

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

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PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Second Vice-President

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Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Headquarters! With the beginning of a new college year just a month away, those of us here at Headquarters certainly have not experienced any summer doldrums or "let down" this summer! In fact, this has been an especially busy summer for all of us here -- even busier in some ways than the school year itself. Since many of you have moved or will be moving this summer, and others are working with summer assistants or new full-time assistants, as well as attending district conferences, I realize that this is not exactly a slack period for those of you in the field either!

Mr. Ted Armstrong left Saturday night for Orr, Minnesota, and I believe he is planning to be there for the opening of the second session of the Summer Educational Program on July 27. From there, he will go on to New York and Tel Aviv, arriving July 30. After spending a couple of days in Jerusalem at the "dig" -- including the Sabbath of August 2 -- he will go on to India, as I explained in my last letter. Although Mr. Ted Armstrong has visited most parts of the earth, he has never had the opportunity of traveling in India, so this should be a very helpful trip for him in enabling him to observe, firsthand, the conditions in this poverty-stricken nation of one-half billion people. And according to present plans, he will be accompanied by one of our motion picture photographers, Mr. Jim Jensen, who will take footage which we can possibly use on future television programs.

I might mention that the subscription list in India continues to grow, and now stands at over 65,000! Unlike other nations in which a large proportion of the population cannot read the English language and in which The PLAIN TRUTH subscription list has skyrocketed, we seem to be reaching the educated class in India. It is very encouraging to realize that our circulation in India is not an inflated figure at all, but one which gives us a fairly accurate picture of the number we are reaching in that nation. It is, of course, only a tiny minority in that huge nation, but it is, nonetheless, a good beginning! It was not too many years ago that the entire PLAIN TRUTH mailing list was smaller than that.

Mr. Abraham George will be returning to India this week after spending a few weeks here at Headquarters to visit his family and consult with Mr. Ted Armstrong and Mr. Dart about the situation. Because of certain travel restrictions, his wife and family won't be able to join him in India just yet but, hopefully, they will be able to join him after the Feast. I hope all of you will remember him in your prayers in a special way during these next few weeks while he is separated from his family as a result of his service in God's Work.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong will be leaving here this Friday for Bricket Wood and the "dig" in Jerusalem for the windup of activities there. Since he has never preached in the Kansas City area before, he plans to stop off there for the Sabbath where he will speak to the brethren of three churches in the area. I understand those people are really excited and are anxiously looking forward to his visit.

Margie and I will be flying back to Texas on Friday also, God willing. I will be preaching there at Big Sandy on the Sabbath and then conducting the District Ministerial Conference over the next few days. I had originally planned to go on to Kansas City -- by way of Joplin to visit my mother -- to conduct the District Conference there, but I will not do this after all. Because of circumstances and the press of work here at Headquarters, I have cut the planned trip short and will fly back to Pasadena right after the Texas conference.

There are a few more field changes which I would like to announce. First of all, Mr. Tullio Panella will be moving from the San Antonio-Corpus Christi area to the Washington, D. C. - Baltimore area to serve as a backup man for Mr. Kenneth Westby. With Mr. Fred Kellers leaving, Mr. Westby, as the District Superintendent of the Washington, D. C. District, was losing the Preaching Elder who could take over the area when he is gone on district trips. So this will be a big help to him. Replacing Mr. Panella in the San Antonio-Corpus Christi area will be Mr. Roy Holladay. He will then be replaced in Wheeling-Uniontown by Mr. Ron McNeil, a Preaching Elder who has been serving in the Toronto-Kitchner area under Mr. Gary Antion.

Mr. McNeil will now become the Pastor of this two-church circuit of Wheeling, W. Virginia, and Uniontown, Pennsylvania. And he will be replaced in Toronto-Kitchner by Mr. Colin Adair who has been serving in the Glasgow, Scotland, area. I am not sure who will be replacing Mr. Adair, then, in Glasgow.

Some more important announcements I have at this time involve those men coming in this fall for a year of intensive training here at Ambassador College. Some who may have known they were under consideration for this who are not being brought in this year have not been notified, so this will give you an official list of those who will be coming in this fall. If some of you local pastors have let certain unordained men who will not receive this letter know that they were under consideration, and if their names do not appear on this list, please notify them accordingly.

I should mention that one man we previously announced would be coming in, Mr. Leslie Schmedes, will not be coming in to College this fall. We would not be able to replace him in Chicago, and Mr. Jackson really needs him to help with the visiting in that area, so we will not be bringing him in at this time. Here, then, is a list of those coming in to College this fall, in addition to those who were previously announced in my letter of April 29.

First, the Local Elders:

1. Mr. Sid Cloud, from Sacramento.
2. Mr. David Robinson, from San Antonio.
3. Mr. Allen Ruth, from Philadelphia.
4. Mr. Richard Kilbury, from Boise.
5. Mr. Don Wineinger, from Indianapolis.
6. Mr. Ron Upshaw, from Tulsa.
7. Mr. Harold Rhodes, from Atlanta.

Those not ordained as Elders include:

1. Mr. Ron Allen, from Kansas City.
2. Mr. Kingsley Mather, from the Bahamas, West Indies.
3. Mr. Michael Allamby, from Brooklyn.
4. Mr. Camillo Reyes, from Oakland.
5. Mr. Samuel Gillespie, from Fort Wayne.

Congratulations to all of you! I know you are all looking forward to this opportunity.

X Another happy announcement is that the next Feast site for the United States and Canada -- Feast site Number 7 -- will be in the Wisconsin Dells! This area has been definitely approved, and I understand that a beautiful, 209-acre property there is available to us which would be a very fine location for the actual Feast site. Although the purchase has not been finalized, I understand that we do have an option on this property if we decide it is the right one. This site will not have to

be completed until the Feast of 1971, so the progress thus far on it is certainly encouraging.

Everything seems to be going well, overall, in preparing for this year's Feast as well. Mr. Royer wanted me to thank all of you for your help and cooperation in encouraging the brethren to get their housing applications in quickly. We were a little late in getting the Festival Brochure out this year because of some last-minute changes that had to be made, and this could have caused quite a problem for the Festival office in making housing assignments and getting the confirmations out on time. Since housing arrangements will have to be made for some 55,000 people here in the United States and Canada alone for the Feast this fall, this delay could have been disastrous without the full cooperation of all the brethren.

We also appreciated very much the help of you local pastors in evaluating the Change of Area requests. We realize it did take time for you to do this, but it was very effective in cutting down the number of requests by those who should not have changed areas. Last year, for example, we received over 2,000 Change of Area requests. Many of those requests had to be turned down by Headquarters because of improper planning on the part of the brethren. This year, however, we have received only 624 Change of Area requests so far, and only 19 of them have had to be turned down! You can see, then, that your going over these requests and screening them in advance has been a big help to us here at Headquarters.

Messrs. Portune and Royer mentioned two items that were of concern to the Work, which we could all be praying about during the next few weeks -- and I hope you will encourage the brethren to be praying about these, also. Mr. Portune and Mr. Royer just returned last week from a two-week trip to the Ozarks, the Wisconsin Dells and the Poconos. We were having quite a problem with the paving there at the Ozark site because of the weather earlier this year, but that seems to be working out all right now. Another problem came up after Messrs. Portune and Royer had left the Ozark site, had gone on to the Dells and then to the Poconos. I don't know all the details, but Mr. Portune received word in the Poconos from our men in the Ozarks reporting that the iron-workers' union was picketing the Feast site in an attempt to close down construction there. The large 16,000-seat metal auditorium is just beginning construction. The pickets could present a real problem and could, without grace and favor, prevent us from completing the work there by the time of the Feast.

Messrs. Portune and Royer made a quick return trip back to

the Ozarks in order to settle the problem, and so far we have been able to improvise and keep the construction going in spite of the pickets. There is apparently no reason for real concern at this time, but these are the two things we can all be praying about -- that we will have continuing good weather and that there will be no work stoppages which would prevent the development at the Ozarks from being completed on time.

I forgot to mention this in my last letter, but we had a very interesting visitor here on campus about three weeks ago. He was Mr. Franz Krey, who is the secretary of the C. D. U. in the Rhineland in West Germany. Since the circumstances surrounding his visit were highly unusual, I thought all of you would be interested in hearing about it.

About the middle of June, Mr. Krey was on his way to Washington, D. C. from London on a special visit to the United States which had been arranged by our State Department. He "happened" to be seated on the airplane beside Mr. Bob Haworth, one of our men here at the College who often serves as a "public relations" man in arranging accommodations for dignitaries who visit the campus and in conducting them on campus tours. The conversation naturally got around to Ambassador College, and Mr. Haworth showed Mr. Krey a copy of the new booklet, "This Is Ambassador College." He was very impressed and jumped at the opportunity to visit the campus after Mr. Haworth extended an invitation.

Mr. Krey notified the State Department of his wishes so that this would be included in his schedule, and he visited the campus near the end of June. He was extremely impressed by the campus and mentioned he wished Germany had an Ambassador College! After he saw a couple of our television programs, he said he learned some techniques which he could use in the election campaign this fall as the one responsible for Chancellor Kiesinger's re-election campaign! He is also on the board of directors, by the way, for all radio and television programing in the Rhineland.

Mr. Krey saw many places on his tour in the United States, including the NASA headquarters in Houston, the Grand Canyon and the cities of Washington, D. C. and New York, but he mentioned his two-day visit here at the College was the highlight of the entire tour. He said he planned to visit our Duesseldorf office and meet Mr. Schnee after his return to Germany. We do not, of course, know what might eventually occur as a result of this visit by Mr. Krey, but I thought all of you would be interested in hearing about it since it shows how men like him react to the College and illustrates just how much prestige God is giving His Work at this time in the eyes of those whom this world regards as "important" people.

In the way of church news, all of the new churches which were to begin this summer which were previously announced have begun by now, with the exception of Ada, Oklahoma, and Ponca City, Oklahoma. The new Ada Church is scheduled to begin on August 23, but since the need for a Ponca City Church is not as immediate, we have not yet set a date for the beginning of that church.

One new church which I did not previously announce is the new Ft. Worth a.m. church. Because of the need to relocate the hall in a better section of town, and because of the growth in that area, it became necessary to establish a new church, thus having a.m. and p.m. services in Ft. Worth. Mr. Benjamin Chapman will continue to be the pastor, and he will now be assisted by Mr. John Robinson who is also on the teaching staff there at Big Sandy and is a Preaching Elder in God's Church. Mr. Larry Walker is the resident Local Elder there in Ft. Worth, and he will continue to visit in both the a.m. and p.m. areas.

And I am happy to pass on an announcement I received in a telex message just the other day from Mr. Guy Ames in Manila. Mr. and Mrs. Ames are the parents of a seven-pound-ten-ounce boy! Gilroy Samuel was born on July 16th, and to quote Mr. Ames, "all fine." Congratulations!

An announcement of a less pleasant and more serious nature is that Mr. Al Dennis' wife, Mary, needs all of our prayers very badly. About two years ago she first noticed a knot on her left breast, and since that time it has been steadily getting worse. She has been anointed twice for it, but God has not yet intervened to heal her. Although she is not confined to bed and is still able to function fairly normally, she is experiencing some pain, has lost a lot of weight and can feel that she is weakening physically. No biopsy has been taken, and she does not plan to have one taken, but she has been examined by two medical doctors who are certain she has a malignant breast tumor in her left breast. Mrs. Dennis fully understands, as I am sure all of you do, that unless God intervenes, she will die of this cancer within a matter of months. She is, of course, trusting God absolutely and is looking to Him for her complete healing. As all of you know, we cannot possibly announce all of the sicknesses and diseases -- even just the serious ones -- of those in God's Church, but I feel it is certainly appropriate to ask all of you to announce this and ask the brethren to pray with us for her. And just as in the case of Mrs. Glen White, I'm sure God will hear our prayers and intervene to save Mrs. Dennis'

life so that she can continue to serve with her husband there in the Eugene-Salem area.

Many of you have probably been wondering how Mrs. John Portune is doing at this time. At the last report I heard, she was doing about the same. There has been no deterioration in her condition, but on the other hand, God has not yet healed her. She is able to go about her normal activities, and she has no pain, but the psychological strain of just knowing that the tumor is still there is bound to have a certain effect, as well as having impaired vision in the eye that is affected by the tumor. She realizes, too, that unless God intervenes, this tumor will eventually take her life. So be sure to remember her also in your prayers!

Some good news that I can report involves a case which many of you have been praying about -- that of Mr. and Mrs. Lichtenstein's son, David. David has been doing fairly well, considering his condition, but they have been having problems with the staff of a local hospital there in Spokane. One of the doctors in particular, Dr. Biddle, has been trying to get the Juvenile Court to force the Lichtensteins to submit David for an operation which would involve running a permanent tube from David's head to his spine in order to drain the fluid and thus reduce the pressure on his brain. For a while, the Lichtensteins felt that the court would indeed act to force the operation, but now it looks like it will not. I will quote you part of a memo Mr. Lichtenstein sent in last week regarding the situation. By way of background, I should explain that Dr. Landers is a doctor who was consulted by the Lichtensteins in an effort to get a different diagnosis from the one given at the hospital. The hospital recently sent Dr. Landers a letter in which they informed him of their position and, in a sense, left it in his hands as to whether he would proceed to try to have the court force the operation. Formerly, it was the staff of the hospital which were pushing for the operation and threatening legal action through the Juvenile Court against the Lichtensteins.

Here is Mr Lichtenstein's memo, dated July 13:

"Attached is a copy of the latest development of our running battle with the staff of the Children's Orthopedic Hospital over David.

"This letter is quite encouraging. They have decided to bow out of the case if the Juvenile Court and the local neurosurgeon, Dr. Landers to whom the original of the letter was sent do not do something.

"It is highly unlikely Dr. Landers will take action -- David saw him in May and the doctor was not worried then about David's future. Also the Juvenile Court has not done anything yet and this letter is only a restatement of the case the hospital has made before.

"It will take a couple of weeks to be sure. I could still hear from the Juvenile Court, but as things stand now, they could hardly be better! God gets all the credit. I would not have given us a nickel for our chances, so to speak, right after our May hospital appointment. God has performed several direct and obvious miracles on our behalf and has completely turned the tables on the doctors!

"I am sure Dr. Biddle thought the courts would automatically back him up, but not so -- he has been spurned. The matter has not been accepted by the judge. Thank you for your prayers and help and the aid given us by many others too."

copy
An announcement that Mr. Norman Smith asked me to pass on to all of you involves a request for your help in notifying us here at Headquarters of any newsworthy events that may occur in your area. This is not an announcement which is to be read to the brethren, but one which I am giving to those of you who are ministers.

"If any weather disaster or other newsworthy event occurs or is about to occur in your area, please telephone Headquarters in Pasadena immediately.

"You may call during office hours -- 577-5400 for Joe Clayton or Norman Smith.

"Home 'phone number of Joseph Clayton - (213) 792-2340.
Home 'phone number of Norman Smith - (213) 793-1588 or 577-5771.

"We may wish to send a photographer and/or a cinematographer or we may decide not to, but we would like to receive the information from you in order that we can make a decision.

"Your cooperation and assistance will be very much appreciated."

And Mr. Schreiber wanted me to remind all of you not to wait until your tires are completely bald before requesting new ones. We have generally said that when your treads have worn down to 1/16 of an inch, you should be replacing them. A simple test you can make yourself is to insert a dime into your treads and measure how far in it will go. A nickel is 1/16 of an inch thick, so you can then use this gauge to determine when your treads are approaching the critical stage of wear.

According to usual procedures, we could airmail you a tire credit card so that you could replace your tires on fairly short notice, but we are temporarily -- for the next few months -- handling this differently. We were able to purchase 1500 tires at a substantial discount recently, so we are supplying tires to everyone needing them by shipment directly from Headquarters. This means that we need at least three weeks' notice before the tires are actually needed in order to get them to you. Don't wait until your tires are bald and then telephone us to request that we send you a set of tires airmail! As a matter of procedure, you should always be aware of the condition of your tires in order to order new ones before they are completely worn out. Then if there is a three-week delay -- as there generally is right now -- in getting the tires, you will not have any difficulty.

Another reminder -- those of you ordering tires should be sure to pick them up promptly if the delivery man does not catch you at home and has to leave a notice for you to pick them up. If you do order them far enough in advance, there is a natural tendency to put off picking them up -- which, as you can understand, creates problems for the delivery service.

Now before I close, I would like to briefly mention again that the income situation is still very serious. In fact, because of an unusually large donation that we received just a year ago, the total income -- or the overall income -- dropped, over the weekend, from about 14% for the month down to -15%. The overall income for the year to date has dropped to about 11%. Instead of the picture beginning to reverse in this second half of the year, the total increase is continuing to drop.

As I have explained before, the mail income is holding up fairly well -- now standing at about 24% for the month and 25% for the year to date. The main area which is causing us problems is that of loans. I understand that the total loans that we have received so far this year have been about one-third of the total we received in this period of last

year. And lately we have been receiving even less than that -- about one-fourth of the amount which was coming in last year. This is an adjustment that we have had to make -- that of beginning to rely strictly on income rather than on large loans in addition to the regular income -- but this change over has certainly put us in a tight situation right now.

After we get through this period of adjustment in the year of 1969, we expect the overall percentage of increase to be up around 25 to 30% again, which is the figure we have come to expect over the years. Meanwhile, we'll have to watch our budget even more carefully, cutting it wherever we can, and ask God to increase the regular income to help make up for the amounts that are not any longer coming in as loans.

Since some of you have already heard it through the "grapevine," I could mention that Mr. Armstrong has definitely postponed ground breaking for the "House for God" at least one year. I hope the brethren will not let down and reduce their contributions to the Property Fund on hearing this disappointing news -- actually, it should spur them to give even more. But it is good for them to understand the situation fully so that they can pray about it in a more specific and detailed way.

Remember to pray for Mr. Armstrong and all of us traveling, and we'll be remembering all of you, also!

Your brother in Christ,



Roderick C. Meredith

P.S. Skimming this letter, I realized that we still haven't told you that Mr. Reg Platt is being transferred way down to Australia! And that he has been replaced by Mr. Fred Kellers! This came up quickly -- as a result of changes in the Foreign Work -- and necessitated some other ministerial switches. I'll give more information on this in my next letter -- but at least you know who's going where!