

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91129

JOSEPH W. TKACH
PASTOR GENERAL

April 30, 1996

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED],

Thank you for your recent letter. Apparently you had to send a second copy because the first letter did not reach me. I don't know what happened — our mail processing staff sends me all letters that are marked for my attention. But somehow we must have missed your first mailing. I trust you will accept my apologies.

I'm truly sorry your relationship with Dave Gilbert has become so strained. I pray you will be able to talk with him and help each other come to a resolution of the problems. From our end, we will work through our CAD staff and the regional pastor to help Mr. Gilbert grow in his pastoral responsibilities.

However, I think you also might have some areas in which growth, understanding, love and patience will be of help. I'm quite certain Mr. Gilbert is among our ministers who has grasped much of the importance of the changes made in the church. I'm equally certain he is not perfect. (We all say or do things we later wish we hadn't.)

As to Mr. Gilbert putting down Christians in other churches, please read his article in the Worldwide News about his Promise Keepers experience. I think you will see he does not feel negatively about other Christians.

Of course I cannot accurately know whether Mr. Gilbert has difficulty with anger, but, our staff, including Mr. Comino, will certainly discuss this with him.

I cannot overlook your own words, however, as possibly being a part of the problem. If you feel deceived by Herbert Armstrong and that you fell from Grace, I'm truly sorry. I don't feel that way. We have taken a very bold step in studying in much greater detail and accuracy the teachings of our founder. We have been willing to see error, and at great cost, correct that error. However, that does not mean Mr. Armstrong was a deceiver and a lying cult leader as you allege. If you feel that way, I am sorry.

We cannot overlook the fact that Herbert Armstrong was used by God to raise up the

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fellowship that is the Worldwide Church of God. He was an imperfect human being and did not have all doctrine correct. But there is no purpose in ridiculing what he said or did. We respect what he accomplished and acknowledge incorrect understanding and teaching.

I choose not to comment on every allegation you make. As I mentioned above, I will ask one of our staff members to talk with Dave Gilbert about the situations you have brought to my attention. I do not condone improper actions on the part of the ministry, but it is always our desire to help them grow and overcome. That will be our motive in working with all our pastors.

Obviously your attitude about the ministry is negative at this time. As long as you remain that way, there is little I, or anyone else, can do to help. Should that change, I hope you will call Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Comino or one of our CAD staff members in Pasadena (I recommend you call Richard Rice or Ron Kelly who work directly with our pastors) so that we can work together toward appropriate reconciliation.

Sincerely, in Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Tkach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph Tkach