

PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE STUDENTS

RADIO CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
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PRESIDENT and PASTOR

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OFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Minister

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Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from Pasadena! Hope you have received and enjoyed the recent "News Letter" we sent out. In it, I will be concentrating more on news -- with the whole Church Administration Department staff helping me collect and put together bits and pieces of info. on engagements, marriages, births and more "newsy" items that I might not normally take time to include in this general letter. However, I will certainly be giving you much information in this personal letter as well, so between these two types of letters, the Portfolio, the Mail Receiving Report, The GOOD NEWS and other sources of info. you should be pretty well kept up-to-date on what is happening at Headquarters and in the Work around the world!

We certainly did have a fine Conference recently here at Headquarters! Because of our meetings here at Headquarters before the regular Conference began, we were able to expound many of the points without a lot of interruption, discussion and debate over smaller technicalities and issues. Next year, we hope to be even better prepared and to have gotten the idea of the new "streamlined" Conference which Mr. Armstrong wants. During the Conference, a tremendous concert was put on at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium for the area Church brethren, the ministers and their wives. First, a fine Chorale performance was conducted by Mr. Gary Prather along a lighter vein of really enjoyable type songs. Then, Joe Bauer -- this year's Student Body President -- led the Ambassador Big Band and a number of other specialty acts through a scintillating and laugh filled program. The Band certainly did sound professional in most respects and truly "Bigger" than most of you would imagine unless you have heard it before!

Another extracurricular highlight of the Conference was the Basketball Tournament which was won by the Big Sandy Varsity! The Texas kids were really happy to finally be awarded the Victor's Trophy in this Tournament. And everyone here was very happy for them, I am sure, as we know it meant more to them as the "new" College than it would if some other team had won it.

Also during the Conference, a fine Ministerial Ball was held, and you saw the picture of Leo the Lion who was here in person to greet the ministers as they came into the fabulous new Dining Hall for this dance and fine fellowship.

During the Conference, the decisions were made to perform ten more ordinations! Many of you have heard of these, but let me cite them for those who have not. First, Mr. Armstrong called for Mr. Etienne Bourdin from our Geneva Office to come forward and ordained him as a Local Elder in God's Church. Then it was announced that Mr. Don Hooser would also be ordained as a Local Elder back in the Akron area by Mr. David Antion soon after the Conference. Mr. Hooser is a graduate of Ambassador College in Big Sandy and now assisting Mr. Antion since last June.

Next Mr. Arthur Docken, Mr. Dale Schurter and Mr. Elmer McElroy were all ordained as Preaching Elders in God's Church. Mr. Docken, as you know, is Director of the office and Work in the Philippines. Mr. Schurter is on the Faculty at Big Sandy and has done an extremely fine job in the Farm Program there. Mr. McElroy has become a very effective assistant to Mr. Royer in the Personnel Department for the entire Work of God and is a very able and effective minister as well. Finally, Mr. Armstrong called for Mr. Paul Royer, Mr. Ben Chapman, Mr. Carl McNair and Mr. Leon Walker to come forward. These men were all elevated to the rank of Pastor in God's Church! And, at the same time, it was announced that Mr. Guy Engelbart, back in Baltimore, would be ordained by Mr. Raymond Cole as a Pastor as soon as Mr. Cole could make a visit to that area.

Continuing now, nearly a week later, let me say that the big news on all of our minds here at this moment is the CRITICAL condition of Mrs. Herbert Armstrong! Most of you scattered over the field now know that Mrs. Armstrong has had an intestinal blockage -- possibly in addition to appendicitis -- and she has been unable to hold down any food or eliminate anything for ten or twelve days! Hundreds of the brethren here have been praying and fasting that God would intervene. She did get some slight relief this past Sabbath -- but it was very slight indeed. Her condition, at this writing, still remains CRITICAL. So please take this to heart, fellows, as I think you all know what a tremendous part she plays in her husband's ministry and in the conduct of this entire Work! Nothing, it appears, but a miracle from God can relieve her condition and that is what we are asking for -- and asking that all of you join us!

God is blessing His Work, though -- as we know He will bless and deliver Mrs. Armstrong if we do our part. Recently, Mr. Armstrong announced that we have gone on WRVA -- the big 50,000 watt station emanating from Richmond, Virginia right across the board at a good time! Also, we are going on WBT -- another 50,000 watt station from Charlotte, North Carolina! And another 50,000 watter,

KVOO Tulsa is being added as well seven nights a week!

More, Mr. Armstrong recently announced that God was opening the door on a giant 200,000 watt station broadcasting from Jerusalem, Jordan! This will be a commercial radio station sponsored by the government -- to help pull them out of a financial slump. It is felt that if we offer them a five year contract at \$250,000 a year for every night broadcasting they will take it.

Mr. Charles Hunting and Mr. John Portune went down there from the College at Bricket Wood and were given the red carpet treatment by officials -- they were even shown the Jordanian possession -- PETRA!

The station will not be open for another three or four months, but will be broadcasting seven times per week. Mr. Armstrong feels that we will need to start an office in Jerusalem, Jordan -- if things work out -- and later another office in Cyprus to take care of mail from the Israeli side. It was also brought out that in Isaiah 16 God has assigned Jordan to take care of us! If Petra is the place of safety, God has already begun to open the door and grant us favor with the highest officials of the Jordanian Government.

Later, Mr. Armstrong announced that the station may boost the wattage from 200,000 to 1,000,000 watts! Our contract will pay for the extra wattage. In talking with the government and station representatives, Mr. Hunting brought up information about our Farm Program at Big Sandy in regard to saving the sandy soil there in Jordan. Some of their representatives may come over to the Big Sandy Campus -- perhaps also visiting Pasadena to get the "grand tour" -- and later the Campus at Bricket Wood to help them realize the scope of this Work. Mr. Hunting even personally wrote the "hope" that they will deed Petra over to us and let us show them how to turn sandy soil into a productive farming area!

I mention this latter item because many of you have heard rumors that they were turning Petra over to us. This is just an idea -- not an established fact by any means. But it does show the tremendous possibilities God is opening up to His Work at this time!

At last, as Mr. Armstrong pointed out in reading Isaiah 40:1-8, we are being given the opportunity, in a preliminary way, to begin preaching God's Message to the world from Jerusalem! This is certainly significant and something for which we should give God great THANKS -- at the same time asking Him for wisdom and favor so that we may properly go through and utilize these doors as He wills.

More good news involved the two new churches which started on the Sabbath of

February 11. The San Francisco Church got off to a good start with 217 in attendance! This is just about what was expected and excellent growth is forecast for the future. The new Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan also got off to a fine start with 209 in attendance and excellent growth prospects as well.

* Also, word has come that Mr. Carl O'Beirn -- whom I mentioned in my last letter -- has had an examination regarding his heart trouble and that, now, no trace of organic heart disease was found! Mr. O'Beirn is now beginning to play handball twice a week and is coming along fine in every way!

Also, a happy announcement comes from Mr. Hal Baird: "After many years of patience and prayer with the prayers of others, finally, on the evening of February 6, at 7:30 p.m., Mr. Frank McCrady was reunited in marriage with the wife of his youth. This was quite an occasion! Mr. and Mrs. McCrady's son, Frank, who is a second year student at Ambassador College at Big Sandy, stood up with his father and mother for their wedding ceremony. Young Frank said: 'I know Mom and Dad are married now -- I stood up with them when they got married.'"

Most of you knew that this was "in the works," but we can certainly rejoice with Mr. McCrady that God has granted him his mate again at last! And we hope this portends good things in the future for many others in similar straits!

Mr. Baird also reported that in the tornado which streaked through St. Louis a few weeks ago our church home there was almost miraculously spared. The tornado touched down a few blocks from the church home -- headed right for it -- then about a block or so away it picked up and passed directly over the house and again touched down two blocks away completely leveling an area of several hundred feet and a one-half block width! The damage was appalling. Houses were left like pieces of piled up match sticks. Mr. Baird was in the house at the time. He ran out into the hall, fell on his knees, prayed earnestly for deliverance, and then actually heard the tornado lift up and pass over the house! So here is another miracle and act of God's power both for Mr. Baird and God's property! Also, no church members in St. Louis were harmed in any way and total property damage sustained was just over \$100, I understand.

Last Wednesday, Mr. Richard Plache returned from Vancouver, B.C., where he joined Mr. Dean Wilson in conducting the first Canadian District Ministerial Conference. Everything went very well, he reported, and the men there were certainly greatly benefitted and most enthusiastic about the meetings.

Dr. Herman Hoeh is now back at Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire, to attend a conference where high ranking historians and others will be discussing the works of Immanuel Velikovsky and also, apparently, touching on some of the works of George McCrady Price -- the Adventist Geologist whom we have

sometimes used to refer to indirectly. He felt that because of the nature of these meetings that it would be most valuable for him to be there. He asked Mr. Raymond Cole to join him in attending and taking notes at these conferences.

Since he was going back that way, I asked him to join Mr. Cole in conducting the New York District Ministerial Conference which will now begin tomorrow, February 21, 22, and 23. So remember Dr. Hoeh and these conferences in your prayers!

Perhaps I didn't mention it, but Mr. Hill directed the Portland Ministerial Conference a couple of weeks ago and reported that everything went fine up there as well. And Margie and I are leaving this Friday for Chicago. I'm to preach in both churches on the Sabbath, and then direct the conference there the first half of the week, fly to Kansas City Tuesday evening, direct conferences there for the last half, and then preach in the two Kansas City churches before flying back to Pasadena Saturday night or Sunday. So we are all busy here at Headquarters and need your prayers.

More good news involves the fact that eight Ministerial Assistants were sent out from the two U. S. Colleges at the semester break this January. A graduate, Mr. Bill Dankenbring, was sent to the Oakland area to assist Mr. Luker. Dick Wiedenheft was sent to New York to assist Mr. Raymond Cole and the men in that area. Mr. Mocarow in Detroit received Tommy Williams as an assistant, Randy Kobernat was sent to Pittsburgh to assist Mr. Friddle and Wayne Phillips was sent to Seattle to assist Mr. George Kemnitz. All these men were from the Pasadena Campus and were in their senior year at Ambassador, except for Mr. Dankenbring.

From Big Sandy, Gerald Coleman was sent to Birmingham to assist Mr. Rice, Ron Howe was sent to Spokane to assist Mr. Lichtenstein, and Bill Kaiser was sent to Oklahoma City to assist Mr. Prince.

Now for some INSTRUCTIONS:

First of all, I would like to reiterate -- for those of you who are not here -- that Mr. Armstrong again stressed the vital importance of driving carefully during this Ministerial Conference! As God's Ministers, we must learn to obey the speed laws, remain alert and awake in our driving -- thinking ahead -- and by all means avoiding "tail gating." This practice of following too closely was recently brought out in a report Mr. Armstrong read as one of the major factors in serious auto accidents. So let us all TAKE HEED -- for the sake of our very lives and the lives of others!

Again, let me encourage all of you to plan your time and expenses so that you

can accomplish the maximum. Many of our younger ministers are still having a problem keeping within the right expense allotment and budget. You older ministers and District Superintendents should try to help them plan this out and go over a monthly "budget" of how they can organize their expenses in this regard. And you men who have this problem should not be afraid to ask those over you for help!

However, I would like to say that, overall, many have been very careful with their expenses and have saved a good deal from their expense allotment. Some have even returned the extra they didn't need! This is certainly highly commendable -- something that would not be done in very many companies. Let me say that once we see that you have up to 150% of your monthly allotment, we will then send you a note telling you that we won't send any more expense money for the following month. That will take care of it without your needing to "return" any of the excess expense money. But, of course, don't be afraid of this as we will always be glad to restore it if your actual needs increase -- and we do appreciate the fact many of you fellows have learned to be careful and are cooperating so well in saving God's money!

Another major item I want to alert you about is becoming acquainted with prospective Ambassador College students in your areas and also leading men -- Spokesman Club officers and other leaders -- whom you might recommend for a year of training here at Ambassador. For the next few months, especially, start concentrating on getting well acquainted with these prospective students and leading men.

Make it a special point to get to really know the high school and college students in your churches. Spend time with them. Go on special hikes, have parties for them and invite them over to your home for dinner at times. Use the girls as baby sitters and have the fellows mow your lawn or help out occasionally -- perhaps with pay if it is anything regular. Learn about their character, attitudes, abilities.

This is one of the most important jobs you have as a pastor of a church. These men and women -- if accepted to Ambassador -- will be the future leaders of churches and offices around this world! Each spring you should have meetings with the students. Know who is applying and who is not. Then write us -- along about Passover time -- a thorough evaluation of each applicant.

We want top students. Don't recommend a student because he or she is nice or looks good. Be sure they are top college caliber. Work with them through high school to help them see the importance of study and college. If a student just won't make it, don't recommend him. It will do more harm in the long run to come and flunk out than not to come at all. Don't ever promise a student he will

get in! That is up to the Admissions Committee. Your advice will be greatly appreciated -- but it must be compared, here, with suggestions regarding many other applicants and all their abilities and background. If you try to tell a student he will get in, or "pressure" us to let him in -- you may simply be letting him in for a terrific blow later if it is found out that he is really not qualified.

Here are some things to watch for: Balanced personality and leadership. Many may be "friendly" or have "good attitudes," yet are not really leaders at all. Bear this in mind. Watch for mental depth and wisdom as well as academic ability. And be sure, of course, that they do have really good academic ability to do top college work. Be sure their mind and attitude is BALANCED -- you know how many times we have wasted hundreds of hours on "odd-balls" of various sorts.

So AVOID recommending any mental or physical "defectives." We all may sincerely love and want to SERVE these people. But we don't want those with personality quirks or mental peculiarities in God's College training to be the LEADERS of God's Work! We DON'T want those who have been deeply involved in alcoholism, spiritism or sexual promiscuity -- some of them illegitimate mothers -- being recommended for God's College. Learn to watch the fellows, especially, regarding some of them being effeminate or even homosexual. Every year, we get a few of these, and are right now in the process of having to probably "kick out" once and for all a homosexual who just can't seem to overcome this problem -- as so many can't.

Also, you need to realize that we cannot properly "help" those who are physical cripples of various sorts. We certainly do want to help, encourage and serve them in the local churches. But Ambassador College is NOT a "rehabilitation center." You must remember that in your thinking. Think of Ambassador as the "WEST POINT" of God's Church! It is to train those for top-flight executive and ministerial positions -- the leaders in the Work of God and their wives! So think in this terminology when recommending students for Ambassador College and mention these specific points in your evaluation.

So start getting more thoroughly acquainted with prospective students in your areas IMMEDIATELY. We need to have a report from you on these students either just before or just after Passover time in order to be better able to render decisions on their applications. Remember this is one of your MAJOR responsibilities -- not something that comes down at the end of the line!

Also, as I said above, be watching for leading men in your Spokesman Clubs and other church activities whom you might recommend for a year or two of Ambassador as very probable ministers or leaders in God's Work after that

time. I have sent out guidelines on these men before, so will not do more of that here.

Finally, exhort your congregations to really PRAY for the overall Work of God at this time as never before! These TREMENDOUS doors that are opening up such as Radio Jerusalem show that we are just on the verge of coming into the focus of world news and carrying out this Mighty Work. We NEED God's special help and protection! Again, the money has been only running about 20% increase so far this year and is way behind what it should be and has been for the past few years previously. Ask the brethren to pray for and respond to Mr. Armstrong's Co-Worker letters and other special letters! And most critically right now encourage everyone to pray and fast regarding Mrs. Armstrong's most serious condition!

We know God WILL HEAR. And -- if we do our part, we know that this Work will go rocketing ahead faster than ever before as Mr. Armstrong outlined that it would in the recent Ministerial Conference. So keep working hard, praying and REJOICING that God has given you -- together with all of us -- the privilege of being used directly in this Crusade, preparing the way for the return of His Son!

Your servant in Christ,



Roderick C. Meredith

P.S. I'll be enclosing Mr. Gerald Waterhouse's itinerary for his continuing Church Tour throughout parts of the United States. You men who are scheduled to host Mr. Waterhouse should plan ahead so that these activities will be arranged when he arrives. Feel free to write or call him at his previous stops as you need to communicate with him regarding anything. Also, as I suggested before, when convenient you might invite him to stay with you for extra fellowship and home cooking as this may be possible. And the rest of us might want to write him once in a while as we find opportunity!

ITINERARY FOR G. D. WATERHOUSE

February 21, through May 20, 1967

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
February 21 to 25	Big Sandy Area	Activities scheduled there if and when possible.
February 28	Shreveport	Slides
March 1	"	Study
2	Texarkana	Slides
3	"	Study
4 (AM)	"	Service
(PM)	Shreveport	Service
(Evening)	"	Spokesman Club**
March 7	Wichita	Slides
8	"	Study
9	Liberal	Slides
10	"	Study
11 (AM)	"	Service
(PM)	Wichita	Service
(Evening)	"	Spokesman Club
March 14	Springfield	Slides
15	"	Study
16	Joplin	Slides
17	"	Study
18 (AM)	"	Service
(PM)	Springfield	Service
(Evening)	"	Spokesman Club**
March 21	Cape Girardeau	Slides
22	"	Study
23	Belleville	Slides
24	"	Study
25 (AM)	"	Service
(PM)	Cape Girardeau	Service
(Evening)	"	Spokesman Club**
March 28	Lexington	Slides
29	"	Study
30	Louisville	Slides
31	"	Study
April 1 (AM)	"	Service
(PM)	Lexington	Service
(Evening)	"	Spokesman Club**
6	Cincinnati	Slides
7	"	Study
8	"	Service
(Evening)	"	Spokesman Club*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
April 11	Columbus	Slides
12	"	Study
13	Dayton	Slides
14	"	Study
15 (AM)	"	Service
(PM)	Columbus	Service
(Evening)	"	Spokesman Club**
April 18	Pittsburgh	Slides
19	"	Study
20	Uniontown	Slides
21	"	Study
22 (AM)	"	Service
(PM)	Pittsburgh	Service
(Evening)	"	Spokesman Club**
April 23 to May 1 -- PASSOVER AND DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD -- AKRON ARE		
May 4	Toledo	Slides
5	"	Study
6	"	Service
(Evening)	"	Spokesman Club*
May 9	Detroit	Slides
10	"	Study
11	Midland	Slides
12	"	Study
13 (AM)	"	Service
(PM)	Detroit	Service
(Evening)	"	Spokesman Club**
May 16	Charleston	Slides
17	"	Study
18	Wheeling	Slides
19	"	Study
20 (AM)	"	Service
(PM)	Charleston	Service
(Evening)	"	Spokesman Club**

*Ladies Night

**Combined Clubs as Ladies Night in some central location when possible.

NOTE: Feel free to alter the schedule of events within same period indicated when you see that would work out more effectively. I carry my own projector and five foot screen. When possible, however, I would appreciate your acquiring an eight to ten foot beaded screen as I find such to be much more appropriate. Screens of this type can usually be rented from a local photo shop. Also, when possible, the hall for slides should be secured for three hours to allow for set-up as well as for any technical fault which could occur.