

# WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG  
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF  
RODRICK C. MEREDITH, Second Vice-President

December 24, 1968

Dear Fellow Ministers,

Greetings again from Headquarters! God is certainly blessing His Work right now. The response to the Semi-Annual Letter and to Mr. Armstrong's recent Co-Worker Letter has shot the income up to a 53 percent increase over last December and a 52.4 percent increase in mail! A week ago last Sunday we set an all-time single-day record, and last week we set the weekly record for income! Also, by last Thursday our income and mail receipts had already passed the totals for the entire month of December last year!

Mr. Herbert Armstrong flew back Thursday morning to Big Sandy to meet Dr. Benjamin Mazar, the director of the archeological excavation in which we are now cooperating. Dr. Mazar came to Big Sandy to visit the Campus and address the students there before coming to Pasadena. Dr. Mazar, who was formerly the president of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is one of the most important men in educational and archaeological circles in Israel, and he is highly regarded by the government officials in Israel. Mr. Armstrong, on his recent trip to Israel, was able to meet the president of Israel and other high government officials who were at a cocktail party Dr. Mazar gave for Mr. Armstrong.

God has certainly given Mr. Armstrong and Ambassador College favor in the eyes of Dr. Mazar and his associates, and we expect this visit to solidify an already warm, friendly relationship that has developed.

As a result of our cooperation in this joint archaeological venture, we are going to send 50 students to Jerusalem this summer to work on the dig -- probably 15 from Pasadena, 10 from Big Sandy and 25 from Bricket Wood since it is closer. The students will pay most of their expenses for the trip, but it will provide an excellent opportunity for them!

Coming in the future -- sometime in the next year or two -- as a result of our participation in this project are two one-half hour documentary films on the project. We will produce these films, and we hope they can be shown, perhaps as a public service, on many television stations as well as in local Church areas for the members to see.

Mr. Ted Armstrong also left Thursday for Cape Kennedy along with Mr. Norman Smith and a television crew to record the Apollo VIII space shot on Sabbath morning. They will then go to Dallas for meetings of the National Association for the Advancement of Science on December 26-30 where they will conduct interviews and gather information for future telecasts and PLAIN TRUTH articles.

We have had some breakthroughs recently in having several television stations open up time to us. Some of these are listed in the December PLAIN TRUTH, which is now being mailed out, but several aren't. Beginning on January 18, we will be on KTLA, Channel 5, Los Angeles. This station will replace KWHY, a VHF station which is not reaching many people at all. The time at first will be 11:30 P. M. on Saturday night, but will be moved back to 10:30 as soon as the station can clear the time. We consider this to be a good time in this metropolitan area in which people in general stay up late and watch television -- especially on Saturday night.

Among the other new stations which have already begun carrying The WORLD TOMORROW telecast or will begin soon are stations in Buffalo, New York; Pembina, North Dakota; and Spokane, Washington. The Spokane station is carried by cable over into the Okanagan Valley in Canada and will reach a large Canadian audience. In fact, all of these stations, except KTLA, reach into Canada very well and for that reason we are able to finance them from the Canadian income. We also now have a station in Edmonton, Alberta which has a network of other stations in Alberta which carries the program. These new stations and network should vastly enlarge our television coverage!

Some more good news for those living in the Okanagan Valley is that we are now on a network of three radio stations at 8:30 P. M. daily in that area. We were taken off the air there in 1964 because religious bigots in that area put pressure on the radio station officials. We were able to get back on in Kelowna from 1965 to 1967, but then the same pressure was brought to bear upon the officials, and we were off again for a year. Now God has opened up cable television as well as daily radio broadcasts into the area!

Some more big news relating to the same area is that we are going to have a Feast site in Penticton, Alberta this year! Rather than having a Feast in Long Beach, the brethren in the Headquarters area will be able to get out of the smog and go up to Squaw Valley to enjoy the Feast. And the Oregon, Washington, and Canadian brethren will then be able to attend the Feast at

Penticton. You'll be getting more details later on, perhaps, after the plans are completed.

A new Bible Study in North Bay, Ontario, began on November 24 with an attendance of 72. Mr. Gary Antion will be taking this monthly Bible Study.

And we are starting a bi-monthly Bible Study in Hagerstown, New York on January 1. It will be taken by Mr. Kenneth Westby.

In the way of baby news, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Pyle announced the birth of their daughter Elizabeth Denise on Thanksgiving Day. She weighed 8 pounds and 4 ounces.

On November 25, Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Henson announced the birth of their son, Brett Darren, weighing an even 8 pounds.

Mr. and Mrs. James Redus announced the birth of their son, James Darrell, on December 7. He weighed a whopping 11 pounds!

And on December 15, after having three daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wooten thankfully announced the birth of their 7-pound, 4-ounce son, James Matthew.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryce Clark named their son Robert Stuart. He was born on December 17 and weighed 7 pounds and 2 ounces. Congratulations to all of you on your new additions!

I had the unpleasant responsibility of announcing this past spring that one of our local elders, Mr. Tom Justus, had been disfellowshipped. I am very happy to inform all of you now that he has been reinstated -- not, of course, as an elder, but as a member. Actually we found that Mr. Justus had never been baptized by any of our ministers but that we had accepted his previous baptism which, as it turned out was not valid. He has now come to see himself fully, has repented and been re-baptized. He now has a fine attitude and we were all extremely happy to receive him back as a brother in God's Church.

Now for some INSTRUCTION:

We have noticed at times that ministers have written on visit slips that they had invited a new prospective to Church since he was "ready for baptism and would be baptized as soon as the opportunity permits," but after six weeks we still had no record of his being baptized! People should be baptized when they are ready -- within a week or ten days -- and not put off until a group gets together.

Also, I want to caution all of you to make new prospectives who show up at Church more welcome. We had a report that one person overheard a minister tell someone to "keep her out until we have investigated her." We need to be warm and friendly to such individuals and very discreet in

our comments. Some of them might be offended and stumble as a result of the treatment they receive at the first service. We certainly don't want this to happen if we can possibly avoid it!

Regarding these prospectives, it is very important that we all get out on and follow through on our prospective member visits regularly! Prospective members -- or, in business, prospective customers, are the life blood of any organization. So I hope that all of you will give increased attention to this phase of your visiting.

I would suggest that most of you let your local elders and visiting teams take many or most of the regular or routine member visits. Those of you who are pastors of Churches should take the prospective member visits, the baptizing counsellings, the College-prospect evaluation visits, the divorce and remarriage counsellings and the problem visits primarily. If you are the one who first visits the new members, perhaps revisits and encourages them before baptism, then baptizes them, you will really know your people even better than just making routine visits later on. More important, all these new people will automatically look to you for help and advice as the leader of the Church and you -- who ought to be the best-trained man in the area -- will have the opportunity of inspiring and encouraging their early Christian growth, baptism, overcoming, etc. Also, we certainly want the preaching elders and pastors to give most of the evaluations of College prospects. You are the ones who have been most around Ambassador College and know the type of all-around, balanced yet intellectual type student we need for College-level work! And you are certainly the ones to handle the divorce and remarriage counsellings and the serious problem visits. So try to organize the visiting teams, the ministerial assistants and elders under you so that you can devote yourselves to these priority visits -- allowing them to make the overwhelming bulk of the routine member visits. Then, through the visit slips, reports, visiting team meetings and your constant general contact with the long-standing members in fellowship before and after services, Bible Studies, Spokesman Clubs, etc., you will maintain enough contact with the brethren in general to guide and help them as you should.

Remember Jesus' parable about leaving the ninety and nine and going out to search for and save the "lost" sheep. We need to start giving more attention to this by concentrating on the prospectives and the problems, and this will certainly result in building up God's Church spiritually and numerically as well as resulting in a fine increase in the income of the Work of God!

All of us here at Headquarters are becoming very budget-conscious as a result of the tight financial situation the Work is in -- not because the income is continually down, but because of the tremendous needs of the Work. One area of the budget that we could possibly reduce is in the purchasing of new cars. Our policy now is that all who are preaching elders

or pastors can drive Chrysler Newports rather than Plymouth Furies. We probably won't change this policy, but some of you could save the Work quite a bit of money if you would voluntarily ask for a Fury rather than a Newport. The 1969 Furies are big, fine cars, and they are very adequate in every way for the needs of most of you. Those of you who will be receiving new cars soon should at least consider this, and please let us know if you would like the Fury instead of a Newport.

Well, that about winds up another letter. Please continue to pray for us and for the Work. We'll be looking forward to seeing many of you at the Conference!

Your brother in Christ,



Roderick C. Meredith

P. S. I'll be sending information in just a few days about who will be attending the Conference this year besides the evangelists and District Superintendents. We have not been able to meet with Mr. Armstrong yet on this because of all his trips, etc.

Also, I've just been asked by Mr. John Wilson to mention to you that many of the brethren want us to credit their 1968 tithe receipt with amounts they send in at the last minute. But we cannot legally do this UNLESS it is post-marked December 31 at the latest. So please announce this -- and encourage the brethren to keep on giving and praying so the wonderful December increase will be maintained until the end of the month.

