The GOOD NEWS LETTER

Number 1 March 29, 1943

A personal letter to all the brethren of The Churches of God, from your pastor, co-laborer, and fellow-servant in Christ, Herbert W. Armstrong, Box 111, Eugene.

GREETINGS! For weeks it has been laid on my heart to begin a new kind of "publication" -- a sort of Gospel-LETTER -- one which also is a NEWS-Letter -- to keep in closer touch with all you brethren.

Its purpose is to help bind us closer together in love, to become a vehicle in writing for saying to you those things I would like to say if I were present, to encourage our growing family of brethren, to keep you all continually informed of the progress of the work in which we all are co-workers, and of the manner in which God is blessing His work continually.

The work God has called us to do is expanding, now, to national and international influence. As the work multiplies in power, I find my time is more and more divided -- I am being taken more and more away from personal contact and fellowship with our brethren at any one place.

The apostle Paul found himself in similar circumstances, as the work expanded and grew in those days. When he was no longer able to be present regularly with the brethren of any one place, it was his inspired practice to write LETTERS to those from whom he was absent. True, Paul's letters were also literally inspired Scripture. Nevertheless Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I follow Christ." And so, in following his example I feel we are now doing as God wills. Therefore I feel this "Good News-LETTER" will have God's blessing, and will thru His Spirit prove a blessing to YOU!

And so, while I am absent in person, but present in Spirit, I shall from time to time, as God impresses me with something to say, write you another "Good-News-Letter." I write them partly as a personal letter to personal friends I love very much -- partly as your pastor in the Lord.

We are all just ONE FAMILY. A large family, in one sense -- yet just a very "LITTLE FLOCK" in another. And so this is just "among ourselves" within our own intimate family in Christ Jesus, having fellowship with one another in and thru Him and His love. I wonder how many of us realize HOW precious is that fellowship He gives us -- and the love of Christ which must be the BASIS of that fellowship! Let us not fail to treasure it highly, and GUARD IT ZEALOUSLY, lest some root of bitterness be permitted to enter in and rob us of it.

THE EVERETT MEETINGS

And so, this morning, Tuesday, March 16th, 1943, as we are returning from the week's meeting at the Everett church, I write this FIRST "Good NEWS-LETTER" on the train. We are returning filled with joy in the realization that our heavenly Father has never let us hold meetings even for the short duration of a single week, without BLESSING OUR EFFORTS WITH THE FRUIT OF PRECIOUS SOULS.

The church at Everett began about a year and a half ago. Two families, the Hopkins' and the Blakes, had come to see and accept the Sabbath and other truths, as a result of the broadcasts and the Bible Study Quarterly. They wrote us, we contacted them, spent a week with them and held a meeting or two and several Bible studies. They sought, and ate and digested the heavenly manna of Truth just like the Spirit -- hungry children they were -- and they grew rapidly in grace and in knowledge. Largely thru their efforts and zeal, others were from time to time added -- baptised and converted. Recently they purchased a very desirable church property just about two blocks off the downtown district in Everett. There they have had about 30 in attendance -- about 15 adults and 15 children -- with five Sabbath-school classes. Dr. Douglas Blake has been ordained elder, and Dr. Aldon Hopkins deacon.

Thru the winter, I had been holding meetings nearly every Sunday night in downtown Seattle, at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium. The past several weeks we began holding meetings on Monday nights at the Everett church. The interest was splendid, the church being nearly full each Monday night, with a hundred or more in attendance. We decided to hold one intensive week's campaign. Three weeks ago Monday night I began the subjects leading to these meetings, with "The BEAST," and two weeks ago Monday night continuing with "The IMAGE," and then this past week holding meetings Monday thru Friday nights.

The subjects were all on the law and the Sabbath. Attendance dropped slightly as soon as "the LAW" was preached. After "The MARK of the Beast," had been preached, about 15 or 20 outside our own membership continued to have interest. They continued thru Thursday and Friday nights as the Sabbath was explained.

The real test came Sabbath. We eagerly waited to see how many would come to the church on the Sabbath. You can all imagine how happy and thrilled we were on Sabbath morning when nearly every one who had continued attending thru Thursday and Friday nights was there!

We had not preached evangelistic sermons -- but straight doctrinal messages, rather, on the Sabbath truth, yet at least two precious souls were thoroughly converted, and we had 13 additional adults in attendance on the Sabbath, most of whom had assured us that they accepted the Sabbath, and besides, two women who told us they accepted it on Thursday night and left town on Friday for a few weeks, saying they would be back with us on their return.

We shall have to wait another week or two to see just how many of those who attended on Sabbath have really made the CHANGE in their LIVES thru faith in Christ that shall add them to our number as brethren. But we do not know that some were visibly happy in the new knowledge and Christian experience that came to them thru these meetings -- and we do know that the meetings were wonderfully blessed of the Eternal with rich and precious fruit! And we do know there has been a substantial increase to the membership at Everett Church. The Everett brethren are rejoicing, and I'm sure the brethren everywhere will rejoice with us, and give thanks and praises to our God!

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--Continued, Monday March 22, 1943, on train, enroute to San Francisco

STATION KVI ADDED!

It has been nearly a week since I began this first "Good News-LETTER." Arriving home, things were moving so rapidly at the office all last week I was unable to find time to finish it. It is now 2:30 Monday afternoon. Our train is running about an hour and 45 minutes late. We just passed Davis, on route to San Francisco, where we change trains for Los Angeles, arriving there tomorrow morning in time for the first daily broadcast tomorrow afternoon at 5:15 over KMTR. Mrs. Armstrong is with me. I've been literally HAPPY ever since we left Eugene that she was able to come. God spoke the truth when He said it is not good for a man to live alone -- that he needs a wife with him as a help and an inspiration.

I'm sure that the work will be much more efficiently conducted during this very important and crucial trip by her being able to be with me.

I was almost heart-sick that I could not spend my last Sabbath before taking this trip, day before yesterday, with the brethren at Eugene church. I had planned to be there, but late Friday night in long distance telephone conversation Brother Blake in Seattle told me he had arranged a definite appointment with the manager of KVI, in Tacoma, for Sunday morning, and so it was necessary for me to take the train early Sabbath morning for Seattle, sending the broadcast out from there on Sunday morning.

We had been thinking of adding Tacoma's powerful station, KVI, for about two weeks. Then KGA increased the rate considerable, just as we finished our first year on that station. At first we considered dropping KGA and adding KVI instead. But on looking over our reports, I saw that the mail response from the Spokane district is now increasing a great deal. KGA has doubled its power and is now a powerful 10,000-watt station. We completed one year on that station a week ago Sunday. We decided NOT to drop it, at least for the present. Consequently, I had notified KGA we would continue, and had dropped consideration of KVI, and planned to remain in Eugene Sabbath, going to Portland to send the broadcast over the net-work from KXL -- leaving consideration of KVI until I returned from this trip.

Then Friday night Brother Blake told me that our Everett Church had raised a special fund of $150, to carry KVI now. He had made this appointment with the manager for me Sunday. Consequently I went to Seattle, and after the broadcast we went to Tacoma yesterday morning.

KVI is a very popular station. It is 5,000 watts, but reaches out better than most 10,000-watt stations. Until KIRO went to 50,000-watts, it was a CBS station for the Seattle district, and one of the two leading stations of that area. I noticed a year ago in driving to Vancouver, B.C., that KVI was the ONLY station from the Seattle district we could get satisfactorily up near Vancouver. People in Vancouver and Victoria say that KVI comes in stronger than any Seattle station. It has been a very large listening audience. There is no doubt that it will double, or more than double, our present great listening audience in the very important Puget Sound section. Our brethren in Everett, and their neighbors, say they can scarcely get the broadcast on KRSC, but KVI comes in very strong there.

The manager of KVI had listened to the broadcast over KRSC. There was some difficulty in switching another church program off the 8:30 time, but he said he could and would do it, and was willing to sign a contract for that time. The Postal lines, which we use for the Liberty Network, are already installed in KVI, so all we have to do is use Postal, and the KVI operators will take the program off the lines and release it over their station, BEGINNING NEXT SUNDAY. Also, he gave us a rate lower than I had expected. It seemed too good to be true -- to know the way had suddenly opened -- the first two months' broadcasting already financed and provided for -- the low rate -- being able to get the time of our net-work program. As we left the KVI office, I mentioned to Brother Blake that I was sure it had not "just happened" -- I had prayed and asked God to do it for us, and as usual we had the answer. "Yes," he replied, "I prayed too."

We are NOT DROPPING KRSC. That is a very fine station, one of the highest-class stations in the Northwest, though its power is not as large as several others. We have a very large audience on that station.

So now consider what has recently happened to our broadcast in the Pacific Northwest -- our home section of the country. First, KGA, doubled its power, going to 10,000 watts. Then we were able to get on KXL, Oregon's most powerful station, which recently increased its power to 10,000 watts. We dropped KWJJ, switching over to KXL in Portland. From that station we have already had letters from Alaska, and from California south of San Francisco. And now, finally, adding one of the real powerful stations of the Seattle area, KVI. This gives us, on the Liberty net-work -- all at 8:30 Sunday morning -- KXL, 10,000 watts at Portland; KVI, 5,000 watts at Tacoma; KRSC, 1,000 watts at Seattle; and KGA, 10,000 watts at Spokane. Compare this to the power we were able to use a year ago. Then we had 1,000 watts at Portland, and 1,000 watts at Seattle, ONLY. A total of 2,000 watts of power then -- a total of 26,000 watts now. This will mean at least two or three times more people actually being reached. Yes, God is blessing His work in every way! Satan is bitterly, desperately, maliciously attacking it -- BUT GOD IS BLESSING AND PROTECTING IT!

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THE NEW ENLARGED OFFICE STAFF

The Radio Church of God offices in the I.O.O.F. Building at Eugene, Oregon, are a veritable bee-hive of activity these days. There, too, you'll notice the rapid expansion of this work. A year ago, we had one secretary regularly employed in the office. Now there are FIVE.

Two more typists were added to the staff last week -- both experienced and capable young women. Sister Olson, one of the most valuable members of the staff, has been prevented by illness from being in the office most of the time for the past five weeks, but we are hoping she will be able to re-join the staff soon.

During the past two weeks five desks have been purchased and installed in the office. Until recently we have had to get along in the office without desks to work on -- using some old tables. But the time has come now when the office must be organized for real efficiency the same as any business office, and we are more than thankful it is proving possible for us to have supplied everything that is really needed for the office. God has promised to supply EVERY need -- and I find He does it!

Also we have added one more steel filing cabinet with steel trays, to hold an additional 6,500 names for the mailing list. We have now three such cabinets in the office, and a deposit has been made to hold a large steel cabinet that will contain 25,000 names. We hope to be able to pay for, have delivered, this cabinet by the time we return from the present trip.

Also added about three weeks ago to the office equipment was a new (re-built used) mimeograph, fully automatic -- with

automatic feed and automatic slip-sheet. With this late-type machine, one girl can turn out work about 50% faster than TWO girls could before. We also have retained the old mimeograph, as frequently we will need to use two mimeographs at once from .... (unreadable) .... We are planning to print many thousands of tracts, articles, etc., from .... (unreadable) ....

Two new typewriters also have been secured for the office. Typewriters are "frozen" by the government, and cannot be purchased, but they can be rented, and so we have rented two, and are planning now to purchase an automatic stencil-cutting machine -- a typewriter with stencil-cutting .... (unreadable) .... instead of the usual roller, etc. Such a machine can be sold, and a typist can cut stencils for the addressing machine about 50% faster with this machine.

LAST WEEK WE RENTED AN ADDITIONAL OFFICE ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE I.O.O.F. Building, to be used for our mailing departments. Soon, now, we hope to organize a separate mailing department, in a separate office. It will be employed the month through, the same as the main office staff is. In other words, with the PLAIN TRUTH mailing list already coming almost to 25,000 (we are printing 25,000 copies of the present number), we are planning to keep the mailing department operating daily the month thru mailing out The PLAIN TRUTH and other literature. It is now going by hundreds and thousands into every state in the union, and every province in Canada.

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PASSOVER -- DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

The Lord's Supper will be held in our various churches this year on SUNDAY NIGHT, April 18th, just after sunset. All leaven should be removed entirely from the homes not later than the day-time of Monday, April 19th -- the "preparation day" before the annual Sabbath.

The first of God's seven annual Sabbaths -- solemn HOLYDAYS of THE ETERNAL -- begins with sunset, Monday evening, April 19th. Tuesday, April 20th is the 15th Abib of God's sacred calendar -- the FIRST of the seven days of unleavened bread.

The NIGHT to be much observed unto the Eternal (Ex. 12:42), is the night of Monday, April 19th, next night after the Lord's Supper service. On this night, after sunset, all the brethren should meet in the respective churches or places of worship.

No leaven should be in the homes of any brethren for the seven days starting from Monday night, April 19th, until sunset April 26th.

The second annual holyday -- the seventh of the days of unleavened bread -- begins at sunset April 25th, (Sunday sunset) and Monday April 26th is the annual SABBATH unto the Eternal. No work should be done.

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LETTERS from LISTENERS

From IOWA: "I just happened to tune in on your program Sunday evening at 11 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. I just want to say with all my heart and sincerely, you told more to the people in 30 minutes than a lot of people could tell in a lifetime .... I have a good wife and two children, a son 13 years of age and a daughter 11 years of age. I have never been born again, and I know I should for my own good, also for the sake of my wife and two children. There are two reasons why I have not been born again. In the first place, my Grandmother raised me and she belonged to the Church of God, and they kept Saturday, the seventh day of the week. Which day should I keep? Will you please help me out on this .... I believe in Christ and I should be baptized in His name. But here is my second reason I am a sinner. When I am born again I am supposed to go to the ones I have done harm to and ask their forgiveness. This is what is holding me back more than anything else. This one sin is I have stolen some money from the store I am working for, and I have not got enough courage to face my boss and ask his forgiveness .... I am not doing this any more, but I have done this. Before you finished your program I broke down in tears. In fact, I cried for ten minutes .... (unreadable) .... Please pray for me."

To RADIO STATION KFMB: (From San Diego) "You asked for our reaction on the morning program of "World Tomorrow" by Herbert W. Armstrong. I certainly was very much enlightened on a most timely subject. Please give us more such programs. We all need it in these trying days and for those just ahead. It means our only hope of survival."

From WISCONSIN: "Thank you so much for the copy of 'The United States in Prophecy.' The same day I received it, I started to read and couldn't give it up until I had read it from cover to cover. It fascinated me so, as I had often wondered whether or not the U.S. was mentioned in the Bible, and this seems to be my answer.

"I am especially thankful for the last two pages of the book where you give the warning to the people of our Country, as my heart too is greatly burdened because of sin, which is fast on the increase. I wish someone would place a copy of the booklet into the hands of our President. Could I make some kind of an arrangement to have this booklet sent to many of my brothers and sisters in christ, and also to my unsaved loved ones and friends?"

From OREGON: "I have only just started listening to you and am very interested although not yet entirely convinced. It is rather hard to change from what one has been taught since child- hood, but as long as Christ crucified is taught, any faith is worth looking into."

From a German prisoner of war in the United States: "Dear Sir: Listen to the radio on Sunday night about 11 o'clock. Du you want send written letters to us have written to you. Please you send my (my booklet) and if you want, kindly please, have you an old Bible in German Language, I am very interested and can better understand it. Here is impossible to get one." (I found a German translation of the Bible in Portland which I purchased and sent to this prisoner.)

You have read in Ripley's "Believe It or Not" of the freak addresses placed on some letters which the post-office department managed, nevertheless, to get to him. While in Everett I went once to the General Delivery window at the post office to inquire for a letter that had been sent to me from our office, with the wrong hotel name. That letter was not there, but the following post card from Salinas, California -- south of San Francisco -- addressed to Herbert T. Armstrong, Box 111, Everett, Washington, was handed to me: "Dear Sir: I heard your fine radio broadcast this morning, and would greatly appreciate receiving your article "PLAIN TRUTH" you mentioned in your sermon." KMTR cannot be heard that far north in daytime. Consequently he heard it over KXL, clear from Portland. KXL's 10,000 watts reaches out! Think of hearing a Portland station south of San Francisco, then getting the right box number but the wrong town and state -- and I happened to just walk into that post office at the RIGHT TIME to get this post card at the general delivery window! Did Ripley ever have a more unusual experience than that!

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ANOTHER 50,000-WATT STATION TO BE ADDED

On this present trip, I hope to be able to add our second super-power 50,000 watt station, KWKH, Shreveport, Louisiana, which covers the whole South with a tremendous listening audience. We have tuned in on this station in Oregon many times. It seems we receive mail from Shreveport listeners (hearing WHO) nearly every day. I have been astonished at the number of people in Shreveport who hear our broadcast over WHO. Two different business men in Shreveport, neither knowing about the other, have written to us urging us to send out "The WORLD TOMORROW" program over their super-power station, and offering to contribute substantial sums monthly to this end if arrangements can be made.

I have planned thru one of these men to hold two meetings in Shreveport when we arrive there in about three weeks -- one a public meeting, and the other a meeting just for those who may be interested in seeing the program go on this station. Will you brethren all PRAY with me, that God again will give us favor in the sight of the officials of this very important radio station, and cause them to open up just the right time, at the low local rate? This rate is just HALF the national rate. The national rate would bring the cost considerably above that of WHO, but the local rate would be quite a little less. We are hoping, thru the co-operation of LOCAL business men, to be able to get the lower local rate. God is able to open this to us. We must TRUST HIM, as we have for all the other good things that have come.

Also I hope we may be able to add super-power WJJD, Chicago, on this trip. However, we must be very careful just now not to get ahead of the Lord. It all depends on how things develop. But, if God impresses on enough new co-workers to send in, from the mailing of this PLAIN TRUTH, an increased weekly income, and if our office staff is now as well organized as I believe it is, and can function as smoothly and efficiently as I am confident it will, we will be able to add both these super-stations during the present trip. Otherwise, at least WJJD will have to await a later trip. It's in God's hands. Will you pray over it with me?

We are now at Berkely. I must wind up this letter, for I will have no further opportunity to write more on it for days, once we land at Oakland pier. If we are not too late in arriving in San Francisco (it's 3:35 now), I will have a conference there with a representatives of the Golden West Net-Work. This net- work wants just one more religious broadcast, and they have

selected "The WORLD TOMORROW" as the ONE that they want, and are soliciting us aggressively. Their net-work is the strongest in California outside of NBC and CBS. It has larger and more power stations than Mutual, including the 10,000-watt station at Sacramento, and they tell me they can hook it up with KXL, Portland, so we can have our OWN net-work covering the entire Coast. Any such additions in central California will be made later, not on this trip, however.

I will be speaking daily, Monday thru Friday, at 5:15, over KWTR beginning tomorrow. The Biltmore Theatre is closed to us, I understand, as I have been told the Seventh Day Adventists are now using it. However, the Ball Room of the large Ambassador Hotel is now open, and may use it. Approaching Oakland. Must close. Pray for us and the work. GOD BLESS YOU ALL, AND KEEP YOU, until we see you again.

Your pastor, and brother in Christ,

Herbert W. Armstrong