

WAYS TO USE V.P. UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM

DO NOT PROSELYTE NEW P.M.S. BUT DO FOLLOW UP INTERESTED P.M.S.

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

MINISTERIAL EXPENSE CUTBACK

WORLD HEADQUARTERS

URGENT NEED FOR HEALING

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

WITHIN THE CHURCH.

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOROFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Minister

December 16, 1969

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Headquarters! As I mentioned last time, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Portune and Mr. Rader are now in Israel. Mr. Ted Armstrong is in Big Sandy. He will probably return at the end of the week.

✓ The semi-annual returns are continuing to come in very well. So far we have had 137,000 returns here at Pasadena alone -- which is a 10.6% response. Based on current returns, it appears that the response may be up to about 20% by the time they are all in. The new weekly mail record set last week turned out to be 127,986 letters.

✓ Last week we broke practically all our mail records, and it looks like we may break most of our mail income records this week. We set a new Sunday income record with \$282,358 this past Sunday, and a new "weekend" (Sunday and Monday) income record with \$425,264 in mail income over the weekend. The weekly record now stands at \$891,191, but we hope to break it by the end of the week. We are going for our first million-dollar week in the history of God's Work!

✓ In spite of these excellent income totals, our percentage of increase for the month of December is still only about 10%. The old income records were set during this same period last year, so we are going up against very high totals for last December.

In the way of baby announcements, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Aust announced the birth of their daughter, Crystal Ann, on November 11. She weighed 7 pounds.

And although I don't know the name or the date of birth, Mr. and Mrs. Graemme Marshall recently announced the birth of a 7½ pound son.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Swagerty are also the happy parents of a son, Terry Wayne. He was born on December 1 and weighed 8 pounds and 11 ounces.

Congratulations to all of you!

I want to remind all of you that prospective members should not be attending Spokesman Club. As the Ambassador-Spokesman Speech Manual explains, Spokesman Clubs are for baptized members only. We recently received a visit slip on a prospective member which mentioned that he had just given speech number three in Club. This means that he had been attending Club for at least two months as a prospective member! As I have explained in the past, the only exception to this policy would be a young man who has been accepted for Ambassador College.

1. On another matter, it recently came to my attention that in at least one Church area, an official "Church nurse" had been appointed. This should never be done! While it is fine for deaconesses and other Church ladies to help out from time to time when individuals in a local Church are sick, we do not want to appoint an official Church nurse or even intimate that the Church provides any kind of medical assistance or advice. In matters of healing and medicine, our only responsibility is to inform our members what the Bible says with regard to faith and healing. It is strictly up to them then, before God, what they do about their physical infirmities or sicknesses, and it is strictly up to them to seek medical counsel or advice if they so choose. Mr. Herbert Armstrong has recently made it clear that this is an area in which we must be very careful in order to avoid problems that could affect the entire Work.

I just received a report that some of our members have been involved in sending "chain letters" to other members. One of the letters reads:

"This is a Recipe Club. Please send one of your favorite recipes to the name at the top of the list. There is no money involved and it's legal, so don't break the chain. Within the next four days send six copies of this letter to your friends"

Our members should not be involved in this kind of activity. In order to stop the letters, please make an announcement in your congregations to this effect.

2. As a result of the modified visiting procedures I explained in a recent letter, some have wondered whether local Visiting Programs would be profitable now that we will be making general member visits only on request. Although they may not make as many visits under these new guidelines, they can still serve a very useful purpose in the

local areas. As I had mentioned, they can visit the elderly, sick and widows -- including "spiritual widows" who live apart from their husbands and therefore need more help, guidance and advice than the average member.

Another group which could be added to this category are new members. They need special attention in the first few months after baptism because they continually have questions regarding this new Way of life. But many new members will not approach a minister to initiate the request for a visit because they feel the ministers are too busy, etc., even though they may have some specific questions they want to discuss and would like a visit.

Therefore, for these special cases I've mentioned -- the elderly, sick, widows and new members -- you, or someone on the Visiting Program, could ask them from time to time if they would like a visit.

Also, those of you who have been moved to a new area could use this same approach in scheduling general member visits with the average members until you have the "feel" of the new congregation and until you get to know many of them. Be sure, however, that the member knows in advance that you will be stopping by and that you will be welcome at that time. We want to eliminate the "drop in" visits and the "general visits" which were not requested, which served little useful purpose and which were often unwanted.

Since many members expect to be visited sometime, even without requesting it, it might be good to make an announcement in Church to the effect that we will not be making general member visits unless the members request them. Let the brethren know that if they would like a visit they should request it and that you are always available for counseling about a serious problem or a major decision they must make. In those areas which have Local Visiting Programs, encourage the members to take advantage of the help that is available by requesting a visit when they need counsel on a matter that is not serious or when they have questions they would like to discuss with someone on the Visiting Program.

3. On another matter, we have been reviewing our follow-up procedures on prospective members. As we have often stated, we are not a "proselyting" organization. In our desire to help prospectives who need prodding, however, we have, in some instances, followed procedures that appear to be "proselyting." We want to eliminate some of this approach in our follow-up on prospectives. In the past we have encouraged you to check back on those who were not interested and who have not gotten in touch with you to request a revisit. We certainly want to make ourselves available to those who sincerely want revisits, but if a prospective is obviously not interested and does not express a desire for another visit, we should leave it completely up to him to request any future visits.

Just leave your card and let him know that you've enjoyed visiting with him and that he should write or call you if he ever wants another visit. ~~It is not our responsibility to "drop by" later on or to call or write him to find out if he is interested in another visit. If he does not get in touch with you to request another visit within six months, just delete him.~~ If he becomes more interested later, he will call or write you, or he will write to Pasadena again.

On the other hand, if a prospective is obviously interested, and you can see that God is dealing with him, even though he may not be very far along, you should make a real effort to follow up properly and give him the help he needs and wants. ~~You could ask him at the close of the visit whether he would like for you to stop by again.~~ If so, make a tentative appointment and revisit him within a couple of weeks after the first visit and within a month after the second visit.

Now for the GOOD NEWS of who will be coming in for the Conference this year. As usual, all of the men to come in will be able to bring their wives, but we generally recommend that most of you leave your children at home with competent babysitters. Small babies who are being breast fed would be exceptions, of course. All Evangelists and District Superintendents will be coming in this year and also all full-time Elders in the Headquarters District. In addition, the following ministers, in alphabetical order, have been assigned to come in this year:

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| x Richard Ames | x Charles Dorothy |
| x Gary Antion | x Guy Engelbart |
| x Gary Arvidson | ✓ Robert Fahey |
| Elbert Atlas | x Paul Flatt |
| x Hal Baird, Jr. | Roger Foster |
| x John Bald | Bill Freeland |
| x Clarence Bass, Jr. | x James Friddle, Jr. |
| x Robert Bertuzzi | x Clarence Gould, Jr. |
| Karl Beyersdorfer | John Halford |
| David Bierer | x Vernon Hargrove |
| Lowell Blackwell | Michael Hechel |
| Arch Bradley | Selmer Hegvold |
| Fred Brogaard | Darryl Henson |
| Charles Bryce | x Roy Holladay |
| Allen Bullock | Robert Hoops |
| Carn Catherwood | x Gene Hughes |
| x Benjamin Chapman | x Harold Jackson |
| William C. Cowan, Jr. | Ray Jantzen |
| Keith Crouch | James Jenkins |
| ✓ Gerald Crosswell | Robert Jones |
| x Al Dennis | x Fred Kellers |
| Walter Dickinson, Jr. | x Ronald Kelly |
| x James Doak | x George Kemnitz |
| x ✓ Arthur Docken | John Khouri |

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|----------------------|-------------------|
| × James Kunz | × Daryl Reedy |
| Donald Lawson | × Richard Rice |
| Robert Lay | John Robinson |
| Harold Lester | Earl Roemer |
| ✓ Allen Manteufel | Enrique Ruiz |
| Graemme Marshall | Larry Salyer |
| Ernest Martin | × ✓ Frank Schnee |
| Kenneth Martin | × ✓ Dale Schurter |
| × Frank R. McCrady | Ivan Sell |
| ✓ Carl E. McNair | × Walter Sharp |
| ✓ George Meeker, Jr. | Harry Sleder |
| Ronald Miller | Edward Smith |
| Piet Michielsen | Gordon Terblanche |
| John Mitchell | Rufus Turner |
| × Leroy Neff | Larry J. Walker |
| Carl O'Beirn | Leon Walker |
| × Richard Pinelli | × Glen White |
| Albert Portune, Jr. | Milo Wilcox |
| John Portune | Richard Wilding |
| Richard Prince, Jr. | × Colin Wilkins |
| × John Pruner | Dean Wilson |
| Donald Prunkard | William Winner |
| Dennis Pyle | |

That's quite a list! We are certainly looking forward to having all of you men and your wives here. We would like to have everyone coming in stay with someone here if at all possible, rather than paying motel bills for this ten-day period -- which begins the afternoon of Monday, January 12. In order that we can have this information available for those here at Headquarters who would like to invite some of you to stay with them during the Conference, I'd appreciate it if all of you coming in would let me know where you plan to stay. Those of you who have not yet been invited to stay with someone should let us know right away.

Those of you in the United States who are planning to travel by air should send in a memo right away to the Personnel Department, giving the following information:

1. City of departure
2. Date and approximate time of departure
3. Whether your wife is accompanying you
4. The names and ages of any children accompanying you
5. The date and approximate time of your departure for return home

We will then make all arrangements and will send you your airline tickets. District Superintendents, who have airline credit cards, and those living in the same area as their District Superintendents, can make their travel arrangements locally.

I also need to mention that we will not be able to provide cars for most of you who will be coming in via the airlines. Only in special cases -- which will have to be checked with Mr. Portune individually -- will we be able to provide cars for your stay. Most of you should be able to arrange transportation while you are here with your hosts. We also want to make a real effort to keep our expenses to a minimum during the Conference with perhaps fewer dinners out, etc. which are put on Expense.

4 While on this subject, I should explain that we are having to severely cut back in every area of the Work in our planned increases for 1970. In the Ministerial Division, we have had to make an 11% reduction in our planned increase. In certain facets of the Ministerial budget, such as in salaries and hall rentals, we cannot reduce our planned increases by that amount, so we must reduce certain facets of the budget more than 11%. Since the number of visits that most of you will be making has now been reduced by 20%, we are, therefore, planning to make a 20% reduction in the expense allotments, overall. In order to do this, we will have to review all the expense allotments and make reductions where possible. Some allotments may not be changed, some few may be increased, but many will be reduced. If your allotment is one of those being changed, we'll notify you by memo.

Well, that's all the instruction for now. I just received attendance reports on the two new Churches which began December 6. Santa Rosa, California, began with 176 in attendance. Mr. Tony Hammer will pastor this new Church along with Oakland and San Francisco. Kalamazoo, Michigan, began with an attendance of 242. This new Church will be linked up with Grand Rapids and will be taken by Mr. George Meeker now that South Bend is being pastored by Mr. Kenneth Martin.

✓ Although we continue to receive reports of many healings and miracles which God is performing, I would like to remind you in closing to pray fervently for a number of our brethren who appear to be dying of cancer and other maladies. Mrs. Curtis Cowan, Sr. appeared to be healed of one ailment, yet now we find that she has cancer of the colon and liver. She is in very bad shape and suffering considerable pain from time to time.

Also, Mrs. Dennis Luker's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Livengood, are both suffering from cancer. Unless God intervenes, she could lose both her parents a few weeks or a few months apart.

In addition, Mrs. Jack Francis -- the wife of our fire marshall here at the College -- is in extremely critical condition with cancer through much of her body. She has suffered considerable pain and those in attendance thought more than once that she was dying over a period of a few weeks now.

Many, many others have serious cases of cancer or are afflicted with other serious ailments. And, as I mentioned recently, this seems to be a growing trend in the Church. Although the booklet on healing in its present form has been cancelled, we should continue to preach this doctrine to the converted members of God's Church with earnestness and fervency! Remember to tell them what God says -- not giving personal advice as to what they "have to do" in any particular case.

But we must remember that Jesus' commission was to:
1) Preach the gospel; 2) Heal the sick, and 3) Cast out demons.
See Matthew 4:23-24, Matthew 10:7-8 and Mark 3:14-15, etc. More of us need to study and meditate on these examples -- and to pray fervently that God will restore the fullness of the gifts of healing to His Church.

According to the New Testament, this is a BIG PART of our commission. So let's all get closer to God that these people may be delivered -- and that His name may be glorified in His Church.

That's it for this time. We will look forward to seeing all of you coming in at the Conference, and I will try to get out at least one more letter before then.

Your brother in Christ,



Roderick C. Meredith

