

Letter to The Journal re Dr Hoeh, Dec 2004

A great loss

SYDNEY, Australia--Dr. Hoeh's unexpected death was a great loss to his family and to the Church of God.

We know that he was faithful to the end and supportive of the truth throughout his life. For me he was special, and I greatly appreciated his spiritual approach, capacity and research.

I was impressed by his humility. Many are not aware that a number of truths came via him to Herbert W. Armstrong, truths that became part of the church's belief system.

Yet at no time did he exhibit ambition. I found this quality so admirable. His insights and bringing together information that enriched our biblical understanding were terrific.

As the Scriptures indicate, knowledge shall increase in the end time (Daniel 12:4). This is often accomplished by building on the understanding, knowledge and research of predecessors. Not only is raw knowledge increased, but so is qualitative value added to doctrine with deeper and more meaningful insights. This was a part of his capacity and the heritage he has left behind.

It was about 30 years ago that, as a school kid, I attempted to research the biblical origin of nations. Also, Noah's Flood, various laws, cremation, divorce and remarriage and many other topics were often discussed in my extended family because of our religious roots, thus leading to serious reading and debate.

But it was only about two years later that I began to make some progress in this research, given the basic information contained in Herman Hoeh's 1957 article "Truth About the Race Question." That basic framework was helpful in my further studies into the subject.

In letters and phone calls with him over the years, he came across as a kindly man, willing to listen and be helpful. His reputation as a peacemaker and avoider of confrontation was well known.

In 1996, for instance, he was very supportive of the Friends of the Sabbath conference held in Sydney and was rather excited by the whole concept. I shall never forget my conversations with him and the moral support he gave me on this and a number of other issues.

He will be sorely missed by thousands of Church of God folk. Yet we shall continue to maintain the approach and ongoing research of both him and Herbert Armstrong for as long as we live.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family as well as those who look forward to his research continuing in some form. *Craig White.*