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# WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG  
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF  
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Second Vice-President

March 12, 1969

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Headquarters! We have been very busy since the Conference, and with Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread just three weeks away, we will hardly get caught up before many of us leave for various areas at that time. Very soon after that we'll be caught up in the year-end activities here at College, as well as involved in the planning of the new assignments and changes in the Field this summer. But I'm sure all of you feel just as pressed in your various responsibilities. It truly is an exciting, busy life we've been called to in God's Work!

Mr. Armstrong is in Jerusalem right now. He left last Tuesday, stopping off in Big Sandy and then going on to Washington on Wednesday. He had lunch on Wednesday with the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and afterward, he went with the chairman to listen in on a Senate Subcommittee hearing. Mr. Armstrong has had a friendly relationship for some time with the Chief Counsel for the FCC, but he had never met the chairman. The Chief Counsel, Mr. Cahill, arranged the appointment with the chairman so that Mr. Armstrong could get acquainted with him. This should be helpful in our dealings with the FCC in the future.

Mr. Armstrong went on to Bricket Wood on Thursday and then to Jerusalem from there, where he may still be.

Subject to Mr. Herbert Armstrong's approval, many of us from Pasadena and Big Sandy will be going out to various areas for Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. Most of us will be splitting our time, spending the first half of the Feast in one area and the second half in another area. Here is a list of the men and their respective areas: Mr. Ted Armstrong -- Big Sandy-Akron; Mr. Carrozzo -- Denver-Oklahoma City; Mr. Dart -- Australia; Mr. Hill -- Cincinnati-St. Louis; Mr. Kelly -- Oakland-Kansas City; Mr. Luker -- Detroit-Omaha; Mr. McCullough -- Atlanta (first half only); Mr. Plache -- Chicago-Minneapolis; Mr. Portune -- Bricket Wood; Mr. Waterhouse -- Seattle-Portland; and I will be going to New York and Washington, D. C.

In the way of other news, Mr. Alton Billingsley was recently transferred from the Pittsburgh area to Big Sandy to serve full-time on the Visiting Program in the Big Sandy area, and Mr. Herbert Magoon, formerly assigned to the Long Beach-Anaheim area, will be replacing him in Pittsburgh.

And I have a couple of baby announcements -- one of which I meant to mention last time but just forgot to include because I didn't have the information written down. Mr. Bill Cowan had called and given me the news of his wife giving birth to twin boys on February 13th! They weighed 7 pounds each, but they are evidently not identical twins. They named them Roderick Curtis and Ronald Lee. We are happy to congratulate them on this double blessing from God!

Also, Mr. and Mrs. John Khouri announced the birth of their son John Samuel on the Sabbath of February 22. I understand that Mrs. Khouri had a somewhat difficult delivery, this one being her first child, but God intervened and all is now fine. My congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Khouri, also.

Another major change and announcement is that Mr. Ted Armstrong -- now having Mr. Dart here as a right-hand man -- is again including the Canadian churches as part of the Foreign Work. So we in C. A. D. will not be working directly with you men in Canada anymore. But we will be giving whatever help we can to Mr. Dart, and hope to see all of you from time to time at the Feasts and the Conferences.

Also, let me say I am sincerely sorry for any temporary shock or inconvenience this may cause some of you District Superintendents who were helping administer some of the Canadian churches. But, until the fantastic response in the Foreign Work began to be apparent, neither Mr. Ted Armstrong nor any of us could foresee Mr. Dart's job here at Headquarters or any of the other events which have transpired. So take it in a positive way -- send in any information or suggestions you had about your former Canadian churches -- and rest assured that your District will be more than replenished in due time as Christ continues to bless His Work.

As I mentioned in my last letter and as Mr. Armstrong explained in the last Co-Worker letter, the rapid growth in the Work in recent months, coupled with a lower than normal increase in income so far in 1969, has resulted in a crisis in God's Work at this time. By projecting ahead, Mr. Portune could see that unless drastic steps are taken now, the Work will have depleted its reserve by this June, and we will be unable to meet our bills by that time. Therefore, just before he left for Jerusalem, Mr. Armstrong made the decision to cut back on advertising and on the number of radio stations carrying The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast.

X About 50 radio stations will be dropped, including Radio Amman in Jordan, and the ads in most of the Reader's Digest editions will be cancelled, as well as all newspaper advertising in Britain and Drive Magazine in Britain. We are now left with only the Reader's Digest editions in Britain, Australia-New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, Germany and France. The editions cancelled were the Asian, Indian, Caribbean, Belgium Flemish, Belgium French, Dutch, Swiss German, Swiss French, South African and Canadian French. For the present, we have retained the Canadian television stations -- which Mr. Armstrong had been considering dropping -- and also the ads in the LIFE Magazine and in the T. V. GUIDE in the United States.

By cutting back on these ads and on the number of radio stations, we will save a considerable sum of money, but in addition we have had to review every area of our total budget in order to trim as much as possible from each division. We were hard-pressed to significantly reduce the Ministerial budget since we had already decided back in December to hold down expenses as much as possible by letting Church attendances rise as high as 1,000 wherever possible. By doing this and curtailing the starting of new Churches in metropolitan areas, we will save a great deal on hall rentals. Of course, Churches in outlying areas will still be started as needed and as we have the manpower to do so.

We were, however, able to cut certain expenses, as I will explain, and these reduction will directly affect most of you in one way or another. One change that some of you will feel personally is that effective immediately, everyone except Evangelists and District Superintendents will receive Plymouth Furies when they order a new car. As I mentioned when I asked as many as would to voluntarily request a Plymouth Fury, the Plymouths are big, fine cars and are adequate in every way for the needs of most of you.

X Another major change -- subject to Mr. Herbert Armstrong's approval -- is that we are planning to limit local Bible Studies to every other week. This will save us quite a bit in hall rentals, and it will also free up another evening for visiting prospectives every other week for those of you who now have weekly Bible Studies. This changing of all weekly Bible Studies to an every-other-week basis will probably go into effect soon after the Passover. Exceptions will be made at the three campuses. These Bible Studies will still be held every week since they are held in our own facilities. Some few of you who have already contracted for a hall for a weekly Bible Study will also have to continue until you are able to set it up on a every-other-week basis. However, I need to know which of you are unable to make the change right away. Please send in a memo explaining the situation so that I'll be aware of it.

200 We will also save money by curtailing the number of summer assistants that we send out this year. We will send out a total of only

about fifteen or twenty from both campuses this summer. And we'll have to be much more careful about hiring local men full-time in the Work. So bear that in mind when you request that we hire any local men. We are already running over our budget, so will have to be very careful!

One other area that we can still cut down on is in expense allotments. The major item paid for out of the allotment we send you is meals. We sent out new guidelines to all of you last spring in regard to meal expenses, and this served to reduce somewhat the total spent on meals, but some have been careless in following those guidelines. I want to sincerely thank those of you who have been conscientious in carefully watching your expenses and especially meal expenses. Some have been more careful than we intended -- even going so far as paying for virtually all their meals out of their own pockets. I really appreciate this attitude, but I did not necessarily intend this at all.

Most of you have a legitimate need to eat out at least one or two times per week when you cannot eat at home, and you certainly may put this on your allotment. On the other hand, some take their families out to eat on the Sabbath or after the Sabbath when they don't really have to. In that case, it isn't a legitimate expense, and those who do this should pay for it out of their own pockets. I just wanted everyone to be aware of the need in the Work to reduce expenses -- especially at this time -- and remind you that if you don't need to eat out on expense, please either pay for it yourself or just wait until you get home to eat. I know that some do not stop to eat during the prime visiting time anyway but wait until they are ready to start home. Some then stop in a restaurant on the way home -- feeling they "owe" themselves a restaurant meal -- while others go on home and eat there.

Fellows, I don't object to this personally -- and we all know how generous Mr. Armstrong has been in such things. But we are really in a bind now, and I hope you fellows will join with us -- and with all of the employees in God's Work -- and really tighten your belts for a while. We may have to cut your food expenses in half as this would save many thousands of dollars every year if we did.

Are we willing?

As we discussed at a District Superintendents' Meeting at the Conference this year, the Visiting Program Training Class will enable us to make a much more efficient use of the local pastors. Teams of local graduates from the Visiting Program Training Class, led by Local Elders not in our employ can be given the responsibility of making most of the routine member visits. By visiting one night per week and every other Sunday, they would be able to help and encourage the local members on a regular basis. The Local Elders not in our employ would bring all

special problems or potential problems to the College-trained minister in charge for him to handle. This would free the local pastors to handle the problem visits, D & R cases, Prospective student evaluations and new prospectives. Since the V. P. T. C. will have covered the basics of visiting by Passover, we can plan on beginning this approach in visiting soon after Passover.

A recent report made by our IBM Department showed that 65 to 70% of our total income comes from members. This points up how vitally important it is for us to get out to visit and follow up on new prospectives in order to bring along as many as possible as quickly as possible in turning them into tithing members! We have a program in mind to help you in the follow-up on prospective members which involves the redesigning of the Visiting Card to help you schedule prospective member visits and some other changes -- all of which I'm sure you'll be pleased with when you see the program.

KNOW  
I have been intending to give you a schedule of the best time to reach me by telephone in case some might need to call in regard to special problems of one type or another. The best time in the morning is from 9 to 10 and from 11:15 to 12:15. Then, in the afternoon I am usually available from 2 to 4. So try to call me between those hours -- and at night if there is a real need or emergency.

We have noticed as a trend recently that many are going overtime in Church services and Bible Studies. As a reminder, the time limits are two hours for Church services and an hour and a half for Bible Studies. Outlying Bible Studies, however, can be two hours in length, although they don't have to be that long. Some are consistently going overtime by 15 to 30 minutes. This is, of course, no big thing, but I wanted to mention it to everyone so that all of you would be cautioned in this regard and reminded of the time limits.

And another reminder that Mr. Schreiber wanted me to pass on to you is in regard to purchasing shock absorbers. This has been explained previously, but some have apparently forgotten that they should always check with Headquarters before buying items such as shock absorbers. Most people don't know what shock absorbers are supposed to do, and they are high-profit, "racket" items that mechanics often try to sell to gullible individuals who don't know any better. So, be sure to check with the Transportation Department before buying shock absorbers. It could save us money!

On another matter that needs clarification, last year at the Conference we had said that if a member of God's Church marries outside the Church knowing that it is wrong, God would not bind the marriage, and the person would have to separate before being received back into the Church. Mr. Armstrong now feels that this is not true -- that God will bind the

marriage since marriage is a purely physical union. We have, therefore, changed this decision. If a member knowingly and willfully marries outside the Church, he could be disfellowshipped for rebellion, but the marriage is binding. If he later repents, he can be reinstated as a member, and he won't have to separate from the unconverted mate since the marriage is bound.

And one final point of instruction -- we have noticed on visit slips that some of you have been encouraging prospective members to attend Spokesman Club as guests, or in some cases encouraging them to join the Club. Spokesman Club membership, as outlined in the Manual, is for baptised members only. The only exception would be prospective College students that you feel would profit from the experience of being in Club for a few months before coming to College.

Well, that about wraps up another letter. I am sure that most of you realize, as Mr. Armstrong said in his last Co-Worker letter, that these cutbacks in the Work -- which have now become reality -- really are just temporary and are like the cocking of a gun. We are sure that the Work will bounce back and will shoot forward very shortly as never before! The austerity measures that we are putting into effect now to save money will enable us to accomplish just that much more in the future when the income picks up again!

Your servant in Christ,



Roderick C. Meredith

P.S. All local pastors recently received some forms labeled "Clergyman's Certification to the College Entrance Examination Board" from Mr. Kenneth Herrmann, the College Registrar. For those of you who did not understand what they are for, they are to request permission for any College applicants in your area to take the College Board Admissions Tests on Sunday rather than on Saturday as they are normally scheduled. Just complete a form for each applicant in your area who needs such certification in order to take the tests on Sunday. If you need more forms, you can make up facsimiles since these are not official in any way. A letter from you giving the information requested would serve just as well. Mr. Herrmann thought they would be helpful to you as a convenient way of making the formal requests required by the College Board.