

# RADIO CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS

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RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Minister

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Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Pasadena! It has been about seven weeks since my last letter, but with the Ministerial Conference in between and seeing many more of you, also, at a recent Akron District Conference, it has not seemed as necessary to get out this letter. However, I know that many of you scattered ministers still are lacking somewhat on information of the Work and of what transpired during the Ministerial Conference.

For the moment, however, let me say that everything is fine here in Pasadena and the Work is coming along well over-all, although the receipt of money and mail seems to be dragging somewhat during this month of February. Perhaps the terrible storms back East are contributing to this. In spite of some of the "records" that you have heard about in mail and money during November and December, be sure to encourage the brethren to pray earnestly for God's Work as both money and mail have fallen off somewhat so far during 1966. However, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong are both in reasonably good health and so is everyone else here to my knowledge. One exception to this would be Mrs. Swaney, Mr. Armstrong's secretary, who seemed to have a terrible bout with the flu and later, I understand, felt that it must have been a severe case of pneumonia. Now, some have said she thinks it may be a re-occurrence of spinal meningitis which she had several years ago. Anyway, Mrs. Swaney has been very sick for nearly three months now, so I do solicit your earnest prayers on her behalf. Certainly she has made a valuable contribution to Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong and helped really "keep things moving" in the Executive Penthouse offices.

Briefly, let me say that the Conference this year was very profitable and very enjoyable for all who attended. We were able to cover a number of points involving Christian living and the application of Biblical principles to severe problems that come up in relation to healing, conscientious objection, problems with worldly school and other very ticklish situations. Perhaps we will soon be able to send out a summary of the points discussed to all of you, point by point. Reports were given from the managers of the overseas offices and certainly the growth of God's Work everywhere was the keynote of the Conference.

Mr. Armstrong discussed the need of writing our own textbooks for Imperial Schools to remove the wrong approach given in so many textbooks of this world. This would also enable us to better guide our scattered members in how to teach their children and counter the errors of the public schools systems.

The Ministerial Ball was held in the beautiful Cast-Away Club in the hills above Burbank with a gorgeous panoramic view of the lights of Los Angeles and Hollywood lying below. It was certainly a very fine occasion in every way. Another highlight of the Conference was the evening in the new home of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong. As most of you know, the home on the corner of Grove Street and South Orange Grove -- formerly occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Lisman -- has been ruled out by the city for dormitory use. Mrs. Lisman vacated it over a year ago for one of the beautiful apartments "behind" Mayfair and facing on South Orange Grove now that she is alone.

Being forced out of their own home on Hill Street by the expansion of Caltech, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong have taken over and completely remodeled this residence formerly occupied by the Lismans. They have done a beautiful job on it, and it is certainly a home of dignity and character now in every way. On Thursday evening during the Conference, they invited all of the ministers and their wives to come by for an open house, and the ministers had the opportunity to see this beautiful residence, to enjoy a stereo concert presented by Mr. Armstrong and to relax and visit in very fine fellowship.

Again this year, a basketball tournament was played between the teams from the upper and lower classes of Ambassador in Pasadena, the Pasadena Faculty team, and the visiting College team from Big Sandy. As usual, our "semi-pro" Pasadena Faculty team came out on top! But it was certainly a very fine tournament, and everyone was thrilled that the Big Sandy team -- playing as one unit -- came out on top of the student teams.

Certainly the outstanding event of the Conference for most of us was the ordination service where eleven men were raised in rank and responsibility in Christ's ministry. I would like to say something about each of these men, but will save this for The GOOD NEWS and simply rehearse the facts -- which most of you know -- that Mr. David Jon Hill, Mr. Dibar Apartian, Mr. Leslie McCullough and Mr. David Antion were all raised to the rank of Evangelist in Christ's ministry!

Next, Mr. Dennis Luker, Mr. Harold Jackson, Mr. Arthur Mekarow and Mr. Arthur Craig were all raised to Pastor rank.

Then, Mr. James Toak and Mr. Lowell Blackwell were ordained to the rank of Preaching Elder. And on the Sabbath following the Conference, Mr. Raymond McNair joined Mr. Carl McNair in ordaining Mr. Kelly Barfield also as a Preaching Elder in God's Work.

During the ordination service at Pasadena, nearly everyone had tears in his eyes -- and I definitely feel that most of these men were sincerely shocked in being raised in authority and responsibility in Christ's ministry. On being raised to Evangelist rank, Mr. David Antion was so overcome and his eyes so filled with tears, that he literally bumped into the supporting pole coming up the aisle in the Assembly Hall! For everyone present, this ordination service was certainly a moving experience.

In the weeks since the Conference, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Armstrong have flown to Texas and returned. Now, Mr. Ted Armstrong and his family have been in Texas for about ten days and are scheduled to be back later this week.

My wife and I had the opportunity to fly back to Akron, Ohio, to direct the combined District Conference there on February 1, 2 and 3 between the Akron and Chicago Districts. All told, we had fifty-six ministers, wives and second men in attendance! So it was certainly the largest conference of ministers ever held outside of Pasadena. Being with these men and their wives made me realize more than ever the definite need for such conferences for those of you who cannot get to Pasadena. Also, I realized more than ever -- even after being there -- how needful it is for one of us from Pasadena to join you in conducting these conferences at least most of the time. Mr. Antion and Mr. McDowell brought this up themselves. Later, Mr. Hill reported to me that Mr. Swisher, District Superintendent over the Southeast, mentioned to him that he felt one of us from Headquarters should always attend these District Meetings.

Be that as it may, we will certainly plan to have at least one or two such District Conferences each year and one of us from Pasadena will plan on being there for at least one of these each time.

Mr. Hill and his wife have just returned from Atlanta, Georgia, where he conducted the Atlanta District Conference with Mr. Swisher and the men under him. Mr. Hill reports that a total of twenty-seven ministers, wives and assistants attended this conference, and it, too, was very successful, inspiring and needful to the men. I have personally heard since from both areas reports of how much these conferences meant and were appreciated by the ministers and wives involved.

As Mr. Armstrong himself stated, these District Conferences will in many ways be more valuable even than the Pasadena Conference in solving many of the local and field problems which we simply do not have time to discuss at Pasadena. Also, I noticed -- and Mr. Antion and Mr. McDowell both commented -- that there seemed to be more time and opportunity for personal fellowship and really talking things over in the District Conference than there had been at Pasadena. So those of you who do not get to come to the major Conference at Pasadena should certainly not feel "left out" but should anticipate and appreciate the District Conferences which we will be having.

Certainly for all of us who are together in God's Work, there ought to be a feeling of closeness, oneness and open lines of communication at all times. This is one of the things we discussed at Akron, and I sincerely hope that all of you men will feel really close, not only to your District Superintendents, but to me, to Mr. Hill as the Assistant Superintendent of Ministers and to all of us at Headquarters at all times. Feel free to call, wire and write us whenever any real problem or misunderstanding arises. God has drafted us together in a literal crusade to get out His Gospel to the world and to feed His flock. So let us be "open" with one another -- and strive for the closeness and unity which Jesus Christ wants between His servants and His Work!

Just before the Conference a new Bible Study was begun in Texarkana, Arkansas, with a beginning attendance of 94. This certainly portends a Church in that area before long!

Also, since the Conference, we have started new Churches in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Tupelo, Mississippi. Now that Mr. Kelly Barfield is ordained as a Preaching Elder, he has been put in charge over the Churches in Little Rock and Fort Smith, Arkansas. Fort Smith started February 12 with a fine attendance of 140! Mr. Carl McNair will continue to pastor Memphis, Tennessee, and will turn the Tupelo Bible Study into a Church. We have not yet heard about the first attendance there.

Mr. Carn Catherwood just reported that the new Church in Ottawa, Canada, had a new record of 88 in attendance for the Sabbath of January 22. And, of course, there is a great deal of growth in most of the Churches throughout the United States and around the earth.

During and after the Conference, we were able to send more men into the field at this time of year than ever before in history! They were all sent out from the Headquarters area and from the College in Big Sandy. From the Big Sandy College, Joel Lillengreen was sent to assist Mr. Mekarow and Judd Kirk was sent to assist Mr. Friddle.

From Ambassador in Pasadena, Ben Leonard went to assist Mr. Cole in New York, Bill Nettles to assist Mr. Swisher in Atlanta, Nelson Haas to assist Mr. McCrady in South Bend, and Bob Cain to assist Mr. Prince in Oklahoma City.

Then, from Long Beach, Mr. Jim Doak was transferred to take over the Churches in Sacramento and Reno, now that he is a full Preaching Elder. And Charles Bryce was sent out as a lead visitor to assist Mr. Gary Antion in the Toronto-Buffalo District.

By way of news, it will interest you to know that Mr. and Mrs. Howard Silcox from Bricket Wood have been visiting at the Big Sandy and Pasadena campuses. Mr. Silcox is a deacon and the head gardener at the campus in Bricket Wood. He and his wife are very faithful "pioneer" members of the London Church and both of them have worked extremely hard and put in very long hours faithfully for many years now. So Mr. Armstrong was very pleased by being able to give them the opportunity to see the sister colleges and perhaps get ideas from the campuses over here as to how to improve -- if that is possible -- the beautiful campus at Bricket Wood.

Also, plans are under way for Mr. and Mrs. Ted Armstrong to spend a few weeks in England this spring, after the Passover, and then take a tour through the Middle East -- which Mr. Ted Armstrong has never done. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Smith, newly ordained Evangelist Mr. David Antion and wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Bernell Michel will all be traveling to England aboard the Queen Elizabeth soon after Passover. The Michels will be going over to stay -- as Mr. Bernell Michel will become the Athletic Director there at Bricket Wood and is scheduled to arrive about the time the new gym there is completed. The Norman Smiths and David Antions are having the opportunity of taking this educational-type trip as many others have, and will probably spend a couple of weeks at the Bricket Wood campus and then two or three weeks touring the Continent and/or Middle East. So tremendous BLESSINGS continue to shower upon many, many of us in God's Work!

It is good news -- although sad to be reminded of -- that Mr. Filippello, after his escapade, has come back repentant to God's Church in Chicago. Mr. McDowell has had long talks with him and is satisfied that he is quite repentant -- although we all still feel and know that he should not be reinstated as a Local Elder in God's Work after leaving his wife and family in the manner he did. But apparently it was just because of lack of prayer and Bible study, feeling guilty because of certain pressures, and letting old habits and ways recur. So, under the circumstances, we can rejoice -- as I am sure God's angels do -- that the "lost sheep" has returned to the fold. Even though this type of thing hurts, especially when it involves one of

God's Elders, it is nevertheless a very happy thing that Mr. Filippello has not, after all, deserted the Church or his family and is back with us once again at least as a lay-member.

For your information, we advised Mr. McDowell to make a very plain announcement explaining the whole thing in front of everybody at Church -- which would save a great deal of gossip and misunderstanding later. Mr. Filippello certainly agreed with this and the brethren seemed to respond very well by forgiving Mr. Filippello and accepting him back -- many with tears in their eyes -- even though they knew of his very definite sin and misbehaviour.

Now, I must report to you that another one of God's Elders has put himself out of God's Work! Many of you already know of this, but perhaps several dozen, including the overseas ministers, do not.

Here are the details:

Mr. Virgil Cox, a graduate of Ambassador College and ordained as a Local Elder and assisting in the Mobile, Alabama area -- recently just "drove away from God's Work." We did not even know of his disappearance until his sister called Virgil's parents who live out at San Bernardino where Dr. Zimmerman is pastor. Virgil had stopped by her home near Big Sandy and told her that he was "leaving the ministry" because of some misunderstandings about certain technical points in the Bible and the growing doubt that the Bible was even inspired!

I immediately called Mr. Swisher, who was surprised to learn of this -- although he mentioned that Virgil had had a few questions a few weeks back and had seemed to be carrying some sort of mental burden around. But Mr. Swisher had gone through the questions with him, and Virgil seemed to be relieved and did not indicate any direct misunderstanding or disagreement at that time.

Virgil arrived at San Bernardino late on the Sabbath -- when he knew the Church services there, which are held in the morning, would be over. Then he spent that evening talking to his parents and his father stayed up with him nearly all night trying to reason with him and straighten him out. Virgil's father, incidentally, is a deacon in God's Church at San Bernardino, and his mother a deaconess. They both remained faithful throughout all of this -- as did Virgil's wife.

His father persuaded him to come in to talk to me -- although Virgil seemingly did not intend to do this on his own. He simply thought that his questions could not be answered! And he was beginning to doubt that this

was God's Church if that was the case -- and doubt also the inspiration of the Bible, which he was now feeling guilty about having to preach.

I asked Mr. Hill to join me in counseling him, and we spent some three hours with him that Sunday evening probing and trying to find out the real root of the problem. Frankly, I was almost positive it must be something deeper and more involved than just a mild "misunderstanding" of little picky points in the Bible. But, apparently, I was wrong. Virgil maintained throughout that conference and has ever since that this was the only thing that turned him aside and made him upset. His questions, frankly, were those that might be asked in the Freshman Bible class or at any local Bible Study. I do not feel it appropriate to go into all of them at this time, as I'm sure they have not -- and would not -- trouble any of you. I mean that sincerely. It was completely incomprehensible to Mr. Hill and me how a man trained at Ambassador College to let his mind begin to doubt God and God's Word over such little "picky" points. Yet Virgil did just that.

One reason for his fall was that he has always been a little aloof, uncommunicative and self-righteous. He would simply not "open up" and talk and get really well acquainted with the other ministers and with his superiors in God's Work. He kept these doubts and puzzlements mainly to himself. Also, he was somewhat isolated from other ministers being down in Mobile and not spending very much time with Mr. Swisher or others directly. And, of course, Virgil was not by any stretch of the imagination a top student at Ambassador College and was, in fact, deferred from even entering the first year while he went to a local college in Louisiana. So the little doubts and questions began to magnify themselves and he did not exert the mental effort and scholarship to find the real answer!

In addition, he admitted to Mr. Hill and me that after only briefly checking the answers to these "great problems" which seemed to present themselves he then began to reason that he should -- in order to be intellectually honest -- study "both sides" of the question. Therefore, he began to read the writings of Thomas Paine and Bertrand Russell! This, of course, encouraged him in his perverted thinking and he drew further away from God and the Bible as he went along.

To give you men at least a sampling of his "great problems" which he was very seriously upset about, I will at least list a few of them.

For instance, he was concerned over Matthew 27:9. Here the writer states that Jeremiah had prophesied about the thirty pieces of silver which were used to betray Christ. Virgil pointed out that this was quoted from Zechariah 11:12. Of course, he failed to remember or find that Jeremiah and Zechariah were

partly contemporaneous and that the statement in Matthew 27:9 says that which was fulfilled was "spoken" by Jeremiah -- an oral prophecy by Jeremiah which Zechariah was inspired to put into writing.

Also, Virgil was "concerned" over Psalm 16:7 where David declared: "My reins also instruct me in the night seasons." Virgil said that he had "re-searched" this and found that reins meant kidneys. He wondered how one's kidneys could instruct him!

We pointed out, of course, that this Hebrew expression could mean other internal organs as well, as they did not operate on cadavers and break these down to the extent we do today, and that our intestines or "bowels" and other internal organs including the heart are often used by God in describing the attitude, the feeling or seat of the emotions which guide us and move us to react in many and varied situations.

Virgil was also concerned over I John 2:18: "Little children, it is the last time." He wondered how it could have been the "last time" two thousand years ago and also had doubts about other similar expressions throughout the New Testament. We pointed out that -- from God's point of view -- it certainly was the last time after God had worked with this earth including the period of dealing with Lucifer and the angels who followed him in rebellion for perhaps millions of years before man -- then for four thousand years of mankind -- then the ministry of Christ, the Apostolic Age and now near the end of that Apostolic Age, it certainly was beginning to be the "last time." Also, technically, the word "the" is not found in the Greek original. This expression could just as well be translated "a last time" or, more loosely, "end times" or "terminal days."

And so it went.

Frankly, Virgil seemed astonished that Mr. Hill and I were able to answer his questions almost as rapidly as they were asked and his attitude was NOT belligerent -- just mixed-up and confused. For this we were thankful, but had to point out some other things which I hope all of you will realize.

First, Virgil went a.w.o.l. He deserted his post without even checking with his superior. Secondly, he drove our lease car about three-fourths of the way across the North American Continent without even asking for permission. We might well have used that car back in that part of the country -- at a financial saving to God's Work if he had turned it in and resigned where he was. Thirdly, if he had had any sincere respect and love for this Church -- even as a lay-member -- he should have fully acknowledged his doubts and questions to Mr. Swisher or called us direct here at Pasadena! He knew that Mr. Hill was just



about to arrive for the District Conference as a newly ordained Evangelist and Bible teacher from the Headquarters College. He certainly should have known that Mr. Hill would have been able to answer most of these questions if he had really wanted them answered and wanted to stay in God's Work. Rather, he pre-judged God's Work and God's ministry and found us GUILTY before he even talked to us about his doubts! Fourthly, he directly lied to Mr. Swisher, who pointedly asked him on Sunday night just before he left if "everything was all right," obviously referring to the conversations they had had about Virgil's questions and moodiness. Virgil told him that everything WAS all right -- right at the very time he must have been packing to leave! He later admitted this to Mr. Hill and me -- and acknowledged that he did not "reason it out" that way as he thought Mr. Swisher may have been inquiring about his health!

Therefore, because of these and several other factors, it has been decided that Virgil Cox is certainly no longer an elder of God. Also, Virgil himself had no intention of continuing in the ministry and told us that he "had" resigned from the Work when he left Mobile and deserted his post without even giving us the customary notice that you would think he would give if he were working for Standard Oil or some carnal-minded concern.

Virgil Cox, however, did seem to be genuinely sorry that he had acted foolishly and that his actions would certainly hurt and upset -- to a degree at least -- many of the brethren in the Mobile area. He asked to be allowed to continue as a lay-member in God's Church and this request was granted. We are helping him to further prove any of his doubts and fears, and hope that he will eventually straighten out and make it into God's Kingdom. But because he allowed these doubts and frustrations to eat on him for many, many months, he is certainly not fit in any way to help or counsel others. He is one who needs help at this time -- so we should certainly all give him our special prayers as he was a fellow laborer with us in Christ's Work. Because of the nature of this, others will not know the details of his leaving to the same extent as you men, so I do ask you to pray for Mr. Virgil Cox and his family at this time. Also, I can say to his credit that he did NOT attempt to spread these doubts to others in any way so far as we have been able to discover. He even kept most of them from his wife and family who remained faithful completely.

One of the big lessons we should all learn from this is the tremendous need for absolute LOYALTY to God and His Work! Virgil Cox's example illustrates a problem I have known of for some time but which has become more readily apparent by far in the last several months. The problem is a lack of LOYALTY to Christ and to His Headquarters on this earth! A corollary of this is a lack of communication and responsiveness to Christ's Headquarters!

Why didn't Virgil come to Mr. Swisher, to Mr. Hill or me sooner about this problem? Why didn't Mr. Filippello talk to Mr. Blackwell or other ministers in the area about his problem before he left?

Why do many of YOU have "misunderstandings" or doubts of various sorts about the Work, decisions in the ministry, etc., and not bring these directly either to your District Superintendent or to me?

Virgil's problem seemed to be strictly a matter of a carnal approach to the Bible, lack of insight and wisdom, and, frankly, plain ignorance. But it also involved an aloofness and lack of communication with his superiors in Jesus Christ. Was he "afraid" we would hurt him if he told us what was bothering him and asked for help? Was he afraid we would "misunderstand"? Was he afraid we would try to "get him"?

What about some of you who talk among yourselves about how Headquarters "doesn't understand"? About how there are two kinds of ministers: the "field" ministers and the "Headquarters" ministers. Why do some of you seem to literally promote this idea? I'm sure you haven't meant to now that I have put it in this light, but you have done it!

Why have some of you talked with other ministers, elders and laymen about getting a "raw deal" from God's Headquarters and His leading ministers? Why have some of you talked about other elders and lay-members getting a "raw deal" when you DON'T EVEN KNOW THE FACTS -- and could not know the facts because of your geographical removal from these individuals and your complete lack of communication and knowledge of their problems for months and years at a time?

I tell you in the name of Jesus Christ, this type of thing must STOP!

Entirely too many remarks have been made by certain individuals which have subtly undermined the respect of others in God's Work and Church for their Headquarters' ministry of Christ. And I do not by any means mean just myself personally, but very definitely include Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong, Mr. Albert J. Portune, Dr. Herman L. Hoeh and others.

Do you really think the LIVING Christ has a bunch of dodos at His earthly Headquarters who "don't understand"? Is that the kind of individual that the Living Christ calls and uses and blesses in carrying His Work to all this earth?

Let's all examine ourselves, fellows! Every one of you needs to become closer to Headquarters! You need to be open and frank with your District Superintendent and with Headquarters. You need to be open and frank in

talking with Mr. David Jon Hill and me, primarily, about the details of any misunderstanding or confusion regarding your personal lives, problems in the field, ideas that someone got a "raw deal," or any other supposed misunderstanding. I refer to Mr. Hill and me because our specific job is that of superintending the ministers here in the United States. You overseas ministers, naturally, should take these things to your District Office Manager or leading minister -- and then to Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong.

And any time any of the U.S. ministers feel they are not getting "satisfaction" from Mr. Hill or me they are ENTIRELY FREE to take the matter to Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong or even to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong! Neither Mr. Hill nor I have ANYTHING to hide in our dealings with you! We are simply trying to serve and guide in the ministry of the Living Christ -- and all of us here at Headquarters need your zealous co-operation, your loyalty and your sincere prayers!

Keep balanced in your approach to God's Word and to His Work! Don't let a little, teensy-weensy, tiny "twigs" in the Bible upset you if you find something you can't answer! Feel perfectly FREE to talk it over with the minister over you, the District Superintendent or with some of us at Headquarters. And do the same with these other problems. DON'T get "hurt feelings" over corrections or supposed oversights or "misunderstandings."

Learn to be BIG in your mind and outlook. See the BIG PICTURE -- the crusade we are in, now reaching over thirty million people around this earth with God's Truth! And remember that your first loyalty is not to some man you think was "wrong" or to your own feelings or your wife's hurt feelings, but to the LIVING Jesus Christ and to His Work!

Frankly, fellows, I know that the vast majority of you had had no major problem with the points and situations outlined above. And Mr. Armstrong and all of us sincerely appreciate your loyalty, your hard work, your love and service. But it is very easy for any of us to slip in to some of these wrong attitudes at any time. Satan the Devil would like nothing better than to divide the very ministry of Jesus Christ! He is going about as a "roaring lion" seeking whom he may devour -- and we need to realize, in all seriousness, that we are among his number one targets! The problems outlined above have only affected a few in the ministry to my knowledge. But that few is entirely too many!

As God tells us, "A little leaven leavens the whole lump." This type of thing must not only be kept from spreading -- it must be rooted out of the minds and hearts of every one of us and continually KEPT OUT!

Jesus Christ literally gave His LIFE for every one of us. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong have given over thirty-five years of their lives to sacrificing and working amidst hardship and often in poverty to get this Work and the Colleges going so that we can enjoy the things and opportunities we now have. They certainly love you -- and you should feel a special loyalty to

them. Mr. Ted Armstrong has worked and sacrificed also, driven himself daily in making effective radio broadcasts to move and inspire some thirty million people now. Very frankly, his voice is the main tool which makes possible all of the "prospective letters" that you fellows visit to build up your churches. You should realize that -- realize how God is using him and have a special loyalty and respect for that office and for him as a person.

In my own case, I have sincerely tried to work, labor and give my life to God's service for over thirteen years now as an ordained minister after conducting tours and visits before. I have counseled with, taught, at times suffered with nearly every one of you in the field except perhaps a very few of the older ministers and have baptized a great many of you personally.

I hope that you will think over these things, pray about them, and about the similar circumstances which could be mentioned regarding Dr. Hoeh, Mr. Hill, Mr. Portune and others. Let us be TOGETHER in Christ's ministry in love. Let us be "open" with each other -- not trying to hide or maneuver anything, not working political "deals" in order to aggrandize ourself or our name, but simply SERVING as bond slaves of the Living Christ.

I know that we all intend to do this, but somehow human nature creeps in -- vanity creeps in -- and we get to working "deals" of various sorts, aggrandizing self, or get to doubting the Headquarters Work and thinking that some of the field ministers got a "raw deal" and want to sympathize -- in precisely the WRONG way -- with the so-called "underdog."

"Raw deal"? You mean to say that the tremendous BLESSINGS of positions, opportunities, homes, lease cars, expense accounts and all the other mercies God has literally showered upon each and every one of you constitute a "raw deal" for ANYONE? Of any group or organization of men on earth, Christ's true ministers undoubtedly have the BEST deal and the most and the most varied blessings imaginable! We need to realize this deeply and APPRECIATE what God has given perhaps more than we have!

So let's not let this thing of Mr. Filippello or Virgil Cox shake us. Let's not focus our minds on little "twigs" or "hurt feelings" of ANY kind. Let us instead -- in deep love and sincere co-operation -- PRESS ON in the most wonderful and meaningful crusade that has ever been given to any group of men in human history! And let us continually THANK Almighty God for the priceless opportunity to serve Him and His people!

Your servant in Christ,



Roderick C. Meredith