

RADIO CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91109

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PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Minister

NEWSLETTER

August 16, 1967

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from Pasadena once again! It is good to hear of the progress of all of your Churches in the field, and I sincerely hope that all of you and your families continue in good health.

Headquarters is certainly a busy place these days with the rush to complete applications for College, the many building projects going and the growth of the radio, printing and Church administrative duties. Mr. Herbert Armstrong and Mr. Ted Armstrong recently visited the Summer Educational Program together. Mr. Armstrong was very impressed and elated over the fine facilities and exuberance of the campers -- and the excellent character training they are receiving. Also, he was able to preach in both Minneapolis Churches and they had a record turn out for the area of over 900 attendance!

Before joining his father at SEP, Mr. Ted Armstrong flew to Mexico City with Mr. and Mrs. Enrique Ruiz and Dr. Dorothy -- head of the Spanish Work. Dr. Hoeh is still touring the Soviet Union with his wife and Victor Kubick, and Mr. Portune is in Northern California for a much-needed vacation. So much traveling is being done by God's ministers this summer in addition to the other activities.

As Mr. Armstrong stated in his recent member letter, conditions here in the Administration Building have become so crowded that Mr. Portune -- instead of expanding -- volunteered to move the entire Business Department over to 360 Grove Street in one of the large apartment complexes there where they would all have more room. Therefore, a great deal of hammering, scraping, and thumping of heavy objects has been apparent throughout the last couple of days as most of the people here on second floor are moving out. Tomorrow or next day, I will be moving into Mr. Portune's office -- giving added space for the many Church Administration and other meetings which I hold -- and upon his return Dr. Hoeh will be moving up to my office. Also, our new faculty member, Dr. Vern Farrow, will soon be occupying Mr. Rader's office at the back of the second floor. So change and growth are certainly keynotes this summer -- and we are having growing "pains" right now as all these office changes and interruptions take place! But, as you will see in this

newsletter, real blessings are certainly coming to God's Work during this Spiritual harvest season with the growth of members, ministers and elders, income and mail response -- plus many other things.

Because of Mr. Armstrong's letter concerning the Building Program, contributions for the Building Fund have increased sharply. In fact, the income for the first eleven days of August, was over \$92,000 -- more than two and a half times the amount received during the same period last year! The returns resulting from that letter are now leveling off, but already we can see an encouragingly large increase this month.

We feel that the serious drop in income for the Building Fund is partly due to improper labeling of donations by the brethren. Many checks are received with no explanation at all to indicate what the money was intended for, and as a result, some contributions intended for the Building Fund are never accounted as such. Some brethren may feel it isn't important to explain what the check is for, but it certainly is important!

If all of you would remind the brethren of this, perhaps that of itself would result in a sizable increase in the Building Fund income. Explain that a separate check would not be necessary -- just a clear indication of how much is for tithes and offerings and how much is for the Building Fund.

Mr. Armstrong realizes the brethren do need prodding from time to time, and here is a way that you, as field ministers, can help hold up his hands. You can prod -- in a right way -- and encourage them to continue to do their part in contributing to the Building Fund -- it is important!

Mr. Ted Armstrong's short trip to Mexico City proved to be successful and fruitful in laying the groundwork for the establishment of an office there. Although final arrangements have not yet been made, God has begun to open a door. The difficult preliminary steps have been accomplished, and Mr. Ted Armstrong expects final government approval soon.

Obtaining a bank account proved to be a major obstacle -- two days were required for that. The next problem was to find an able lawyer -- an American if possible -- who is favorable toward the College and sympathetic toward the Work we are carrying out. After searching for hours, late in ~~the last afternoon he found one who appears to be just the right individual.~~ He will represent us in seeking government recognition as a "Civil Association" -- a bona fide, non-profit organization engaged in "cultural and educational" activities. We don't foresee any real problems in receiving this recognition, but we need God's continual help in giving us grace and favor in the eyes of officials there.

Mr. Enrique Ruiz, who is now in Big Sandy, will return to Mexico City in about a month to set up a temporary office in a house he was able to rent. In spite of terrible housing conditions, God has provided a very fine, well-furnished home there for Mr. and Mrs. Ruiz.

The broadcast is reaching Mexico City itself with only one program per week -- at 9:00 A.M. each Sunday -- but this office will serve the entirety of Latin America, giving us a foothold for further growth in this huge area. By

October or November, we hope to be printing a Spanish edition of The PLAIN TRUTH!

For this purpose, additional printing equipment is being sent to Big Sandy, including a 36-inch Miehle sheet-fed press, a gang stitcher, a folding machine, platemaking equipment and a large paper cutter. The press, which was formerly used for printing The GOOD NEWS, can print a 16-page magazine signature, as well as booklets and articles. This addition will give the Texas campus the capacity to print a duo-tone magazine or any type of black and white printing.

The expansion of the printing facilities at Big Sandy will provide more job opportunities for the students at that campus. We are already sending them a fourth of our mail each day -- about 800 to 2000 letters -- to be opened, read and processed. Now they will also be able to print most of the literature sent out from there.

As I mentioned in my last letter, the Canadian office had a record-breaking income in July. The final total turned out to be well over \$100,000, and in addition, the "white" mail total for the last week was up to about 1,200 letters -- a good increase.

From Australia, we have an even better report for the past month -- an income of \$111,045 which is an 82.2% increase! This was an all-time-high for Australia, and along with it, the letter increase was 35%.

Although two ship stations have already gone off the air, the Work in Britain is reaching more and more people as indicated by a record volume of "white" mail the past couple of weeks. Yesterday was the deadline, however, for the ceasing of all broadcasting from these stations. Now we will have to depend on various types of advertising and stations such as the German "SAAR" which recently opened time to us.

An interesting possibility -- although it is only a possibility -- might arise as a result of recent developments on the Isle of Man, which is off the Western coast of England. The legislation outlawing ship stations has incensed many people there, and a growing group of agitators is demanding independence from Britain. If this movement were to succeed, a powerful station on that island could reach all of England! We don't feel God is going to allow the door to Britain to be completely closed at this time, but we are all concerned about the situation, asking God that His will be done.

Mr. McNair recently spent two weeks in Turkey and Israel, part of the time accompanied by Mr. Frank Schnee, in gathering on-the-spot reports for PLAIN TRUTH articles. In Turkey they were able to get pictures of the Pope and Patriarch Athenagoras and material for an article about this meeting, as well as pictures and reports on the recent earthquake there. He spent over a week in Israel as he traveled the length and breadth of that tiny nation, getting hundreds of pictures.

Dr. Charles Dorothy, after meeting Mr. Ted Armstrong in Mexico City, returned

through Panama and Venezuela to get a first-hand report of the earthquakes which occurred in those areas.

And Dr. Hoeh happened to be in Tashkent at the time of the earthquake in that area, but he wasn't injured. He too, probably got some good pictures.

God has blessed His ministers in protecting them on the many trips that have been made this summer. And He has protected His people in a special way during the recent riots here in the United States, especially in Detroit where the danger was perhaps the greatest. No injury has been reported, and the worst property damage reported so far by any of the brethren was window breakage. We can certainly be thankful for a Loving Father in Heaven who does protect and bless His people around the world!

Some of you may not have heard about Mr. Bourdin's injury a few weeks ago. He severed a tendon in his leg while playing handball, but God has apparently healed him. He will be on crutches for a while, however, until the muscles regain their strength.

Also, for those of you who have heard about Mrs. Leroy Neff's recent illness, she is doing fine now, according to our latest reports.

The little island of Bermuda is now receiving a very powerful witness. A radio station, ZFB-1, has recently opened up daily broadcasting for us at 1:30 P.M. We are on two other stations there, one with a Sunday program, and the other carries us Monday through Saturday. Now, unexpectedly, a television station there has offered us time at a very low cost -- only \$36 per program for the air time -- plus it will cost us about \$40 to produce an extra tape and ship it. Beginning right away, the program will be shown at 5:30 P.M. every Sunday with one other station in competition for the viewers. Out of a total population of 47,000, there are 12,500 television sets on the island; so, most of the population could possibly be reached in this way.

So far, the highest number of letters from any single telecast over the local UHF station in the Los Angeles area has been 55, which is more than some small radio stations pull in. Overall we have been pleased with the response, and the quality of the programs has continually improved week by week.

The Ambassador College Big Band has recently received attention and praise from certain influential men in this area. As a result, the College will have an opportunity to establish better public relations and further enhance -- in a right way -- our image as a cultural institution. The Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Fair Association has requested that the band orchestrate a special exhibition called The Festival of the Horse. Scheduled for September 27, it will be a two-hour long show dramatizing the role of the horse in man's history, with our band providing the proper musical themes. This should generate much favorable publicity for the College itself.

This past Sabbath at Long Beach, Mr. David Jon Hill ordained Mr. Ted Phillips to the office of local elder. He is an office manager in the Department of

Water and Power in Los Angeles, and since August of 1964, he has faithfully served the brethren as a deacon. Now as a local elder in God's Church, he will be even more valuable in God's service.

If you need used clothing in your local area, send in your request to Headquarters, through your ministerial envelope, attention of Mr. James Duke. Right now we have a surplus here, and if you will specify what you need, we may be able to provide it.

A new Church began last Sabbath in Flint, Michigan. We don't have the attendance report as yet, but the Church will probably have about 125 attending each week. Mr. John Pruner is the pastor of the new Church, along with the present Midland, Michigan Church.

This coming Sabbath, Church number "160" will begin in Crestview, Florida. It will bring the U.S. total to 129. Many brethren in this area have been waiting for years to attend a local Church regularly. In fact, over half of the congregation lives in an area that was formerly designated as a non-Church area. Mr. Robert Dick will pastor this Church as well as the Mobile, Alabama Church.

In July we had 356 baptisms in the United States, compared to 181 for last July.

And in July, a new record was set for visits in the field in the United States. The old record of 8,801 was eclipsed by a total of over 10,000 visits this past month! In July of 1966, the total was 7,660. Month by month, visits are up by 40% over last year without a comparable increase in manpower. As a result of better organization, average visits per man each week are now 18.3, as compared to 15.1 in the past.

We are able to effectively use the manpower in serving the greatest number of people, as well. With 182 men visiting full-time in the United States, serving 129 Churches, we have better than one man per Church. Some of these are unordained second men, but still, we have more than one ordained man per Church. These Churches average about 300 in attendance now, as compared with 175 to 200 two years ago. This means we are starting fewer new Churches and are improving the ratio of ministers and ministerial assistants to the number of brethren they are serving. Each of the 182 full-time men serves an average of 208 people.

To show you what the picture has been, we started 10 new Churches in 1962. In 1963, we started 15, an increase of 50%. In 1964, 20 new Churches were raised up, giving an increase of 33%. In 1965, the increase dropped to 25% when we started 25 new Churches. Last year only 26 new Churches were begun, and this year we may not equal that number since only 15 have started so far this year, counting those planned for the rest of this month. So, although we are increasing more slowly in the number of new Churches, more people per man are being served.

Fellows, it is through your cooperation and your zeal that we have been able to organize in such a way that so much is being accomplished in the field. We here at Headquarters certainly appreciate it, and I know that the real Head of this Work -- Jesus Christ -- appreciates it, too. Continue to drive

and discipline yourself to fulfill the commission God has given to each of you. Mr. Armstrong reminds us constantly that we must accomplish as much in the next four and a half years as in the last 33½ years! And with the help of the Living Head of this Work, we WILL accomplish it!

As I close now, I would like to ask each of you who have second men serving under you to send in a detailed evaluation on them. This includes those on summer assignments as well as permanent assignments. We'll be looking for these reports soon!

Your servant in Christ,

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

Roderick C. Meredith