

RADIO CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, 91109

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PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Minister

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Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from Pasadena! It was certainly good to see so many of you at the Feast several weeks ago, and we are looking forward to seeing more of you soon at the Conference. Everything is fine here in Pasadena, and the Work is progressing very well overall. We have just had slightly over thirty percent increase in mail and money for the month of November, however the year is running quite a bit behind thirty percent because of the earlier months. So be sure to encourage the brethren to pray earnestly for God's blessing on the semiannual letter and on the entire Work in the weeks ahead.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Armstrong are both in good health and he has been keeping very busy writing -- as you probably realize. He has written the co-worker letter, the semiannual letter and is now completing work on the booklet describing the World Tomorrow which will soon be in print and ready to mail out. Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong just arrived back from Texas yesterday where he had been on an inspection trip for about a week.

✓ Mr. Apartian also arrived back the other day from Paris, France. He reported that ninety people were present at the beginning of the Paris Church. This was very encouraging as only forty to fifty had been expected. Mr. Apartian mentioned that during his day or two stopover at Bricket Wood he found that the ministers and brethren there were very concerned about the loss of Radio 390.

✓ Perhaps you have heard that the British Government has closed down this powerful ship station. We were going on Radio Britain at just about the same time as we had been on 390, but it has not had the mail response as yet to anywhere near the same degree. So encourage the brethren to pray for this and that God will continue to bless His Work in Ephraim.

I have been receiving many excellent reports on Mr. Gerald Waterhouse's tour to the Churches. Many of you, of course, have already experienced this yourselves. Mr. Jim Kunz wrote: "Mr. Meredith, Mr. Waterhouse's stay here was certainly inspiring to the whole Church. It was a tremendous help in getting everyone's mind centered on Headquarters. The slides and messages he brought seemed to give everyone a much greater perspective on every part of God's Work. I can't say what a wonderful thing his visit was for the whole Florida area."

So keep praying for God's blessing on Mr. Waterhouse's tour, and I know many of us will be very happy to see him again at Conference time.

There have been many and varied activities here at the College, and the recent Thanksgiving eve dance was a beautiful and successful affair. We had it in our gorgeous new dining hall, and the "Big Band" certainly was in top form. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Armstrong joined us for most of the dance, and the next day most of the students went out to eat Thanksgiving dinner with local church brethren after having a fine dinner-dance the previous evening as well.

Then, just night before last, a special treat was afforded the "Big Band" and all other entertainers in the College fun show for Squaw Valley and Long Beach by taking them down to the Coconut Grove in the Ambassador Hotel! Dick Stabile, the band director there whom Joe Bauer knows personally, was very congenial and friendly to our group and mentioned Ambassador College at least half a dozen times through the evening. They had an interesting show -- happily cleaner than most such shows with very little wrong in it -- and the students had a marvelous time.

Perhaps, since so many have asked, I should include a brief note about my wife. As some of you have heard, Margie's mother died unexpectedly just a few days before the Feast this year and we flew back to Arkansas for the funeral on the way to Jekyll Island. This, of course, was very upsetting and involved extra travel and strain particularly driving on the rough Arkansas roads. Then, being so busy through the Feast and returning up to see her father afterward caused additional strain and so Margie had a miscarriage a few days after returning back to Pasadena. Then, about three weeks later, or exactly five weeks from the time her mother died word came that her father also had died!

However, this was not such a shock and sorrow as might be supposed since all of us in the family had realized that Mr. McNair was "about to die" for the last four or five years. ~~In fact, it seemed almost certain he would die some four years~~ ago when he was out here. He had been afflicted with Parkinson's disease, and was very thin, weak and "shaky" and had to be helped in almost every activity such as eating, dressing, bathing and shaving, etc. After his wife's death, he simply lost the will to live and died there in a local hospital just before his sixty-sixth birthday. So, of course, Margie, and Mr. Raymond McNair, Burk McNair, Carl McNair and all of us in the family certainly were very sorry for his death and will miss him, nevertheless we realize it was perhaps a blessing that he died without undue suffering and loneliness under the circumstances.

My wife took it all in very good stride, considering the circumstances, and is now back in very fine health and spirits -- although perhaps a little weaker physically for the next few months.

I know that you all have already heard about Carole Mattson's death through Mr. Armstrong's editorial, and he and Mrs. Armstrong regard that too as a "blessing" under the circumstances. Carole could never have lived a normal life unless her entire body had almost been reconstituted. Therefore, knowing the tribulation ahead of us, Mr. Armstrong knows that this was best and gives God thanks for His mercy. So you can assure the church people that there is no cause for alarm or undue concern although many have been sending Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong sympathy cards which they appreciate.

Turning to more news, I am sure it will be encouraging to all of you to hear about the entire list of ministers ordained during the recent Feast of Tabernacles. There were some twenty-seven ordained!

Ordained as Local Elders were: Mr. Bill Bradford -- having two years at Ambassador in Pasadena and graduating from Bricket Wood, and now assisting Mr. Gary Arvidson in Asheville, North Carolina. Mr. Russell Brown is a local man ordained in the Minneapolis Church under Mr. McMichael. Mr. Charles Bryce graduated from Ambassador in Pasadena and is assisting Mr. Gary Antion in Buffalo and Toronto. Mr. Percival Burrows is a local man from Ontario assisting Mr. Gary Antion there. Mr. Leroy Cole -- brother of Messrs. Raymond and Wayne Cole -- graduated from the Pasadena College and has been assisting in the office and Visiting Program in Sydney, Australia under his brother Wayne. Mr. Robert Collins is a local man ordained in the Birmingham Church. Mr. Donald Deakins, began college here in Pasadena and finished at our Big Sandy campus and is on the Visiting Program and Teaching Staff there. Mr. George Evans, Jr. is a local man ordained in the Philadelphia Church area. Mr. Warren Heaton, Jr. is a local man ordained in the Kansas City Church area. Mr. Arthur Hulet is a local man ordained in the Oklahoma City Church area. Mr. Robert Jenness is a local man ordained in -- or perhaps I should say for in these cases the Baltimore Church area. Mr. Don Kayser is a local man ordained for the Indianapolis Church area. Mr. Graemme Marshall is an Australian who graduated from Bricket Wood and is now assisting in the North Sydney, Australia Church area. Mr. Paul Meek is a local man ordained for the Midland Church area. Mr. Bill Nettles -- a graduate of Ambassador in Pasadena and now assisting Mr. Ken Swisher -- was ordained a Local Elder for the Atlanta area. Mr. Al Portune, Jr. -- a graduate of Big Sandy College -- was ordained a Local Elder to assist Mr. Luker in the San Jose-Oakland area. Mr. Gene Scarbrough, a local man, was ordained to assist Mr. Jack Pyle in the Danville area. Mr. Edwin Schedler, a local man, was ordained to assist Mr. Dean Wilson in the Vancouver area. Mr. Ray Wawak, a local man, was ordained to assist Mr. Kelly Barfield in the Little Rock area. Mr. Richard Wilding -- a graduate of Ambassador in Pasadena, the first graduate who has attended all three Ambassador Colleges -- was ordained to assist Mr. Dean Wilson in the Vancouver area.

The Preaching Elders ordained include: Mr. David Bierer -- a graduate of Pasadena and now minister over the Cape Girardeau, Missouri Church. Mr. Bob

Bertuzzi -- a graduate of Big Sandy -- was ordained and is now in charge of the Churches in Lexington and in Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Robert Dick -- a graduate of Bricket Wood -- is now minister over the Mobile congregation in Alabama. Mr. Robert Lay -- a graduate of Pasadena -- is now the pastor in the Saskatoon Church. Mr. John Pruner -- President of the student body on the Big Sandy campus two years ago is now pastor over the Midland, Michigan congregation. Mr. Dennis Pyle -- graduate of Ambassador in Pasadena -- is now pastor over the Toledo congregation. And last, but far from least, Mr. Colin Wilkins -- graduate of Ambassador College in Bricket Wood and Director of the Geneva office, was ordained a Preaching Elder to work in the Geneva congregation and will be the pastor as well over the new Church in Paris, France!

Well, that's a wonderful group isn't it? And so far, that is the largest single group of men ever ordained during any one period in this Church Age!

More GOOD NEWS is the information about the number of Churches and their attendances, which were started recently. On September 3, Mr. Friddle started a new church in Uniontown, Pennsylvania -- an adjunct of of Pittsburgh -- with 214 in attendance. On October 22, Mr. Dick Ames began a congregation in Texarkana, Texas -- to be ministered to from Big Sandy -- which started with 160 in attendance. On November 5, Dr. Charles Dorothy and Mr. Flatt started an additional church in Houston called "Houston North" -- starting with 287 in attendance. On November 5, also, Mr. Richard Pinelli started a new church in Calgary, Alberta, with 66 in attendance.

Then, November 26, was certainly a red letter day with four new congregations being established! First of all was the new congregation in Paris, France started by Mr. Dibar Apartian with 90 in attendance the very first Sabbath. The average attendance, Mr. Apartian says will drop down to about 60 perhaps but he was certainly encouraged by this very fine start. And I might mention that this church and the ones in Germany will probably only meet once a month at first. Next, then, was another monthly congregation which was started on the same date in Munich, West Germany. I do not have the attendance for it as it is not in yet. Then a new church was begun by Mr. Swisher in Macon, Georgia, with an attendance of 178. And Mr. Bob Bertuzzi started the new Louisville, Kentucky church with 227 in attendance!

All of the above certainly shows fine growth in the field ministry -- although, of course, many of the above churches contain people who formerly attended elsewhere nearby but will simply be saved a good deal of driving time and probably attend more regularly. Compared with a few years back, our overall growth is certainly inspiring. We now have exactly 145 churches around the world -- plus various scattered groups we do not officially list as "churches" in the Philippines, Martinique, Africa and elsewhere, plus outlying Bible studies meeting once or twice a month. Also, with the increase during the recent Feast, the number of ministers and elders in the Philadelphia Era of

God's Church has now come to exactly 2101. This is certainly fantastic progress from the time when many of us pioneer students were in college and there were only two Elders on earth -- Mr. Herbert Armstrong and Mr. Basil Wolverton! And, of course, at that time there were only three congregations -- Pasadena, Eugene and Portland. So let's give God THANKS for what has been accomplished in the last several years -- and for the knowledge that so much more will be accomplished in the near future as we yield to Him!

This year's Ministerial Conference will be held a little later than usual because of the College examination schedule and other factors. It will begin Monday afternoon January 9, and last through Thursday morning January 19. As usual, ALL Evangelists and District Superintendents will attend. Also, from the Big Sandy campus, Dr. Charles Dorothy, Mr. Ron Kelly, Mr. Leroy Neff and Mr. Ben Chapman will attend. This serves to keep the two Colleges together and more of the Big Sandy men will be coming to Pasadena than normally might from a church area in the field. Other Pastors to attend this year will be Mr. Arthur Craig -- who is coming in for an entire semester of training -- Mr. Ronald Dart from England, Mr. Harold Jackson, and Mr. Dean Wilson from Canada.

Preaching Elders and Local Elders to attend this year include Mr. Gary Antion, Mr. Cecil Battles, Mr. Carn Catherwood, Mr. Gerald Crosswell, Mr. Bob Fahey from Australia, Mr. Robin Jones, Mr. Allen Manteufel, Mr. Carl McNair, Mr. George Meeker, Mr. Frank Schnee from Germany, Mr. Keith Thomas, Mr. Art Docken from the Philippines, Mr. Sidney Hegvold and Mr. Dale Schurter from Big Sandy. In addition, two or three more may be coming either from Canada or overseas subject to Mr. Ted Armstrong's decision on these men.

I don't think it necessary that I go into a lengthy explanation as to why certain ones were chosen this year -- except to say that men like Gary Antion, Gerald Crosswell and others have not seen the campus here for three or four years, and others such as Mr. Manteufel and Meeker are long-time Preaching Elders who have been away at least two or three years. Following this pattern, we will try to work many of you other men into the Conference in the future as God permits. One other point, remember that from now on all wives are invited to attend with their husbands! This is certainly a blessing that the wives can come every year for those men who do come since a smaller number, percentage wise at least, will be attending as each year goes by. Also, I would like again to encourage all of you, when convenient, to leave your children with others in your church area during the Conference so that you and your wife will have more free time to enjoy the many activities here at Headquarters during the Conference period. Of course, if a number of your family members are here and you wish to bring the children for their sakes, that decision is up to you. However, we certainly discourage bringing large numbers of children because of the trouble and expense involved -- and you would do well to pay your children's own expense if you are flying as you would have to do if you were attending the organizational conference of any other business or company.

Now for some INSTRUCTIONS: First of all, be sure to send in any questions you have to be discussed at the Conference immediately! This is because Mr. Armstrong wants us to take care of most of these in local Headquarters conferences of the Evangelists even before the regular Conference begins. That way, we will have more time to discuss the general growth of the Work and other matters of top-level importance and not spend all of the time on minor points of Christian living when we are all here together.

Next, this is to inform those of you who may not have heard (I have already told most District Superintendents by phone or otherwise), that the local District Church of God newspapers are hereby CANCELLED. We discussed this, actually, even before the Feast of Tabernacles and decided that these papers are costing more time and energy than they are worth to the Work and that it will be better to concentrate on getting all of your articles and information in here for The GOOD NEWS and beef it up! So keep writing -- but as Mr. Armstrong directed write for The GOOD NEWS!

Hearing about serious problems caused by "weak" members -- IF they are members -- in one or two of our churches back east and also over in Britain has caused us to realize again the need to be more careful in baptizing new people and in inviting them to church. Many of you, unfortunately, are still following the "old" format of going through all kinds of doctrines and reasonings with people before baptism. Yet, you are NOT perceiving whether they have really come to ABHOR SELF and completely SURRENDER their entire beings to the Will and Government of Jesus Christ before they are baptized! Also, entirely too many people are being invited to church LONG BEFORE THEY SHOULD BE! In discussing it with Mr. Ted Armstrong, we have felt that generally people should be ready for baptism within three to six weeks before being invited to church. In other words church attendance should NOT be used as a year-long "Evangelistic Campaign" to gradually get them to begin obeying God. Rather, they should come to this understanding -- just like everyone else -- through the Broadcast, The PLAIN TRUTH, the Correspondence Course and many, many booklets. Then, after this, IF you sincerely feel for some reason they need to understand more "just what the church is all about" before baptizing them, you might let them attend a few Sabbaths before the follow-up conference and actual baptism. But be more careful about bringing in carnal minded, hostile, resentful, suspicious people to God's Church!

Two more points that I would like to instruct you about come from some of our other Evangelists and their observations. First, many of the sermonettes given at at least two of our Festival locations this year were "weak" and "picky" on rather small points. They were not "BIG" or properly dramatic to move and stir a huge audience of several thousands of people. So all of you -- although I know many did -- try to think out an especially unique, helpful and dramatic way of presenting your subject. Be sure also it is a

BIG subject of general interest if you are to present it at the Feast of Tabernacles.

★ The second point that was brought to my attention is that child rearing is still a GIANT problem among many of God's Ministers! One or two of our Evangelists mentioned that they noticed that many of the ministers never seemed to spank their rebellious children in their presence because perhaps they didn't want to "call attention" to it before a senior minister! Fellows, if your child is rebellious before your superior ministers, this alone calls PLENTY of attention to the matter and makes the senior minister wonder why the child was not spanked! Also, it was pointed out that practically no one spanked his child because of a wrong attitude or obviously resentful spirit on the child's part. So realize, men, that our members may notice your child -- teen-ager on down -- far more than you realize! And we are to be EXAMPLES.

Another matter we want to inform you about from Headquarters is that several men were dropped from college at the beginning of this year for academic and/or personal reasons and SINS in some cases. They are NOT potential "leaders" in the local congregations. If they should show up in your area, please let us know and we will send you a brief report about them as soon as possible. They include Barry Brooks, Lyle Patterson, Ernie Turner, Charles Lewis, Bryan Roemer, Bryan (?) Franklin and Glen Lane. We hope, of course, that these men will straighten out and become stable members some day, but they should certainly not be encouraged in any way to regard themselves as "leaders" or begin leading or expounding their ideas to others in your congregations.

★ Another matter regards the fact that we have noticed some of the men in the clubs have a tendency to AVOID the attack, inspire and heart-to-heart speeches as outlined in the manual. They seem to want to do the easy ones and avoid the hard ones. So be sure that ALL of your men give these speeches outlined above and do a good job on them, if possible, for they are some of the most important speeches of all.

It was brought to my attention also that this year, just before the Feast many of our younger and newer ministers were guilty of asking for an excessive amount of second tithe with which to go to the Feast. Older men of Evangelist rank, such as Mr. Raymond Cole, have in the past only asked for \$150 or so! Yet, some of these newer men in God's Work seem to think they require \$300 to \$500 even when their entire housing and food bill has virtually already been paid by us!

Discussing this here at Headquarters, Mr. Hill, Mr. Portune, Mr. Royer and I all felt that some of these requests were outrageous -- and Mr. Hill just reported to me that he cut these requests to the amount of about \$10,000 total!

Get the point, fellows!

Some of you have recently asked about the matter of our church members who are employees for outside stores and other firms, hanging Christmas decorations and the like. We informed some of you that there would be a retraction of Mr. Dankenbring's article and there has not been as yet. But Mr. Armstrong did correct this at last years Ministerial Conference! He said we must NOT compromise in this way and allow our members to directly put up Christmas or Easter decorations and the like. So advise your members accordingly and, of course, encourage them to use wisdom and tact in perhaps getting some other employee to do this particular job and not preaching their supervisor a sermon about it!

Also, it has come to my attention from one of the District Superintendents, that some of our field churches are still giving their pastors a good sized gift every year -- stereo, washer, dryer, tape recorder, etc. Most churches, of course, don't do this. The difference he explained is the fact that some ministers "mention" personal desires or needs in front of the congregation! There seems to be a WAY by which certain ministers let the congregation know that they would like to have thus and such and somehow get this as a "gift" !

This must STOP!

Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Ted Armstrong have said many times that this is not the right policy, and that all our ministers are certainly being paid a fine salary. So be sure that you are not guilty of this practice! There might be a few exceptions in the case of a minister leaving his area permanently for another assignment after being there several years. In that case, a moderately priced gift might be in order IF the congregation spontaneously decided to do this. Even then, it is not a good practice to encourage.

Are you still there?

All joking aside, I don't want to discourage all of you by the unusual number of instructions and corrections given above because, as you know, this is the first Ministerial Letter of a general nature in quite some time and these things do accumulate! Overall, our ministers are certainly working hard and doing a wonderful job -- as your Superintendent here in the States, I certainly appreciate this, and I know that Mr. Armstrong does and certainly Jesus Christ must be well pleased with His Work as a whole or He would not be blessing us as He is.

So do heed the above admonitions -- applying the ones which fit your circumstances -- but keep up the good work and press on in the tremendous crusade to which Christ has called us all!

Your Servant in Christ,

Roderick C. Meredith

Roderick C. Meredith

P.S. Just a final reminder to be sure and send in immediately all of the questions you would like us to discuss during the coming Ministerial Conference. Take time to think on and type up these questions and get them in to us very soon, airmail, so that we will be able to discuss them ahead of time during local conferences we will be having on some of the Sundays before the general Conference in January!

1. The first part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various positions of the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

2. The second part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various positions of the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

3. The third part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various positions of the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

4. The fourth part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various positions of the Board of Directors of the Corporation.