

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

May 21, 1969

OFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Second Vice-President

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Headquarters! The dedication ceremony and "Open House" for the new Hall of Administration last Thursday went very well. In the absence of the city of Pasadena's mayor, the city was represented at the ceremonies by the Vice-Chairman of Pasadena's Board of Directors, Mr. Walter Benedict, who spoke briefly in glowing terms of Ambassador College and our building program.

We now have very fine relations with the officials of the city of Pasadena. There was a time when some felt that we were putting a burden on the taxpayers by taking property off the tax rolls, but since we began what is now a \$22 million expansion program, no one can object to what we are doing with the property we have acquired. Everyone has to agree that Ambassador College has certainly contributed to the re-development and beautification of the city and has not been a detriment to the city in any way.

After the "Open House" on Thursday, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Portune flew to Big Sandy on our jet Friday morning for the official "unveiling" and dedication of a new bird sculpture and fountain at the campus there. Like the egrets here at Pasadena, this new sculpture was done by Mr. David Wynne. Each of the three campuses now has a major work by Mr. Wynne, who is considered by many to be the world's most imaginative and most talented sculptor. I understand that the sculpture at Big Sandy is somewhat similar to the one here at Pasadena but is perhaps a little larger, and the birds are swans rising from the water. This should be a fine addition to the Big Sandy campus.

Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Portune returned to Pasadena on Sunday, accompanied by Mr. Wynne who came out here for a brief visit.

Mr. Ted Armstrong and Mr. Norman Smith left last Thursday night for Cape Kennedy on the flight that is called the "red-eye" special, losing three hours on the trip east and arriving in Florida at 6:30 a.m. After recuperating Friday from their all-night flight, they were on hand for the launching of Apollo 10 on Sunday. They filmed footage for the television program, and Mr. Ted Armstrong made an on-the-spot radio broadcast which was aired locally yesterday. They returned to Pasadena Sunday night, and their trip, like the launching itself, was successful and without incident.

Many of you probably saw the short write-up regarding our Crime booklet in the May 4 edition of Parade Magazine -- the nationally-circulated Sunday supplement. The write-up, with the headline, "Crime Booklet," appeared in the Intelligence section of the magazine. It described the booklet and mentioned that copies were available free, and the address of the Los Angeles Police Department was then given. We don't know who was responsible for the write-up, but we assume it was one of the Parade editors who thought the booklet was worthwhile. The Los Angeles Police Department was swamped with requests -- totalling over 16,000 so far -- and they had to call on us to help mail out the booklets. They sent out 4,000 and we have sent out over 8,000 so far.

Quite a number of the people requesting the booklet are influential men around the country -- men with positions in city and state governments. This booklet will be the first contact most of those writing in will have had with the Work, and as you may remember, it announces and describes four other of our booklets, each of which leads into other booklets. A total of about 123,000 Crime Booklets have been distributed since its publication last October. And because a large part of that number has been distributed by the Los Angeles Police Department and by police departments in other cities, this booklet has been an important public relations tool for the College. Its quality -- in both printing and content -- has won a great deal of respect for Ambassador College.

And another publication which will be a very important public relations tool for the College is the new 1969 ENVOY. The ENVOY will be an expanded, special edition again this year, similar to the one published in 1966. I know that all the brethren will appreciate having it and that it will inspire them and help them really put their hearts into the Work. It will help them pray more effectively for every facet of God's Work. But just as important, perhaps, is the impression it will make on advertising executives, radio and television managers and dignitaries such as King Leopold, the President of Israel, Franz Josef Strauss and others that Mr. Armstrong has met or will meet in the future. Mr. Armstrong found that the last special ENVOY -- the 1966 edition -- was the most

impressive and effective "brochure" that he could possibly use in discussing the College and the Work with those he met. Also, he was able to present personal copies to many of the men he met. We will have 250 leather-bound presentation copies of this next edition for this very purpose.

This new edition should be especially outstanding. The representatives of the company making the cover -- the S. K. Smith Company, one of the leading companies in its field -- feels that the cover is one of the finest and most beautiful covers they have ever produced! And Mr. Clark feels that some of the photographs he and his staff have been able to take for this edition -- with God's help -- have been exceptional and are even better than those in the last special edition. We are hoping that the ENVOY can be distributed at the Feast this fall, but there is still much to be done. I know that Mr. Clark and his staff would really appreciate your prayers and the prayers of the brethren for God's guidance and help as they carry out this very important responsibility. Their success will mean a great deal to all of you who will be able to personally use and enjoy the ENVOY, and it will mean a great deal to the Work itself, as I have expained.

The percentage of increase in the income so far this month is about the same as last week -- a 17.7% increase in mail income, but only a 9.4% increase in total income for the month from all sources, including mail. This means that the income for the year is still way down. We are hoping that the response from the semi-annual letter will boost this, however. Mr. Armstrong is working on the semi-annual letter now, and you should certainly pray that God will inspire him to say the right thing in just the right way in order to get the response we so urgently need to reverse the low-income trend thus far in 1969. Mr. Armstrong plans to announce the new magazine, TOMORROW'S WORLD in the letter, but he intends to make it plain that the new magazine is for those who are interested in the Bible and in Biblical topics. In this way non-religious people won't write in for it and then be disappointed when they find God and the Bible discussed in the magazine. It should be interesting to see just how many of our readership will respond and request a publication which they realize is religious. The first press run of the new magazine was formerly planned for 120,000, but it may very well be double that by the time the semi-annual returns are all in!

I announced the Pentecost plans in my last letter, but there were a couple of uncertainties at that time which I can clarify now. The Canadian Church which Mr. Dart will visit is Toronto. And Mr. McCullough will be in Portland rather than in one of the Church areas in his district. The other plans formerly announced remain the same.

A new Bible Study began last Sunday in Erie, Pennsylvania with an attendance of 109. This monthly study will be shared by Mr. David Antion and Mr. Ivan Sell, alternating each month.

In the way of instruction I should explain that we have learned that ministerial assistants are not affected at all by the change in the social security law requiring ministers to apply for exemption from payment of social security taxes. Ministerial assistants are automatically exempt as employees of a non-profit organization. All ordained ministers in the United States, however -- including local elders -- who are employed by the Church must apply for exemption of social security taxes on a special form -- Internal Revenue Form 4361. Any of you employed full-time in the Work should file one of these applications for exemption before April 15, 1970. And from now on, any men employed by the Work should file a form whenever they are ordained as a local elder. Since there had been some confusion about who should file for exemption, I wanted to clarify this.

I also wanted to mention that many of the full-time assistants being sent out in June will have automobiles -- especially the married ones, of course. And although we have a reimbursement system to take care of automobile expenses for those who don't have a fleet car, this was intended for special circumstances. Assistants should generally not need to use their car for the Work. They should go with you to the outlying Church area, and they should not be visiting on their own, so they will seldom need to use their car for the Work. Mileage reimbursements cost the Work money -- especially when dozens of assistants are involved -- so we want to keep these at a bare minimum.

Some have misunderstood how to request approvals for ordinations of local deacons and deaconesses. Ordination of full-time assistants should always be approved from Headquarters first, but all that is needed for ordination of a local deacon or deaconess is the approval of the District Superintendent since we don't usually know the men well enough to approve or disapprove. You should, however, let us know at least two weeks in advance who you plan to ordain so that we can notify you if for some reason we do disapprove.

Mr. Lochner wanted me to pass on an announcement regarding fees for the Summer Educational Program. This will clarify questions that may come up in your area.

"Since the budgetary process is more nearly completed than it was on April 7, when the basic information was sent out on Summer Program in Orr, we would like to clarify the statements made at that time:

"The basic fees are: Tuition, \$55.00; Food, \$70.00; and Uniform, \$30.00 for a total of \$155.00. In addition, the family will have to arrange transportation.

"The General Scholarship Fund will be used to help both Negro and white children who are selected for admission to SEP and who have financial need. However, it is expected that those Negro families who can afford to send their children to Orr would do so using the same financial arrangements as any other family."

Well that is all the news and instruction for this time. Please remember to pray for those of us who will be traveling to various areas for Pentecost, as well as for God's protection and inspiration for all his ministers that day.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roderick C. Meredith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Roderick C. Meredith

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