

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Second Vice-President

April 17, 1969

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Headquarters! I had a very enjoyable trip to New York and Washington, D. C., for the Days of Unleavened Bread. Many of us from Headquarters went out--as well as Mr. Kelly and Mr. Neff from Big Sandy. It is certainly a pleasure to see the ministers and the brethren in the Field, and I am always encouraged to realize anew the fine job that you men in the Field are doing.

The growth in the New York area was inspiring, and we had nearly 2,000 people present for the Feast night even without the New England churches coming down. Since only the immediate New York area churches kept the Passover together, we had 765 adults partake of the Passover but the attendance held up between 1700 and 1950 for the Holydays and Sabbaths I was there. Mr. Cole is doing a tremendous job directing many of the activities at the Feast site at Mt. Pocono and consequently has to work extra hard in order to keep up with all his regular duties as District Superintendent in the New York area. He sets a fine example of sacrifice and service for all of us.

In Washington, D. C., I was very happy to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Westby and the other ministers there and to preach in a new district headquarters' area I had never visited before. We had 1429 in attendance on the final Holyday of the Feast there--including the churches in Washington, Baltimore, Richmond and Harrisburg. It was a very inspiring festival, and I also felt that it was very beneficial as well as enjoyable to spend parts of a couple of days seeing the important sites in Washington, D. C. We got a special White House tour which the general public is never allowed to take and learned a great deal in private conversation with some there why God says that modern Israel is "sick" from the crown of our head to the soles of our feet! I won't comment further about my trip, but from the reports I've received, it was a very fine Feast everywhere in every way. A

total of just over 5000 attended the two Holydays in Pasadena with about 3300 at the Civic and 1700 at the Gymnasium on each day.

Mr. Armstrong had planned to be in Pasadena for both days, but he surprised the Portland brethren by making a trip up there for the last Holyday. Mr. Waterhouse, who was scheduled to speak in Portland, returned to Pasadena for the last day.

Mr. Ted Armstrong, after spending the Days of Unleavened Bread in Big Sandy and Akron, flew to Bricket Wood to take the Bible Study and Sabbath services there and went on to Israel this past Monday to inspect personally the "dig" in Jerusalem for the first time. He is scheduled to be in Paris tomorrow -- Friday -- to interview Mr. Jean Monet, the man who has been called the "Father of the European Common Market," and he had also hoped to make on-the-spot broadcasts at various places on this trip. He will then be in Geneva next week to conduct a European Office Conference there, returning to Pasadena early the following week.

Mr. Portune, who went to Bricket Wood for the Feast, is scheduled to return next Monday. This was his first opportunity to spend any time visiting the Bricket Wood campus since his trips there in the past have been whirlwind trips to take care of urgent business, so I'm sure he really appreciated and enjoyed this opportunity. He was able to take a quick tour of a few European cities also, including a visit to Berlin.

Mr. Dart, Mr. Ted Armstrong's new assistant in the Foreign Work, is touring the offices in Manila, Sydney, Auckland and India. Perhaps the permanent office in India can be established there on this trip. Mr. Abraham George had been sent to India a few months ago to make preliminary arrangements for opening an office, but when it became evident that a cutback in the Work might be necessary, final arrangements were held off until Mr. Armstrong had decided just how much we would have to cut back and whether we would go ahead with the office in India. The decision has now been made to proceed with the plans to open the office, so we should have one there soon.

We had several ordinations during the Feast, which I will list for those of you who have not heard about them. Raised to the rank of Preaching Elder were Mr. Allen Bullock in South Bend, Indiana, and Mr. Robert Jones in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Ordained to the office of Local Elder were Mr. David Carley in Nashville, Tennessee; Mr. Brent Curtis in New York; Mr. John Hull in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Mr. Ben Leonard in Omaha, Nebraska; Mr. Otto Lochner

in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Mr. Mark Salyer in Amarillo, Texas; Mr. Ronald Upshaw in Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Mr. Jack Williams in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Congratulations to all of you!

And to be ordained as a Local Elder this Sabbath in Los Angeles is Mr. Dick Thompson. Mr. Thompson graduated from Big Sandy last year as an older married student, and he will be returning to Big Sandy later this month to fill an important need in their administrative and ministerial staff. My congratulations, in advance, to him also!

In the way of baby news, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wilson announced the birth of their son, Brian Earl, on March 24. He weighed 7 pounds and 7 ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. Greg Sargent are also the happy parents of a son, Dean Gregory. Weighing 8 pounds and 6 ounces, he was born on March 30.

And Mr. and Mrs. Milo Wilcox announced the birth of Bonnie Katherina on April 2. She weighed 6 pounds and 2 ounces.

Congratulations to all of you on these new additions to your families!

For those of you who have written in recently wondering what to tell the brethren who ask about the donation receipts that they are now receiving, I should explain this briefly. Everyone will now be receiving an individual receipt for each donation to God's Work rather than just one annual receipt -- although annual receipts at the end of the year will continue to be sent, as well. In this way, we can keep our donation records up-to-date and resolve discrepancies quickly rather than having to wait until the end of the year. We have found that the advantages and benefits of doing this will more than offset the cost of sending an individual receipt for each donation we receive. If the brethren will notify us promptly -- within a month or so -- if they do not receive a receipt for a particular donation or if a receipt is incorrect, we can check into the situation and resolve the problem much easier.

And on another matter, please announce that anyone who is not a citizen of the United States who plans to apply for citizenship should check with the Legal Department at Headquarters before making application. Certain touchy questions regarding voting, fighting for the country, jury duty, etc., will be asked. The Church can become involved and the applications denied if these cases are not handled properly!

A couple of cases have come to my attention recently in which widows who had received an insurance settlement or sold valuable property were advised by the minister to donate practically the entire amount to the Work and then be supported from Third Tithe. The widows who do this become virtual paupers who cannot support themselves and must rely on the Work for their support. As Mr. Herbert Armstrong has explained, this is not God's Way. It is fine if the widows want to give large amounts to the Work. The Work can certainly use the money, and we appreciate -- as I'm sure God does -- their attitude in doing this, but they should not give everything they have to God's Work and then have to depend on Third Tithe. They should hold back enough to support themselves comfortably without Third Tithe assistance. We have, in the past, advised widows that they would be eligible for Third Tithe assistance if they would donate their entire savings -- their nestegg -- to the Work. While this is still true, we will not advise them to do this. For their own good, any one who can support themselves without Third Tithe assistance should do so. It is fine to encourage, in the right way, widows who express a desire to give part of their savings to the Work, but advise them to keep a reasonable amount as a reserve in order to remain self-supporting for the rest of this age. If a real emergency of some type caused them to deplete their savings after retaining what they felt was enough, we would, of course, help them as needed from Third Tithe.

(All of you had to complete a special form recently in order to remain exempt, as ordained ministers, from payment of social security contributions. Ministerial assistants, however, did not complete the form since they have no official ordination certificates from the Church. We hope we will have no problem this year, but to avoid having any next year, we will be sure that all assistants are ordained either as Local Elders or Deacons by the Feast, and we will give them a Deacon's Ordination Certificate, if necessary. Next year (they can then fill out the special exemption form as "assistant pastors."

Well, that wraps up all the news from Headquarters and instruction for this time. We are now making plans for new churches and field assignments for June. As soon as the plans are completed, we'll be letting you know who is being sent where and the transfers that will be taking place this summer. Encourage the brethren to keep praying for the Work. After a good income in March, the increase stands at just 10% for the month of April. We really need a good, consistent increase for the rest of this year in order for the Work to grow as it should.

Your brother in Christ,

Roderick C. Meredith

Roderick C. Meredith