

RADIO CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS

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PRESIDENT and PASTOR

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RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Minister

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Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from Pasadena! It was certainly good to see so many of you again at the Feast this year, and certainly God demonstrated real POWER in the sermons and activities during the Feast more than ever. Many have commented about this since returning, and certainly we could feel it during the Feast of Tabernacles this year. God's Work continues to grow in every way, and I am sure that all of us are happy to be back at our regular posts of service to participate in this.

It may interest you to know the worldwide attendance at the Feast this year. As near as I can ascertain -- adding up the figures from all over the earth -- we had over 31,000 people in attendance! And certainly, the meetings were very inspiring and helpful everywhere according to all reports. I certainly enjoyed being at Jekyll Island this year and Squaw Valley, of course, for the last half of the Feast. God seemed to intervene in the weather at both locations just when it was necessary -- as I have heard He did at other places as well.

Mr. Jon Hill and Mr. Richard Plache have both come back with fine reports from the Feasts they helped conduct at Hayling Island, England, and Scottburgh, South Africa, respectively. It must have been very inspiring for the assembled brethren to have these ministers from Headquarters in attendance, and it gave both of them -- as teachers and writers here at Headquarters -- the opportunity to see God's College and Work in England plus special points of historical and prophetic interest on the Continent as well. Mr. Armstrong's secretary, Mrs. Swaney, even got to go over to Hayling Island for the Feast this year! Then, she had the opportunity to join the Plaches in Rome, Italy, and take a brief tour on the Continent before returning.

I won't take time, in this letter, to go down the line listing the specific attendances at every location on earth, as I will be doing that in The GOOD NEWS which should be coming out in a few days anyway.

But, for those of you who haven't heard, let me mention that we also had 25 ordinations during the Feast of Tabernacles this year! There were 11 ordinations at Big Sandy, 7 in Jekyll Island, and 7 in Squaw Valley. Three of these were simply "raises" in rank to Preaching Elder from Local Elder. Included were Messrs. Jack Pyle, Keith Thomas and Jim Lichtenstein -- all ordained as full Preaching Elders now in the Church of God. Congratulations, men!

And added to our growing list of fine Local Elders were, at Big Sandy: Mr. Roger Malone from St. Louis, Mr. James Jenkins from Wichita, Mr. Milo Wilcox from Wichita, Mr. Bob Dick from South Bend and soon to be stationed at Birmingham, Mr. Roland Van Slooten from South Bend, Mr. Don Prunkard now at Minneapolis, Mr. Harold Krueger from Milwaukee, Mr. David Robinson from Corpus Christi, Mr. Arch Bradley at Kansas City, and Mr. Maceo Hampton at Greensboro. The Local Elders ordained at Jekyll Island include: Mr. Eugene Noel of Dayton; Mr. Harry Schaer, Mr. Graham Vernon, and Mr. Martin Nickel of the New York area; Mr. Kenneth Graham of Detroit; Mr. Dennis Pyle of Midland, Michigan; and Mr. Jim Redus of Atlanta.

Local Elders ordained at Squaw Valley were: Mr. Herbert Magoon of Long Beach; Mr. Fred Kellers of Eugene and now of Baltimore; Mr. Frank Williams of Santa Barbara; Mr. Tullio Panella of Phoenix; and Mr. Bob Lay of Vancouver, B.C.

It is interesting to know that 14 of these 25 men never went to Ambassador College.

So the Spokesman Clubs are certainly producing fruits!

Other happy news is the approval by Mr. Armstrong of five new Churches to start plus the reconfirmation of two which had already been approved and will soon start as well -- making a total of SEVEN! The two Churches already approved which should soon begin are a Negro Manhattan Church, and a new Church in Paterson, New Jersey. Then, new Churches are now to be established in Joplin, Missouri -- my old home town; a second Church in Kansas City, Missouri; a Church in Victoria, B.C.; a new Church in Youngstown, Ohio; and a new Church in Central England at Durham.

So SEVEN new Churches will soon be underway -- with many more to follow!

A couple of ministerial weddings took place immediately after the Feast at Big Sandy. Mr. Ron Reedy and Miss Pat Riegel were joined as

husband and wife by Mr. Portune. Then, immediately after, Mr. Bob Dick and Miss Dyanne Moore were married by Mr. Charles Hunting.

Now, with Mr. Reedy possessing a new female assistant -- of all things! -- he no longer desires the services of Allen Bullock! Therefore, we have transferred Allen Bullock, a college graduate, to assist Mr. McCrady since his former assistant, Mr. Bob Dick, has in turn acquired a female assistant of his own, Dyanne Moore! Do you get the picture? Therefore, after helping Mr. McCrady catch up on a number of visits in Northern Michigan for a few weeks, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dick will proceed to Birmingham, Alabama, where they will assist Mr. Ken Swisher in that burgeoning area.

Also, another important ministerial change you will want to hear of is that Mr. Fred Kellers -- now ordained as a Local Elder -- has been sent back to Baltimore, Maryland, to assist Mr. Guy Engelbart at Baltimore and Richmond. And additional help will be coming out after the Conference and of course in June to some of the rest of you men who are in need. Please be patient!

Also, Mr. Ivan Sell has been transferred up to Philadelphia under Mr. Walt Sharp where his services are now needed more urgently than at Greensboro.

Now, I want to very belatedly inform all of you of something that simply didn't come to mind when I was writing my last two ministerial letters. Most of you know it by now, of course, but Mr. and Mrs. Art Docken and family left us last August to take over the office and ministerial work in the Philippines. This frees Mr. and Mrs. Guy Ames to return to college -- which they have done -- so that Mr. Ames may finish his senior year and graduate and get a change after being down in the Philippines for so long.

Mr. Docken, as you know, graduated from Ambassador College and became Mr. Mauck's number one assistant directing the entire Circulation Department and working with the Warehouse and other facilities as well. Also, he grew spiritually so much that he was ordained last summer as a Local Elder in the Los Angeles Church. Now, he has the opportunity of combining both of these strengths in his new assignment as the Director of God's Work in the Philippines. Certainly all of us should remember Mr. and Mrs. Docken in our prayers in this far-off place, and also write to them at our Manila address as often as possible!

One final bit of news: it now seems definite that a fourth Feast of Tabernacles site for the United States will be at Long Beach, California, this

coming fall! Mr. Armstrong has come to very definitely feel that we need to have a site much closer to Headquarters from now on because of the tremendous volume of mail -- over 3000 letters each day containing many more thousands of dollars -- so that some of the employees may be able to work part-time during the regular weekdays during the Feast and not end up fantastically behind at the end.

Therefore, Mr. Portune and Mr. Royer have been "scouring" Southern California for many months now and have investigated all types of locations all the way from north of Santa Barbara down to San Diego and out to locations near Palm Springs, Mt. San Jacinto, etc. They did not wish to press this Long Beach location at first because of its proximity to the big city and the smog. However, all circumstances have now shown us that this is undoubtedly the place God is choosing for the Feast site in this area.

The actual location of the meetings will be at the beautiful new Long Beach Arena. We will have there all kinds of facilities including a beautiful meeting hall, a cafeteria which we can completely take over seating 2200 persons, a theater for our own movies, talent shows, etc., and many other facilities. There is almost unlimited housing in beautiful hotels and motels nearby -- many with their own private swimming pools. We will, of course, be right on the beach and perhaps can have a fair-sized area at least partially reserved for ourselves alone as well as giving the brethren the opportunity of going to Catalina and other interesting sites nearby during some of the afternoons.

Many brethren, of course, from all over the country would love to come here in order to see God's Headquarters and Ambassador College. We will try to arrange this so that some of the local people who wish to may "exchange" with them and have the opportunity to get out of this area during the eight-day period if they wish.

~~But with the beautiful facilities that are opening up to us, this location~~ will definitely not be "second rate" to the others at all when you see the whole picture! As many of you know, Long Beach actually has very little smog -- and least of all right there on the beach. And having excellent facilities for our own movies, concerts and talent show, with other excellent facilities for our own basketball tournaments and other sports activities will all be immediately available in fine weather! So God is certainly working this out for us, and plans are underway for about 4000 to attend here next year to get things organized, with perhaps 8000 to 12,000 attending the following year and the year after that no doubt expanding to the full 15,000-person potential of the Long Beach Arena.

Then, by the fall of 1967, we may wish to add an additional location in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania or somewhere else -- as God directs.

Now for some INSTRUCTIONS:

Many of you are beginning to fall behind again on getting in your Ministerial Reports! The information from your reports which needs to be channeled through many different departments makes it increasingly necessary that we receive your reports on time -- as part of your job for which you are being paid! So those of you who have been tardy should begin setting aside either Monday mornings or Tuesday mornings for making out your reports and do nothing else until they are in unless there is a real "super-emergency" in your area! And this kind of emergency should not occur more than three or four times a year!

Also, Dr. Zimmerman's department informs me that it would be very helpful for them if you could all type "First Visit" in parentheses beside prospectives you or your men are visiting for the first time. This would aid the L. A. D. writers in their approach to answering letters from these individuals. This would enable us to help you, also, in accurately reporting on just how these people have been approaching us if they seem to be "odd" in any way in their letters. Also, it would enable us to know how far behind individual church areas are in visiting new prospectives -- thus giving us a better overall picture of the needs of each area.

So do this from now on.

There is a serious and growing problem in the Big Sandy area which must be stopped! It is because of the fact that so many of the outlying ministers are having widows or poor and elderly members move to Big Sandy thinking they will be better "cared for" there. This is making quite an imbalance in the Church there. Now, they are beginning to have a GREAT NUMBER of spiritually weak persons in and around the College and local Headquarters there because of all these people without mates, without jobs -- and many of whom have poor health and in many cases poor attitudes or frustrations.

In some few cases, of course, this has been helpful and right. But this type of thing must be drastically curtailed!

From now on, before you even begin to suggest that anyone move to Big Sandy, be sure you first sit down and write Mr. McCullough -- who is in charge there -- about the person's individual situation. Then, he or his assistants can give you some guidelines as to whether even the "idea" of their possibly moving there ought to be pursued any further. Otherwise, work with these people in their local areas or send them somewhere else

but NOT to Big Sandy and certainly not all to Pasadena either or the same thing would easily develop here! Beside, Pasadena is one of the worst places now to send anyone who is elderly or has health problems because of the growing smog here.

*Now I would like to give you a warning to pass on to your people about strange "brethren" who may possibly contact them sometime. One or two instances have recently occurred where members of the Sardis Church or ex-Adventists would ask a filling station operator or someone in the community if he knew where any Church of God people were. They would then give the name or address of some of our people and these passing strangers would then come out and try to borrow money from them to get their car fixed, ask for food and lodging or this type of thing. They have generally appeared evasive, as they realize that any of "Armstrong's people" -- as they put it -- might not appreciate them if we knew that they were from the Sardis or other related groups. Naturally, we do want to help anyone in need and set a good example of love to all -- but we should warn our members to be careful to be sure what kind of "Church of God" people are coming around to them for help. Some of these people may just be moochers or spongers or in some cases be there trying to proselyte our own people and upset their true faith in God.

Another matter that has come to my attention is that in several areas -- I understand by the grapevine -- different ministers are beginning so-called "Bible readings" after the Sabbath Services for different age groups of children. They are having different men and women read and explain the Bible to these different children after services -- apparently to keep them quiet. ?

Let me say immediately that unless this practice is fully explained and gets Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's personal approval, it must be STOPPED. This type of thing obviously would lead to "Sabbath Schools" which were the very source of much of the trouble in the early Eugene Church and other Churches Mr. Armstrong raised up in the early years of this Work. Certainly, these children should be taught the Bible at home by their own parents. And just as certainly, if they have been sitting quietly all through Church in the first place -- as children -- they certainly should not be made to sit any further and be frustrated to tears by having to sit and sit and sit all through the Sabbath Day!

I'm not trying to hurt or insult any one of you on this, and do not know the exact circumstances of every situation involved here. But it has come to my attention that there are different age groups of children being taught or read to by different adults after services, and I can clearly see where

this is leading. So see that this STOPS -- unless any of you wish to write in a full explanation and request regarding it to be approved by Mr. Armstrong. This is changing the very basic outline of the Church services and procedures which have been sent out to you before and which should be followed everywhere.

Beside sending in your Ministerial Reports on time, another matter also needs to be taken care of more regularly and consistently. This regards the divorce and remarriage case decisions being typed up and sent in separately from the regular Ministerial Report forms. Perhaps some of the newer ministers have not realized these should be typed up and sent in on a separate sheet. We do not need to know all the details of these cases -- the sexual involvements, etc. -- but we should know the basic factors involved such as that one of the parties was not bound to a previous mate because of fornication or some other reason. These basic factors involved should be clearly delineated so that if this person moves to another Church area we will have a record of WHY this decision has been made. With literally HUNDREDS of our members constantly moving about, this procedure becomes increasingly necessary and helpful to God's Church. So type up the basic factors about the divorce cases of any of the brethren you settle in your area, tell when the decision was made and by whom and clearly state this at the end of your report on the matter. Then, we will have this in a central file here at Headquarters and such information may, in turn, be requested by you if some other person with a similar problem in the past moves into your area and tries to bring up such a case all over again in order to "get out" of a decision which has been made by God's ministers! You realize how easy it is for new and weak members to "shade" the facts of their divorce cases in order to get what they want and perhaps live in adultery! So we must be sure that these matters are handled properly and with dispatch. If you wish to train your Local Elders and assistants to type up these matters for you, fine. Just be sure you look them over and they have your approval before they are sent in.

In closing, I would like to urge all of you to earnestly pray for God's Work more than ever at this time. You may have realized and heard that -- in spite of the wonderful Feast offerings -- the regular money increase has been down for the last few months. Also, the letter count has been WAY DOWN for the last two or three months! If this trend continues, of course, it could be an extremely serious situation for God's Work. So pray about it earnestly, and inform the brethren to pray about it earnestly also, although you need not tell them all the details involved. If the situation continues to worsen, I'm sure that you will be hearing from Mr. Armstrong in a letter or Co-Worker or Member letter about it, but thought I would tell those of you in God's ministry that the situation has definitely taken this turn for some time now and we all need to be concerned and perhaps do some real

praying and fasting like we used to in past times. Perhaps we are getting so lackadaisical about the growth of God's Work that we now forget to do this and take such growth for granted.

So remember! Do your part in lifting up your hands to God and our Living Head Jesus Christ about His Work! Also, let's continue always to pray for one another and for all the responsibilities we have to shoulder in doing our parts in the ministry and service of Jesus Christ.

Your servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roderick C. Meredith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Roderick C. Meredith