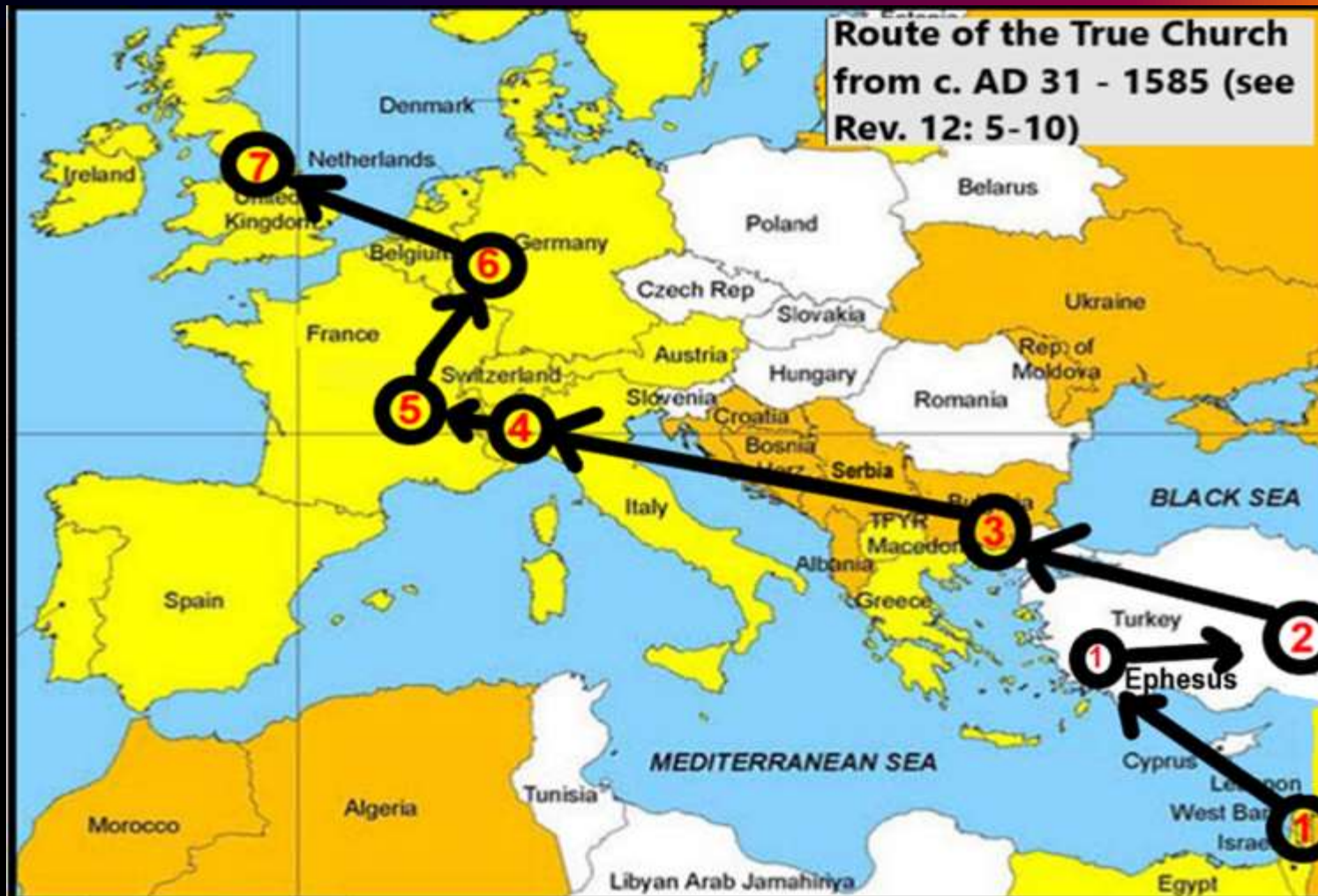


A HISTORY OF GOD'S TRUE CHURCH: MAINLY GREAT BRITAIN & U.S. VS ROME

by Mario Seiglie, Part 5 – May 11, 2024



NAMES GIVEN TO THEM

- 1. Nazarenes
(also "Quartodecimans")
- 2. Paulicians
- 3. Bogomils

4. Pre-Waldensians

- * Petrobrusians
- * Henricians
- * Amoldists
- * Pasaginians -- (under this name, said to
- * Passagians keep Sabbath & God's Feasts)

5. Waldenses

- 6. Anabaptists
- 7. Sabbatarians

SABBATH-KEEPERS IN ENGLAND



It was in Elizabethan England where finally, some religious freedom is allowed for the first time in its history. After Mary, Queen of Scots, a Catholic, is executed in 1587 and the Spanish Armada is defeated in 1588, the church in the wilderness can emerge from its hiding place and finds a relatively safe haven in Protestant England thanks to its constitutional rights.

Chambers Encyclopedia says, “In the reign of Elizabeth, it occurred to many conscientious and independent thinkers (as it previously had done to some Protestants in Bohemia) that the fourth commandment required of them the observance, not of the first, but of the specified ‘seventh’ day of the week” (article “Sabbath,” Vol. 8, p. 462).

THE ROUTE OF THE
SPANISH ARMADA
JULY-OCTOBER 1588



In 1588, the Spanish armies backed by the Pope were utterly defeated, with a great storm driving them north. Of 150 ships, only 65 ships returned. The power of Rome was never the same.



Queen Elizabeth had a coin made saying, "God blew and they were scattered."

This marks, as best as we know, the end of the Thyatira era and the start of the Sardis era -- when religious freedom truly begins!

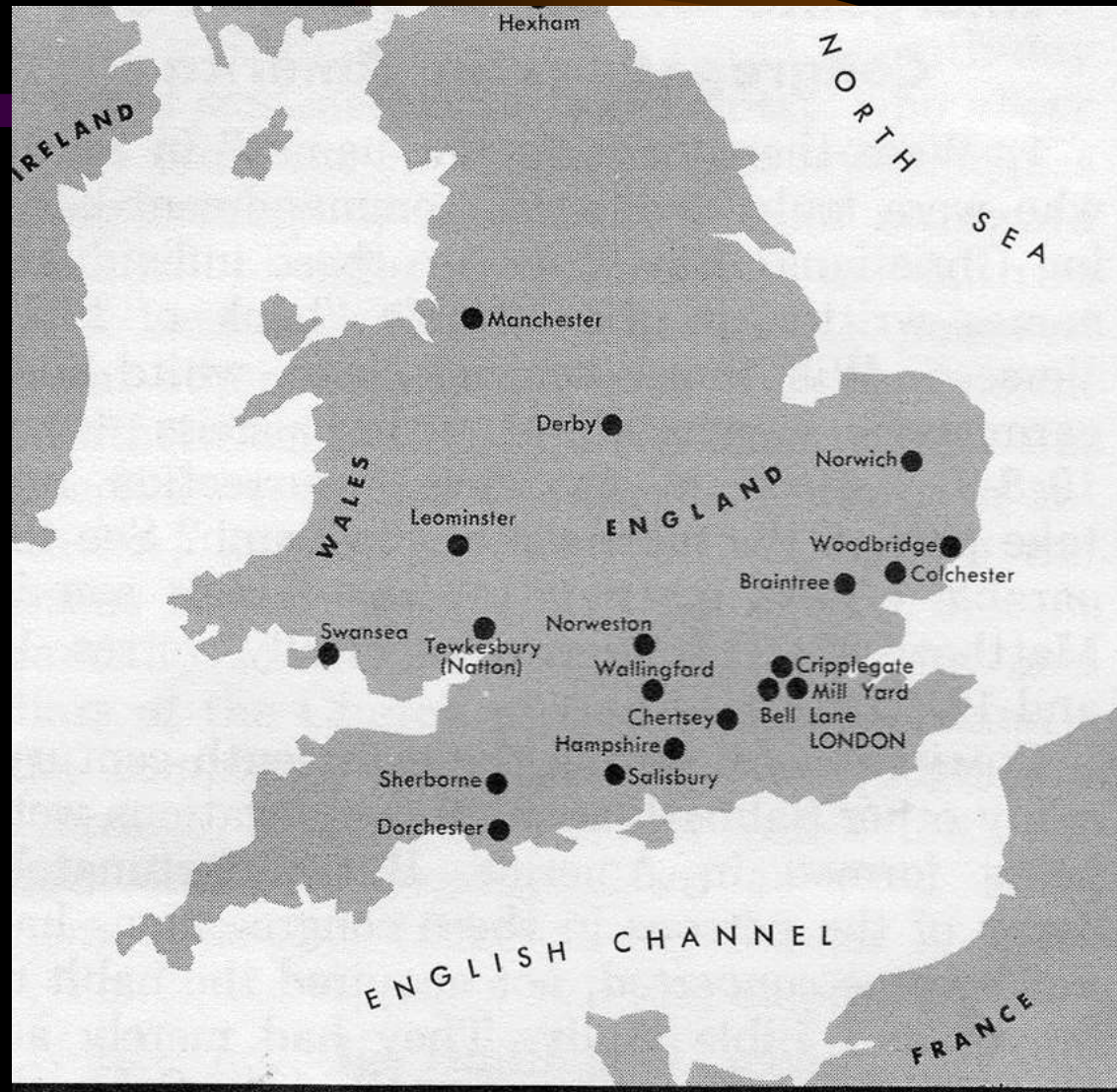
Unfortunately, after the death of Queen Elizabeth, religious freedom was curtailed. Not attending Sunday services meant a twenty pound fine—about two years of an average wage. Failure to pay the fine resulted in prison.

John Traske was one of the first in England to suffer persecution for keeping the Sabbath & the Feast days.



He was one of the ministers of the first Sabbatarian churches – the Mill Yard Church, founded in 1607. At his trial, Traske was charged on two counts: teaching that Christians are to abstain from those meats which were forbidden in Leviticus; the other, that they were to observe the Sabbath day. He was whipped for half a mile, imprisoned for life, branded with a “J” (Jew) on his forehead and tortured. After a year, he recanted but his wife refused to give up the Sabbath and after 15 years, bravely died in prison.

SDA historian, J. N. Andrews writes about Sabbatarians in England: “In the seventeenth century, eleven churches of Sabbatarians flourished in England, while many scattered Sabbath-keepers were to be found in various parts of that kingdom” (*History of the Sabbath*, 1873, p. 491). From there, a few brought these teachings to New England.



Here we see the first local church of Sabbath-keeping Christians in America in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1671.

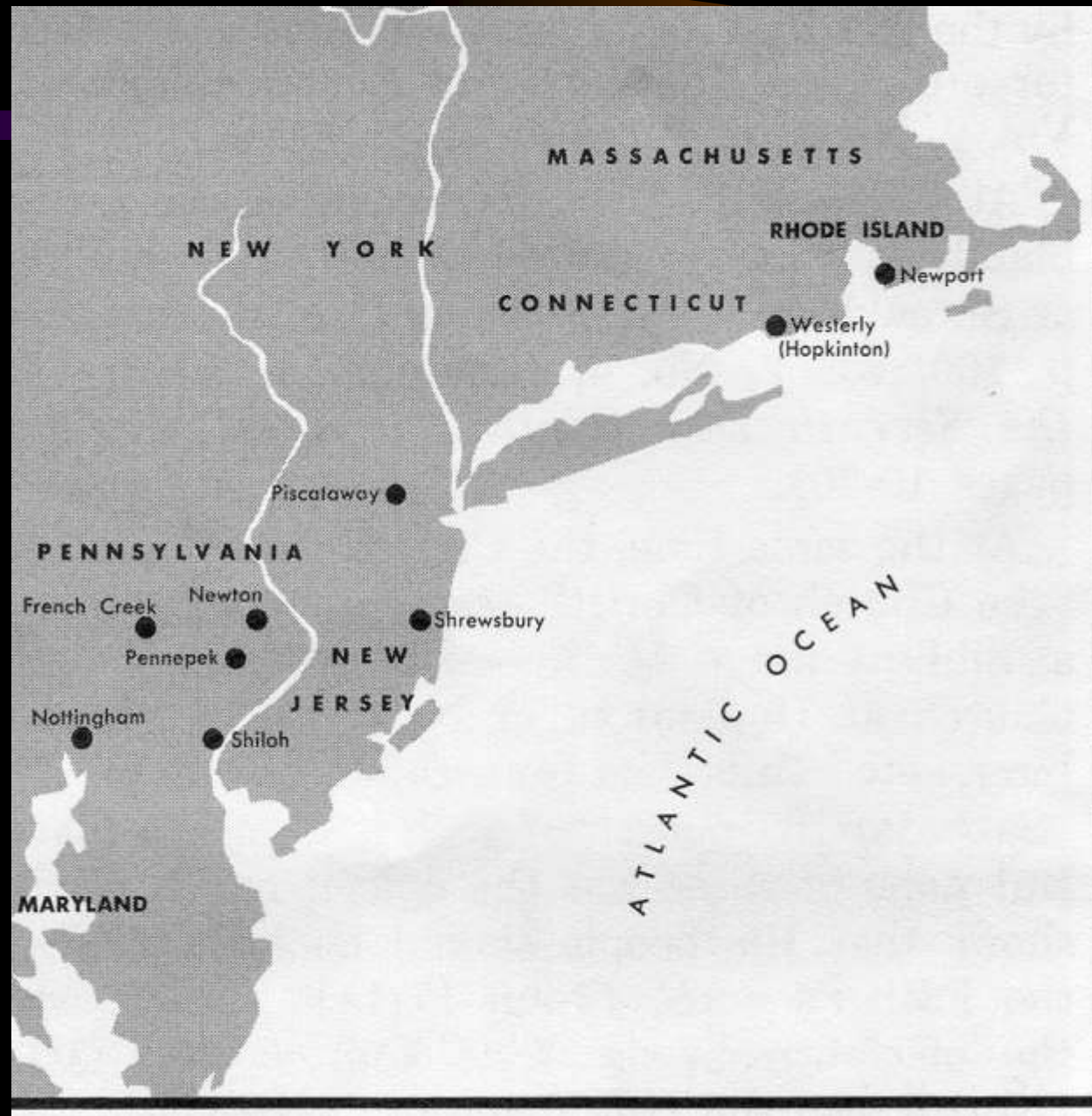


In 1664, Stephen Mumford, from the Sabbatarian Bell Lane London church, with his wife, Ann, attended a first-day Baptist Church, and taught the Sabbath truth among them. As a result, a number of them embraced the Sabbath in 1665.

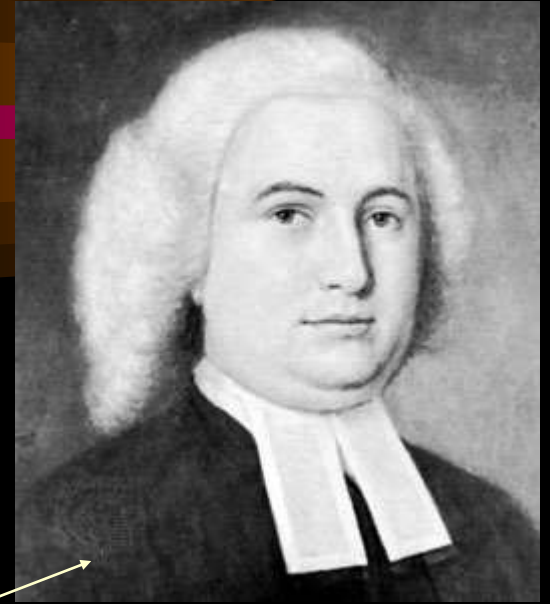
They soon learned that even in Rhode Island, Baptists' liberty of conscience was supposed to prevail, but the Sabbath was not allowed. Accordingly, the seventh-day observers left the Baptist Church on December 7, 1671, and sixteen days later, on December 23, formed the first Sabbatarian church organization in the U.S.

From this church in Rhode Island, Sabbatarian churches gradually formed throughout the relatively religiously tolerant colonies.

Finally, Sabbath-keepers found a place where they would not be hounded by the Catholic or Protestant State churches!



Some Seventh-day Sabbath keepers were prominent citizens of Rhode Island in the 18th century. Two of the colony's governors, Richard Ward and his son Samuel, were seventh-day Sabbath-keepers. Even the first president of Brown University, James Manning, was a Sabbatarian.



In 1684, a group was formed by Able Noble, near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and at Piscataway, New Jersey. From these areas, Sabbatarian groups spread west and south until there were around twenty churches in nine of the ten colonies when the General Conference of Seventh Day Baptists was organized in 1802. Their headquarters was at Plainfield, New Jersey.

Then, from 1835 to 1844, William Miller, a student of bible prophecy, was licensed to preach from a Baptist church and stirred many thousands into believing that the Jesus would return to earth on October 22, 1844.



His conclusions were largely based on Daniel 8:13-14, thinking the 2300 evening and morning sacrifices were days and stood for years instead of literal days. He believed the earth was the sanctuary and that it would be cleansed by fire when Jesus returned. But Jesus didn't come, and it was called by adventists as "The Great Disappointment." It should have been called "The Great Speculation."

Then, “the Advent people” of the town of Washington, New Hampshire learned about the Sabbath from a Seventh Day Baptist, Mrs. Rachel Preston →



Some forty members of the church then accepted the seventh-day Sabbath. Elder Joseph Bates, a prominent member of the Advent Movement, also learned about the Sabbath and in 1845 he set it before the ministry. James White and his wife, Ellen G. White, later accepted it, and they became the most prominent leaders of what became known as the Seventh-day Adventists.

William Miller finally admitted he had made a mistake, but there were some of those who thought he was still right.



Thanks to the “visions” of Ellen G. White that said Jesus in heaven had only entered the “Holy Place” until 1844, but then “moved” to the “Most Holy Place” afterwards, to cleanse the sanctuary, blot out sins, make a final atonement, and start “The Investigative Judgment” of mankind since 1844.

The Seventh-day Adventists still teach this belief, based on her mostly unbiblical visions and speculation. The Bible clearly says Jesus has been sitting next to the Father from his ascension! Acts 2:33 says, “This Jesus God has raised up...therefore being exalted to the right hand of God.”

The Seventh-day Adventist Church was incorporated in Battle Creek, Michigan, in May 3, 1861, with Ellen G. White as their prophetess. They are by far the most numerous Sabbath-keepers in the world & their headquarters is in Washington, D.C.



Yet, isolated groups of Sabbath-keepers, aside from the Seventh Day Baptists, existed before the 1844 disappointment. Even though some 125 Sabbath groups did affiliate with the SDA's, in 1863, some of the Sabbath-keeping congregations refused to co-operate and unite because they opposed the visions and speculations of Ellen G. White and wanted to retain the name "Church of God."

Ellen G. White did not allow the Bible to interpret itself, but rather, wanted her “visions” to interpret and add to the Bible. This clearly goes against the warning that “no prophecy is of private interpretation” (2 Peter 1:20).



So, some independent Sabbatarian groups rejected the Seventh-day Adventists or the Seventh Day Baptists, and they finally were organized in a general conference under the eventual name of “Church of God, 7th Day”

This is one of the proofs of God’s true church, that it would retain the biblical name for the church--named as such twelve times in the New Testament.

In 1860, churches were raised in Michigan and later in Iowa and several other states. In 1883 a general conference was formed in Michigan, and in 1889 they established their headquarters in Stanberry, Missouri.

Presently, their headquarters of the Church of God (Seventh Day) is located in Denver, Colorado and they publish a magazine, "Sabbath Advocate."



At the end of the 19th century, some of their ministers evangelized in places such as Mexico and Chile. There are still groups of Sabbath-keepers that faithfully keep God's Holy Days. Photo of a group in Chile.



In 1969, a group in Chile of around 100 of them joined with what is now our Church. My wife Caty was part of that group and kept the Sabbath and Holy Days for several years before attending our Church. There are a number of members in Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, and Argentina that came out of that group.

Now, at the beginning of the 20th century, the remnants of God's original church in the U.S. were divided and in a weakened condition.

Ivor Fletcher writes, "By 1923 the number of ministers had increased to 126 and church membership estimated at 1,000 to 1,500" (The Incredible History of God's True Church, p. 226). Still, it was a very small number.

The ACCC #53 says, "Certain strong families provided the Church of God a tenuous continuity. These came to be located mainly in Missouri, Oklahoma and Oregon. Some of them retained a knowledge of God's Holy Days and the identity of modern Israel...But for 70 years after the departure of the Adventists, the Church in the U.S. remained spiritually powerless." Then, in the 1930's comes the inspiring history of Herbert Armstrong.

The Correspondence Course continues, “Herbert Armstrong came to the conclusion that the Sabbath must be kept on the seventh day...



“He began to search for the one true church which he knew must exist (Mt. 16:18). These Church of God people in Oregon seemed to have the truth, certainly they were the closest of any. But something was wrong—they were spiritually dead!

“So Mr. Armstrong...began to fellowship with them. He was asked to speak to them, and was finally ordained by the Oregon Conference of Church of God, Seventh Day, in 1931.”

The ACCC continues, “At the critical moment when the Church of God in the Sardis Era was breaking up, [in 1933], the living Jesus Christ separated a mere handful of people (20) in Eugene, Oregon to begin the ‘Philadelphia’ Era of His Church.



Ambassador College
The Jeans School, west of Eugene, Oregon. Those converted during the first evangelistic meetings held by Mr. Armstrong met here on God's Sabbath. They composed the first "congregation" of the Philadelphia Era of God's Church.

*(Photo: Jeans School house)
“He began to use Mr. Armstrong and the small group God called to assist as co-workers, to reach the world with the good news of the coming Kingdom of God. As the proverbial mustard seed in Mt. 13, from so humble a beginning, in 30 years it became a globe-spanning Work.”*

It continues, “Christ promised to set up ‘an open door’ to the Philadelphia Era (Rev. 3: An opportunity to spread Christ’s gospel.

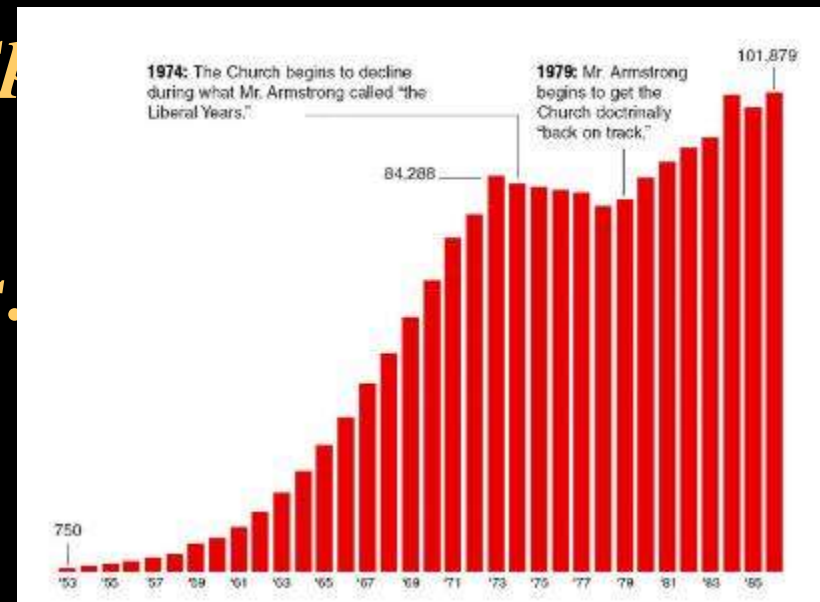
“Christ opened the powerful ‘door’ of mass communications to His church. Since the first Sunday in Jan. 1934, the World Tomorrow broadcast started in a tiny radio station, and eventually, for a time it became the biggest religious TV program in the U.S.! The Plain Truth magazine, with 8 million readers, was one of the top in circulation.

“This Church Era has ‘[only] a little strength’ of itself, but it is magnified greatly through the modern ‘doors’ of radio television and the printing press—and most important of all, through the power of the Holy Spirit!”



*The AC Correspondence Course continues:
“Philadelphia means ‘brotherly love.’ It expresses the characteristic which is the motivating zeal and loyalty of the Philadelphia Era of God’s Church. The Church shows love to mankind by carrying out God’s commission—preaching the Gospel and preparing a people for the coming Kingdom of God. It is revealing how Jesus Christ will rescue humanity from cosmocide and teach man the way of peace, happiness, and prosperity.”*

The Church grew at an average of 30% per year for the first 30 years. Mr. Armstrong died in 1986, and membership was 101,000; Feast attendance was 150,000—the biggest annual convention at that time in the world.



Eventually, God used Mr. Armstrong to found three Liberal Arts Colleges with Theology as its core – in Pasadena, CA; Big Sandy, Texas and Bricketwood, England. Thousands of students attended and majored in Theology. More than a thousand ministers were ordained that were graduates from these campuses in its 50 years.



Shortly before his death, Mr. Armstrong named Joseph Tkach as his successor. Tragically, he did not follow in Mr. Armstrong's footsteps. He allowed his son, who became steeped in Protestant theology, along with other key men, to introduce major heresies.



They planned a wholesale change in key doctrines, hoping to attract a wider audience. But the result was they kept few members. His son, Joseph Tkach, Jr., took over in 1995. The Church went through a major apostasy or falling away.

Today, their membership has dwindled about 20% of what it was in 1986 when Mr. Armstrong died. They no longer keep the Sabbath, Holy Days, food laws or tithing and have

In 1995, the United Church of God was formed to preserve the biblical truths that had been previously taught and set up a system of governance with checks & balances that would help avoid repeating what had occurred.

Now, almost 30 years later, we have approximately 400 ministers serving hundreds of congregations around the world. We are busy carrying out the mission of the Church: “To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in all the world, to make disciples in all nations and to care for those disciples.”

