

FILE

RADIO CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS

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TO ALL MINISTERS AROUND THE WORLD:

GREETINGS, in the service of the LIVING Christ.

It has been so long since I have written a special letter to the ministers---I felt I should, at this time. We have only just returned from the grave-side service for my mother---held at 2:30 this afternoon (Monday, April 17th). My father is in his office writing a much-needed and vitally important Co-Worker letter, facing the trying challenge of having to announce to them my mother's death and the GOOD news of the signing of the contract for Radio Jerusalem at the same time. I know God will guide and inspire him in that task.

Mr. Portune preached the service, and I felt it was certainly the most inspiring example of such a service I have heard. I know it was a terrific trial for Mr. Portune. There were easily 1500 and perhaps closer to 2000 persons there---in the same cemetery and right next to the place where my brother, Dick, was buried. Mr. Portune seemed to be inspired to say just that right and good balance of things about Mrs. Armstrong, personally, and the scriptural meaning and significance of her death that made the service just APPROPRIATE---with simple love, warmth, dignity, and yet that right and human amount of sympathetic emotion that could only have come from a true servant of Christ and one who was given the help and inspiration he needed at such a time. My father and I, and all the family (I can't speak for those who are not converted), surely did appreciate his fulfilling of such a task.

Last Sabbath, only little more than twelve hours after I had held her hand as she died, I had to preach here at Headquarters. I thought it may be good if I told you a few of the things we Evangelists have been thinking of, and, together with my father, been discussing concerning these circumstances.

I began by showing how my mother had entered into HER "rest" just as the Sabbath Day was fully here---just as we were then, again, entering into OUR "rest" on God's Sabbath Day. (I suppose this was as a result of the past two Sabbath Days of thinking about and preaching about the weekly Sabbath.)

Then, how the Bible is a chronicle of the DEATHS of God's beloved and chosen servants. I mentioned the scriptures we would all use, I'm sure, of how the DEATH of God's saints is PRECIOUS in His sight (Psalm 116:15) and how they have been taken out of the way of worse trials (Isa. 57). I used Romans 14:7-9 and emphasized how Paul says "WE," meaning CONVERTED CHRISTIANS---members of the CHURCH OF GOD.

Many of our people do not believe anything can, or should, ever happen to one of GOD'S TRUE SERVANTS! They feel, somehow, that ministers and their wives are "invincible" or "indestructible." I suppose some few weak ones will LOSE FAITH over such a happening as the death of Mrs. Armstrong. For this reason, I wanted to write this letter---that all of you might STRENGTHEN God's people---ENCOURAGE them from the Word of God, and SHOW THEM THIS IS NOT SO! We MUST NOT allow ourselves to begin asking, "WHY, Oh, WHY???" That is the WAY OF THE WORLD---the way of the HOPELESSNESS of this carnal age.

Remember, David prayed continually for deliverance. His prayers, MANY of which we PRAYED so fervently (the 102nd, the 107th, the 103rd, and SO VERY MANY of them) during this long affliction, WERE ANSWERED! Many times, I remember going to my knees, as I know so many of us did, with one or two of the Psalms open before me---and making that MY prayer to God. But SHOW God's people how GOD DID ANSWER THOSE PRAYERS! He said to David, "I WILL be with him in trouble; I WILL deliver him, and honor him. With LONG LIFE will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation." (Psalm 91:15,16.)

David, about to die, called Bathsheba to him (Read in I Kings 1 and 2). He wanted to insure his son, Solomon, inherited the throne of Israel and Judah. Read verse 28 and verse 29. "And the king sware, and said, 'As the Eternal liveth, that hath redeemed my life out of ALL DISTRESS, Even as I sware unto thee by the Eternal God of Israel, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead; even so will I certainly do this day.'" In the first few verses it is said, "Now King David was OLD, and STRICKEN IN YEARS. . ." And in I Chronicles 29:28, "And he died in a GOOD OLD AGE, FULL OF DAYS, RICHES and HONOUR, and Solomon his son reigned in his stead."

David CRIED OUT TO GOD, CONTINUALLY, for deliverance. He cried, "O God, thou hast taught me from my youth; and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come. . . ." (Psalm 71:17,18.) I prayed this prayer, for my mother. But GOD ANSWERED David. David acknowledged that GOD DID NOT forsake him, even when he was "old and grayheaded." God said HE DID preserve David. David died, being FULL OF YEARS. Yet, he was five and one-half years younger than my mother. My mother had been directly active in the Work of God for

FORTY YEARS (beginning in the early spring, in 1927!), and married to my father for just a few months short of fifty years. Surely, even though God did NOT choose to extend her life (Hezekiah was only THIRTY-NINE when God added unto HIS!) further NOW (and certainly HE MUST KNOW HIS OWN HOLY REASONS!), He granted her such great BLESSINGS of length of service, and the blessings of seeing the very fruit born through her life, and then through her long illness. She read, almost daily, the MANY HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS of letters (which represented the THOUSANDS received) of how so many had CHANGED their lives, of how even hardened ATHEISTS had repented and were beginning to CRY OUT to their God, for the first time in their lives.

Actually, God used her sickness to accomplish the greatest work of her life. Surely, even though she did not know them personally, and had not personally influenced them, as she may have many of you and your wives---literally THOUSANDS of God's people have been touched by her example and have RE-DEDICATED their lives to God through hearing about her suffering.

Think of HOW MANY of the men of God LOST their wives. Abraham did. Isaac did. God told Ezekiel not to grieve when his wife died. Ezekiel wrote to US, fellows---for OUR WORK and OUR ministry, right now. Yet, through HIS trials and persecutions, and HIS devotions to God's Work, HE lost his wife. God said, "Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes (his wife) with a stroke; yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down. Forbear to cry, make no mourning for the dead, bind the tire of thine head upon thee, and put on thy shoes upon thy feet, and cover not thy lips, and eat not the bread of men. So I spake unto the people in the morning (doing the WORK OF GOD as usual!): and at even my wife died; and I DID IN THE MORNING AS I WAS COMMANDED." (Ezek. 24:15-17.)

And Ezekiel went through all that FOR OUR WORK today! Mr. Armstrong is reacting in the same fashion. He'll have a difficult time adjusting to such a total change after so many long years, of course. I know you'll all remember to PRAY about that---and keep your hearts LOYAL and FAITHFUL to Christ, and to His true servants. But he is PLUNGING himself into the WORK of God, more than ever---with renewed dedication and ZEAL, as we all must.

He's leaving tomorrow, near noon, for Jerusalem! He'll be with Mr. Raymond McNair and Mr. Charles Hunting there---and POSSIBLY may make the first broadcast FROM JERUSALEM LIVE. I'm sure you'll hear more about that later.

Meanwhile, he's busy at his typewriter---which I can hear pounding away---just as I am here at mine---and I believe he's writing the very necessary Co-Worker letter you'll no doubt be reading almost as soon as you receive this special letter. I know God will guide him in the task of having to make the difficult announcement of Mom's death, and the GOOD NEWS of the open door in Jerusalem, at the same time.

My wife and family and I are to leave for Big Sandy, Texas, tomorrow morning ---arriving there a few days in advance of the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. As you all know, Mr. Meredith, Mr. Plache, Mr. Hill and Mr. Portune will all be visiting two areas apiece for these coming Holy Days ---so you will, MANY of you, be hearing personally about these events in a short time.

I know there are many reasons why God LET such a thing happen that we JUST DO NOT "GRASP" at this time. But God DOES know what He's doing---He understands all things. Actually, COULD we have "come to see" that it was His will to ALLOW her death? OF COURSE NOT! And God knows we ARE UTTERLY INCAPABLE of such thoughts. Therefore, even though God DID ANSWER, and His answer was NOT WHAT WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE---it was His answer nevertheless.

My mother very much appreciated the many letters, phone calls, beautiful flowers, and other ways of expressing concern you showed. She would prop up in bed, on some of her better days, and read them all---and save certain ones out she wanted me to read. My father was VERY moved by the deep CHANGES made in so many lives---and together they REJOICED at such GREAT changes being effected in the Church of God. She continually said she was GLAD and HAPPY that God could use even her sickness to such a real PURPOSE in His Work. I suppose most people are sad at the death of a loved one out of self pity. I suppose many think of all the things they SHOULD have done, the concern they should have shown, the many little things they would have said and done had they known, in advance, such a thing was going to happen. But frankly, fellows, there is NONE of that kind of feeling connected with my mother's death. I was deeply THANKFUL and grateful that I DID have the space of time during her long illness to visit her---to talk and chat with her about her past life, about the Work, about our children, about our new garden (she was going to plant her own row of it!), and to express to her how we all felt. My father was CONTINUALLY at her side---telling her over and over again how much he LOVED, RESPECTED, admired and CHERISHED her---how LOVELY she was to him. I know we're both THANKFUL we had time to leave NO TINY SHRED OF DOUBT about our true feelings toward her---and I know you're all thankful for the same opportunity through your prayers and your letters and flowers.

But Mr. Portune mentioned in his sermon how---during one of the many morning sessions we have had in Mr. Armstrong's study---that Mrs. Armstrong had spoken the last words HE had heard her say. She had smiled cheerfully and looked at us all (the Evangelists and Mr. Royer and Mr. Plache) and said, "Well, go on now, all you men, and do your WORK." He used this as the real tribute we can show her---that of DOING THE WORK we have been called to do.

Apparently, God knew HER PART in the Word was over. Forty years of it. We DID NOT know that---but God allowed her, even in dying, to accomplish SO VERY MUCH for the eternal blessing of so many people---I know she will YET rejoice when she learned just HOW much her suffering and just the "something" she STOOD FOR at my father's side meant to everyone.

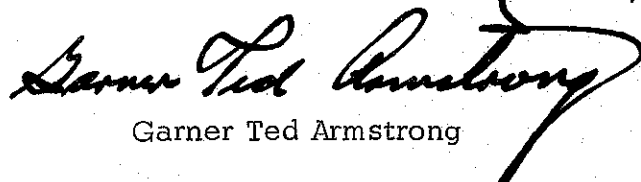
So BUILD UP the faith of God's little sheep, fellows. SHOW them how there is BLESSING in such a long life, in service, and EVEN IN DEATH. Mom really SUFFERED AGONIES those last hours. And now she will NEVER, no---not for ALL ETERNITY---shed another tear. No one can ever cause her any more pain. No more disappointment in children, or anxiety, or worry, or fear. No more apprehension, or cold, or hunger, or sorrow. She was buried today, right beside Dick's grave, and just one plot away from my Grandmother Armstrong. And in SO FEW years, they will ALL stand there together---in the resurrection. So let's STRENGTHEN and encourage and EDIFY the people of God---and if her death can mean anything---then let it mean that we will GO ON to accomplish what we have started. Let's REALLY LEARN and LEARN DEEPLY the spiritual lessons our God WANTS us to learn---let's NOT FLAG or FAIL or HALT in this spiritual GROWTH God has been granting.

I want to tell you I KNOW I have come to deeper, fuller---and COMPLETE repentance of ALL and EVERY thing I can know, or remember, or discover in me during this trial. Following my father's example of repentance, I can say the SAME thing for all the ministers here at Headquarters. We have begun our DAILY morning Bible studies and FAMILY PRAYER at home---and WE HAVE BEEN STICKING TO IT DAILY this time, when we did NOT stick to it REGULARLY before! I know God will only BLESS His Church when we REALLY lay aside the "sin that does so easily beset us" and run with PATIENCE this race. I hope you can all let this shake up, really MOVE and JOSTLE you spiritually.

SO LET'S GO ON, now, men, and do the WORK! Please FORGIVE me and forgive one another for EVERY fault, sin, problem, oversight, that you can possibly remember---and let's let God's Spirit INTO our hearts and minds and REALLY DEDICATE ourselves to Him. My father will now have the wife of Christ to cherish, and love, and serve---and not the companionship of the one who has been with him for nearly 50 long years. Remember Him in your prayers continually---and ask God to COMFORT and ENCOURAGE him in this new, and lonelier, life.

Well, I guess that's all. I just felt like writing to all of you at this time. Thanks for everything, fellows---and let's all grow to love and SHOW that love toward each other and the flocks under our care more and more. May God Almighty and our Creator bless and protect every one of you, and make you ever more powerful and moving instruments in His hands.

Your brother in Christ's service,


Garner Ted Armstrong

The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country. It is a very interesting and informative study of the country's development. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well written and is a valuable contribution to the study of the country.

The second part of the report deals with the economic situation of the country. It is a very interesting and informative study of the country's economic development. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well written and is a valuable contribution to the study of the country.

The third part of the report deals with the social situation of the country. It is a very interesting and informative study of the country's social development. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well written and is a valuable contribution to the study of the country.

The fourth part of the report deals with the political situation of the country. It is a very interesting and informative study of the country's political development. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well written and is a valuable contribution to the study of the country.

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The sixth part of the report deals with the environmental situation of the country. It is a very interesting and informative study of the country's environmental development. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well written and is a valuable contribution to the study of the country.

The seventh part of the report deals with the future of the country. It is a very interesting and informative study of the country's future development. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well written and is a valuable contribution to the study of the country.

The eighth part of the report deals with the conclusion of the study. It is a very interesting and informative study of the country's development. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well written and is a valuable contribution to the study of the country.