

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

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PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF DEDICATION
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Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Headquarters! Mr. Herbert Armstrong is in Bricket Wood right now. Mr. Hunting and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown accompanied him on his trip over there, leaving a week ago this past Sunday.

Mr. Ted Armstrong, Mr. Portune and Mr. Dart are in Big Sandy. They went over last week and will probably return tomorrow.

Herr and Frau Hennig arrived on Tuesday, October 28, along with Dr. Alf Enseling, a representative of the West German government. They were on campus from Tuesday through Friday and Dr. Enseling took the assembly on Thursday. The visit went very well, and Dr. Enseling, whose official capacity could best be described as that of a public relations officer, seemed very impressed with the campus and the students.

One of our faculty members here at Pasadena, Dr. Robert Kuhn, who is a graduate of Ambassador College, recently had an article published in a science journal in South Africa. The journal, Probe '69, is published by the University of Witwaterstrand, Johannesburg. Dr. Kuhn received his Ph. D. at U. C. L. A., where he conducted research in cerebral cortex electrophysiology and molecular biology. The article was entitled "The Human Mind," and it clearly showed that the unique faculties of the human mind cannot be accounted for because of any basic physical difference between animal and human brain. Presented in scientific language from a scientific viewpoint, the article concludes that there must be some "essence" which we could term a "spirit" -- in man's brain " that transforms brain into mind. It just "so-happened" that in the same issue of the journal was an article on archaeology by one of Israel's foremost scholars, Dr. Yigael Yadin. He is a very influential man in Israel, and that issue of Probe '69 will no doubt be circulated among many of his fellow archaeologists.

In the way of "baby news," I have just one announcement -- that of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Botha who announced the birth of their daughter Lois. She was born on September 20 and weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces. Congratulations!

I don't yet have the attendance figure, but the Ponca City Church, pastored by Mr. Brian Knowles along with Tulsa, was scheduled to begin this Sabbath.

We recently received a very encouraging memo from Mr. Fred Kellers about three separate miracles which recently occurred in his area! I wanted to pass it along to all of you. Here is his memo:

"Thought you might like some good news from out here. We've had two children in this area run over on a hard paved surface, without any damage!

"One of our members had one of his children run over by a tractor, on a hard paved surface but absolutely without harm to the child!

"Another member's 7-year-old son had a large heavy car drive over him on a paved driveway. A lady accidentally backed over the boy and stopped when she heard people yelling. She got out and looked and the tire was directly on top of the boy's pelvis. She got back in the car and continued to back over him until the car was off of him, and then he was rushed to the hospital. Outside of having tire marks across him, he was uninjured. The doctors were stunned! This was just yesterday.

"That reminds me of another recent occurrence. One of our members who is a father of nine children was accidentally electrocuted while doing some repair work -- I think on his job. They said that he was black and surely gone when they picked him up. He was at services the next Sabbath!"

I recently learned that only about 65% of the heads of member households have ordered a 1969 ENVOY. The ENVOY is the greatest single tool that we can place in the hands of our members to show the worldwide scope of this great Work and to help them better pray for the various facets of the Work. Please encourage any of your members who have not done so to order an ENVOY right away. This year's "special" edition will be an expanded edition like that of 1966 -- only it will be larger, finer and more beautiful.

Also, we are getting many inquiries about ENVOY receipts. So that everyone will understand how these are being handled this year, please read the following announcement from the ENVOY office to all the Churches:

"The 1969 ENVOY will be distributed at the Spring Feast of Unleavened Bread. We will not send out any acknowledgment of receiving orders until just before the ENVOY is ready. At this point we will mail out ENVOY RECEIPTS. The ENVOY receipt will be the only way you can pick up your 1969 ENVOY at the Spring Feast. Just enough ENVOYS will be shipped to each Feast area to handle the number of orders we have from the churches attending that area. All not picking up their ENVOY at the Feast will have it mailed to them after we receive the ENVOY receipts back here at Headquarters.

"Please do not write to Headquarters asking for receipts. If you do not know if you ordered an ENVOY be sure to write and ask us and we will let you know."

2 Some have asked whether it is all right for them to call the Transportation Department at Headquarters directly. As you know, our policy is that all calls to Headquarters be channeled through the Church Administration Department so that we can either take care of your needs or direct you to the one who can. The one exception to this policy is that -- in an EMERGENCY -- you may call the Transportation Department directly if it is strictly a Transportation Department problem. Usually a memo to the Transportation Department would suffice, but if an emergency situation arises in which you need to call about tires or repairs, etc., you may do so without going through the Church Administration Department.

3 For those of you who are not already doing so, it would be good if as a regular policy and procedure, you sent in New Prospective Cards on high school seniors or graduates who are still living at home. You should also make up separate file cards on them. This will be helpful in dealing with draft-age young men, and since it recognizes them as individuals, apart from their parents, it will help you in spending more time with them at an age when they need it the most.

I need to explain our policy on mileage reimbursements for Local Elders not in our employ. Because of the large number of men in this category now, it is costing the Work quite a bit of money to reimburse them for their automobile expenses. As a result, we are no longer going to reimburse them. You can help them hold their

expenses to a minimum by assigning them close-in visits, and the assistant can share the expenses. This same policy should be used for the men on the local Visiting Program who are not ordained as Local Elders.

We have noticed an increase lately, also, in the number and amount of mileage reimbursements being paid to full-time ministerial assistants. As I mentioned in my May 21 ministerial letter, we should keep these to a minimum. Assistants should go with you to the outlying Church area on the Sabbath, and should not be visiting on their own except in special circumstances -- and then visiting only older, stable members. When full-time assistants must use their own car, they can, of course, request reimbursement for their mileage.

4 I wanted to remind all of you to spend extra time in carefully going over the visit slips of the men on the local Visiting Program. Especially watch the advice they are giving. Are they giving advice that is too specific? Are they giving advice in business matters or in other areas in which they are not qualified? Is it good advice? We will be depending on you as the local minister to carefully check those visit slips on those local men. And, as more and more visits to the regular members are made by these local visiting teams, you need -- more than ever -- to be completely aware of the balance, wisdom and the kind of real spiritual help and instruction which these teams are imparting to the backbone of your churches!

Now that the Feast is past, let us remind ourselves again to really get out on the prospectives! If at all possible, do not let these pile up or "languish" until the original zeal of the people has cooled before you get out to visit them. I think you all know how many people are brought to a certain responsiveness by the broadcasts, magazines and literature, yet this can turn cold IF the follow-through does not come in time! So make this one of your BIG priorities in the weeks ahead. Remember Mr. Armstrong's very fine editorial in the October issue of TOMORROW'S WORLD where he explained to a third of a million people -- mostly NOT in the Church -- what this Work was all about and how we are called the "Church of God" and have ministers in different parts of the nation available to visit those who are interested. This and other such references now beginning to be made of the Church in TOMORROW'S WORLD and otherwise should give us a big boost in prospective members asking for visits!

5 So let us be thankful and zealous for the opportunity to serve these people. If God is directly calling them, let us make sure we do not fail to capitalize on this chance of reaching them while their interest is still

at, or near, its peak! Also, remember that many of them have only read the recent PLAIN TRUTH's and booklets which have spoken more of this work as an "educational program" rather than a strictly church activity. Try to mentally prepare yourself before each prospective member visit to talk to them in this kind of language -- at least at first -- rather than assuming that they are ready to be baptized, attend a "different" church than the one they grew up in, etc. Ask friendly leading questions to find out how much they really know about the church and technically about the Bible before boring in on strictly technical, Biblical-type subjects or discussions. If their interest is still genuine, proceed very slowly in introducing strictly Biblical language and emphasis into the visit. Rather, remembering and reviewing Mr. Armstrong's PLAIN TRUTH editorial of the last year, continue to discuss with them the overall meaning of life, the laws and principles of success and how intervention by an "outside power" is the ONLY solution to the mounting problems affecting every facet of our society. Being discreet, therefore, and noting their response, understanding and interest, you will be able to proceed slowly and lead them -- not drive them -- into the stronger spiritual truths as they are able to bear them in succeeding visits.

This year's Ministerial Conference will be held, as planned, from Monday afternoon, January 12, through Thursday morning, January 22. It appears, with Mr. Armstrong's final approval still pending, that it may be a somewhat larger conference than last year so that more of you who have not come for some time may be able to attend! In any event, please write to me as soon as possible giving me any ideas, suggestions, questions or information which would help us in preparing a profitable format for this year's Ministerial Conference.

Remember, we are not any more pursuing every difficult or technical Biblical subject in these large Ministerial Conferences. However, you may still send these in and we will try to get to some of them either before or after the January Conference in the smaller Conference of Evangelists here at Headquarters. And if there are any general, basic, overall subjects that you think should be discussed in the January Conference, please let us know as we will appreciate any of your ideas and suggestions along these lines. Mr. Ted Armstrong and I have talked about the Conference and are hoping fervently that we will be able to cut back on the tremendous number of formal social activities this year. These are enjoyable, of course, but every night filled with concerts, basketball games, dances and dinners is simply TOO MUCH after ten or twelve days! So we are hoping that there will be more of an opportunity for a right balance of smaller Bible Studies, planning sessions, spiritual fellowship

and personal Bible study, prayer and sleep during the Conference this year!

6. Before closing, let me refer back to that last thought by saying that I hope all of you will continue to take time for your personal fervent prayer and Bible study so that God's spirit may flow mightily into you and out from you like rivers of living water. We all need to pray for one another that we do not get so busy running around like chickens with our heads cut off that we forget to emphasize this most vital contact with God and Christ. All of us need to spend more time in meditation -- as David did -- carefully and thoughtfully thinking things through to the ultimate conclusion. We need to analyze how we could do better, why God's spirit, power and miracles are not more evident in us, etc. In our personal study and meditation, we need to drink in of, mentally picture and virtually "live" in mind and spirit examples in the life of Christ, the early Apostles, etc., so that we in this Work may "walk with God" more fervently and closely than many of us are now doing. Also, in right balance, we all need to be willing to drive ourselves and sacrifice more than most of us are in Christ's Work -- perhaps experiencing more the life which Paul described in II Corinthians 11:18-33.

I hope you will pray earnestly for those of us here at Headquarters for we need much help in order to live this way -- just as you in the Field do also. There are so many, many administrative involvements, activities, etc., that it is very easy to be sidetracked.

Let us all, then, draw much closer to God and Christ that this Work will be done through His power more and more directly and obviously all the time. We will remember you, also, and will appreciate very much your prayers, your help, and your suggestions and ideas not only about the Conference but about any of our mutual responsibilities in the Work of our Head and Savior, Jesus Christ.

With Christian love,



Roderick C. Meredith