

FILE

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RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Minister

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Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from Big Sandy! Here I am writing again from our Texas campus during my annual spring "pilgrimage"! It's sure good to be here and gives me a wonderful opportunity--as Mr. Ted Armstrong has requested--to get better acquainted with the leading men who may be going into the Field Ministry later, to teach the classes here which I have sort of pioneered in teaching at Pasadena and to bring special inspirational assemblies, forums, Bible Studies and sermons with special news from Headquarters and things about the Work.

Everything is going real fine here and the students are very enthusiastic, bouncy and responsive. As I have mentioned before, there is a special warmth and zest here on this campus that is unique. However, because of the situation out in the country away from any major city, the students and even Church members do get a little out of touch with the "feel" of this fast-moving age and the need to press on quickly in getting the Work done. So occasional trips back here by Messrs. Herbert W. and Garner Ted Armstrong, Mr. Portune, myself and others is needed and helpful--and certainly provides a blessing for us in the geographical and psychological change afforded by this beautiful campus.

Now a BIG event is taking place for the College and the Church area this weekend! Mr. Herbert Armstrong is planning to be here for a special concert this Saturday night by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. It will be held in our auditorium here at the College, and just as the concerts in Pasadena during the Ministerial Conference were helpful in enhancing our "image" in the community, we hope that this concert will have the same effect in Big Sandy and the surrounding area.

If everything goes as planned, our new jet will be delivered to us this Friday. Mr. Armstrong may return to Pasadena next week on the maiden flight on our own plane, piloted by our own crew.

The Pasadena students began using the new classrooms in the Loma D. Armstrong Academic Center last Monday. These two buildings, which are fully carpeted throughout, have the finest and most beautiful classroom facilities that I have ever seen. They certainly provide an

inspiring atmosphere for both the students and the professors, and the Center is a fitting tribute to Mrs. Armstrong's years of service in guiding and helping the students of the College.

In the past we have invited public officials and representatives of the building contractors for the dedication of new buildings, but Mr. Armstrong would like to have a private dedication for this Center. The date for it has not been set. Mr. Armstrong would then like to bring several members of Mrs. Armstrong's family and of his family to Pasadena for an official "open house" of the three buildings in the Center--the Fine Arts Building, Life Science Building and Ambassador Hall. At this time the public officials and others who are normally present at a dedication would be invited. At present this open house is planned for Wednesday, March 27.

Mr. Armstrong's trip to Jordan is tentatively being planned for the following Friday, March 29. He will go first to Bricket Wood where he will meet an official of the Jordanian government, Mr. Muktadie, who has made arrangements for Mr. Armstrong to have an audience with King Hussein. The king has agreed to meet with Mr. Armstrong if the international situation does not require his absence from Jordan at that time.

The political situations in both Jordan and Belgium have recently been in the news, as many of you may have noticed. In both of these tiny nations where God has given us special favor in the eyes of kings, political unrest and an undercurrent of opposition threaten to topple the present regimes. This could hardly be a coincidence! It is as if Satan were diligently seeking to subvert and sabotage this Work in an effort to slam shut the doors God is opening for us in an unusual way. King Hussein is the acting monarch of Jordan, which just happens to be the nation that controls Petra. And King Leopold--although he isn't the reigning monarch of Belgium--exerts a great influence in the government as a counselor to his son, King Baudouin. Perhaps it is significant that God has given us favor in the government at Brussels--which is presently the location of the European Common Market Headquarters. God must have a definite purpose for giving us access to these kings, and in spite of Satan's opposition, as long as God wants these doors open, they will remain open!

According to the man who arranged Mr. Armstrong's visit with King Leopold, the King was very pleased with the visit. He emphasized that there was "not one single breach of protocol" during Mr. Armstrong's visit. He was quite pleased that the College could use the films, and he is looking forward to the visit to Pasadena that is being planned for some later date.

I have a couple of birth announcements to give you now. Mr. and Mrs. Don Waterhouse announced the birth of their son, Roy Alan, on February 15. He weighed eight pounds.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Nettles also announced the birth of a son--William David. Weighing seven pounds and twelve ounces, he was born on March 1. We were especially happy to hear of this birth because Mr. Nettles had talked to me just last year about his wife being unable to have a baby, according to a doctor she had seen. She was anointed a year and a half ago for this, and God has now blessed them with a healthy son!

In the way of Church news, on March 2 the new Church in Lufkin, Texas began with 153 in attendance, and the new St. Joseph, Missouri Church began with an attendance of 170. The new Baton Rouge Bible Study began on February 28 with 105 in attendance. Boston, Massachusetts began last Sabbath, but the attendance figures are not yet available. Coming up this Sabbath will be the first services in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Mr. Cecil Battles will pastor this new Church along with the Church in Albuquerque.

Several more new Churches are in the planning stage, and I'll give you the news on them whenever the plans are firmed up.

Now for some INSTRUCTION:

Now that all of you have received the new instructions in regard to Spokesman Clubs and have instituted these changes into your Clubs, further clarification of a few points is needed. Some of you have assumed that because a Bible topic was introduced as a part of Tabletopics, now the men should be giving sermonette-type speeches in Club. This is not true! Most of the men are not qualified to give sermonettes and should not be encouraged to do so without your specifically appointing them to give a sermonette at the special meetings that will be held on four occasions during the year. At these special meetings, the speakers should normally give their regularly assigned speeches according to the order of speeches set down in the Manual. This will give them extra opportunities to speak and will mean that they can graduate from Club more quickly.

On the other hand, you can assign one or more men to give sermonettes at these special meetings in order to give them the experience--if you feel that they are ready. Be careful, however, that these men do not get the "big head" about it. You can be a little more lenient, perhaps, for these special meetings than you would in having the men give sermonettes to the Church, but the men should be humble enough to appreciate the opportunity for what it is without getting puffed up about it.

And in case some of you did not fully understand this before, these special meetings should not be planned as Ladies' Nights. In that situation you could not evaluate the men as critically as you could otherwise.

Ambassador Clubs differ somewhat in their purpose since the men receive intensive speech instruction in classes. For this reason Ambassador Clubs will not have the special meetings, and sermonettes will not be

assigned in Ambassador Clubs. Besides the experience obtained by being on the sermonette list, sermonette training for Ambassador students should be limited to Advanced Public Speaking class.

I recently learned that some of you have put your ministerial assistants in Spokesman Club and evaluated them even more strictly than the rest of the men. This deprecates them in the eyes of the men and should not be done! You could perhaps use them as a Club President and evaluate them just as you do the others, but you should reserve any real correction for later so that this can be done in private. In many cases it would be better to use these men to help you evaluate the Club rather than in this way, however.

✓ Many of you have been very cooperative in voluntarily asking us to reduce your expense allotment and in keeping your expenses down, and we appreciate that very much. Some of you, however, have been eating too many meals on the Work. As a rule dinner would be a legitimate expense if you were visiting in the afternoon and evening, or had a Bible Study or Club (but except in rare cases where you had stayed overnight away from home in a motel somewhere or on the Sabbath when you are traveling between two Churches, breakfasts and lunches should be paid out of your own pocket.)

We all have to buy lunch, regardless of where we work. We at Headquarters are not subsidized, nor does any company subsidize their employees unless they are salesmen who are expected to take clients to lunch or unless a union has wrangled it as a fringe benefit. All of you should likewise provide your own lunch the vast majority of the time.

We realize that District Superintendents and office managers will have occasions to take others out to lunch, and they may do so out of their expense allotment.

But fellows, let's all remember the human tendency to take advantage of our blessings. This is an added blessing that you have--being able to put your dinner on your expense account when you are out working and cannot eat at home. Just because you have to take your lunch out of your own pocket, don't feel you "owe yourself" a steak every night. Occasionally, you can have a more expensive meal for dinner, but normally you should choose a moderately priced one.

If each of you will take it upon yourself to watch yourself in regard to what you eat or what you buy on the Work, this won't be a problem in the future. In most cases, I'm sure it has been just a matter of not considering it in this way.

The Work is certainly moving ahead in every way. As a preview, present plans call for two booklets to be offered in the next semi-annual letter. These will be the new booklet on "dating" (no title as yet) and the Bible Story, Volume VI. As mentioned as a possibility in the Weekly Comments last week, we did have an all-time record in income last week, but the increase over last year was only 13% for the week, bringing the percentage for the year down to 26%. We do need your continued prayers that God will provide the needed increase. Now, as never before, we all must put our whole hearts into God's Work--both in our prayers for the Work and in our zeal as we carry out the particular jobs God has given each of us.

Your servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Roderick C. Meredith". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being the most prominent.

Roderick C. Meredith

