

Radio Preacher's Organization Mentioned at

By EDWARD B. FISKE
Special to The New York Times

PASADENA, Calif. — From Big River, Sask., to Shreveport, La., television viewers recently watched a nattily dressed figure in a bright yellow sports jacket look them straight in the eye and warn, "Today our cities are in trouble! Big trouble!"

The speaker was Garner Ted Armstrong, a 39-year-old commentator and preacher whose radio and television programs—both called "The World Tomorrow"—are rapidly making him one of the most widely heard broadcasters in the world.

As executive vice president of Ambassador College, which sponsors the programs, he also oversees an educational and publishing enterprise that reaches millions of persons and has a reported annual budget of \$34-million.

This week the college figured in a trial that has attracted worldwide attention. A colored slide of an article from its monthly publication, *The Plain Truth*, was shown in the courtroom in Jerusalem where Denis Michael Rohan is on trial for setting fire to the Al Aksa Mosque.

According to the Israeli authorities, the magazine was in the possession of the 28-year-old Australian fundamentalist at the time of his arrest.

College Denies Any Link

The college recently issued a statement confirming that Mr. Rohan had subscribed to one of its Bible correspondence courses and to *The Plain Truth*. It added, however, that there had never been "any connection whatsoever" between him and the college and called the mosque fire a "despicable act."

In an interview Mr. Armstrong also declared that a college representative in Perth, Australia, had discouraged Mr. Rohan from applying to Ambassador College because he "thought he was a nutty guy."

Mr. Armstrong speaks with a fast-moving, matter-of-fact, sometimes sarcastic, often humorous style to an estimated weekly audience of 40 million persons.

In the last four years his radio outlets in this country have increased from 124 to 229. He is heard on approximately 100 foreign radio stations and 38 television stations in the United States and Canada.

His philosophy is a blend of common-sense morality, Biblical literalism and social utopianism. He is also the best-known exponent today of what has been known as Anglo-Israelism, the belief that the Americans and British have replaced the Jews as God's "chosen people."

Broadcasts Began in 1934

The broadcasts were established in 1934 by Mr. Armstrong's father, Herbert W. Armstrong, a former adver-

tising man who began broadcasting from Eugene, Ore., under the title Radio Church of God and later established his own denomination, the Church of God (one of several in the country with this name).

In 1946 Herbert Armstrong moved his headquarters to Pasadena, where he established Ambassador College the following year. Though he remains head of all college and church activities, the elder Armstrong, now 77, has turned over the broadcasting and much of the administrative work to his son.

The computerized operations that Garner Ted Armstrong oversees include the following:

¶The Church of God, which

reports a baptized membership of 50,000 persons, 167 local churches and 360 ordained ministers.

¶Ambassador College, which was founded in 1947 and now has 700 students here and an equal number on branch campuses in Big Sandy, Tex., and St. Albans in Britain. The main campus occupies 45 acres in downtown Pasadena and boasts several lavish new buildings with plush offices that are part of a \$22-million expansion program.

The Ambassador College Press, which turns out four-color pamphlets with titles such as "Crime Can Be Stopped — Here's How!" It also publishes "*The Plain Truth*," which has a circulation of more than two million in English, French, German, Spanish and Dutch.

Funds From Tithing

Mr. Armstrong said that 70 per cent of the \$34-million budget for these projects comes from the tithing of church members. The rest is contributed by listeners and other friends classified as "co-workers."

The radio preacher lives in a rented house on the college campus and draws a salary of "under \$40,000 a year." In a recent interview he said that as a young man he had had no intention of affiliating with his father's work and had wanted to be a popular singer.

"Then I got tired of slopping around and wasting my money on cigarettes and beer

TIMES, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1959

Israeli Mosque Trial Has

Vast and Growing Audience

and decided to look for a new kind of life," he recalled.

Mr. Armstrong said that he had found this in his father's teachings, which are based on a rigid Biblical literalism and emphasize prophecy—especially the conditions under which Christ is expected to return to earth and establish a "world government."

Members of the Church of God emphasize individual morality and eschew involvement in civil rights and other social movements on the ground that racism and other problems cannot be solved until Christ returns. "You'll never find one of our ministers burning his draft cards," said Mr. Armstrong.

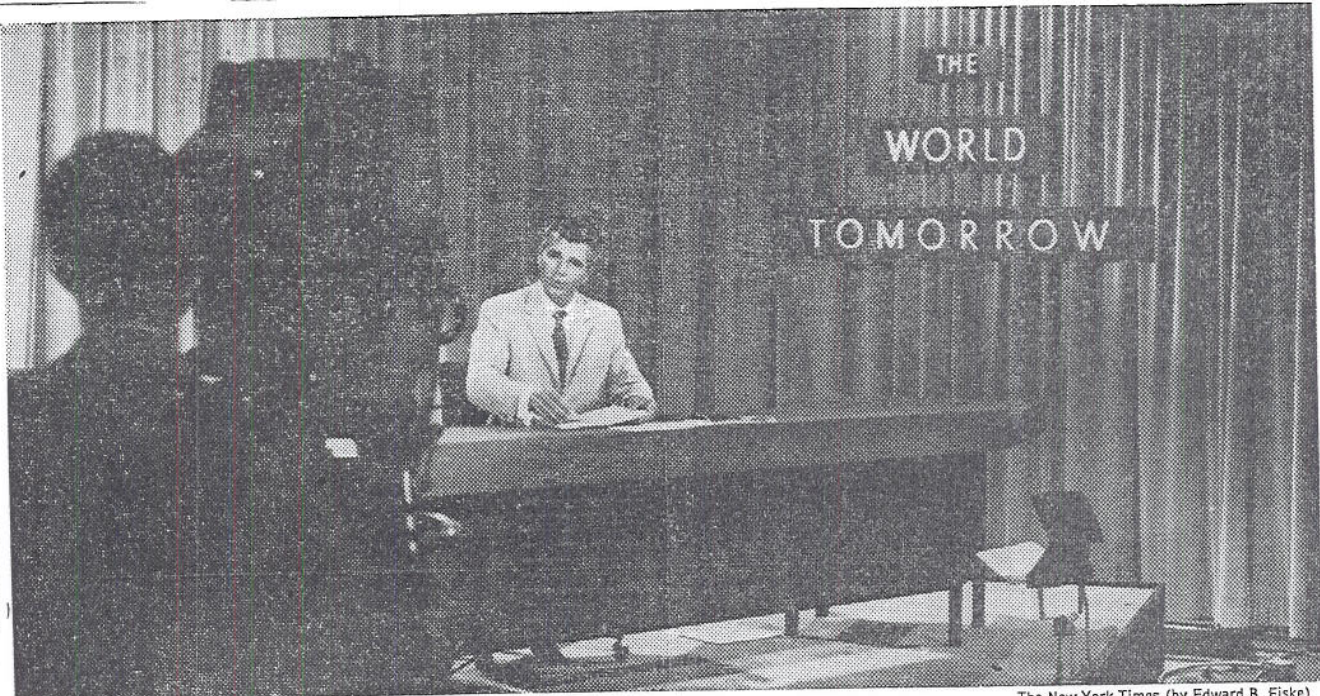
Students at the college eschew beards, smoking and mini skirts and have a reputation, as one local businessman put it, of being "refreshingly clean-cut youth." One reason that the administration insists on such behavior is that the college is intended to be a "foretaste" of what life will be like in the future when all of mankind lives according to God's moral laws.

Sabbath on Saturday

Like the Seventh Day Adventists and other Old Testament oriented Christian groups, the Church of God observes Saturday rather than Sunday as the Sabbath.

But members go beyond this, dismissing all doctrines like the Trinity that developed after the death of Jesus and celebrating only the Jewish holidays that He followed. "Easter got its name from a pagan goddess," said Ronald L. Dart, a 35-year-old official of the college. "Why should we observe something like that?"

Mr. Armstrong's television



The New York Times (by Edward B. Fiske)

Garner Ted Armstrong, whose programs are broadcast over 38 TV stations and 229 radio stations in North America

Rohan Prosecution Due To Finish Case Monday

Special to The New York Times

JERUSALEM, Oct. 9—The prosecution in the arson trial of Denis Michael Rohan, who has admitted setting fire to the Al Aksa Mosque, said today that it should complete its case by next Monday.

Today's testimony, in the fourth day of the trial, focused on Mr. Rohan's frequent visits to the mosque.

Dahud Omar Ahmed Kazaz, one of the mosque guards, said he had asked another guard at one point: "What is the matter with this man, he comes here so frequently. Why is he interested in the mosque?"

Mr. Rohan, according to a number of witnesses, would sit or lie on the floor until ordered to leave. At other times he would remain inside for long periods, thinking.

studio is an ultra-modern color facility on campus in the basement of a former gun factory.

He speaks extemporaneous in both his daily radio weekly television performances. His only props are booklet that he offers listeners and a sheaf of news reports and statistics on Vietnam battle deaths, hurricane damage, the population explosion and other evidence that mankind is failing to solve its problems on its own.

The broadcasts themselves are described as "educational" and contain only vague hints of the sectarian teachings behind them. For this reason a typical reaction of listeners is a combination of fascination and puzzlement. "He

makes so much sense when he's talking," said one Pasadena resident. "But afterward it's hard to remember exactly what he said."

Free Pamphlet Offered

The specifics are spelled out in booklets like "The Wonderful World Tomorrow: What It Will Be Like," a 96-page pamphlet that Mr. Armstrong offers to listeners at no cost.

It states that the nations of the world will engage in a climactic nuclear war and Christ will "return to the earth in clouds" at the Mount of Olives, defeat the forces of evil and establish a divine monarchy with Jerusalem as its capital.

The college's interest in Jeru-

salem has led to participation with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Israel Exploration Society in an archeological expedition at the South Wall of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Fifty Ambassador students spent last summer working on the dig.

The article shown in court appeared to be one from the April, 1969, English issue of The Plain Truth. It was written by Herbert W. Armstrong and entitled "Uncovering 3,000 years of History!"

The article described the archeological expedition and asserted that the "throne of David" upon which the future world ruler is to reign is buried "at the very site of our present project."

On the basis of the biblical prophecy, Mr. Armstrong concluded that the archeological project had major religious significance. "If a coming world

Ruler is to govern the world from the very spot of the ancient throne of David," he said, "the way is certainly being prepared."

The article, however, made no reference to the Al Aksa Mosque, although its dome can be seen in the background in two photographs and a drawing of the archeological project, including one on the cover.

The article also makes no mention of the rebuilding of the temple destroyed in 70 A.D. Mr. Rohan stated in testimony that he tried to destroy the mosque because he felt called by God to rebuild this temple and thus fulfill Biblical prophecy.

Another important teaching of the Ambassador College movement is that the English and American peoples or the descendants of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh of the so-called "lost" 10 tribes of Israel and that they, rather than Jews,

are the true heirs to God's covenant with Abraham.

Such teachings have appeared in many forms since the rise of the British Empire and even in this century have been estimated to have gained more than two million adherents. Recent American advocates have included James Lovell of Fort Worth, Tex., and Howard Rand, head

of the Anglo-Saxon Federation in Haverhill, Mass.

Mr. Armstrong said that one proof of the special status of Anglo-Saxons was the name "British."

"In Hebrew the word for covenant is 'berith' and the word for man is 'ish,'" he declared. "Thus 'British' obviously means 'covenant man'."