

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

May 14, 1969

OFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Second Vice-President

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Pasadena! Both of the College events which were held this past Sunday were especially outstanding this year. We had an excellent turnout for Field Day -- an estimated 1200 to 1300 spectators in addition to the participants. This was by far the best attendance we have ever had for Field Day. But the crowd -- even though relatively large for this College event -- was swallowed up and dwarfed by the vastness of the 103,000-seat Los Angeles Coliseum, as you can well imagine! Rather than having an all-day affair this year, the preliminaries were held previously, so the finals on Sunday lasted only two hours. This made it much more interesting and exciting. And a total of 15 records were set, out of 22 field events.

The Chorale Concert was also different from those of previous years in that this one had no formal, concert-type section as the first half of the program. Instead, since the Chorale had presented "Brahm's Requiem" earlier this year as a formal concert of "heavier" music, this concert consisted of two costumed productions of lighter music. These productions were, as I had mentioned last time, "The Student Prince" and "Brigadoon." Both productions were very enjoyable, and everyone agreed that this was the most professional production and the best performance, overall, ever given by the Chorale.

I didn't mention this last time as one of the planned activities, but the dedication ceremony and "Open House" for the new Hall of Administration has been scheduled for tomorrow afternoon, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong arrived back here last Friday, and Mr. Ted Armstrong, last Wednesday, as planned. Both had fine trips without any problems or incidents. Mr. Ted Armstrong mentioned that Chris Hunting is recovering very well from the automobile accident. He must still move slower than usual, but he is progressing remarkably, and the doctors there are dumbfounded by it!

There is another serious situation there at Bricket Wood, however, that I should call to your attention. Mr. John Portune's wife had encephalitis last year, and after she seemed to be recovering from that, a virus infection developed in one of her eyes. By dilating the eye and examining it recently, the doctor found that she had a malignant tumor inside. It is especially serious since it is the type of tumor which can seed to other parts of her body. The doctor wanted to operate and remove the eye right away, but they are, of course, trusting God for her healing. She has lost about one-half of her vision in that eye, and unless God intervenes, it could be fatal within a few years, depending on how fast it grows and whether it spreads. It would be tragic for Mr. Portune to lose his wife right in the prime of her life and with three small children to care for, and it would greatly hinder him in his responsibilities in the Ministry and on the faculty there at Bricket Wood. I'm sure that they would appreciate your prayers! Don't forget!

In the way of news of the Work, the increase in the income for this month is up to only 10.6 percent. As I mentioned last time, this is a serious situation, and with each passing week of below-average income, the financial picture looks worse and worse. The longer it remains below 30 percent, the harder it will be to make up the deficit later. It will take 35 percent to 40 percent increases for the rest of the year to recoup the lost ground. We have never, that I can remember, had such a low percentage of increase for the year -- just under 18 percent -- this late in the year.

One factor that has had a big effect on the income and perhaps explains partly the low percentage of increase thus far in 1969 is the loan situation. As you know, we have been seeking to reduce the amount of loans on our books, and therefore, we have not been actively seeking loans as we have in the past. While we were getting substantial loans which were figured in as income last year, we are not now getting large loans in the same way. One bright spot is that we may receive \$500,000 this year from the State of California for the sale of our old Press Building, which will have to be torn down next year because of the new freeway. If this payment comes through this year, this will certainly boost the income, but as of now, the financial situation is getting tighter, and your continued prayers are certainly needed!

Some have been wondering when a new manpower brochure will be published. The next issue of The GOOD NEWS -- the May issue -- will include maps showing the Churches and Foreign Offices, along with the manpower. This issue will be out within a few days. I should explain in advance that we up-dated the manpower lists to include the new elder assignments and the changes in the Field, but in order to get this special issue out this time, we did not take the time to have new maps drawn and laid-out showing the new Churches we are starting. As a result, those men starting new Churches this summer will appear as if they had only the one Church which is already existing.

That about wraps up the news for this time. In the way of instruction, Mr. Helge brought to my attention that unless we are very careful in advising people regarding donations of property to the Work, we can incur unnecessary taxes and reduce the amount of the donation. He suggests that two things be done to insure that this does not happen:

1. To advise the donor to take no steps whatsoever regarding the disposition of the property until such time as they have contacted Headquarters and discussed the tax consequences and the best legal procedure for doing so.
2. That the minister instruct the donor to write in immediately for such information as this will put us in immediate personal contact with the donor, which contact we must have in order to work the matter out.

I need to remind all of you, just in case some have forgotten, that you should not give the Visiting Program Training Class lecture material as sermons. You should reserve this material exclusively for the Class since we have definitely decided to have a class next year in those areas with a sufficient number of qualified men. You can, of course, use ideas from the lectures for sermons, but not verbatim sections or the outline itself. You should put in your own words any of the ideas you use and develop your own outline.

Also, I just received word that in at least one area, the local pastor duplicated the lessons and passed them out to the men in his class. This should never be done! Just as in classes in Ambassador College, the responsibility of taking notes and grasping the material presented in classes should fall on the men as a basic part of their training. There were instructions and clarifications that went out in memos and ministerial letters regarding the classes that we directed to the local ministers. Unordained men who did not receive the instructions and clarifications from Headquarters throughout the year should not receive copies of the lessons. Since we don't want these lessons duplicated and circulated throughout the Church, any of you who have given copies to unordained men should retrieve them at once. And since certain of the lessons will be revised next year, we will not send copies of this year's lessons to new elders who did not receive copies during this past year.

A District Superintendent recently brought to my attention a financial problem that one of the men in his district has been having. I have learned that many others, especially among the younger ministers, have similar problems. In the particular example I am citing, the minister has been in the Field several years and is over two Churches, but he has never learned to manage his finances by budgeting and living

within his income. Instead, he was constantly in debt and was paying the high interest rates of this world while trying to get caught up. He did not counsel and ask for guidance and help until the problem came to the attention of his District Superintendent.

After going through Ambassador College and having the classes in Family Relations, as well as the instruction available in the articles on the subject of finances and budgeting, none of you should ever have this type of problem in the first place. But if you do, you should counsel with the man over you and begin to solve the problem as soon as you recognize it. Don't go to the world for high-interest loans or go into debt for installment purchases in an attempt to solve the problem.

All too often this problem persists and is not solved because of a lack of communication. Many of you are not open enough with the man over you -- whether he be the local pastor if you are a local elder, or the District Superintendent if you are the pastor of a Church. Learn to talk your problems over with him and seek his advice and help. He will request a Third Tithe loan for you, if necessary, to help you get squared away, and he can help you set up a workable budget so that you can avoid a problem in the future.

Many of you think that you must live on the standard that you were accustomed to at Ambassador College just as soon as you get married. The Ambassador College standard is a goal to strive for and work toward -- not the standard you should expect immediately. You should raise your standard of living only as God prospers you. Don't try to seek blessings and ask for blessings before God has given them to you. Follow Paul's example of learning to be content with such things as you have (Phil. 4:11). Only in unusual circumstances should you ever go into debt to buy anything on credit with the possible exception of a home or a car, and most of you won't be buying either of these. Follow the policy of saving up money and paying cash for whatever you buy.

For your own good, I hope that those of you to whom this instruction and admonition applies will accept it and really take it to heart. We want to help you -- not make life uncomfortable or unpleasant for you. Be sure to pass these instructions on to your assistants, too, since many of them really need it!

I'll try to get another letter to you before Pentecost. We all need to stay especially close to God as the Day of Pentecost draws nearer so that He

can more effectively use us as His instruments to instruct and inspire His people on that day.

Your brother in Christ,

Roderick C. Meredith

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P. S. A sad announcement which I should include in this letter is that we were all very sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Clarence Huse's two-year-old daughter this past Sabbath morning. The first sign that she was sick at all came on Thursday night when she developed a fever, but she died unexpectedly in her sleep less than 36 hours later. It was later determined that she had spinal meningitis. Our hearts certainly go out to Mr. and Mrs. Huse, realizing what a deeply emotional blow this type of loss must be.

Also, I can now announce the plans for those going out to various areas for Pentecost. Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Ted Armstrong, Dr. Hoeh, Mr. Norman Smith and Mr. Apartian will be here at Pasadena. Mr. Portune will be going to Pittsburgh; Mr. Hill to Seattle; Mr. Dart to one of the Canadian Churches; Mr. McCullough to one of the Churches in his district or one of the Churches nearby; Mr. Luker to Oakland; Mr. Plache to Kansas City; Mr. Carrozzo to Denver; and I will be going to Indianapolis.

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