

Woman stages sit-in to see Armstrong

By **DICK LLOYD**

Staff Writer

With her suitcase doubling as a chair, she sat quietly back from the curb as if waiting for a bus.

But there was no bus stop. And she wasn't going anywhere.

Anne Truelove, 62, a follower of evangelist Herbert W. Armstrong, parked herself in front of the administration building of the Worldwide Church of God in Pasadena Monday, in protest.

For two years, she said, she has been seeking an appointment with church founder Armstrong to deliver a message.

But church leaders won't put her through to Armstrong, she said, either in person or by phone.

She came to Pasadena from her Riverside home, hoping to change some minds. She would not leave, she said, until granted her request.

Her Saturday arrival ended in frustration and prompt excommunication. It seems

she strode to the podium after services Saturday in the lavish Ambassador Auditorium to ask if she could see Mr. Armstrong.

It was "antagonism," said a guard who stepped in to explain the church's position at the sidewalk. "She should have asked for an appointment with a minister."

It was punishment for "someone (who) doesn't know the government of God," she said, quoting minister Robin Webber, who excommunicated her on the spot without a

hearing and ushered her off the premises.

Back again on Monday, she was staging a sit-in.

Armstrong has been sheltered in Tucson, Ariz., since 1977 and has not visited his Pasadena home for more than two years. He has been generally unavailable to any but his closest advisers.

She knew that, she said, adding that she has written repeatedly but received no answer. And she has asked

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Staff photo by Blake Sell
Anne Truelove sits near Ambassador

Woman stages solo sit-in

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through other channels for an audience, with no success.

"All I want is an appointment with the head of the church, and that was enough to disfellowship me," she said. But she wasn't distraught. "I have a message from God," she said.

Hardly more than 90 pounds, on the short side of 5 feet tall, and dressed in brown slacks, a beige turtleneck sweater and a striped jacket, she couldn't pass as a stereotypical demonstrator.

There were no placards, no bullhorns.

Mrs. Truelove acknowledged that her children, who have families of their own, have advised her to ignore the

promptings that she said have been with her for two years.

She spoke endearingly of her son and three daughters, her eight grandchildren and her former husband who was a minister of another church when she became convinced in 1976 that Herbert Armstrong was God's apostle and that his church was the true church. Her marriage of 38 years ended nine months later.

Mrs. Truelove (her maiden name) fingered the wedding ring she still wears.

She spoke of divisions in the church since her baptism, the excommunication by Armstrong of his son Garner Ted Armstrong in 1978, her perception of a lack of love in the church and questions involv-

ing Armstrong's claims as God's chosen apostle.

It was something she had to do, she said of her vigil.

"I (must) stay here until I see him," she said.

"I can't figure why I'm the one to deliver the message. . . I'm taking Mr. Armstrong at his word. We all have a mission."

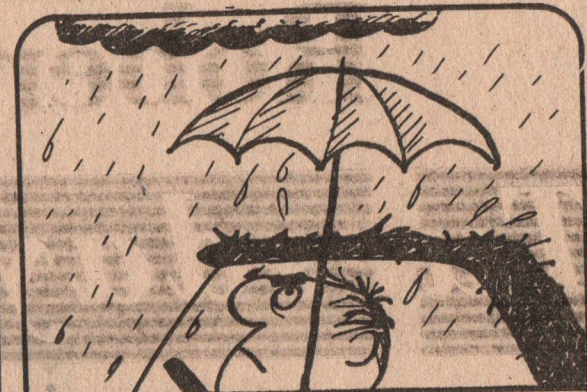
It has kept her restless for two years, she said.

But would she indeed maintain her post? She would have to, she said. She had run out of money and could not get back to Riverside if she wanted.

"I may have to go to jail," she said looking away.

The message? It is personal, she said.

"But I love him, anyway," she said.



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