



# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

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Greetings, ministers and wives!

I want to clarify the Philadelphia Church of God's policy on contact with disfellowshipped family members. This issue has not been clear among all our ministers and members. We need to become more unified on it.

Around 1985, Joseph Tkach spoke of a couple in the Church who had some family members disfellowshipped, and he told them that they were to sever their relationship with those people and not to fellowship with them. He told Mr. Armstrong about this situation publicly, and Mr. Armstrong agreed with him publicly.

Notice 1 Corinthians 5:9-11: "I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators [speaking spiritually]: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you NOT TO KEEP COMPANY, if any man that is called a brother [speaking of somebody in the Church] be a fornicator [again, this could be referring not just to physical fornication, but spiritual sins as well] or covetous or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one not to eat."

God is saying that when fornicators, covetous, idolaters, railers, drunkards, extortioners and those with spiritual problems have to be put out of the Church, the rest of us should not keep company with them or eat with them. We are not to fellowship or socialize with them. Certainly there might be an emergency in the family where you might be needed to work out the details of a will or something similar; it is all right to deal with them on that level. But we must keep in mind what God has said.

We have had members in the PCG who have been taken out because they violated this plain command.

We are living in the fearsome time the Apostle Peter spoke of in 2 Peter 2:1-3, the time of "false prophets also among the people" and "false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in *damnable heresies*," when "the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." Peter warned that "through covetousness shall they with feigned words *make merchandise of you*!" This is talking about people who had been close friends and even family members! Satan is influencing minds, and he will use any means he can to reach those in the inner court.

In commanding us to avoid the Laodiceans, God is trying to protect His people from predators! Satan is subtle, and he knows how to use people to destroy you. Please review my article "God Commands That We Avoid Certain Ones—In Love!" which we reprinted in the July-August 2004 issue of *Royal Vision*.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 reads, "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye *withdraw yourselves from every brother that walks disorderly*, and not after the tradition which he received of us."

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Certainly all the Laodicean groups are walking disorderly. They're not walking after the traditions given us by God's government through Mr. Armstrong. We have to look upon people that are in the Laodicean churches as being disfellowshipped. Revelation 11:1-2 says they've been *cast out*; they have been put out of the Church of God. We must not keep company or fellowship with them by going to restaurants and things like that.

In the past, some members have been told that these relationships are okay as

## IMPORTANT

Mr. Flurry will be discussing a portion of this PGR personal in his sermon this week, so please do not read from it during announcements.

long as religion is not discussed. That is not what God says. Scripture makes it clear that there should be a complete cut-off.

“And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and *have no company with him*, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother” (verses 14-15).

I know it is painful to cut off contact with family. But we have to look at the positive side of this: God says that when we don't fellowship with them—if dad and mom or a close relative shuns them—that has a great sting. God wants to drive them back by making them realize they really are on the outside.

Avoiding the Laodiceans also puts a message across to them that they are influenced by the devil, and need to repent.

There are, however, a couple of exceptions to this principle.

In the case of a mate in a Laodicean Church or one who left the PCG, that relationship should be preserved as long as the mate is “pleased to dwell with” (1 Corinthians 7:10-14). But if that mate becomes hostile and stirs up contention, it should be cut off. Wherever there is hostility, you must cut off every tie. Sometimes that hostility can be very subtle.

There is also the case of unbaptized children (or those not validly baptized) who have left the Church. Mr. Armstrong, for example, had a relationship with his daughter—and he believed she never was converted, and the fruits were there to prove that. As long as they were unconverted, we can have a relationship there—but we do have to be awfully careful. We may have to make a judgment about someone's conversion in a few cases, but we don't want to use that as a cop-out either. If your children have been baptized and left, that relationship should be severed. We must obey God's command.

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (Romans 16:17). In an article titled “If One Is Disfellowshipped, Which Family Comes First?” Mr. Armstrong commented on this verse: “It does not say all except members of your flesh and blood family. It speaks of any who has been a Church member. And it says avoid them. It's a command, and if we try to be more kind, more righteous than God and disobey that command, we convict ourselves of disobedience of God's command” (*Good News*, April 1980). He concluded by discussing Matthew 10, which says we must love our father and mother less than God.

I don't think there would be a difference between a marked person and one who is disfellowshipped.

There may be instances where the Church could get into legal trouble, if parents are preventing children from seeing their Laodicean grandparents or similar situations. There have been instances where grandparents were able to have a strong relationship with grandchildren without interference from Laodicean parents; there was no hostility there and minimal contact.

In individual cases like this, a judgment must be made by the ministry about the propriety of the situation—in *almost every case, that would be the regional director*.

In the case of members who work for a Laodicean, we should counsel them to try to seek other employment; though, to preserve their livelihood, they would not have to cut that off immediately.

The principle to remember is this: There should not be any contact with converted Church members who have left, and that includes family members other than a mate.

Please remember as well that whenever we deal with people outside the Church—whether non-member mates, or even Laodiceans—we should be as considerate and inoffensive as we possibly can. Even if their attitude is bad, we should be able to let our light shine by being considerate to them. There might be an exception if someone was attacking us, but “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men” (Romans 12:18).

With love, in Christ's service,



# CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

## MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE DATES

The conference dates for 2006 are set for June 14-20. Unless directed otherwise by Mr. Gerald Flurry, all full-time ministers should plan to arrive on June 13 and depart on June 21. A letter inviting all ministers to the conference will be mailed out shortly. As in the past, only full-time ministers will have their expenses covered.

Looking forward to seeing you there. *Dennis Leap*

## PYC DATES

The dates for Philadelphia Youth Camp 2006 have been set for July 5-25. Applications are now available from headquarters. Applicants should fill out the application and give it to their local minister as promptly as possible. The deadline for ministers to return camper applications this year is April 30.

## CD AND TAPE POLICY

The CD and tape policy is being amended to account for the continuous late arrival of CDs in many areas of the United States and Canada. On Wednesday (December 7, 2005), we sent out a package to all recipients of the weekly CDs which included the sermon "Good is Not Good Enough" by Mr. Stephen Flurry, a backup Bible study "God's Way" and a copy of this brief explanation.

For the Sabbath of *December 10th*, you should play "Uncovering Satan," a sermon given by Mr. Gerald Flurry which was distributed "To be played in all Churches immediately." Then, for the Sabbath of December 17th, you should play "Good is Not Good Enough." After that sermon is played, then you should continue to play CDs in the order you receive them from headquarters. That means, in many cases, you or the CD recipient for each Church area will receive the CD at least one week before it should be played at services.

What we are doing is pushing the schedule back one week so each CD should arrive in plenty of time to be played in the same order they were given at headquarters. Each Church area will now hear the sermon sent from headquarters fourteen days after it was originally given.

The Bible study that was sent out with this same package should be held as a back-up Bible study CD in the event that your area has a defective CD or if the scheduled Bible study CD does not arrive in time via the mail.

We believe this will solve 95 percent of the problems we are facing on a regular basis with CDs not arriving on time for services. Each Church area should also now have a back-up sermon and Bible study CD that is held

over for use in an emergency.

Nothing else has changed on the policy. After a sermon or Bible study has been played in the Church area, it should be destroyed as in the past. No libraries are to be kept at all—with the obvious exception of the back-up CDs.

Printed with this article is the policy as it has now been amended.

**Policy:** Church CD and Tape Library (P-701)

**Effective Date:** August 11, 2003

**Last Updated:** December 5, 2005

**Scope:** This policy applies to all who receive Church messages on cassettes or CDs around the world—regardless of their Region.

**Description:** All recipients of Philadelphia Church of God (PCG) media will adhere to the following policy regarding distribution of weekly sermon tapes/CDs:

## Responsibilities

1. Only **baptized members** (in good standing) of the PCG are permitted to be placed on the distribution list to receive weekly sermon tapes/CDs. No other Church administration status codes are allowed to receive tapes (for example, no tapes/CDs for Prospective Members, Youth or Co-Workers).
  - a. Only Regional Directors are authorized to add/remove individuals to/from the tapes/CD list.
  - b. Only Church areas where services are held under the Regional Director's establishment will be sent weekly sermon and Bible study tapes/CDs.
    - i. A congregation is defined as more than one family or individual who gather for services as directed by the Regional Director.
    - ii. There must be at least two different individuals/families that meet together, and that are designated by the Regional Director as a congregation before they can be placed on the tape/CD list.
  - c. A minister may be added to the list of recipients of weekly sermon and Bible study tapes/CDs with their Regional Director's approval.
    - i. The same rules of destroying the tapes/CDs after they have been listened to apply. (Rule 3 below.)
    - ii. Every effort should be made to listen to the messages quickly, then destroy the copies.

- d. Sermons and Bible studies will NOT to be sent to isolated members who do not meet as an established congregation appointed by the Regional Director.
2. Recipients of tapes/CDs **are not permitted to keep libraries of PCG services (as distributed on tape/CD) in any form**—whether they are personal copies or not—no tape/CD libraries are allowed by the Church.
  3. Recipients of the tapes/CDs are to destroy the tapes/CDs after they have been listened to at services that week. The schedule allows for two weeks mailing time for the sermons/Bible studies to arrive. Sermons/Bible studies given at headquarters will be sent out and are expected to be played two Sabbaths later (or 14 days after the sermon was given at headquarters). The tapes/CDs should immediately be destroyed by breaking the CD in half, or spooling the tape out of the cassette and cutting or breaking the tape in a few places at random.
    - a. Tapes/CDs are not to be kept after services have been completed.
    - b. If a congregation needs to hear the message again, a copy can be obtained from the Regional Director only.
  4. A backup sermon and Bible study will be provided to each recipient on the tape/CD list which shall be held and used only in the event of a defective tape/CD received in the mail, or if the weekly tape/CD does not arrive on time.
    - a. If the backup is used, your Regional Director must be informed, so he can have the headquarters tape department dispatch a replacement back-up tape to be held for possible future use.
    - b. After the back-up tape/CD is played for services, it too should be destroyed as per Rule 3 above.
  5. If two messages are received in the mail (for example a sermon and a Bible study), and if your congregation will only use one message (for example if a Bible study was not planned for that Sabbath, or if a minister is traveling through and gives a live sermon message) then you should use the message given by the most-senior minister as the message played for services. Then both messages should be destroyed after services that week.
    - a. In other words, sermons or Bible studies are not to be “held over” until the following week for any reason.
    - b. The only exception would be the rare occasion where two sermons of Mr. Gerald Flurry are sent out. If there is only time to play one, then the second message should be held for one week to play immediately the following week for services.
  - c. After Mr. Flurry’s messages are played for services, they should be destroyed per Rule 3 above.
  6. Messages and special music on tapes/CDs are not to be copied by anyone in any form without the approval of your Regional Director. This includes copying in any analog or digital form, including computer file formats, by members, sound crews or tape librarians.
  7. Regional Directors will keep a full two year library from which they can issue tapes/CDs at their discretion—with the requirement that all “loaned tapes/CDs” are returned to them within two weeks.
  8. All tapes and CDs become the property of the Philadelphia Church of God, including those purchased locally for local recordings of sermons given by the local minister after they have the PCG copyright label affixed to them.
    - a. All taped Sermons and Bible studies given locally **MUST** be placed on tapes supplied by headquarters (with the Church copyright affixed). If you are in need of tapes, please contact the tape department at (405) 340-7474.
    - b. If a message is recorded locally, the tapes must be given to the local minister immediately after services.
    - c. Local ministers are then responsible for immediately forwarding those tapes on to their Regional Director.
  9. Tapes/CDs may not be loaned to anyone for any reason.
  10. When a message(s) arrives on tape/CD, please immediately spot check it to see that there is quality sound on both side A and B. CDs should be checked for scratches, audio quality, and consistency in labeling. If you receive a damaged or poor quality tape or a scratched and unusable CD, please contact the Cassette Tape Department at headquarters for a replacement. Call (405) 340-7474.
  11. Tapes/CDs are not to be listened to in their entirety before they are played in services.
  12. Requests for tapes/CDs of sermons or Bible studies given in the past must be made via your Regional Director. The headquarters Cassette Department cannot send tapes to individuals unless Regional Director approval has been given.
  13. Messages labeled: “To be played in all Churches” may be preempted at the discretion of the Regional Director. Generally, such messages should not be

delayed more than two weeks after they are received. Messages marked *To be played in all Churches immediately* may not be delayed unless approved by Regional Directors or Mr. Gerald Flurry.

14. Sermonettes and special music, in most cases, will be included on the CDs each week. If included, it is at the discretion of the Regional Director as to whether they will be played in any given Church area.

## MEDIA SERVICES

### KEY OF DAVID SCHEDULE

**Program Title:** "The Logos Vision"

**Airdate:** December 11, 2005

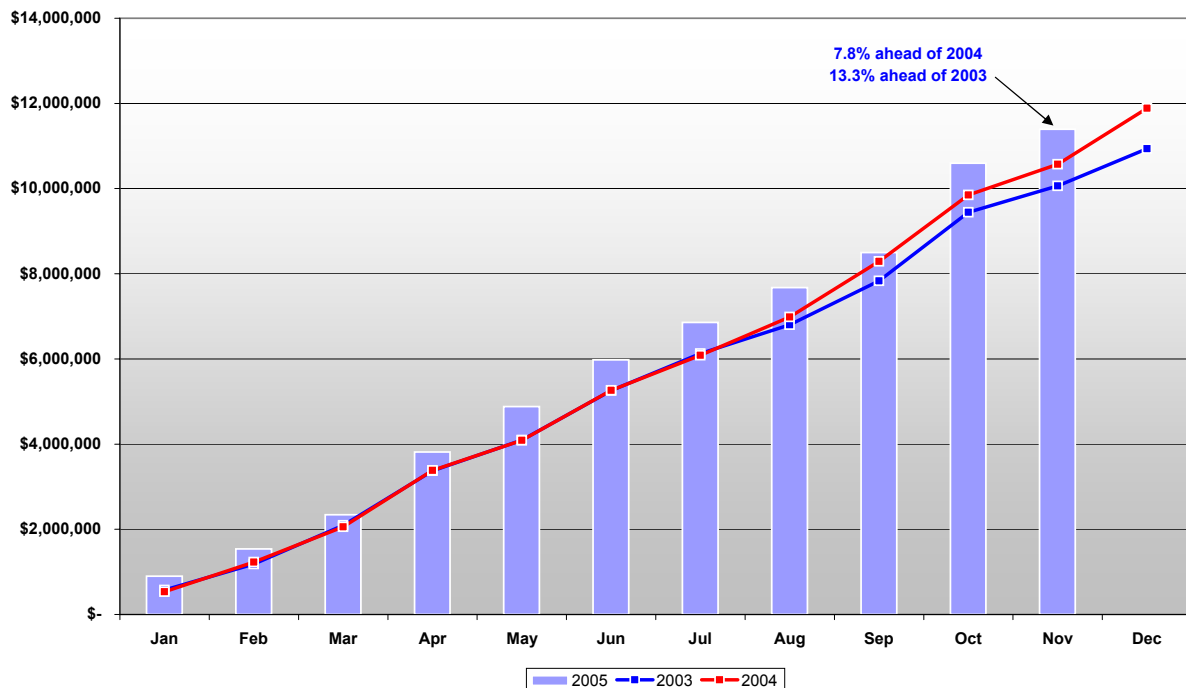
**Literature Offered:** *The Incredible Human Potential* and "Prophesy Again—Declaring the Mystery" reprint

**Synopsis:** The Apostle John had a deep understanding

of God's plan for mankind. But he also understood that God had a project *before* human beings—a project for the angels. Do you know about these two plans—and what God has planned for your life? Next week on *The Key of David*, Gerald Flurry discusses the Logos Vision.

## BUSINESS OFFICE

### PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD CUMULATIVE U.S. CONTRIBUTION INCOME 2003-2005



# COLLEGE NAME CHANGE

*Mr. Flurry will be announcing the name change in his sermon this week, so please do not read this during announcements.*

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To avoid causing confusion between ourselves and Imperial College London, we have decided to change the college name.

We originally filed to register the name “Imperial College of Edmond” with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Imperial College London noticed it and temporarily agreed to our using the name. However, upon further review, they decided that they would not like us to use it. A two-year negotiation process began, where we suggested alternate names using the word Imperial.

Imperial College London was always cooperative with us. However, since we mail the Correspondence Course and other literature bearing the school name in Europe, they anticipated confusion with the name Imperial.

The new name of the college will be “Herbert W. Armstrong College.” The name had been brought up

even when the college was first being raised up in 2001. Chancellor Gerald Flurry again presented the suggested new name to the faculty about a month before the Feast of Tabernacles this year to get their feedback. On November 18, we officially applied for the new trademark.

Most of the time, the college name will be shortened to “Armstrong College,” with “AC” as the abbreviation.

The references to the college name will be changed in all our literature. All future lessons of the Correspondence Course will bear the name *Armstrong College Correspondence Course*. Correspondence Course lessons that still bear the name *Imperial College* will be used until supplies are exhausted. At that point, old lessons will be reprinted with the new name.

Mr. Flurry gave some more detail about the name change in his December 3, “Uncovering Satan” sermon.