## RADIO CHURCH OF GOD

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PRESIDENT and PASTOR

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RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Minister

June 15, 1966

## Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from Pasadena! Here it is about six weeks since my last letter, but I hope that all of you have kept up pretty well on most of the swift moving events in God's Work -- and I'm sure you have as I have talked to many of you by phone within the last few weeks. Certainly things have speeded up here in Pasadena with the final events of school and now a tremendous load of work for many of us to do in going over hundreds of applications, getting in our grades and a number of other very important matters.

Everyone is fine here in Pasadena, and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Armstrong are now back here for the summer. Mr. and Mrs. Ted Armstrong remained at Big Sandy after graduation there, but Mr. Ted Armstrong is now in England and will be speaking there this Friday, June 17 at the Commencement exercises. Then, probably soon after the Sabbath, he will fly back to Big Sandy and return to Pasadena later.

Very fine Pentecost services were observed around the country and I appreciate the reports many of you sent on these, some with pictures. However, there is no startling news to mention at this time except the continued growth in God's Church. However, be sure to exhort the brethren to pray earnestly regarding the Semi-annual letter as returns from it are coming in slowly and we certainly NEED a tremendous upsurge in mail and money to measure up to our plans for God's Work this year.

On Tuesday noon after Pentecost, we had a very fine dedication service and luncheon at the new dining hall here in Pasadena. Many businessmen and associates from the community attended -- including the Mayor of Pasadena. Everything turned out fine, and the new dining hall certainly is fabulous -- undoubtedly the finest building we have ever built, so far, in God's Work in this era.

Just after graduation here, a total of <u>seventeen</u> (at least!) weddings took place or <u>are taking place!</u> In Big Sandy, I understand they had a "final rush" to get married with about eleven marriages in two days! Some talked about bringing

over food and sleeping bags and simply staying at the usual wedding places for the "duration." But, all joking aside, many of the couples were graduating together and some had waited for a year or two for marriage and we are very thankful that God has allowed us to have so many very happy and very successful marriages in His Work.

On the Sabbath before graduation we had four ordinations here in Pasadena. Mr. Darryl Henson, Student Body President, and Mr. Tom Blackwell were ordained as Local Elders. Mr. Elbert Atlas, first Negro graduate of Ambassador College, and Mr. Edward Smith -- formerly of Tulsa -- were both elevated from Local Elder to Preaching Elder. You already know of their assignments.

At Big Sandy, Mr. Ken Martin, Student Body President there, was ordained as a <u>Local Elder</u>. And at Bricket Wood, as many of you know, Mr. Gerald Croswell was elevated from Local Elder to Preaching Elder during the time Mr. Armstrong spent there just before graduation here.

So, CONGRATULATIONS men! Our prayers are certainly with you and your service and dedication is most needed in the Work of Jesus Christ at this time!

A number of ministerial <u>assignments</u> have had to be changed because of circumstances, and it may be helpful to all of you to make this clear in writing. First of all, Mr. Bob Fahey -- originally scheduled to take over Wichita-Liberal in the U.S. -- has been switched to Australia to fulfill a need in the Melbourne church there. This will free Mr. Bill Winner, I understand, to establish another new church in Perth, Australia. Because of that switch, Mr. Ken Westby is now slated to replace Mr. Roger Foster in Wichita-Liberal, and to be replaced himself by Mr. John Pruner coming up from Akron.

Replacing Mr. Westby as the "back-up" man for Mr. Blackwell in Kansas City will now be Mr. Gerald Croswell -- recently ordained as a Preaching Elder. Then, Mr. Doug Taylor -- who is slated to go to Greensboro -- will be replacing Mr. Croswell as the one conducting the visits in Birmingham and Bristol, England. Also, Mr. John Stanciu is not coming to Fort Worth as planned -- although he may come back later to work under Mr. McCrady or Mr. Baird.

Therefore, Mr. Larry Walker -- graduating from Texas -- has been switched to Fort Worth for the visiting there and Mr. Earl Roemer has been switched from Asheville to the Greensboro area to fill in the place for Mr. Doug Taylor.

Apart from these, a couple more ministerial field switches are planned. One of these is transferring Mr. Paul Zapf from Greensboro up to live in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, at the other end of Mr. Walter Sharp's heavy circuit and to be the Elder in Harrisburg. That move, then, will free Mr. Ivan Sell -- still a second man -- to go with his wife to Detroit to assist Mr. Mokarow in this mushrooming

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church now nearly 600 in average attendance.

Also, one very important change is that because of Mrs. Clarence Bass' SERIOUS ILLNESS we are having to keep Mr. Bass in New York for the time being and delay the start of the new church in Jackson, Mississippi. This may actually be propitious anyway because of the taut nerves and potential race violence throughout the state of Mississippi at this time. However, I do want all of you to know about Mrs. Bass' condition and ask you to pray for her. She has a very large tumor of the uterus, and extremely low red blood count, hemoglobin count and several other things wrong with her which might very well be fatal unless God SUPERNATURALLY INTERVENES! Please have your congregations pray earnestly about this as it affects not just one beloved sister in God's Church -- but, through her husband, the very WORK of God's Church in the short time we have left. I'm sure that all of you will take this to heart, and many of us will fast about it.

Now I would like to tell you about a nationwide visiting tour being conducted by Mr. Gerald Waterhouse this summer and fall. Mr. Ted Armstrong has asked Mr. Waterhouse to visit a large number of the field churches in the western part of the United States and Canada this summer -- getting back toward the end of the summer to the Great Lakes area and some of the northern and midwest churches. Mr. Waterhouse's plan is to have a schedule worked out where he will be able to show slides, conduct a Bible study, a Spokesman Club and also preach in each church of a two church circuit each Sabbath on this tour. He will be bringing out special things about the Work of God and Headquarters, news of the Work, and showing slides of God's Colleges and Offices around the world. This tour should be most inspiring for all of the Church brethren!

I am enclosing a copy of Mr. Waterhouse's itinerary up until the Feast of Tabernacles this fall, and would like to ask all of you whose churches he will be visiting to set up a schedule following this outline as near as possible and to write Mr. Waterhouse soon letting him know of the arrangements you have made. You should probably write him in care of the minister in the city where he will be visiting at least four to six days after you write your letter so the letter does not miss him. Then, if the letter should miss connections, the minister will still be able to forward it on to Mr. Waterhouse in time.

When it is at all convenient, it would certainly be a fine thing for you to invite Mr. Waterhouse to stay in your home and visit for the few days that he will be in each church area. That is up to you, of course, but he would be delighted to do so and it would give you additional opportunity to visit, fellowship and get a great deal more personal news and insight from Headquarters in that way -- and also afford Mr. Waterhouse more companionship and home cooked meals!

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So please note Mr. Waterhouse's itinerary carefully -- especially regarding the time he may be visiting your area (for those of you involved) and write him as soon as possible in care of the minister he will be with several days after you address your letter. Also, be sure to ask the brethren to pray that God will bless, protect and inspire him on this very important tour!

In addition, I am happy to report that Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hoops are taking a short baptizing "swing" -- not long enough really to be a tour -- up through parts of Wyoming and South Dakota on their way back to Chicago. And Mr. Dibar Apartian is conducting a full baptizing tour in France and the French speaking part of Switzerland for the brethren overseas being reached through Le Monde a Venir. Be sure to remember Mr. Apartian to God for the success and protection of his vital tour.

You will all be happy to learn that Mr. Armstrong has approved a total of eight new churches to be started soon -- seven in the United States and one, as previously mentioned, down in Perth, Australia! The ones in the States are to be in Albuquerque, New Mexico, pastored by Mr. Cecil Battles; East St. Louis and Cape Girardeau, pastored by Mr. Baird and Mr. Bierer; Bismarck and Fargo, North Dakota, pastored by Mr. Lowell Blackwell (being replaced in Glendale by newly ordained Elder Tommy Blackwell!); Decatur, Alabama, pastored by Mr. Richard Rice along with Birmingham; Montgomery, Alabama, pastored along with Mobile by Mr. Bob Dick.

Finally, I would like to ask all of you to make every effort to really get "acquainted" well with your second man and his wife coming out this summer. If you can establish a close rapport with them from the beginning, it will certainly help in later relationships.

Bo sure that you take time to explain to them exactly what is expected of them to help you most in the area so that they will know exactly where they stand. Be warm and friendly, help the newly married couple -- which they are in many cases -- get properly settled, but then put them to work! We have found that, quite often these younger people tend to "take it easy" for months and months after their marriage and have not been used to the idea of WORK! So you will need to set up a schedule for them, get them in the habit of producing and see that they are valuable assets to your church area. In nearly every case, you should take the man with you personally in visiting a great deal of the time for the first few weeks. After that -- depending upon the evaluation and recommendation sent out from one of the Colleges -- you may gradually break him in on visiting on his own or with his wife. Some men, of course, should only lead on stable member visits for the first few months until they have overcome and developed the proper wisdom and leadership. Most of the men we are sending you, however, should be able to visit a good deal with their wives or a competent second man within perhaps several weeks of their arrival in your area.

We will try to send out evaluations on these men as soon as possible so you will know more about them if you have not already heard, and I have asked our Manpower Teams at Big Sandy and Bricket Wood to do the same for those men coming out from the Colleges there.

Be sure to have the man help you in office work, filing, answering letters and any and every ministerial-type duty that will save your time -- and set him an example of hard work and productivity in the service of Jesus Christ!

There is a tremendous harvest to be reaped this summer, men, so let's all do our utmost to reach, help and strenghten the people whom God is calling. Keep sending in to us at the end of each month the number of prospectives yet unvisited in your area, and we will try to send you more help as soon as possible. Meanwhile, let's all try to get organized, and to do the best we can to feed and strengthen the flock of God in the few years we have left.

Your servant in Jesus Christ,

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| June 8 (Wed)  |  |
| June 9  | Medford (Slides)   |
| June 10   | Medford (Bible Study)  |
| June 11   | Medford (A.M.) - Eugene (P.M.)   |
| June 11 or 12   | Spokesman Club   |
| June 13 (Mon)   | Salem (Bible Study)  |
| June 14 (Tues)  |  |
| June 15   |  |
|   | Portland (Slides)  |
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| June 17   | Portland (Bible Study)   |
| June 18   | Salem (A.M.) - Portland (P.M.)   |
| June 18 or 19   | Portland (Combined Spokesman Club)   |
| June 20   | Tacoma (Bible Study)   |
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| June 22   | Seattle (Bible Study)  |
| June 23   | Seattle (Slides) Seattle (A.M.) - Tacoma (P.M.)  |
| June 25   | Seattle (A.M.) - Tacoma (P.M.)   |
| June 28 (Tues)  | Vancouver (Bible Study)  |
|   | Vancouver (Slides)   |
| June 29   | Victoria (Slides)  |
| June 30   | Victoria (Slides)<br>Victoria (Bible Study scheduled if possible)  |
| July 1  |  |
| July 2  | Victoria (A.M.) - Vancouver (P.M.)   |
| July 2 or 3   | Combined Spokesman Club  |
| July 7 (Thurs)  | Spokane (Slides)   |
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| July 9  | Spokane (Sabbath) (P.M.) Spokesman Club  |
| July 12   | Denver, Colorado (Slides)  |
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| (gulaski saki)<br>Sehtember   | 29 (Feast of Tahernacles)              | Nashville (Spokesman Club day, slides in evening) Big Sandy First three days,  |
|   |  | Long Beach two days and Squaw Valley last three days. Afterward return to Big Sandy for car and continuation of tour. Itinerary for such will be submitted later.  |
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