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ANSWERING GTA'S FALSE CHARGES

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Fellow Ministers, Mr. Wayne Cole has just brought to me in my office a memo that GTA has become very aggressive in his efforts to sow the seeds of discord within God's Church. That he is subtly putting questions and doubts in members' minds, making false charges and misstatements designed to affect them emotionally, turning them against God's Church and Work, and gaining financial support for himself.

He claims to be giving the "inside story" about "his father" and the goings on" at headquarters. This, as Mr. Cole explains, leaves you ministers at a disadvantage.

I have asked Mr. Cole to send you as soon as possible an explanation of what really is going on, and what did, under GTA'S assumption of absolute authority never given him!

Meanwhile, I rush this to you, to put you in position to answer those doubts, suspicions, and possible oppositions GTA is so adroitly, cleverly and subtly (he has to be inspired by Satan -- for no one, let alone GTA, could have the sly psychologically effective and emotion-stirring subtle cleverness) to so try to damage and destroy the Work of God.

In brief, I give you now this much.

Anyone who accuses and tries to create suspicion invariably is himself GUILTY of that which he accuses in others.

The four specific reasons I wrote in the disfellowshipment letter to him were not even the tip of the iceberg. They were four specific details of the moment given me, on the day that I hurriedly wrote that letter, by Messrs. Cole, Wright, LaRavia, and Rader -- all of which I am ASSURED were correct, despite his denials. But the BIG REASON was simply THIS:

After my son had three times been put out of the Church for improper conduct, unbecoming a minister of Christ, on his profession of repentance I had accepted him back. At the time, by board resolution, Mr. Al Portune was Executive Vice-President.

I intended to require a full year's probation before turning any administrative jurisdiction over to my son. But (he was received back in June, 1972), by the spring of early 1973, because I was that year away 200 out of the 365 days, Mr. Portune felt the responsibility of day-to-day administration was too great a burden, and with Mr. David Antion he came to my office saying that I would just have to turn the daily administrative job back to my son.

That year and in the following, 1974, I was away giving out Christ's Gospel worldwide, 200 days a year, and in 1975 and 1976, 300 out of the 365 days.

I began to sense an undercover conspiracy for my son to take over -- as two of King David's sons, Adonijah and Absalom, tried by deceptive means to conspire to take over David's throne.

Does not history repeat? David's son Absalom, because of a murder (not adultery) was in banished isolation. But good-hearted David, his father, authorized his return. On returning he spent two years in Jerusalem, then plotted to steal the throne from his father. But God had set David on that throne, and Absalom's conspiracy failed -- yet David loved Absalom and wept over him. Later, another son, Adonijah, conspired to usurp David's throne.

I loved and still love my son very deeply. But often a son feels hostility and resentment against his father.

Well I gave the routine day-to-day administration as Executive Vice-President over to Ted. I made it EXPLICIT that he was only to administer the policies, and uphold the doctrines Christ had put in his Church through his chosen Apostle -- that I retained all authority over policies and doctrines.

Yet, while I was away, I guess it was a repeat of history again, in a sense. When Moses was called by God to be on Mount Sinai with him, the people said, "as for this Moses, ... we wot not what has become of him" -- and Aaron, whom Moses had left in charge, made for them a golden calf and led them in this FALSE WORSHIP. I do not mean that the people or the others at headquarters took the lead in forming the "golden calf" of secularism and watering down God's truth -- but while I was away on CHRIST'S ASSIGNMENT, carrying HIS GOSPEL INTO ALL THE WORLD, that secularism and watering down of doctrine did take place under GTA's leadership.

Immediately after he was reinstated in executive administration, he demoted older and top ministers, loyal to me and God's Word -- Raymond McNair, Dibar Apartian, Dr. Rod Meredith, Dr. Herman Hoeh, Dennis Luker, Dr. Zimmerman and others. They were threatened with losing their jobs entirely if they contacted me, or told me what was going on!

I did not want accreditation! My son did, and kept after me about it. I said that it would soon make Ambassador like any other college -- no longer God's College, unique in all the world. He argued and insisted that he could get accreditation and still keep Ambassador God's College. Finally, under conditions that it would be accomplished that way, I consented. Now my son has said publicly that I wanted accreditation. **THAT IS A LIE! AND HE KNOWS IT IS A LIE!** All through this maze of efforts for accreditation I have repeated that again and again.

WHAT HAPPENED? My son began moving more and more PhD's from other colleges and universities into the faculty. Ted always wanted a more liberal way of life than I had learned from GOD'S WORD.

During these past four years, Ambassador became a totally different college than I had founded. Jesus Christ was no longer the head over the college -- **CHRIST WAS KICKED OUT!** Last year for the first time there was a protest demonstration on campus. Immorality became rampant. I won't go further in this report as to the nauseating details. I have had to start Ambassador College all over again, starting with one class only, which next year, will become a sophomore class, with a new incoming freshman class. I plan, under Jesus Christ's guidance, to take four years, just as at the beginning, to build once again GOD'S COLLEGE!!

My son began watering down doctrines behind my back while I was away. A leading minister said only yesterday in my office, that I would address a ministerial meeting, 'then as soon as I was gone a totally different attitude would be taking over my son.

On the STP, a memo from a minister in high position at headquarters writes: those preparing the STP "were operating under Ted's direction. I've heard Ted say for years that he wanted a series of hard-bound books in which the doctrines of the Church were systematically outlined" (emphasis mine).

I never so much as heard of that desire and it was entirely under Ted's direction -- without my realizing it! The memo continues, "he mentioned this at the conference."

Some three or four years ago I sensed the conspiracy as I mentioned above, for a "coup" to take over the Church and the College. I went privately to Ted about it. He denied it, and I made the mistake of believing him and assuring the Church that we were TOGETHER back-to-back. I was! He WASN'T!

So it became "a house divided." My son brought about DIVISION in the Church. At headquarters they wondered who was in charge, though Ted undoubtedly had succeeded in giving many the false idea that he was. **A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND!**

You know that! My rebellious son, often professing publicly to honor his father, behind my back, and in many, many private conversations (I now learn) ridiculed and insinuated many things designed to discredit his father. Read again Romans 16, verses 17 and 18. He not only caused division, he now is by "good words and fair speeches" deceiving the hearts of many of the simple, but trusting and sincere brethren!

How should you answer his statements arousing questions, doubts, and suspicions against GOD'S CHURCH AND WORK?

As stated above, a HOUSE DIVIDED can't stand. God's Church is no longer divided! Mr. GTA is now sowing the seeds of discord among brethren -- one of the seven things GOD HATES! But assure all brethren that GOD'S CHURCH MARCHES ON!

My son is out to GET, not GIVE. While he writes and by his clever words and "fair speeches," he deceives some sincere brethren into thinking he is "proclaiming the gospel to the world". YOU KNOW that is a LIE! He has no facilities to go "into all the world for a witness unto all nations" -- but GOD'S CHURCH HAS! The Plain Truth is now nearing the THREE MILLION circulation mark, and we have plans to make it not only the FINEST magazine on earth, but at least next to Reader's Digest in mass circulation!

GTA is on three or four radio stations once a week only, and a small station in Los Angeles daily -- but look at and compare the radio and TV log in the Good News! God's Church has the FACILITIES, and ORGANIZATION, the POWER of God's Holy Spirit to fulfill the PURPOSE of the Church -- to get Christ's message into ALL THE WORLD! We have large office staffs around the world. The sun never sets on our offices!

He has NO CHURCH, an actual fact, but anybody can incorporate as a church. When my son was still in God's Church, with a sharp decline setting in the past five years, he began to quit using the name of God in the Work, and established the name "GARNER TED ARMSTRONG". He even got out a new letterhead for correspondence, with just his own name and his PICTURE at the top! As Messrs. Cole, LaRavia, Wright and others said to me, finally daring to come to me with what really was "going on" at headquarters, Ted was trying to DESTROY everything that Jesus Christ had built through his apostle, and build something for Garner Ted! That is precisely what he is doing now -- not getting the gospel into all the world -- but trying to GET for himself Worldwide Church of God members!

He is not a church! He has no church! There is but ONE TRUE CHURCH and today that is the Church of which you are ministers -- the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD -- which truly is worldwide, not a pretense, HYPOCRISY and a SHAM! Answer peoples' questions with these truths!

He is trying to make an ISSUE of a supposed father-and-son controversy, in which he makes emotional appeals for sympathy and support!

The ISSUE is this and this only! WHY HAS GOD CALLED US OUT OF TODAY'S WORLD? God has only ONE CHURCH, headed by JESUS CHRIST, who himself chose his Apostle and which is doing the Work and fulfilling the mission of the one Church to which we were called! THAT IS THE ONLY REAL ISSUE! Fasten peoples minds on THAT! Get their minds off the petty, subtle, personal things.

You know he is DISHONORING his father. When he shut off all communication and authority above himself, he SHUT OFF JESUS CHRIST AND GOD THE FATHER!

As for his efforts to defame and discredit and dishonor his father about doctors and drugs, he has lied, as well as in other areas. He has said that when I sit down, and rise, I totter. That's a lie! I label it a lie! All those in the Church at Pasadena, and at Tuscon who see TELECASTS recorded weekly, see me walk briskly onto the stage -- and when I am through -- though I sit at a desk during the broadcast, even as my son did -- I don't totter, as a few thousand eye witnesses will tell you! Ted has said that at one point I fainted in his arms -- ANOTHER LIE! Once several months ago, I stumbled over scales I couldn't see on the floor of the bathroom, and momentarily lost balance against an iron railing. I was perfectly able to get back on my feet, but Ted happened to be just outside the door and helped me get back on my feet. That could have happened to a 48 year old -- Ted's age.

I don't think his ridiculous lies about my being senile need any answer. I am on TV coast to coast every week, and hundreds of thousands know better!

I have worked very hard for 86 years. At age 85 I was considered dead from heart failure, after over-extending myself. I knew I had high blood pressure and was overweight, and until I could reduce my weight I was taking some non-drug pills prescribed by a Tokyo physician, to reduce or to regulate blood pressure. I went to the only doctor I knew in Tucson last August for a refill prescription -- the same doctor I went to for a required checkup for a marriage license. I had no intention of putting myself under his care. He wanted, on taking my blood pressure, to put me immediately into a hospital. I REFUSED -- said I did not need his services, and went to my home in Tucson. Next day I looked up from relaxing in a chair and saw the doctor standing over me. I was surprised. I had not called him. Again I said I did not need him, and refused to go to a hospital. I PRAYED INSTEAD! I was in a more serious condition, however, than I realized, and the next thing I knew a hospital bed had been moved into my bedroom, and nurses stationed on eight hour shifts around the clock.

I suffered a complete heart failure at that time. But God restored me to set his Church and Work back on his track through the mouth-to-mouth resuscitation of my wife's sister and heart pressuring of a nurse. I have not been on drugs, as such, but medicines designed only to help nature work in my body.

If you will read parts five and six of the articles on healing in the Good News, you will see that I have set no example contrary to what I preach as the OFFICIAL CHURCH DOCTRINE!

It's like one letter accusing me of putting my elder son Dick in a hospital and under a doctor's care. I received a telephone call that Dick had been in a head-on crash, and already was in a hospital. I drove immediately to San Luis Obispo, and saw him completely shattered and broken up in a hospital. Neither I nor he put him there -- he was taken there unconscious by the police. I annointed and prayed for him, but legally I would have been restrained from taking him out of the hospital or out of the doctor's care. I have been accused in my wife's case because I didn't take her to a hospital. Many headquarters ministers prayed over her with me continually. Dr. Parrish from Big Sandy came and lived the last month or more of her illness in an adjoining bedroom. A registered nurse -- also a member of God's Church -- was with her night and day. Dr. Parrish thought best not to send her to a hospital. Yet, either way I get ACCUSED!

Fellows, don't covet my job! If you had it, you'd get continual persecution, false accusation, every opposition. You'd find Satan zeroing in on you to DESTROY YOU and YOU WOULD HAVE TO RELY ON JESUS CHRIST, for otherwise Satan would destroy you!

But I praise GOD -- he is still on his throne, and Jesus Christ is there beside him, interceding for us!

Finally, REMEMBER THE ONE AND ONLY ISSUE IS "WHY GOD HAS CALLED US OUT OF THE WORLD" -- HE HAS CALLED US not into following a man with no church, college, or facilities for performing the GREAT COMMISSION, but into his Church which he raised up, has blessed, and though under my son's secular mismanagement stopped growing, is now back on the track -- ONCE AGAIN GROWING!

The INCOME is UP! GTA has no access to the figures, and when he says it is down he is lying! The business office announced Tuesday -- I think it will be included in this week's Pastor's Report -- the Church owes less than at any time in many years.

Notice Proverbs 6:16-19: "These six things does the Eternal HATE: yea, SEVEN are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that

devises wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." How many of these has my own dear son allowed himself to be ensnared?

Fellow Ministers, PLEASE join a broken-hearted father in praying daily and fervently that God will somehow, in his own way, bring about circumstances to cause my son to realize the evil path he is now treading, and bring him to a real repentance, that, this time, will be LASTING! I want to see him in God's kingdom, with my son Dick, and his mother -- the wife of my youth and for fifty years.

Save the Church from his Satan-inspired, smooth-tongued, insidiously planted questions and doubts in the minds of God's people -- even as Jesus would, even as he called a spade a spade in branding the hypocritical Pharisees as liars, whited sepulchers, blind guides, fools! Did Jesus LOVE them? Yes, he gave his LIFE, praying, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do!" He loved them and I love my son Ted. But Jesus didn't mince words when it came to their evil doings, and neither can I.

My son stood over me, saying, angrily, "Dad, I could DESTROY YOU!" Apparently by lying he is trying. But he distorts, exaggerates, minimizes, and lies outright, and I simply have to tell people that they cannot believe what he says. He has disqualified himself as a minister according to I Timothy 3:7. Perhaps I should not have taken him back into the ministry in 1972 -- but I felt he had repented as other ministers also felt, that what God forgives he FORGETS. But he has come near to DESTROYING GOD'S CHURCH, COLLEGE, AND WORK, SINCE THEN. God raised me back from death to set his CHURCH BACK ON GOD'S TRACK, so that once again it may have CHRIST'S BLESSING, and LEAP AHEAD IN GREATER POWER THAN BEFORE!

PRAY WITH ME! STAND FAST!

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MR. GTA IS NOT KEEPING HIS WORD

by Herbert W. Armstrong

In one of the last two speeches Mr. GTA made while still a member of God's church, was a SOLEMN PROMISE, which shows he cannot be trusted in what he is now saying! Following is a direct quote from the tape of his sermon before a group of area churches at Rochester, New York, May 27, 1978.

These statements were made during the time when Christ's Apostle had put Garner Ted on an obligatory leave of absence. He had been removed for such leave from his executive position,

and, instead of obeying the obligatory leave of absence, he was in controversy with Christ's Apostle by traumatic personal conferences via telephone, and written letters -- in other words, when he knew his disfellowshipment was hanging in the balance.

Can his word be believed?

Following is a copy of his recorded speech to a large group of brethren, May 27:

"I have to do what I have always preached to the churches, what is a guiding light of my life, which is to say, he Christ's Apostle is my boss. He's in authority. I will do as he says. That's what I live with. I told a large group of ministers during a traumatic period of 1974. I said, if I should ever leave the Work of God, don't follow me. And I will say that again today.

"There's only, say, two ways, or three ways, I suppose, that I could ever be out of the Work of God. One is that my father would simply put me out. And if he did, for whatever purposes or reasons that he would have, I would simply, humbly and quietly go with my family and reconstruct some new life and do perhaps what I do best, radio and television broadcasting. But not on religion.

"I would keep the Sabbath. I would faithfully tithe. I would spend time in prayer and study. I would be loyal to God's Church. I would never give the people of this church an alternative of some other individual to follow. That is so deeply ingrained into the marrow of my bones, that I could never do it.

"Now the only other way is if I die. I've always said that. The only way I would go out of God's Work is feet pointing straight up in the air and that's what I intend. I put my hand to the plow. How in the world could I preach and stand in this pulpit and tell people -- it's until death that we endure trials, it is through the trials of our faith that we are matured and so on and not really adhere to these principles myself? So I must do that. I must remain true to these convictions. I intend to."

If he did not mean what he said then, can God's people believe his statements now? Sowing the seeds of discord among the brethren is one of the seven things God hates!

MR. RADER COMMENTS ABOUT FAITH

Editor's Note: After Mr. Armstrong's sermon in Tucson September 18, Mr. Rader spoke to the congregation about several aspects of faith. His comments were transcribed and now we would like to share them with our readers.

* * *

Greetings, everyone. Last week in Pasadena, when Mr. Armstrong spoke, I commented that he's a very difficult man to follow because he not only is such a powerful and inspirational speaker, but he chooses those topics that are really in the front part of our minds. So I sit here with yellow pad while he is speaking and I have to kind of tick off those things which he's already said. On the other hand, if I were to speak ahead of him, which I've had to do on occasion, I, of course, would not want to preempt him. Therefore, I trust that you will bear with me today as I wander through some of the things that I have made notes of as he has spoken, and things which I would like to share with you.

First of all, I think most of you have probably recognized that there are a lot of books out today. Even though you might not be reading them, there is a tremendous increase in the reading audiences around the world. And if you were to study the books in the bookstores, look at the bestseller lists, you would find a tremendous emphasis today on what has been called "how to do it" books. And if you look at those books, you would see that they are dealing with how to improve your position, how to become successful, how to get power. "You too can be Number One" -- in fact, that's a title. Your Erroneous Zones, another title on how to improve your position in this life.

All of these books just simply make people more selfish, more ego-centric, more concerned about themselves rather than about their fellow man. And it's rather interesting that this is the trend of the late 70s and probably will go on right into the 80s despite the fact that most of us will recall that in the 60s -- particularly the late 60s and early 70s -- we had what appeared to be a different movement, short-lived as it turned out to be. That was the movement where our younger people and our so-called enlightened people were more and more concerned about the environment, more and more concerned about the social issues of the time.

But right now, if you would just look on the bookstore shelves, you would see one book after another, some written by doctors, some by psychologists, some by sociologists, some written by people with not even those credentials -- just people who thought it might be a good idea to tell others how they, too, can gain success. And the interesting thing is, in many cases, the men who write the books never had any success until they wrote the books dealing with "YOU TOO CAN BE A SUCCESS." And somehow or other, these books sell enough copies to make two or three million dollars. And that makes the particular authors successful.

I caution you about those books because it has become the kind of chic thing today to think in terms of the behavioral scientists, who

seem to have the answers to everything. But the Bible, it's always ignored.

As Mr. Armstrong and I were discussing last week in his study in Tucson, if you were to listen to the behavioral scientists on the subject of child rearing, you would very soon have to do away with the fifth commandment, honor thy parents. Because as you well know, those behavioral scientists teach their disciples that you shouldn't expect a child to automatically give respect to the parent--that the parent must "earn" that respect. Before you know it, not only are the parents sparing the rod and spoiling the child, but the child is literally running wild and the parents are very soon fearful of their own children. I assure you that most juvenile delinquency is a direct result in almost every case of the failure of the parent to raise the child according to biblical principles. In many cases the parent is so fearful of the child, not only of the child's disapproval and disrespect, but sometimes even fearful of the child in a physical way. And therefore, there can be no discipline in the home. And parents just simply raise their hands and say there's nothing we can do about it.

I mention all of that because I too just recently read an article, which wasn't bad actually. It was on the subject of fear, success and failure. But the important ingredient that I found that was missing was faith. The article didn't tell you how to overcome your fear in order to achieve some measure of success. And I felt that it would be good to share with you today my feelings about how to overcome fear of any kind, and of course, to do so, one falls back on a gift of God called faith.

But I'm sure there are some of you in this congregation today who at some time in your life have been afraid to try because you've been afraid to fail. Many are so fearful of failure that they are literally frozen by that fear. People don't want to risk a hurt or an embarrassment that might come from a failure. So very often they venture nothing.

I recall when my younger daughter was about 17 and she began to open up a little bit to me about some of her emotional attachments, particularly with members of the opposite sex, we had a very important discussion. And I told her in the process that if she were going to learn to love someone and love someone deeply enough to have that kind of concern for that person that will lead to the kind of relationship that will be lasting, that she was going to have to overcome the fear of being hurt. She was going to have to overcome the fear of not having that love or that affection returned. And I think that whatever I told my daughter on that occasion had some effect because she began to form the right kind of relationships with young men, and she's now married and seems to have found a man who feels exactly the way about her that she feels about him. But unless she had been willing, as I explained, to be vulnerable, to be hurt, if necessary, in case that love was not returned, she would without a doubt not find the kind of mate that would lead to the kind of relationship that she hoped for.

My other daughter on the other hand, may not have given as much in her relationships with others. Although she is very successful at what she's doing, a very accomplished young lady, and now a prosecuting attorney for the City of Los Angeles, she's always kept back a little bit of herself in her dealings with other people, kind of maintaining that edge, keeping that little competitive edge, you might say. And as a consequence in doing that, she probably has not given as much affection and she has remained a bit more invulnerable. But now she's 26, she'll soon be 27, and she's still like Jenny, who can't make up her mind. I'm not advertising here for a husband for my daughter, but I'm pointing out that I've watched the two children very closely, and they have both succeeded in what they have tried to do. But just watching their human relations, I've noticed that one was able to give a little bit more of herself without being fearful of failure, without being fearful of embarrassment, without being fearful of being hurt.

Now this fear of failure becomes more or less an emotional paralysis which can be just as crippling as a physical paralysis can be for the body.

I know myself one time, only one time, did I almost fail to try for fear of failing, and that was when I decided to return to law school. I knew that in order to do that, it would be very difficult because I was raising a family and I was running a professional business. My time was very, very much taken up by those two things. Law school is not easy. And, therefore, while I enrolled, I was for the first two months or so, contemplating each day, well, "maybe I shouldn't bother doing this at all." Maybe this is going to be too difficult. Maybe this is going to be too demanding. Back in the recesses of my mind was the fear during those first several months that maybe I couldn't make it or maybe I wouldn't do as well as I wanted to do, or maybe I wouldn't do as well as I had been accustomed to doing. And I tell you, at that time, for a period of some 60 days, I came very, very close a few times, on almost the flimsiest of reasons or pretexts, to drop out of that law school program. I think looking back now, that was really coming very close to being afraid to try because I was afraid of failing.

Now, in talking about failure and success, it's important to remember that we've all been inculcated by a value system that we have picked up from our peer group and from other people around us. Too often, the measure of success has to do with the acquisition of material things and the acquisition of money. But, of course, that is not the only way to measure success. We know that if Jesus Christ were to be measured in terms of today's marketplace with today's values, that people would probably consider Him a failure. And of course we know He was the greatest success.

By the same token it's important for us to remember, and to remember very well, that success can be measured in terms of service rather than the acquisition of material things. And also, success can be measured in terms of satisfaction that one gets from the fulfillment of one's goals regardless of the fact that there may not be much money involved.

But if you do try and you do fail, at least you should fail successfully. By that I mean, you shouldn't brood about it, but as Mr. Armstrong has intimated in his book, The Seven Laws of Success, you should really use those failures purposefully. Those failures, rather than being stumbling blocks to your success should become stepping-stones to your success. I wonder how many of you realize that Thomas Edison failed some 499 times to produce a working light bulb before the last one did work? He showed a tremendous amount of resourcefulness, a tremendous amount of what Mr. Armstrong calls stick-to-it-iveness.

Someone asked Thomas Edison whether he considered himself a failure at or about the time, for example, that he failed for the 450th time. He said, "No, not at all. I wasn't a failure. All I was doing was eliminating those possibilities which weren't too practical." Which I think is a good way of using the failure or the series of failures as stepping-stones to success.

At any rate, faith can release you from this deep freeze that fear -- fear of trying -- can put you in. You shouldn't sit around day-dreaming about what you could accomplish if you had the breaks or if you had luck.

How many of you play golf or have seen golf on TV on Sunday? I see that not a high percentage have. Gary Player is world famous. He's from South Africa, and he's a small man playing amongst giants physically. And yet he has managed to win every conceivable tournament wherever that type of tournament is played.

This year he had a remarkable run of exceptionally fine golf, winning the United States Masters, and then two other tournaments in a row, which today is a very difficult thing to accomplish. As he was about to win his third straight event, and each of them was accomplished in this come-from-behind fashion (coming far from the back of the field of players to the fore and winning), which of course makes the win even more spectacular, he was approached by the ubiquitous announcer. Sometimes they have announcers who know almost nothing about the game -- whether it be the fight game or golf or tennis. Once in a while it does happen but not each and every time by any means. On this occasion, one of the announcers just really didn't know much about golf and didn't really know much about what it is to compete. He stuck the microphone under Gary Player's mouth as he was walking up the fairway. And in an effort to say the right thing, I guess, he congratulated him on what appeared to be now his third successive win, and said, "You know, you have to be rather lucky, don't you, Mr. Player, to win three in a row?" Gary smiled (and he has a very, very pleasant smile) and he said, "You know, you're right. You're absolutely right. You do have to be lucky to win. But you know," he said, "it's a funny thing. I found out that the more you practice, the luckier you seem to get."

As Mr. Armstrong's booklet, Seven Laws of Success, tells you, perhaps the most important element is also the most neglected, and that's the element of faith in God. And of course, this element of faith is a gift. It's a gift from God. But literally, it opens closed doors. I accomplished things for Mr. Armstrong around the world that I

would not have even tried if I didn't have faith that God wanted it done and that He had clothed me and Mr. Armstrong with a special cloak of protection, if you please, that would guarantee that things would turn out well and that our goal would be accomplished. Because truly, some of the things that we have done have been literally impossible -- not only were they improbable, but they were impossible.

A few years ago I tried to see if I could transfer that feeling to someone else in order that he too would be able to succeed in accomplishing the impossible. South Africa is further away than any other inhabited part in the world. And I didn't have time to fly down there and personally make preparations. It took a lot of work and preparation of a type that I say literally was impossible.

What I did was to send a long memorandum to the man who ran the office in South Africa for the church. And without even indicating at all that any of what I had asked him to do was impossible, I told him to do it. Now he had never done anything like this before, and I had given him a list of things to accomplish that would have been impossible for anybody to accomplish considering the experience that he didn't have, and considering the background and expertise that he didn't have. But you see, he didn't know any better. He didn't know that it couldn't be done. He didn't know that he didn't know. And he just assumed that because we said this is what we want and this is what we need that it could be done. And lo and behold, we arrived in South Africa for the first time and it had all been accomplished. And every trip that we had thereafter in South Africa was even better than the first one.

And one day I was talking to Mr. Fahey, who was our South African representative, and he said, "You know, I was absolutely overwhelmed when you sent me that first memorandum. I didn't know what to do. And no one knew what to do. No one knew how to begin. No one even knew how to get past the first door, no less accomplish the list of things that you had requested, such as meetings with the Prime Minister, meetings with the President, press interviews on television, press interviews on radio, press interviews with all of the press local, and distant, banquets in communities sponsored by other persons to hear Mr. Armstrong." And I said, "What did you do?" He said, "Well, I went into a closet and prayed."

Faith does break down opposition. Faith releases or generates energy and drive and power. And of course, we all know it can turn dreams also into reality. It literally is transforming and it certainly can lift us, each one of us, out of the ruts of despair and out of the ruts of discouragement. I'm sure you all know, as I do, that most of those ruts are self-made ruts. If you turn to God and you have faith, you'll be pulled out of it. Faith prepares us for abundant living, as well. It helps us to enjoy life rather than to face life with trepidation or fear, anxiety and apprehension.

And yet we know that we should pray for faith and we should pray for that faith each day, if necessary, to meet the needs of that particular day.

Now pilots often have to fly blind. Last time I went into the Los Angeles area, we had an instrument landing. And pilots have faith in

their instruments. Otherwise they would surely, surely crash. They could become disoriented if they suddenly lost "faith." (And that faith has to be written with a small "f", certainly in lower case.) They must rely upon those instruments which have been built into the panel by the airplane manufacturer.

So, too, we must have faith in God and fly, in essence, by His instruments. I always remember that even the disciples asked and prayed for faith. You will recall how inadequate they felt when Christ told them that it was necessary for each of them to have unlimited forgiveness. And they had doubts about their own capacity or their own adequacy to even approach the reaches of divine compassion. And they turned to Him and they said, "Increase our faith."

So, too, we must turn to Him in daily prayer and in the attitude basically that "Lord I believe, but help my unbelief." This is the way toward a newer, and better life.