

Research Paper



LIST OF PIONEERS OR SENIOR VETERANS OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

Compiled by C White
version 6.4 13 October 2007

What inspired this list? The answer is simple: I have desired for many, many years to keep a record of these men given that information about them is scattered and much of what they achieved is not readily available.

In late 2004 when Herman L Hoeh died, I thought it was time to do it – now or never. So here it is, the product of collecting information from a plethora of sources. Hopefully it makes for the foundations of a lucid paper or book on the pioneers of the old WCG.

No doubt there is more out there. **Should the reader be able to fill in further details, do not hesitate to let me know. There is no doubt further information about these men in the *Worldwide News*, *Pastor-General's Report*, *In Transition* and *The Journal* publications and other sources.**

For a list of early Ambassador College graduates, you should go to the following site: <http://www.thejournal.org/archives/acgrads.html>



Contents

List of Pioneers	4
WCG Pioneer Timelines	23
HWA lists the first ministers	24
List of the first ministers – year ordained	25
Radio Church of God congregations by 1958	27
Reports and Information on the Pioneers	28





"Our war is not a war of conquest. We are fighting in the defense of our homes, our families, and posterity [or Church]. We have petitioned, and our petitions have been disregarded; we have begged, and they have mocked when our calamity came. We beg no longer; we petition no more. **We defy them.**"

~ William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925. US Congressman)



List of Pioneers

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies	
Adair	Colin	GCG	1962	15 Nov 1998	RD (Canada; Phillippines)	
Albert	David	WCG	1959		Evangelist	
Ames	Richard	LCG	1962		ACE. Evangelist	
Antion	David	SC CoG	1956		GTA's brother-in-law (married Molly, Shirley Armstrong's sister)	
Apartian	Dibar	LCG	1955		ACE. FLD (French); ACE; Evangelist. Mr. Apartian, for example, came as an employee with no ties to WCG, so the date shown is the year he joined the AC faculty. He was baptized months or years later.	
Armstrong	Dwight	WCG	1949	17 Nov 1984	Authored the <i>Bible Hymnal</i> . There is a WN article about him published late 1984 and an article in the <i>PGR</i> 21 November 1984.	
	Armstrong	Garner Ted	ICG	1953	15 Sept 2003	Deputy to HWA
	Armstrong	Herbert W	WCG		16 Jan 1986 (6 Shebat)	Human founder [NB: Loma Armstrong dies in mid-1967 – so HWA died in the 19th year since his wife's death]
Armstrong	Richard D	WCG		30 July 1958	Second in line after HWA in the 1950s. Died in a tragic motor car accident.	

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

	Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies
	Billingsley	Don	CoG,FF	1953		He was ordained into the ministry, along with Leroy Neff, Allan Manteufel and Bryce Clark, on June 7, 1958 by Mr. Armstrong and other evangelists joining him on stage. He was ordained a deacon the previous year.
	Blackwell	Dean	WCG	1952	14 April 2003	ACE. Evangelist (apparently his library was procured by UCG. Apparently he had every book ever published on the Waldensians)
	Brown	Frank	WCG	1961		RD (Britain)
	Carter	Gene				The WCG congregation in St. Louis was established by Gene Carter, the brother-in-law of former WCG evangelist Raymond Cole.
	Catherwood	Carn	WCG	1957		
	Chapman	Ben	CGI	1959		Married Dick Armstrong's wife
	Cole	C Wayne	Non-aligned	1951		Evangelist. Associated with Big Sandy CoG
	Cole	Raymond C	CoG,E	1948	25 Sept 2001	Evangelist
	Dart	Ronald	CEM	1958		Evangelist


WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies
 	Dean	Aaron	UCG	1969	<p>PA to HWA</p> <p>Aaron Dean was born on September 20, 1952, which he later learned was the feast of Trumpets. His mother was listening to Mr. Herbert W Armstrong but was not yet a member. Aaron's father died in a construction accident, and at that point it was suggested that his mother join the "widows" in Big Sandy, so his family moved. All his schooling was Church related, beginning with the church's Imperial Schools in 1958. In 1960 a friend convinced his mother to move to Pasadena, California, where Aaron finished Imperial and then attended Ambassador College. He graduated from Ambassador in 1974.</p> <p>Mr. Armstrong shocked him with a phone call on graduation day and asked that he become part of his traveling group and not go on to the pre-arranged ministerial trainee assignment. "They will understand" he said. He left the next Monday morning on a "three week" trip! "Six weeks later" Mr. Dean left the traveling group in Paris to fly to New Jersey to marry his fiancée, Michelle Gemon.</p> <p>Aaron says: "Michelle has been my greatest asset, since she came to College knowing almost nothing about the Church or the Bible, and her Lutheran background taught her nothing of the Sabbath or Holy Days. She has been able to give me a perspective that I wouldn't have had as a 'Church kid.' "In Church affiliation, I witnessed much in the 70s, both good and bad. I do understand the complaints made by many of those years, although I know most do not understand the why's and often apportion blame to the wrong people. I watched God do a lot in those years, but also witnessed some of the manipulation and misinformation, which in spite of the success and growth, cost much in human and physical resources."</p> <p>"After the legal battles with the State of California in 1979, and the subsequent 'putting the church back on track' by Mr. Armstrong, it was requested that I become his personal assistant. I refused three times, but he was decided that declining was not an option. I have learned from Scripture and personal observation, that if God makes you do something you will not fail, but if He doesn't you will pay a dear price. I think this is part of the 'fear of God' which is the 'beginning of wisdom.'"</p> <p>Mr Dean wore many "hats" up until Mr. Armstrong's death in 1986. Earlier travel involved being away from home around 300 days a year, and usually</p>

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies
					involved a dozen countries per year. The 80s schedule was 100 days per year and nearly a dozen countries per trip with a 75 percent reduction in cost. Indeed it was God who helped a 92-year-old man in his last year visit nine countries in 24 days. Along with setting up campaigns and meetings, Mr. Armstrong allowed Aaron to negotiate the student projects in foreign countries, which were so effective in demonstrating a way of life where other means were nearly impossible. Indeed, he was kept busy seven days a week, usually 20 hours a day. Being home from traveling in the later years of his life allowed Mr. Armstrong more involvement in day to day direction of the church. Because of his age and physical weakness He used Mr. Dean as his eyes and ears in personal as well as administrative service. Of necessity, Aaron dealt with all aspects of the organization, whether church, college, or foundation, and in all countries. He served on the Council of Elders, and most of the boards of the corporation. Mr. Armstrong only allowed him one outside duty, that was a request of him by King Leopold III of Belgium that he serve on the board of his Belgium foundation. Mr Dean adds: "I was saddened at the death of my mentor in 1986. Michelle and I wanted a family, and God granted us a son, Aaron Jr., and daughter, Crystal Michelle. They truly filled a void for us. "I completed an MBA and began teaching business administration at Ambassador University until its close in 1997. I truly enjoyed teaching our young people and was able to minister to many, who were losing their direction."
Dick	Raymond		1957	2004	Not a minister but another long-time employee and manager who knew HWA well
Dillon	Walter E		1947	1984	HWA's brother-in-law
Dorothy	Charles		1955	2001?	FLD (Spanish). "Also in 1953, Charles Dorothy, my "brother," left the University of Washington and his ROTC status and came to AC for the Fall term. He began his AC course and it soon became clear that he had a facility for languages and research. He studied and later taught Greek. He added to his Spanish toward a PhD degree, and took up Hebrew -- a glutton for punishment!"(http://www.godward.org/archives/Special%20Articles/Jon%20Hill%20Story%20Part%202.htm) Ken Westby wrote the following about his library: "You asked what happened


WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies
Elliott	Jack	UCG	1949		<p>to his library. I have it by his wish and that of my now deceased sister, Camilla, CVD's wife. It is a scholar's library which I've shared with a number of scholars and have given away many of his best books. Nevertheless, about 2000 remain."</p> <p>Dean of Students from early 1950s. Wrote a booklet about Masonry.</p> <p>"In February, 1953, Mr. Jack R. Elliott, then dean of students, asked me if I would go with him as a guest to visit a businessman's "Toastmasters' Club." These clubs are, I believe, worldwide. They are evening dinner speech clubs. First, several men are called on without advance notice to stand and discuss, in one or two minutes, some topic assigned by the "table topics chairman." Later there are a number of prepared speeches, usually limited to about six minutes.</p> <p>"Mr. Elliott wanted to introduce speech clubs into Ambassador College activities, patterned after these clubs, but with a few variations adapted to our needs. We saw at once the value of such an activity at Ambassador.</p> <p>In February, 1953, the first of these clubs was organized and under way. Our adaptation was called the Ambassador Club. Soon there were two such clubs on the Pasadena campus, then three, then four. In 1954, there were seven at the Pasadena campus." (<i>The Autobiography</i>, Vol 2, ch.60). Evangelist. PA to HWA and RD (S Africa; NZ)</p>
Fahey	Bob	UCG	1961		
 Franks	Jim	UCG			<p>Jim Franks was born on January 21, 1950, in Memphis, Tennessee, and now lives in Houston, Texas.</p> <p>Jim has been married to his wife, Sharron, since 1974 and they are the parents of three daughters, Molly (married to Kris Kobernat), Jamie, and Kimberlee. Jim and Sharron are also the grandparents to Austin and Kaden Kobernat.</p> <p>His relationship with the Church of God began in 1952 when his mother (then 22 years old and the mother of two small children) began listening to Herbert W. Armstrong while living in Michigan City, Indiana. She was convicted of the Sabbath and began to observe it that year. For the next 10 years the family observed the Sabbath (and later the Holy Days) at home.</p>

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies
					<p>Finally, in 1961, a congregation was formed in Memphis, Tennessee (the family was now living in Arkansas). In the spring of 1962, Jim began attending the Memphis congregation of the Radio Church of God with his mother, father and sister.</p> <p>In 1968, a lifelong dream was fulfilled when he was accepted to Ambassador College in Big Sandy, Texas. He graduated in 1972 after four years of attending classes, working on the college ranch and later in the business office. Upon graduation, he was sent to the field ministry in Atlanta, Georgia, as a ministerial assistant. It was there Jim became acquainted with Sharron (they had met briefly at a wedding two years earlier). They were married in 1974 and moved to Athens, Georgia, in 1975. This was their first pastorate. While in Athens they became involved in the early development of the YOU program. Jim served as the youth district coordinator in 1975 and then later the regional director for the Southeast in 1977. He has been very active in the Church's youth program from that time on. He served again as district coordinator in New England (1981 to 1987), and later as district coordinator in Texas (1988 to 1993).</p> <p>In 1979 the Franks were transferred to New England, where Jim pastored the Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island, congregations for the next eight years. It was while in New England that he began to research the colonial Sabbatarians of Rhode Island. He says, "I found the history of these people to be quite fascinating. The research led to several articles and two television programs during our stay in New England." The churches in New England experienced tremendous growth during these years. "We were thrilled to see them triple in size during that eight-year period." While in New England he was the festival coordinator for the Feast of Tabernacles on Cape Cod. Later, he coordinated the Saratoga Springs, New York, site.</p> <p>In 1987 the Franks were transferred to Houston to pastor the Houston North congregation. In 1990, the Houston North church became Houston North A.M. and P.M. Jim remembers, "We were thrilled to have been a part of the 35th anniversary celebration of the Houston churches in 1991. We have many wonderful friends and associates in the Houston area."</p> <p>In 1993 Jim was appointed as one of the first 14 regional pastors in a reorganization of the United States field ministry. He served in this position</p>


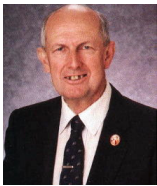
WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies
	Hammer	Buck	UCG	15 Nov 2003	<p>until April 1995.</p> <p>As a result of severe doctrinal disagreement over the Sabbath and the Holy Days, he resigned from the ministry of the Worldwide Church of God on April 21, 1995. He has remained in Houston, along with his family, and currently pastors the Houston North congregation of the United Church of God.</p> <p>"Having grown up on a farm in northeastern Arkansas believing that the Sabbath is a Holy Day and commanded by God, I found it impossible to forsake my deeply held views," notes Jim.</p> <p>"Since the Sabbath has never been a burden to me, it was difficult for me to understand the current doctrinal decisions that led to my resignation. The rich history of the Sabbatarians in New England had shown me the value of standing up for what you believe."</p> <p>Jim served on the transitional board of United in 1995. He was subsequently selected to serve on the first council of elders beginning in January of 1996. Due to health problems and a need to reduce his workload, Jim resigned from the council in March of 1999. During the GCE of 2002 Jim was once again selected to serve a three year term. In addition to being the pastor of the Houston North congregation of United, he serves as a member of the ministerial services team as an assistant to Richard Pinelli.</p> <p>"My wife and I have enjoyed each and every area where we have been asked to serve. The people of God are the greatest treasure we have ever known. Our experiences over the past 30 years with these people have provided the true joy in our lives.</p> <p>"We are now looking forward to the future with hope and conviction." Elder. "In 1953 donated the original 20-25 acres of property that became the core of the Ambassador College campus near Big Sandy" (<i>The Journal</i>, Nov 2003 – see below for further details)</p>
	Helge	Ralph	LCG	1958	Legal Aide to HWA and Tkach.
	Herrmann	Kenneth	1949	2006	Kenneth Herrmann was one of the early students of Ambassador College in Pasadena , registrar, head of the student admissions committee and a teacher of astronomy and geology at the Pasadena Campus until 1972 . In





WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies
					<p>the early years of the church Mr. Herrmann was the editor of the Ambassador College yearbook "The Envoy and he also was a programmer for the punch card addressing system used by the then Radio Church of God to send out the Plain Truth and other correspondence.</p> <p>In 1972 Mr. Herrmann was put on extended Sabbatical leave due to political problems in the Pasadena administration and transferred to the Big Sandy area where he and his family have lived since that time. He contributed to various teaching needs at the Big Sandy campus until the campus closed .</p> <p>Mr. Herrmann first heard the World Tomorrow program while he was working as a farmhand in Nebraska. He drove out to Pasadena in 1948 thinking that if Mr. Armstrong was telling the truth " it would be worthwhile to go out and check this man out" He ended up enrolling in Ambassador as the only new student to arrive in time for the second year of the college. Later that year Raymond McNair and his brother enrolled also.</p> <p>In 1952 Mr. Herrmann married an Ambassador coed who was from the Little Rock area of Arkansas -- Elise Bernard (who died in 1997) He was born on a dairy farm in a German speaking community in the Colby Wisconsin area in 1924 . His parents were children of German immigrants and he spoke German as a child.</p> <p>Mr. Herrmann wrote articles for the early Plain Truth and Good News issues including " How long were the 'days' of Creation?", "Should Christians Celebrate Birthdays?" , "Beautiful in it's simplicity, A calendar Based solely on Biblical Principles", "God's Sacred Calendar" His 1967 Master of Arts Thesis was titled "Calendar and Eclipse Interrelationships".</p> <p>In the 1940 <i>GOOD NEWS</i> letter by HWA, the foundation was laid for our understanding of the Hebrew Calendar. Later, Herrmann wrote an article on the subject in the March 1953 <i>GOOD NEWS</i>. The article was republished in the February 1957 <i>GOOD NEWS</i> (with small changes) – this research has continued as the foundation for Church of God calendar research.</p>



WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies	
	Hill	David Jon	1951	24 Nov 2003	Page 6 of the November 2003 issue of <i>The Journal</i> contains an article by Brian Knowles about him (http://www.thejournal.org/issues/issue82/knowles2.html). For a short autobiography go to http://www.godward.org/archives/Special%20Articles/a_hill_of_an_experience.htm	
	Hoeh	Herman L	WCG	8 Oct 1947	21 Nov 2004	<p>Having heard HWA over the radio, he knew immediately that he was God's man. He was also, by then, a Bible student (I heard that he was also a sabbatarian at that time, but not sure).</p> <p>Gave closing speech at AC, Big Sandy. Gave eulogy at HWA's funeral.</p> <p>Evangelist; researcher; first pioneer after HWA. First AC class and also first student graduate (1951). In mid-1985 HWA called him as one of the first to be contacted re succession. Not to offer him the job, but to get advice from him as to who could possibly succeed him. During the conversation Hoeh volunteered that he was not interested in the job, and it is said that HWA was possibly not going to offer it to him anyhow. We know that he was offered to do some World Tomorrow programs and he turned that down. Indeed, HWA asked him to guide Tkach and "to show him the ropes" during the first stages of his leadership. Various myths include: he was 'into' Buddhism (in fact, he was interested in their historical records about Christ that were extant in Tibet until just after WW2 but disappeared after it); that he owned ranches and was rich (but he and his wife lived a humble and contrite life); not true; that he accepted the changes and the Trinity – no way!</p> <p>He brought many new truths into the Church including far more details for various doctrines, historical understanding and how it relates to prophecy; Assyrian origin of Germany; HWA was an Apostle; Church governance etc, etc. He was very influential in a number of other areas such as the Ambassador Foundation.</p> <p>ACE member</p> <p>NB: he died in the 19th year since the death of HWA.</p>



WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies	
					Further articles about him may be found in the December 2004 <i>The Journal</i> .	
	Hogberg	Gene	WCG		UCG bought about 200 books from his estate. Elder. Prolific writer on world news in the light of Bible Prophecy for the PT and WN	
	Hulme	David	CoG, aic	1968	ACE member. Evangelist	
	Hunting	Charles F		1958		
	Jackson	Harold	WCG	1959	1991	ACE. Evangelist
	Kelly	Ronald	WCG	1956		ACE. Evangelist
	Kubik	Vic	UCG	1966		Pioneered relationships with CoGs in eastern Europe Victor Kubik was born in Hannover, Germany in a displaced persons camp in the aftermath of World War II. He immigrated to the United States with his parents in 1949. Victor graduated from Ambassador College in Bricket Wood, England, in 1969. After graduation, he served in the ministry in Sioux Falls and Rapid City, South Dakota; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Paducah, Kentucky.





WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies
					In 1990, Victor was transferred to Pasadena, where he served as assistant director of Church Administration until his resignation from the ministry of the Worldwide Church of God in March 1995. "I thoroughly enjoyed my work there," he said. "It gave me great satisfaction to work with ministers and their wives as they faced the challenges of their jobs." "In my last two years of work there I helped in a collaborative process to develop a management plan for our ministers and churches," said Victor. "I hope to continue the same kind of work in the United Church of God." Victor married the former Beverly Skogen in 1982. Away from the job, he enjoys working with computers, and Beverly enjoys gardening. They have three children, Kim of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Kevin of San Francisco, California; and Michael of Indianapolis, Indiana. ACE. Evangelist
LaRavia	Ellis	UCG	1966		
Luker	Dennis	UCG	1960		ACE. Evangelist. RD (Australia)
Martin	Ernest	ASK	1955	16 Jan 2002	
Mattson	Vern				HWA's son-in-law who served as Business Manager in the 1950s and early 1960s
	Mauck	Hugh	1955	2001	Not initially a minister but a long-time manager in Mail Processing in Pasadena. I am advised the following: "He was ordained an elder, probably after HWA died. He also received a Doctorate late in life but I do not know the name of the institution. He had previously graduated from AC."




WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies
 	McCullough	Les	UCG	1957	<p>ACE. Evangelist. RD in UK, Canada, South Africa. AC Vice Chancellor</p> <p>Leslie McCullough was born in Nebraska and grew up in Oregon. He and his wife, Marion, were married in 1952, and shortly thereafter he began a management training program with S.H. Kress, a variety store. He later switched to a similar program with Sears, but left that job, too, because of the Sabbath.</p> <p>In 1956 Mr. McCullough applied for Ambassador College and was turned down for lack of funds. He reapplied early in 1957 and, as he puts it, he "initiated a campaign to be sure of acceptance" the second time. He was accepted, and the McCulloughs moved to California.</p> <p>Mr. McCullough applied for a job on campus and was hired for 20 hours a week as a purchasing agent for the college. He recalls that being a time of struggle, with paychecks sometimes being held for several weeks at a time because of insufficient income for the church.</p> <p>From 1959 until 1965, Mr. McCullough worked as assistant to Garner Ted Armstrong. He was ordained an elder in 1962, and in January 1965 he was moved to Big Sandy, Texas, to serve as deputy chancellor. The McCulloughs remained at the college until March 1973, when they moved back to Pasadena and he began working as vice president of the international area.</p> <p>In June 1978 they were transferred to Canada, where he served as regional director. After only 21/2 years in Canada, they moved to pastor the Cincinnati East congregation in November 1980.</p> <p>In July 1982 Herbert W. Armstrong called and asked Mr. McCullough to return to the college in Big Sandy to once again be deputy chancellor. This lasted until shortly after Mr. Armstrong's death, when Mr. McCullough was told he was going to South Africa to be the regional director.</p> <p>In May 1990 he was transferred again, this time to the United Kingdom, where he became regional director for Britain, Scandinavia and English-speaking upper Africa. The McCulloughs remained there until August 1995.</p>



WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies	
	McDowell	Bill		Jan 2002		
	McMichael	Sherwin	UCG?	1958	2002?	
	McNair	Burk	UCG	1951	Evangelist7	
	McNair	Carl	LCG	1956	2004?	
	McNair	Marion				
	McNair	Raymond F	CoG, 21 st Century	1948	ACE. Evangelist	
	Meredith	C Paul	WCG	1951	1968	Uncle of R C Meredith. Author of 'Satan's Great Deception'


WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies	
	Meredith	Roderick C	LCG	1949	ACE. Evangelist	
	Neff	Leroy		1951	Evangelist. Mr Neff and his wife started Church attendance in August 1951 in Portland, Oregon. Entered Ambassador and employed in 1955. BA degree from Ambassador 1959, MA degree in 1962. Instructor at Ambassador in Pasadena and Big Sandy. Ordained elder 1958, pastored several churches. Served in various capacities in administration. Treasurer 1981-1990. Member Advisory Council of Elders (ACE), board member, and secretary of the board. Writer for Church publications. Retired 1995.	
	Nickels	Richard C	UCG		4 June 2006	Richard was President of the Bible Sabbath Association, Founder of Giving & Sharing, prolific author on Church of God history and other doctrinal issues. He worked at Ambassador College in the early 1970s and was ordained an elder by Tom Justus. He died of cancer in June 2006 and is survived by his wife, Shirley and three daughters.
	Paige	Richard	WCG	1968	1994	Mr Paige died from cancer at age 51. In addition to an M.A. in history from New York University, Richard had a B.A. from Ambassador College (Pasadena class of 1970) and a bachelor's degree in medical technology. In recent years the former Ambassador professor of history and archaeology


WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies
	Portune		1959		worked as a medical technician at Mother Francis Hospital in Tyler, Texas. He is survived by his wife Deanne and children Michael and Shoshan (WN, 8/9/94, p. 11).
	Rader	n/a		2 July 2002	Evangelist. Performed accounting work for the Church since 1958.
	Rea	WCG		1965	<p>No one seems to know exactly when Dr Benjamin Rea joined AC or the church. It must have been about 1951 because he was sent to help open the Bricket Wood campus in 1960 but the precise year is unknown. He died before WCG computerized the employment records in the early 1970s.</p> <p>Leon Walker notes: "I do not know when Dr. Rea became a member of the Church, but he was a member and on the AC faculty when I came to college (1955) ... The university in Mexico was the Universidad Interamericana, Saltillo, Mexico."</p> <p>Leroy Neff notes: "I met Ben Rea over a large bowl of potatoes that needed to be peeled in the kitchen at Siegler Springs, CA during the feast in 1952. He told me that he would be going to AC to teach.</p> <p>The first time he appears in the College annual <i>Envoy</i> was in 1956. At that time he was on the faculty as Professor of Spanish, International Relations, and Geography.</p> <p>He later studied at a University in Mexico where he received a Ph.D. in Spanish. In 1960 he went with HWA in February to prepare for Ambassador College UK (1965 <i>Envoy</i>).</p> <p>In the 1962 <i>Envoy</i> he is pictured and listed as Principal. This was the title for what later was called Dean of Faculty. "He died last March" (from 1965</p>


WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies
					<i>Envoy).</i> "
Rice	Richard	WCG	1954	5 July 2003	ACE. Evangelist
	Salyer Larry	UCG			<p>Larry Salyer and his wife Judy began attending God's Church exactly one week after their wedding in 1963. They and their one year old daughter Lisa moved to Big Sandy, Texas in 1965 when Larry was accepted to Ambassador College. Born in northern Indiana in 1942, the eighth of ten children, Larry remembers when his parents began listening to Mr. Herbert Armstrong in 1954. His mom was baptized in 1960.</p> <p>Larry and Judy met in high school. Judy had no previous knowledge of the Church. But her future mother-in-law introduced her to the booklet on the subject of marriage and divorce and the Bible Story, which Judy found agreed with her own values. Within the week after their marriage, studying and talking led them to ask permission to attend the Elkhart, Indiana congregation where some of the family already attended. Both were baptized on the same day in November 1963 by Mr. George Meeker. Larry graduated from ACBS in 1968. He was ordained an elder the next day and immediately sent to Houston as an assistant pastor. In January, 1969, he took up his first pastorate in Abilene and Odessa, Texas. Subsequently, he pastored in Houston North and South, Big Sandy, Washington DC, Hagerstown, MD, Pasadena Auditorium, San Francisco, St. Louis and Wentzville, MO.</p> <p>From 1982 to 1986, as dean of students at Ambassador College, Big Sandy, he worked closely with Les McCullough, Don Ward and Dick Thompson. After Mr. Armstrong's death, Larry was drafted away from "the best job in the world" to become the Director of Church Administration in Pasadena. By 1988, Church Administration was reorganized and Larry became the Director of Church Administration, International, overseeing all aspects of the international work until 1992. In addition, he was responsible for all Y. O. U. programs, Summer Camps and Imperial Schools. He served on the Council of Elders and taught in the Ministerial Refresher Program. Working in Pasadena, Mr. Salyer became aware of the negative trends in the Church. Daily conflict became a way of life. He told his wife, "There is only one way I can do this job, and that is to be willing every day to give it</p>


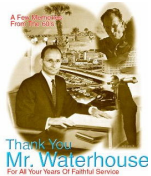


WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies
Schnee	Frank	WCG	1961	2003	up! I go to work each day expecting to be fired. That way, I will not let fear of losing my job affect my judgment" In the summer of 1992, with the job becoming impossible due to doctrinal changes, Larry volunteered for a pastorate in the field. He was still laboring under the assumption that God was going to "fix" the Church. The Salyers moved to the St. Louis and Wentzville Missouri circuit, thinking it would be possible to teach the truth without interference. That would soon prove to be untrue. In 1993, Larry was asked to serve as a Regional Pastor. He cautiously accepted the role, alongside other senior ministers now serving in the United Church of God. He thought perhaps this team would be used by God to restore the Church's traditional teachings. But within a few months, the apostasy had become egregious and doctrinal division in the congregation and local ministry were intolerable. He resigned from the ministry of the Worldwide Church of God in February, 1994. RD (Germany)
Schulz	Roy	WCG	1958		Wrote a thesis on the first 2,500 years of man (much now known not to be completely accurate, but useful and makes one think). What happened to his library?
Schurter	Dale	UCG	1962		Agricultural expert. What became of all his research after his death?
Smith	Norman	WCG	1951		ACE. Evangelist.
Tkach, Sr	Joseph	WCG	1963	23 Sept 1995	ACE. Evangelist. Pastor-General 16 January 1986 – 23 Sept 1995. Pushed the Church into apostasy. [many Big Sandy AC books were bought by UCG I believe]
Torrance	Lynn	LCG	1953	25 Sept 2004	Famous for his article and sermon on his captivity in the hands of the Japanese and how captivity to the House of Israel is coming again.(further details below)
	Walker Leon	UCG	1955		ACE. Evangelist Leon Walker and his wife, Reba, have five children and eight grandchildren. While studying at Ambassador College (1956 to 1960), Leon worked in the Spanish Department as a student assistant to the director, Benjamin L. Rea. When Dr. Rea was named dean of faculty at the new Brickwood, England, campus in 1960, the Spanish Department was transferred to

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies
	Ward	Donald	UCG	1969	<p>England. Leon, having graduated from the Pasadena campus that year, was also transferred to Bricket Wood to work full-time in the Spanish Department. At the time, he and Dr. Rea were the only two members of the department. Leon also became a faculty member at Bricket Wood in 1960, and continued as such until the college closed in 1974. He taught a number of classes, including Old Testament Survey, Epistles of Paul, Harmony of the Gospels, Intermediate Speech, Advanced Public Speaking, International Relations and Spanish. He was also dean of students from 1972 to 1974.</p> <p>While in the United Kingdom, Leon served as associate pastor in the Birmingham congregation from 1963 to 1965, pastor in Bristol from 1965 to 1968, pastor in Warrington from 1968 to 1971, and pastor in London from 1971 to 1974.</p> <p>He was transferred to Ambassador College in Big Sandy, Texas, after the Bricket Wood campus closed in 1974, and was chairman of the Theology Department until the Big Sandy campus also closed (1977). The Walkers then transferred to Pasadena where Leon was on the theology faculty from 1977 until 1979; he was also dean of faculty in 1979, and became regional director of the Spanish region that same year.</p> <p>When the Texas campus reopened as a junior college in 1981, he was named deputy chancellor and served one year in that capacity. He was still regional director of the Spanish region, wearing both hats. In 1982 he transferred back to Pasadena.</p> <p>Evangelist. AC Chancellor</p>

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Surname	First Name	Current CoG or at death	Year joined AC/WCG	If Deceased, date	Key contributions/office/short biographies	
	Waterhouse	Gerald	UCG	1952	4 Sept 2002	Evangelist (see <i>The Journal</i> , Sept 2002, p.4 – see below for further details)
						
	Wilson	Dean	UCG	1958	11 Jan 2005	Mr. Wilson first came to Ambassador College in 1958. He served as Regional Director in Canada and Australia for many years, as well as in the field ministry in the U.S. He became affiliated with the United Church of God in 1995. He died at the age of 75.
	Wolverton	Basil	WCG	1941	1978	Famous for his graphic representations of the Tribulation and Day of the Lord. Longtime WCG member Honor Wolverton, 98, passed away in Thousand Oaks May 12. She became a member of the church in Vancouver, Washington, along with her husband, Basil Wolverton, in 1941. The report was that her body just shut down and she slipped away peacefully Mr. Wolverton, who died in 1978, served as a pastor of the Vancouver church, and was a board member. He was an author and artist for church publications, including the <i>Bible Story</i> , and was known outside the church as a cartoonist and caricaturist.

KEY: ACE = member of Advisory Council of Elders FLD = Foreign Language Director PA = Personal Assistant RD = Regional Director

WCG Pioneer Timelines

PIONEERS OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD - LEST WE FORGET!	Died	Yr joined WCG or A	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	
	Herbert W Armstrong	1892-1986	n/a	Founder of WCG																
Basil Wolverton	1978	1941			Graphic artist and Bible Story author															
Herman L Hoeh	1928-2004	1947			Brought certain truths to HWA. Expert on Church history and world history															
Richard Armstrong	1928-1958	1947			Evangelist															
Raymond Cole	2001	1947			Evangelist															
Raymond F McNair	n/a	1948					British-Israel specialist													
Kenneth Herrmann	1924-2006	1948					Lecturer and Hebrew Calendar specialist													
Roderick C Meredith	n/a	1949					Doctrinal Expert													
Jack Elliott	n/a	1949					AC administrator and writer													
C Paul Meredith	1960s	c1951					Administrator and writer													
Burk McNair	n/a	1951					Preacher, evangelist													
Leroy Neff	n/a	1951					Administrator, Pastor and writer													
C Wayne Cole	n/a	1951					Administrator & Pastor													
Gerald Waterhouse	2002	1952					Prophetic preacher													
Dean Blackwell	2003	1952					Pastor													
Garner Ted Armstrong	1930-2003	1953					Evangelist													
Lyn Torrance	2004	1953					Teacher & administrator													
Leon Walker	n/a	1955					Administrator and Spanish Work director													
Dibar Apartian	n/a	1955					French language director													

HWA lists the first ministers
(“How God Calls HIS Ministers,” Good News, Sep. 1957)

“The one whom God has placed in the office of APOSTLE AND GENERAL PASTOR: Herbert W. Armstrong;

“EVANGELISTS: Garner Ted Armstrong, Richard D. Armstrong, Raymond C. Cole, Herman L. Hoeh, Raymond F. McNair, Dr. C. Paul Meredith, Roderick C. Meredith, Norman A. Smith;

“PASTORS: Dean C. Blackwell, C. Wayne Cole;

“PREACHING ELDERS: James L. Friddle, Jr., David Jon Hill, H. Burk McNair, George A. Meeker, Jr., R. Carlton Smith, Kenneth R. Swisher, Gerald D. Waterhouse;

“LOCAL ELDERS: Richard Prince, Jr., Basil Wolverton;

“DEACONS: Alton B. Billingsley, Widd Boyce, Gene Carter, Otis Cole, Eddie Eckert, Buck Hammer, Roy Hammer, Dave Henion, F. William Homberger, A. R. Jantzen, James F. Kunz, Malcom Martin, H. A. Olsen, A. N. Roesler, Otis Rowell, I. E. Starkey, Dwight Webster;

“Deaconesses: Mrs. Roy Hammer, Mrs. Annie Mann.”

List of the first ministers – year ordained

Herbert Armstrong	1931
Herman L. Hoeh	1951 or 1952
Raymond Cole	1952
Richard D. Armstrong	1952
Roderick C. Meredith	1952
Dr. C. Paul Meredith	1953 or 1952
Raymond F. McNair	1953
Marion McNair	
Norman A. Smith	1954
Herbert Burk McNair	1954 or 1955
George A. Meeker, Jr.	1954 or 1955
Dean C. Blackwell	1954 or 1955
C. Wayne Cole	1954 or 1954
Jimmy L. Friddle, Jr.	1955 or 1956
David Jon Hill	1955 or 57
Garner Ted Armstrong	1956 or 57
Gerald D. Waterhouse	1956 or 57
Norman A Smith	1957
Alton B Billingsley	1957
Richard Prince	1957
Carlton Smith	1957

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Kenneth Swisher

1957

Radio Church of God congregations by 1958

Eugene	1930s
Portland	1930s
Pasadena	1947
San Diego	1952?
Fresno	1951?
Tacoma	1952?
Milwaukee	?
Chicago	?
St. Louis	?
Corpus Christi	?
San Antonio	1953?
Houston	1953?
Dallas	1956?
Gladewater	?
Minden (La)	?
Lyons (Co)	1956?
Pueblo	1956?
Garden City	1956?
London	1956?

Reports and Information on the Pioneers and Senior Veterans

Various Senior Men

From Church of God News, January 2003:

Fifty Years Ago

On December 20, 1952, four young men and one older man were ordained as evangelists by Herbert W. Armstrong: his son, Richard David Armstrong (died 1958), Raymond C. Cole (died, 2001), Herman L. Hoeh, Roderick C. Meredith, and his uncle, Dr. C. Paul Meredith (deceased). Of these, only Roderick C. Meredith is still active in the ministry, heading the Living Church of God (LCG).

Other early Church elders were ordained as follows: Basil Wolverton, August 3, 1942; James F. Friddle, Jr., January 28, 1956; Marion McNair, Raymond F. McNair, June, 1953; Dean Blackwell, C. Wayne Cole, George Meeker, and Burk McNair, January 22, 1955; Garner Ted Armstrong, Norman A. Smith, and Alton B. Billingsley, January 19, 1957; Richard Prince, Jr., March 23, 1957; David Jon Hill, April 18, 1957; Gerald Waterhouse (died 2002), September 20, 1957; Carlton Smith, and Kenneth Swisher, October 6, 1957. Of these, Burk McNair, Garner Ted Armstrong, Alton B. Billingsley, and Raymond F. McNair, are still active in ministerial work.

The Journal, August 2002 (<http://www.thejournal.org/issues/issue67/august02.html>):

The second installment of John Warren's oral history of the Radio/Worldwide Church of God in East Texas includes interviews with Dorothy Williams, Ken Swisher, Minnie Humphreys, Myra Cole and Buck Hammer. The print version of The Journal includes the history as well as photos of early Feast of Tabernacles observances, a 1949 Bible class at Ambassador, Eddie Eckert and Eva Armstrong (Herbert and Dwight Armstrong's mother), Dwight Armstrong, Wayne and Doris Cole and a candid shot of three young freshmen at the AC faculty reception in 1953: David Jon Hill, Garner Ted Armstrong and Norman Smith.

Herman L Hoeh

From the Autobiography of HWA (chapter 57, Plain Truth, July 1963):

"Remember, I had set out to found a NEW KIND of college—GOD'S college. Not a Bible school. Not a 'religious' school. A straight liberal arts co-educational institution—but BASED on God's revealed knowledge.

"But where was I to find teachers and college professors, at the university level, who taught courses on the very FOUNDATION of God's revealed knowledge? Such instructors simply did not exist. I had to start with those reared and schooled in this world's type of education."

"There was the woman professor of English. She had at least two Ph.Ds.—some eight degrees altogether. This surely sounded like the best. She had taught many years in India. I did not know, when Mr. Dillon and I employed her, that she was saturated with Hindu philosophies, occultism, and eastern beliefs. She highly respected insects—especially butterflies.

"Professor Mauler-Hiennecey frequently jested with her.

""Well,' he would say, 'what have you decided this morning you are going to be in your next life—a butterfly, bed bug, or beetle?'

"Soon I found that our English professor was introducing all kinds of Hindu or Indian expressions and philosophies into her teaching. Now it so happened that the 18-year-old Herman Hoeh ... had a scholarly mind with a good degree of intellectual curiosity ...

"I realized at once that this young man was a very important potential, but still immature and inclined to get off balance on some tangent, unless taught the necessity of sound balance. I went immediately to work on this problem. I now had to combat both his intellectual interest, and the influence of our new English professor.

"I had a very serious talk with Mr. **Hoeh** ... I was afraid this might drive him to it the more. Instead I reasoned that it was better to take up one field of study at a time. I tried to show him that what I was going to teach him at Ambassador College was BASIC knowledge—that, to lay his researches into the occult fields on the shelf for the time being, and acquire this FOUNDATION of knowledge would be the proper preparation preliminary to his study of the mystic fields.

"In other words, I did not ask him not to delve into this thought, but tried to persuade him to arrange a time-order system in his study.

""And since you have now enrolled at Ambassador College,' I reasoned, 'why not put this first, now you are here, and then take that up later?'

"He agreed. And thus, instead of getting off balance prior to full mental maturity, I was able to steer Herman Hoeh on the track of intellectual BALANCE and sound-mindedness.... And what an asset it has become to God's Work!

"As time went on, it became evident to both Raymond Cole and Herman **Hoeh** that our English professor was not at all in harmony with the real objectives of Ambassador College. She expressed later in the year that she still felt there was some hope for Mr. Hoeh, but she had given Mr. Cole up as hopeless. However, Mr. Hoeh stuck loyally to his agreement to pursue his studies into the Bible under me first. So he proved hopeless, too, for her.

"Along about March in that school year, Mr. **Hoeh** and Mr. Cole came to me together about this instructor. Mr. **Hoeh** reported that she had told him she was sent to Ambassador College by invisible forces in the east, for the purpose of destroying the college before it could get fairly started—and that she had said if she could have just six more weeks' time, 'there won't be a grease-spot left of this college.'"

From the Autobiography of HWA (chapter 56):

College Finally Opens

Ambassador College did finally swing open its big front door to students October 8, 1947. But by that time nearly all applicants had gone elsewhere. Besides our son Dick (Richard David), there was only Raymond C. Cole, who came down from Oregon where his family had been in the Church for years; **Herman L. Hoeh**, who came from Santa Rosa, California; and Miss Betty Bates from Tulsa, Oklahoma -- four pioneer students -- with a faculty of eight.

Coworker Letter, 21 February 1952:

"Plans are being laid to send two of our graduate students to England, Europe, and the Holy Land this summer, to lay advance plans, and to obtain necessary information. They are **Herman Hoeh**, executive editor of The GOOD NEWS, whose many splendid articles you have read, and my son Richard David Armstrong. Dick, as we call him, has studied French eight years and speaks it like a native Frenchman. Mr. **Hoeh** speaks and teaches, German; and he also speaks both Spanish and French. These are both talented and able men, now college graduates, and Mr. **Hoeh** will have earned his Masters' degree before leaving ... My son has my radio voice. You'll be hearing him on the program a little later. Mr. **Hoeh** has already had experience preaching over the radio, and he, too, will soon begin to appear with me on The WORLD TOMORROW program.

Coworker Letter, 28 May 1971:

Now, "Coincidence" #2: In September, 1968, Dr. Ernest Martin, Dean of the faculty at our English campus, and **Dr. Herman L. Hoeh**, Dean of Faculties at Pasadena, wanted Ambassador College to conduct an archaeological project at a location in Israel, some miles north of Jerusalem. I was personally not interested in such a project. But I consented to their visiting Jerusalem to see whether permission could be granted from the government authorities.

Dr. Hoeh happened to be acquainted with Dr. Benjamin Mazar, archaeologist, and former President of Hebrew University. He found Dr. Mazar at the time in charge of the most important "dig" so far undertaken, starting from the south wall of the Temple Mount. Three major United States universities had sought participation in this outstanding project. All had been rejected. But Professor Mazar offered a 50-50 joint participation to Ambassador College!

This was a far more important project than **Drs. Hoeh** and Martin had envisioned. They were elated, and telexed me the news, requesting that I fly to Jerusalem to inspect this opportunity. I didn't share their enthusiasm, and was unable to go to Jerusalem at the time.

However, about mid-October (1968) I did fly to Jerusalem to look over this project. The "dig" had been begun a few months before. I met Prof. Mazar and inspected the project.

It was much more impressive than I had expected.

I began to realize the scientific and educational value to Ambassador College. A luncheon was held in a private dining room in the Knesset -- the government's capitol building. Present at the luncheon were five high-ranking officials of both the university and the government. And also, with me, were Dr. Hoeh, Mr. Charles F. Hunting, one of Ambassador's Vice Presidents in charge of finances for Britain, Europe and the Middle East, and Mr. Stanley R. Rader, our chief counsel.

It was a most memorable luncheon. The favor we were given in their eyes -- the warmth of their attitude toward us -- was inspiring, astonishing, and most unusual. The Israeli Minister of Tourism and Development, Mr. Moshe Kol, proposed that we build an iron bridge that could never be broken between Ambassador College and Hebrew University. After 2 1/2 years that "iron bridge" has been greatly strengthened.

I did not make final decision, however, at that time. We agreed to meet again in Jerusalem on December 1st, for final decision. Meanwhile, Dr. Mazar, with Dr. Aviram, Dean of the College of Humanities at the university, came to Pasadena, and visited also the Texas campus, to look us over. They liked what they saw. And on December 1, at the official residence of Israel's President, Zalman Shazar, we made the joint participation official.

I did not learn until later that we were actually clearing away the decay, rubble and debris -- some 50-60 feet high -- over the very spot where prophecy says the returning Messiah -- Jesus Christ -- is to RULE THE WHOLE WORLD. Tremendous things have happened in this relationship since.

So that is the manner in which this VITALLY IMPORTANT leap forward in the Work was started. We have been given VERY GREAT favor in the eyes of both government and university chiefs in Jerusalem!

"Family and friends mourn loss of Herman Hoeh, pioneer at AC and Worldwide Church of God", The Journal, 30 November 2004, p.1:

TUJUNGA, Calif.—Herman L. Hoeh, 75, an evangelist-ranked minister of the Worldwide Church of God and a pioneer Ambassador College student, died unexpectedly at his home in Tujunga Nov. 21.

Dr. Hoeh, originally from Santa Rosa, Calif., came to AC in 1947 as one of the first four students to attend the college. He was one of its first graduates in 1951.

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

He was a member of the board of directors of the church at the time of his death and had served on the boards of the college and Ambassador Foundation before his retirement in 1996.

He wrote for and edited church publications, including the WCG's flagship magazine, *The Plain Truth*. He was also known for his two-volume *Compendium of World History*, first published in 1963 as the dissertation for his Ph.D., which he earned at AC.

Dr. Hoeh was widely respected in the WCG as well as in its many splits. He was considered by many to be an intelligent and lovable, as at home tending goats on his property as he had been teaching classes and writing articles back in the glory days of the Radio/Worldwide Church of God.

Dr. Hoeh also had ties for years to Buddhists in Southern California and Thailand. At his memorial service members of the Wat Thai temple eulogized him, along with other speakers.

Conducting the service was Rand Holm, pastor of the WCG congregation Dr. Hoeh attended in Chatsworth, Calif.

Dr. Hoeh is survived by his wife of 52 years, Isabell; a son, Manfred Hoeh; three daughters, Karlina Ellis, Anneliese Roemer and Gilda Brockmeier; and nine grandchildren.

Mrs. Hoeh receives mail at 10530 Commerce Ave., Tujunga, Calif. 91042, U.S.A.

Herman L Hoeh, Raymond McNair, Kenneth Herrmann

What about God - Revealed Knowledge? by HWA:

Ambassador College started with only FOUR students. The three male students were **Herman Hoeh** (now Dr. Hoeh), Raymond Cole (now District Superintendent of the New York District), and my elder son Richard David. The second year there were added **Raymond McNair** (now Deputy Chancellor of Ambassador College in England, and Director over the Work in Britain), his brother Marion, and **Kenneth Herrmann** (now Registrar of Ambassador College, Pasadena campus).

Herman L Hoeh, Roderick C Meredith

From the Autobiography of HWA (chapter 59):

"And now, with this issue, A NEW IDEA is born. Through Ambassador College students, The Good News is re-born! With this issue, our students launch a new activity in Christ's ministry -- and at the same time, a new college activity.

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

"It was back in February, 1939 -- twelve years ago -- that with only Mrs. Armstrong's help, from a little stuffy inside office without windows or ventilation in Eugene, Oregon, the first issue of The Good News was printed -- on a second-hand mimeograph

"But the commission to 'feed my sheep' is second to the great commission, 'This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world' One man alone could not carry on a campaign of evangelism then expanding local to national, and conduct a personalized ministry to so many at the same time. And so no other issues of The Good News were published -- until now.

"But now, at long last, The Good News is re-born, as one of the first fruits of Ambassador College -- one of the evidences that this college was necessary."

But, even with the editorial help of students, finances permitted the publication of only four sixteen-page issues during the remainder of 1951 -- plus one sixteen-page Plain Truth, issued October, 1951 -- written wholly by me.

Still Struggling Upward

All this history, in retrospect, about the struggle to publish The Plain Truth, will remind the reader, once again, that it has been a long, hard, and persevering upward struggle to bring God's work to its present position of worldwide activity, power, and influence.

But back, for a moment, to this April, 1951, Good News. In it appeared the very first article by **Herman L. Hoeh** we had ever published -- and even this was not -- yet -- in The Plain Truth. Its caption sounds, to me today, rather tame compared to many he has written since. It was "Are Good Manners Good?" It had to do with the right or wrong of etiquette.

The radio log shows that, at that time, The World Tomorrow was being broadcast on only seven stations: XEG, seven nights a week; a local Pasadena station, KALI, at 7:30 seven mornings a week; and all others were Sunday only -- stations WAIT, Chicago; XERB, Southern California; KXL, Portland, Oregon; KVI, Seattle; and XENT, Mexico, just below the Texas border.

In the second issue of this reborn Good News appeared the very first article we ever published under the by-line of **Roderick C. Meredith**. It was the lead article starting on the front cover: "College Atmosphere at Ambassador."

Kenneth C Herrmann, Raymond McNair

From the Autobiography of HWA (chapter 57):

Three New Students Arrive

No effort had been made to recruit any additional students, due to this situation. However, one student showed up -- a fellow from Wisconsin, named **Kenneth C. Herrmann**.

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

A very few weeks after the 1948-49 school year had started, the front doorbell of our home rang one morning while I was shaving. My wife told me that two young radio listeners from Arkansas were there to see me. I hurried down.

They introduced themselves as **Marion and Raymond McNair**. They had been working in the apple harvest up in Washington, but wanted to swing by Pasadena and see me on the way home.

We had a nice talk, and I was surprised to learn how much they knew about the Bible. I was intensely interested in hearing of their experience leading to this biblical knowledge, and how they came to listen to The World Tomorrow.

These boys had not had Sunday school or other religious training. They had never been taught anything about immortal souls, or going to heaven when one dies. Their very first religious training began with the Bible. They studied it daily before they were teenagers.

Some years later, they happened to hear a religious broadcast on the radio. "Why," they exclaimed in surprise, "that fellow is not preaching what's in the Bible! He's telling people just the opposite of what the Bible says!"

This aroused them to tune to other religious programs on their radio set. They were astonished and disillusioned! It seemed that all the "radio preachers" were preaching a "Christianity" that was very contrary to the Christianity of Christ, of Paul, and of the apostles which they had been receiving out of their Bible!

Then one day they heard a program coming in from a Mexican station. They were startled in happy surprise.

"Why," they exclaimed, "that fellow is preaching exactly what we have been getting out of the Bible!" That program was The World Tomorrow! They became steady listeners.

This experience was just one more example of what I have always said: Give a Bible to someone who has never had any religious teaching, and let him study it diligently, without any of the popular teachings of "Christianity," and he will believe precisely what is proclaimed on The World Tomorrow. Yet those who do believe and proclaim the PLAIN TRUTHS of the BIBLE will be branded today as "false prophets."

"Well, I hope you boys will come to Ambassador College when you've finished high school," I said.

"Oh, we're older than we look!" came the quick answer. "We've already graduated from high school."

"Well, how does it happen you're not in Ambassador College, then?" I asked.

"Well, we supposed we couldn't afford it," they replied.

"Well, look!" I said. "This is Friday morning. Can you boys find a part-time job before tonight?" I explained that college was in session only three days a week.

"Yes, Sir, we can," came the immediate and decisive answer.

"Well, you go find that job, and report to Ambassador College Monday morning," I said.

They left. And they did find jobs.

Today Mr. **Raymond F. McNair** is an ordained minister and Deputy Chancellor of the Pasadena campus of Ambassador College.

Roderick C Meredith

From the Autobiography of HWA (chapter 58):

Our Second Land Purchase

During those first two school years of the college we had no dormitory facilities. The seven students enrolled that second year -- 1948-49 -- were obliged to rent rooms around town. But in May, 1949, the first addition to the original two and one-quarter-acre campus came our way.

Adjoining this original bit of campus grounds, on the north, was the stately 28-room Tudor-style building called "Mayfair," with 200 feet of frontage on Terrace Drive. It added about one and three-quarters acres, giving us a campus of four acres, with magnificently landscaped grounds.

The Mayfair grounds were not in the most desirable condition. Soon after acquiring them, we completely relandscaped them. Most of the work was done by our students, using a rented bulldozer to completely recontour the sloping grounds, bringing them into harmony with the original plot.

For some two years Mayfair had been used as a rooming house. Most of the tenants had leases running another year. We were able to obtain only partial possession during 1949.

But by that autumn, after two years of rooming off campus, our students were able to take up residence ON CAMPUS! We began to feel like a real college!

That autumn the student enrollment increased to TWELVE. I have said quite a little heretofore, about TWELVE being the number of organized BEGINNINGS. For one thing, that was the first year the college had an organized student council. The first student body president of Ambassador College was my son Richard David (Dick).

Among the five new students that fall was **Roderick C. Meredith**. Although he was a new student with us, he was a transfer from a college in Missouri, and consequently rated as a sophomore.

Our men students took up residence on third floor Mayfair in September, 1949. We were not yet prepared to feed students. During that school year the men really "roughed it," preparing their own meals in a dark, depressing, foreboding basement room in Mayfair. It had been painted in a conglomeration of deep yellow, dark green, red, and black. In a later year, that room was modernized into a new-looking office, and served as an editorial room for The Plain Truth for some years.

Basil Wolverton

From <http://www.bpib.com/illustrat/wolvertn.htm>:

Basil Wolverton was born in 1909, so when comic books began to look for original material in 1936, he was ready and willing. Self-taught, he tried to sell his first newspaper strip at the age of 20. Unfortunately some other strip beat him to the punch. **Marco From Mars** could have captured the public's fancy the way **Buck Rogers** did.

Wolverton was one of the earliest creators of new material for the new comic book market. He lived in Vancouver, Washington and was one of the very few comic book artists who *didn't* live in New York. Working totally through the mail, Wolverton took his s-f strip concepts and turned them into **Spacehawk** and **Space Patrol** and **Meteor Martin**. Unfamiliar comic companies like **Centaur** and **Novelty** produced anthology comic titles in the Thirties and Forties. **Spacehawk** appeared in *Circus* comics in 1938 with a reincarnation at Novelty's *Target Comics* in 1941-42.

The art was both controlled and organic at the same time. Aliens lived on strange worlds in dwellings that resembled nothing as much as a cross between medieval castles and Earthly observatories. The landscapes were dotted with flora that often resembled earthworms in muffs, yet the basic building blocks of alien technology were the rivet and the steel panel. What Wolverton lacked in imagination he more than made up for with enthusiasm and drawing skills. Both the sample upper right and at left are from *Target V2:1* from March 1941. By the middle of 1942, **Spacehawk** was earthbound, fighting Nazis and by the end of the year he'd been replaced.

Always a comedian, Wolverton had toyed with vaudeville and radio in his younger days. Taking his unique brand of alliterative, punny humor, he got in touch with another comic book company (**Timely**, later to be **Marvel Comics**) and created one of his most endearing characters, **Powerhouse Pepper**. Powerhouse was a bald little runt in a striped turtleneck who could out-muscle Popeye. The strips were laden with silly signs and wacky dialog that are the obvious inspiration for much of the tom-foolery in which Kurtzman and Elder were to indulge a decade later at **Mad!** Throughout the forties, he created and illustrated a cadre of weirdos that peppered the pages of practically all the **Timely** humor and teen titles. Indicative of things to come was the occasional side by side appearance of a Wolverton and a Kurtzman contribution. (Harvey Kurtzman's most famous pre-Mad creation was **Hey! Look**, also for **Timely**.)

Also during the Forties, BW worked for **Fawcett** and **Gleason**, two of the larger comic producers, doing strips with silly titles like **Bing Bang Buster**, **Scoop Scuttle**, **Mystic Moot**, etc. It was in 1946 that Basil got his greatest publicity break when he won the *Lena the Hyena* contest. Al Capp had created a character in his **Li'l Abner** newspaper strip named **Lena the Hyena** who was supposed to be too ugly for Capp to show in a family newspaper. Her every appearance was marked by an editorial disclaimer covering her features claiming that her face was being suppressed for the greater good of mankind. Well, this was surely a great running gag, but Capp had pretty much painted himself into a corner when the readership demanded that her face be shown. Nothing that Capp could come up with was likely to be horrid enough to justify the gag. So he started a contest to have readers submit what they thought Lena looked like and a celebrity panel comprised, supposedly, of Boris Karloff, Frank Sinatra and Salvador Dali would determine the winner. Wolverton submitted his entry along with a half a million others and he won! Lena (above, at the right of his signature) netted him \$500 and she appeared in the **Li'l Abner** strip and on the cover of *Life* magazine. You can read all about it in the Kitchen Sink **Li'l Abner** reprint series, volume 12.

His drawing of Lena marked the origin of a new school of art: The Spaghetti and Meatball school of design. It'd be nice to say that his career suddenly took off, but the printed evidence shows continual contributions to the same customers. What did change, though, was the comic book market. Horror became a fast-selling genre, and who but Basil Wolverton was better to depict true horror? Oddly enough, no matter how horrible his panels were, there was always such an element of the absurd present that they never went totally overboard. Spaghetti and meatballs are somehow intrinsically non-threatening. (left is from **Robot Woman** in *Mister Mystery* from 1954, above right is from *Weird Mysteries*, 1953.) He did horror stories for Atlas (post-Timely, pre-Marvel) where he illustrated two stories in 1952 written by Daniel Keyes. Keyes went on to write the Nebula Award-winning *Flowers for Algernon*, which was the basis of the film classic, **Charlie**. In 1954, he also did a Lena-inspired cover for *Mad Comic Book* and inside that issue he did a feature on what the readers of *Mad* looked like. He did a couple more contributions to *Mad*, then retired from comics in 1955.

The remaining years of his life were devoted to illustrating **The Bible Story**. In six volumes from **Genesis** to **Samuel**, Wolverton adapted the text of the **Bible** for simplicity and clarity and provide hundreds of b&w illustrations for the work. These six volumes were published from 1961-68 by Ambassador College. In the early 80s they were reprinted and rest of the Old Testament was added with newer illustrations by Wolverton. Wolverton had died in 1978, so he must have been working on these for years before they saw publication. (Thanks and a tip of the hat to Stuart Ng for pointing this out to me. He also notes that the textual adaptations suffer from not being done by Wolverton.) Volumes four-six of the new series - indicated by the black covers with a colored BW image - contain material not available in the original series. As you can see by the image above, even the **Bible** wasn't immune to the spaghetti. Some images from the **Book of Revelations** appeared in a 1971 fanzine, but we've never seen the source book where they were originally published. [4/24/2001 - Thanks to Mark Lerer for pointing out the [HollywoodJesus](#) website with the full and complete story of these 16 disturbing images.]

Wolverton's art style isn't classical, but it **is** unique. He influenced a generation of artists in the Underground Comix field. As he got older, his ability to manipulate the pen and brush diminished considerably. The style took a great deal of control and when he came back into comics for a while in the seventies (covers for DC's *Plop* comic), he could still make you laugh, but he didn't leave you in awe of the finished product. Fortunately there's a lot of his work out there in comics and some few collections may still be available from [Bud Plant Comic Art](#). Whatever he drew, he put his heart and soul into it. And he makes me laugh. He died in 1978.

Buck Hammer

The Journal November 2003:

Front page: Donor of original Texas property succumbs at 81

GLADEWATER, Texas--Buck Hammer, who in 1953 donated the original 20-25 acres of property that became the core of the Ambassador College campus near Big Sandy, died in a Longview, Texas, hospital early Saturday, Nov. 15, after a heart attack.

Mr. Hammer, 81, had complained on Friday of feeling ill. Later, at the residence of son and daughter-in-law Scott and Terrie Hammer of Gladewater, his condition worsened, so Scott called an ambulance.

Mr. Hammer died shortly after midnight in a Longview hospital.

Mr. Hammer, along with Scott, was a founder and owner of the Vital Earth Resources and Carl Pool companies, based in Gladewater. Vital Earth Resources operates the "digester," the huge metal cylinder once owned by the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College that processes organic waste and other materials into fertilizer and soil conditioners.

Mr. Hammer had served as an elder in the Radio/Worldwide Church of God and, more recently, the United Church of God. For several years during the operation of Ambassador College, he was its director of buildings and grounds. He was one of the WCG's first deacons, ordained in the 1950s.

"Buck was friendly to all and as a result had many, many friends," said his brother-in-law, David Antion of Pasadena, Calif.

"He was fair in his dealings and honest in his practices. He never beat around the bush, and when he had something to say to a person he said it straight out. He could say things to people in authority that most people would never dare say, and they still loved him and didn't take offense." He was "one of the stalwarts in the Church of God, and he will be sorely missed. Another era has passed with his passing."

Over the years Mr. Hammer, born in Kiefer, Okla., in 1922, had operated several businesses in the Big Sandy area, including a skating rink and several barbecue restaurants.

He is survived by two sons, Scott Hammer and Kerry Buck Hammer of Gladewater, and four daughters, Toni Cox and Barbara Husbands of Las Vegas, Nev., Becky Simpson of Longview, and Robin Johnson of Lake Arrowhead, Calif.; a brother, John David "Tony" Hammer of Dallas, Texas; and three sisters, Shirley Armstrong of Bullard, Texas, Jackie Carnes of Tyler, Texas, and Molly Antion of Pasadena.

Funeral services were Nov. 18 at a funeral home in Gladewater, with Ken Giese of Houston, Texas, officiating. Burial was in Gladewater Memorial Park, between Gladewater and Big Sandy, where two months earlier Mr. Hammer's brother-in-law, Garner Ted Armstrong, was laid to rest.

After the service was a memorial meal in the building owned by the Church of God Big Sandy.

The Hammer family receives mail at P.O. Box 401, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A. Memorials in Mr. Hammer's honor may be made to the United Church of God East Texas Building Fund at the same address.

For recent JOURNAL articles that include interviews with Mr. Hammer, see "Feasts in Oregon and East Texas Set Pace for Early RCG," Aug. 30, 2002, and "Third Ambassador Campus Came to Big Sandy, Texas, in 1964," Sept. 30, 2002.

[United Church News \(http://www.ucg.org/un/un0312/annts.htm#tribute\)](http://www.ucg.org/un/un0312/annts.htm#tribute)

Tribute: Buck Hammer

Roy Buck Hammer, 81, an elder in God's Church for almost 30 years, who was instrumental in the design and development of the Ambassador College campus in Big Sandy, Texas, suffered a major heart attack and died early Saturday morning, Nov. 15, 2003. Funeral services were conducted on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at Croley Funeral Home in Gladewater, Texas.

Buck, as he was affectionately called, is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Scott and Terrie Hammer and Kerry Buck and April Hammer, all of Gladewater; four daughters and two sons-in-law, Toni Cox of Las Vegas, Nevada, Becky Simpson of Longview, Texas, Barbara and Richard Husbands of Las Vegas, and Robin and Rich Johnson of Lake Arrowhead, California; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one brother, John David Hammer of Dallas, Texas; three sisters, Jackie Carnes of Tyler, Texas, Shirley Armstrong of Bullard, Texas, and Molly Antion of Pasadena, California. He was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Jeanne Hammer.

Buck Hammer was born in Keifer, Oklahoma, but spent most of his life in Texas. He was among the first deacons to be ordained in the early 1950s. He and his parents, Roy and Pearl Hammer, were instrumental in the establishment of one of the first congregations of the Church outside of Pasadena, having donated property to the Church that eventually became the Ambassador College campus in Big Sandy. Buck was instrumental in landscaping on campus, envisioning a lake and a golf course as focal points of the grounds—a vision that became reality.

Early church services and festivals were held in his parents' home in Gladewater and later, as the property was developed, in buildings that became a part of the college campus.

Buck had an interest in organic farming and was instrumental in the development of "the digester," which transformed waste into useful organic material. Working with his son Scott, he developed a company called Vital Earth Resources that continues to market organic fertilizers and soils.

Buck impacted the lives of thousands of people over the years while they were students at Ambassador or attending the Feast at Big Sandy. He was loved and respected in the Church and his community as evidenced by the over 350 people who attended his memorial service.

Gerald Waterhouse

United News, Nov 2002 (<http://www.ucg.org/un/un0211/annts.html>):

Tribute: Gerald Waterhouse

It is doubtful that any minister has had more impact on God's people during this age of the Church of God than Gerald Waterhouse. No minister was known personally by more brethren around the world than was Gerald. He developed close and enduring friendships wherever he traveled in God's service. He deeply valued his close friendship with Herbert W. Armstrong.

Gerald was born Aug. 9, 1926, in the West Texas town of San Angelo, the second of five children, to Luther Isaac (Ted) and Ruth Waterhouse. His oldest brother, Roy, and his youngest brother, Van, live in San Angelo. His younger sister, Annece Havlik, lives in Crane, Texas. His brother, Don, pastors the UCG congregations in Columbia and Florence, South Carolina, and Augusta, Georgia.

Early on Gerald's interest turned to golf. As a youngster he caddied and played golf. At North Texas State Teachers College in Denton, Texas, he played on the golf team and traveled to golf competitions. His golfing experiences led to friendships with numerous well-known golfers. Several went on to play in the Seniors PGA even to this day.

He served in the Navy on various ships and carriers during both World War II and the Korean War. While in the Navy he married, but the marriage didn't survive his naval duty. Gerald remained unmarried the remainder of his life. Although he didn't have children of his own, he loved his many brothers and sisters in the faith all over the world.

The World Tomorrow

Gerald first heard the *World Tomorrow* on radio in 1949. He was visiting his family in Mountain Home, Texas, where they were living on a subsistence income cutting cedar posts. His father, Ted, had been listening to the broadcast, yet had no interest in religion. Gerald was drawn to the voice and message of Herbert W. Armstrong. He subscribed to the literature of the Radio Church of God and soon realized he must change his life. He attended the Days of Unleavened Bread in Big Sandy, Texas, in 1953 where he was baptized. Little did he know the route his life would take from there.

Gerald entered Ambassador College in 1953 and graduated in 1956. He gave his first sermonette in November 1953 and his first sermon in 1954. He traveled throughout the United States on baptizing tours in 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958 and 1959. Mr. Armstrong ordained Gerald a preaching elder in 1956, a pastor in 1959 and an evangelist in 1963.

Around the World

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Gerald served in four international offices. He replaced Richard Armstrong in London, England, in 1957. He expanded that regional office and pastored the London church, the first international congregation. Eighteen months later he opened the office in Sydney, Australia, served as regional director and pastored the churches in Sydney and Brisbane until December 1961. In 1962 he established the office in Manila, Philippines, represented the Church as regional director and pastored the church. His last overseas assignment was opening the office in Johannesburg, South Africa, as regional director and pastoring the congregation in Johannesburg.

In 1965 Gerald returned to the Church's headquarters in Pasadena, California. Soon thereafter Mr. Armstrong assigned him to travel and speak to the churches. His first tour began Jan. 13, 1966. Over a span of 25 years he conducted 11 worldwide tours. Including his travels to open international offices, speak in the churches and speak at Feast of Tabernacles sites, Gerald circled the globe 15 times. His personal contact with most of God's people around the world built a respect and love that remains to this day.

His first pastorate in the United States was in St. Louis and Springfield, Missouri. He also served as pastor in Denver and Pueblo, Colorado; Garden City, Kansas; Birmingham and Opp, Alabama; and San Angelo and Abilene, Texas. His last pastorate was in Miami, Florida 1977-1978. He also worked for two short periods in the Church Administration Department in Pasadena in 1975-76 and 1991-92.

Retirement and Failing Health

The Worldwide Church of God retired Gerald in August 1992 after more than 36 years of faithful service to God's Church. He moved to the Atlantic coastal city of Port St. Lucie, Florida, bought a home and settled down to enjoy his retirement, play golf and occasionally visit the churches. He also assisted the pastor in the local congregation. Retirement had its advantages, but Gerald never lost hope that one day soon he would return to traveling and speaking to the churches around the world.

In 1997 Gerald began to suffer health problems including a swollen prostate, collapsed bladder and extreme toxemia. On death's door, he was hospitalized at that time and his health never recovered. His condition deteriorated to the point that he was moved to an assisted living facility near his brother, Don, in Tampa, Florida.

Gerald was moved to a new assisted living facility in Columbia, South Carolina, when Don was transferred to South Carolina in June 2002. As the first resident in this facility, he received undivided care. He was doing well, had a good appetite and enjoyed where he was living even though his health was tenuous. His mobility deteriorated to the point that he used a walker or wheelchair. He could no longer attend Sabbath services.

Gerald was highly respected where he lived and developed a close relationship with several staff members. Joking with staff members and giving "thumbs up" built a short but endearing bond.

Sept. 3, 2002, Gerald enjoyed his lunch, laid down to rest as he was in the habit of doing. He called for an attendant and complained that he couldn't get his breath. The on-duty nurse and attendant helped him as much as they were able. At the age of 76 he went to "sleep" without suffering. As several members have remarked, "Gerald is now in his place of safety." Burk McNair and Richard Pinelli officiated at his graveside service and burial at the National Cemetery in Florence, South Carolina, on Sept. 9, 2002.

Much Remembered

Gerald will be remembered for his sermons which were sincere, single-minded, dynamic and filled with colorful word pictures of the Kingdom of God. Many brethren appreciated his ability to make the promises of the world tomorrow come alive. Most everyone remembers him punctuating his sermons with the question, "Get the point?"

Serving the brethren worldwide was his most fulfilling experience and one he wouldn't trade for any other job in the Church. He thoroughly loved what he did which was clearly reflected by his zeal, dedication, conviction and warmth.

His whole heart was focused on God's Kingdom and the part each of us will have in that government. His messages concentrated on God, Christ and their plan to solve mankind's ills at Christ's second coming. He never faltered nor wavered from this vision. He clearly sought God's Kingdom first!

Don Waterhouse

The Journal, Sept 2002:

Your life's masterpiece

In memory of Gerald D. Waterhouse (deceased Sept. 4, 2002), written by the first person Mr. Waterhouse employed in the Johannesburg office of the Radio Church of God, April 18, 1963:

Your priceless painting hangs in God's Temple eternally,
More costly than a Van Gogh, Turner, or Picasso,
So much more exquisite than diamonds or gold filigree:
Your life's masterpiece, "The Wonderful World Tomorrow."
At its center stands the King of kings, and Lord of lords,
Jesus Christ gloriously reigning Earth from Zion,
Lion of Judah--holding the Father's Word and Sword,
With the immortal saints--He rules with a rod of iron.
There's Christ's advisers, Abraham, Israel and Isaac;
There's Elijah over Education, Moses heads Law;
All nations worldwide have been healed of ev'ryone sick;
There's no more disease, no famine, pollution, no more war.
There's King David and the Apostles ruling Israel;

There's Daniel and Paul governing over all others;
Mothers, there's Job building Jerusalem to perfect scale;
At last, all the nations are peaceful, loving brothers.
There's Joseph directing the world's healthy economy;
For ev'ry problem, Christ provides the perfect solution.
There's global Restitution--there's resurrected you and me,
The whole Earth worshiping God with heartfelt adoration.
You painted with the intensity of Jeremiah,
Your brush strokes bristled with Ezekiel's warning,
But the adorning colors of the vision of Isaiah
Were the prominent hues of your Millennium's dawning.
You were the Kingdom of God's Ambassador worldwide.
You were the envoy of God's faithful end-time Apostle.
A loss to all, the Government of God you solidified;
Your contribution to the Church of God was colossal.

Geoffrey R. Neilson
Cape Town, South Africa

Herman Hoeh, Norman Smith, Dean Blackwell

The Worldwide News, 16 April 1996:

Herman Hoeh, Norman Smith, Dean Blackwell retire

By Thomas C. Hanson

Herman Hoeh, 67, retired from Media Operations, and Dean Blackwell, 64, and Norman Smith, 66, retired from Church Administration in April.

Herman L. Hoeh

Herman Hoeh was born in 1928. He entered Ambassador College in 1947 and was a member of the first graduating class in 1951.

Dr. Hoeh continues to serve on the boards of directors of the Worldwide Church of God, Ambassador University and Ambassador Foundation.

Pastor General Joseph Tkach said: "Retirement does not mean that a person no longer serves or that one stops working in the service of advancing the kingdom of God. Over the many years, Dr. Hoeh has been a blessing to our family. I am delighted that he will continue to serve on the church board of directors, as well as the board of regents for Ambassador University."

Norman Smith

Norman A. Smith was born Feb. 18, 1930, in Burnt Prairie, Illinois. He heard *The World Tomorrow* as a teenager there in 1946.

Career begins

He enrolled in Ambassador in 1950. In November 1951 Dick Armstrong, Mr. Armstrong's son, hired Mr. Smith to work in the radio studio recording the *World Tomorrow* broadcast. He became manager of the radio studio when Dick Armstrong went to England to open an office there.

"When Mr. Armstrong needed to do a broadcast, I had to be available even if it meant leaving a class," Mr. Smith said. "That happened countless times and all the professors were accustomed to my missing classes."

Mr. Armstrong did a local, daily broadcast that was shipped to all the stations that aired the program daily, and usually his schedule was to do a Sunday broadcast on Friday evening.

The editing, duplicating, addressing of labels, packaging the tapes and taking them to Los Angeles International Airport had to be done that same Friday night. By the time Mr. Smith returned from the airport it would be 3 or 4 in the morning.

"As some time passed, other men joined me in this responsibility and I had the opportunity to work with some fine men: Paul B. Smith, Edmund C. Smith and Ken Swisher to mention a few," Mr. Smith said.

Marriage

Mr. Smith married fellow student Charlene Glover of Holland, Arkansas, Oct. 1, 1953, at the Feast in Big Sandy. Herman Hoeh and Isabell Kunkel were married in the morning, and the Smiths in the afternoon of the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith graduated in 1954. Mr. Smith was ordained into the ministry in January 1955. He was ordained an evangelist in 1957.

The Smiths remained in Pasadena after graduation where Mr. Smith continued working in the radio studio. During the early years Mr. Smith occasionally drove to San Diego, California, to give sermons and then to Fresno, California, when that church was started. In addition to his broadcast studio responsibilities, he was the first pastor of the Redlands church; pastor of the church in Sherman Oaks when it began; and then pastor of the El Monte church.

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Mr. Smith was instrumental in designing and installing the television studio on the Pasadena campus. He became director of the Television Department when it was formed in 1967. Mr. Smith served in the Radio and Television departments for 25 years. He received a master's degree in management science from West Coast University in 1976.

"In the early '70s, our department personnel were instrumental in helping me to direct my actions away from the workaholic, sacrifice-the-human-needs, get-the-work-done approach to one of listen to the cry of the people," Mr. Smith said.

"Although I had willingly spent an excessive number of hours in technical and managerial responsibilities, these kept me from becoming familiar with the employees' and church members' mental and spiritual problems."

In 1976 the Smiths were sent into the field ministry to pastor the Chico, California, church and serve as area coordinator for the church's Northwest region.

"It was a rewarding experience to be involved so personally in people's lives," Mrs. Smith said. "From this involvement began a desire to become more knowledgeable and better equipped to help people."

In 1979 Mr. Smith was transferred to the San Diego church, where he served for 7 1/2 years. During this time, he taught marriage communication classes, marital preparation classes, started a church support group for alcohol and drug recovery and taught child-rearing sessions as well as communications in a group format within the church.

In 1986 Mr. Smith was transferred to the San Bernardino and Banning, California, churches. There, he offered information, help and encouragement to those who had endured any type of abuse in childhood whether it had been verbal, emotional, physical or sexual. As one person said, "You not only threw me a life raft, you sent a whole battalion of ships to my rescue."

Mr. Smith completed a master's counseling program at California State University in San Bernardino in June 1993. The Smiths moved to Texas and he was accepted at East Texas State University in 1994 to work on a doctorate in counseling and guidance.

During this time of taking classes, he has also been available to speak in the Dallas area churches and to do some individual counseling with church members.

Mr. Smith expressed his full support to Mr. Tkach Sr. from the first sermon he gave on the new covenant and has encouraged people to remain with the church.

"The emphasis on Jesus Christ as our Savior, his free gift of salvation, his grace, and unconditional love will inspire us all to respond to him with gratitude and a desire to reach out with this knowledge to a needy world," Mr. Smith said.

Mr. Smith offered encouragement to Mr. Tkach Sr. and continues to offer it to his son.

Plans for retirement

The Smiths plan to relocate to Oregon.

"After the call from Richard Rice [assistant director of Church Administration for the United States] about retirement, Charlene and I have done a lot of talking and praying about the decisions we need to make.

"I developed a health problem about eight months ago, which is not resolved yet. Charlene is concerned that I need to take time to work on my health. "I have worked for the church for 44 years. We have three adult children, Deborah, who lives in Escondido, California; Kyle in San Jose, California; and Kevan in Portland, Oregon.

"Most of Charlene's immediate family live in Oregon. We have two grandchildren who need us to be more involved in their lives," Mr. Smith said. "We look to Jesus Christ for guidance regarding how we can best serve the church in the future."

Secure relationship in Christ

"I try to be aware of Satan's schemes to prevent members from having a trusting, secure relationship with Jesus Christ," Mr. Smith said. "It is rewarding to see people change and grow as they are offered acceptance, love and empathic concern. The new programs of the church to serve the needs of the members are rewarding and encouraging.

"I attempt to look at both the great progress the church has made since I have been a part of it and also admit the mistakes that have seriously hindered some people's ability to see the love of Jesus Christ.

"Admitting the mistakes does not mean to dwell on them. But, admitting the mistakes is a form of reaching out to those who have been hindered and have faltered. Focusing on the foundation that has been laid and actively participating in the innovative programs of reflecting the love and mercy of Jesus Christ is the task that will bring great rewards.

"I hope to give more attention to the needs of my family and serve in whatever way Jesus Christ leads me."

Mr. Tkach said: "Norman Smith is a gifted man who has always had a heart for the people he served. He continues to take classes toward completing a graduate degree program and I know that he and Charlene will be of continuing service to the church and perhaps the university as well. While they are entering their retirement years, I know they will continue to serve as God gives them the talent and gifts to do so."

Dean Blackwell

Dean Blackwell has served in a variety of positions in more than 43 years in the ministry.

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Mr. Tkach said: "Mr. Blackwell has a special gift of encouragement. He has developed this talent in learning from many and varied experiences while serving in the ministry.

"He has long been a loving inspiration to me, and I have known him as 'Uncle Dean' for many years. His family has always been a part of our family and always will be.

"His energy to grow and never stop learning has left a lasting impression on me. Even now, in retirement, he is working on a graduate degree in theology. I believe that in many ways, his greatest ministerial work lies ahead of him, even in retirement."

Roots in Texas

Dean Blackwell was born Oct. 12, 1931, in Longview, Texas. He graduated from Kilgore, Texas, High School in 1949. His wife graduated from Sabine, Texas, High School in 1953.

Mr. Blackwell wrote to church headquarters in 1952 during his junior year at Texas A&M after hearing the World Tomorrow broadcast.

He was baptized in 1952 and began attending Ambassador College in Pasadena in 1952.

On June 1, 1953, at the end of his first year at Ambassador, Mr. Blackwell was ordained into the ministry.

He returned home to Kilgore that summer and married Maxine Tankersley June 16, 1953, in the Redwood Building, which is now the library of Ambassador University. They started a church that summer, which met in the Redwood Building.

Since there was no salary for being the pastor, Mr. Blackwell worked in the oil fields during the day.

The Blackwells returned to Pasadena in the fall as married students.

Mr. Blackwell graduated in 1954. He was the 11th to graduate from the college since it started in 1947.

After graduation the Blackwells were sent to Eugene, Oregon, to pastor the church there and the one in Portland, Oregon.

In January 1955 Mr. Blackwell was ordained a pastor. The Salem, Oregon, church was added to his circuit in the summer of 1955.

In 1956 the Blackwells were transferred to pastor the Chicago, Illinois, and St. Louis, Missouri, churches. After six months, he started the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, church.

Mr. Blackwell said: "We'd leave at noon on Friday and get back at midnight on Saturday night, traveling 850 miles plus preaching about six hours.

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

"Sometimes I would take a train to St. Louis for Friday night church and then take an overnight train back to Chicago for Sabbath morning church, and then go to Milwaukee for afternoon church.

The Blackwells spent nine years in the Chicago area--from 1956 to 1965 with the exception of a semester of courses in Pasadena in the fall of 1957.

Mr. Blackwell was ordained an evangelist in 1964. In the fall of 1965 he went back to Pasadena for a semester of classes. Then in January 1966 they moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where they remained for 6 1/2 years.

Mr. Blackwell was an instructor at Ambassador College in Big Sandy from 1972 to 1977.

From 1977 to 1979 the Blackwells pastored the Midland, Abilene and San Angelo, Texas, churches, and had seven Bible studies in West Texas, and one in Hobbs, New Mexico.

After returning to Pasadena he taught homiletics to ministerial candidates and Senior Bible at the church's Imperial Schools until 1985.

From January to Dec. 31, 1985, he conducted a Ministerial Education Program for Philippine ministers in Baguio City, because most of them were unable to attend Ambassador. Upon his return to Pasadena he again taught homiletics and Senior Bible.

Mr. Blackwell also pastored the Pasadena headquarters church for a couple of years.

Current activities

When asked what he is doing now, Mr. Blackwell replied: "Studying, studying, studying." He is working on a master's degree in theology from Azusa Pacific University.

"Taking 12 hours of graduate school work is tough, tough, tough. I really love the classes and the atmosphere at Azusa Pacific."

This semester Mr. Blackwell is taking Theology II, Church History and Gospels Witness to Christ, which is taught by theologian and author Ralph Martin.

Dr. Martin, who is in his 70s, is from England, and "assigns homework as if his is the only class you're taking."

The Theology II class has a variety of students, Mr. Blackwell said: one Lutheran minister, two Korean women, a Japanese woman and young man, a minister from Ventura, California (about two hours from campus), and his assistant, who is also a lawyer, a computer guru who served as a missionary eight years in the jungles of Brazil, a Pentecostal pastor who works in southeast Los Angeles with gangs and a woman who does social work with disabled children.

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

"They all stated their desires to serve God wherever and in whatever way he wishes them to," Mr. Blackwell said.

"Everyone is so polite, respectful to gray hair, and the atmosphere is much like Ambassador."

When Mr. Blackwell graduates in May 1997 they will move back to East Texas.

Over the past few years he has served as a peacemaker and troubleshooter as he and his wife church sat in many congregations.

About changes in the church Mr. Blackwell said: "How nice not to be so judgmental and negative about other Christians.

"What a relief to know grace and to have the gift of righteousness and salvation from God. I still love the Sabbath and Holy Days, and they mean more than they ever did.

"Thank God for the faithful brethren who have stood behind the church with their prayers and tithes and offerings."

Children and grandchildren

Dean and Maxine Blackwell have four children: Regina Ann Martz (who died in 1992 at the age of 37), Rhonda Gail Massey, Bonnie Lynn Hackman and Jeffrey Dean Blackwell; and four grandchildren: Jordan Martz, Michelle Marie Massey and Brent and Brian Dean Hackman.

Garner Ted Armstrong

WorldNetDaily.com (http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=34620):

Evangelist Garner Ted Armstrong dies

Evangelist Garner Ted Armstrong, best known for his "World Tomorrow" program, died yesterday from complications from pneumonia at a hospital near his home in Tyler, Texas. He was 73.

"I know that all of you prayed with all you had as we did here, and fully expected God's intervention," said Armstrong's son, Mark, in a statement. "We cannot fully understand why the healing we begged for was not granted. But God's thoughts are not our thoughts, and He has plans sometimes that we as mortal humans cannot see."

Armstrong had been hospitalized since late last month, and had previously shown signs of improvement, according to a spokesman.

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Armstrong was founder of the Intercontinental Church of God and Garner Ted Armstrong Evangelistic Association, and son of Worldwide Church of God founder Herbert W. Armstrong, who died in 1986.

"I know that my dad fully expected that his work will continue, and we all have an enormous responsibility to make certain that his work has not been in vain, and that his voice will not be silenced," Mark Armstrong said. "His broadcasts will continue, his wisdom and his knowledge will constantly be made available to the church and to the public at large in the unique way only he has been able to explain and portray the truths of God."

"The World Tomorrow" broadcasts, which aired in the U.S. and dozens of other countries, focused on current news events in the light of biblical prophecy, as it looked toward the "coming kingdom of God."

For more than four decades, Armstrong interviewed many national and world leaders. During the height of the Cold War, he proclaimed that the Soviet Union was not the main worry to the United States, but warned that a "United States of Europe" under German leadership was the real coming threat.

He also was a strong voice against homosexuality, being precluded in recent years from broadcasting on some stations which disagreed with that message.

Regarding New York's new high school created specifically for homosexual students, Armstrong wrote on July 30:

"Can you imagine the shrieks of outrage from liberals if some group announced they were opening a new high school for 'straight kids only?' Think about it."

Armstrong wrote dozens of articles and booklets on a wide range of subjects, arguing against the theory of evolution, against world government, and he recently ripped those who keep suggesting Islam is a religion of peace and not inherently tied to terrorism.

"Only a blithering fool can deny the connection," Armstrong wrote last month. "Apparently, there are plenty of those in the U.N., and in many a national government which struggles against terrorism."

He also believed the U.S. and Britain are the leading powers in modern times because they are recipients of ancient promises made by God to the physical descendants of Israel, as he claims both countries trace their lineage back to Israel's son Joseph of the Old Testament.

His published books include "The Real Jesus" and "Peter's Story."

Armstrong's theology differed from that of much of traditional Christianity – or "churchianity" as he sometimes called it.

Among the biggest differences, Armstrong believed:

God is not a trinity, but rather a family currently consisting of two members (God the Father and Jesus Christ), with the potential of adding countless numbers of humans born into that family in a future resurrection;

Christians should observe the weekly and annual Sabbath days mentioned in the Bible; and Christians should abstain from holidays whose traditions he said were of pagan origin, including Easter and Christmas. During a December interview with WorldNetDaily on the history of the winter holiday, Armstrong stood by his long-running statement that "it is impossible to 'put Christ back in Christmas,' since He was never in Christmas in the first place!"

"It would be a sin for me [to celebrate Christmas], but it doesn't mean it's the unpardonable sin," Armstrong said, stressing he didn't feel at all threatened by the holiday.

"I have no more difficulty walking through Beijing at the Chinese New Year and seeing the dragons and fireworks. It doesn't affect me. ... [the Apostle] Paul says the idol is nothing."

Born in Portland, Ore., in 1930, Armstrong was raised in Eugene before joining the Navy, graduating from college, and embarking in a career in evangelism and analysis of current events in the mid-1950s.

According to the Tyler Morning Telegraph, "Armstrong was seen by an estimated 20 million Americans weekly on television and his radio show was broadcast in five languages to every inhabited continent on more than 300 radio stations."

ICG announcements:

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG 1930-2003

Garner Ted Armstrong died on the 15th of September at 1:20 PM local Tyler, Texas time. Following is the biographical information we sent to the various news media.

Garner Ted Armstrong is president of the Intercontinental Church of God of Tyler, Texas, and the Garner Ted Armstrong Evangelistic Association.

Born in Portland, Oregon, in 1930, his boyhood was spent in Eugene. He enlisted in the Navy in 1948 and spent four years in the service, aboard an aircraft carrier during the Korean War. He entered Ambassador Col-lege and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1956. He earned his M.A. in 1960, and his Ph.D. in 1966.

By 1957, Garner Ted Armstrong had become the full-time speaker on the World Tomorrow radio program. The broadcast grew to reach every inhabited continent and was rebroadcast in five languages on more than 300 radio stations.

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

He made his first television programs in 1955. By the early 1970's, he was seen on over 165 television stations and for many years commanded a weekly audience of approximately twenty million Americans.

Mr. Armstrong has interviewed many world leaders and national figures over the last four decades and has written dozens of articles and booklets on world, social, economic and religious conditions, and has published two books.

His speaking is always up-to-the-moment, informative, relevant, challenging, and thought-provoking. Topics of special expertise include the Middle East, Education, Criminal Justice, The Laws of Success, Child Training, Geopolitics, and current affairs in relation to biblical prophecy.

The Garner Ted Armstrong program can be seen every Monday at 5:00 a.m. central, 6:00 a.m. eastern over super-station WGN.

---END---

Following is the official announcement written by Mark Armstrong:

Dear Concerned Friends,

It is with a broken heart that I must inform all of you that my precious Dad, Garner Ted Armstrong, died today at 1:20 pm. I know that all of you prayed with all you had as we did here, and fully expected God's intervention. We cannot fully understand why the healing we begged for was not granted. But God's thoughts are not our thoughts, and He has plans sometimes that we as mortal humans cannot see.

I know that my Dad fully expected that his work will continue, and we all have an enormous responsibility to make certain that his work has not been in vain, and that his voice will not be silenced. His broadcasts will continue, his wisdom and his knowledge will constantly be made available to the church and to the public at large in the unique way only he has been able to explain and portray the truths of God.

I'm in the process of contacting all of the area coordinators and leaders throughout this fine organization you all have helped my Dad build. I will be looking to them for wisdom and council. Thank God for the fine gentle-men who have unselfishly given of themselves during this most recent phase of my Dad's ministry. Thank you all for the generous support you've shown my Father. He appreciated all of you and constantly thanked God for you.

Sincerely,
Mark Armstrong

Reprinted from The Journal: News of the Churches of God, Sept. 30, 2003.

Front page: Garner Ted Armstrong's passing marks end of an era for many in the Churches of God

By Dixon Cartwright

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

TYLER, Texas--Many Church of God members acknowledged that the passing of Garner Ted Armstrong in September marked the end of an era for COG fellowships and ministries with roots in the Worldwide Church of God.

Mr. Armstrong died in a Tyler hospital Sept. 15 of complications from pneumonia.

For two decades, from 1957 to 1978, he was a powerful presence on AM radio, preaching a message of "the wonderful world tomorrow" to millions of listeners over hundreds of radio stations and--beginning in the 1960s--to television viewers as well.

The son of WCG founder Herbert W. Armstrong, Garner Ted, via *The World Tomorrow*, was the first contact thousands of Church of God members had with the Radio/Worldwide Church of God, based in Pasadena, Calif.

He served as an administrator over the college and its founding church, second in rank only to his father.

After a tumultuous separation from his father's church in 1978, the younger Mr. Armstrong was a founder of the Church of God International near Tyler.

After a painful separation from the CGI two decades later, in 1998 he founded the Intercontinental Church of God, also based near Tyler, and the current incarnation of the Garner Ted Armstrong Evangelistic Association.

While an evangelist and chief administrator for the Tyler churches, he continued broadcasting, writing and making "personal appearances" to people attracted to his ministry in the United States and other countries.

Initial statement

Mr. Armstrong's son, Mark, released a statement shortly after his father's death. He wrote:

"It is with a broken heart that I must inform all of you that my precious dad, Garner Ted Armstrong, died today at 1:20 p.m. I know that all of you prayed with all you had as we did here, and fully expected God's intervention. We cannot fully understand why the healing we begged for was not granted. But God's thoughts are not our thoughts, and He has plans sometimes that we as mortal humans cannot see . . .

"I'm in the process of contacting all of the area coordinators and leaders throughout this fine organization you all have helped my dad build. I will be looking to them for wisdom and counsel. Thank God for the fine gentlemen who have unselfishly given of themselves during this most recent phase of my dad's ministry. Thank you all for the generous support you've shown my father."

Near family members

Mr. Armstrong, 73, was laid to rest Sept. 18 in Gladewater Memorial Park, off U.S. Highway 80 between Gladewater and Big Sandy, Texas, four miles down the road from the former campus of Ambassador College.

His grave lies next to a huge old live-oak tree near the graves of members of the Roy Hammer family.

Roy Hammer was the father-in-law of Garner Ted Armstrong. Roy's son Buck (who was in attendance at the funeral and brief graveside service) was

the donor in the early 1950s of the original parcel of land that became the central area of the campus of Ambassador College, which began near Big Sandy in 1964.

Mr. Armstrong's interment came after a funeral attended by an estimated more than 600 people at Croley Funeral Home in Gladewater with ICG elder George Trent of Princeton, W.Va., officiating.

Mr. Armstrong is survived by his wife, the former Shirley Hammer, sons Mark, David and Matthew, five grandchildren, and a sister, Dorothy Mattson of Sun City West, Ariz.

Pallbearers were Mr. Armstrong's three sons, Mark, David and Matthew; Mark Petkovich of Austin, Texas; Chester Roberson of Frankston, Texas; and Earl Timmons of Lexington, Ky.

The service took place in the chapel of the mortuary, which could accommodate about 200 seated persons. However, many others sat or stood in other rooms, hallways and a lobby throughout the facility, which is a former residence converted into a mortuary in the mid-'90s.

Bubba Smith, Croley Funeral Home manager, estimated as many as 700 people sat or stood in the chapel and in other areas of the building while the audio from the service could be heard everywhere in the facility.

Mark Armstrong delivered his father's eulogy, saying he was "one of the foremost teachers and professors of the misunderstood truths of God in this time."

Garner Ted, said his son, could "get people to look into their own hearts and look into their Bibles."

He said that anyone who had been "out of touch" with Mr. Armstrong over the past several years had "missed his very best work."

Mark said his father "was a wonderful dad" and "a romantic and loving husband to my sweet mother." He was "a disciplinarian, but was forgiving."

Mark Armstrong departed from his prepared text to read a message of condolence and remembrance from family friend Robert Kuhn of Pasadena, Calif. (which he also read at Sabbath services at ICG headquarters two days later).

Good-bye, friends

Mr. Trent delivered the funeral sermon, which included an outline of the plan of God as understood by many people in the congregations and ministries derived from the Worldwide Church of God.

The service--the two messages and a prayer--lasted a little less than an hour.

Mr. Trent said the "200 to 300 splinter groups" from the Worldwide Church of God owed their "core teachings" to Garner Ted Armstrong and his father, Herbert W. Armstrong.

Mark Armstrong encouraged Church of God members not to let his father's work "be in vain."

He ended his message with the words Mr. Armstrong had pronounced at the end of thousands of radio broadcasts, "Good-bye, friends."

GTA early history

Mr. Armstrong was born Feb. 9, 1930, in Portland, Ore. He served in the U.S. Navy on an aircraft carrier during the Korean War.

He entered Ambassador College in Pasadena, the school founded by his father, in 1956.

Although newspaper obituaries in the days after his death listed two books among his writings (apart from church-produced works such as *The Plain Truth About Child-Rearing*), Mr. Armstrong wrote at least three books published by outside publishing firms.

He wrote *The Real Jesus*, released in 1977, and *Peter's Story: A New Gospel*, in 1978, published by Sheed, Andrews and McMeel of Kansas City (the latter was revised and rereleased in 1981 under Mr. Armstrong's Emerald Enterprises label), and a novel, *Churchill's Gold*, published in 1988 by Tudor Communications, New York, which Mr. Armstrong wrote under the pseudonym William Talboy Wright.

No changes

Mark Armstrong and Mr. Trent also both spoke at the Sabbath service on Sept. 20 at ICG headquarters, in Flint, south of Tyler.

Mr. Armstrong said that "we here at headquarters in Tyler intend to carry this work and my father's message forward as long as God provides the strength and support. There will be no--capital N capital O--changes in doctrine or policy. The Sabbath, the holy days and the true doctrines of God's church will continue to be honored and observed."

After noting that the Armstrong family is "shocked, incredulous, stupefied" because of his father's demise, Mr. Armstrong noted that some fellow ICG members have urged him to step into his father's shoes.

But "I hope you'll understand when I say his shoes are huge and too big for me," he said. "For now I'll do my best to step up to the plate as it's required and appropriate."

Mr. Armstrong said his father's "beautiful sermons, books and television programs will always be made available" through the church and the Garner Ted Armstrong Evangelistic Association.

"My dad's sickness and now his death have brought us close to God," he said. "Now let's stay there."

Mr. Armstrong noted that the church's area coordinators and other leaders, "all of them, have pledged their loyalty to me," and "I take that very humbly and solemnly."

At one point Mr. Armstrong referred to himself "and the other ministers," then quickly corrected himself, referring instead to himself "and the ministers," an apparent indication he does not consider himself to be an elder or evangelist.

However, some in attendance at the Sabbath service said they were in the process of urging Mr. Armstrong to assume many of his father's responsibilities, including television broadcasting.

But Mr. Armstrong said the church will continue to sponsor his father's telecasts, including its airing on WGN in Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Armstrong, addressing the Sabbath-service audience, said, "I know that you respect and admire my dad greatly. How could you not?"

Making a difference

In his Sabbath sermon Mr. Trent described what he considers to be "the most endearing quality" of members of the Intercontinental Church of God.

A trait that he said "typifies" the ICG is that its members are "willing to forgive."

"They say that of the 250 to 300 fellowship groups out there, we're all the same," he said.

"We have the Sabbath. We have the holy days. We tithe.

"There may be a few differences about the place of safety and about the seven church eras.

"But I'm here to tell you that there is one very important difference.

"The Intercontinental Church of God took on the nature of its leader, and I can assure you when he breathed his last breath on that hospital bed over in Tyler, Texas, he had no animosity against any man, because he had in him the capacity to forgive."

Mr. Trent mentioned Israel's watchman, prophesied in Ezekiel 33.

"Mr. Armstrong was the watchman," he said. "Mr. Armstrong is still the watchman. Mr. Armstrong, in my eyes, will always be the watchman."

He concluded with a warning to "grievous wolves."

"This church is solid," Mr. Trent said, so "all you wolves that intend to cover yourselves up in sheep's clothing, you just forget it. The work of God will continue as it is until Jesus Christ returns because we're built on a solid foundation, and that foundation is the Rock."

Contact information

The Armstrong family receives mail at the Garner Ted Armstrong Evangelistic Association, 17444 Highway 155 S., Flint, Texas 75762, U.S.A.

E-mail messages to the family and church may be sent in care of Chris Cumming at sunshiner@worldnet.att.net.

See also "Garner Ted Armstrong in Hospital With Pneumonia," *THE JOURNAL*, Aug. 31.

See also tributes to and comments about Mr. Armstrong in articles beginning on pages 3 and 5 of this issue and in letters to the editor, beginning on

page 2.

Reprinted from The Journal: News of the Churches of God, Sept. 30, 2003.

Editorial: 'The Voice' was my greatest influence, The Journal

James Tabor is professor of ancient Judaism and early Christianity at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

By James Tabor

CHARLOTTE, N.C.--I am deeply saddened to hear of Ted Armstrong's death. My sympathies go out to his family and all who knew him well and loved him.

The Scriptures admonish, "Remember your Creators [Hebrew is plural] in the days of your youth," which I take to mean parents, mentors and others who have contributed to our lives in positive ways.

I can honestly say, though I know it was Herbert Armstrong in the beginning, that beginning from age 17 or so, when I used to listen to him on the radio as a senior in high school six days a week, it was through Garner Ted Armstrong that I was turned toward a biblical understanding of the God of Israel.

The most influence

I suppose, given that measure, he could be said to be the most influential person in my life.

Through that initial experience I have made lifelong and loyal friends from whom I could be separated only by death.

My academic and scholarly career was set on a course that contributed toward the recapture of the essential Hebraic roots of the early messianic movement led by Yeshua the Nazarene, John the Baptizer and James the brother.

I doubt I would have ever seen the Hebraic way of looking at things except through that work. And here I am, 40 years later, still wrestling with the great issues of God, Torah and Israel and the plans of our Creator in terms of the Kingdom of God "on earth" as it is in heaven.

I am profoundly sad to lose this talented and incredible VOICE. There is no one out there who can fill these shoes.

I am also sorry that he was not able to find himself more fully, because I think he could have done much more. I am sure he felt that too the last few years.

Personal correspondence

I will miss him, though I did not know him as closely as many others. I spent some time with him face to face, but most treasured to me are some personal letters he wrote me, long letters, so they were not formalities, a decade or so after my Ph.D. experience at Chicago when I was searching so desperately for a place of faith again within the biblical tradition.

He was very gracious and understanding and incredibly encouraging.

I realize that many had other experiences and feel profoundly negative things about HWA, GTA and the whole WCG experience.

My contacts, memories and dealings were always totally positive. I know there are others who can say the same.

This is not to negate another's experience but simply to record a different one.

Ernest Martin

Biography of Dr. Ernest L. Martin
Founder, Associates For Scriptural Knowledge:

A.S.K.'s Founder, Dr. Ernest L. Martin (died January 2002), was born in Meeker, Oklahoma on April 20, 1932. He attended grade and high school in Exeter, California and graduated from the College of the Sequoias in Visalia, California (specializing in Meteorology). He was a member of United States Air Force from 1950 to 54, and was sent by the Air Force to the University of New Mexico for advanced Meteorological training. He forecasted the weather in Greenland for a year, another year at Research and Development in High Altitude studies at Lowry AFB, Denver, Colorado. He changed careers in 1955 from science to social science (Theology and History).

He attended Ambassador College (now University and accredited) for B.A. (1958), M.A. in Theology (1962), and Ph.D. in Education (1966). He was Secretary of the Board at Ambassador campus in England from 1960 to 72 and Senior Professor of History and Theology and Elementary Meteorology. He was Dean of Faculty at Ambassador campus in England from 1966 to 72.

He secured the alliance of Ambassador with Hebrew University in the largest archaeological excavation in Israel near the Western (Wailing) Wall from 1969 through 1973. He supervised 450 college students for those five years at the archaeological site in Jerusalem for the summer months and Time magazine featured his program for providing academic credits for archaeological work during that period.

Dr. Martin became Chairman of the Department of Theology at Ambassador in Pasadena, California in 1973. He left Ambassador in 1974 (and gave up his tenured professorship) and started FBR (the Foundation for Biblical Research) in Pasadena. He was Chairman of the Board of FBR from 1974 to 85. He left FBR to found the Associates for Scriptural Knowledge (A.S.K.) in 1985 and was Chairman of the Board. He was a Member of the Society of Biblical Literature and the Planetarium Society, and was listed in the (1997,'98,'99) editions of *Who's Who in America*, also *Who's Who in Religion*, *Who's Who in Education*, and *Who's Who in Biblical Studies and Archaeology*.

He authored over 200 special theological and historical studies in printed form, and over 400 cassette taped lectures on similar subjects, and appeared numerous times on Television and Radio programs in which he was interviewed. He was married to Ramona Jean Martin and had two daughters Kathryn and Phyllis and one son Samuel, and several grandchildren. His primary profession was that of advanced studies as a Research Theologian and Historian with a deep interest in the relationship between the subjects of Science and Biblical matters.

He was an ordained Christian minister in the A.S.K. *ekklesia* (translated as "church" in the King James Version). Dr. Martin was first ordained in London, England in January 2, 1959 by the Worldwide Church of God; then FBR in January 1974; and finally ASK in January 1985.

Presence Ministries International
(<http://216.239.57.104/search?q=cache:otHWE4lYfclJ:www.presence.tv/cms/books199.shtml+ASK+%2B+ernest+martin&hl=en>):

About the Author: Dr. Ernest L. Martin (1932-2002) was an independent scholar who emerged out the Worldwide Church of God. From 1969 through 1973, he worked in alliance with Hebrew University in the largest archaeological excavation in Israel near the Western Wall, during summers. He left Ambassador in 1974 (and gave up his tenured professorship) and started FBR (the Foundation for Biblical Research) in Pasadena. He was Chairman of the Board of FBR from 1974 to 85. He left FBR to found the Associates for Scriptural Knowledge <<http://www.askelm.com/>> (A.S.K.) in 1985.

He authored over 200 special theological and historical studies in printed form, and over 200 cassette taped lectures on similar subjects, and appeared numerous times on Television and Radio programs in which he was interviewed. He was best known as author of *The Star that Astonished the World* (1996), advancing an alternative date for the birth of Christ, in 2 B.C. To date, over 600 planetariums around the world use base their Christmas shows on his research. Although a premillennialist, he was an ardent advocate of Scriptural truth and the need for justice and reconciliation among all peoples. In the winter of 2000, Presence Ministries arranged a speaking tour for Martin in Jerusalem, where he presented his alternative temple location theory to various Christian, Jewish and Muslim scholars in Jerusalem.

Benjamin Rea

DR. BENJAMIN L. REA. 1922-1965

By Raymond F McNair, *The Good News*, March 1965, p. 3:

THE LIFE of DR. REA was one of accomplishment. He was born in Ruston, Louisiana, and attended public schools there before going on to the Louisiana Polytechnic Institute. He was four years in the Army, Navy and Marines as a medical corpsman. He fought at Roi, Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He was wounded on Iwo Jima, brought back to the United States and discharged from the Naval hospital in New Orleans.

After leaving the Navy, he went to Louisiana State University where he received a Bachelor's degree in International Economics and Business Administration in 1948 and continued working toward his Master's degree. Later, he took a position as investigator for about 300 insurance companies in Louisiana.

DR. REA came to know God's truth about 1951, and at this time quit his job and helped his father start a business. In 1952, he attended his first Feast of Tabernacles at Seigler Springs, California. On his way home, he stopped by Ambassador College and had a talk with Mr. Armstrong. At the following Passover in Texas, Mr. Armstrong surprised him with the announcement that he would be a Spanish teacher at the College.

Immediately after this, he left for Mexico to do work for his Master's degree at La Universidad Interamericana in Saltillo, Coahuila de Zaragoza, Mexico. After many hours of study and examinations, he received his Master's Degree in 1955. He later obtained his Ph.D. Degree in 1960.

During those early years of teaching Spanish at Ambassador College, DR. REA translated many of the booklets into Spanish. By 1958, 13 radio stations in South America opened for a Spanish version of *The WORLD TOMORROW*.

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

DR. REA came to England in 1960 to help establish Ambassador College, U. K. He was, as Mr. Armstrong recently mentioned in a student meeting, in a sense the founder of the College in England by taking care of the thousand and one details involved when starting a new college.

As Dean of the Faculty, Professor of Spanish and International Relations, speaker on the Spanish broadcast, and Pastor of the Birmingham Church, DR. REA will be remembered for his loving personality, persevering drive and hearty chuckle. He will be remembered for his devotion to God's Work and serving others despite his extremely high blood pressure and his severe heart condition that hindered him.

The news of DR. REA's sudden death stunned the faculty and Students of Ambassador College, Bricket Wood, England, as well as members of the British Churches of God. DR. REA had been suffering from acute high blood pressure and heart trouble.

Because of this condition, he was given about six months leave of absence-from August to January-so he could rest, in hopes he would be able to recover in health.

After returning to the College and his duties here in England in January this year, his responsibilities were curtailed in hopes of averting serious heart trouble.

In spite of all this, DR. REA collapsed late Tuesday afternoon, March 9, after going through a very upsetting experience with the reporter of a London paper. He died a few hours later, at 2:40 a.m. early Wednesday morning.

It fell my lot to preach his funeral, which was held at 3 p.m. Friday, March 12. He was buried in a small wooded area, near the tomb of Sir David Yule, not far from Memorial Hall.

God granted us a very beautiful day for the funeral. The students, faculty and staff of Ambassador College, plus members of the London, Bricket Wood and Birmingham churches attended the funeral. Many sprays and wreaths of flowers had been sent by friends and relatives, as well as from the colleges, various churches and business associates.

DR. REA will be remembered mostly for his extremely warm and friendly personality, plus his driving zeal for his work God's Work! Please continue to remember Mrs. Rea and her small five-year-old son, Raphael, in your prayers each day! They will both need and appreciate these very much.

Lynn Torrance

The Journal Issue no. 92:

Lynn Torrance dies

BIG SANDY, Texas—Lynn E. Torrance, an elder in the Living Church of God and former registrar of Ambassador College, died unexpectedly at his home here Sept. 25.

Dr. Torrance, 86, had been a longtime member of the Radio/Worldwide Church of God.

Besides serving as registrar at AC, he taught classes, including international relations and speech. He is survived by his wife, Lou orrance, two sons, Jim Torrance of Dallas, Texas, and David Torrance of Atlanta, Ga., and several grand-children.

Virtual Christian Magazine

(<http://www.vcmagazine.org/vcm/article.asp?volume=1&issue=6&article=comfort&format=articleprint>)

Comfort One Another

By Mark Mickelson

IT IS KNOWN IN HISTORY as the Bataan Death March. As the Japanese forces overran the Philippines during World War II, about 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers were captured and brutally mistreated by their captors. Already suffering from malnutrition and disease, the exhausted captives were forced to march 65 miles across the Bataan Peninsula. As they marched, any who fell back were shot or bayoneted. Those who fell down were killed and pushed aside. The sick were left for dead. When the survivors reached the ocean they were locked up inside a stifling hot compartment on a ship. These men were not given food or water. Many died without any consideration or mercy. In Japan they were put in a prisoner of war camp and many more died there as well.

Very few actually made it. One of those who survived was Lynn Torrance. Dr. Torrance was the registrar at Ambassador College when I met him. My acquaintance with him began when I was a student and grew over the years. I came to both respect and love him. Because of this experience, Dr. Torrance lost his health. The vast majority of his fellow soldiers died. But he made it out of there and told stories that I can't bear to repeat.

When he returned home after the war, he determined as much as possible to never complain again. No matter how bad it got, he believed it couldn't possibly be any worse than what he had already been through.

Despite his trials, Dr. Torrance was able to encourage and joke. He had a light-hearted perspective on life that made him a pleasure to be around. This wasn't because life was easy. His life was hard. Few indeed have ever experienced life as he experienced it. But he took life at its best. And he managed with God's help to turn things around so that he--who had every reason to wallow in self-pity--became one who helped to comfort others.

Don Billingsley

<http://www.coq-ff.com/Pastor's%20Bio.html> :

My Personal Background

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

I grew up in a farming community in Oklahoma in a family with two brothers and three sisters (none ever came to be members of the Church)...At age 18 I was drafted into the army and after my training in the infantry I was sent to Germany as a replacement and entered into combat in January, 1945. After being discharged I returned to Oklahoma but only stayed for a short while and then made my way to Stockton, California. It was here that I met the woman who came to be the wife that I had prayed for about a year or so before I went into the army. I had prayed and told God that I wanted to be a Christian in the future and I asked Him to bless me with the right wife who would also want to be a Christian.

The first time I saw her I had a feeling this was the woman I would marry and in less than 6 weeks we were married on June 29, 1946, in Reno, Nevada.

It was about the middle of 1951 that God began working with me. Unknowing to me, God began working with my wife about the same time. This was before we knew of Mr. Armstrong.

We were both baptized in 1952 in Oklahoma City and continued living there until I resigned from my job in Civil Service. This resignation took place after our driving to Big Sandy, Texas for the observance of the Passover in 1953.

We were so moved by what we learned from Gods apostle, who gave most of the sermons during the Days of Unleavened Bread that followed, we both knew we had to go where the Church was, so we could learn and be with others of like faith and belief. When we returned home I turned in my two weeks notice of resignation immediately.

Always, to this day, we have been very grateful that God led us to go to Pasadena where we could be taught the TRUTH, and possibly be used by Him in some way in the future. That was our desire.

Ambassador College, Pasadena

The college, being as small as it was at that time and in the few years that followed, made it possible for us to build on our foundation that began in Oklahoma City in early 1952. As the result of being so small during the 50's, it made possible our becoming very well acquainted with both Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, as well as all the others who were there as faculty members, students and members.

We were helped greatly by my being hired as the college chauffeur at Ambassador College right after the Feast of Tabernacles in 1953. This made it possible for us to attend classes which we did. My wife worked some in the home of Mr. And Mrs. Armstrong and some in the home of their daughter, Beverly. Some little time later she began working in the kitchen at A/C.

My Ordinations

I was ordained a deacon in 1957. On June 7, 1958, I was ordained a local elder. Mr. Richard D. Armstrong chose me to serve on the visiting program and then to team up with him to go on a baptizing tour in central California. Though I do not want to go into detail, we had a terrible automobile accident (my fault) from which he died a few days later.

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

After the accident, I was appointed the coordinator of the Visiting Program in Pasadena and served there in that position under Mr. Meredith.

The baptizing tour we had started was completed a few weeks later, by my being teamed up with Mr. Gerald Waterhouse. The following year I was chosen to head another baptizing tour in central California. with Mr. James Kunz.

The Beginning of Transfers

My wife and I remained at the college until shortly before the Feast of Tabernacles in 1960 at which time we were transferred to San Diego, California to be the co-pastor of that Church. That was the beginning of numerous transfers over the years to different Church areas until we were finally transferred here in the Modesto, California area in 1991.

The Hard and Trying Times

God has continued to richly bless us through His wonderful love that He instilled within us in the very beginning and kept it alive through these hard and trying years.

Had God not blessed us in this, manner I seriously question whether we could have endured the hard trials we have experienced over past years until now (II Thessalonians 2:10).

In light of what many of the scattered members are having to live through now, my wife and I had to live through the same in 1952 and part of 1953 while living in Oklahoma City. This period of time strengthened the foundation God was building in us when we lived alone with no other Church members with whom we could fellowship.

We had to pray several times a day and likewise study our Bibles to keep our relationship alive and strong with God, just as many of Gods people are now doing.

Once we learned of Mr. Armstrong and began hearing the daily Radio Broadcasts and receiving the literature, we really began to learn. I will add that what I read I also proved from the Bible. So, there is no need for me to go back and prove it all over again. I will also add that I knew Mr. Armstrong was God's true minister and have never doubted or questioned it.

Departure from WCG

Because I would not preach the Protestant teachings, it finally led to the son of the Pastor-General, to say to the head of Church Administration, that they either had to fire or retire me.

The telephone call came, and I was told they were going to send another minister over to this Church area who would preach the "new" teachings. I was not allowed to preach there any more.

I felt the need of remaining with the members during the little time I yet had remaining there (less than a month or so), and as the result, well over 100 members remained with me out of the approximate 300 in the Modesto, California Church. A few remained with us from the Stockton, California Church, that I was also pastoring at that time. Four elders also remained with me. We left two weeks before the Passover in 1995.

In addition, a few members and one elder from the Fresno, California Church and drove down each Sabbath to attend services with us.

Dean Wilson

UCG Coworker Letter, 14 January 2005:

The Feast of Pentecost is yet five months away, but I have been thinking a lot about an aspect of the meaning of that day in light of the death earlier this week of Mr. Dean Wilson. He and his wife, Marolyn, were a team that for 40 years had a profound influence overseeing the work of the Church in Canada and Australia, and serving several congregations in the United States. Under his leadership the operations in Canada and Australia grew and thrived, but not in numbers only. As a fellow Council member told me today, "There were times when I wished I could have served in Canada, because Dean Wilson had a wonderful reputation for being a developer of people." Another longtime friend assessed his life this way: "He was absolutely serious about everything in the Word of God, but he never took himself too seriously."

E-mail, 15 January 2005:

Today a friend called me to let me know Mr. Wilson passed away. I did not react right away, because it generally takes me some moments to get used to the shock. Then later the tears came.

I have known the Wilson's for 20 years, which is three quarters of my life. When we first moved to Portland and began attending Dean Wilson's church in 1985, I vividly remember how friendly the church was and the impression made upon my parents. Mr. Wilson always made time for everyone. Even the little ones. I particularly remember one short conversation with Mr. Wilson when I was seven. I was sitting down by myself, and he came over and started talking to me. He told me he liked my sweater, and asked me what I liked to do. We talked about trivial things. The things most adults at church would not waste their time with, but it meant the world to me at seven. I saved that sweater, because my mother made it for me. I run across it every few years, and I think of Mr. Wilson. The South Portland congregation was split between the east and west....and Mr. Wilson left, I believe to San Diego.

He came back to Portland and was later in the UCG. He was one of those ministers that would call a couple if he knew they were engaged to see if they needed someone to marry them. He did that to my friends. He was one of those who made sure that others who did not have the means to attend the Feast got there. Even when they did not ask for help.

From the pulpit he would tell us, he was not there to tell us what he was told to say, but what God said. On a doctrinal issue in UCG that did not have a final rendering he said from the pulpit he did not care what conclusion they came to, that he was going to preach the truth. And he preached the truth on that doctrine.

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Mr. Wilson started showing signs of Parkinson's disease a few years ago. In sermons and at Passover his voice was shaky, but his mind and message were clear and sharp. I went to visit him when he was in the hospital 2 years ago. I visually had never seen anyone convulsing that much in my life. He was not having good reactions to the medication given him. He did not seem to be aware we were there. We stayed a few minutes, talked and were getting ready to leave when he grabbed my hand and said hi. He had heard us talking to him the whole time. He did not let go. So I held on too, and just talked.

He was back at church several weeks later, joking that I had to pay to get into services. The last 2 years at church, always the first person to greet me with a smile was Mrs. Wilson. They were always in the same spot, and when they were not there, everyone noticed. A few weeks ago, I was heading out the door and Mrs. Wilson approached me and asked me how the feast was in Australia. We talked a little. She said they had both loved the people and the area when they served there.

here has always been two seats on the left hand by the church entrance for the Wilson's. They will be needed no longer. It is strange.

When the name Dean Wilson is mentioned, it is one of those names that even the greatest criticizers have very little to say about. It is one that brings connotations of endearment. Simply because he did so much for others. Because he tapped into the lives of others, and promoted them. He and his wife took care of the elderly, and the needy. They have done in their ministry the job God gave to them, to preach the gospel and to look out for their flock.

This summer I wrote a letter and gave it to Mrs. Wilson. I wanted to make sure that sometime in this life she understood the impression they had both made on me. There have been the trials of disillusionment where those in the ministry faltered when the right thing should have been done. The Wilson's were like a constant to refer back to. They never passed anyone by. People were not expendable in their eyes. They served the people and protected them. Everyone mattered in their lives; even the seven year olds.

His physical life was filled with honor and integrity, and an agenda that was based on God, and not a corporation or a man. In the resurrection I think Christ will remind him that whenever he fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and prayed for the sick, that he did it to Him. His outgoing service and concern was so much a part of who he was, that to him it was just him.

Though I have not read it, I have heard Clyde Kilough has sent out a letter regarding the death of Dean Wilson. It can be found at www.ucg.org, in case it has not yet been mentioned here.

Kellie

January 23, 2005, Rainer Salomaa:

I attended his funeral service yesterday and am writing this at the airport in Seattle between flights. It was so well done. Mrs. Wilson's sister, who is not a church member, commented to me about it. She was so complimentary of Bob Dick's simple and yet eloquent message as well as the heart-felt eulogies. It was said, "A measure of a man is in his beliefs." His beliefs on death and the resurrection were clearly spelled out by his fellow pastor. Tributes were paid to him by Richard Pinelli, David Register and Clyde Kilough.

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

There were at my count at least fourteen elders present and a standing room only crowd of ones whose lives he had touched. I think that the crowd he drew from far and wide speaks volumes of his character and reputation.

Statements such as....."He was not orthodox.", "a kind teacher", "caring", "unauthoritarian", "a builder", "one-track minded", "moulder of pillars", "developer of people", "consummate optimist", "high sense of responsibility", "took the word of God seriously, but not himself", "brought stability", "a veteran in service to his country and to his church", "left a legacy of broad-based respect", etc. were made.

On a personal level, he hired me when no one else would. He steered me to my wife Claudia, asking if I would help her move, and then a year later, married us, sent me off to pastor and raise up congregations as a ministerial trainee. He even sent me another trainee to help me when I was unordained. He and his wife stayed in our home and helped us get a better bed when he woke up with a sore back, gave me a mailing list of 5000 and asked me to hold Public lectures for them (which involved typing envelopes with a Smith Corona typewriter which he helped us to buy), and who was there at the side-lines to throw out a life line when I felt like I was sinking. He also shared some of his deep wounds when he was turned upon, but he never got bitter about it.

He had military honours. The sun shone through broken clouds, the partial moon was rising in late afternoon at the Willamette National Cemetery. His wife Marolyn, the day after the inauguration ceremonies of the 43 president, was handed a folded American flag, three spent cartridges and a lapel pin. It reminded me so much of Ronald Reagan's burial. The Sabbath was approaching. The whole service was an eloquent and dignified end to a soldier in Christ. He is at rest. His work is over. Ours continues.

Those of us who were blessed to know him were handed a wonderful example of eternal optimism, the glass always being full. We were given an example of zeal for doing the work of God in any way possible, at times thinking outside the box. He encouraged evangelism. That is being done in his home church on a regular basis.

Mr. Wilson, my fellow Christian soldier, I salute you! Well done!

Art Gilmore

Art Gilmore was never part of the church. He was a good friend for many years. He was in his 70's and semi-retired when HWA died, so it is doubtful that he is still alive. Regardless, he is important enough to include in this paper.

From the Autobiography of HWA (chapter 42):

And so, mid-April, 1942, The World Tomorrow went on the air in Hollywood. In Hollywood I was able to do several things to make the program more professional. I was able to obtain the services of a big-time network announcer to put us on and take us off the air.

Although I used four or five different announcers in the next few years, I think the very first one was perhaps the best known of all -- Art Gilmore. He was coast-to-coast announcer on such CBS shows as Sam Spade, Stars over Hollywood, and, I believe by that time, Amos and Andy, besides several others. Since 1947, Art Gilmore has been on The World Tomorrow as our announcer, and millions worldwide will hear his voice at the beginning and the sign-off of the program except some of the foreign overseas stations. We still believe his is the best radio voice in America to precede our program. He also does the announcing on our TV programs. Our readers may be glad to know that Mr. Gilmore is a fine, upstanding, sincere and high-principled man.

From the Autobiography of HWA (chapter 44):

On Sunday night, 11 p.m., August 30, 1942, for the first time in my life I was speaking, from the studios of WHO, to a nationwide audience! I have before me, now, the script of that program.

The announcer's voice -- recorded, and I think it was the voice of famous network announcer Art Gilmore, as it is today -- heard in all parts of the nation, was saying:

"The WORLD TOMORROW! At this same time every Sunday, Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's world news, with the prophecies of The WORLD TOMORROW!"

From the website http://www.explore-biography.com/biographies/A/Art_Gilmore.html:

Brief biography

Art Gilmore graduated from Washington State University in 1931. He was raised in Tacoma. In 1936 he became a staff announcer for the Warner Brothers' radio station KFWB in Hollywood, California. He then moved to the CBS owned radio station KNX as a news reader. During World War II Art Gilmore served as a fighter-director U.S. Navy officer aboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific Ocean. Upon leaving the Navy he decided to become and professional singer and he returned to Hollywood, but his career began when he became a narrator.

Radio

Prior to the advent of television as a mass medium, the voice of Art Gilmore as announcer became a part of many now legendary radio programs. Drawing his inspiration from the radio sports commentators of the 1930s, he became the announcer for "Amos 'n Andy", "Dr. Christian", "The Sears Radio Theater", "Stars Over Hollywood", "Golden Days of Radio" and many other famous radio shows of the time. It was the voice of Art Gilmore that introduced both Herbert W. Armstrong and Garner Ted Armstrong and telling the audience to request free religious literature from his repetition of the mailing address, that was heard concluding every edition of "The World Tomorrow" radio and television programs.

Further information may be found at <http://us.imdb.com/name/nm0319497/>

Kenneth Herrmann

From the website <http://www.bibarch.com/biographs/Contemporary/Herrmann-Kenneth.htm>

Kenneth Herrmann, writer and college administrator, was born in 1924 on a dairy farm in a German speaking community in the Colby Wisconsin area. His parents were children of German immigrants. As a child he spoke German.

When Herrmann first heard Herbert W. Armstrong speak on the *World Tomorrow* radio program he was working as a farmhand in Nebraska. He drove out to Pasadena in 1948 thinking that if Mr. Armstrong was telling the truth "it would be worthwhile to go out and check this man out."

He ended up enrolling in Ambassador as the only new student to arrive in time for the second year of Ambassador College in Pasadena, California. He graduated in 195??????. In 1952 Herrmann married an Ambassador coed who was from the Little Rock area of Arkansas – Elise Bernard (who died in 1997).

Among his credits Herrmann served as registrar and as head of the college admissions program. He was a teacher of astronomy and geology at Ambassador College. Herrmann was editor of the Ambassador College yearbook, *The Envoy*, and for a time a programmer for the punch card addressing system used by the then Radio Church of God to send out *The Plain Truth* magazine and other correspondence

In 1972 Herrmann he took extended Sabbatical leave due to internal political problems in the Worldwide Church of God administration and later retired. He settled in the Big Sandy, Texas, area.

Herrmann wrote various articles for the early *Plain Truth* and *Good News* magazines including "How long were the 'days' of Creation?," "Should Christians Celebrate Birthdays?," "Beautiful in it's Simplicity, A calendar Based solely on Biblical Principles," and "God's Sacred Calendar."

In the 1940 GOOD NEWS letter by HWA, the foundation was laid for our understanding of the Hebrew Calendar. Later, Herrmann wrote an article on the subject in the March 1953 GOOD NEWS. The article was republished in the February 1957 GOOD NEWS (with small changes) – this research has continued as the foundation for Church of God calendar research. His 1967 Master of Arts Thesis was titled "Calendar and Eclipse Interrelationships."

Richard C Nickels

**From <http://www.ucg.org/un/un0607/annts.htm#Obituaries>
UCG News July 2006**

Richard Nickels, age 58, lost his battle with cancer on June 4, 2006. Diagnosed with an unknown stage four cancer in March 2006, he did not suffer long.

An accountant and computer consultant, Richard worked for a major coal mining company in Gillette, Wyoming. He was a graduate of Linfield College (B.A., 1969, Summa Cum Laude).

Richard Nickels became a *World Tomorrow* broadcast listener in 1961, was baptized in 1969, and was employed by the Worldwide Church of God from 1971 to 1973 in Festival site construction and Church Administration. Since 1978, he wrote numerous articles and books for **Giving & Sharing**, a nonprofit mail-order bookstore serving Sabbath-keepers around the world. Thousands of Bibles and Bible study aides were donated around the world through this organization. From 1996 to 1999 and 2004 to 2006 he was president of the **Bible Sabbath Association**. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, of Gillette; and daughters Barbara Parada of Houston, Texas; Rachel Nickels of Everett, Washington; and Amanda Byrd of Eugene, Oregon. His funeral was held in Vancouver, Washington, on June 11. The family is overwhelmed and very thankful for all of the prayers, support, cards and calls they have received over the last few months.

[From www.giveshare.org](http://www.giveshare.org)

Brief Biography of Richard Nickels

Richard Charles Nickels (1947-2006), a native of Oregon, has also lived in Texas, California, Missouri, Washington, and Wyoming. He and his wife Shirley have three children: Barbara, Rachel, and Amanda. An accountant and computer consultant, Nickels currently works for a major coal mining company in Gillette, Wyoming. He is a graduate of Linfield College (B.A., 1969, Summa Cum Laude).

Richard Nickels became a "World Tomorrow" broadcast listener in 1961, was baptized in 1969, and was employed by the Worldwide Church of God from 1971-1973 in festival site construction and Church Administration. Since 1978, he has written numerous articles and books for Giving & Sharing, a nonprofit mail order bookstore serving Sabbath-keepers around the world. These include **History of the Seventh Day Church of God, Six Papers on the History of the Church of God, Biblical Holy Days, Biblical Law, Biblical Health and Healing, Biblical Doctrine, Biblical Marriage and Family, Bible Studies**, etc. From 1996-1999, Richard Nickels was President of the [Bible Sabbath Association](http://www.bible-sabbath.org). He continues to serve as an active BSA Board Member.

Shirley Nickels (1949-), formerly Shirley Lorraine Whitaker, grew up in the Church of God in Asheville, North Carolina, and Eugene, Oregon. She currently serves as Office Manager for The Bible Sabbath Association from the Nickels home in Wyoming.

Serving God's people has been a labor of love for the Nickels family. They believe that God's Truth is so precious that they must diligently share it with others. During his more than twenty years of ministry, Richard Nickels has never been monetarily compensated for his labor for the brethren. All tithes and offerings donated to Giving & Sharing (which are USA income tax deductible) are used for serving Sabbath-keepers around the world. Richard was ordained an elder the Church of God in October, 1999.

Click here to view a [photo of Shirley and Richard Nickels](#) (taken in 1997, 25th Anniversary photo).

Giving & Sharing and Richard C. Nickels: Who are We?

Letters from correspondents often ask us: "Who are you?" and "What is 'Giving & Sharing' all about?" Here is a brief answer.

Profile: Richard Charles Nickels

Born: June 10, 1947 at Portland, Oregon

Ancestry: Mainly German

Parents: Henry Charles Nickels, Rosemary (Rosina) Schmidt

Baptized: March, 1969

Married: January 23, 1972 to Shirley L. Whitaker

Children: Barbara (1975), Rachel (1979), Amanda (1984)

Education: graduate of Linfield College, B.A. 1969 summa cum laude, major in mathematics and history

Occupation: Revenue accountant for large coal mining company

Church: Worldwide Church of God 1969-1975

Church of God, The Eternal 1975-1978

Independent 1978-1995

Ordained an elder by Tom Justus of Church of God Sabbath Day, Springdale, Arkansas 1999

Attend United Church of God mostly 1996-present

Religious Background

I was raised in Portland, Oregon and spent the greater part of my early life in that area. In 1960 my parents and I moved to the Oregon coast, where I began listening to the radio broadcast of "The World Tomorrow" with Herbert W. Armstrong, and his son Garner Ted Armstrong. Careful study of Biblical doctrines they presented, plus the divine intervention in my life through a traumatic experience led to my repentance and baptism in March 1969 at the age of 21. I began attending the Worldwide Church of God Sabbath services and annual Holy Day Festivals.

In 1971, Raymond Cole, Evangelist and Director of Festival Site Construction for the Church, hired me as a special assistant. Along with doing survey work at the Wisconsin Dells and Mt. Pocono, Pennsylvania festival sites, I did research and writing for a special project of Mr. Cole's: compiling a history of the Sabbath-keeping Churches of God.

Financial problems in the Worldwide Church of God led to the termination of Festival site construction, as well as my job. In 1972, I found myself in the Church's Big Sandy, Texas Ambassador College campus as an accounts payable clerk in the college business office. In 1973, Raymond Cole was named Regional Director of the Church's Pasadena, California church area. He hired me as his Administrative Assistant. For almost a year, I was fully involved in church administration, budgeting and planning, as well as research and writing for Mr. Cole's sermons on regional trips to churches.

The Worldwide Church of God was at this time undergoing major internal difficulties. Factions were struggling to liberalize Church teachings on divorce, Holy Days, healing, tithing and other doctrines. As a leading proponent of conservative Church teachings, Raymond Cole became very

unpopular and as a result lost his position as Regional Director, going on a year long sabbatical leave. As a consequence, I too lost my position and returned to Portland.

The year 1974 saw a major division in the Church, as thousands left and/or were disfellowshipped for going into more liberal doctrines. Many totally gave up the faith. In an effort to stem the tide of members leaving the Church, numerous doctrines were changed, including the date of Pentecost, and teachings on divorce and remarriage, the Sabbath, tithing and healing. I did not and still do not agree with any of these doctrinal changes.

Faced with the termination of his year's leave, Raymond Cole had to either accept these unscriptural doctrinal changes or be put out of the Church. At my urging, along with several others, he began holding public Bible Studies defending earlier Church teachings. As a result, we were excommunicated from the Worldwide Church of God, and formed a new organization, Church of God, The Eternal, in 1975. I was glad to write several major articles for this new group, including the ones on Three Times a Year, Pentecost, Marriage and Divorce, and most of the one on Tithing. Several former Worldwide ministers joined the group.

Some of the same problems extant in the Worldwide Church of God became apparent in the new group. Doctrinal liberalization was one. This was particularly serious because the leadership publicly claimed to be "conservative," yet in certain cases acted very "liberal." Another serious problem was lack of brotherly love and concern for the membership, a problem echoed by numbers of people across the country. To my regret, in early 1978 a separation became necessary.

How Giving & Sharing Began

Giving & Sharing stems from the results of the research on church history that I did when employed by the Worldwide Church of God. The 1971 termination of my job with Festival Construction also terminated the formal writing of the History of the Church of God. But during spare time from 1972-1973, I was able to complete *A History of the Seventh Day Church of God*, Vols. I and II, as well as *Six Papers on the History of the Church of God*. As a courtesy to Mr. Cole, I included his name as co-author on the original edition, although he never wrote a sentence of the books, and never discussed with me their contents. A copy went to Mr. Cole, and a few others to Church officials.

The books I wrote would have probably gathered dust had not they been given unsolicited publicity in 1977-1978 by the Bible Advocate, chief periodical of the Church of God (Seventh Day) Denver Group. This, plus mention in the *Ambassador Report* (organ of the anti-Worldwide Church movement) and Marion McNair's book, *Armstrongism: Religion or Ripoff?*, produced a flood of requests for copies of the books. I was contacted by several wanting multiple copies. One was Elder Ray Straub, a leader of the Church of God (Seventh Day) Denver Group.

As a result, to prevent unauthorized use of the books and profit-making by others, I copyrighted them in my name, and arranged for their publication. Several hundred copies have been distributed, at no profit to myself.

Since being put out of the Church of God, The Eternal, which occurred largely because of the dispute over the history books, I have continued to meet with and fellowship with other scattered believers, who like myself and family, continue to believe and practice the truths of the Bible we have the privilege of understanding. Many are former members of the Worldwide Church of God and/or Church of God, The Eternal.

Due to numerous contacts with many Sabbath-keepers as a result of my books, I wanted to find a way of better serving fellow believers, as well as preserving cherished Biblical truths. Above all, I wanted to avoid financial gain from religious service. In my former affiliations, I had seen gross misuse of church funds. Ministers were often **served** more than those whom they were supposed to serve. In reviewing the world's religious scene, this factor appeared to be a common problem. Instead of "giving and receiving" (**Philippians 4:15**), most religious groups take, serving the hierarchy instead of the membership. Newspaper articles called to my attention that sale of religious books was reaping vast profits to publishers and bookstores. What a shame to make merchandise of the Truth!

I purchased a set of the King James Bible on cassette tape, narrated by Alexander Scourby, from a local Christian bookstore at a "special sale" price of \$97. The normal price at that time was about \$150 for the four dozen cassette tape set. I found that if I bought four sets from the distributor, I could buy this excellent Bible study tool for only \$68! The Christian bookstore had made \$29 gross profit on this "special sale" item! This gave me the idea to start a wholesale book service to God's people so they would not have to pay exorbitant prices. I started advertising this service to those who had bought my books on church history. Thus began the Giving & Sharing bookstore service to Sabbath-keepers.

How Giving & Sharing Operates

In addition to the books on church history which continue to be of interest to Sabbath keepers, we distribute Bibles, Biblical reference books, and provide articles and books on many Bible topics: the Sabbath, Biblical Holy Days, Tithing, Laws of Health, Marriage, etc. Wholesale arrangements with major jobbers and publishers enable us to deliver almost any Bible or religious book in print at a 30% to 50% discount. Much material is given away freely.

Thousands of dollars worth of books and articles have been distributed throughout the world, all without a bit of personal profit. Our "suggested donation" is intended to represent our "break even" cost of materials, postage and handling.

Giving & Sharing is an activity of Sharing & Giving, Inc., a tax-exempt religious service, not a "church." Donations above the "suggested donation" are tax-deductible for United States income tax purposes. We are grateful for donations above the "suggested donation," which allow us to send more free material to those who cannot afford to send a donation. More money donated to **Giving & Sharing** means more WORK for us, which we are most happy to do because that is the reason for our being, to serve others with the Almighty's Truth. Giving & Sharing pays no salaries.

In 1993, Earl Lewis assumed the responsibility of mailing books and articles. I work full time for a major coal mining company, and continue to write articles and correspond with those we serve. For a number of years, Ronald H. Stewart of Tennessee assisted Giving & Sharing in review and writing articles, as well as leadership and counsel in the over-all direction of Giving & Sharing. George Johnson of Michigan has assisted in printing our articles and books, as well as mailing articles.

We thank the many people who have spread the word about Giving & Sharing so that we can serve more. Most of our new contacts come from word of mouth. We write Bible Study articles that we distribute periodically to those who have requested to be on our mailing list.

Do you have a Bible question or personal problem? We will do our best to answer all queries for assistance. If we can't help you, perhaps we can refer you to someone who can. It's a tough and wicked society we live in, and sometimes it helps to have someone to write or talk about a problem.

Fellowship

Since 1978, we have not been closely affiliated with any religious organization, although we fellowship with several groups. There are many other independent Sabbath-keepers like ourselves. We observe the Sabbath at home with the family, and the Annual Holy Days with other scattered brethren, as the Eternal permits. We treasure and seek for more fellowship with others of like mind. The United Church of God is our most frequent point for fellowship. We have no Church of God in our area. A few times a year the United Church of God has services 140 miles away from us. On the Third Sabbath of each month, we sponsor a telephone Bible Study. See the G&S home page for contact information.

Religious Beliefs

These are some of our distinguishing beliefs, based on our understanding of the Truth of the Eternal: observance of the Sabbath (Friday sunset to Saturday sunset), observance of Biblical Holy Days using the calendar given to the Hebrews, non-observance of man-made holidays of pagan origin such as Christmas, Easter, New Years, Halloween, Valentine's Day, etc., abstinence from foods defined by the Bible as "unclean" and unfit for human consumption, use of natural foods and reliance upon the Almighty to heal us when we are sick or hurt, a 100% commitment of time and resources to furthering the work of the Almighty (this includes tithes and offerings, prayer and fasting, and diligent effort to help others know about the Eternal), and a firm belief in the sanctity and permanence of marriage, opposing divorce, homosexuality and other forms of sexual perversion. Our book, **Biblical Doctrine**, further explains our doctrinal beliefs.

Major items we distribute are **Biblical Holy Days**, **Biblical Law**, **Biblical Marriage and Family**, **Biblical Health and Healing**, **Bible Studies**, and our histories on the Church of God.

www.thejournal.org/issues/issue108/rnickels-death.html

[The Journal: News of the Churches of God Web site](#)

COG News Flash

Richard Nickels, Founder of Giving & Sharing, Dies

GILLETTE, Wyoming -- Richard Nickels, 58, founder of the popular Giving & Sharing non-profit bookstore, died peacefully on June 4, 2006 with his wife Shirley by his side. Richard was diagnosed with adrenal cancer in March of this year.

Richard was born on June 10, 1947 in Portland, Oregon and was a graduate of Linfield College (B.A., 1969, Summa Cum Laude). He became a *World Tomorrow* broadcast listener in 1961, was baptized in 1969, and was employed by the Worldwide Church of God from 1971-1973 in festival site construction and Church Administration. At the time of his passing, Richard worked for a major coal mining company as an accountant and computer consultant.

WCG Pioneers or Senior Veterans

Richard wrote numerous articles and books after starting Giving & Sharing in 1978. These included *History of the Seventh Day Church of God, Six Papers on the History of the Church of God, Biblical Holy Days, Biblical Law, Biblical Health and Healing, Biblical Marriage and Family* and many more. He served as President of the Bible Sabbath Association from 1996-1999 and 2004-2006.

Funeral and Condolences

A memorial service for Richard will be held on Wednesday, June 7 at 11:30 AM in Gillette. Rich's funeral service will be held at 12:30 PM local time on Sunday, June 11th at:

Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery & Funeral Chapel
1101 Northeast 112th Avenue
Vancouver, Washington 98684
Phone: 360-892-6060

Condolences can be sent to:

Shirley Nickels, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718, USA

Richard is survived by his wife Shirley of Gillette, Wyoming, and daughters Barbara Parada of Houston, Texas, Rachel Nickels of Everett, Washington, and Amanda Byrd of Eugene, Oregon.

Your prayers for the family would be most appreciated.

Compiled from various sources by Journal Webmaster Al Ruth.

UPDATED June 5, 2006

We are sad to announce that Richard Nickels passed away Sunday night, less than three months after discovering that adrenal cancer had spread throughout his body. After collapsing on Monday, May 29, he had been hospitalized with oxygen therapy until Friday, when he began slipping in and out of a semi-comatose state.

During his last week he was lucid and was able to converse with his family and friends. He died peacefully with his wife Shirley at his side about 7 PM, Sunday, June 4, 2006.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday at 11:30 AM in Gillette. Richard's funeral will be held in Oregon where his and Shirley's families are.

Cards may be sent to:

3316 Alberta Dr.,
Gillette, WY 82718

<http://www.ucg.org/un/un0607/annts.htm#Obituaries>

UCG News July 2006

Richard Nickels, age 58, lost his battle with cancer on June 4, 2006. Diagnosed with an unknown stage four cancer in March 2006, he did not suffer long.

An accountant and computer consultant, Richard worked for a major coal mining company in Gillette, Wyoming. He was a graduate of Linfield College (B.A., 1969, Summa Cum Laude).

Richard Nickels became a *World Tomorrow* broadcast listener in 1961, was baptized in 1969, and was employed by the Worldwide Church of God from 1971 to 1973 in Festival site construction and Church Administration. Since 1978, he wrote numerous articles and books for **Giving & Sharing**, a nonprofit mail-order bookstore serving Sabbath-keepers around the world. Thousands of Bibles and Bible study aides were donated around the world through this organization. From 1996 to 1999 and 2004 to 2006 he was president of the **Bible Sabbath Association**.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley, of Gillette; and daughters Barbara Parada of Houston, Texas; Rachel Nickels of Everett, Washington; and Amanda Byrd of Eugene, Oregon. His funeral was held in Vancouver, Washington, on June 11. The family is overwhelmed and very thankful for all of the prayers, support, cards and calls they have received over the last few months.