

## SALVATION'S SAVING LEGACY

By Bill Glover

As I write this, I am age 83 and fully realize I do not have long to live in this fleshly body. Having lived a long life, I wonder what I can say that will represent the lessons learned. What can I say that can make a difference in the lives of those who read this summary. To begin with, I barely survived the Herbert Armstrong Worldwide Church of God experience - - something that literally thousands of people across the globe can readily identify with. For example, I received a letter from one man in Zimbabwe, South Africa who wrote "I cannot abide the state in which the church left me!" This is the exact sentiment of literally thousands of people when the Worldwide Church collapsed.

Since I am a survivor of that church organization, I am uniquely qualified to pass on the lessons I learned during this survival. I wish to make it clear that I do not regard myself as someone important in the overall scheme of things. But my experiences involve matters that have drastically affected thousands of people across the globe. By way of background, let me state that my parents and older brother and sister began to listen to Herbert Armstrong over the Mexican radio stations in the early 1940's. In 1948 they were baptized by two young men sent out from Pasadena, California by Mr. Armstrong. Our family had learned about the weekly and annual Sabbaths. We attended our first feast of tabernacles meeting in 1952. I enrolled in Ambassador College in 1953 and graduated in 1957. I worked at the headquarters of the Worldwide Church of God for several years. This placed me on the ground floor of the organization and its functioning.

What could I possibly say that would have meaning in the lives of literally thousands of people - - most of whom I have never met personally. I want it understood that I am NOT important as I am a "nobody." But I know of more than 200,000 people whose lives have been greatly impacted by Herbert Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God he founded. Most reading this already know that the Worldwide Church crashed and burned and that Herbert Armstrong is dead and most of the officials of that organization are aware of the serious problems created by Mr. Armstrong and his actions.

Because of my long time association with the Pasadena, California headquarters of the Worldwide Church of God and Herbert Armstrong, I am merely reporting

what I observed and experienced in that church over the years during my fourteen years in Ambassador College and working for that church in Pasadena. As the reader will see, as we proceed, I was like a fly on the wall. I was very much involved in the activities going on but was never considered important. Let me state as emphatically as possible that I was totally hooked on the claims made by Mr. Armstrong as he taught his church. I was the same as thousands of others who turned our lives over to Mr. Armstrong. We all accepted Mr. Armstrong's claim that he was the third in command in the God family (God the Father as number one, Jesus Christ as number two and Herbert Armstrong as number three). Members of his church were not allowed to question Mr. Armstrong and his decisions.

Mr. Armstrong accumulated well over one hundred thousand followers as members or co-workers. These people sacrificed greatly financially so he could have the money he wanted to build the religious empire he dreamed of. It is truly amazing how the people excused Mr. Armstrong for his **FITS OF RAGE** and angry outbursts [Galatians 5:20]. During all those years in Pasadena and witnessing many such outbursts I never witnessed or heard of one instance where he ever apologized for the treatment of others.

Mr. Armstrong claimed he was an "apostle" that represented the Almighty God. Yet I personally never witnessed or heard of a single "miracle" or healing through Mr. Armstrong that Jesus clearly said His TRUE apostles and disciples would be known for. The first instance I witnessed that was troubling to me involved a man by the name of Mr. Morley who had moved from San Diego California So he and his family could attend the headquarters church congregation. This incident occurred during my freshman year at Ambassador College (1954). Mr. Armstrong hired Mr. Morley to do some work inside his home. Obviously Mr. Morley was NOT the "finish" carpenter that Mr. Armstrong wanted. Firing him was not enough to satisfy Mr. Armstrong. For the next four Sabbaths Mr. Armstrong vilified Mr. Morley from the pulpit relentlessly. After four such weeks of being publically embarrassed, the Morley's left the church and never came back.

In 1955 another incident occurred. Rod Meredith (evangelist) decided he wanted one couple expelled from the church but he wanted Mr. Armstrong to do the actual dis-fellowshipping. Since I was an "up and coming" ministerial student and

since I knew this couple quite well, Rod thought it would be great training for me to observe the “master” at work. He asked Mr. Armstrong for permission to have me sit in on the occasion. This couple, Rod Meredith, I, and Mr. Armstrong assembled in Mr. Armstrong’s office. The meeting was begun without ANY OPENING PRAYER OR ASKING GOD for His guidance. This couple was NOT asked if there was anything they needed. Neither were they charged with anything that would warrant being expelled from the church. Mr. Armstrong did not actually know this couple personally and only knew what Rod Meredith had told him - - whatever that might have been. Mr. Armstrong immediately began a hostile tirade against this couple which went on for many minutes. After Mr. Armstrong had built up an angry “head of steam” he was about to cast them out of the church even though NO CAUSE had been given. I was compelled to say something but knew I had better gain permission to speak first so I held up my hand to gain that permission. Mr. Armstrong gave me that dirty look that clearly said “GET YOUR HAND DOWN!” BUT I KEPT IT UP TO HIS ANGER AND DISMAY. So he diverted his wrath against this couple to me and proceeded to berate me fiercely.

After a while Mr. Armstrong’s anger had subsided and there was a lull and this man spoke up for the first time. He said, in a very humble manner, “Mr. Armstrong you did not put me in the church and you cannot put me out!” I was so proud of his man. This left Mr. Armstrong speechless (can you imagine that?) and the meeting ended and this couple was not kicked out of the church. This was only one of many cases where people were expelled from the church without cause or justification.

Some time later, evangelist Albert Portune contacted me and ask me to go to the men’s dormitory and to a certain room and make certain the male student in that room did NOT leave the room or talk with any one. I met with this young student (from England) and the only thing he said to me was “I have not done anything wrong!” I stayed with him until relieved and went back to my office. This young man disappeared and has not been heard from since - - as happened to others who learned too much. This point will take on renewed meaning as we go further into the activities of that church and its leadership.

[INSERTED THOUGHT: It was in the early 1960’s that Mr. Armstrong became entangled with a slick lawyer named Stanley Rader. We will deal with Rader later

in this article but for now it should be known that Mr. Armstrong ordained Rader as an “evangelist” even though he was not even converted but was given enormous power over that church and its subordinate ministers]

As time progressed, I developed very good relationships with both students at the college and the church - - including the seven congregations that were ministered to by Pasadena as I was regularly sent out to minister to other congregations. This close relationship with the people brought me in touch with problems many were experiencing with church officials. Many young coeds at the Pasadena college (24 in number) came to me for spiritual help in rebuilding their lives after they had been sexually seduced and abused by Ted Armstrong. With each sexual victim I stipulated that before I would work with them they had to pledge to me that they would stop any and all contact with Ted. They all agreed.

Ted gave up on 23 of these girls after getting what he wanted from them but refused to give up on one. He pressed her on why she refused to even talk with him so she told him she was working with me and that I was helping her rebuild her life. She told him this on a Friday afternoon. Friday evening Ted conducted the Friday night Bible study and pretended all was well (my wife and I were in attendance). My wife and I had barely gotten home after the Bible study when my home phone rang. It was Ted who said he needed to talk with me that evening and asked me to come to his office - - which I did.

This meeting with Ted lasted for more than three and one half hours. For more than thirty minutes Ted talked in circles but saying nothing of any consequence as he was trying to determine how to address me for the reason he called for this meeting. I merely sat there saying nothing as he went on and on. He finally said “There are people in the church that hate me - - that are trying to destroy me - - they are telling lies about me!” I sat there saying nothing,. Finally he said “There is one person in particular telling lies about me!” I still said nothing as he had not asked me any question that warranted a comment.

He was trying to determine whether I would be a “friend” or “foe” in what he was about to say to me. Finally he mentioned a specific college girl’s name and said “She is spreading lies about me and trying to destroy me!” I SAID NOTHING. He again talked in circles but saying nothing of consequence. Finally he got bold and asked: “You know she is lying, don’t you?” I then spoke up and answered his first

and only question by saying “Well, I am working with (girl’s name) but what we are working on ARE NOT LIES!” He was stunned and sat there for several moments and then feigned sorrow saying “Oh, Bill, what am I to do - - you do not know how many times I have taken my ‘45 pistol and placed the barrel in my mouth to pull the trigger and end it all!” He then realized that I may know of other girls whom he had sexually seduced and began to say “Do you know about (naming another girl) to which I replied “I have been working with her too.” He then mentioned other girls by name one by one and I replied that I had worked with them too in rebuilding their lives. [ADDED THOUGHT: None of these 24 girls received any psychological or spiritual help in rebuilding their lives after their sexual activities with Ted. They were all discarded and driven away.]

He then *feigned* sorrow again and again said “Oh, Bill what am I to do?” He then placed his head on his desk for a while and then sat back and stared into the ceiling for a long while. Then suddenly he sat upright and said “That is it, isn’t it?” to which I replied “WHAT DO YOU MEAN?” He then said “*I am not even converted, am I?*” to which I replied “I do not know - - that is something you will need to take up with God Himself!”

At this point he grabbed the telephone and dialed a number – it was now 2:30 in the morning. The person who answered that call was Herbert Armstrong. Ted said “Dad, this is Ted and I need to talk with you!” Mr. Armstrong said “What time is it” and Ted replied 2:30. Mr. Armstrong demanded “Can’t is wait?” and Ted replied “No, I must talk with you tonight!” Ted was told to come over and I was dismissed. During this three and one half hour meeting Ted never showed any concern or empathy for all those sexual victims and never asked how any of them were doing in recovering their lives. He did not inquire as to how I was handling this matter personally. I went home. But Monday morning I was summoned to Mr. Armstrong’s office.

Once in Mr. Armstrong’s office he had only one question which was “Are you going to blackmail me?” to which I replied “No, Sir, I do not function that way!” He then dismissed me and I went back to my office.

About ten days later I was summoned to Mr. Armstrong’s office again. He had learned of other sins and crimes I knew of. He again asked me only one question which was “HOW MUCH IS IT GOING TO COST ME TO GET RID OF YOU

PERMANENTLY?” Again I replied “I do not function that way!” He then dismissed me without making any inquiry as to how I was handling what I was encountering or showing any empathy toward me or the many girls that had been sexually molested. When I read 2 Corinthians 12:12 and compare Paul’s spirit and attitude with the spirit and attitude of Mr. Armstrong, I am greatly distressed. In the fourteen years I was in Pasadena I NEVER WITNESSED OR HEARD OF A SINGLE MIRACLE OR TRUE HEALING THAT MR. Armstrong could claim as part of his ministry. [ADDED THOUGH: Ted’s attitude at the time and later showed that he truly believed the purpose for these women was to give him sexual pleasure regardless of the cost to them physically, emotionally or spiritually. We will see this later in this article].

A short time later I was again summoned to Mr. Armstrong’s office and present there were Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, Ted and me. During this meeting I was never addressed directly. I merely sat there silently listening to the discussion that went on. They never mentioned God and His laws or His purpose for humans. They never mentioned any of the girls that had been molested OR THE MANY OTHERS INJURED BY CHURCH POLICY AND ACTIONS. They never mentioned salvation and the Biblical purpose for this human life. They never mentioned or brought up the subject of sin - - especially the Bible teaching about sin. The only matter discussed between the three of them was how to control and hopefully minimize the collateral damage that would result should their sins and crimes become known by the public, by the church members and by the state of California. I struggled greatly trying to absorb and digest what I was experiencing. Eventually I suffered a total mental, emotional and spiritual breakdown that lasted until God healed me. Once healed I realized I had suffered a P.T.S.D [ADDED THOUGHT: My mental and emotional breakdown came after I had suffered a “mini breakdown” due to the pressure I was under. When I had this mini breakdown my wife became very scared and begged me to talk with Mr. Armstrong - - which was the standard procedure. Desperately in need of help I relented and my wife called Mr. Armstrong and he told her to bring me over to his home. When we arrived he took me into his office and as we entered he close the door and wheeled around and, with flushed face, blazing eyes and booming voice yelled at the top of his lungs said “You have never been converted, you had never helped anyone, you have never been anything but a minister of Satan the devil and he exploded like a

giant Roman candle being shot into space and exploding into a million pieces and the debris scattering as the residue burned out. None of the 23 psychologists or psychiatrists who evaluated me could help me for they knew nothing of such a spiritual and emotional eruption. I had suffered] But God raised up a man at this critical time (a Mormon) who chose to help me. After my mind had cleared enough to engage in a conversation this man asked me “Why do those people in Pasadena hate you so much. I pretended ignorance and ask “Why do you ask me that? And he replied “They are spending tens of thousands of dollars to try and prevent you from salvaging your life.”

[INSERTED THOUGHT: We need to consider what was at stake here. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong and Ted KNEW that if this information became public they (and several other top administrator) would be subject too severe criminal charges, prosecution, conviction and lengthy prison sentences. (The Penn State sex scandal a few years back demonstrates what happens to officials involved in sex crimes) They expressed NO CONCERN about what God says about such sins and crimes - - God and His eternal laws were never mentioned or considered. Their main concern was the potential prison sentences and the LOSS OF THE EMEPIRE HE HAD BUILT.]

It was unbelievable and devastating what came out in that meeting. Again, I never voiced a single word. I did not have to as Mr. Armstrong was aware of the situation in the Bible with the priest Eli as recorded in 1 Samuel 1 & 2. Remember that Eli the priest had allowed his two sons to turn the temple into a brothel for sex orgies. [ADDED THOUOGHT: A few years back I had opportunity to have conversations with the man Mr. Armstrong used as his personal aide during the times described in this article. I had known this man since he was a young boy as his parents were good friends with my wife and me. I asked him if Mr. Armstrong had ever studied the account of Eli and what God did to Eli and his sons. At first he hedged and did not want to comment but I pressed him so he reluctantly admitted that the Eli account greatly disturbed Mr. Armstrong.

Back to the fateful meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong and Ted. Mr. Armstrong was visibly shaken by what the three of them faced - - not only from God but California authorities. [At that point Mr. Armstrong did NOT know that I was personally acquainted with his many personal sins - -he thought he was only

having to deal with Ted's sexual sins with college girls - - I have not related in this article other sins I was aware of because of what God says in Galatians 5:10-13]. He finally sat forward and said: "I have no choice but to fire Ted from his positions in the College, remove him from the ministry and to dis-fellowship him from the church." Mrs. Armstrong immediately JUMPED UP AND SHOUTED "You are not about to discipline Ted!"

There was then stunned silence for a long time. Finally I was dismissed and left them alone. We all know what was then decided - - Ted was not held accountable for his sins and kept on the job with his limitless expense account that enabled him to fly these young girls to exotic places for sexual exploitation. Eventually other officials learned about the many sins and crimes [I WAS NOT THE ONE WHO TOLD THEM] and Mr. Armstrong was forced to take action against Ted so as to salvage his empire. But he *lied* to the members of the church and to officials and the state by claiming that Ted was fired because of "insubordination" and never mentioned the 24 girls Ted had molested that Mr. Armstrong knew about as well as other top ministers. Had he told the real reason Ted was dismissed and dis-fellowshipped he would have then had to *explain* why he allowed these sexual sins to continue for so long at church expense. [INSERTED THOUGHT: After this meeting Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong enlisted the help of Rod Meredith and Dr. Zimmerman to spread lies and rumors about me in the event I told what I knew. Ted actually felt sorry for me and called my wife saying: "Esther, I need to tell you something as I know Bill will not tell you (Ted knew that I never repeated to others the sins that came to me through counseling) - - Bill is protecting us" (in this instance Ted was wrong. I was not trying to protect them but trying to protect the more than one hundred thousand members who would be destroyed if they knew what was going on at headquarters)] Ted was allowed to continue his sexual practices AT CHURCH EXPENSE through his limitless expense account. [I have in my files a video tape showing that Ted continued his predatory sexual activities even after he was kicked out and began his own church. Many of the ministers of the Worldwide Church of God followed Ted's example and *started their own churches*. One official in charge of the church's youth program began to seduce teenage daughters of church members].

This account would not be complete without the following information. California authorities received credible reports that Mr. Armstrong was siphoning off huge sums of money from the church he headed and controlled (They did not know of Mr. Armstrong's PERSONAL SINS AND CRIMES). The state attorney general and the Los Angeles district attorney teamed up to gain permission to audit the church's books - - which permission was denied by Mr. Armstrong. So the authorities got a court order authorizing them to do the audit. The county sheriff's office was commissioned to enforce this order. Mr. Armstrong ordered church members in southern California to flood the Hall of Administration with so many people the Sheriff's deputies could not even get in the building. We need to fully understand what Mr. Armstrong did by ordering the people to assemble in mass. Mr. Armstrong claimed to be an apostle of the Almighty God yet that Almighty God has given specific instructions regarding such events as found in Titus 3:1. God says very clearly "Remind the people to BE SUBJECT TO RULERS AND AUTHORITIES AND TO BE OBEDIENT." Yet Mr. Armstrong was ordering church members to ENGAGE IN *civil* disobedience so as to prevent those civil authorities from doing their jobs in seeking out and prosecuting criminal activities. Mr. Armstrong spent hundreds of thousands of tithe dollars to prevent the government from learning what he was doing behind the scenes. Regretfully, church members in southern California were willing to allow themselves to be used in civil disobedience so Mr. Armstrong could protect the empire he had built in that church. He was *sacrificing these members* in hopes of saving his own skin and avoid prison sentences for himself and others.

It was during the legal action by the state of California that Mr. Armstrong escaped to Tucson, Arizona and appointed my brother-in-law (WAYNE COLE). As temporary administrator of the church. Wayne was honest and truly felt Mr. Armstrong had done nothing wrong so he stated he did not object to the state's investigation saying: "if we have nothing to hide then why should we resist?" When Mr. Armstrong heard what Wayne had said he immediately fired Wayne [hung him out to dry] and put Stanley Rader in charge. Wayne did not know of the many sins and crimes by Mr. Armstrong.

This point is most important in that it shows he had no concern for the members of his church whom he had ordered to engage in civil disobedience. There was no concern for the 24 girls Ted had sexually seduced or the thousands of people

destroyed by his church and activities. Once Mr. Armstrong learned the names of these girls he called each one in individually. He called them every vulgar and ugly name he could think of and accused them of seducing Ted and even accused them of coming to Ambassador College for the specific purpose of seducing Ted. HE LAID ALL THE BLAME ON THESE GIRLS (I had stressed with each of these girls that we could only deal with half the problem - - their half - - and not the problem with Ted). Mr. Armstrong did everything he could to so demoralize these girls so that they would be too ashamed to seek help from anyone else. In a few minutes he destroyed all the progress these girls had made in redeeming their lives. He then drove them away.

This is important from the point of view that Mr. Armstrong hired Stanley Rader to shelter him from any adverse activity. The CBS NEWS "60 Minutes" program arranged for its top interviewer (Mike Wallace) to interview Stanley Rader at the time the California authorities were trying to audit the books of Mr. Armstrong's organization. During this interview Rader bragged that he was "Mr. Armstrong's hatchet man." When asked what that meant Rader said he is there to "hatchet" anyone or anything that threatened Mr. Armstrong and his organization. [I have a video copy of this "60 Minutes" interview]

What was NOT asked was why a "man of God" (a he claimed to be) would need a "hatchet man" for such dirty work and why would such a "man of God" would go directly contrary to the clear instructions of the Bible and buck the proper legal authorities of the government.

THE CONCLUSION: What difference does all this make?

This report is only a small portion of what I experienced and observed in the Worldwide Church of God. The question I have been asked often is what difference does all this matter since these are things *in the past*? If there truly is NO GOD then none of this matters. But if there is an Almighty God then all this matters greatly since the salvation of millions are involved in this. Are the two billion Catholics right with the Almighty based on their beliefs and practices which originated in paganism? Are the millions of Protestants okay with God even though they follow the pagan beliefs and practices introduced by the Catholic Church? And what about all the other religions? The common thought today is that each person has the RIGHT to worship his or her "god" any way he or she

chooses. The big problem all religious groups must face is from God's statement that "there is a way that seems right to man but that it ends in death!"

Let me at this point quote sections of a letter written to me by Ted Armstrong dated August 25, 1978 and bearing his signature. He wrote: "After all the years; after all the agony and sufferings - - mere words seem empty, useless things. I cannot help the deepest feelings I have concerning the tragedies of the many years: most especially, as you expressed so well., the "innocent bystanders" who, either in war or Internecine political battles within religious organizations always seem to be the ones who are hurt.

"The work (the Worldwide Church of God) is laden with the terrible burden of the past: What a Tragedy it is to see that the back-trails of the work are strewn with the bleeding, nearly dismembered bodies of so many fine men: leading evangelists, who were (and are) gifted, mature, and inspired men - - but men who may have appeared threatening in one way or another to ultimate succession or leadership - - those who have been cast aside as so much flotsam and jetsam - - a threat to the ultimate power." [INSERTED THOUGHT: please note that Ted showed no mercy or concern for the more than one hundred thousand church member but **only** the ministers he had hoped to lure into the church he founded.]

The portions of the letter from Ted shows that he personally KNEW OF THE TREMENDOUS HARM THE Worldwide Church had done to thousands. Yet his interest was to establish another church of his liking.

In another portion of the letter from Ted he stated: "Incidentally, I was shocked almost beyond speech by the unbelievable statement in the by-laws of the (original Church of God founded by Herbert Armstrong) originally incorporated in Eugene, (Oregon) concerning dis-fellow-shipment. It stated that such could only be done by a clear two thirds majority of the members present at a meeting and stipulated a two week time for the offended party to present a case to the board and required a two thirds vote by the board to bind the action." [ADDED THOUGHT: With reference to the church's policy and practice of dis-fellowshipping people Ted also wrote in this letter to me "such continuing and flagrant violation of its own charter would have called into legal question the right of an organization to even exist."

In closing his letter to me Ted said: "Somehow I would like to say some words of encouragement to you, but believe you are more capable of encouraging me than I am of encouraging you!"

Literally thousands of people have learned the hard way that this provision in the by-laws was NOT followed when they were cast out of that church (as I have outlined in this article. Sadly most of the two thousand splinter groups that grew out of the ashes of the Worldwide Church of God still refuse to follow God's clear instructions in dis-fellowshipping someone [and many other points]. But I DO NOT KNOW OF A SINGLE SPLINTER GROUP THAT CAN OWN UP TO ITS "CHURCH HERITAGE" and the abuses that church imposes on its members.

But many have asked "What difference does it make *now*? Well, if there is no God then it would make no difference how you worship your "god." But I am going on record stating as emphatically as I can that it does matter to God. I AM STATING BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE Bible that what God had written and preserved in Ezekiel 33:1-14 and Ezekiel 34:1-17 applies to us today in this end time generation. As God says clearly, any who refuse to hear His warning will suffer the consequences (see also Deuteronomy 4:2 and also Revelation 22:18 & 19).

All of you who have read this have now been warned by God's word and by our own church history. My human life is rapidly coming to an end. I literally stake my human life and my eternal life on the contents of this article. And all of you reading this are now placing your human and eternal life on the line for your beliefs and practices. How long has it been since you studied what Jesus taught in Matthew 7:17-26 and Ezekiel 33 and 34 and Ezekiel 13 and chapter 22? May God help you grasp what has been said here! Each person has the obligation to make certain he or she is following the clear instructions of God as found in the Bible. WHATMORE CAN I SAY?

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I am distributing this to as many (especially ministers) as I can in hopes there are some who have God's Holy Spirit and actually belong to God (Romans 8:9) and those who carefully study and apply Psalm 95:6-11. Do any of you recognize when Jesus is speaking to you? Do you hear His voice?