyed. They seem never to cease wanting to "GET" all they can from the Church. Yet they usually will spread false rumors against the Church, or in other ways speak against it.

One thing characteristic, it has been noticed, concerning many disfellowshipped, they continue to have MORE INTEREST IN THE CHURCH than even many members. They seek diligently every bit of news or information about Church activities. They

seek every method to obtain our literature — to know "what's going on."

WHY? They seek every bit of information to twist and turn against God's Church, God's people and God's Work. They seek it because in their hearts they know they are wrong, and they seek self-justification by finding grounds by misrepresenting facts to falsely ACCUSE and CONDEMN the Church of God!

Instead of seeking justification of their sinning past by the blood of Christ, they seek SELF-justification by persecution against, and false ACCUSATION of the Body of CHRIST!

Some time ago, without my knowledge and without my authority, someone started a category called "inactive members." It now appears this was done to benefit some who had been disfellowshipped for cause.

There never has been any official or recognized category called "inactive members." Such nonexistent category is officially declared nonexistent. Those who prior to that were disfellowshipped are STILL DISFELLOWSHIPED.

Now what does the Word of God teach God's Church in this regard? Those who had become baptized and received as members, but who, for offenses, had been disfellowshipped, we are to "AVOID THEM" (Romans 16:17).

Again, "Now we COMMAND YOU, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly," and, "if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him..." (II Thessalonians 3:6, 14).

We may have reason to have (See FELLOWSHIP, page 5)

HWA approves trainees, elders

PASADENA — Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong approved six Ambassador College seniors to serve as ministerial trainees. Evangelist Joseph Tkach announced their names in a college assembly here April 30.

The new trainees and the areas they will serve are: James Capo, Glendale and Reseda, Calif.; Steve Elliott, Washington, D.C.; Ben Faulkner, Pasadena Auditorium P.M.; John Knaack, Monroe, La.; Dennis Milner, Pasadena Auditorium A.M.; and Doug Peitz, Garden Grove, Calif.

Mr. Tkach also said eight local elders, all graduates of Ambassador College, will be hired into the full-time ministry as assistant pastors. They are: Rick Baumgartner, Houston, Tex.; North Val Burgett, Belleville and Mount Vernon, Ill.; John Dobritch, Belle Vernon, Pa., and Clarksburg, W.Va.; David Dobson, Memphis and Nashville, Tenn.; Tom Fitzpatrick, New York City, N.Y.; area churches; Dennis Johnson, Glendora and San Bernardino, Calif.; Steve Walden, Corpus Christi, Harlingen and Victoria, Tex.; Dan White, Shreveport, La., Texarkana, Tex., and Mena, Ark.

John Borax, a local elder attending Ambassador College, will also join the full-time ministry in the Auditorium P.M. congregation.

Before announcing the trainees, Mr. Tkach commented on the role of Ambassador College. He referred to Mr. Armstrong's three forums (April 9, 14 and 28), when Mr. Armstrong traced the history and purposes of Ambassador College.

Despite much persecution and hardships "God gave Mr. Armstrong the wisdom to overcome all those obstacles," Mr. Tkach said. "You [the students] aren't sitting here by accident," he continued. "It

great deal of hard work... to build this college."

The evangelist quoted John 6:44, 65, stating that God drew most of the students to "the priceless opportunity of attending the West Point of God's Work."

He illustrated the building of the spiritual temple, pointing out that the students could be a part of the "precision building" that God is

developing.

"God is in the process of putting together the greatest team in the history of man," Mr. Tkach continued. He urged the students to become leaders in spiritual principles by practicing them.

He said their main job is a support function. "We're all working together to assist Mr. Armstrong in completing the commission."

Professionals respond to Wall Street Journal ads

PASADENA — Doctors, lawyers, businessmen with graduate degrees, corporate executives and people from all walks of life are requesting literature offered in Herbert W. Armstrong's Wall Street Journal advertisements.

According to the Mail Processing Center, thousands of professionals have written or called for copies of *The Wonderful World Tomorrow*, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, *The Plain Truth* and other literature.

After submitting 27 ads to the eastern and western editions of *The Wall Street Journal*, Mr. Armstrong is beginning a series in the midwestern and southern editions in the United States. *Plain Truth* managing editor Dexter Faulkner said the pastor general plans to include many of the previously published ads that are not time bound.

Many of the literature requests included comments on Mr. Armstrong's message. One elected official in an Eastern state wrote, "Your ad was very worthwhile reading and

with Business and Industry")."

Several professionals were impressed with Mr. Armstrong's explanation of "give" and "get." A dentist from Florida wrote: "I would feel privileged to receive whatever literature you have... expounding your principles."

An attorney from New Jersey noted: "I share the sentiments expressed in your messages and would like very much to receive the literature... Let me thank you personally for keeping the Word of God alive in the halls of mammon."

A South African visiting the United States called the Work's Wide Area Telephone Service (WATS) lines to express his appreciation.

An individual from Hawaii termed the pastor general's comments the most "profound public statements I've heard in some time."

And finally, several individuals from advertising agencies wrote of their appreciation, and one regional manager of *The Wall Street Journal* wrote for a copy of *The Wonderful World Tomorrow*.

Auto hurls 4 year old 30 feet; X rays reveal no major damage

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. — Keith and Sandy Hillman stood breathlessly over the limp body of their 4-year-old daughter Nicole. They had just watched their young daughter tumble through the air after being struck by a car traveling 40 miles an hour.

According to Kalamazoo, Mich., pastor Ken Williams, God "performed a miracle," as X rays showed no broken bones, severe head injuries or internal damage.

Church member Alan Smikle was walking with the Hillmans April 4 when he watched Nicole dart across the road. She didn't make it.

With a thud similar "to the sound of a falling tree," Nicole was hit so hard her shoes and socks flew off, said Mr. Smikle. "The driver of the car thought she was dead before he got the car stopped," reported Mr. Williams.



NICOLE HILLMAN

After being hit, Nicole was hurled 30 feet into the air, coming to rest in a ditch, according to several witnesses.

"Upon racing to Nicole's side, her father and I sensed no movement," Mr. Smikle said. "It was only seconds later — seeming like hours — that Nicole began to cry. We could only pray silently."

Nicole was rushed to Leila Hospital's trauma center in Battle Creek, where tests indicated internal bleeding. There she was anointed by local elder Glen Keely.

Hours later, X rays revealed no broken bones or internal damage, much to the surprise of attending doctors, said Mr. Williams. To be safe, the doctors kept Nicole hospitalized for a few days.

"One doctor kept telling Nicole, 'You're a very lucky little girl,'" added Mr. Williams. "He didn't know where the luck came from."

"One week later, Nicole was playing with other children," the Kalamazoo pastor stated. She looked as if "she simply fell off her bicycle," Mr. Smikle said.

"Even the driver of the car was awestruck," Mr. Williams commented.

Varied cultures flavor Ambassador education

By John Curry

PASADENA — Twenty percent of the 1980-81 Ambassador College student body is non-American, according to the Admissions Office.

Since Chancellor Herbert W. Armstrong gained approval in 1956 from the U.S. Immigration Service to admit foreign students, hundreds of international students have attended Ambassador College.

International flavor

Today 19 countries are represented on the Pasadena campus.

Students come from such widely separated areas as Sweden, New Zealand, Malaysia and Canada.

"This cosmopolitan makeup of the student body permits students of different ethnic and national backgrounds to get to know each other," said Deputy Chancellor Raymond F. McNair. "In this way, Ambassador students can learn more about others — their cultures, customs and the way they live."

Scholarships available

"Ambassador College favors (See CULTURES, page 7)

CAN WE FELLOWSHIP THE DISFELLOWSHIPED?

(Continued from page 1)

conversation or to eat with those of the world, but NOT with Church members or disfellowshipped ones who "walk disorderly."

We read: "I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators; yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is [or has been?] called a brother [Moffatt: "any so-called brother"] be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no one to eat" (1 Corinthians 5:9-11).

There have even been some, who have called themselves members and have been called such, who have been apparently preparing and recording "evidence" (improperly as brothers) to take before the courts of this world against Church members. The very next chapter, three verses later, begins, "DARE any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?"

God is far more strict in all such matters within the Church than we have sometimes been

inclined to be.

Since we are to AVOID THEM entirely, that means not only that we must not go to them, but they must not be allowed to come into God's Church or on the Ambassador College campus.

We may, personally, very much dislike to appear to be harsh. But expelled members have always in the past sought to come on our property and enjoy its privileges when they had abused the right to such privileges.

WE MUST NOT appear to try to be more kind than God. Christ will say, "Depart from me!" WE MUST NOT COMPROMISE! GOD DOES NOT! Rather than compromise with His law a trillionth of an inch, "GOD GAVE His only begotten Son."

But we should PRAY for such former members. Jesus said to pray even for our enemies. I do pray for all such. I pray God will BLESS THEM — with whatever He in His supreme wisdom knows is BEST FOR THEM — even though that may be severe PUNISHMENT!

God punishes every son whom He loves. God's punishment is NEVER REVENGE or desire to hurt and enjoy their suffering. It is always CORRECTIVE! It is for the purpose of HELPING them to BLESS them! God still does

it in LOVE for the one punished!

But what about those former members who just of their own accord "dropped out?" I think we have to go to Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed. Jesus showed that a few — or it may be many — endure only for a little while. It is those who "ENDURE UNTO THE END" who shall be saved and born into God's Kingdom.

Perhaps those who lost interest and dropped out were never converted in the first place. God shows us no reason to avoid them, but we should not closely fellowship with any unless or until they are being led by God's Holy Spirit and show the fruits of God's Spirit within them.

What about disfellowshipped relatives — or even close, such as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, etc.? I covered that in an article in the April, 1980, *Good News*, "Which Family Comes First?"

I showed you that we are to withdraw ourselves from every BROTHER — or sister — son or daughter, etc. If it is a father or mother, we must still HONOR them, even in withdrawn fellowship.

Let us realize the JUSTICE of God's way, and that it is, truly, more just than the way that may seem right to a man.



30-YEAR MEMBER — Mary Smith, baptized by Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong in 1951, holds a redwood plaque presented to her by Boise, Idaho, pastor Jeff McGowan.

Church honors Boise member

The following article was written by Judy L. McGowan, wife of Boise, Idaho, pastor Jeff McGowan.

plaque made by Boise Church member Joel Irusta.

Baptized 30 years ago by Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong, Mrs. Smith, 82, first listened to the broadcast in the late '40s when it was produced in Portland, Ore. Mrs. Smith and her husband Clarence became co-workers immediately.

Mrs. Smith was born in Juneau, Alaska, in 1898 and came to Seattle, Wash., at age 18 to get a business education. When she and her husband settled in Cascade, Idaho, in 1942, they operated a service station.

When work slowed down in March, 1951, they decided to go to Pasadena to "check out Mr. Armstrong and see if he was really what he claimed to be," said Mrs. Smith.

They met Mr. Armstrong and his

wife Loma and were not disappointed. Mr. Armstrong counseled with them and baptized them the same day.

Mrs. Smith still remembers Mr. Armstrong's advice, "Be sure this is the true Church and don't go out even if I do or if I fall short." Mrs. Smith has followed that advice through many years and many difficulties.

She recalls those years when people questioned why there should be an Ambassador College. Mrs. Smith said, "I learned the thing to do was to wait and the answer always came to show why decisions were made and how God was leading Mr. Armstrong."

In 1953, just two years after his baptism, Mr. Smith died. Mr. and Mrs. Smith had been married for 34 years. Mrs. Smith ran the service station alone for seven more years and with God's help and blessings paid off all debts. She made enough money to buy a 10-acre farm outside Middleton, Idaho, where she lives today.

Lone member in Japan writes to keep in touch

By Norman Shoaf

ABIKO, Japan — "I am more or less used to being alone. But then I understand that nobody is really alone, that God is everywhere and close to everybody who seeks Him," said Catherine Okano, the only resident Church member in Japan.

How does it feel to be the only member of God's Church in a whole nation? "Actually I do not know how it really feels to be among many brethren," she noted. "I can only guess it from the Feast times and the few times when I can participate in services in Switzerland [where she visits her recently baptized family every year]. It must be wonderful."

Mrs. Okano came into contact with God's Work through her younger brother, Eric Ronchetti, a 1979 Ambassador College grad-

uate, who introduced her to *The Plain Truth* and *The Good News* during one of her visits to Switzerland. She was baptized in 1974.

Since then, she has attended the Feast of Tabernacles in West Germany, the Philippines and Malaysia. But she isn't completely cut off from other brethren during the rest of the year. She stays in touch "mostly by correspondence," she said. "I write to many brethren in many countries. We help each other, encourage and comfort each other during trials, and we enjoy good times."

"Then I receive all the Church literature, which keeps me well informed of things," she added. "Sometimes I even get visitors from abroad. It is a special moment when

(See MEMBER, page 7)