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RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Minister

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Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from Pasadena! It was certainly wonderful to see many of you again at the recent Feast of Tabernacles! And I'm sure that all of us can say that the Feast everywhere around the world was the "best yet" in many respects! Over 45,000 people attended the Feast worldwide this year -- and, frankly, many more could have attended if we would encourage and prod our members more than we do to prepare for the Feast. The latest report I have from Texas is that they finally broke the 14,000 figure there in registrations before the Feast was over. Although they started out very low -- at least in registrations -- people kept on registering all through the Feast so that our estimate of 15,000 for Texas was not too far off as it finally turned out. Over 6,000 people attended here in Long Beach, over 6,000 in Squaw Valley, about 6,500 in Jekyll Island and about 8,000 were finally registered in the Poconos.

I had the opportunity to start off the Feast here at Long Beach, fly to Texas for two days in the middle (at least that was planned), and then finish the Feast back here in Long Beach again because of my wife expecting a baby anytime. However, I was only able to be in Texas for one day of my schedule -- during which I brought two sermons and conducted one minister's meeting -- and had to fly right back in order to be here for the birth of our fourth child. God helped us work it out so that I was just able to make it and witnessed the delivery! I am very thankful for this and Margie and the baby are doing very fine. She had a little daughter this time, Rebecca Ann, 8 pounds, 3 ounces and 21 inches long. Also, including some more "baby news," Dr. Dorothy told me just the other day that he and his wife had another little daughter -- as yet unnamed -- just five days ago. This makes No. 5 for the Dorothys! (When will the END come?) In addition, we heard that Mr. Lambert Greer's wife gave birth to a healthy baby boy just a few days ago after only three hours of delivery for their first child! Mother and son are doing fine, and Mr. Greer -- just ordained a Local Elder -- is certainly elated and thankful.

More happy news involves the starting of a brand new Church way down at Auckland, New Zealand. Mr. Graemme Marshall, a graduate of Bricket Wood College and recently ordained a Preaching Elder, will be the Pastor there. Also, another new Church was started in Blackheath, Australia. Additional new Churches will soon begin in Zurich, Switzerland; Utrecht, Holland; Lake Charles, Louisiana; and a new Negro Church in Los Angeles! So our growth in this respect is coming along just fine. We just need more ministers, more dedicated Elders and strong second men and local leaders in order to have more fine congregations for God's people to attend.

At the latest count -- although we haven't heard from every corner of the earth yet -- there were about twenty-three ordinations during this Feast of Tabernacles. Sixteen of these were new ordinations making a current total of 246 ordained ministers and elders around the world! Currently, also, there are about 442 deacons and 105 deaconesses world-wide. This indicates, however, that we should be more liberal in ordaining deaconesses as well as deacons! One very encouraging report that I am happy to give you from the Church Administration Department shows that during the month of September our men in the United States set an all-time record high in the total number of visits made to the brethren. They made 10,135 visits here in the United States and averaged 20 visits per week per man, another record! So far for the Year 1967, our men have averaged 40% more visits than in 1966, without a corresponding percentage increase in manpower. We sincerely feel that the primary reason for this is the much-improved organization in the Field and communication with Headquarters, elimination and streamlining much of the ministerial office routine, and the added inspiration and dedication of our ministers!

THANK YOU, very much, fellow ministers, for this extremely fine effort! And we note that these additional visits are certainly not "popcorn visits" but are overwhelmingly visits of forty-five minutes on up to an hour and a half or two hours. I am sure that as we strive to streamline and improve our work even better, we will increasingly serve the flock of Christ more effectively. This does NOT, however, mean that we should strive to get in more visits, necessarily. But it does mean that we should try to serve and give ourselves to the brethren more in those visits and help, teach, encourage and inspire them more during the time we are there.

A tremendous amount of growth in the Work is taking place right here on this campus. We are now in the process of either building or starting to build five new buildings here at Headquarters. The Academic Center -- in the area adjoining Ambassador Hall -- is coming along very well and should be completed early next March. Much of it will be completed by the time many of you ministers arrive for the Conference in

January. The new men's dormitory -- which we have had to postpone twice -- is now being built! Caterpillars and trucks are coming and going from the building site and the base foundations are already starting to be laid. The new Administration Building -- because of the fine loan commitment we have received -- will be underway yet this month! I understand that groundbreaking is scheduled in another two or three weeks for this building we have needed so long. In addition, the new Press Building and Transportation Building are both well along in the planning stage and should soon be under construction. With our new Gymnasium and Student Center, these five new buildings will greatly enhance and dramatically alter the entire appearance of Ambassador College and the Headquarters of God's Work! Things are going to look "up-to-date," well-organized and thoroughly streamlined as this campus and all of our activities here begin to take final shape within the next year or two!

Before going on to other matters, another bit of happy "baby news" was just given me. Mr. Jeremiah Ortiguero's wife recently had a seven-pound baby girl and they named her Sarah Loma -- after Mrs. Armstrong. Also, a total of 312 people observed God's Feast at Luzon in the Philippines this year.

The final count from England given me was that 2,080 representing 49 countries kept God's Feast of Tabernacles in a tremendous Feast in Britain this year.

Mr. Plache gave a most inspiring report on the Feast in Australia after returning from there and a short tour in which he was able to visit Japan, Hong Kong and the Philippines as well as Hawaii. He said that 1962 people representing six countries observed the Feast in Australia in what Mr. Cole and the others there reported as the most inspiring Feast that they had ever conducted!

And from France, Mr. Apartian and Mr. Catherwood -- both of whom flew over for the Feast -- report that a very fine and complete Feast was held at a beautiful resort location in southern France for 190 people. A report in Forum here in Pasadena before Mr. Apartian's return, Mr. Catherwood enthusiastically described how beautiful this location was at Praz-sur-Arly -- making Squaw Valley, he said, look like "a poor-man's paradise." Well, we don't feel too sorry for ourselves at Squaw Valley, do we? But apparently the unusual beauty of the very green trees and forests nearby with the majestic, deeply snow-capped mountains nearby makes this location in southern France perhaps the most beautiful and inspiring in all the earth. He mentioned that the Feast had all the accoutrements of a complete Feast such as we have been able to observe for several years now in the English-speaking world.

In other words, they had very fine chalets in which to live, delectable meals served in a beautiful atmosphere, first-class facilities of every sort and inspiring organized activities for all the brethren. He mentioned the French people attending there were not "just a bunch of old ladies," at all, but included dozens of very enthusiastic young married couples with many little children as well! So God's Work in France is now being built on a strong and balanced foundation! Mr. Catherwood is now looking forward enthusiastically to going over there next summer and taking charge of our Church in Paris and perhaps starting one in Brussels as well. We should all remember in our fervent prayers the French Work, the German Work, the Spanish Work and the other special activities within the Body of Christ that so often get overlooked in our petitions to Almighty God!

Another bit of happy news involves the administration of the Third Tithe -- which we are now handling through the Church Administration Department. We currently enroll 334 widows on Third Tithe and pay out about \$40,000.00 each month for their support. This is approximately \$475,000.00 per year! Perhaps you would like to announce this to the brethren and let them realize their blessing for participating in this service of love to all these widows and their families (far more than 334 actually get the benefit of this help because many of the widows have children to support) by faithfully paying their third tithe as God commands.

Now for some INSTRUCTIONS:

I would like to ask you to start right now getting acquainted with all prospective college students in your area. Try to visit them in their homes -- really get to know what makes them "tick" as much as possible. Begin to categorize in your mind those who really should be recommended for college as balanced, positive leaders for the Work of God. Also, note the oddities, the weaknesses and the lack of real drive and purpose in coming to college or serving God in other potential students. Recently, we have had several students DROP OUT of college because they really had NO PURPOSE in coming in the first place.

So be looking out not only for those who are "sharp" and able to do good college work, but for those also who are strongly motivated towards SERVICE and sacrifice in the Work of Jesus Christ! This should certainly play some part in your evaluation of these prospective students.

Another factor involving these student candidates is the following: A girl applicant for college from one of our Church areas stated that her minister had told her that students accepted for college from now on won't be able to graduate! Hearing this, she felt that perhaps marriage might be a better consideration for the present.

Fellows, this type of thing could result in a dearth of good applicants for God's College in future years! It would certainly hurt the quality of students and work being done in Ambassador College and the morale of the very Headquarters of God's Work! Also, we have NO DEFINITE KNOWLEDGE that these students will not be able to graduate! Remember, as Mr. Herbert Armstrong has said over and over and over again, we DO NOT SET DATES! The idea of our work ending in 1972 is only a probability -- NOT an absolute certainty! So many of these students may be able to graduate and be used. In any case, they could all graduate in Petra and be able to help us serve the tens of THOUSANDS of people there who will need constant guidance, counselling, anointing and direction. With these factors in mind, be sure you encourage ALL strong applicants for Ambassador College to enter and do their best with a realization that they may well be able to use this training in the most important last few months or years of God's Work when the most TREMENDOUS accomplishments of all will be taking place, that they will in any case be helping us teach and train the multiple thousands in Petra -- and that this training will immeasurably help them serve the entire world in the soon-coming Kingdom of God which is very real and will be set up VERY SOON!

Give them real MOTIVATION to want to come to God's colleges with purpose and to do their very best to grow, to give and to serve!

Another matter along this same line involves the continuing reports that the Church has or will soon tell the people to stop having babies. This report has spread even so far as Australia! Many young couples are concerned and asking about it, and Letter Answering Department is writing that each couple needs to make up their own minds in view of prophecy unfolding.

Let me make it plain that we HAVE NOT stated that young couples should stop having babies! Mr. Armstrong has stated on one or two occasions that the time MAY COME -- in the future -- when we will need to tell young couples that it would be "best" not to have any more children. But he has NOT said that the time is now or that young people should stop having children in the immediate future. Certainly many hundreds of young people are constantly getting married in God's Church -- and having children as a normal, natural outcome of such unions. So make this plain to the brethren, and let them know that it comes straight from Headquarters!

Also, many of us travelling to the field, including Mr. Waterhouse, have noticed that there is still a SERIOUS lack of proper childrearing practiced among Christ's very own ministers and their wives! Some of our children are out-right rebels and OBVIOUSLY so to the congregation! Not only through "reports" from others, but from very definite personal observation I could name names of some of you to whom this applies.

You don't seem to look at your children objectively -- noting whether or not they obey quickly, quietly and do exactly what you tell them or not. Rather, some of your children will not only argue or "fuss" back at you, make excuses, act like they don't hear, but in some cases will literally "wrestle" with you to prevent your bodily MAKING them obey! Often, some of our minister's wives and even a few of the ministers themselves constantly admonish, reprove, talk and "reason" with their children over disobedience and rebellion, but will not SPANK! And it is interesting and very amusing to me to note that a few of our ministerial families "spank" in exactly the same manner and with exactly the same force that I often use in giving my boys little "love pats!" In other words, you do not spank NEARLY hard enough to really SHAKE UP the child and make him FEAR to do wrong again!

DON'T think that the local Church members -- by the dozens or hundreds -- don't recognize your inadequacy along these lines and occasionally talk about it among themselves! Sure, they may smile about it and decide that they love and respect you "anyway." But you are still NOT setting the right example for them or the many others who will not have the respect they should and really NEED your proper example plus your perceptive teaching to help them. The same thing applies to many of you who have older, teen-age boys and girls who constantly have a sort of smirk or scornful look on their face toward you, toward God's other ministers and all in authority, and who talk, act and dress in the style of the world -- NOT that of Jesus Christ and His Church!

Also, all of us should really work and inspire our teen-age children to try to set the right EXAMPLE to others in the congregation. How many of your sons and daughters are really a shining "light" of obedience, warmth, enthusiasm for God's Work and Way and service to others? Certainly it would be wonderful if more of our young people could be encouraged to go up to the elderly men and women with warm smiles of love and encouragement, visit with them, offer to help them and make them realize how truly different God's Church is -- even in these ways! So let's all, including all of us here at Headquarters, take these things to heart and work on them as we certainly need to do!

One problem on Ministerial Expenses some of you have asked about is this: Is it possible for your meal allotment of \$5.50 per day to be a cumulative figure? The answer is, yes, it can be. You can let those under you know that this cumulative application of the \$5.50 allotment is okay when necessary. That means, of course, that you may not have breakfast or lunch at all out of the allotment and therefore would be able to spend more for dinner, etc. But, of course, it should not be abused. Our object -- which we sincerely feel is your object also as Christ's

servant, and must be -- is to SAVE God's Work money. So we hope that our men will generally eat breakfast at home and often take a sack lunch at noon to save time and money.

In this way, they will generally not need to use up their entire allotment for the day. And that way, when there is something truly "special" where they need to go over the allotment it will very rarely be questioned.

Also, here is a good suggestion one of the ministers sent in. For those of you who are travelling on the toll road and toll bridges back East, it is far better to buy Commuter Toll Books. In addition, this minister purchased a \$40.00 toll plate to use on New York State Thruways which will save God's Work over \$100.00 in the course of a year, he says. Also, tickets for bridges are savings too, if bought in bulk or in Commuter Books.

Some have asked about us making a map light standard in all of our cars since some of you need one. However, in checking, we have found that most actually do not use or need one. So we're asking you to purchase these for ten to fifteen dollars through your local Chrysler dealer if you really need one and put it on your expense book where it will be approved.

Well that about winds things up for this time -- and I have actually been delayed nearly a week in getting this letter out because of special meetings and problems that have come up. However, we will certainly look forward to seeing many of you in the not-too-distant future at the Ministerial Conference and at the various District Conferences around the country.

IMPORTANT: All of you except Evangelists and District Superintendents who come every year anyway, please let us know SOON the dates of the last two Ministerial Conferences you attended here in Pasadena! This will be of great help to us in properly and fairly deciding on who should come in this year. So let us know the last two conferences you attended -- if there were two -- so that we will get more of an overall picture of how much contact you have been able to have with Headquarters in the last three to six years or so. Also, for your information, let me state that the Ministerial Conference this year will begin at 2:30 p. m. on Monday, January 8, and will close at approximately 12 noon on Thursday, January 18th. Mr. Armstrong has said to plan the conference in the same way as we did last year -- so this will allow all of you, including you men overseas to have a day and a half to arrive after the Sabbath, to get settled and be in our first meeting on Monday afternoon.

Several other items keep coming which I do not feel wise to include in this letter and make it too long and too bulky. So I'll try to write again

in a few days if possible. Meanwhile, again, THANK YOU, very much, for the tremendous job most of you are doing in working with and visiting your members this past year! The report that I cited to you was certainly encouraging and inspiring to all of us here at Headquarters, and I am sure that with Christ's help we will thus be enabled to build up and edify His Body with increasing effectiveness in the future. So keep up the good work, please pray for us here at Headquarters in all of our varied responsibilities and so that we, too, won't make too many mistakes! Our love to all of you and your families.

With love, in Jesus' name,

Rodrick C. Meredith