

May ,1978

Dear Ted:

After you left yesterday afternoon, I called Wayne Cole, and asked for him, with Mr. Wright and Mr. LaRavia to come to Tucson today, or, if possible yet last evening. They arrived at 10:00 and we talked until 12:00.

They confirmed what I said, that I had not in any way approved, or even discussed making Dr. Ward president of Ambassador College. One of them said that after you suggested going back on the Board that you might have mentioned putting Dr. Ward in, but he thought I was at the moment talking with another, and didn't hear it. In no sense was it presented to me, in no sense was it even discussed, and in no sense did I approve it. That would have been impossible for me to do.

You made this the whole issue, saying I fired you because of a misunderstanding. 1) I did not fire you. and, 2) as I stated in my letter of May 1, that was only "the last straw"--not the main point at issue.

Last night I went over the matter with them, paragraph by paragraph from my letter to you.

We came to the following two separate paragraphs (page 3):

"The only authority you have had was that delegated by me. I appointed you to be my number one assistant. But under

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you, you changed a "winning game" into a "losing game," etc." And,

"I have said that I love you above everybody on earth, but I have had to decide that you are unwilling to accept the fact that all major decisions must be made by me. This announcing that Dr. Ward had been made president of Ambassador College, as I said above, is simply the last straw."

These men said that was the crux of the whole matter. It was simply your distaste of your father's authority over you.

Ted, I have come to see the whole picture more clearly through these discussions. Let me explain.

The matter of how God's Church and His Work should be organized was the one area in which I had more difficulty in coming to clear understanding than any in the Bible. During the early years of my conversion, seeking to work with, but not join the "sardis" era of the Church, Mr. Dugger lost his top position by one vote. Mr. Dugger thereupon started a new church from Salem, W. Va., saying he was starting it on the "Bible form" of church government. I could see, with the brethren of the "Oregon Conference" of the church, that he did not understand the "Bible form" of church government. I saw clearly that God's pattern was government from the top down, not from the bottom up. I thought I was following that Biblical principle in giving you authority, UNDER ME, over the Church and the whole Work.

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Now I see I was wrong. When I gave you administrative AUTHORITY, it came to be understood that YOU were the TOP AUTHORITY, and any one coming to me was "taking it over your head." You'd be suprised at how many came to me secretly, saying that if you learned of it they would be fired--that they had been FORBIDDEN to come to me.

I was wrong: a) in putting ANY man in AUTHORITY between me and the others. And b) in not realizing that there were two areas in which you would have to be qualified--acceptance and knowledge of Biblical TRUTH and the nature of the true Gospel, and ability to work as an administrator UNDER another. And I realize it was doubly hard for you since the one in authority over you was your human father.

In the past two days I have reviewed this whole principle in the Bible. Bible government in no wise means putting one under me with administrative AUTHORITY over ALL UNDER HIM--in other words, over every one but me. For example, Moses was the human head of God's Government over Israel. UNDER him were Captains over thousands, Captains over hundreds, Captains over fifty, and Captains over Ten. But there was no one under Moses who was over all Israel. In the new Testament Peter was over the Work of getting the gospel to the lost Ten Tribes and soon was lost from view. The Apostile Paul had the same authority of getting the gospel to the Gentiles. There were a number of other ministers and Apostiles under Paul, but no one

under him who was in authority over all the Gentile Churches and the Work of the gospel to gentiles.

I am now eliminating entirely this non-biblical of authority over all phases of the Work and over all the Church except myself. I will issue a statement immediately to the effect that the very operation that built the Work has had to suffer because you have been carrying too heavy a load of administrative duties. Therefore you will now be devoting your full time to that which you can do the best, and which now is the most needed, which is daily radio broadcasting. I have given instructions to cancel the television broadcasts for the simple reason that on a once a week basis they are not getting the job done. Under these circumstances our finances will not now allow the telecasts. However, once the finances have been built up as I fully expect them to be, I hope we may then get back into television on a daily basis.

I have appointed Wayne Cole to the Church Administration direction worldwide, and also to be one of my advisors and to keep me currently informed on conditions at the Pasadena office when I am away. Mr. Ray Wright will continue as vice-president for Financial Affairs. Mr. Richard Rice over Mail Receiving, Processing, and whatever answering is required.

For the present, I am maintaining control of Ambassador College as its President and in due time I will appoint a man

*Deputy*

to be ~~Deputy~~ Chancellor under me, as President and Chancellor.

I will do all I can to prevent any harm or disfavor coming to you. Rather, I feel myself and will so express publicly, that with you devoting full time to daily radio broadcasting, increasing the number of stations as rapidly as possible that we will have God's blessing on the Work and the income once again will show a sizabl increase.

Ted, I do not remember ever having used the expression "turning over the reins" to you, though Ramona, Wayne and maybe one other say I did--and Stan says I spoke of turning "more of the reins" over to you. But I can't remember using that word, "reins" and I have never liked the word. Anyway, it is a "horse and buggy" expression, and to turn the reins over to you would mean that I have turned the driving of the whole team over to you--the same as if I had "bowed out" and retired completely. This I had no intention of doing. In this area there truly may have been a misunderstanding.

But Jesus Christ the HEAD of this Church and this Work, had shown me what I must do, and I must do as HE LEADS.

At this point your letter of 15 typed pages came. I repeat, I DID NOT "FIRE" you. And I now hope that even the obligatory leave of absence will not be necessary, for the broadcasting needs your immediate attention.

Let me correct one misunderstanding: You write: "...am I under orders from God ~~because my new radio programs have not yet~~

because my new radio programs have not yet brought in additional millions of dollars..." again, Ted, it is you who totally misunderstands. I have said as in my letter of May 1, that income depends more on how we please God than on any of our efforts to raise money. I felt we had the problems solved when you and the other men were here--that now we were pleasing God and that by his supernatural power there would be an immediate increase in the Work's income because we were pleasing Him. When I said I was disappointed that there was not such a supernatural increase I meant that I was disappointed because apparently we had not please God as much as I thought.

Now about THE CORPORATION UNDER YOUR OWN NAME. When I first noticed that on the TV program I did discuss it with Mr. Rader. It was his advice that the matter was not important, and so I said nothing to you about it. You say in your letter "if you so instruct me I will be cheerfully compliant with dissolving that paper corporation..." frankly I do now so instruct you.

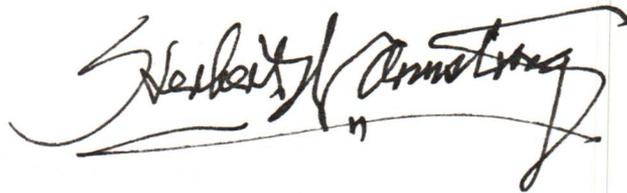
Ted, I am willing before others to take the chief responsibility for what has been wrong on myself, because I thought ~~g~~ I was following the "Bible form" of organization, and now I see that I was not. I have always been known to admit and correct the wrong when it is proved, and that is the way I will handle this present matter in public, and before others. You will see by the enclosed announcement for the Worldwide News that I am trying to put

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you in the most favorable light.

Finally Ted, my heart bleeds for you in this present trauma, and I have tried to speed up this letter, feeling that if I talked to you on the telephone before you receive it, it would only increase the trauma. Let me once again repeat my deepest love for you my son.

With deep love in Jesus name,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Herbert Armstrong". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text. It features a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the signature.