

July 31, 1978

Dear Brethren in Christ, my beloved friends:

Thanks to all of you who have voiced your heartfelt concern---and who have told others to tell me of your prayers for my family and me during these shattering trials which have driven us almost to despair.

This letter is very difficult to me---because, on the one hand, I want to give you all a full explanation of what has happened; and yet, on the other hand, I do not want to speak dishonorably toward my father, nor answer back in kind, by dealing in hearsay, dark references to sins of the past, or other allegations.

First, please refer back to the WORLDWIDE NEWS issues just before all these staggering disasters struck. You will see ample proof, there, that many of the charges against me are simply not true.

1) I had ALREADY BEGUN strong, Bible-oriented half-hour radio; had obtained time on many 50,000-watt radio stations; had started our Pacific Coast network I described, and told all of you how I hoped to make it national. I had worked hard, with terrible pressures brought to bear upon me (like the "media file") to get rid of our "in-house" advertising agency, Worldwide, which had been set up by Mr. Rader and Mr. Cornwall, his business partner and accountant. At last, we had succeeded, and by March 31, 1978, Ed Libov Associates, Inc., became our agency of record. I began doing a new series right out of the Harmony of the Gospels---and asked our agent to be sure to obtain time, LIVE, in Tucson, so that my father could hear the programs. He commented to me, in front of others, that these programs were "better than fine." The charge that I was in some way deficient on the air is false.

2) The five minute programs were bringing in satisfactory mail; but I had come to feel, back in the summer of 1977, that there was not sufficient CONTENT to bring people along into a fuller knowledge of God's truth. Not that I felt we should ever "count heads" or "number Israel." I have always said that the radio programs are NOT FOR THE CHURCH, but are BY THE CHURCH FOR THE WORLD, and that if I had a choice of putting the radio program on where we didn't have a church---thus preaching the Gospel to the world as a witness---and putting it on for a local church to hear, that I would choose the former. On the other hand, I have said it is difficult for the brethren of the church to cheer on the team when they "can't even sit in the bleachers," and be a PART of the work by hearing it going out---so have striven to do both, where possible. The MAIN REASON I DELAYED A FEW MONTHS WAS BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT WORLDWIDE ADVERTISING TO KEEP THE ACCOUNT. I wanted to begin with a much larger time buying service that could do a MUCH BETTER JOB for us. Mr. Ray Wright introduced me to the Libov firm---he had already obtained a presentation from them, and was urging me to change agencies. The five minute programs were NOT a mistake---and I may begin NEW FIVE MINUTE PROGRAMS IN ADDITION TO MY HALF-HOUR broadcasts, just to get on where I cannot get on with a full 30 minutes'.

3) My father told many that I had done only FOUR TV programs this past season. Anyone in the Television department can tell you I was right on schedule with twenty-two finished; two all ready except for my part in the studio, and two more to complete the season---twenty-six each year---all we intended doing. The weekend of the 23rd of July, my father's first TV programs---the tapes of his sermons given in Tucson, were shown on 17 stations, where the contracts had not yet elapsed. My two programs got more response, in the mail than all 17 of my fathers. I relate this to say that if MAIL is a criterion---then the facts speak for themselves.

4) I was not in any "secularization" attempt. I did not start QUEST, or the AICF, but Mr. Rader and others did---with my father's permission, and under his own personal enthusiasm and involvement. When the first issue of Quest came out, my father sent a glowing, warm letter of congratulations to Mr. Rader---even though he had been telling me that he was upset that his own articles were not in Quest magazine. Quest was ONE HUNDRED PERCENT SECULAR---and I never inspired it, backed or supported it, except that, once it was going---and was something my father had approved, I did not attack it or "fight" it. I have told THOUSANDS of you, I never even bought a subscription. I spoke out strongly against demon art in the magazine; against taking God's name in vain in its pages, pictures of naked architects on the cover, and other things which I felt were not in the interests of the Church.

5) AMBASSADOR COLLEGE WAS ALREADY BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK. Check your Worldwide News, and you'll see that I had asked Dr. Don Ward, a deeply converted, and very conservative (he is strong for the TRUTH of God's word) man, who had been the Dean of Faculty in Big Sandy, to come to Pasadena as my Vice-President for the College. Had I any remote dream that my father would NEVER go along with the opening up in Big Sandy again, I would never have sent Don Ward out to California FROM Big Sandy.

When my father approved the presentation given him by Ray Wright, Wayne Cole, Bob Kuhn, and Stan Rader, and handed me a letter, instructing me to reopen the college in Big Sandy, I was ECSTATIC with joy! To me, a WHOLE NEW ERA OF THE WORK was opening up!

Dr. Ward and I selected a faculty. One of the very men my father appointed as one of the four he felt could teach Bible, Mr. Leon Walker, had already been chosen by Dr. Ward, and approved by me, for Theology Department Chairman. We were working toward a smaller faculty, and a smaller college. HOWEVER, I did not believe my father's order to immediately drop down to 250 students was practical for the following reasons:

- a. We look upon the catalogue as a "contractual obligation" between the college and the students---what about the nearly 1,200 students who were in their third year? Second year? First year? With only 250 in Big Sandy, what would happen to their college career, when they had spent so much of their money, and invested years of their lives? Why not, I asked, allow these young people to continue, and GRADUALLY bring the size of the college down, if that was what he wanted to do?
- b. We had already sent acceptance letters to about TWO HUNDRED freshmen. Could we now go back on OUR WORD? Some of these young people had been wanting to come to Ambassador ALL THEIR LIVES---and some parents had wanted these young people to come SINCE THEY WERE BORN! Shouldn't we fulfill our PROMISE to them, I asked?
- c. For conducting any meaningful intercollegiate athletic competition, 250 was just too small.
- d. There are somewhere between 13,000 to 17,000 teenagers in the church. Was it truly serving the church, by providing a God-oriented education for these thousands of young people, if we narrowed it down to only 250? I felt there were very cogent reasons for the maintenance of a college beyond only the training of the ministry, and, besides, we were opening up a graduate level school of theology, anyhow.

An article in the Pasadena Star News quoted Mr. Rader as saying one of the reasons for the cancellation of the Big Sandy move was that about 170 faculty members didn't want to go to Texas. But those approximate 170 faculty members were not needed in Texas---Dr. Ward and I had already finished selecting a complete faculty for Texas, and the remaining faculty in Pasadena knew their contracts for the following year would be honored. Dr. Ward can tell you differently. The entire faculty had already been selected, save one department chairman, for music!

I had known for years that we were able to have a much more God-oriented environment in Texas, away from the pressures of the big city; from crime and smog, crowded free-ways, wailing sirens, and in an area where costs were much, much higher (as they are in Pasadena). Within the past couple of years, in Pasadena, we had a flasher in the Library, a peeping tom in the girls' showers; several attempted rapes (one little oriental girl had to have surgery to repair her face when she was hit right in the mouth with a lead pipe in a rape attempt); our TV studios had been burglarized; the office Facilities Building, and the offices of the WORLDWIDE NEWS had been burglarized; there were other cases of vandalism. From time to time, our young people, playing in the play area outside the gym, would hear filthy epithets screamed at them from the traffic that flowed right through the campus.

I knew we could educate our young people much more economically; much more safely, and in a much quieter, more natural setting---with a smaller faculty, and be exactly the kind of college which my father would be proud, in Big Sandy.

I never would have believed that he would have made the decision to move back over there, but he did. As a matter of fact, he even sent a copy of his letter to me concerning the Big Sandy move to all the brethren and co-workers, and if you look around through your old letters (it was probably in April), you will see the proof, with his signature on it. A few weeks went by. Dr. Ward and I were selecting faculty; checking on housing, and discussing classrooms. I went to Big Sandy, and spoke to about 120 guests, covered in several newspapers, who warmly welcomed us back; including a representative from the State Coordinating Board, two college presidents, two bank presidents---and so many of the fine people from Tyler, Gladewater, Kilgore, Longview, Gilmer, and other towns.

Little did I know that, right while I was doing this, some men had gone over to Tucson behind my back, showed my father some frightening financial figures, and were talking him into cancelling the whole thing!

On the day he gave me the letter instructing me to reopen Big Sandy, I told him, "That's GREAT, Dad! Now, perhaps I should move back onto the board of the college (I had been off, because it meant conflict of interest to the accreditation people), and Dr. Don Ward should be President. I could work on an executive committee of the Board with yourself, Bob, Wayne, Ray, perhaps---and interface with Dr. Ward. That way, we would be functioning as we say on paper, we are functioning---we would appear for more acceptable for full accreditation."

My wife and the others there remember me saying these things, but my father didn't hear me clearly, or else his mind was on something else---or he forgot. Later, he became outraged, and told me the Don Ward decision was "simply the last straw" and ordered me to take a leave of absence.

ON ACCREDITATION.

My father wanted accreditation from the beginning---but on his own terms. He stated, back in 1947, in the very first catalogue of the college, that he hoped to be fully accredited by the second year. Finally, with Dr. Herman Hoeh as dean of the Faculty, the college attempted accreditation in the late 60's. It was a disaster. The accreditation people couldn't see where the college began and the church left off, or vice-versa. There were too many confusing mixtures to them---not the least of which were the problems of governance, assets, and conflict of interest on the board.

Some few years later in a meeting in my father's office, I asked him if he wanted me to attempt to receive accreditation in the right way; NOT COMPROMISING our principles, nor God's way---but receiving full regional accreditation. He commissioned me to become accredited. Others were present-and they remember this meeting.

Remember, the Mormon Brigham Young University at Provo is accredited---and the accreditation people didn't make the Mormon church compromise their doctrines! Adventist, Nazarene, Baptist, Methodist, and many other differing church organizations have full accreditation for their educational institutions---and they are NOT REQUIRED TO COMPROMISE THEIR CHURCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES, nor are they required to reduce their theological majors, or cut down on church-related class activities; like prayer meetings, bible studies, church services, etc., in the least! I could PROVE that Ambassador would NOT have had to be "secular" in order to be accredited! The accreditation committee's own HANDBOOK plainly SAYS so! I have letters from their top officials that plainly SAY so! I told my father this, over and over---but he still chooses to equate accreditation with "secularism" or "satanism," and will not change his mind. Of course, accreditation is merely the insuring by professional educators, that Ambassador is actually giving its students what is says it is giving them; only trying to determine whether the SUBSTANCE of real education is there, as well as the form; only striving to insure that real academic excellence is maintained---so students aren't "ripped off" by shallow, non-professional educational practices. Further, it opens hundreds of thousands of dollars in aid, so the thousands of church young people, who could not afford to go to college otherwise, can have an education. It also opens the doors for wide-spread, top-level intercollegiate athletic competition---something my father has always enjoyed.

I knew we needed to tighten up on the reins here and there in the college---and was busily doing so. I had already asked Dr. Ward to come to Pasadena for that purpose---and how, I was ELATED that we were going back over to Big Sandy where the whole job would be so much easier.

NEVER was I part of any "secular drift" in the college---and every college student who ever attended there KNOWS it! ASK your own children who were students whether they felt my sermons, broadcasts, student bible studies, or the few forums I had time for were "secular." ASK them about what I said concerning discipline, hair cuts, dating, and the building of christian character. THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF LIVING WITNESSES WHO KNOW THESE STATEMENTS CONCERNING MY "SECULARIZING" OF THE WORK ARE TOTALLY FALSE!

The college was cancelled on a Thursday, by a message from Mr. Rader to Dr. Germano. Mr. Rader claimed he was talking directly for Mr. Armstrong, on his orders, Dr. Germano, without calling me, called an emergency faculty and student assembly---the newspapers were there---and said the college was closing. I was in Big Sandy, and my son called, and allowed me to hear part of Dr. Germano's remarks over the intercom from my home. I was absolutely thunderstruck. I was shocked, shattered. What was happening? HOW COULD THEY CANCEL OUT these YEARS of young people's lives; TENS OF THOUSANDS of their dollars invested; CANCEL the hopes and dreams of thousands of young people of the church so easily? Didn't it require a board meeting? Shouldn't there have been SOME input from others, in the ministry, or in the college? What about our promises in the catalogue; or our acceptance letter to all the freshmen?

The next night, my father came to Pasadena. He was to take a Bible Study, and everyone was absolutely electrified---waiting to hear some gigantic announcements about WHY all these things were happening. What was happening to me? WHY was I being taken off radio, and TV? Why was the Big Sandy move cancelled? Why was the college being closed? My father began talking about going to Jerusalem to dedicate a park. He said, toward the end, that we "didn't have enough money" to conduct "colleges;" but then went into detail about giving away money to a King in Thailand, to educate ignorant hill farmers to quit growing pot, and start growing vegetables, instead. I couldn't believe my ears! It sounded as if he didn't even know the college had closed, in that "study."

He said he would be leaving soon, on an important trip--- he mentioned co-hosting a premier with the Queen of England; dedicating an "important" park in Jerusalem, and other things. Of course, he later cancelled this trip.

That day, he spoke again. This time, he talked again about "digging down to clear off all that dirt and rubble, the accumulation of nearly 2,000 years of dirt" over the "throne of david" to "prepare the way for Christ's coming." That, of course, cannot possibly be true. My father has taught for years that the original throne was "overturned, overturned, and overturned" and would be NO MORE overturned until He came whose right it is; has taught that the site of that throne---the "stone of scone?" is under Westminster Abbey's coronation chair; that Queen Elizabeth the Second sits on it. Not the physical chair, and besides, Solomon's throne superceded David's, and Solomon's was of IVORY, while David's was perhaps wood. To me, the idea of digging off all that "dirt" to prepare the way for Christ is very, very difficult to believe. Again, in his talk, there was no mention of the closure of the college---and he gave the same type of sermon he had been giving in Tucson. Again, people wondered---BUT WHAT IS HAPPENING? WHY NO EXPLANATIONS? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO TED? WHY CLOSE THE COLLEGE? WHAT ABOUT THE TELEVISION PROGRAMS, WHAT ABOUT RADIO---WHAT WILL THIS DO TO THE INCOME, AND TO OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP, AND TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS? WHAT WILL THIS DO TO OUR MINISTRY, WHO WILL HAVE TO FIELD HUNDREDS OF STRONG QUESTIONS, AND COMPLAINTS?

Then, the newspaper articles began coming out, and Mr. Rader began to be quoted about my being placed on a "leave of absence." He began hinting about the difference "between repentance and remorse" (I care nothing whatever about Mr. Rader's personal evaluations of my spiritual condition---God needs no help from Him in judging me; further, God needs no help from ME in judging HIM---for God is fully capable of judging him, and is doing so, daily). Now, suddenly, it was growing into a personal attack. Later, I was subjected to a charge from my father about a "drinking problem."

During the Feasts, I have flown sophisticated jet aircraft. In the Feasts, my drinking (yes, I do enjoy beer, but rarely drink hard liquor) is GREATLY curtailed, for the following reasons. I preached about eleven sermons in eight days; and sang at five of our "family night" feast shows. I slept about 6 to 7 hours each night, and had to arise and fly a jet airplane to the next site the following day. I work very, very HARD during the Feast---and I HAVE NOT OVERINDULGED ONE WHIT! I COULDN'T be doing all I do,

and have a "drinking problem" I will not answer back in kind---God knows, and HE judges the spirits and the hearts---and many, many other people know---I do not need to stoop to charges against my father. But I have a "drinking problem" in the same way I have a "flying problem" (I like to fly) or a "breathing problem" or an "eating problem." I can still wear my 32 inch waist clothes---weigh 150 pounds, only 3 pounds more than I did when I got out of the Navy. Do you call a 32 inch waist a beer belly? Christ was called a "winebibber"---but it is embarrassing, and painful in the extreme for me to have my own father accusing his son of a "drinking problem."

My fathers lengthy letter, and the many articles coming out in the "Good News" (as the church newspaper I started is now called---since its pioneer editor was fired), contained many, many inaccuracies.

My Father has said he believes God has never raised up a man for a work and not allowed him to finish it, however, the pinnacle of Moses' work would have been to have crossed the River Jordan in triumph. Instead he must have been TERRIBLY stricken to turn sadly away after he saw the last Israelite disappear across the River Jordan, under Joshua.

Moses would hardly have "lessened his work load" by interfacing with "only" 3,000 men, daily! My father's new governmental ideas are not Biblical, at all. There WERE MANY TIMES IN HISTORY, and there is predicted to be a time IN THE FUTURE when there IS MORE THAN ONE MAN OF EQUAL RANK IN GOD'S WORK! What about the "two witnesses," is one to be "over the other?" What about the fact that there were fifteen or more apostles in the first few years of the Church? Study the book of Acts, and you'll see some amazing truths! Paul and Peter were EQUALS, and Paul had to withstand Peter to his face over racism (which still lives in the hearts of some of those back in power in the Church today) check Galatians 2:12-14). Read Acts 15:36-41, and you'll see a contention between Paul and Barnabus, who were of equal rank.

A dispute had arisen over "administrative decisions," because of the MEN they too wanted to choose to be around them, to assist them! Paul didn't like to have young John Mark with him---and, frankly, Paul may have needed to change his attitude a little over the problem; because Paul said, that John Mark had "departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to work." "And contention was so sharp between them, that they DEPARTED asunder one from another; and so Barnabus took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus: and Paul chose Silas, and departed..." Here was a dispute about PERSONNEL, between two apostles. But, even though they split up and went their separate ways, THE WORK GOT DONE!

Peter was over the Jewish churches---wrote from Babylon. Paul was over the Gentiles, and both were practically "independent" in the sense that they were not in daily, or even weekly, or monthly, communication with James and the other apostles in Jerusalem. John was on Patmos, probably with Mary, who may have died there---and John may never have even met Paul---yet they were alive in the SAME PERIOD OF TIME, BOTH WERE APOSTLES, AND BOTH WERE DOING THE WORK OF GOD!

Check Hebrews 3:1, and find out WHO IN THE BIBLE, EXCLUSIVELY, IS EVER CALLED "GOD'S APOSTLE!" Paul calls himself "an apostle" or "the Apostle of CHRIST"---but only JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF is called "GOD'S APOSTLE!" I am embarrassed for my father for all the many powerful statements of the assertion of AUTHORITY! It is NOT NECESSARY among those who are the humble, converted, called and chosen children of God; the "babes in Christ" whom He promised He would "gently lead." Jesus Christ wants, in us, the spirit of "meekness, goodness, gentleness, faith." He wants us to "grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you with all malice. And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:30-32)

I want you brethren to know the TRUTH about the "Marking" letter. I am enclosing the whole letter, in its original form. I hope you'll stop right here, and take time to read it NOW, before going on.

Now, I want to reprint excerpts of my letter which went to all the ministers of the church, answering each point in the "Marking" letter.

1) I was NEVER in "continual disagreement" with my father. I agreed with him on MOST major policies, doctrines, and principles. I DID DISAGREE, yes, in certain areas involving expenditures and financial priorities (NOT HOMES'), but disagreement was "up front" with him, and in private, and ONCE HE MADE THE DECISION, even if I urged otherwise (I wanted local church building programs instead of the auditorium, for example) I SUPPORTED it!

I learned long ago, though, how to disagree without being disagreeable, and to disagree with honor, and respect. Yes, I was earnest; and I would sometimes have to apologize to my father for becoming a little too loud, or insistent over something in which I fervently believed---but I did apologize when needed.

But does disagreement constitute grounds for being MARKED? How, then can we understand the sharp contention between Paul and Barnabus, so that Paul took Silas with him, and Barnabus took John Mark, and they departed one another, and DID THE WORK? Did PAUL MARK BARNABUS? Did BARNABUS MARK PAUL? Did PAUL MARK MARK? Did SILAS MARK BARNABUS? Sorry.

No, they went their separate ways, and did the work! How could Paul have stood up publicly, probably during the Feast, before the churches in the Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe area, and withstand Peter to his face for racist leanings?

2) On being in Orr, Minnesota; my father's directive to me was so shattering I developed severe stomach cramps (I called Dr. Parrish about them), and suffered with them for four days or more. He had "banished" me for no good reasons that I could see except his desire to have me out of the way while the purge was completed, and I was ordered to be nowhere near any "organized church" area; Pasadena, where all my personal possessions were; Big Sandy, where most of Shirl's family lives, of course, trying to avoid ANY city where there is a church is well-nigh impossible, but, Shirl and I heard that our son Matthew, was up all night following news of what happened to his father, vomiting and crying. We wanted, like two wounded animals slinking back to their den, to be in at least a somewhat familiar environment; wanted to be with our children. We went to Orr, where both David and Matthew were. I have yet to set foot in the dining hall; attended no Friday night or Sabbath services; attended no counselor's meetings, and Shirl and I kept a very low profile, while I tried to work on my book, "Peter's Story," and spend time with our children. There is no organized church closer than an hour's drive away, and of course, the youngsters are not "baptized members" in that sense. Orr was not specifically mentioned in my father's banishment letter.

3) That I contacted United States Postal Authorities to "intercept corporate mail and thus divert corporate funds" is libelous in the extreme. My letter to the postal authorities is enclosed. I certify in Christ, I lie not, this is the ACTUAL COPY, and the original is in the possession of Mrs. Kathryn Wilson, Postmaster in Pasadena. My father was told, face to face, that I was NOT trying to divert corporate mail; that I was only attempting to receive MY OWN PERSONAL MAIL. He was told BEFORE he sent out the marking letter.

Stan Rader's secretary had moved in, and taken over the fourth-floor executive suite. My secretary, Lois Chapman, was locked out of her office, and mine. I was being denied my own personal mail. It's as simple as that. I would have believed Christian charity would demand a person check up before making such a terribly damaging charge; at least try to give the benefit of the doubt---but no. I have written my father, respectfully requesting a written apology from him, to salvage my reputation. I have heard some members began to say "well, NOW we understand...NO WONDER Mr. Armstrong had to do what he did" and similar statements. That means the libel was truly DAMAGING.

4) There were no "distorted and false accusations" given to the Los Angeles Times. I was being hounded by reporters everywhere,

just as I told my father I would be (and still am). Always before, of course, it was the REPORTER who had mixed things up, but suddenly it was ME who was accused of making the false accusations. I was sorry to see such emphasis placed on homes, for that was not my intention, and I have been MOST appreciative of my father's generosity in allowing my family to live where we did. However, the reporter had in his possession inside reports; had received documents in the mail from top-level employees, including some rather shocking financial reports concerning top-level expenses. He was going to do the article anyhow, and I was asked some very direct questions. I told my father I would NOT LIE when I was asked such questions, and I did not lie.

There is a fine line (or is it so fine?) of difference between living in a church-owned home, and ending up with absolutely nothing, including being denied my justly deserved and honestly earned severance pay; and on the other hand, ending up with the deed to a church-owned home for which NO PAYMENTS WERE MADE as Mr. Ray Wright told me (and gave me much information in written data which I still have) had happened concerning another person. The Los Angeles Times reporter received dozens of telephone calls from people within and without the work; he had in his possession all sorts of documents. Yes, I granted the interview, for I was sick of seeing only one side of things; well-colored in one direction, and hearing that the brethren were confused that they should have to be finding out what was happening in the work from NEWSPAPERS, instead of open, plain statements, explanations or announcements from the pulpits! Even after the college was closed, no explanation or announcement was given the following Friday night, or Sabbath. I was sorry to see homes mentioned, but I did not write the article---I only answered questions as best as I could, and honestly, and truthfully.

5) I never, at any time, "caused divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrines which ye have learned." The whole church, and the entire ministry know this. Even after the staggering blows dealt me; after being blind-sided and stabbed in the back by those in whom I had placed my confidence, I still preached the truth of God in Milwaukee, and in Rochester, urging the people to stand fast in the truth, and resist the onslaughts of Satan to confuse and destroy God's church! I preached about the true meaning of the commission; and how preaching the Gospel is MUCH, MUCH deeper than a mere announcement---and that "making disciples of all nations" is incumbent upon those performing God's work! I did speak out strongly against materialistic pursuits, and those who would be wealthy equating gain with godliness, but then, any minister could do that, at any time.

But read Romans 16:17 again, carefully. Paul is speaking to the brethren, and telling THEM to "mark" (meaning take note of; know who they are, NOT "brand" or "label", or tar with an infamous brush of character assassination) those who caused division. Paul didn't even necessarily know who they were. He was not "marking" anyone, but telling the BRETHREN to take note of such, and avoid them.

Paul is not "marking" anyone. He is not dealing in character-de-destroying inuendo about Priscilla or Aquilla having an alleged "drinking problem" (of course, they said Christ did, too!), or hinting darkly about anyone's personal lives---he is urging the brethren of the local congregation in Rome to "take note of" any in their midst who would be doing specific things, and avoid them.

The only biblical grounds for disfellowship are found in Romans 16:17, and in Paul's example in putting a person out of the church for incest, one of the abominable sins of all sin, in God's sight. Persistent false teaching, or persistence in deliberately trying to divide the church; these are, naturally, offenses which would require disfellowshipment. But creeping off to be with ones' children when those persons are wounded beyond understanding? Asking for my own personal mail? Preaching only the truth? Contacting only personal friends?

As I said to the ministry---what am I to do now? I have recently been offered an annual salary by Mr. Rader of \$50,000 per year, before Taxes, and free access to a church-owned cabin. However, I would have to go into "retirement"---meaning NOT PREACH OR SPEAK ANY FURTHER---and I would have to keep "confidential" certain information which I have in my mind, or under my control, which would naturally have come to me over the years resulting from my high position in the various corporations. Such information is also in the hands of any number of other corporate officials, however, and, of course, one would assume that, in a CHURCH organization, everything would be CLEAN and WHOLESOME, and HONEST, and that there would be no fears of any disclosures

I have utterly rejected such offer---and I am completely OFF salary from the Worldwide Church and Mr. Rader---living on my own savings (the sum total of \$20,000), and doing the work of God, as I always have. Now, Mr. Rader is offering to pay me from the money sent in; the very money sent to PREACH THE GOSPEL---NOT TO PREACH, but to "retire" and while away my time doing nothing.

I totally reject all such offers---I will have no strings attached to my life; I will make no agreements to retire whatsoever, and I will trust God entirely for the future.

For as long as God makes possible, I will continue to DO HIS WORK. As I write, I have already talked to MANY radio stations, and, although they are expensive (\$500 per half hour on WCKY, for example), I will preach God's truth as long as my own savings account lasts!

I have been left NO CHOICE in the matter! I did NOT "LEAVE," as you can clearly see; I was OUSTED in a struggle for power and favor---I was blind sided by men in whom I had confidence; I was MARKED (branded).

This has been the most important decision concerning "marking" anyone, in my opinion, in the entire history of the Church! Yet, before even CHECKING WITH ME, or lifting the phone off the hook and calling the post office, my father chose to MARK ME for FALSE REASONS! He has remained ADAMANT since, and has even rebuked those who may make statements about "hoping Ted can come back some day."

I have reincorporated, under the ONLY RIGHT NAME, and adding a descriptive word at the end, "THE CHURCH OF GOD, International." My new address is Post Office Box 2525, Tyler, Texas 75710.

I have been doing strong, daily radio programs at a studio in Tyler---have already finished the first seven, in the last five days, in a new series, going through the whole book of Revelation, verse by verse, and bringing in the news of the world, as it applies!

I am starting out small, of necessity. I have obtained 11:30 p.m. each Saturday night over WOAI, San Antonio, 1200 on the dial; heard at 10:30 p.m. Mountain time, and 9:30 p.m. Pacific time, for those who can listen in Washington, Oregon, or California. WOAI is a powerful, clear channel station, reaching many states. The station management knows me well, of course, and were happy to open time for me---even though it is later than I might wish, it is a time when the sky wave reaches out over a vast area. I am promised time on WCKY, Cincinnati, and will be adding other radio stations as God provides---as he opens the doors.

I know why I was born. I know that my Savior, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, wants me to preach His truth to the nations---I am ready to bear any burden, and will walk whatever extra mile I must. I know my God has granted me His unspeakable grace; that he has FORGIVEN my human failings and sins; and I am not ASHAMED of the Gospel of Christ, for it truly IS THE "POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION" unto those that believe. I am no longer shackled by monumental debt, corporate inertia, politics, power struggles, and the mind-boggling problems of all the shenanigans, falderol, and running off in a dozen different directions doing almost EVERYTHING, it seems but THE WORK OF GOD!

I am working toward having a FEAST OF TABERNACLES in San Antonio, Texas, God willing---AND a second or third site, if God opens up the way! I am going to be holding regular church services beginning the Sabbath of August 5th in Tyler---and if God so wills, and if and when the need is made plain, I will see His guidance in conducting personal-appearance campaigns.

I will try to finish my second book, "Peter's Story" soon, and get it to the publishers--- Avon Paperback Books has purchased the rights to my book, "The Real Jesus," and it should be out on the newsstands and in the drug stores, supermarkets, and other areas by the end of the year.

As God provides me with the resources, I will try to produce the required booklets, articles, or a magazine, to help further the Gospel of Christ. The GOSPEL is MUCH, MUCH more than just "an announcement." Read I Corinthians 15:1-6 and see! It's primary focus is on Jesus Christ and "him crucified"---and on the FACT of His life, teaching, example, death, burial, and resurrection," as well as the fact that He is the soon-coming KING, and world-ruler! I intend preaching it ALL, as God so wills, and inspires.

Like Paul, I say, "Let no man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgement: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God. And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another. For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it? Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as Kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you. For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christs's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day. I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. (I Corinthians 4:1-16)

Mr. Coles's letter to the ministry said I had said I would never ask people to "follow me" if I "LEFT." BUT I DID NOT LEAVE! I WAS FORCED OUT, "BRANDED," "MARKED" for false REASONS---and I would NEVER have voluntarily done such.

Now, I have no choice. "Yes woe is unto me if I preach NOT the Gospel." My whole life has been INTENDED for that purpose. Christ has had to chasten me; to rebuke me through His word, and by His free Spirit---but when He does, He FORGIVES when I go to Him in brokenhearted repentance---and He promises, "I will NEVER LEAVE THEE, NOR FORSAKE THEE..."

Paul said, "Who is he that condemns? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are kicked all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:34-39)

My family and I have suffered as we have never suffered before. I am sure, that without the help of Christ, we might have given up, in despair. I cannot say I didn't get in a wrong attitude from time to time, I did---I acknowledge it, and I am sorry for it, as I have told God. I do not hold hatred in my heart toward my father, ~~though~~

~~of those who have surrounded him~~ and, As I told the ministry, I am doubly thankful, now, that my father survived, for, I have had to realize that, IF HE HAD DIED back

last Fall, those very same men who had been going to him to have me put out would have been around me in fawning obsequiousness, striving to feather their nests, better their positions, and keep themselves in power. I believe Jesus Christ wants to see some HUMILITY, and some SERVICE, and some KINDNESS, and some MEEKNESS, for a change, and is growing tired of seeing all the claims of great office, power, authority, and hearing shouting, angry messages which produce fear.

We have not "received the Spirit of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the Spirit of "sonship," whereby we cry, 'Abba' Father!" (Romans 8:15)

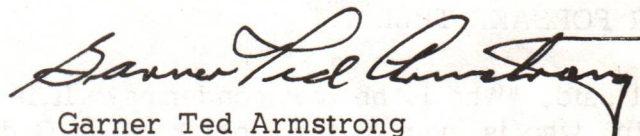
Brethren of God's church, I do not ask you to judge anyone. I ask you to always revere, love, honor, and respect my father, as I do. He really believes he is doing the right thing---even if I cannot agree with THE WAY he has done these many things; the way I was blind sided, kept in the dark, and the way others were told WITHOUT ME KNOWING, in the dead of the night, that I was being practically "cancelled out." I begged him to let me help him in any way I could, but he was determined---and, of course, I couldn't let you brethren know of the several years, now, that he has been trying to take back the reins he gave me in 1973.

But, God is our ruler, and judge. I cast my life into His care---and I will trust Him alone for my future. He has inspired me in these broadcasts, and I know He will continue to inspire!

I cannot help but remember that tremendous feeling of emotion I had when I spoke, with breaking voice, and tears, to you all at the Feast. I told about 70,000 of you how proud I was to be standing there, speaking for my father, "standing in his shoes." YOU ALL KNOW THE TRUTH about the way I have upheld him, and honored him. Now, if I must work the works of Him that sent me, apart from my father because he wills it that way---then I must! If that is what God's will is in my life; and for His church, and His work---then I must follow where HE LEADS! For this is NOT OF MY DOING, nor MY DESIRE!

As I told the ministers, I feel, like Paul, "...troubled on every side, yet not distressed: we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken, cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." (I Corinthians 4:8-9) How I yearn to be with all of you again at the Feast---but, I guess that it is not possible without risking the shame of being physically ejected, since I am now "branded" as someone who suddenly is not welcome. The pain that strikes into my heart is like a physical, shocking pang, brethren---I will miss all of you tremendously. Please pray for me, and for my family. Pray for my father, that he can see Satan's wiles at work right around him. Pray for each other---and pray "THY KINGDOM COME" and for the day Christ's will can be done throughtout this whole earth!

In the precious name of Jesus Christ,



Garner Ted Armstrong

Post Office Box 2525
Tyler, Texas 75710