

Herbert W. Armstrong Did NOT Commit Incest !

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This article is the author's opinion based on his own personal research. If anyone has additional information that should be considered, or comments, please send them to hwaorg@yahoo.com

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Introduction

Since he began preaching in 1927 until he died in 1986, and to this very day, there has been an endless onslaught against the plain Bible teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong and unfounded attacks against his personal character. He has been slandered with some of the most preposterous lies and filthy fabrications imaginable, which were and are being passed around like venereal diseases by those who are unwitting tools of the devil. Those who are quick to criticize Herbert Armstrong and pass around unprovable lies about his personal character ought to consider that God will hold them accountable for every idle word they speak (Mt. 12:36).

Human beings tend to believe what they *want* to believe, even contrary to the facts or the Bible, both of which they usually fail to thoroughly investigate, and this article will not likely change anyone's mind. It is written primarily for those who already believe that Herbert W. Armstrong was a true servant of God but may be unsettled by the attacks of his enemies, and secondarily for those who may still have open minds to reconsider their current adversarial positions. For the rest, those who have chosen to believe the worst about Herbert W. Armstrong, only God will be able to show them the truth – hopefully before it is too late for them to repent of their bitter attitudes.

In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. (2 Tim. 2:25,26)

The Accusation

The most vicious attack against Herbert W. Armstrong is the almost unbelievable accusation that he had a long-time incestuous relationship with one of his daughters, with some even making the absurd claim that this sin is “documented” or that HWA “confessed” to it. This article will clearly show that neither is the case and that the allegation must be considered an utter untruth feigned by a foul spirit.

The primary source of this filthy slander is an ex-WCG minister named David Robinson (1922-1995). After being disfellowshipped in 1978 for teachings and/or behavior unbecoming for a minister of Jesus Christ, he produced a supposed “expose” on the Worldwide Church of God titled, *Herbert Armstrong’s Tangled Web* (1980). The whole book reads like a poorly-written, trashy novel, with the 20th chapter vomiting out the alleged incestuous conduct of HWA with his daughter Dorothy from 1933 through 1943, aged 13-23. ([Appendix A](#))

Everything written about this satanic slander can be traced back to chapter 20 of Robinson’s book where it dead-ends. Talk about “Sardis era witnesses,” “an unsigned confession,” or “the Lochner tapes” is nothing but claptrap. If any such so-called evidence did exist, you can be sure the devil would have produced it. The allegation all starts with this chapter – nothing else previous or contemporary is to be found:

“Incest is a terrible and unnatural crime, an extreme perversity. That is why I was shocked beyond measure to hear that Herbert Armstrong was, himself, guilty of this vile sin. I learned of this in the summer of 1979 from members of his own family. The story, sordid beyond imagination, was told in awful detail.” (p. 266)

[Robinson claims he got the “story” from family “members” (plural), though he only lists one. And how did Robinson know HWA was “guilty”? – he says it was a “story.”]

“One family source was Garner Ted Armstrong. Last summer, as HWA attacked his own son in such savage fury, his son was in the depths of despair. His emotional mix included anger and deep hurt. In such a state he told family secrets that otherwise would have been locked within him forever. He said he had learned in 1971 of his father's incredible conduct during the '30s and '40s. The story came directly to him in lurid detail, but he kept it sealed in his own consciousness for all those years. But, in the spring of 1978 while in his father's house for the last time, his father had threatened to ‘destroy him.’ Ted, in response, replied, ‘Dad, I will destroy you. I know about you and -----.’ (He was speaking of the younger of his two sisters.)”

[Robinson never mentioned Dorothy by name, probably because he feared being sued by her for libel. If the story were true and originated with her, he would have had no problem using her name.]

“None who have objectively heard the incest story in its awful detail doubt it.” (p. 267)

[What a cockamamie statement! Could David Robinson read people’s minds? How would he have known whether someone doubted the story or not? In fact, rather than “none,” probably most who heard the slander did doubt it.]

Others Join In

Following David Robinson’s book, a publication called Ambassador Report, produced by disfellowshipped ex-member John Trechak, began to publish follow-up so-called evidence. It claimed that since HWA did not deny the accusation it must be true (AR#14), supplied made-up details without any proof and claimed that HWA actually confessed to it (AR#27). How gullible did he think people were? Why on earth would HWA confess to a credibility-destroying accusation with not one shred of evidence backing it up? No, the conjured-up confession simply meant that he couldn’t come up with any real evidence. John Trechak also tried to find veiled references to the alleged incest hidden within HWA’s own autobiography (AR#40), and produced second-hand hearsay that one of HWA’s grandsons had supposedly said the allegation was true (AR#68). All-in-all nothing but a worthless collection of non-evidence hogwash, prepared for malcontents who wished such a story were true. ([Appendix B](#))

Another disgruntled ex-church member, John Tuit, briefly commented on Robinson’s material in the Epilog of his own fault-finding book, *The Truth Shall Make You Free* (1981), but had nothing new to offer regarding the incest allegation. Apparently, he had never even heard of it until he read Robinson’s book, and then only mentioned it as an afterthought. Tuit’s book is a large collection of attacks against HWA and the church (though he did continue to believe HWA’s doctrinal teachings), and surely he would have included the allegation had it existed prior to Robinson’s 1980 fabrication. This man was instrumental in the state of California’s 1978 receivership imposed on the WCG.

Other Internet web sites, such as “Exit and Support Network,” display letters written by individuals who could not possibly have been witnesses, saying that Dorothy or GTA told so-and-so the whole story, but offer no proof that such was ever the case. There are statements that Dorothy related the story in great detail to many others on numerous occasions, but these statements are never substantiated and not one such individual has ever come forward publicly. Several web sites claim that HWA’s incest is “documented,” but if you try to find the documentation all you ever come up with is David Robinson’s *Tangled Web*, chapter 20 incest story. Everything in print about the subject was written after Robinson’s book came out. And just putting an allegation in print, no matter how many times it is circulated, is not

documentation that the allegation is true. The only thing that is ever “documented” is the slander; and “he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.” (Pr. 10:18)

Hearsay at best

On the back of David Robinson’s book it states that “he writes from firsthand knowledge,” but since he was a mere child when the alleged incestuous conduct supposedly took place, it is simply not possible that he could have had anything other than hearsay at best, and most probably it was pure fiction out of his own tangled mind. The four page *Tangled Web*, chapter 20 incest story in his book is a poorly written piece of fiction because he had no firsthand knowledge on any such subject.

How is it that David Robinson could possibly have had even any credible hearsay information about such alleged conduct by HWA? There is no record that Herbert Armstrong ever made any statement about it. There is no record that Loma Armstrong ever made any statement about it. There is no record that Richard Armstrong ever made any statement about it. There is no record that Garner Ted Armstrong ever made any statement about it. There is no record that Beverly Armstrong ever made any statement about it. In fact, there is no record that Dorothy Armstrong ever made any such accusation at all (and even if she did that doesn’t mean it was true). If there are any such records, where are they?

David Robinson may have had some little firsthand knowledge about some few of the things he writes about in the first nineteen chapters of his book, but all of his claims of firsthand knowledge regarding any of Herbert Armstrong’s supposed sexual conduct are positively preposterous. He actually says he had a personal conversation with HWA about the eighty year old Pastor General’s masturbating habits (*Tangled Web*, pg. 79-80). Anyone who would believe that HWA sat down and discussed his supposed masturbation with a rank and file WCG minister must be a child.

The Accusers

The fruits of the spirit of God are these: love (which covers a multitude of sins, Pr. 10:12; 1 Pet. 4:8), joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Gal. 5:22,23). Read the following scriptures and decide for yourself where this attack on HWA is coming from:

He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool. (Pr. 10:18)

A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter. (Pr. 11:13)

An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire. (Pr. 16:27)

Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. (Ti. 1:15)

For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: (1 Pet. 3:10)

Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. (Jude 8-10)

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. (Rev. 12:10)

David Robinson's 268-page book of accusations was not motivated by the love of God, but scripture clearly exposes it as the work of a wrong spirit. As you read the accusations against HWA, ask yourself if it is the love of God coming from the holy spirit. If you have God's holy spirit you will know it is not. This venomous strike is more like having come from a "rattlesnake" than from a man whose "word was considered his bond." (See the back cover of Robinson's book in [Appendix A](#))

Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips. (Rom. 3:13)

Possible Witnesses

Here is a list of the possible witnesses to HWA's supposed incestuous behavior. There are no other plausible witnesses. Anyone else is no more than a purveyor of gossip and a talebearer.

Dorothy Armstrong (Mattson) – No written or oral substantiation by her of the accusation has ever been produced by anyone. She died in 2010. Interestingly, her husband, Vern Mattson, worked for HWA for many years, so apparently he never heard any such accusation, or didn't believe it if he did. Also, here are some quotes from WCG publications that do not indicate any serious problem between Dorothy and her father:

My wife and I had opportunity yesterday (Sunday, 26th) to spend several hours with my father again. My sister, Mrs. Dorothy Mattson, had been wanting to go along the next time I went over to Tucson, so pictures could be taken with my father, his daughter, her daughter, and her daughter---meaning Mrs. Mattson, her daughter Ginger, and her new daughter (4 mo's), Dianne---four living generations! Also along for the visit were Mr. Vern Mattson, and Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Chapman.
(GTA from Pastor's Report, February 27,1978, page 1)

For the first several years that Mr. Armstrong and I traveled overseas we did not have any help, other than that provided by my wife and then later by Mr. Armstrong's daughter.
(Stan Rader from Worldwide News, April 25,1977, page 1)

Herbert W. Armstrong – He died in 1986 without leaving any documented statement about the allegation. Without additional witnesses, a confession by HWA is the ONLY way this accusation could ever be proven. And not one single confessor (a person HWA confessed to) has ever come forward on the record! There is nothing but hearsay and outright lies.

Loma Armstrong – She passed away in 1967, long before this lie was ever hatched. No documented comment by her was ever made on the subject.

Richard Armstrong – He was killed in a 1958 automobile accident, also long before the lie was hatched. No documented comment by him was ever made.

Beverly Armstrong – No documented comment on the accusation by her has ever surfaced.

Garner Ted Armstrong – He succumbed to pneumonia in 2003. While David Robinson said he got the incest story from him, he provided no documented proof that any such accusation was ever made by GTA. But GTA did say:

I'll tell you one thing. I KNOW my father. I've known all about him for nearly 38 years. I know his personal life. I know his personal tastes, his innermost feelings – his whole temperament and personality! I know his dedication and utter sincerity in this Work of God. That's why I have to shake my head with a wry grimace of incredulity when I see picayunish attempts at SLANDER against him; the attempt to IMPUTE WRONG MOTIVES in his conduct of this Work of God.

(GTA from Plain Truth Subscriber Letter, Nov. 24, 1967)

There can be no witnesses to a crime that never occurred. It is interesting to note that this tall tale was not devised until after the deaths of Loma and Richard Armstrong, the two family members who certainly would have repudiated it. The lie was not invented until only family members not supportive of HWA remained alive, who, while there is no record that they ever made or corroborated the accusation, for personal reasons chose not to come forward and deny it.

And finally, while they are not witnesses of any kind, two of Herbert Armstrong's grandchildren do confess that there is **no evidence** to support the allegation, even though they themselves have chosen to believe the lie for whatever reasons. You can listen to their interviews by clicking below. The SSH interviewer seems to think that these two grandchildren are offering some kind of proof of the allegation. But listen closely to the interview - there is no proof offered at all, only the grandchildren's confessions that they believe a lie.

2014 Secular Safe House interviews:

[Deborah Armstrong](#)

[Larry Gott](#)

The Facts

The fact is that there are no facts. No evidence exists. Absolutely none! And there are no documented statements by any credible witnesses, or any other type of witnesses for that matter, otherwise the accusers would have produced them. Dropping names is a well known method of making a lie appear credible, but not one person said to be in possession of evidence ever produced it, or said to have made a statement regarding the slander ever corroborated it. Statements supposedly made by David Antion, Lois Chapman, Henry Cornwall, Floyd Lochner, Jack Kessler, Benny Sharp, etc. have never been verified, and if these people do believe this satanic lie it is not because they are witnesses of any kind or have any evidence at all. It is simply because they have underestimated Satan's power to deceive (Rev. 12:9) and are themselves victims of his guile, having given ear to gossip and chosen to believe a story that was manufactured out of thin air for those who, for whatever reason, want to believe it.

Associated Press Article

It is also well known that a lie in print is more believable than a spoken one, so it should come as no surprise that the Slanderer succeeded in getting this big lie into at least two newspapers. An Associated Press (AP) article that covered Herbert Armstrong's divorce from his second wife, Ramona Martin, did appear in the May 12, 1984 Lakeland Ledger and Tulsa World newspapers ([Appendix C](#)), and a comment in the article by her lawyer makes reference to "*testimony that would explain an understanding the couple reached about Armstrong's prior incestuous conduct with his daughter for many years.*" But would anyone seriously consider a slanderous statement by a lawyer related to him by his client during a nasty divorce proceeding to be any kind of factual evidence. It is quite easy to get just about anything into local newspapers as they are always hungry to print eye-catching quotes. This appears to be nothing more than an attempt by a hostile, probably unconverted woman to make it appear that HWA's alleged incest with his daughter would be discussed at the divorce proceedings – an attempt to make the gullible reader assume the allegation was true. No such testimony has ever been documented to have taken place, and Ramona Martin most probably had no knowledge of the subject other than the dis-information she read in David Robinson's 1980 book.

Even Joseph Tkach, Jr. apparently did not believe this ludicrous lie, and stated in his book, "There is a great deal of pain when longtime members are confronted with allegations about Herbert Armstrong or Garner Ted Armstrong. We not only lack the resources to verify or dismiss all such reports, ... There is much discussion, supposition and allegation about the past. We know some of it to be true, assume some of it is supposition, while some is fabrication." (*Transformed by Truth*, p.186 & 188) The whole incest story is an unsubstantiated, unverifiable, farcical fabrication.

The Big Lie

Now let's look at the real author of this fantastic lie, the destroyer and accuser of the brethren – Satan the devil.

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. (Jn. 8:44)

As the father of liars, Satan has had many children, one of the most infamous of recent times being Adolph Hitler, who lied his way into power as most political leaders do. The two translations below, taken from Adolph Hitler's autobiography, explain the incredible power of one of Hitler's tools, "The Big Lie," which he no doubt learned from his father the devil.

MEIN KAMPF BY ADOLF HITLER



VOLUME ONE - A RECKONING CHAPTER X: CAUSES OF THE COLLAPSE

Translation 1

“... [I]n the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility; because the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily; and thus in the primitive simplicity of their minds they more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods. It would never come into their heads to fabricate colossal untruths, and they would not believe that others could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously. Even though the facts which prove this to be so may be brought clearly to their minds, they will still doubt and waver and will continue to think that there may be some other explanation. For the grossly impudent lie always leaves traces behind it, even after it has been nailed down, a fact which is known to all expert liars in this world and to all who conspire together in the art of lying. These people know only too well how to use falsehood for the basest purposes. ...” (translator unknown)

Translation 2

“In this they proceeded on the sound principle that the magnitude of a lie always contains a certain factor of credibility, since the great masses of the people in the very bottom of their

hearts tend to be corrupted rather than consciously and purposely evil, and that, therefore, in view of the primitive simplicity of their minds they more easily fall a victim to a big lie than to a little one, since they themselves lie in little things, but would be ashamed of lies that were too big. Such a falsehood will never enter their heads and they will not be able to believe in the possibility of such monstrous effrontery and infamous misrepresentation in others; yes, even when enlightened on the subject, they will long doubt and waver, and continue to accept at least one of these causes as true. Therefore, something of even the most insolent lie will always remain and stick - a fact which all the great lie-virtuosi and lying-clubs in this world know only too well and also make the most treacherous use of.” (translator unknown)

The “Big Lie” has been used throughout the ages to deceive the masses and empower the devil’s dupes. Election time in the U.S. is rife with examples of allegations, whether true or false, hurled at an opponent in order to plant doubts in the minds of voters. Even if the allegations are unprovable or later proven to be false, the public is usually unable to clear the doubts that were created. Similarly, many who have heard this most insolent lie about HWA, cannot fully clear the worry of its possibly being true.

Christ was Slandered

For bringing the good news of the Kingdom of God to this earth, Jesus Christ was persecuted and slandered by Satan and his instruments as no other:

Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. (Ps. 27:12)

False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not. (Ps. 35:11)

The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children. (Mt. 11:19)

Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. (Jn. 8:48, 49)

Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death. (Jn. 8:52)

And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind? (Jn. 10:20, 21)

There is even modern-day slander such as Jesus having had sex with Mary Magdalene or having had a homosexual relationship with the apostle John. And remember, that same slanderer, Satan the devil, still walks the earth and slanders God's servants today just as Jesus said:

Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. (Jn. 15:20)

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say **all manner of evil** against you **falsely**, for my sake. (Mt. 5:11)

I Have Loved Thee

Herbert W. Armstrong taught the plain fundamental Bible truth of repentance from sin and obedience to God's Ten Commandments. God's work under his direction experienced an unprecedented growth rate of roughly 30% per year for 35 straight years from 1933 through 1968 ([Appendix D](#)). These things are simply not consistent with a man guilty of such gross immoral misconduct and vile sin against God. To say that God was hearing HWA's prayers and blessing his efforts during the very years (1933-1943) he was raping his daughter, is an affront to the holy, righteous character of God, and contrary to plain Bible scripture! Neither did God just look the other way because HWA was doing his end-time work. Nor did God forgive him after he repented as he forgave David for his sin with Bathsheba. Please read the scriptures below.

God Does Not Hear Sinners

The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. (Ps. 34:16)

The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous. (Pr. 15:29)

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. (Isa. 59:2)

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. (Jn. 9:31)

For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. (1 Pet. 3:12)

God is Not a Respector of Persons

For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him. (2 Sa. 14:14)

Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts. (2 Ch. 19:7)

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: (Acts 10:34)

For there is no respect of persons with God. (Rom. 2:11)

And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him. (Eph. 6:9)

But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons. (Col. 3:25)

And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: (1 Pet. 1:17)

HWA Like David?

Some, who have been duped into believing this inane lie, have tried to comfort themselves by pointing out that David committed a serious sexual sin and, after deep repentance, continued to be a man of God (2 Sam. 11, 12). While it is true that some of God's specially called servants did commit some serious sins, likening HWA's alleged sexual misconduct to that of David's episode with Bathsheba does not hold up. David's sin with Bathsheba (and subsequent events) was a one-time occurrence, not a decade-long unrepented-of debauchery. David's sin was publicly exposed (2 Sam. 12:12), and followed by deep repentance for all the world to see (2 Sam. 12:13; Ps. 51), of which there is no record of the like with HWA.

It simply could not be the case that HWA was a man of God if the allegation were true. Since God's character is the same and does not change, he would have dealt with HWA in the same manner he dealt with David – yet there is no record of this allegation ever being exposed by God or repented of by HWA. If God turned his back on Jesus Christ when he became sin for us on the cross (Mt. 27:46), how much more would he have turned away from a decade-long-unrepentant HWA. The God before whom unrepentant sinners do not stand (Ps. 1:5; 5:5) would have been finished with Herbert Armstrong and raised up someone else.

Strong Correction for Sexual Sins

Jesus Christ had some strong correction for some members of the church who were guilty of fornication and adultery (Rev. 2:14, 20-22), both of which HWA would have been guilty of. And His judgment was and is this: “Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her

children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.” (Rev. 2:22, 23)

So it would seem that either HWA was not a man of God, or the thing never happened. Of course Satan wants you to believe the former so you will lose respect for HWA and be more susceptible to rejecting the truth that he taught. Remember, Satan’s main objective is to destroy your faith and take God’s truth away from you, and unfortunately more than a few have been hornswoggled by this whopper of a tale.

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. (Ecc. 12:14)

For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. (Lk. 12:2)

Yet Jesus Christ said to the angel, or messenger, of the church in Philadelphia (HWA for those who have eyes to see), “I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that **I have loved thee**.” (Rev. 3:7-9)

Why HWA Did Not Respond

In certain legal proceedings of men, a failure to respond may be taken as an admission that certain facts are true. Accusers David Robinson and John Trechak, both now deceased, thought that HWA's failure to respond to the slanderous incest accusation was an admission of guilt. However, HWA was not on trial and had no legal requirement to respond. There could have been any number of legal or personal reasons HWA chose not to dignify the allegation with a response :

"God's Church has suffered much and long at the attacks of dissident former members 'going to the public media against the Church.' I have heretofore remained silent, never dignifying the allegations with a reply." (PGR 1982 Mar. 19, page 1 article "Vicious Attack Against God's Church," paragraph 2)

Instead, he simply followed Jesus Christ's example as recorded in Matthew 27:12-14, Mark 15:3-5, and Luke 23:9 :

"Jesus Christ was called before Pontius Pilate. At that point He was falsely charged. The scriptures tell us that Christ remained silent and did not respond to the charges of His accusers (Matthew 27:13,14)." (WWN 1979 Oct. 29, page 12 box "A Proclamation by Mr. Armstrong," paragraph 5, [Appendix C](#))

And as Christ was slandered, so was the apostle Paul: "And when he was come, the Jews which came down from Jerusalem stood round about, and laid many and grievous complaints against Paul, which they could not prove." (Acts 25:7) And some of those complaints were no doubt of sexual immorality (see 1 Th. 2:3 – the Greek word for 'uncleanness' is *akatharsia* : "Nor of uncleanness - Such as the teachings of the Gentile philosophers were; their supreme gods were celebrated for their adulteries, fornications, uncleannesses, thefts, barbarities, and profligacies of the most odious kind." **Adam Clark's Commentary on the Bible**).

It is clear that, had he chosen to respond, HWA could have replied as did the apostle Paul: "Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me." (Acts 24:13)

Why WCG Sued to Stop Publication of Robinson's Book

After learning of David Robinson's plans to publish a so-called exposé of the WCG, which would include a chapter with a made-up story of how HWA had committed incest with one of his daughters, the church filed a civil lawsuit in an attempt to stop its publication. The lawsuit failed in Satan's court and the book was published in 1980.

Some believe that this attempt to squelch the book was an admission of guilt, but that was not the case. No one wants to be slandered in the first place, but also, as was pointed out in the above section on "The Big Lie," even those who ultimately reject the unprovable slander will still have it etched in their minds and will never be able to get rid of it totally. Some will choose to believe it for personal reasons, and a few will even allow it to destroy them spiritually. Great harm can be done in the telling of even a baseless lie.

No, it was the sheep – maybe even you who are reading this right now – that HWA was trying to protect from this unprovable defamation! Since the book contains no proof or evidence whatsoever of the allegation, he had no reason to stop its printing to protect himself.

A Warning!

As three unclean spirits like frogs out of the mouth of the dragon, beast, and false prophet (Rev. 16:13), so Satan's slanderous attacks against God's church and servants have spewed forth out of the mouths of David Robinson, John Trechak, and John Tuit. Satan the devil has the power to "deceive the whole world" (Rev. 12:9), but he wants above all else to deceive God's people and he uses poor, bitter, deceived individuals like these in trying to do so.

The allegations against HWA are "proven" only to those who want to believe them. Of course HWA was human and did himself admit to making mistakes, but if you check into the actual facts you will find that the slanderous accusations against his character have no basis in reality – they all originate from enemies or a satanic court system which HWA said was "rotten to the core." Many of the devil's lies seem to have substance, but upon close examination they evaporate into nothing at all. The worst allegation possibly originated with statements made by GTA at the time HWA had to disfellowship him for "improper conduct," that were then seized upon and twisted by a malcontented and excommunicated WCG minister. Diligent inquiry into this allegation will produce no real evidence, except for those who choose to believe fairy tales made up and perpetuated by enemies who were not witnesses.

There is no legally acceptable evidence to be considered in this case, neither is there any confession by HWA. And don't you think an unprovable accusation contrived and disseminated by enemies that is capable of undermining HWA and everything he taught is just a little suspicious? It ought to cause a thinking person to ponder its purpose and true origin, and come to the obvious conclusion that it is the devil's handiwork. A verse in the book of Nehemiah pretty well sums up a good response to Satan and all those he uses to slander one of God's faithful servants:

**There are no such things done as thou sayest,
but thou FEIGNEST them out of thine own heart. (Neh. 6:8)**

Satan hates God's truth and will do anything he can to destroy it, and those who teach it, and those who believe it. One of the devil's names is "the slanderer," and that is what he does, and he does it very well. He is a master at fabricating and propagating lies. Those who are attacking HWA or the plain truth he taught from the Bible have been beguiled by Satan and are now being used to try to destroy others. There are many clever arguments used in trying to disprove what HWA taught from the Bible, but they are all flawed, and so the main purpose of the incest slander is to create disrespect for Herbert Armstrong so that these weak arguments against his biblical teachings will be more readily accepted. In time the devil will dismantle the truth piece by piece and turn you away from God if you let him. HWA's own personal conduct

has nothing to do with your salvation, but whether or not you embrace a bitter attitude and reject the truth he taught, does.

Christ said the storm would come and beat against the house, and this attack against HWA is definitely part of the storm. Christ warned us of this and said, "hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." (Rev. 3:11) If Herbert Armstrong was a false prophet and taught lies, then we were never called at all and are none the worse off. But if he did teach the truth and we let it go because we choose to believe devilish deceits, then that is a serious matter. Are you willing to take that chance? When properly understood, nothing in this life makes sense like the plain truth of the Bible, and we should not forget who we learned it from, or who is trying to take it away from us.

To those who, for whatever personal reasons, choose to believe unprovable falsehoods, God says, "A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue." (Pr. 17:4) You are, or will become, what you accept into your mind; and God will discern your heart by what you choose to believe.

What You Must Conclude

With around six thousand years of practice at deceiving human beings, it is no surprise that this slander against Herbert W. Armstrong is a masterpiece of satanic deception. Even though never proved, it is crafted in such a way as to be nearly impossible to disprove, and one can spend days, months, and even years, seeking and searching for evidence trying to do so. The end result, as presented in this article, will be convincing to those who do not want to believe the accusation, but will not be convincing to those who, probably because they have been offended in some way, want to believe it. Trying to examine the evidence alone does not lead to an incontestable conclusion.

Nevertheless there is a way to arrive at the proper resolution of this issue, and that is, after first examining your own heart, to let the Word of God give you the answer. Almighty God, who knew this type of situation would arise, gave clear instructions concerning witnesses to crimes:

Deuteronomy 17:6 – “At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.”

Deuteronomy 19:15 – “One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.”

Matthew 18:16 – “But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.”

2 Corinthians 13:1 – “This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.”

1 Timothy 5:19 – “Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.” You are **disobeying** a direct biblical command if you do!

THEREFORE, in light of the indisputable fact that there are not now, nor is there any documented record that there ever were, two or more actual witnesses to the alleged criminal activity;

AND

If you are a truly converted Christian, fully led by God's holy spirit, who desires to live by every word of God; knowing that a man is innocent until proven guilty;

THEN, UNLESS HE PERSONALLY CONFESSED TO YOU,
YOUR CONCLUSION MUST BE THAT

Herbert W. Armstrong Did **NOT** Commit Incest!

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This article is the author's opinion based on his own personal research. If anyone has additional information that should be considered, or comments, please send them to hwaorg@yahoo.com

APPENDIX A

HERBERT ARMSTRONG'S TANGLED WEB



An Insider's View of the Worldwide Church of God

By DAVID ROBINSON

Chapter XX

INCEST!

How serious is the sin of incest, such as when a father uses his authority to force himself on his own daughter, his own flesh? All generations of the human family have viewed this conduct as an *unnatural act*. The apostle Paul referred to a somewhat similar relationship in the Corinthian church: “. . . such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father’s wife” (I Cor. 5:1). Incest was disgusting beyond measure to Paul, who was led to record his revulsion for posterity in the inspired Bible.

Even during this time of “sexual freedom” the American nation was recently shocked to witness a television program, “The Phil Donahue Show,” on which victims of incest discussed their emotional suffering that resulted from such parental abuse. The psychological penalty for such sin continues for generations.

Sometimes perpetrators of such crimes try to justify themselves by citing the case of Lot, the nephew of Abraham, in the book of Genesis. Does the biblical account of the conduct of Lot in any way justify a man taking his own daughter? Let’s look at this matter:

- (1) Lot was without a wife, as she had been killed on the trip from Sodom.
- (2) Lot was not the initiator, his daughters were. They plied him with wine, in preparation for what they wanted, children. They thought all mankind had been destroyed,

and they wanted to preserve the race.

- (3) Lot performed his part while drunk and *never repeated that reprehensible conduct.*

Not that there is ever any justification for such acts, but the sin of Lot, bad as it was, is not to be compared with that of a married man who, on a continuing basis, engages in sex with his own daughter!

Many American states legislated the death penalty in such cases in the earlier years of this country. I knew personally of such a case in Texas back in the 1950s. That father was executed in Huntsville for such an act. He was convicted in Live Oak County, Texas. He had seduced his thirteen-year-old daughter and had continued the affair with her until relatives discovered the crime. It was his own people who demanded the death penalty and the State of Texas accommodated them. I don't know for sure, but I suspect the laws of Oregon and California were not all that different during the thirties and forties.

Incest is a terrible and unnatural crime, an extreme perversity. That is why I was shocked beyond measure to hear that Herbert Armstrong was, himself, guilty of this vile sin. I learned of this in the summer of 1979 from members of his own family. The story, sordid beyond imagination, was told in awful detail.

One family source was Garner Ted Armstrong. Last summer, as HWA attacked his own son in such savage fury, his son was in the depths of despair. His emotional mix included anger and deep hurt. In such a state he told family secrets that otherwise would have been locked within him forever. He said he had learned in 1971 of his father's incredible conduct during the '30s and '40s. The story came directly to him in lurid detail, but he kept it sealed in his own consciousness for all those years. But, in the spring of 1978 while in his father's house for the last time, his father had threatened to "destroy him." Ted, in response, replied, "Dad, I will destroy *you*. I know about you and -----." (He was speaking of the younger of his two sisters.)

His father had been on a high-handed autocratic binge. But at that comment he sat down quietly and responded, "Well, Ted, there have been times when I *have* been very far away from God." (Admittedly, this was a strange turn of events in the relationship of the two whom HWA had likened to God the Father and Jesus Christ!)

Ted has told many people that there was a look in his father's

eyes he had never seen before. Ted knew his father was now determined to totally destroy any credibility he might have. It was either him or his son. Self-preservation now demanded such action. It was a matter of give or get, and HWA meant to get!

None who have objectively heard the incest story in its awful detail doubt it. *This* is a vital chapter left out of HWA's autobiography. This sin occurred over a long span of years, a decade after his ordination to the ministry, according to his own family members. No wonder he was not receptive to David Antion's "qualifications for the ministry" paper back in 1974.

Many of us have wondered why HWA was so forceful in covering up Ted's sins for so many years. Ted then seemed to be an extension of himself in his own mind and was not even a separate entity. It was like covering for himself. But when finally he knew he must cut his son off, he had to go all the way. It was either destroy or be destroyed. And there were still some things he wanted to "get" out of life even if he were nearly ninety.

Such matters should not normally be mentioned, but this is by no means a normal case. The welfare of thousands is at stake, and thousands who look to HWA, idolizing him as if he were God himself, must come to understand how dangerous such a view is. Thousands around the world have been hurt by blindly following this man. Now people must be given enough information to make an intelligent decision on whether this is the man who is going to lead them to safety during the "crisis at the close," or whether he is just going to continue taking their money and calling them "dumb sheep"!

Some may feel I should just cover up this whole sordid affair and forget it. But I find that impossible to do, because the welfare of too many people hinges on the truth about his personality.

Paul wrote to Christians of his day: "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead *expose* them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret" (Eph. 5:11-12, RSV). Earlier in the same chapter, Paul had written: "But immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is fitting among saints" (Eph. 5:3, RSV).

"But," some say, "you shouldn't judge God's apostle." The Bible says otherwise! Jesus Christ himself *commended* the Ephesian church for trying and testing those who claimed to be apostles. Notice Jesus' words: "Thou hast tried them which

say they are apostles, and are not, and has found them liars” (Rev. 2:2).

Can someone preach truth for many years and fail in his own spiritual life? *Of course!* Lucifer did, Solomon did, and so have many others down through the years. That is why Christ asked, “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). Christ also said that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45). The way a man talks in private is the way he *is*. His public utterances alone aren’t enough to judge a man’s character — his trustworthiness. It is especially necessary to know what kind of man you follow when he promises to lead you into the kingdom of God.

In Matthew 7:21-23, we read this warning from Jesus himself:

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

In the 59th chapter of Isaiah, that prophet warns of those who conceive mischief, lie, and bring forth iniquity. Their feet run to do evil. *The way of peace they know not.* They make themselves crooked paths, and they *weave spiders’ webs*. But Isaiah promises in the name of God that those webs shall not be a covering for their sins in the end!

Herbert Armstrong has become tangled in his own web of lies. And the time has come for him to be revealed for what he really is. May God help his followers to see.

The End.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dave Robinson grew up in the border country of Texas where mesquite, cactus, coyotes and rattlesnakes are the order of the day. In that rural environment during those years a man's word was considered his bond. He spent nearly all his life there except for four years of World War II when he served as an Air Force pilot.

He began to listen to Herbert Armstrong on the radio from a Mexican station in 1949 and became a heavy financial contributor soon after. He met HWA the next year and became a member and supporter of what was then the Radio Church of God. He supported Herbert Armstrong for a full three decades.

In 1969 he went to work full-time for the Worldwide Church of God several years after his ordination as a minister in that church. During the next decade, he served in varied capacities for that organization. He came to know most of the top men of the church well, and is eminently qualified to write of the workings of those echelons of the church.

Among the responsibilities carried by Dave were those of administrator, counselor, lecturer, security chief, and minister. He was a confidant of many of those men who have either been removed from the church altogether or have been relegated to dishonor within that organization.

He writes from firsthand knowledge tempered with deep disappointment and has come to agree completely with Solomon who advised against putting trust in men.

APPENDIX B

Ambassador Reports

From AR#14:

Dec. 1980

INCEST ALLEGATIONS NOT DENIED

Many AR readers who have read David Robinson's book *Herbert Armstrong's Tangled Web* have written to us expressing absolute shock at some of the allegations it contains. Especially disturbing to many are the allegations contained in chapter 20 entitled "Incest."

We sincerely wish that we could report uncovering evidence to negate Mr. Robinson's charges, but unfortunately that is not the case. Herbert Armstrong has not issued any statement discounting the charges, nor has Stan Rader. Dorothy Mattson, Herbert Armstrong's daughter, has not come forward to deny the allegations. And Garner Ted Armstrong has also refused to deny the charges. The *Toronto Star*, Sept. 20 (p. F4) wrote:

"Contacted by phone in Tyler, Texas, where he heads his own new church, the Church of God International, Garner Ted Armstrong said he had 'no comment' regarding allegations of his father's incest"

Since the publication of David Robinson's book, a number of WCG ministers have privately commented that under certain "special circumstances" incest should not be considered a factor in determining a man's qualifications for certain ministerial offices. We find this difficult to fathom but, of course, we are not theologians. Nevertheless, since the publication of Robinson's book, one AR reader thoroughly researched the subject of father-daughter incest and discovered - not surprisingly - that the vast majority of psychiatrists and psychologists today still believe that incest is a sexual aberration with serious psychological consequences for all concerned.

Comment: Which "WCG ministers have privately commented" this ridiculous statement?

From AR#27:

Apr. 1984

HWA Confesses to Incest!

That year, during a heated argument between GTA and his father, HWA threatened to "destroy" Ted through making public certain information about his personal life. But Ted responded in

kind saying he could destroy HWA with the information he had. Ted charged his father in no uncertain terms, yelling: "You f***ed my sister!" Herbert, shocked at Ted's knowledge of the incestuous relationship, could only reply, "Well there have been times in my life when I have gotten far away from God." The conversation - overheard by GTA associate Benny Sharp - was the last face to face meeting between the two men. And Ted has since related how the hateful look he saw in his father's eye made him suspect they would never see each other again.

As was covered in great detail in our 1977 issue, during the early '70s Garner Ted Armstrong became highly infatuated with an Ambassador College coed. The resulting affair caused great confusion in the higher echelons of the WCG. Former WCG evangelist David Antion recalls how, at the time, he discussed the problem with HWA. Antion was for years perplexed by the almost Freudian analysis offered. HWA told Antion that Ted was simply fantasizing the younger woman as being his own daughter. The statement made no sense to Antion until years later. (As an aside, it is interesting how Ramona has claimed that HWA has been, over the years, very jealous of GTA's supposed sexual prowess.)

The last meeting between GTA and his father in 1978 was not the only time HWA confessed to the incest allegation. In 1980 Henry Cornwall, then an aide to HWA, read the Robinson book soon after it appeared and asked HWA directly if the chapter on incest was accurate. HWA told him it was. He then instructed Cornwall that his wife Ramona was not to see the book or learn of the incest story. Unfortunately for Herbert, Ramona already had a copy of the book and was in the next room listening to the Cornwall-HWA discussion. Shortly thereafter, she too confronted HWA about the incest allegation. And once again, Herbert admitted it was true, but begged and pleaded with Ramona not to let this fact get in the way of their marriage. The cause of the problem, he said, had been Loma, his first wife. Considering the perversity of Herbert's past, is it any wonder Ramona's love would begin to wane?

Comment: Where is there any evidence that Benny Sharp, David Antion, or Henry Cornwall ever said these things? These accounts sound like the writer (John Trechak) was omnipresent. And I would like to hear one good reason (or even a bad one) why HWA would confess to something that was unprovable. No confessor has ever come forward!

From AR#40:

Mar. 1988

Recall that since 1980 when David Robinson's book *Herbert Armstrong's Tangled Web* first appeared, there has been wide circulation of the allegation that beginning in 1936 HWA had a very long incestuous relationship with his daughter Dorothy. Considering the significance of those charges, it is remarkable that editor Hoeh would allow Herbert's thinly-disguised Hollywood odyssey to be included in the *Autobiography*. Was Hoeh attempting to bring HWA's

image down to earth? Or did HWA before his death order that his Hollywood odyssey be included in his *Autobiography* as some sort of cryptic message to the worldly potentates he loved so much more than his humble brethren - a cryptic message that he was able to sin more than all of them and still get away with it?

We may never know the answer to that. But we believe the *Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*, when read with the skeptical eyes of a careful detective, reveals dark secrets about the man his followers called "the Holy Apostle of God's True Church."

Comment: HWA was never called “the Holy Apostle of God's True Church.”

From AR#68:

Apr. 1998

We regularly get letters from readers skeptical of the many reports over the years that Herbert Armstrong had had a long-time incestuous relationship with at least one of his daughters. People want proof. Well, unfortunately, or fortunately perhaps, video tapes of those acts do not exist. And, as the GTA massage parlor case suggests, even if we had video tape evidence many would still discount the evidence. That does not mean, however, that there is no evidence. For instance, in the recent Ron Russell article, the author mentions how he interviewed HWA's grandson, Richard Armstrong (see AR67), and how Richard corroborated that HWA's daughter, Dorothy Mattson, had on numerous occasions told family members about the incestuous abuse. (In fact, during her years as a Pasadena-area business woman, Mrs. Mattson had also told many others.)

Comment: “at least one” suggests into your mind that HWA probably molested both of his daughters. The “Ron Russell article” in the New Times Los Angeles paper was written in 1997 and is nothing but a rehash of old gossip. And there is no documented “Richard Armstrong” “corroboration” of anything, or evidence that “Dorothy Mattson” told anything to anyone. This type of abuse is almost universally hidden by the victim and not blabbered about to family and friends on “numerous occasions.” But even if she did make this accusation to someone, it wouldn't be the first time a disgruntled daughter made a false allegation about her father.

APPENDIX C

Lakeland Ledger - Google News Archive Search - Windows Internet Explorer

http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=7pEsAAAAIBAJ&sjid=YvSDAAAAIBAJ&dq=worldwide did herbert armstrong commit incest

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Lakeland Ledger - Google News Archive Search

Find: incest Previous Next Options

Lakeland Ledger - May 12, 1984 Browse this newspaper Browse all newspapers Page 7 of 59

Church leader's marriage dissolved

The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — A judge on Friday dissolved the 7-year-old marriage of Herbert W. Armstrong, the 91-year-old pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God, and his one-time secretary.

Judge William N. Sherrill of Pima County Superior Court approved the settlement in the two-year divorce battle after a five-minute hearing during which Armstrong testified that he had read the settlement agreement and did not feel it was unfair.

Terms of the settlement were not disclosed, but Armstrong's attorney, Allen Browne, said, they "were not unfair to the parties involved."

Still pending before another Superior Court judge was an agreement to drop criminal charges against Armstrong's estranged wife, Ramona.

Browne had told Sherrill earlier that Deputy County Attorney Kenneth Peasley agreed to dismiss the criminal action on condition that Browne provide an affidavit stating that "a trial would be stressful to Mr. Armstrong and might be very injurious to his health."

The affidavit also would include that restitution has been made for gold flatware, the disappearance of which prompted perjury, theft and trafficking in stolen property charges against Mrs. Armstrong.

In the divorce proceedings, Armstrong's lawyers had sought to limit evidence of a sexual nature, but his wife's attorneys said it was crucial since the church leader alleged Mrs. Armstrong had breached an agreement of love and fidelity.

Lawrence Deckter, Mrs. Armstrong's lawyer, said the testimony would explain an "understanding" the couple reached about Armstrong's "prior incestuous conduct with his daughter for many years."

The judge denied a bid to limit evidence on the finances of Armstrong and his church, but said he would bar questions touching on the church's "internal workings" and would not let Deckter "put the church on trial."

Court documents showed Mrs. Armstrong was seeking \$150,000 a year, half of a \$5 million bank account, the couple's Tucson home and furnishings, jewelry, furs and two automobiles.

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TULSA WORLD. SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1984

Judge Dissolves Armstrong Marriage

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — A judge Friday dissolved the 7-year-old marriage of Herbert W. Armstrong, the 91-year-old pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God, and his one-time secretary.

Judge William N. Sherrill approved the settlement in the 2-year divorce battle after a 5-minute hearing during which Armstrong testified that he had read the settlement agreement and did not feel it was unfair.

Terms of the settlement were not disclosed, but Armstrong's attorney, Allen Browne, said, they "were not unfair to the parties involved."

The Tucson Citizen reported, Armstrong's estranged wife, Ramona, would receive \$300,000, including \$150,000 for attorneys' fees. She would also receive two cars, personal belongings and the couple's Tucson home, although she would be responsible for a monthly \$785 mortgage payment, the newspaper reported.

On Tuesday, another judge, Richard Hannah, is to hear a motion to drop criminal charges against Mrs. Armstrong.

Browne had told Sherrill earlier that Deputy County Attorney Kenneth Peasley agreed to dismiss the criminal action on condition that Browne provide an affidavit stating that "a trial would be stressful to Mr. Armstrong and might be injurious to his health."

The affidavit also would include that restitution has been made for gold flatware, the disappearance of which prompted perjury, theft and trafficking in stolen property charges against Mrs. Armstrong, 45, Browne said.

During pre-trial proceedings in the divorce case Thursday, Sherrill agreed to limit testimony on Armstrong's sexual conduct but to allow evidence on the finances of the Pasadena, Calif.-based church.

In the divorce proceedings, Armstrong's lawyers had sought to limit evidence of a sexual nature, but his wife's attorneys said

it was crucial since the church leader alleged Mrs. Armstrong had breached an agreement of love and fidelity.

Louis Deckter, Mrs. Armstrong's lawyer, said the testimony would explain an "understanding" the couple reached about Armstrong's "prior incestuous conduct with his daughter for many years."

Citing Armstrong's worldwide travel in a \$17-million private jet and other examples of a "luxurious lifestyle," Deckter contended the other side was trying to exclude evidence showing "the vast wealth that Mr. Armstrong personally controls to his own benefit."

Monday, Oct. 29, 1979

FESTIVAL REPORTS DELAYED

As of press time, *The Worldwide News* has received reports from only about half of the Festival sites around the world. Because of this delay, complete coverage of the 1979 Feast will not appear until our Nov. 12 issue, when reports on all sites will appear together.

This issue features articles on the microwave hookup for Herbert W. Armstrong's sermon on the Last Great Day beginning on page 1 and Festival photo coverage on pages 6 and 7.

A PROCLAMATION BY MR. ARMSTRONG

The following proclamation was written by Herbert W. Armstrong to be read at the U.S. Feast sites. It was then released to the press. We are reprinting it for the benefit of all the brethren worldwide.

The continued persecution by the state of California through its attorney general makes this message necessary. It is our response as Christians to the State's unlawful demand for documents and information of the Church.

Christ said, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). The Bible, the inspired written Word of God, tells us that our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20) — and that we are the citizens of God's heavenly nation and that while we are on earth, "we are ambassadors for Christ" (II Corinthians 5:20).

Thus, we are only sojourners or pilgrims on this planet earth (I Peter 2:11; Hebrews 11:13; John 17:14). As ambassadors and aliens, God instructs us not to become part of this world (John 15:19; Romans 12:2; Galatians 1:4).

He instructs us to come out of this world and to become a citizen of His nation, subject to His government and subject to His higher laws.

Jesus Christ was called before Pontius Pilate. At that point He was falsely charged. The Scriptures tell us that Christ remained silent and did not respond to the charges of His accusers (Matthew 27:13, 14).

As Christ said, we are not to become a part of this world. If we were to obey and carry out every pronouncement of a corrupt political force, we would in fact be a part of this world. We would be doing each and every thing this corrupt political society wanted us to do. Can you not see the effect of that? We would be no different from those of this world.

Also, we who have not been cut off from God and we whose eyes have been opened to His truth understand Satan is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10), and that Satan is the master persecutor of His true Church (Revelation 12:13).

It is Satan who is the invisible ultimate force behind the attack by the State and all of the vile lies that the State and its agents have lodged against the brethren of God's Church, its leaders and flock alike.

Hence, if we were to obey all unconstitutional and illegal demands of the State and its corrupt officials, we would, in fact, be obeying Satan. We would become members of an occult religion.

Read in Matthew 4, where Satan demanded Christ to do certain things and Christ refused!

The bottom line is that if we were to condescend and if we were to give the State all that the State wants, we would be conceding to the State that it has the right to supervise and control God's Church. If we were to do that, we would be in fact giving up the great commission and the responsibility that God has given to us to preach the Gospel to all the world as a witness.

As the State is the unwitting agent of Satan, then obviously the Gospel would no longer be preached.

Therefore, as the living Christ's chosen apostle, as His instrument to rebuild His Church according to God's laws and to administer His laws through His government, I hereby make the following proclamation:

We shall continue to resist the State's unlawful efforts to confiscate the properties of the living God, to seize the Church records and to pry into Church affairs. We are filing appropriate writs in state and federal appellate courts. We pray that an appellate court will declare the State's conduct contrary to the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

But, Christ said that we were going to be persecuted (John 15:20; Revelation 12:13).

We have done no wrong!

Therefore, if this is the beginning of such persecution, then let the persecutors know that we are going to obey God and receive the blessing of His promise for so doing (Matthew 5:10-12).

If arrest and trial are the penalty for obeying God and His laws, then we will suffer until Christ returns. Then, we will rule this world with Him with all the might and power of the universe.

Persecutors take notice! We, the Church, shall preach the Gospel in accordance with the great commission that Christ has given us, and we shall not permit the state of California or any of its corrupt agents to take that great commission from us. We, like the apostle Paul, shall carry out our great commission from jail if need be.

With deep love, in Jesus' name,
Herbert W. Armstrong

APPENDIX D

30% Growth for 35 Years

A Year	B 30% Growth Projected Members	C Cumulative Baptisms (annual)	D Cumulative Baptisms %Growth	E Feast Attendance (incl. families)	F Feast Attendance %Growth	H Source of Column E Figures				M John Ogwyn Feast Figures
1933	2	1	0.0	2	0.0					
1934	3	3	200.0	11	450.0	best guess				
1935	3	6	100.0	20	81.8	best guess				
1936	4	10	66.7	29	45.0	best guess				
1937	6	11	10.0	38	31.0	best guess				
1938	7	13	18.2	47	23.7	best guess				
1939	10	15	15.4	55	17.0	Good News 1939 (Vol V No 01) Feb-Apr, pg.11				42
1940	13	17	13.3	58	5.5	best guess				
1941	16	17	0.0	61	5.2	best guess				
1942	21	19	11.8	64	4.9	best guess				
1943	28	20	5.3	67	4.7	best guess				
1944	36	22	10.0	70	4.5	best guess				
1945	47	23	4.5	73	4.3	best guess				
1946	61	36	56.5	76	4.1	best guess				50
1947	79	45	25.0	79	3.9	best guess				
1948	102	61	35.6	82	3.8	best guess				
1949	133	99	62.3	85	3.7	best guess				
1950	173	154	55.6	90	5.9	Good News 1951 (Vol I No 04) Dec, pg.13				
1951	225	246	59.7	150	66.7	Good News 1951 (Vol I No 04) Dec, pg.13				150
1952	292	446	81.3	450	200.0	Good News 1952 (Vol II No 12) Dec, pg.5				450
1953	380	662	48.4	1000	122.2	Good News 1953 (Vol III No 10) Nov, pg.1				750
1954	494	960	45.0	1450	45.0	best guess				
1955	642	1314	36.9	1900	31.0	best guess				

1956	835	1795	36.6	2350	23.7	best guess					
1957	1086	2425	35.1	2800	19.1	Good News 1957 (Vol VI No 11) Nov, pg.1					2000
1958	1411	3405	40.4	4000	42.9	Good News 1958 (Vol VII No 08) Dec, pg.1					
1959	1835	4675	37.3	5500	37.5	Good News 1959 (Vol VIII No 11) Nov, pg.1					
1960	2385	6058	29.6	7100	29.1	Good News 1960 (Vol IX No 11) Nov, pg.1					
1961	3101	7668	26.6	11000	54.9	Good News 1961 (Vol X No 11) Nov, pg.1					10000
1962	4031	9554	24.6	15000	36.4	Good News 1962 (Vol XI No 10) Oct, pg.1					
1963	5240	12107	26.7	20000	33.3	Good News 1963 (Vol XII No 11) Nov, pg.3					
1964	6812	14747	21.8	25000	25.0	Good News 1964 (Vol XIII No 10) Oct, pg.3					
1965	8856	17850	21.0	31000	24.0	Good News 1965 (Vol XIV No 10-11) Oct-Nov, pg.3					
1966	11512	21506	20.5	38000	22.6	Good News 1966 (Vol XV No 12) Dec, pg.5					
1967	14966	25483	18.5	44827	18.0	Good News 1967 (Vol XVI No 11) Nov, pg.5 & Good News 1967 (Vol XVI No 12) Dec, pg.3 article					40000
1968	19456	30416	19.4	64000	42.8	Good News 1968 (Vol XVII No 11-12) Nov-Dec, pg.3					
Average Annual Growth Percentage			36.7		43.7						

Notes

Column B – This is what a constant 30% growth in membership for 35 straight years would be.

Column C – Data derived from figures provided by Wayne Pyle, official WCG statistician. Numbers do not account for deaths and attrition.

"I was the official Media Operations' statistician for 20 years (1976-1995) for the Church's overall stats. The numbers come from my personal, hands-on research into Mr. Armstrong's personal files (cardboard boxes!), his writings, and official, internal computer printouts." Wayne Pyle

Column E – Data from WCG publications listed in column H. Years with no data were interpolated linearly.

Column M– Data from "God's Church Through the Ages" (pg.51-54), a historical book written by WCG minister John Ogwyn. Figures include families.

