

Notes on Garner Ted Armstrong

Garner Ted was born on the 9th of February 1930 in Portland Oregon. He tells us in his tape called "Your Temporary Tabernacle" that he was born suffering from Yellow Jaundice. ("Dallas Campaign" 11-May-91) He was mute until 2 years of age due to a fall. ('bio p397, 449). He lived at Fourth St and 1608 West 6th St, Eugene spending time on his grandma's farm while growing up (7-Dec-91, 30-Mar-96 & 18-Feb-99) He says in his tape called "Do the Work" (18-Jan-86) that he was helping out with "The Work" when he was nine years old and earned five cents an hour/day by helping his mother address envelopes. ("Friends in High Places" 26-Aug-95 and tape 4-Sep-99) He spent three years at Lincoln High School in Eugene which had an "Ambassadors Club". In "Keep on Proving" (Feb-85) "What is Our Identity" (Feb-87) "Dedication Ceremony" (May-91) and "See Your Calling" (Jne-94) he says that he was 16 years old and living in 13th Street in Eugene when he suggested using the name "Ambassador" and its colours of purple and white for Ambassador College. Also during 1946 he toured the US for three months visiting forty states. ("Conference" 15-Aug-98 and "Love the Lord" 5-Jly-03) and first flew a plane. ("Building Character" Jly-89) In 1947 his family left Oregon and shortly moved into 345 South Hill St Pasadena.

"Ambassador College" opened that Summer on the 8th of October. (FOT, 5-Oct-1998) GTA joined the navy on the 17th of May in 1948 He said he joined out of vanity because he wanted to wear a navy uniform. ("Vanity", 18-Apr-92) He spent three years in San Diego and dated Shirley Hammer in 1951. (tv9-Mar-02) In the Spring of 1951 his ship, the aircraft carrier USS Antietam sailed via Pearl Harbour for North Korea where he served for nine months with the Seventh Fleet. ("Who Do You Fear", 21-Sep-85, "See Your Calling", 25-Jn-94 and "The Battle is Not Yours", 23-Sep-2000) He returned home in April 1952 ("What will you Be Like" and "Report to General H/Q") He left the navy on the 5th of May in 1952 and tried to "- break into Hollywood", ("Three Days and Three Nights", 21-Apr-1984) he said "my lifes desire was to become a singer or something" ("Why Saturday-", 2-Oct-96) and that no one would get him into the ministry. ("Fruits of the Work", 17-Feb-90) In about July 1952 he was hired by Vern Mattson and began working in the mailing department of Ambassador College in Pasadena ("Do the Work", 18-Jan-86 and "Who is Doing the Work" FOT-Sep-91) and worked in the print shop. He was made manager of the General office. On the 8th of March 1953 he married Shirley and they were both baptized. ("FOT 2000 PCB" and "Last Day U/B" (7-Apr-99) "To the Churches" (Mar-02) and had "hands laid on" by his father, "Report to General H/Q" (17-July-99). In "Knoxville TN" (1-Apr-2000) he said he began in "the work" in 1953.

He entered Ambassador College that Autumn and did voice training under the direction of a Jewish instructor called Leon Ettinger, studied Spanish, "Christ's Second Ministry" (10-Sep-94) and did Child Psychology. (tv 7-Apr-01) He was made "President of the Student Body" and began giving sermons during 1954. According to "The Journal" (Sept-2011, p5) he was ordained as a pastor on 22-Jan-55. He says he was ordained as a minister in July 1955, ("For the Searchers" 11-Mar-95) so began his ministry in the Radio Church of God (RCG) also in July 1955 he was introduced on television as a guest during a series of 26 or 27 "World Tomorrow" programs being made in Hollywood on 16mm film and spoke about juvenile delinquency and the burning to death of a homeless man here in Sydney called Henry Hill who was set on fire in a bus by some youths using lighter fluid. These programs were

broadcast on the ABC network that year. ["Fortieth Anniversary of the World Tomorrow" (1974), "Fruits of the Work" (1990), "Lake Palestine" (1991), Cause of Crime (May-92) "Motives of a Minister" (1994), "Is Capital Punishment Christian" (July-95), "Who is Doing the Work", "End Time Work" (1998) and on TV (1-May-99)] He says that it was after this first television appearance in July that he did his first radio broadcast in November 1955. His father went off television in January 1956. The first radio broadcast in Australia of "The World Tomorrow" went to air on the 14th of April 1956. GTA graduated from Ambassador College with a BA in June 1956 and visited Europe with his brother Richard, ("Conference Sermon", 8-Jan-2000) He also visited Italy where both his wife, who was eight months pregnant and his mother were refused admittance to the Catholic cathedral "Duomo il Milano", because they were wearing short sleeves as he mentions in his tape, "The Oppression of Women" (19-Nov-83), "What is the Pharisee" (21-Dec-91) and "Holy Times, Holy Places" (25-Apr-98). In "Hatred vs Tolerance" (13-April-1991) GTA says this occurred at the "Dome of Florence". In his 1986 "Do the Work" tape he says that in 1957 he was made Executive Vice President of both Ambassador College and the Church. He was also made the Executive Editor of the "Plain Truth" magazine, "What is Our Niche" (2-Aug-03) and was ordained an Evangelist. (TCW) He tells us that his father who was uncomfortable with television, returned to radio until late in 1957 then quit broadcasting leaving GTA as the voice of "The World Tomorrow". ("pre Trumpets", 21-Sep-98)

In 1958 Garner Ted's older brother, Richard died after a car crash while on a baptizing tour with Don Billingsly. ("The Battle is Not Yours", 23-Sep-00, "Love and Hate", 1-Mar-86 and on p35 of "History of the CGI") GTA says he began broadcasting full time in 1958 which was also when [Art Gilmore](#) with his inimitable voice began doing the iconic "World Tomorrow" intro and outro voice-overs. GTA began daily radio broadcasts in 1959 and his father made no more than a small handful of radio programs for the next twenty years. His father would do an "anniversary program" from the studios on the campus at Bricket Wood in England, to mark a special year for broadcasting over Radio Luxembourg, but that was all. "For over two decades, out of love and respect toward my father, and to keep his voice and name before our radio audiences, I would put repeats of a series of programs he did in the early 1950's on the book of Hebrews on the air on Sundays, only. The other six days of the week, year after year after year, I did the broadcasts." (GTA web commentary) In June 1959 GTA and his father visited Rome. "Satan's Fate" (11-Oct-97) they then went to England and found a site there for Ambassador College. ("Atonement" 11-Oct-97) In "Three Days and Three Nights" (21-Apr-84) and "The Pioneers" (15-May-99) he tells us that around this time his bedroom was burnt down and he lost his navy uniforms, but his "Dog Tags" survived.

On the 12th of November 1959 GTA flew into Sydney with Frank Longuskie and Gerald Waterhouse who were Ambassador College graduates. GTA obtained PO Box 345 North Sydney. On the 24th of December the new RCG office was opened on the fourth floor of the MLC building at 105 Miller St North Sydney. Gerald Waterhouse remained in Sydney as the first Australian Regional Director. On the 30th of January 1960 the first church meeting was held in the Builders Institute Hall at 118 Alfred St Milsons Point. Other staff were soon added including Charles Heffner, Jesse Emmett and Tony Hammer. Later in 1960 radio [2CH](#) in Sydney, which was run by the Council of Churches, "kicked" GTA off their station so GTA returned to Australia in August 1960 to arrange to have the programme broadcast on radio station 2KY. In August 1961, 28 attended the first RCG bible study held in

Brisbane and around this time Gerald Waterhouse was replaced by Wayne Cole who had grown up with Garner Ted. From 1961 to 1963 the Feast of Tabernacles was held in the Blackheath Community Centre in the Blue Mountains and in 1963 at Orana in Queensland. By the end of 1963 the weekly church services in Sydney were moved to Petersham Town Hall. In 1964 a Tabernacle was built on the site of Osborne College in Thirroul Ave Blackheath which had burnt down on 23-Oct-1963. The first minister to be ordained here in Australia was a Jew from New Zealand called Don Abraham.

Photo: 1960 Feast of Tabernacles at North Sydney.



By the mid 1960's "The World Tomorrow" was on 33 stations in Australia, 11 stations in the Philippines and reached South Africa over Radio Laurence Marques in Mozambique. The program was beamed into Europe over Radio Luxembourg and Radio Europe Number 1 and into Britain over Radio Manx and the "pirate" ships Radio Caroline in the Irish Sea and Radio London in the English channel. GTA taught first and second year classes on bible prophecy ("Beatitudes, 5-Sept-98) but he tells us in his "Don't Trust Dates" tape that he began to have doubts about some of the churches beliefs in 1965. After some training with John Hull, a flying trainer and church member, GTA made his first solo flight in a Cessna 182 on the 21st of April 1965. ("Takeoff", p387)

In March 1966 GTA did his first of many outside broadcasts at Cape Kennedy with his voice shaking at the launch of the huge rockets that were preparing to send men to the moon. (PT Apr 1966, tv 10-July-99 and "Is God's Power Limited" tape) In April 1966 more "On-The-Spot" broadcasts got underway from a hotel room in Cairo Egypt, then to the Suez Canal, Amman in Jordan, where he got sick (1st Day FOT 14-Oct-2000) and in Israel from the Mt of Olives (Cincinnati" tape) the Garden Tomb, Golgotha, Tell Megiddo and Galilee. He visited the Golan Heights, Beirut, Tyre, the Black Sea, and the Bosphorus in Turkey where he commented on the Soviet oil tankers using the only access the Russians had to warm water ports, from the Dardanelles, Rome and Anzio in Italy, the Rock of Gibraltar and from Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin. Following an "On-The-Spot" broadcast from Petra in Jordan in September 1966, GTA went to England and in the Ambassador College gymnasium at Bricket Wood in his morning sermon on the Feast of Trumpets, without discussing his views with his father, he said that as his mother was old and not well she would not survive

in the conditions at Petra and told the church that he no longer believed in the idea of the church going there as the "Place of Safety". ("Ye Are the Branches", Apr-94, "Waiting For Messiah" Dec-94, "Church Eras" Apr-95, "Birmingham", "Our Secret Place" Mar-99 and "To the Churches" Mar-02) It was reported that in the afternoon his father who was "blind furious", "absolutely furious" with him over this, jumped and yelled several times while giving a sermon, (We offer \$100 each for a copy of these tapes) contradicting what GTA had said in the morning, still claiming the church would "fly" to Petra, the so called "Place of Safety". ("Don't Trust Dates", 6-Jan-01) In "Peters Farewell" (4-Jan-03) GTA said, "I was right, wasn't I?". GTA's mother, who had suggested this idea of Petra as the "Place of Safety" after reading about Petra in a 1935 copy of "National Geographic", died early in 1967 aged 75 years. ("Rapture of the Saints", tv 23-Nov-96 and 13-March-99) Garner Ted began regular television broadcasts on the 11th of May 1967 beginning in black and white and then changing to colour in 1968 which climbed to 165 stations. Plans were also made to begin live radio broadcasts from Jerusalem but this was halted by the 1967 "Six Day War" which began on the 7th of June. ("The Mid East in Prophecy", 17-Dec-88, The Red Heifer, 24-May-97, tv 6-June-98) After the war GTA returned to Israel but the Jordanians no longer controlled the radio station. After a broadcast from Tyre, which some in the church claimed would never be rebuilt (ACBCC, lesson 10) this teaching was quietly dropped after it was found to be false.

There is an excerpt of the broadcast he did following the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963 about "ballots, not bullets" This can be found on the tape "Fortieth Anniversary of the World Tomorrow" program (Jan-74) This moving program was repeatedly broadcast free. ("Trumpets 2001", 18-Sept-01, "Where Was God" and tv 18-Sep-01) On 5th of January 1968 the RCG was renamed "The Worldwide Church of God" (WCG) after Garner Ted suggested this new name for the church. From the 1st of December in 1968, Ambassador College students officially began excavations of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem at the southern wall below the Al Aqsa mosque and at the western wall. In "The Museum in Heaven" (21-Apr-95) GTA says they dug at the north wall of the temple. This project was called the "[Big Dig](#)" and continued until 1976 under the direction of Benjamin Mazar who gave GTA a Herodian period [jug](#) that he shows in the video sermon "Will the Wall Come Tumbling Down" (21-Dec-02). In 1969 the offices of the Australian headquarters moved to the 13th floor of the "Combined Insurance" building at 132 Arthur St North Sydney. In 1970 GTA visited Jerusalem in the church's Falcon DA-20 Fan jet. Around this time, the Australian printing works that began operating in 1962 and had been moved into new premises at 36 Hotham Parade in Artarmon in mid 1969 moved again to 7 Lancelly Place Artarmon. The "America Listen!" personal appearances with GTA began in June 1970, (TW, June 1970, p24 and 1992 "Thankfulness" tape) GTA visited over 30 cities with 15,000 attending his 1970 Nashville appearance. GTA mentions in his book about the History of the Church that by the 1970's he had made over 7000 programs. Also around this time GTA learnt of the history of his sister Dorothy while some in the church raised questions over GTA's lifestyle. He was expelled from the 1971 Feast of Tabernacles in September and disfellowshipped for excessive drinking and gambling. He returned but was then "relieved of responsibilities" from October 9, 1971. Here in Australia in about October 1971, before the introduction of post-code numbers, due to so much mail being wrongly delivered to GPO Box 345 Sydney, which belonged to solicitors "Church and Grace", the church was offered and so obtained that postal address as well. After another confrontation at his home on the 30th of January

1972 he was forced out of the church and disfellowshipped for six months because of "personal emotional problems" but after the church suffered a 40% drop in income he was soon [reinstated](#). From 12-July-1972 GTA began daily television for about two years. (PT 1974)

In August 1972 Dennis Luker became the new Australian Regional Director. In April 1973 GTA began making special daily five minute "capsule" broadcasts for Australia that went to air on the Macquarie Network in 1973. From about April 1976 until July 1977 another series of five minute commentaries were broadcast on other stations. We presently have 40 of these broadcasts in our collection. The number of radio stations that carried "The World Tomorrow" with GTA around the world, climbed to 360. GTA mentions in his pre-Trumpets tape (Sept-1998) "my voice went out all over the world". In this "pre-Trumpets" 1998 tape as in "Huntsville Service" (5-Jn-99) he tells us that on a trip in South Africa he became lost and called for directions to a man he found working on the roof of his house and was surprised that the man who appeared to be so isolated from the world recognized GTA's voice from hearing "The World Tomorrow". In May 1973 GTA told another member of the church called Al Carrozzo that he disagreed with church doctrine and in January 1974 a major "storm" blew up over WCG teachings. At this time the Australian Headquarters were moved to a temporary office in Queensland using PO Box 202 Burleigh Heads. In May 1974 GTA had the strict church laws against divorce and remarriage relaxed. ("The Word of God is Going Out", 31-Mar-1979) and also the day of Pentecost was changed from Monday to Sunday. GTA was given a new plane around this time.

From 1965 to 1972 the Blackheath Tabernacle was the sole location for the Australian Feast of Tabernacles. In 1973 a site was added in Western Australia. In 1974 there were new sites in Adelaide, Hobart, Mackay and Miami. In 1975 for economic reasons the printing of "The Plain Truth" was moved to New Zealand. A church offshoot called the "Antipodean Press" was closed but the Ambascos Printing works at Artarmon remained open until July 1977 doing commercial printing. The printing of the Plain Truth was transferred to Singapore. David Robinson in his book "Tangled Web" says in 1975 more efforts were made to ouster GTA. GTA went to Egypt and interviewed President Anwar el-Sadat on the 6th of March 1976. (PT April 1976) He offered to fly Sadat to Jerusalem for peace talks. "GTA in Sydney" (26-Nov-1977) President Sadat flew to Jerusalem as [Garner Ted](#) had suggested to him in November 1977 and signed a peace deal with Israel which later led to the signing of the "Camp David Accords" with US President [Jimmy Carter](#). (tv12-Apr-97, "Lebanon" 10-May-97) In "Fayetteville Sunday" (25-Mar-2000) Garner Ted thinks he was responsible for planting this idea in Sadat that led to Sadat's assassination. The new Queensland office of the WCG opened in March 1976 and the GTA television program began in Australia on the 2nd of May 1976 with subjects on "The Laser", Nuclear Energy, Money, Alcoholism, Juvenile Crime and "Showcase of the Deep" etc. The Falcon Fan jet was "sold" in May 1977 and Dean Wilson became the Australian Regional Director. After flying to Sydney in a Gulf Stream II in November 1977, Garner Ted spoke at the Sydney Showground.

GTA tells us he gave Robert Kuhn the idea behind the story of "The Raiders of the Lost Ark". Robert Kuhn wrote the script with Stanly Rader who knew Steven Spielberg who produced the movie. ("The Test Commandment" 9-July-94 and "Museum in Heaven" 29-Apr-95) GTA was well known for his "silver tongue" and he won several awards as the speaker on the

"World Tomorrow". He says thirty million people heard him each week. (5-Sep-93) Some believed GTA was the Watchman described in Ezekiel 33 "lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument". His name was included among the famous people mentioned in the song ["The Intro and the Outro"](#) by the "Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band". He mentions his award winning broadcasts in his tape "Honour and Respect" (10-Dec-83). GTA started a newspaper for the church called the "Worldwide News", had a gymnasium built at Orr, Minnesota. "Spiritual Bodies" (27-July-1985) and began the "Summer Educational Program" (SEP) for the church youths. (27-Feb-99 and "Last Day of U/B", 7-Apr-99) He was named the President of the colleges. During 1977 he was given all control. ("Successful Christian", 7-May-83) but GTA continued to disagree with church doctrines and was accused of "destroying the church". He organized the ministry to compile the teachings of the WCG into some orderly form called the ["Systematic Theology Project"](#) (STP). This project which began in 1975 was presented at a conference in Pasadena in January 1978 but was immediately withdrawn and banned. Also in January 1978, among other things, GTA was ordered to sell the "Big Sandy" College and found his aims and goals were being challenged and denied by others in the church. Most of the blame for the dissension was believed to be over a struggle for power by Stanly Radar, the church treasurer who had been baptized in a bath tub in Hong Kong on the 6-March-1975 (WN) and was considered to be of the "rank" of "Evangelist". GTA tells us how Stanly Radar searched for a non-existent book of the bible called "The Book of Nebuchadnezzar" while giving a sermon. ("The Laborers Are Few", 26-Feb-94) GTA was the leading RCG/WCG evangelist for about 23 years and during his time as the voice of "The World Tomorrow" the church had grown from about 100 members in 1955 to around 100,000 members by 1978. He tells us in his tape "Dedication Ceremony" (25-May-1991 and 29-June-02) and tv program (14-Aug-99) that he was responsible for 85% of the growth of the WCG but following another confrontation and threats of them destroying one another, (LGD, 11-Oct-90) GTA, the President of [Ambassador College](#) and the one who the church had regarded as the "Watchman" of Ezekiel 33, was stripped of all positions on the 8th of May 1978. In mid June he was threatened with "marking". Garner Ted tells us in his tapes "Gods Families (Oct-84) "Religion of Hate", (Mar-93) and in "New Covenant Sabbath" (Jan-95) that the WCG accused him of "watering down doctrine". He was accused of being a liberal over the issue of "make-up" ("What is the Pharisee" 21-Dec-91) and was accused of trying to divert corporate funds. ("By Your Words", 21-May-83) He says he was ousted by fabrications ("Our Identity", 7-Feb-87) He was sued for \$551 million and in a secret meeting was offered payments to "never reveal" or "disclose" what he knew. ("Fictitious Letter to Paul", 26-Jan-02, "All About Angels", 6-July-02, "60 Minutes" Interview, 1979)

From the 1st of June until the 21st of June 1978 he started his own church in Texas called the "Church of God International" (CGI) and was disfellowshipped from the WCG on the 27th of June. He was then totally excommunicated and [banished from the WCG](#) on the 1st of July 1978. Around this time a number of others were also moved out of the WCG. To placate the GTA supporters from deserting the WCG some rumoured he would be coming back. In his tape "The Sabbath Day" (19-May-1990) he says the birthday of the CGI is on the 21st of July. In one of his tapes he mentions that he sold a four engined plane to finance his new enterprise. He either bought or sold it to or from one of the Osmond brothers who are Mormons who wanted him to be their "spokesman" of II Nephi 3:18 as best as can be recalled. (Has anyone got a copy of that tape made around 1978?) During 1978 GTA began

recording new radio programs in a garage converted into a studio and began radio broadcasts on WOAI which grew to 54 stations in the US and by April 1979 he had made over 240 of these new programs. On the 2nd of January 1979 the Californian Attorney General put the WCG into receivership and its headquarters moved to Tucson, Arizona. GTA was blamed for this. The WCG director of ministry, [Rod Meredith](#), said the removal of GTA from the WCG was like the removal of cancer but later Rod was demoted, silenced and out himself. The interview of GTA on "60 Minutes" was aired on April 15th 1979 and around about this time it is said that Stanly Radar gave directions to the WCG to destroy their collection of old GTA tapes, (that the church had prayed that God would inspire and that had given encouragement to the church over many years).

The Australian church (CGI) was started in Sydney in July 1979 as a "non-profit trust" by David Sandland who had graduated from Ambassador College in 1969. GTA began making new television programs starting in December 1980, ("Love Your Enemy", 20-Dec-80, "Future Dreams", 19-June-93) while he continued making his radio programs and began making 15 radio minute programs. GTA tells us he had over 1000 radio programs available ("Apostasy in the Church", 25-June) He began another series of tv programs that started on WGNO in New Orleans in January 1983. Some of his new 15 minute radio programs were aired in Sydney in the 1980's but are missing and later some tv programs were broadcast in various states around Australia up until after the 1990-91 Gulf War.