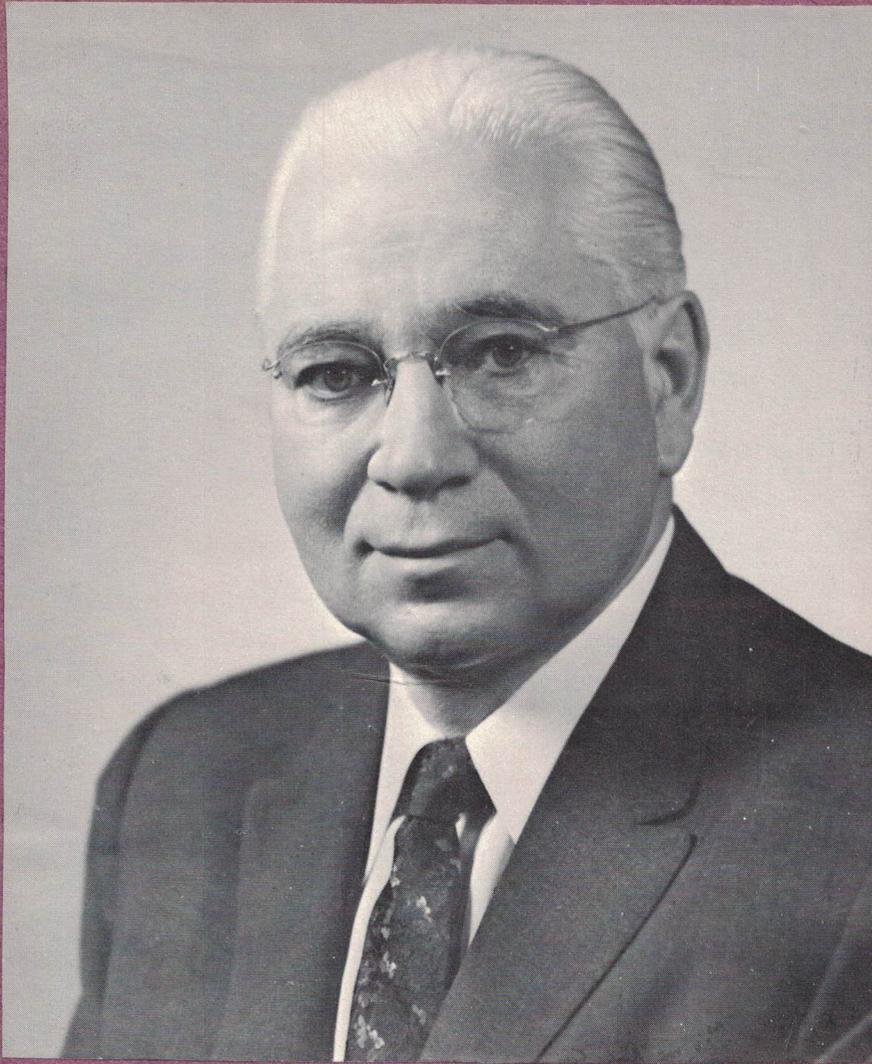


The
Scattered
Brethren

A
HISTORY
OF THE FIRST NEW ENGLAND
BIBLE STUDY
OF
THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

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OF THE
CHURCH OF GOD AT MANCHESTER, N.H.
by
Paul C. Johnston
1968



Herbert W. Armstrong
PRESIDENT AND
PASTOR GENERAL

I dedicate this book to the 'man from New Hampshire', one of the "Scattered Brethren", who is distinguished among his fellows as the first New England Deacon of the Worldwide Church of God.

Purpose

The material contained in this volume has been compiled for two reasons:

...In a spirit of service to the newer brethren in the Churches of God in New England, so that they may appreciate the foundational Work of God in this area of Israel...

...In the hope that the older members who lived the events herein and grew with the Bible Study will view in retrospect that growth, remembering that fresh, new zeal and that pioneer spirit.

The Library

FORWARD

There have not always been local congregations of the Church of God in New England. Gods' people in New England, who are assigned to the Concord, N. H., and Boston, Mass., areas, were officially established as a Church on the second Sabbath in November, 1966. 12/26

However, for nearly three and one half years prior to the establishment of the Church of God at Manchester, N. H., there was a group of brethren meeting, at first spasmodically, then regularly, as an organized Bible Study. This volume presents a history of those Bible Study years - - - its beginnings, its gradual but steady growth, the events and happenings leading to the raising of a Church at Manchester.

THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH

THE END OF AN ERA

The Sardis era of Gods' true Church is dead! It died in 1933 A.D., according to the Gregorian calender which the world uses. In Gods' system of time the Sardis Church expired near the end of a *19-year time cycle.

Astonishing as it may seem, the obituary of this fifth era of Gods' Church had already been written over 1800 years before in the third chapter of Revelation. It tells a story of rebellion against Gods' truth. See Revelation 3: 1-6. The following quote from, "A True History of the True Church," by Herman L. Hoeh, depicts the actual conditions at the close of the Sardis era:

* "God does many things by 19-year time cycles. God measures days, months and years by the movements of the sun, moon and earth. These come into exact conjunction every 19 years. The original disciples were ordained to Christ's ministry on June 31 A.D. on the Day of Pentecost. One hundred time cycles later, mid-June 1931 A.D., Mr. Armstrong was ordained and plunged full-time into Christ's ministry." (Roderick C. Meredith, 'The Inside story of the World Tomorrow Broadcast.)

"Not long after his (Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's) , ordination in 1931 (See 'A History of the True Church, by Dugger and Dodd , p. 304), a momentous juncture occurred. A movement was underfoot to organize the local congregations of the Church of God under human government - - - a financial board of seven men. By 1933 certain ministers (of the Sardis Church) demanded that no more new truth be preached to the brethren. They were refusing to repent and allow the Holy Spirit to work through them to establish the truth that was ready to perish.

"Most of the congregations succumbed to Spiritual death. The age of the Church of Sardis was over! The Church period called Philadelphia was to began!"

THE
PHILADELPHIA CHURCH
BEGINS

"I know thy works: behold , I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." (Rev. 3:8).

Here is today's true Church which was prophesied to have little strength - the sixth era of God's true Church, rising out of the death of Sardis.

It will not be necessary for this history to list all the details of the early part of this period we call the age of the Philadelphia Church. The interested reader should , with the aid of the free booklets: "A True History of the True Church;" "The Inside Story of the World Tomorrow Broad-

cast." and "The Auto-biography of Herbert W. Armstrong." inform himself of these details.

However, for the sake of completeness this history will briefly summarize some of the major trends and events in the development of the Work leading up to the opening of an area of Israel with which we are dealing in this history.

Eugene, Oregon was the birthplace of this sixth era or phase of God's Work. The very word "Eugene", aptly enough, meaning 'City of new birth'. And it was from this "City of new birth" that the original truth, lost to the world in the first century, was born again.

As is always the case in any Work which the Almighty does through men, the Work in Eugene started small as does the mustard seed; seemingly insignificant.

The first radio station was a tiny 100 watt power. Mr. Armstrong's voice carried the Good News to the public for fifteen minutes each week. The cost for this was a staggering \$2.50 per program and almost unobtainable. Most of the co-workers at that time were poor farmers and the great depression was at its peak. It was three years later before Mr. Armstrong could afford a second station.

The Plain Truth Magazine, in 1934 was only a small mimeographed publication, written entirely by Mr. Armstrong. However, circulation increased with every issue. The co-worker list began to grow too, slowly, almost painfully.

That is the way the Work began in Eugene, Oregon. Not only did it compare to the proverbial mustard seed in size but it was marked for extinction over and over again by

forces much more powerful than itself. Just the same, the Wise, All - powerful God who guides and directs His Work had other plans.

During the first 19-year time cycle allotted to this Philadelphia era the Work of God spread to cover much of the continent of North America. Station after station was being added.

In studying the events in history and also in the growth of God's Work through the ages, you will discover that God Almighty opens "doors", which allow His Church to carry out the commission which He gave it. These "doors", these "ways", or "methods of operation" were, in no other Church age more prolific than now. Among the first "doors" opened were small radio stations like the one in Eugene, Oregon.

In 1953, at the beginning of the second time cycle allotted to the Philadelphia Church, the super "door" of Radio Luxembourg was flung open and God's Truth began to saturate Europe and much of Great Britain.

THE BAPTIZING TOURS

THE SCATTERED BRETHREN

During the late fifties a few in the New England area were writing in to Pasadena requesting personal visitation and baptism. It was the policy of Headquarters in those years to send out teams of men to tour certain prescribed areas of the country, meeting with and baptizing those they considered ready. These men were usually graduates of Ambassador College or advanced students. The teams usually consisted of a graduate student who served as a lead man and an advanced student, either a junior or senior, who served as an assistant. However, this policy is no longer in effect. The reason being that our Church has sufficiently dotted the U. S. landscape so that local ministers are available in every area. This policy is of course at least partially in effect in the over-seas areas. But before there was a New York City Church this part of Israel was completely cut off from a personal relationship with God's Church. The "baptizing teams" came nearly every summer. Many times their stops would be over one-hundred miles apart.

Compared to the personal contact most of us enjoy today, I might mention weekly Sabbath Services, Bible Studies, Spokesman Club activity, daily broadcasts of the World Tomorrow on local stations in most areas, I suppose it is hard for the newer brethren to fully

comprehend just how far removed this part of Israel was, in those early days, from the nucleus in Pasadena. To illustrate this I have included the following excerpt from a letter of one of the early members:

Charlotte Warren

"We met with Mr. Carleton Smith and Mr. Bill McDowell in Augusta, July 15, 1959. There were four of us. We met at the Post Office and then went to the city park. Mr. Troyer and I were baptised in a pond in Oakland.

Walter Warren

"We met with Mr. Roger Foster and Mr. Carn Catherwood in August of 1960 in Jay. (Her husband was baptised).

aug 24 Clayton Sweatt

"Mr. Troyer was the only person in God's Church we knew of until Mr. Thayer's letter came telling us of the Bible Study in Farmington, N.H. in January, 1963."

Please note that the length of time above is three and one-half years and this person saw a minister of God only twice! Others have told of even longer spans of time.

Ethel McKenzie

This writer knows of one more baptizing team which came to New England in August of 1962. It was made up of Mr. Carn Catherwood and Mr. Dennis Luker. In the State of Maine that year they met with six or seven people and baptized only one. To my knowledge that was the last of the Summer baptizing tours through New England.

The harvest was not plenteous in the early years. The total number for all the baptizing tours not exceeding twenty - five or thirty people.

THE FIRST BIBLE STUDY

NORMAN'S CABIN

The scene was a small wooded campsite just off the Kancamagus Highway in Pasaconway, New Hampshire. At this place 34 of God's New England people gathered for the first time in this Philadelphian era.

It was Sunday, the 16th of June, 1963.

Norman's Cabin is the private Summer residence of the family of Mr. Denzil Thayer. Although situated on the much traveled Kancamagus Highway, the campsite is secluded among a dense growth of pine and hemlock, easily missed from the highway. The house is log style and there is a spacious green in the center of which stands a large stone fireplace. Toward the back of the log house, through a short space of woods and down the hill, the cold waters of Swift River bubbles over its rocky bottom.

On this day, June 16, 1963, Mr. Thayer had been asked to invite all of the New England brethren to a Bible Study Picnic. A happy day for Mr. Thayer who for years had been attending Sabbath services periodically in New York and had constantly (But respectfully) asked the ministers for a New England Bible Study. Their answer always being, "not just yet". However, with each trip to New York he did get a name or two of the other brethren and interested parties located throughout New England.

However, Mr. Thayer was not the only smiling face at the

Mr. Raymond C. Cole is God's evangelist in charge of the churches of God in the northeastern area of the United States. It was through his efforts that permission was granted for the first regular monthly Bible studies, (and finally the establishment of the Church itself), to be held in New England for the benefit of the scattered brethren in that part of Israel.

"Mr. Cole was one of the four original students at Ambassador College. He was graduated in June, 1952. After his graduation, he was called upon to become a student pastor in our Churches in Eugene and Portland, Oregon, thus becoming the first field minister in this Philadelphia era. A new church in Tacoma Washington was raised up through his efforts and he pastored the wide-spread three-church area.

He was ordained an evangelist in January, 1953, being one of the first seven ministers all ordained at the same time. Later he was used in raising up the churches in Denver and Colorado Springs, Colorado, and in Garden City, Kansas. He also pastored the Church at Gladewater, Texas, and through an evangelistic campaign, shared in raising up the Dallas, Texas Church. He also shared in the beginning of the San Antonio and Corpus Cristi Texas Churches. He was instrumental in the founding of the Church of New York City as well."

On the second Sabbath in November, 1966, at the Hanover Street location, Mr. Cole preached the "baptismal" service of the

Church of God at Manchester, New Hampshire.

*The material quoted in the preceding appeared in an article in the former New York Church News. It was written by Mr. Dean Blackwell upon Mr. Coles' arrival in New York as the new pastor of that Church.

(Please print)

Name _____ Street _____
City or Town _____ State _____
Phone: _____

If you are unable to attend the Bible studies because of lack of transportation, please indicate: Yes _____ No _____. If transportation can be made available, would you use it: Yes _____ No _____.

If those with automobiles would like to make it possible for others in your area to attend the Bible studies with you, please write in the number of passengers you can take: _____.

Please take time to check the stations listed below for reception. Most will only come in at night, and most do not carry the "World Tomorrow" broadcast. After you have carefully checked these stations and filled in the information, send to Denzil F. Thayer, South Main Street, Farmington, N.H., 03835.

After checking these stations, fill in the following information:

Good - Reception strong and clear, no static or fading.

Fair - Reception not as strong, fades yet understandable.

Poor - Fades out, static.

Where applicable, put a check mark under 'do not receive'.

Station, Dial No. & City	Do Not Receive	Good/Fair/Poor
WNAC-680 - Boston, Mass.		
WOR -710 - N.Y., N.Y.		
WABC-770 - N.Y., N.Y.		
WHDH-850 - Boston, Mass.		
WWNH-930 - Rochester, N.H.		
WINS-1010- Boston, Mass.		
WHN -1050- N.Y., N.Y.		
WBT -1110- Charlotte, N.C.		
WNEW-1130- N.Y., N.Y.		
WWVA-1170- Wheeling, W. Va.		
WHAM-1180- Rochester, N.Y.		
WKBW-1520- Buffalo, N.Y.		

Please write in the local station in your area which covers a large part of your state: Station _____ Dial No. _____ City _____

The New England Bible Study will be conducted by Mr. Raymond Cole on _____, in the Farmington Town Hall, Farmington, N.H., at _____ SHARP. A more successful Bible Study will be enjoyed by your attendance.

Here to serve you,

Denzil F. Thayer

Passaconway in August 1964. Mr. Frank Law brought a pair of cucumbers. We met Mr. & Mrs. Platt for the first time there. They peeled their cucumbers with us. Mr. & Mrs. Sharp were also there.

We saw more of Mr. Platt at these Bible Studies during 1964 until July 1965 we met in Concord. After the ~~July~~ 1965 picnic at Mr. Thayer's Cabin we moved to the Odd Fellows building in Manchester on the fifth floor. The first meeting there Mr. Tweedy, Mr. Baronoski, and Mrs. Lovell were baptized and Mrs. Cole had the laying on of hands for receiving the Holy Spirit after the Study. We also started having two Bible Studies a month. Mr. Rufus Turner came up for some of the studies.

Mr. Kongas and Miss Dewey's wedding was the first in this area. It was held on the fourth floor. The Bible Study was moved down to these better quarters and we had another wedding Mr. Clark and Miss ~~Clark~~ ^{six} Clark. It was a ~~short~~ ^{six} hour 145 mile round trip to Manchester.

In November, after over seven years since I was baptized, the church was started in Manchester. We moved mainly so we could go to Sabbath Services every week. I guess we appreciate it more when we have to wait so long.

In Christian Love,
Charlotte

