

A salute to an important Worldwide Church of God pioneer

By Craig M White

The author is a founder member of the UCG in Sydney and currently resides in Brisbane. He maintains good friendships and associations with Christians in many Church of God and other sabbatarian groups. No matter which branch or era one might be associated with - makes no difference to being a brother and a friend.

The news of Herman Hoeh's death on 21 November 2004 came as a shock to the broad Church of God community – what he termed the 'Church of God fellowship'. Surely, he could not have died at only 75? Yet, it was true.

As news of his death began to filter down into the broader 'Church of God fellowship', an outpouring of sorrow as well as warm reminiscing flowed from many groups around the world. We are truly a little flock, but the people of God are big of heart.

As more and more pioneers pass from the scene, many of us feel a sense of emptiness – almost as if we have been left stranded – alone with few leaders. The newer leaders cannot be compared to these pioneers.

Research scholar

Dr Hoeh quickly cemented his place as leading scholar and researcher within the Church of God. Many who recall his articles, remember how gripping and interesting they were. Truly, they were written in the style taught to the authors of the publications in the 1950s (such as those by HWA, GTA, Raymond McNair, Leroy Neff, Rod Meredith etc) – pacy, gripping and filled with information.

Over the years many influential articles were published by him. He also filled several senior positions and presented hundreds of hours of lectures at Ambassador College. It was also he that was key for the door to world leaders opening in 1967.

In mid-1985 Herbert Armstrong rang him as one of the first to be contacted re the approaching succession – Armstrong could see his death was not far off. Not to offer him the job, but to gain advice from him as to who could possibly succeed him. During the conversation Hoeh volunteered that he was not interested in the job, and it is said that Herbert Armstrong was possibly not going to offer it to him anyhow. We know that he was offered to do some World Tomorrow programs and he turned that down. Indeed, we were told that HWA asked him to guide Tkach and "to show him the ropes" during the first stages of his leadership.

When Dr Hoeh (who already was a Bible student) first heard Herbert W Armstrong over the airways in the 1940s, he knew immediately that Armstrong was a man of God! It didn't take him long to join Ambassador College and he became the first graduate in 1951.

Over the following years he helped to introduce various interesting doctrines which were not previously known by Herbert Armstrong such as the Assyrian origin of the Germans.

He brought other new truths into the Church including far more details for various doctrines, historical understanding and how it relates to prophecy; HWA was an Apostle; Church governance etc, etc. He was very influential and helpful in a number of other areas such as the Ambassador Foundation.

He was perhaps best known for his Compendium of World History (vol. 2). His interest in national origins based on Gen. 10 follows a long line of researchers such as Seventh-day Adventist scholar Alonzo T Jones (Peopling of the Earth and Empires of the Bible), Glengarry Rupert (Inspired History

of the Nations), A H Sayce (Races of the Old Testament), George Rawlinson (Origin of Nations) and many others.

The understanding that the White Hittites (not to be confused with the Canaanite Hittites, descendants of Heth), was probably found in the writings of L Austine Waddell and Prof Herbert Bruce Hannay.

The Assyrian origin of the Germans was held to by many British-Israelites from which he drew upon and added to their initial research into the subject. Proofs were very scanty but he added further to these. I term this 'value adding' to the doctrines without watering them down.

It seems quite feasible that the various works by AJ Ferris were also examined and utilised such as:

"When Russian Bombs Germany" published in 1940

"The Great Tribulation"

"The Book of Revelation, a simple explanation and survey" published in 1940

"Germany's doom foretold"

Ferris was also highly critical of the Church of Rome.

Continued with the Worldwide Church of God

Now, some have wondered why Dr Hoeh continued with the WCG and was a Board member until his death. This has been debated to and fro for years. From those that knew him well, the answers were:

1. he was ultra loyal and would not budge. He did not wish to give the appearance of rebellion
2. he did not want anyone to follow him into another group - each person was to make up their own mind what to do
3. ministers told members after HWA's death that Hoeh was charged to help Tkach and to show him the ropes. Some thought that this meant that he had a permanent, legal status on the Board and could never be removed. I would have no idea if this is true or a mere guess. Others felt that he thought that 'something would happen' and that he and others may be asked to take over (which meant that he knew something about these apostates). Again, this cannot be proven - I doubt if they heard him say that!
4. he did say to various ones though that he thought he would he 'switch off the lights' and 'close the door'. He did this with Big Sandy where he gave the closing message. Perhaps he thought he would do the same with Pasadena???

Why did he remain with the Worldwide Church of God?

My own impressions were that he believed that something would work itself out in the Church. In this regard, I wrote the following in my paper on "The Seven Eras of Ancient Israel - Type of the Eras of the True Church?":

“Glengarry Rupert and Andrew Dugger, whose writings and doctrines were very influential on Mr Armstrong, believed in Church Eras. Rupert, for example, wrote a booklet *The Seven Churches* published in the early years of this century. On pages 19-20 he writes with great insight in reference to the Philadelphia Era in chapter 3 of the book of Revelation:

“Verse 9 shows there is a great apostacy during the history of the Philadelphia church. Yet there are some few in that age that have kept his word ... How truly all this history is fulfilled before the eyes of those who can see, having eyes anointed to discern truth ... Now is the time to not be ashamed of his truth and proclaim it”.

How accurate and inspired he was! It seems that these words proved prophetic some 80 years later!"

This paper may be downloaded from http://www.originofnations.org/HRP_Papers/doc/index.htm A related paper is "Seven Restorations of the Work of the Church of God" which should be read in conjunction with it.

I have felt for a very long time that this scripture in Rev 3:9 does not only mean to literally perform worship, but also that this group that hijacked our Church and illegally took over its resources with the full knowledge and plan to destroy it, will some day come to recognise who the true believers are. Is this what Hoeh had in mind? I do not know.

But those that have been wrongfully abused and sidelined by interlopers, have often later been apologised to or at least acknowledged that they are God's people. So it has historical, prophetic and spiritual applications like so many scriptures.

'They shall worship at your feet' may be understood in the light of scriptures such as Is. 60:14; 45:14; 49:23; Zech. Ps 72:9; Zech 8:23.

Indeed, the Greek word is *proskuneo* = *prostrate, worship, bow down = respect*

[THE ITEM BELOW COULD BE BOXED]

The 'Jamieson, Fausett & Brown Commentary' states:

9. I will make--*Greek* present, "I make," literally, "I give" (see on JF & B for Re 3:8). The promise to Philadelphia is larger than that to Smyrna. To Smyrna the promise was that "the synagogue of Satan" should not prevail against the faithful in her: to Philadelphia, that she should even win over some of "the synagogue of Satan" to *fall on their faces and confess God is in her of a truth*. Translate, "(some) of the synagogue." For until Christ shall come, and *all* Israel then be saved, there is but "a remnant" being gathered out of the Jews "according to the election of grace." This is an instance of how Christ set before her an "open door," some of her greatest adversaries, the Jews, being brought to the obedience of the faith. Their *worshipping before her feet* expresses the convert's willingness to take the very lowest place in the Church, doing servile honor to those whom once they persecuted, rather than dwell with the ungodly. So the Philippian jailer before Paul.

10. patience--"endurance." "The word of My endurance" is *My Gospel word*, which teaches *patient endurance* in expectation of my coming (Rev 1:9). *My endurance* is the endurance which I require, and which I practice. Christ Himself now *endures, patiently* waiting until the usurper be cast out, and all "His enemies be made His footstool." So, too, His Church, for the joy before her of sharing His coming kingdom, *endures patiently*. Hence, in Rev 3:11, follows, "Behold, I come quickly."

In this regard, I also find the 'Matthew Henry Complete Commentary on the Whole Bible' comment on 2Samuel 3 to be of interest:

"God's choice (v. 18): *"The Lord hath spoken of David.* Compare v. 9. When God appointed Samuel to anoint him he did, in effect, promise that by his hand he would save Israel; for that end he was made king. God having promised, by David's hand, to save Israel, it is both your duty, in compliance with God's will, and your interest, in order to your victories over your enemies, to submit to him; and it is the greatest folly in the world to oppose him." Who would have expected such reasonings as these out of Abner's mouth? But thus God will make the enemies of his people to know and own *that he has loved them*, Rev. 3:9. He particularly applied to the men of Benjamin, those of his own tribe, on whom he had the greatest influence, and whom he had drawn in to appear for the house of Saul. He was the man that had deceived them, and therefore he was concerned to undeceive them. Thus the multitude are as they are managed. V. David concludes the treaty with Abner".

Contacts with Hoeh

In addition to letters, a number of phone conversations were held with him.

In a particular phone call that I recall rather vividly (around April 1996), he 'opened up' to me and told me some interesting things which I thought would be appropriate at this time to pass on: he said that I should be an example and a witness to those going off the doctrinal track. No doubt he had told others to do so similarly – this duty rests with all of us.

I got talking about the 'Friends of the Sabbath' seminar that was being held in Australia later that year to build bridges between CoG groups and to 'flag' the Sabbath as a sign to others. This was the first ever inter-sabbatarian conference held in Australia and although the internal opposition and politics were both disgusting and carnal, it was a tremendous success.

Anyway, Hoeh was fascinated by the concept and was rather excited and animated by it. He was certainly supportive and said 'bless you', 'bless you' on a number of occasions as I told him about it. Lesser ones, not accomplished like him and just wanting to criticise and be jealous did all they could to destroy someone's good works. Yet Hoeh was completely different - he was positive and uplifting. He kept on asking me questions about it and really was enthusiastic about building bridges between Church of God folk. In fact he stated categorically that all of God's Children should be cooperating with each other.

In one conversation we discussed the takeover of the Church. He said that these men were "going into destruction". He used a lot of very strong language against them. I was rather taken aback and wondered if something hadn't happened recently for him to be so strident in his comments. He opened up to me and named names etc.

On another occasion I asked him of his thoughts on the various groups that broke from WCG. First of all I mentioned the 'loyal opposition' that eventually, in the main, became the UCG. He said that there are 'more than two camps' in the WCG (loyal opposition and apostate) which meant that there was a third, still within WCG, apparently still keeping to the Truth. I doubt if there are too many left now. Most true believers have joined other groups, but some are still there, enduring until they are forced out and realising that they should join with other groups to undertake a Work.

He quickly added that he would not be joining any of them – because the spirit of competition and jealousy was just too rampant among them and he did not wish to be part of that.

Readers may also be interested to learn that magazine on the modern location of the nations listed in Genesis 10 and 49 was published by History Research Projects, titled 'Origin of Nations' (all editions may be found at www.originofnations.org and are available downloading for free). Hoeh subscribed to it and was very supportive – he told me that he was telling other members about it. He did warn me that a certain Worldwide Church of God executive was going around condemning it. Yet Hoeh said he would continue to help the distribution of it quietly. He said he would also write articles for it - but none arrived - I can only assume that he was pre-occupied by other important tasks at hand. Nevertheless, the lines of communication between us remained open and he continued his subscription to the magazine which he said he enjoyed and had on his desk.

The magazine is no longer being published (the mailing list was transferred to Yair Davidy - I felt that there was no point in duplicating efforts and that his magazine was a better alternative).

In 1986 when a jealous minister hounded me non-stop after he heard through the grapevine that I was attempting to get my book published, I rang Dr Hoeh. He was not in, but Carol Miller rang back on his behalf and said that the book was fine to be published etc. The persecutors changed tack and tried other means to hound me – it was always the same story – if they cannot get something on you, they will try another tack. It is all in my diary in great detail. This reminds me of 3John 1:8-11:

"We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth. I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. [this sounds so familiar]

Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth *them* out of the church.

Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God."

I still recall one particularly interesting phone conversation - we spoke about the Laodicean period and I wondered if the Messianics/Hebrew Roots groups now emerging could be among the next Sabbatarian wave. He gave the distinct impression that he agreed and said that 'fantastic things are happening in Protestantism'. I think he was referring to the huge interest being taken in the Law, Old Testament, Sabbath and Holy Days by Protestant researchers (I call them the 'school of theonomy'). Some conservative Protestants are seriously keeping these days privately.

Over time myths grew up around him like anyone who is pro-active and zealous. These untruths include: he was 'into' Buddhism (in fact, he was interested in their historical records about Christ that were extant in Tibet until just after WW2 but disappeared after it); that he owned ranches and was rich (but he and his wife lived a humble and contrite life); that he accepted the changes and the Trinity - no way!

For instance, those that have read the January 2005 Worldwide News tribute to him would have read the false claim that Hoeh was teaching the Trinity. Why they persist with this lie is beyond me. I know what he taught and spoke with him about it and it was not the Trinity at all.

Buddhist links?

Over the years, Dr Hoeh has been accused of mixing too much with Buddhists and all sorts of other weird and untrue things have been said about him (and others I might add) all over the place.

Actually, the truth is as follows:

The reason why Dr Hoeh had some friendship with them, is similar to the prophets of old having liaison with leaders; or Christ with non-believers - as a witness. In addition, Buddhists told Dr Hoeh that their ancient documents kept in Tibet provided historical records of the death of Christ. Their emissaries learned of His death and relayed the information back to Tibet where this was recorded. This would provide some fascinating information - who knows what it would reveal?

Alas, due to the Communist takeover of Tibet, many ancient documents were either destroyed or disappeared and Dr Hoeh kept in touch with them in the hope that if and when these documents were found, he might be in a position to view them.

The above is the best I recall from a Church of God member who spoke to Dr Hoeh in September 2004 and related this information to me. (I saw a TV programme on Discovery Channel in Australia about a certain Buddhist group which documents were destroyed by the Communists in Tibet and I wonder if that is the same group.) So, instead of having an interest in Buddhism, he was actually a kind of spiritual Indiana Jones, undertaking research and seeking information!

Buddhists told Dr Hoeh that their ancient documents kept in Tibet provided historical records of the death of Christ. Their emissaries learned of His death and relayed the information back to Tibet where this was recorded. This would provide some fascinating information - who knows what it would

reveal? Alas, due to the Communist takeover of Tibet, many ancient documents were either destroyed or disappeared (hopefully scurried away out of the country).

Monks in the Wat Thai (Thai Temple) in Los Angeles were friendly with him and even commemorated the fifth anniversary of the death of Herbert W Armstrong on 16 January 1991. Hoeh also visited with Buddhists in Thailand.

When Dr Hoeh died the local Thai Buddhist community attended his funeral. Several monks paid a tribute to him during the service by saying a few words and doing a chant. The stories all echo the same thing, how people were encouraged by him and his examples of service and humility.

It is my understanding that on learning of Jesus and his life, many Buddhist monks and thinkers have identified him as a bodhisattva (in Buddhism a bodhisattva is one who has achieved enlightenment but puts off leaving the plane of illusions, puts off entering into Nirvana in order to help fellow beings.) For Buddhists this is the greatest form of compassion and they see in Jesus' life and death an act of compassion. Like the compassion Gautama taught, Jesus' is non-attached. That is, it is directed towards all beings, not just those close to one. This is the Buddhist interpretation of the story of Jesus which they considered to be similar to Gautama's experiences.

In the end, Hoeh died humble and contrite helping the elderly and those who were reproducing old WCG materials. He was not a wealthy man owning a whole lot of properties that some allege.

Finally, you can download a lot of his research at <http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/~surfer/HL%20Hoeh/> and audio sermons at <http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/~surfer/HL%20Hoeh%20sermons/> It is of utmost important that this information be preserved.

If the reader has any other papers or sermons by him, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can endeavour to both preserve them and make them freely available to others.

I trust that the above is of interest. I am sure that others of you have much more information about this great pioneer. If so, do e-mail me.

[THE ITEM BELOW COULD BE BOXED]

Letter to Herman Hoeh

In my letter dated 10 Sept 2003 I stated my concerns to Dr Hoeh

"that your revised Compendium and other research you have undertaken over the years (eg on the Hebrew Calendar, time of the Crucifixion, prophecy etc) may not ever be published or distributed. So, I was wondering if you have any plans for publishing or distributing your research at all.

I recall Garth Wardrop years ago, and am still trying to find his books that were supposed to be published after he died about 1988, to no avail. Another contact of mine also died with his research becoming lost." [btw I wrote similarly to Raymond F McNair on 3 October 2003 of my concerns "that your book and other research you have undertaken over the years may not ever be published or distributed.

So, I was wondering if you have any plans for publishing or distributing your research at all.

I recall Garth Wardrop years ago, and am still trying to find his books that were supposed to be published after he died about 1988, to no avail. Another contact of mine also died with his research becoming lost."

Mr McNair subsequently gave me the go-ahead to have his book typed. Some time prior to that a friend very kindly scanned his entire manuscript. I was able to garner the assistance of many fine Christians to type it up into Word and it is nearing completion].

In a telephone conversations with me, Hoeh said that his revised Compendium and other works would 'very definitely' be published. I was loathe to ask if that would be soon or post-humously because I didn't have a good feeling about it. I could only assume that his family would preserve his library as a single unit and arrange publication of his works, papers and notes either in book form or via the internet. It is said that his library contained 8,000 works (almost half were destroyed by termites. Some books were given to friends; UCG bought about 200 of the collection and the rest, including very valuable works were sold).

I recall back in about 1977 that Triumph Publishers were to publish Dr Hoeh's revised Compendium as well as Mr McNair's thesis on 'Key to Northwest European Origins' under the title of 'In Search of ... the lost 10 tribes of Israel'. I don't know if Triumph was sent the manuscripts or not, but they were certainly getting ready to publish these works.

The original edition of my book was titled "Lost Races of the Ancient World - discovered at last!" In fact, the contract was signed in 1984 or 1985 and Dr Hoeh personally approved of the book after reviewing it although he had little input into its contents. (My schooling forces me to write and reference in a different way to him.) That did not stop the heated jealousy of one minister doing all he could to attempt to drive me out of the Church due to the book! What happened was that a deacon from my church area happened to travel interstate and bump into my typist. She mentioned the book to him which commenced a fury and jealousy that was almost beyond belief (my diary is full of the amazing details). Frightened members came to me to reveal the incredible intrigue and list of accusations being spread and spread - all because of a book.

When the minister called me in and berated and brow-beat me for a long time, I then showed him the letter from Dr Hoeh. He then backed down, but within weeks commenced a horrible campaign against me.

In any event, in 1998 Dr Hoeh told me that he had further evidence for the Assyrian origin of the Germans which he would send me - alas, this information never arrived. He also had further proofs for a Wednesday crucifixion and other information he said he would send to me amongst other things. No doubt this information is among his former collection.

Recently I found a typed notice that I inserted into this collection of papers which is dated as 8 May 1979. In summary I stated that Hoeh had revised his Compendium etc.

In early 2003 I sent the following e-mail to a Church of God forum:

"surfer1" <surfer1@t...> wrote:

Have spoken, corresponded, compared the old Compendium with what he later wrote, preached or stated. So, have an idea where he was at. He told me a few years ago that his works will "very definitely" be published.

Me thinks that won't be until after he dies the rate things are going. I know people who wrote works only to die and the works never finding their way into the right hands.

That is why I am anxious to get my work published asap and let others build upon it if they so wish. A copy of the files are with Richard Nickels who has been given the right to publish the book 'should anything happen to me'. Doesn't look likely that anything would 'happen', but one never knows and we have to be wise. The book is about to be published, so there are now 9 great books that have just been

published or are about to be by various authors. God will 'raise up these stones' if the CoGs won't publish or preach on certain subjects.

I received the following response:

"From: ibbblank <Ibbblank@y... [mailto:Ibbblank@y...] Sent: Friday, January 24, 2003 12:51 AM>
Subject: Re: Are The Germans Assyrians and Compendium

Hi Craig –

That is quite interesting. So, you have obviously spoken with him on this?"

My response:

"Hoeh withdrew volume 1 (the chronology, especially of Egypt, was too Velikovskian apparently - he eschewed most, but not all of vol 1).

Vol 2 is mainly still accepted by him. He had a new version ready to be published in 1977/78 by Triumph Publishers. McNair's book on "In Search of the Lost 10 Tribes" was also going to be published back in those days by Triumph. Alas, they never saw the light of day. Craig"

[THE ITEM BELOW COULD BE BOXED]

Latest Research

To assist those who would like to know a little more about Hoeh's Compendium, I quote the following letter from him to a WCG member and which I personally saw and copied (this is all verified by those that have spoken with Hoeh):

"Dear Dr Hoeh,

I heard recently that you have rewritten The Compendium of World History and that it is available in book stores. If this is so could you please let me have some information, so that I could purchase a copy.

Yours sincerely,

(dated 16 April 1982)"

Dr Hoeh's response:

"Dear Mr (name withheld),

Your information is erroneous [re the availability in book stores]. I have edited some areas needing corrections - Egypt, Mesopotamia, Early Assyria, Hittites, archaeology, geology and the latter half of Exodus route (beginning after Sinai) [this would amend most of vol. I - Craig]. The Church at this moment has limited interest in understanding these matters so I am correcting only what is necessary for the Plain Truth, etc, as in Keith Stump's reference in the GN to the Israelites in slavery - Exodus 1443; Thutmose III beginning 1504; Flood 2325-2324; crossing Jordan 1403; Solomon 968-928.

Herman L. Hoeh"

You will find this revised thinking in the following articles:

Stump, K (1988) "Pharaohs of the time of the Exodus", GN, March-April

Stavriniades, K (1986) "The Home of Abraham", GN, June-July

Stump, K (1980) " The Stones Cry Out", GN, Dec

Stump, K (1982) " As Passover Approaches ... a New look at slavery in ancient Egypt", GN, March

Hoeh, HL (1979) "The Revelations of Archaeology", GN, April

Hoeh, HL (1980) "A New look at Ezekiel's Prophecy on Tyre", GN, Dec

Hoeh, HL (1987) "A Sealed Prophecy", GN, Nov-Dec.

See also comments by Hoeh contained in the 19.1.86 Coworker Letter; some changes in the "Crucifixion was not on Friday"; some minor changes in "The US & Britain in Prophecy".

He who knows only his own generation [i.e., one without a knowledge of history] remains forever a child." -- Marcus Tullius Cicero

"In a world of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act." -- George Orwell