The Final Years of Herbert W Armstrong

Assembled by C M White
Version 1.8

"A nation [read Church] can survive its fools and even the ambitious [and there are plenty of those again]. But it cannot survive treason from within [like those who water-down the truth]. **An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and he carries his banners openly**. But the traitor [like a leader who pretends to be a shepherd] moves among those within the gate freely, his **sly** whispers rustling through all the alleys, **heard in the very halls of government itself.** For the traitor appears not traitor! He speaks in the accent familiar to his victims and he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men. He rots the soul of a nation [or Church]. He works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of a city; **He infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to be feared**".(Marcus Cicero, Roman statesman, 42 BC)

The Final Years of Herbert W Armstrong

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Our purpose and desire is to foster Biblical, historical and related studies that strengthen the Church of God's message & mission and provides further support to its traditional doctrinal positions.

Introductory Remarks

The below is merely a collection of information with little commentary – I just let the facts speak for themselves.

What Herbert W Armstrong wrote below is 'almost prophetic' as God did cut time shorter from the 10 years calculated from 1977 that HWA needed to complete his phase of the Work which would have made this February 1987. HWA died about 13 months short of this. So time was cut short for HWA, but not for the Work which still carries on to this day and until Christ's return. Even if in a diminished fashion, it must go on …

> "My left ankle received a serious sprain in three months ago, after speaking to a packed auditorium in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. A sprain, as I have learned, is worse than a break. It seems to me mostly healed by now but is still far from being back to normal. I have had to learn to walk all over again, and still am a bit unsteady. But God is with me, and I NEED YOUR PRAYERS! **I have at least 10 more years of vigorous active work needed to finish the Work that God has committed to me-or LESS, if God cuts time shorter, which is most likely!**" ("Personal from Herbert W. Armstrong (Bucharest, Rumania 22 Feb 1977)," *The Bulletin*, 1 March 1977, page 41). [emphasis mine]

Perhaps I am being a bit too speculative in my comments above, but it sure makes one wonder.

Also, Raymond McNair recorded the following in his *Ministerial Conference Notes* for 17 January 1972:

> "Originally, the Methodist movement was very fervent - but after Wesley died, this fervency died out. **This type of situation could be repeated with us if we are not careful.** False prophets will rise up from our midst and will come in from the outside. We need to be serious, sober, grave - realize our serious responsibilities." [emphasis mine]

From the context of his notes he is either quoting from Herbert Armstrong or Rod Meredith. Either way, that is an almost prophetic statement almost 14 (2x7) years prior to the death of Mr Armstrong.

Associated reading: *Lists and Charts of the Early Years of the Ministry of Herbert W Armstrong*.

The Final Year in Table Form

Date	Event	Comment/Source
1985		
16 May	"My new book *Mystery of the Ages* is now in the hands of the printers. I finished the very last of writing it in Jerusalem day before yesterday."	*Coworker Letter*, 16 May.
12 Sept	*Mystery of the Ages* published and distributed to AC students and later the membership and public	*Coworker Letter*, 12 Sept. Some regard this as his crowning achievement of all the books he wrote.
16 Sept	HWA's final sermon on the Feast of Trumpets	"And there are those that are just waiting for me to die; and, like buzzards, they would like to come and gobble up all you people, and tell you that no one else is fit to lead you but them. And they look to human charisma, someone who has a certain personality, someone who's a good entertainer; but God looks on the heart. Don't forget it, brethren. People are always fooled by human personality, and the charisma that attracts them right to someone. That must never happen in this Church. And I am going to do all I can to stay alive and prevent it happening as long as I can." [I have no idea who he might have been referring to]
	Tkach begged him to take over for weeks	HWA considered others such as Ellis LaRavia and Aaron Dean [who were the others?]. Hoeh and Rod Meredith never considered for the job. I fact Hoeh mentioned publicly that he didn't want it and told HWA. Around the traps it is said that Leroy Neff was considered the most likely to have succeeded HWA if the Council of Elders were to elect the successor.
23 Dec	HWA wrote to the membership and coworkers advising them of his decline. He did not appear in public for months.	"Until the present moment I felt that God might provide a way for complete recovery, and he still may. So I have withheld this statement until now, but I feel it is better that you all know the condition. I am now in my 94th year. God may grant that I continue in this very limited manner to direct the work for some time, but the occasional severe heart pains that I have endured have made me feel the necessity of letting our co-workers know of the condition as it is."
1986		

Date	Event	Comment/Source
9 Jan?	Signed papers to hand over the WCG etc to Tkach	Hoeh was assigned to show Tkach the ropes according to someone who went to the funeral (I rang him on 20 Jan 1986, Aus time).
10 Jan?	COE listened in to the transfer and HWA laying hands on Tkach	Apparently this was via phone hook-up. Witnesses in the room were probably Aaron Dean and a solicitor. Was it recorded?
15 Jan	Fell into unconsciousness	
16 Jan	Died	Died on his wife's favourite chair. This was 6 Shebat on the calculated Hebrew Calendar.
19 Jan	Funeral conducted by Herman L Hoeh	At the Mountain View Cemetery, Altadena, California.

Further information about the HWA's final days, choice of a successor and the role of the Council of Elders have been written by Aaron Dean (HWA's Personal Assistant for years and Leroy Neff, the WCG's Treasurer). What Aaron Dean wrote are public record and that by Leroy Neff are not anything that can be regarded as confidential, but helpful.

NB: Emphasis mine throughout the information below. All items below were interactions between others in public forums and six with me.

Additional Information and Proofs

Aaron Dean on www.acpasadenareunion.com/ 11 Feb 2018

"**Tkach asked me to lie for him the first week after HWA's death**. I refused - so you don't have to if you don't choose to…
… only Dr. Hoeh was still in WCG at his [Tkach's] death. **He [HWA] went through several men the last nine months of his life searching for a successor but after choosing one he then changed his mind every few weeks**. He had a stroke in late May or early June of 1985 and couldn't even talk. The doctor said it was over and he would die, but the next day he came totally out of it and the first thing he did was change who should be over the church at his death. He died Jan 16, 1986. It's a longer story, but I don't have time now…
As to JWT being a solid man, when he got the job he basically let others run the work. He watched TV in his office most of the day and late into the night watching wrestling. I was indeed his aid (or one of them as he brought his staff up - a promise he would not do) for a few months before going over to the foundations then the college.
You can verify with Greg Albrecht and others should you wish. I liked JWT as he came over to my house a lot when HWA was alive, but he was never really a pastor general, and like I said earlier, a follower not a leader. He let others run him.
==========

Big Sandy Main Message Forum, 2 Feb 2018

I became HWA's aide and VP for the last 5 years and member of the Council of Elders (ACE at the time) but kept a low profile seeing others rise and fall with position often going to one's head. So I worked with HWA for the last 12 years of his life, and **HWA made me promise to be Mr. Tkach's aid after I talked him out of making me Pastor General right before he named JWT. He made a number of promises to HWA, all of which he broke over the next few years.**

It was awkward for him and me both as HWA made me promise to "tell JWT when he is wrong". I said 'you are asking me to tell my future boss when he makes a mistake?" He responded, "You did me". I had been very honest with him as I saw what the many lies or misinformation had done to him and the church. I kept this promise till JWT's death...again awkward for us both. I told him I wouldn't lie for him and finally in frustration he said "why don't you just say you didn't spend that much time with HWA". I had to laugh.

Anyway, I do read a lot of the forum messages when I have time since I am on all 3 forums (Pasadena, BS, BW). I believe people are very sincere in what they believe, and perception is indeed reality for them and often reinforced by others with the same perception. As xxxx said, I was 'in the room' for many years and set up some of the meetings with heads of state and ran some of the very budgets discussed in some comments. So many things said are simply factually wrong. It comes from a void of info and sincere speculation and often because some wanted people to believe certain things while others just create something that seems a logical ending to fill the void and create a reason.

Interesting in this context is the book **"Against the Gates of Hell" mentioned on this forum. SRR didn't even write it. It was ghost written for him since at the time he had been made an Evangelist (a mistake HWA realized later) and was deliberately trying to soften his image for future aggrandizement**. I was interviewed by the author since I was at the center of the Receivership and no way SRR could say what happened there. The appendix are very true as court transcripts, but much of the rest is a play to make certain people look good or bad. Some used for political purposes later.

Other examples are things I read are about HWA changing D&R so he could marry Ramona. My first trip in May June '74 took me all over Europe and the Middle East. It was supposed to be 3 weeks, but 6 weeks later I had to fly back from Paris to get married to Michelle. Anyway, Ramona had become Gotoh's secretary doing set up for him. She had to bring him something and we were in Madrid. She couldn't get a flight to Paris (our next stop) so Gotoh asked SRR if she could fly with us. HWA saw her on the plane, and asked "Who is the lady flying with us." I gave him her name, and he said, "Didn't she used to be the PBX operator at the switchboard in the 1960's whose husband had left her with a baby?" At that point he went back to talk to her and became attracted, mostly because he had been kept away from almost anyone since his wife died and he was travelling all the time. (The G-2 logs show we were out of the country 312 days in 1975 - with other years being close)

Anyway, since the D & R decision was done in April '74 during my senior year, and HWA's contact with Ramona began in June of '74 the decision was not made for him to marry her or anyone else. He hadn't even considered it till a year or so later after getting to know Ramona. (He also realized later that this was a mistake - but he was very lonely since Loma's death.)

There are so many things as to events, money and motive that are simply perceptions. SRR got rich on the church while HWA left everything to the church.
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Posting from 2 Feb 2018

HWA had told me during his illness that after he died "the church would quit keeping the Sabbath, the income would drop, the foundation and college would close, but the church would go on".
Since JWT was over church administration he was in the hat to be in named as successor. **Even HWA knew JWT was the least qualified, but the Council was to decide all doctrine issues instead of one man, to hold the church steady. Of course JWT took ownership of all this a bit later (with SRR's help interestingly - remember SRR made sort of a hero of JWT in his book).** He did this after I was removed from the Council and JWT had the men on the Council sign away their control - something I would not have done and others should not have - but we were hierarchical and it happened.
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Posting from 11 Feb 2018

HWA did care about people, and when I told him of some of the things members had gone through (sometimes at the hands of ministers) he was very upset. I was quite open with him as his aid the last 5 years of his life as to many of the mistakes. Yes, he had lost a rudder when Loma died and was often misled. I suppose in some ways I acted as his rudder the later years. Yes, some things he didn't like to hear. It was interesting when naming JWT, he made him promise to have me as his aid. (Although I said I didn't want it and tried to talk him out of it - and yes I can comment the why of his choice and transition). This was when he made me promise to "tell JWT when he is wrong" (directly in front of JWT). I responded "you are asking me to tell my future boss when he is wrong." He responded "you did me." I considered this a compliment as I was always honest with him as I saw what incomplete information (or lies in some cases) had done to many in the church and college - including myself and some of you…
People do things right and wrong. The Bible is full of men of God who made mistakes. It was those stories - good and bad - that taught me how to be HWA's aide. I didn't want the job, and turned him down 3 weeks in a row, until he finally said "I am not asking you, I am telling you". At that point I did a complete study on the servants of men in the bible when I became his aid as I already knew from 7 years on the jet, 12 years in Imperial with the evangelists' kids, and 4 years at AC the various personalities I would have to negotiate to parallel how the biblical characters handled it. (Why I turned him down - without God's help you wouldn't survive.) I pass no judgment on how God will judge them, and hope they are shown mercy just like the rest of us. I get it when I discuss nearly anyone in our

recent history, as all of them have their supporters who do not wish to hear anything they assume is negative (therefore untrue) yet applaud anything positive (therefore true).

It is sad, as scripture tells us "these are examples for you" to grow in understanding, grace and knowledge. Most of these men have taught me things in one way or another that help me to be more like Christ.
==========

11 Feb 2018

For example, because of what he said about 'this worlds colleges' after a question about 'where to go to college' he got from teens at SEP camp, he "couldn't recommend any college except AC". He didn't understand how colleges work as his study of colleges was back in the early part of the century. He didn't even realize you could stay at home and commute to college. In his day you 'went to' colleges, joined fraternities and sororities, and often came out an atheist. That he didn't want.
Some Australian teens dropped out of school based on this (because of some ministers there 'supporting' HWA), and when they applied to college they couldn't be accepted because they didn't graduate and have transcripts. HWA was upset (and sad) when I told him this and his comment, "Don't the ministers have any balance". I reminded him of what he said, and how he said it, at camp. Some ministers did and some didn't.
He was all for education - one of the 7 laws of success. I later wrote an article in the WWN the year before he died about going to other colleges and encouraging those who wanted degrees in fields that AC didn't teach (engineering, math, computers and sciences) to go elsewhere.
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Posted by: "AARON DEAN" on ElijahForum
Mon Jul 31, 2006 11:08 am (PST)

In 1980 HWA created the ACE (advisory council of Elders as it was known then) with the authority to name a successor should he die. He realized SRR had people all around him and feared that they would all say "HWA wanted ...." This was made obvious in the Philippines when they kept him up till 2 in the morning arguing against what I had told him. He felt they were trying to kill him then, and I was the only one on the trip versus 8 on the other side. Immediately after this trip I was told to leave town immediately since my life had been threatened and HWA didn't want me harmed since I was the only one telling him what was going on. He exiled me to give them the appearance he was going along with their lies while he secretly met in a hotel room to set up ACE. It had nothing to do with the doctrines at the time, and obviously since I was jumping motels every night all around California I wasn't involved with the set up.

ACE remained after SRR was gone. HWA did not change the documents, but by naming his own successor, eliminated the council from picking. His deciding to pick was mostly because he feared RCM would be able to talk other members into appointing him in the chief seat, something he consistently stated was not where RCM should be. (interesting that those HWA named did go with RCM)

JWT did promise HWA he would not change doctrines without council approval. It was verbal (something God must have wanted to allow the apostacy) and not written. There is talk of the council relinquishing power to JWT at his request, but I don't know of that. I was removed from the council within a couple months of HWA's death for keeping my promise to HWA to point out any errors JWT was making. I did it respectfully, but JWT was not as receptive as HWA

JWT then put David Hulme went on the WCG council. He and others stayed on the ACE since none stood up along the way till it affected them personally, or better opportunities came along. Note I don't fault people for standing up, and trying to hold fast to truth. I wish they had done so all along the way and were a little more honest about how, when and why they did it.

There are problems with all forms of government when it is man ruling, even when it is a God appointed leader. I fear (and pray) for the self appointed ones around today. Yes, UCG's council probably is closest to what HWA envisioned as to doctrinal discussion without a God appointed leader, but he did feel someone had to be in charge, and so any council would have appointed a leader. The problem is waiting for God to make known the appointment.

Aaron
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From Aaron Dean
http://www.acpasadenareunion.com/class_profile.cfm?member

Out of respect for my friend James Tabor's request that I commented on HWA's last day, I write this post. Although he died on January 16, his last day was really January 15 as he went into a coma late in the afternoon and did not regained consciousness. I was the last to talk to him as he was very weak and could only speak in a whisper.

There are all sorts of made up stories about his death. Some saying he was murdered and that there was a guard outside the room that heard an argument the night before and some muffled sounds and the next morning he was dead. None of this was true of course, although they stated that it was verified by a guard that said he didn't die in his wife's favorite chair but in bed.

Because of these accusations I had to do a deposition for the district attorney to refute these charges . He did die in the chair but the doctor told us to move him to the bed before rigor mortis set in and force the mortician to break his legs to put him in the coffin.

It was a sad day and got even worse as the weeks progress. Tkach began breaking every promise he made to HWA beginning the day he died. Having made me make a promise to tell Mr. Tkach when he was wrong. I spent the next few years watching him fabricate things HWA "told" him as he dismantled the church, or better put, let those around him tear it down. I was always in the room and knew all the promises made for the transition. I did what I promised, but it made no

difference. **A year before Tkach died he was challenged for letting the staff change doctrines, when he spoke up and said "no I did this. I believed this back in the 70s." I spoke up and said you told Mr. Armstrong you believed what was being taught, and now you say you didn't. Are you lying now or did you lie to him then." He dismissed the meeting and left.**

I loved teaching at Ambassador, and was sad when **it closed in 1997 in it's Jubilee year.** But HWA always said if it wasn't God's college it would close. By the time it closed it wasn't God's college as HWA would see it. Whether it was or not each of you will have your own opinions. It Produced incredible friendships and gave us a broad perspective on the world with opportunities beyond what any other institution I know of has done in regards to relationship. This forum is witness to that.

Personally, having known HWA since the time I was 4, with 12 years of Imperial on 2 campuses and AC on 2 as well, then with him from graduation in 74 to his death in 86, I witnessed more 1st hand of his later years than anyone. I still respect the education he gave me. (I will try to write about Imperial later, having enjoyed others perspective) In spite of any faults, HWA was dynamic and his heart was on the kingdom to come. Events in the world now make the end of man's civilization seem even closer. **Most here will probably die before we see the "end of the story".**

With malice toward none.
Respectfully, Aaron
==========

From: AARON DEAN on ElijahForum
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2009, 5:33 PM

Hi All,

HWA wrote this right after setting up the ACE (Advisory Council of Elders) and had it published so if he died those around him on his death bed couldn't say his last wish was for SRR to be in charge. He was afraid of this. He actually let SRR think he was winning the battle while he had set up ACE in motel rooms away from his home when Mel Olinger would take him for his "afternoon drive". In printing this it totally closed the door on SRR who never returned.

Later he felt that certain men on ACE would try to take over, and might succeed by lobbying others on ACE, so he felt he had to name a successor. I argued that God would have to tell him who. I realized later (after having a stroke - coming out of it totally - and naming someone else) that God was going to let him die on the person he wanted, for his reasons. It seems he wanted to test the church by letting JWT change the doctrines and then sort the wheat from the chaff.

Apparently late in 1986 JWT did get ACE to remove their ability to remove him, but I had already been removed and replaced by David Hulme by then for challenging changes JWT began to make the day HWA died. So I wasn't involved in any capitulation of this duty.

This is all a long story, but I thought I would give a very brief statement here.

Happy feast to all.

Aaron
==========

Re: THE END
Posted by: "AARON DEAN" on ElijahForum
Wed Dec 12, 2007 6:03 am (PST)
Hi xxxx,

HWA did believe half the church would leave...it wasn't just a comment from the pulpit. He also said that people would quit keeping the Sabbath, that income would drop, and that the colleges would probably have to close. (one of the reasons why he went ahead and announced the close of big Sandy before he died - but JWT changed it and kept it open.)

Aaron
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From: AARON DEAN
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2002 6:06 AM
To: Surfer1(TPG)
Subject: Re: 2 Different sets of 18 truths

It is interesting...and yes the Tkach's did want to change some things and "soften" them with the other churches. It is obvious - although I bet this was done by Feazel at this early stage.

I remember HWA's sermon. The list was something JWT had done in a refresher program, and used it to "flatter" HWA. It wasn't a planned thing, or all encompassing. There could have been more things added...or some split in 2 (ie 2T, 3T). The number has gotten a life of its own, which was unintentional by HWA. It is interesting that JWT compiled it...and later changed it...

Aaron
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From: surfer1
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2002 2:26 AM
To: Aaron Dean
Subject: 2 Different sets of 18 truths

Aaron,

I wonder if you could verify the situation that the 1983 18 truths and those
of 1986 are different please?

Craig
==========

From: Leroy Neff wrote to C White
Sent: 09 May 2006 01:04
To: surfer11
Subject: Re: By laws

Actually there is little I can contribute to the subject. I was a member of the Advisory Council of Elders from it's beginning in 1981 to the spring of 1995.

We were an advisory, not a governing council. We were appointed by the Pastor General, and could be removed by him. The meetings could only be called by the PG. **While we were members of this council we also were board members of the Church.**

I do not wish to share or distribute what few legal document copies I have. The articles of incorporation and by laws, are a matter of public record in the state of California.

There were by-laws of the corporation, however I do not believe there were by-laws for the board. I do not remember that there were any major changes between the Advisory Council of Elders documents for HWA and JWT.

JWT had very few meetings of the council and those were for legal matters, not doctrine.
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Posted by: "AARON DEAN" ElijahForum
Tue Sep 8, 2009 3:11 pm (PDT)

Hi again,

Guess I should clarify. SRR never returned to work for HWA. **HWA wanted his contract ended and JWT promised he would end it. However, JWT did renew SRR's contract about the time all the land got deeded over to control by JWT. He was kept on 'discretionary assistance' as someone 'needy' till he died.**

He was a millionaire, I would hardly call him needy. So why....I will leave that for you to figure.

Aaron
ps. It is interesting that none of the people HWA visited during the 80's asked about SRR. They liked HWA, but not him.
==========

Leroy Neff wrote to C White
Tue 8/03/2005 1:20 AM

Which list do you want? I doubt you will ever find them. **HWA gave everything to WCG in his will**. All his papers including even single sheets or scraps of information was reviewed and anything of value was entered into a computer program data base. This was done within a year or a little more after his death. Each document was filed by number in the archives. It seemed he never threw away any information on paper.

I have no idea what they have done with the computer files or the actual papers in recent years. When I last heard a few years ago they still had the archives, I don't know about the computer file.

For a time they still displayed the fine gifts he received in display cabinets on the first floor of the Hall of Administration. I don't know if a list was made of these items or the items that were left in his office. After his death the type of items left in the office were changed to items of interest to the new occupant.
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Message, ElijahForum
From: xxxxxxxx
Date: Sat May 6, 2006 6:24pm(PDT)
Subject: Re: "The greatest work lies ahead"

Arron Dean,

Thank you for your reply, and answer to my question. I hope your wife isn't experiencing much pain from the accident, and that the car repairs are covered by insurance.

I know you lead a very busy lifestyle, and that having to answer lots of questions can become a burden for you... but having the true answers are a blessing for all of us!

Thank you,
xxxxxxx

In elijahforum, "AARON DEAN" wrote:

As to this letter. **I did write this last letter for HWA, obviously in HWA style**. (You can notice the style similarities with Mystery of the Ages.) I knew he needed to write something before he died, or people would be second guessing whether or not he really appointed Mr. Tkach. A letter written after he was dead would have less veracity and I would never write a letter under his name and let it go out without his approval. This was a special situation, as HWA did virtually all of his own writing, with some very limited exceptions. There was a need.

Lest any be confused, I did explain this to him, before reading it to him. He was weak, and it was a struggle. If he did not understand and approve it, I would not have let it go out. I wasn't sure he was understanding it, then toward the end he added two words...appropriate and in context, so I knew. Afterward, although very weak, he did have some interesting comments asking why I wrote some of what I did. I explained why, and he said ok. I have been fascinated by statements of people who have used this letter make comments as to "HWA's last wishes and intent" for the church. Also interesting were the things JWT wanted in the letter which I refused to put in - because of both content and style.

I will try to explain more later...but thought I should make a comment here to save too much interpretation...

Respectfully,
Aaron

From: "AARON DEAN"
Date: Sat Apr 29, 2006 7:18pm(PDT)
Subject: Re: Are You Negative toward Other Churches of God, or Are You Truly Christ-like?

Hi xxxxx,

Yes, I can help bring closure to this for you and others on the forum. I have answered it many times before over the last 20 years because of Bill Dankenbring's charge and his mysterious 'source' that JWT murdered HWA. There were several problems with his charges, and it took me several years to get the name of his "source" who has refused to come forth. Probably because people can gossip all they want, but stating something in a declaration would be Perjury.

The story (paraphrased short version for those who haven't read it) a security guard who was assigned to the house (someone finally, after years of asking, gave me the name - Tony something - I 'd have to look it up in old emails - but not relevant here) was outside his upstairs bedroom. He heard shouting with JWT and HWA who was going to fire JWT. There were muffled noises like someone yelling through pillow. The next morning HWA was dead. There were also comments about his body being moved from the chair to the bed and a supposed discrepancy (of a few minutes) of time of death.

1. HWA lost consciousness the afternoon before. He never regained consciousness through the night and stopped breathing the next morning. The nurses log book verified this. (The District Attorney, when Dankenbring's article came out had to investigate this and took depositions.)
2. The last 4 or 5 days of his life he was so weak, he couldn't talk above a whisper...and only in short sentences. I sat on the floor in front of him to read the bible to him, and looking up at him to hear what he was saying. If I had an important question, sometimes he would simply squeeze my hand to show he understood what I was saying, as he did when I read to him the last letter sent out under his name.
3. When he died, Bob Herrington the nurse called Dr. Ralph B Martin (HWA's doctor) so he would come and officially pronounce him dead. Since rigor mortis is pretty quick, he asked us to move the body from the chair to the bed so they wouldn't have to break his legs to put him in the coffin. His death time to Bob, was when he quit breathing, but the official time is when the Dr. pronounced him dead.
4. There was never a guard assigned to the house. (the one exception being New Years eve with the Rose parade crowd, and this was outside the house.) There was never one inside.

Ambassador security guards were called to the house when it was announced he was dead since it seemed news media and others might show up. There was a Tony who was a student guard, who was on duty the morning he died and was at the house with others when his body was taken in the hurst. None were inside before he died, but they could possibly have come into the room and seen his body on the bed. Since it was written that, "he died peacefully in his sleep in his wife Loma's favorite chair, he may have assumed something sinister when reading this letter later, if indeed he did come up to the room and see him lying on the bed and not sitting in the chair.

Like I asked another person who "had the goods" from a "guard who was a reliable source": If there was a guard assigned to the house, was he there 24\7? You would need a minimum of at least 4 fulltime people to cover the shifts (and this was a 20 hour student). Where are the other people who would have been on shifts? Was the whole department and the house staff in collusion? Find any guard assigned to the house, full time or student. It's impossible because there were none.

So there were no guards assigned to the home. Dr. Martin, Myrtle Horn, Bob Herrington, JWT, Rona Martin and I all testified that there were none. (We were the ones who came to the house, at least 4 of us are still alive.) Also, Jim Snook, head of security during those years also gave a deposition to verify he was not asked to, nor did he assign any guards to HWA's home, inside or out, during HWA's illness. (You can write him as he is still alive as well.) I believe Mark Hersh, the security duty scheduler, and the full time security guards were also asked.

Judge for yourself the veracity of the "reliable source" and the veracity of the various versions on the web.

Your question of "was I in the room at the moment of death" takes more than a simple answer. HWA's children were asking to see him. HWA didn't want to see them or have any type of 'death bed scene'. I had to abide by his wishes, but didn't want to hurt their feelings and didn't know how to tell them, and certainly didn't want any scene later at the viewing or the funeral, where they might yell at me for not bringing them in to see him. Had he died in the daytime it would have been very awkward.

I was the last person to have a conversation with him (If you can call it that being so weak) before he went unconscious in the afternoon. I stayed January 15, 1986 till well after midnight and talked to the nurse, Bob Herrington, about the situation. We knew he was going to die, and Dr. Martin had come and said to simply call him when it happens so he could make it official.

I had been sleeping at HWA's house on a small chiropractic table in his room for a few months. Knowing it was over, I told Bob I was going to go home and sit by the phone and when he dies, call me. That way I will have something to say to his family. I went home and sat by the phone, and got the call a couple hours later that said "he stopped breathing", and was there a few minutes later.

His family did ask why I didn't call, and I simply said, "I went home for the 1st time in months and he died". They didn't follow up with any questions, since they assumed that I wouldn't have left had I know he was going to die. That is what I intended, and it worked. With all this controversy, it may have been best that I stayed, but who could foresee these kinds of accusations, when the man was unconscious and a nurse was always in the room except when I was there. (The nurse could take a break while I was reading to him or writing for him.)

So Bob Herrington was there at his clinical death. Rona Martin (the maid/cook) was also there, but downstairs. JWT, Dr. Martin and myself were there shortly after his death. To me, I consider that for all practical purposes he died when he lost consciousness the day before when he and I exchanged our last few words together and he breathed his last conscious breath. But no, I was not present when he breathed his last breath while unconscious.

I am happy HWA could die peacefully, and that God's purpose for his church was done through his appointment of JWT. **It was painful to watch and go through, but the church is a spiritual body, and God sifted, and is sifting, the wheat and the chaff. I find it fascinating the way he did it**. God's way is incredibly revealing and certainly not the way we, nor HWA, would have planned it. **The fact that HWA made JWT promise verbally, instead of making him sign documents, allowed for the apostacy.** The fact that HWA refused to ordain him an Apostle and give the spiritual titles did not make a mockery of HWA or the truth of God when JWT allowed the apostacy.

There is only a small group of true Christians. For those who wish to ignore facts, they can choose the stories on the internet, or they can choose to believe the lies JWT Sr told of all these "things" HWA supposedly told him to do. Even years later when JWT would say, "Just last night I thought of something else HWA told me to do". These were all false, and I wrote or called him after each one since they were all designed to make it look like HWA was agreeing with him to get people to follow heresy. HWA made me promise to tell JWT when he was wrong. A difficult task at best, but I promised, and I did. As you can imagine, I was not too popular with his staff. We all have our own crosses to bear. May God's kingdom come soon.

Respectfully,
Aaron Dean

Message
From: xxxxx
Date: Sat Apr 29, 2006 4:26pm(PDT)
Subject: Re: Are You Negative toward Other Churches of God, or Are You Truly Christ-like?

Hello Mr. Dean

I have heard the same nonsense for years so to close the matter once and for all.

Were you in the room with Mr. Armstrong when he breathed his last breath and if so who else was there with you?

If you were not in the room when he breathed his last breath, who was in the room with him.

Just thinking about the questions and statements that have been going online for some time and felt that you would know the answer.

Thank you

xxxxxx

AARON DEAN wrote:
xxxxxx,

I am sorry you will not believe a first hand witness who was there, especially since a physical copy of the document in in my possession. I got my copy from a person in the legal office four years ago, who took it when he left WCG. When he heard me say the same thing I said below in a sermon, he came up and said he had a copy, and would send me one since I had mentioned I didn't have a copy since TKach took all my files. He copied it and sent it to me.

I had been saying this simply on memory for years and was finally given the evidence that should prove to anyone what I said was true. At least it would stand up in a court of law, but not to anyone who wants to rewrite history. Obviously you believe evidence produced from spurious sources. That is sad, but God allows anyone to believe what they wish.

I still have people write me that believe JWT murdered HWA, mostly because of Dankenbring's literature (if you can call it that). HWA's heart Dr, nurse an I all had to do depositions on that as well for the district attorney of California. I have always tried to tie my facts to physical items so that it is not simply my word. That is the best I can do. What people choose to believe, and why is their choice.

I am not sure what point you are trying to make by challenging this point. C'est la vie.

Aaron

ps. I believe I looked up this link a year or more ago. The info on Tkach was inaccurate then, and still is. Again it is your right to believe it. I think most on this forum know I spent the last 12 years of my life working directly with HWA, and 24 hours a day the last 9 months of his life. I only made the 3 minute walk home to change clothes. I was there....

From: xxxxxxxxx
To: elijahforum
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2006 5:22 PM
Subject: Re: [elijahforum] Re: Are You Negative toward Other Churches of God, or Are You Truly Christ-like?

What you have stated is not true according to the evidence I have

AARON DEAN wrote:

One point that might be helpful to some here. HWA only gave Mr. Tkach the physical titles. **JWT asked to be ordained an apostle, and HWA refused, because God had not told him who to choose.** He stated, that if after a number of years, JWT did the job, held fast to the truth, the Sabbath and Holy Days, that God would then give him the title. **Even in the document the legal office wrote giving "all my titles" HWA had me write in "Except that of Apostle" in the very document he signed. I have a copy of it**. This is another document JWT didn't want out since it didn't fit the "truths' he was allowing to be spawned and distributed.

God did this whole thing in a way that would not make a mockery of the truth, yet allow for apostacy and testing of the spiritual body. Apostacy had to come from the pulpit, not the back of the room. JWT never got the spiritual title from God and Christ. When he made the big show with all the Council and laid hands on Joe Jr, he gave a title he didn't possess. He may as well have made him the king of England. You can't pass titles you don't have....and JWT never lived up to the criteria HWA gave that would show God gave the title.

Aaron

From: xxxxxxxx
To: elijahforum
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2006 2:20 PM
Subject: Re: [elijahforum] Re: Are You Negative toward Other Churches of God, or Are You Truly Christ-like?

I see the central issue, and there is no doubt more than one way to characterize it, as not accepting the leadership since Mr. Armstrong's death, especially since he (Mr. Armstrong) appointed that leadership.

This is particularly evident of those that separated themselves before Mr. Armstrong died. They did not even accept Mr. Armstrongs lead.
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To: elijahforum
Re: Ralph Helge: Inside the Mind of HWA
Sat Jun 1, 2019 3:30 pm (PDT)
Aaron Dean.

I thought I should comment on Helges sermon given in 1986 for those that listen to it. There are several early sections of this sermon that are incorrect.

JWT wanted someone to cement him in as Pastor General. His secretary even asked me if I "could help make Mr. Tkach look like HWA." JWT was very insecure, and he knew the others didn't think he was qualified. I remember being sad at this sermon, given by Helge first in Pasadena, then later in other cities as it did what JWT wanted. In Helge's defense, he did believe what he said, as some of this was told him by JWT, and it certainly was politically correct and how JWT wanted to

be looked at. I doubt he would agree with it now. My comments on it below.

I was asked to give this sermon a week after HWA died and refused to give it. He had asked me to say HWA was so sure of this appointment and wanted me to say he was being trained for years for the job. I refused, because he was not being trained for years. I pointed out that in April 1985 (9 months before his death) when Queen Sirikit of Thailand was our guest at Pasadena, and we had about 6 or so major events and dinners. JWT was not invited to any of them. If he was training him to succeed him, he would have been there. Also, JWT never took any trips with HWA abroad. I also told him he was there when HWA tried to make me Pastor General, so how could I say this lie about his preparation for the job by HWA.

HWA did not choose JWT a year before as Helge states. It wasn't till 4 weeks before his death. HWA came down the elevator, and in front of JWT said "Aaron, you are the new pastor general". I said, "Did God tell you this?" He said "No". I replied "Why are you trying to kill me." I then proceeded to talk him out of it, as I knew if God wanted it I wouldn't be able to, and if I couldn't God would help me. It was then he said he was going to name JWT and made me promise to be his aid. I said I didn't want the job and that he had his own staff. **He proceeded to make JWT promise not to bring his staff up to the office, as he stated some of the things they had led him to do wrong. he said, "If you bring your staff up they will lead you astray and you will lose salvation". Next is when all the promises of belief, sabbath, doctrines, etc were made in my presence which I won't go into further here. (Note all the doctrinal changes came from his staff.)**

The early January 1986 ACE phone meeting was true for verification that HWA did appoint JWT. However HWA refused to sign the document appointing JWT as it was because it included "all my titles". HWA had me right in the document "Except that of apostle" saying I can't give the spiritual title, only the physical title. If he holds fast to the truth, the sabbath and holy days and does the work, then in perhaps 10 years or so God will give the title, I can't." But refused to sign document till I hand wrote this in. That is why they never presented the document to view. Norbert Link, in Helges office during this time, took a copy when he left WCG, and gave me a copy of the document some 15 years ago when I was in England, and there it was in black and white, just as I said.

Helge said HWA was sure of JWT and talked to foreign offices about him a year before. This was not true. He did talk of succession a bit in London on his final trip abroad, but not about Tkach as he was not in the picture till about 4 weeks before his death as I said before. **HWA had several other men he considered and even appoint verbally to me and JWT over the last 8 months, then changed his mind, and named someone else. It wasn't till the final 4 weeks that a document was made..**

People not being in his home was accurate. I was there all the time, JWT for an hour or so in the morning and and hour or so in the evening. HWA's Blood count was low and infection or any illness could kill him so the Dr didn't want him to see too many people with so low immunity. Helge did ask ACE to verify and sign off HWA as competent. JWT and I were the only ones in his home for the phone conference. Others were in the board room in the administration building.

Helge stated JWT was doing the work of an Apostle. HWA refused to make JWT an apostle though he asked him to a half dozen times in the last 4 weeks when he was appointed. JWT wanted it bad, and in February 1986, a month after HWA's death, Larry Salyer who was appointed to JWT's old job, wrote in the PGR (pastor generals report) that JWT was an apostle. I saw the preliminary copy and challenged JWT on this on the basis of what HWS had said. JWT got mad at me, but he

did remove it. The next day I saw Meredeth and McNair the next morning and they were surprised it was removed. I asked, "Did you agree with it?" They said "No'. I asked if they said something to Mr Tkach and they responded "no" and began laughing. I asked why, and they said, "Now we know why Mr. Tkach removed you from the ACE (advisory Council of Elders) this morning." **This is when David Hulme was put on the ACE...not by HWA as David tries to say.** A few months later JWT took the title anyway. Since he didn't keep the doctrines, then God never gave him the title.

JWT asked me to do a sermon showing how he was so sure of JWT as successor. I refused so he asked Helge to give one. This is the one he was requested to make so it would add more credibility to JWT in his appointment.

Helge also said he was asleep in chair watching TV. He did watch the Young Ambassador's downstairs on VHS tape, but not the last week. He stayed in his bedroom upstairs. I was the last to talk to him before he went to sleep in afternoon. He stayed in the comotose state and never woke up, and died early am the next morning.

There was a reason God did appoint JWT over the physical work in this way, but I won't go into this now.

Setting the record straight, FWIW
Aaron

To: elijahforum
Re: Ralph Helge: Inside the Mind of HWA
Sun Jun 2, 2019 6:13 am (PDT)
Posted by: Aaron Dean

No one was qualified for the position. Only with God's help can anyone do it, including HWA**. Yes he did make me PG for about 1/2 hour, and I talked him out of it.** It may have been a test for me, or he may have done it because of my loyalty and trust in God through many difficult situation. When I talked him out of it and he made me and JWT promise that I would be JWT's assistant, he said to him "Aaron is the only one who knows everything I do." Perhaps that was his reason for him trying to name me. It is irrelevant regardless.

The next thing he did was make me promise (among other promises) to tell JWT when he was wrong. I said "You are asking me to tell my next boss when he is wrong." He responded, "You did me." Which I consider the greatest compliment he ever gave me, as I had been very honest with him about everything, even when unpopular and often didn't serve me well personally for the "heat" I took.

BTW, I did tell JWT he was wrong each time he did something not scriptural, misquoted HWA (or made up something) or broke a promise made to HWA. It didn't change him, but I kept my promises. God tests all of us in different ways. The true statement HWA made, was "Don't believe me, believe your Bible." He taught what was in the Bible.

To: elijahforum
Re: Ralph Helge: Inside the Mind of HWA
Sun Jun 2, 2019 2:55 pm (PDT)
Posted by: Aaron Dean

Yes, I was ordained a Pastor by HWA in Singapore I believe in January 1982. He already thought I was a Pastor and actually apologized to God in the prayer for not already doing it…

HWA started to ordain me an evangelist before his death after I talked him out of making me Pastor General, but then stopped and said "Mr Tkach, I want you do ordain Aaron an Evangelist right after I die". **Another promise broken**. He wanted JWT to do it right after his death to show a transition and unity. Rona Martin witnessed some of it, as did his nurse Bob Herrington who asked shortly a few months later "when is JWT going to raise you in rank?" JWT didn't and I didn't want it or seek it from him. It was actually a favor since it would have made me look like one of his boys. Obviously when I challenged him taking the title of Apostle, that he would not wish to give me any endorsement since I knew all the promises he made and wasn't agreeing with him. I wasn't really free from the promises till JWT died.

Had I left before JWT died, I could not have kept my promise to HWA. Falling on my sword, so to speak as you seem to think I should have done, would have accomplished nothing. I did quit speaking by about 1992/3 as it would look like I was agreeing with what they were saying. I remember telling Ken Guise when he asked me to speak, saying I could do a 'christian living' topic. I said "No, it would look like I was agreeing with the other wrong sermons", and then jokingly said "also, I might accidentally say something I actually believe". By '95 I had quit attending, and was holding church in my home for those employees who would be fired for attending another church.

Being a Business Administration faculty, and not Theology faculty, with accreditation they couldn't fire me for my beliefs. I was able to council students with the truth till the AC campus closed. There are scores of students that can attest to this. Don Mears did defrock me as a minister about 1995 as Tkach and his team did not have the guts to do it themselves. In putting me in AC, I was able to influence more young people with the truth than I could have in any church area. I don't know if any of my sermons after HWA died are posted anywhere as they stopped sending me out from Pasadena to speak anywhere by 1987/8, but many sermons in UCG are posted except those overseas where I have been Senior pastor to Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and International Adviser to other areas for the last 6 years given by the UCG COE because of the work I did with HWA.

God did place JWT there to finish preparing the bride. **That was directly what HWA said would happen next, and that is basically what has been happening for over 30 years.** People have been able to choose apostasy, their personal choice among self-appointed leaders of their own church, or stay at home....or ??? I already have a king, and that is Christ. I have no problem following a man appointed by God. I do however believe the work of making disciples and preaching the gospel doesn't end till we die, but it will be the size and scope that God determines.
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Here is something that Aaron Dean publicly posted on the SSF Forum and to Jeanette Haskins, 20 July 2014:

From: AARON DEAN
Sent: Sunday, July 20, 2014 3:44 AM
To: jeannette.haskins; SSFFriends
Subject: RE: Proofs of a Conspiracy in WCG

One of the more interesting things regarding David Hulme's denouncing Mystery of the Ages at the seminary, was where he said "**Herbert Armstrong, who wrote the book mystery of the ages, who he himself said it was full of errors**"..."WE had to take it out of circulation...and get rid of it.

When he split from UCG because he was removed as President (which IMO he never would have been had this tape be shared with everyone) and then started his own church; he conveniently forgot saying this before. Someone sent me his 1st sermon after splitting off where he said: "**Mr. Armstrong, who wrote the book Mystery of the Ages, who he himself said it was the greatest book he ever wrote, and I take it as such.** And THEY had us get rid of it...."

Both were politically correct at the time for the audiences. Not exactly what you want in a leader - someone who redefines his own and others history. Sadly there are many who do the same. :-(

Aaron

It was in response to Jeanette Haskins post which included something from this author:

From: jeannette.haskins
To: SSF
Subject: Fw: Proofs of a Conspiracy in WCG
Date: Sat, 19 Jul 2014 09:20:32 -0700

Sometimes when I read the history of the last 100 years of the CoG, I wonder what it will look like, IF it is written up in the book of Acts.

We definitely will be able to relate, IF or when it is written up, because we lived during this age.

We already have man's reporting on it, as well, for those in the future to read, if they choose.

The reason that the word conspiracy is one we don't like to read about; is that it is riddled with Satan's kind of mind and actions.
He has been coarsing through the veins of history from the beginning.

Jeanette Haskins

Here above post was in response to mine:

http://www.cogcw.org/HWA-Library/audio/HWA-Audio%20Compendium/Disk-2/NUWCG.HTM [this site is no longer operational]
http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/ABC/The%20Apostasy/
There is much more information I would like to scan someday.
Regards,
Craig
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From Aaron Dean
To Ambassador Big Sandy Alumni, 11 February 2018

I don't have a lot of time to write...not retired.
Yes I read Dave Robinsons book. I worked for HWA 12 years and he never told me anything that HWA was supposed to tell him in a half hour walk one morning at the feast as we flew from site to site. I was listening in circumstances where this should have come up, but didn't. It seems he created a lot from other sources.

He had a bit of an axe to grind, and did Marion McNair. There was a lot of fighting for positons in the earlier years of the church. Bad information and lies created many bad decisions. **Many people said things, and HWA knew that trying to answer or refute really solved nothing except to keep the issue alive.**

Was HWA and apostle? By definition of 'one sent forth', and the fact that his ordination certificate said "Apostle" I would have to say yes. I aslo saw a lot of miracles when travelling that I can't explain any other way. God did use him to put a lot of things together, and there were many blessings in the church in spite of the problems. After GTA was put out, and then SRR out in 1980 things changed in the way we did things in travelling.

If it was HWA who demanded many of the things people said he demanded, then how was I able to cut his budget by 75% (as documented by Leroy Neff as treasurer) and still keep my job? I was only a 27 year old when I was made his assistant and VP. (Whiled still making my stewards salary - so it wasn't for money - he didn't want to "ruin me" as he had others.)

Often people say the collaps of WCG is proof God wasn't there, but then one could say that the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple means that it wasn't God's people. I think we got too attached to 'things' rather than looking and changing our own lives, that God took it away.

Much of what HWA is accused of came from others. Sadly the success of the church kept him from looking more deeply into how it was being done. I told him many of the things that were done in the church and which brought him to tears in some cases. He did care about people.

Aaron
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E-mail from Scott Ashley to Craig White
28 August 2018

I will add something of historical interest. Sometime during HWA's last year to year and a half, a ministerial refresher program was taking place in Pasadena. During one of the sessions, HWA walked in and sat down on the stage (this was in the academic center, not the auditorium). He addressed the 20-30 ministers and some wives who were there. He apologized for having trusted Stan Rader so much and admitted that had been a mistake. He admitted that others had warned him, but he hadn’t listened. He wanted to get it off his chest while he could.

To my knowledge, nothing like this was ever published or said to a larger audience. The only reason I know of it is that we were living in Big Sandy at the time working for a member-owned business, and the daughter of a pastor who was in the refresher program room that day told us about it a day or two after it happened. She was shocked. I wasn’t, having worked in Pasadena from 1978-80 and seen Stan Rader’s corruption.

I was glad to see HWA finally come to his senses and admit what was fairly well known when I was in Pasadena several years earlier. A lot of good people lost their jobs and reputations due to **Stan Rader, who embezzled millions of dollars from WCG** during the time he was treasurer and legal counsel. I even got fired from WCG at that time for refusing to participate in covering up his crimes. It’s a sad story, but part of our history.

(published with permission)

E-mail from Scott Ashley to Craig White
29 August 2018

Since that happened 36 or 37 years ago, very few firsthand witnesses would still be alive. Most would've been in their 40s and 50s at that time, making them in their 80s and 90s now.

FWIW, the pastor who related this event to his daughter was a longtime minister in WCG and became a UCG pastor after UCG formed. He was a man of sterling reputation. Regrettably he passed away a number of years ago before I was able to personally hear this story directly from him. Out of respect for his family's privacy—he had a large extended church family—I don't want to divulge his name.

The daughter who told us this story is now herself the wife of a UCG pastor and is a very dear friend of ours. I have known her for 50 years now.

PS—Thanks very much for sending that additional material. I've heard bits and pieces of this, but seeing so much of it in writing from Aaron Dean is very helpful.

And yes, **I agree that JWT was a snake.** When I was there working in editorial in Pasadena after the events of January 1979, I thought Stan Rader and JWT were in bed together. Years later I came to realize that both were trying to use each other to gain power for themselves to take control of WCG.

HWA was an amazing man, but he was not a good judge of character, as evidenced by the fact that he allowed Stan Rader to have so much power for so long without recognizing what an evil man he was (actively legally embezzling millions of dollars), and also by not recognizing what a spiritually weak—I think unconverted—man JWT was. HWA built WCG through his incredible vision and talents, but planted the seeds for its destruction by placing so much trust in unconverted men.
(published with permission)
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Dusti Howell
E-mail to Craig White
28 August 2022

Before finishing my senior year at AC, I volunteered to go to Thailand to work for AICF, teaching on Queen Sirikit's project when we found out that HWA died. I remember being extremely surprised that JWT was appointed to lead.

A few months after that, Aaron Dean visited us. He met with the Queen while there because she really liked HWA and was said to be distraught at his passing.

In all my interactions with Aaron Dean, I have found him to be the most trustworthy.

HWA liked him because he had a photographic mind and when piecing together the Mystery of the Ages book, Aaron could tell him where HWA had written things earlier (e.g., “the third paragraph on page 452 in your Autobiography you said XYZ.”) When working on the book, the administrative secretary would have a dozen papers on his desk in the morning. He would glance at them and write in comments that needed to be adjusted on them OR sign them. Anyway, that’s what we’d heard back at AC.

I also learned later from someone that attended Imperial schools with Tkach jr and Feazel that they were always bucking the system. Of course I heard this from someone that grew up in a very regimented German household, so I wondered if this was just a case of a systems thinking German looking at relaxed California boys too harshly. However, later, when those boys went to AZUSA Pacific and found a new brand of theology, sadly they turned their father's heart (JWT) against the law and went only for grace.

Overall, if Aaron Dean says it, I’ll believe it. So that means, your report is very believable.

(published with permission)

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Appendix

E-mail from a Church of God minister:

"My only comment is that Ellis LaRavia, to whom HWA personally and privately asked to replace him (First one asked) should he die, lived out the rest of his life here in Tucson, from 1992 until his death, in February 2020.

I was probably closer to him than anyone else in the ministry, and his part in WCG was enormous, as the head of all facilities around the world, for many years.

JT, Sr., viewed him as a rival, and thought Ellis had turned down Mr. Armstrong years before his death in January 1986, JT, Snr did not know that, and did whatever he could to secure that position upon Mr. Armstrong's death.

He refused to accept the position because of his wife's health struggles. Gwen was a brilliant woman, and very gifted, but we all worked with, through and accepted the monumental problem it caused Ellis, and sometimes would spill over into the local congregation. It was a challenge for me, but I did my best to support them both.

Ellis was one of the most gifted administrators of WCG in the modern era. The most gifted.

He was sincere, dedicated, loyal, trustworthy and practical ministers I have ever known.

While it is possible in the wake of HWA's death that JT snr sought the signing off of these men like him, Apartian, Hoeh, etc., I would treat that as a rumor because there was enough independence among them all to not accept those terms.

I wish he were still alive and I could ask him, but the only one still alive that would definitely know is Ralph Helge."

(E-mail to Craig White, 2 July 2023)

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Further e-mail:

"When Mr. HWA died, for awhile, Mr. Tkach wrote A LOT like HWA! BECAUSE, when they assembled a member or co-worker letter, they would go back to HWAs writings, and cut and paste and put JT's signature on it. And for awhile, he walked in the footsteps of Mr. Armstrong.

His son and cronies began to change that because they had grown up in Imperial School during a time in which some of the discipline was abusive. That was their memory of "growing up in the Church" so they had hated all the Church represented.

… Once HWA died, Joe Jr, Mike and several others had effectively been able to put "on ice" some of the long time Evangelists, like Meredith and Waterhouse. For Dr. M they removed him from the Speaking schedule, took away his office in the Hall of Administration, told him he could work from home, which was about 40 or 50 miles away. In other words, you can write for the publications — no guarantee that any articles will be published, etc.

So, for a man who was one of the original students, this was like a death sentence.

So one day he came into xxxxxx office xxxxxx, and said "xxxxxx I'm thinking of going up to the 4th Floor and telling Mr. Tkach that he is leading this Church into apostasy, and we need to stop these changes and reverse what has already been done."

xxxxxx told him he was wasting his time and then explained why it was a dumb idea. At that time some operated under the allusion that Joe and Mike were getting these things done apart from Sr.

Then he showed him a video tape of the previous Sabbath's announcements in the Auditorium.

Backing up, the Friday before, Robin Webber, another minister who was contemporary of Mike, Joe and xxxxxx at Imperial School, had gone to JT's office and confessed that he hadn't been as supportive of him as PG as he could be, because of the doctrinal changes he had presided over. JT listened to Robin, thanked him for being honest, and Robin went up to the Church property in the San Gabriel mountains with his wife, for the Sabbath.

Little did he know that Mike and Joe Jr were in an anteroom off the Pastor General's office and had listened to the entire conversation.

For several hours they worked on JT Sr and convinced him that Robin was showing extreme disloyalty, and actually worked him into a rage. Frankly, because of his nature and anger issues, this wasn't that hard.

The next day, in services, JT Sr gave the announcement session and eventually whipped himself into a rage that rivaled the anger of Hitler during some of his famous speeches. He never mentioned Robin by name but just lambasted him "as a man I have treated as a son, for many years, has now turned disloyal to me," etc., and basically compared Robin to Satan in his rebellion. I can't even do justice to the kind of hostility and anger he displayed.

The diatribe was so horrible, that JT's assistant gathered up the dozen or so video recordings of his rage before 1,200 people (those days, VHS format), put them in a bag, and into the van Mr. Tkach would be driven home in.

But they left the bag in the van, and xxxxxx ended up with all of them. I am one of 2 or 3 people who actually witnessed this rampage, who wasn't in the Auditorium that Sabbath, Dean having sent me a tape.

When Dr. Meredith proposed his idea to xxxxxx, xxxxxx said; "watch this first."

Dr. M was shocked beyond belief. After viewing that display, he knew there was no reasoning, no working with, no ability to have a meeting of the minds because by that time JT was too far gone."

(E-mail to Craig White, 19 July 2023)

NB: I was also told that the day or so prior to HWA's passing, Tkach snr and a personal friend rushed to HWA's room. Tkach and rung this man and said 'let's make sure that Mr Armstrong has not changed his mind and made Mr LaRavia his successor.'

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E-mail from a long-term Church of God member:

"I liked him [Tkach snr], but didn't respect him at all for the things he was leadinto by his son Joe Jr., and others.

Dr. Hoeh once told me face to face in a private conversation that lying among the Tkach's was "endemic" — that was the *exact* word he used.

I know someone whose dad was in HWA's home the night before his death early the following morning. And HWA clearly asked Joe Tkach to make certain promises to him, one of which was that he would not place either Joe Jr. or Mike Feazell in any positions of authority. And then, that he (Joe Sr.) would not alter any of the major doctrines, though HWA realized some things needed to be slightly revised or explained more accurately in the WCG's official publications.

But very quickly following HWA's death, Joe Sr. began going back on these and other promises he made to HWA the night before."

(22 June 2023, name withheld)

"When a Land [read Church] rejects its legends,
Sees but falsehoods in the past,
And its People [read apostates] view their sires [read HWA]
In the light of fools and liars,
'Tis a sign of its decline,
And its splendours cannot last.
Branches that but blight their roots,
Yield no sap for lasting fruits".

- F. R. A. Glover, England, 1861

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