

# WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG  
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

February 24, 1969

OFFICE OF  
RODRICK C. MEREDITH, Second Vice-President

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Headquarters! Everyone has moved into the Hall of Administration now, and although all of the new furnishings have not arrived, all of us are basically settled and functioning in our respective areas. It is truly an inspiring place to work!

I know that many of you who haven't heard the latest news are concerned about Chris Hunting's condition -- and I am happy to report that he is recovering very well! He is doing fine, and, in fact, he has been recovering so quickly that he was scheduled to go home from the hospital on February 12, the week after I last wrote. On his behalf, and on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Hunting, I want to thank you and all the brethren for your prayers. God certainly intervened to save his life, and we can thank Him for that!

The other critical situation which I asked all of you to pray about is also somewhat improved since the mail income for the month of February was up to 32.1% as of last week, but this, of course, does not make up for the month of January. The cumulative total of mail income for the year -- thus far in 1969 -- was only a 20.7% increase as of last week, and I understand that this figure dropped slightly over the weekend. The situation is still serious, and your fervent prayers are still needed, as I will explain further later on.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong just returned last night from a trip to Bricket Wood and Tel Aviv. He had left week before last, staying in Bricket Wood over the Sabbath before going on to Tel Aviv early last week. I haven't had a chance to talk to him about the trip as yet, so I can't give you further details now.

Mr. Ted Armstrong will be leaving tomorrow afternoon for Cape Kennedy to cover the Apollo 9 launching. He will stop off in Mexico City to see our office there since he has not seen it before and then proceed to Cape Kennedy for the launching which is scheduled for Friday.

Because of the continued growth in the Church in the United States, we are now looking for Feast site number seven! In order to have it ready by the Feast in 1970, we need to find a suitable property and purchase it by August of this year so that we will have a full year in which to develop it. Mr. Portune and Mr. Royer have four possible sites in mind, including the beautiful Wisconsin Dells Area in Southern Wisconsin and sites in Michigan, Iowa and Indiana. Please ask the brethren to pray that God will guide Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Portune and others who will help make the decision on the location, that He will open up just the right property to us and that He will give us favor in the eyes of local motel owners and businessmen in the area in which He chooses to place His name for the Feast in 1970.

And as a result of this growth, Mr. Royer cannot now handle all of his responsibilities in the Festival Office along with his other responsibilities in the Personnel Department without an assistant to help him. Therefore, Mr. Graham Vernon, a local elder in God's Church who was formerly in charge of the development of the Mt. Pocono Feast site will be coming in to Headquarters within a few weeks as Mr. Royer's executive assistant in the Festival Office.

Some of you may not have been aware of it, but our appeal of the Bradesku case in Akron, Ohio was scheduled for the last week of January. The appeal hearing was postponed, however. For your information, here is the memo Mr. Antion sent in on January 30 in regard to the postponement:

"We did not go to trial this week. The appeal hearing has been postponed until February 26, 1969 at 11 a. m. The other lawyer postponed it. I guess he needed more time to prepare an argument to our brief.

"I thought I'd let you know so that you could inform the other ministers. By the way, I won't have to get on the witness stand again for this appeal. Some of the ministers think I will have to. But they will go strictly by the transcript of the trial."

Please ask the brethren to pray about this situation, also -- that God will grant us favor in the eyes of the judges in this case so that we won't have to appeal it further. We feel we will eventually win this case and have the judgment against the Church, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Ted Armstrong and Mr. Antion reversed since the decision does infringe upon the religious freedom guaranteed by the constitution.

We are beginning a new monthly Bible Study in Pocatello, Idaho on March 2. It will be taken by Mr. Fred Coulter. And I might mention that the Wilmington, Delaware Church which I announced recently will not begin at this time. Instead, we will make Philadelphia an A. M. - P. M. Church since Wilmington is only about 30 miles outside of Philadelphia.

I have just a couple of baby announcements this time. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wilding announced the birth of their daughter, Tonya Lynette, who was born on January 8. She weighed 8 pounds and 2 ounces.

And Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lay announced the birth of their son, Robert Mark. He was born on February 15 and weighed 6 pounds. Congratulations to all of you on your new arrivals!

Since some of you may not be aware of this, I wanted to mention that some companies in the world have a policy of matching their employees' donations to either charitable organizations or colleges. A case came to my attention recently in which a company was willing to donate \$1000 per year to Ambassador College to match the yearly donation of an employee. If any of the brethren work for a company with such a policy, they could probably have their donation matched by the company by sending their tithes and offerings in the name of the College rather than the Church.

Many of you will be receiving new cars soon, and Mr. Schreiber asked me to remind you of a problem that often arises when the old cars are turned in to Headquarters for a resale. Many states require that the original registrations be carried in the vehicle, and we, therefore, cannot keep the original in our files here. We must have the original registration, however, in order to sell the car. If you have the original registration for your car, please double check to be certain it is still in the car just before it is returned to Headquarters. This could save the Work quite a bit of money in enabling us to sell your car immediately rather than being delayed one or two months as a result of not having the registration for it.

Another problem which recently came to my attention is that we still have people "dropping in" to visit the foreign offices. As an example, Mr. Docken recently spent the better part of several weeks showing unexpected visitors around the Philippine Islands, and it was a real problem for him to find them a place to stay. With the exception of the top men in the Work and the personal friends of those in foreign offices, all other visitors -- whether ministers or brethren -- should stay in hotels and not expect the local men to feed and house them and then spend hours showing them the sights. When you learn of planned trips abroad by any of the brethren, please caution them in this regard.

Before I close I wanted to explain in a little more detail just how serious the drop in the income is at this time. As Mr. Ted Armstrong explained during the announcements on the Sabbath recently, this Work is in more jeopardy today than in 1947 when the College was about to fold up before it got off the ground! The reason for this is that we had very few commitments and obligations at that time in the way we have now. In recent years we have borrowed millions of dollars in order to finance these new buildings which were so desperately needed to carry on the Work. These commitments come due every month, and we are dependent on our income from month to month to meet these commitments.

In addition, this new advertising campaign has put a tremendous strain on the Work because, as I explained before, we now have to handle all the responses to the ads. In every phase, the Work has shot forward in an unprecedented manner, but instead of having a corresponding increase in income, the income is not even increasing at the normal 30% rate which normally would have been required. And the total income, including mail, loans and all other sources is a disappointing 15.8% thus far for the year. This is, as I said in my last letter, a serious situation.

This trend of increased expenses without a corresponding increase in income is especially evident in the foreign Work. As an example, the mail increase in Bricket Wood for the month of January was an amazing 94%, but the income increased by only 20.8%!

Another example is the report from Mr. Dean Wilson in Canada for the month of January:

"The television stations continue to draw mail at a fantastic rate. We added over 1000 names to our mailing list last week alone from television. This month's Reader's Digest is drawing well also along with TV Guide. Consequently, we ended last month with almost exactly 100% increase in mail, bringing in almost 16,000 letters. Today's mail looks like February is going to continue the torrid pace.

"In January we added over 7000 names to our mailing list which is by far a record for us. At this rate our mailing list would increase over 130% this year without adding another station, ad, or anything. At this rate our mailing list would be over 140,000 by the end of this year.

"On the negative side, our income was the lowest it has been in a long time, percentage-wise. We ended the month of January with a .8% increase."

Overall, through the week of February 14, the foreign offices averaged an 81% increase in letters but only a 5.2% increase in income for the month of February.

It is abundantly clear that the Work cannot continue to sustain such growth without a growth in our income, as well. Something must be done either to get our income up, or to cut our expenses. Therefore, Mr. Armstrong made the decision two weeks ago to cut off all Reader's Digest ads, except in Britain and possibly Europe and to cut off the newspaper advertising in Britain. He also decided to cut back on the number of radio

stations carrying the World Tomorrow broadcast, which means that many stations will be cancelled. But then he decided to hold off for a few weeks to see what would occur before implementing those cut-backs.

He is definitely going to cancel some radio stations -- just how many will be determined by the income in the next few weeks. The income will also determine to what extent we will curtail this advertising campaign which has shot the work forward so tremendously since last summer. Mr. Armstrong just can't believe -- and neither can any of us here at Headquarters -- that God wants this Work to go backwards. It must continue to go forward if we are going to accomplish as much in the next three years as in the last 35, and Mr. Armstrong and all of us here feel we must accomplish that much -- or more -- in order to fulfill the commission we've been given!

God wants a wholehearted, totally committed, loyal body to do this Work. This was the overall theme and emphasis in the Ministerial Conference this year, and the way that all of us and all the brethren of God's Church respond to the current financial crisis in the Work will show just where our hearts really are. The Great Creator God of this universe who searches our hearts -- our thoughts and attitudes -- can clearly see whether we, personally, are loyal, wholehearted, and totally committed to Him and to His Work! Judgment is upon the House of God right now, and in a special way. This is a time of trial -- not only for the Work, but also for each of us individually!

A great many of God's people do have their hearts in the Work, as proved by their response to Mr. Armstrong's recent Co-Worker letter in which he asked those who were able to do so to turn their loans into gifts. We were greatly encouraged by some of the heart-warming letters we received which showed outstanding attitudes on the part of many members. Many of these letters, by the way, indicated that a sermon or an announcement by their local minister prompted their response in part and pointed up the fact that you as the local minister play an important role in helping the brethren keep their hearts in God's Work. We really appreciate the job you are doing, and we really appreciate as well, having brethren who are totally committed to this Work. I hope that you will thank them and let them know that Jesus Christ, the Head of this Work, appreciates their wholehearted dedication to the Work.

Here are a few of the letters we received from members who were voluntarily turning their loans into gifts. Your reading them in Sabbath services or in Bible Study might help others feel the same way some of them felt. They were inspiring to us here at Headquarters!

"Thank you for this last co-worker letter. That was just what I needed, a little prodding, because I know the work needs it much more than I. So I am turning this loan into an outright offering. "

"On May 17, 1965, I sent you a loan of \$500. I feel that now I can give it as a donation, trusting in God for my future needs. Many of my prayers have been answered and God has blessed me in many ways. "

"We have decided at this time to cancel out the trust fund, and present it to the work as a gift... We are aware of the increasing cost of the different phases of the work, and our allowing money to stay in the form of a loan may be showing lack of faith in the word of God. "

"In December of 1965 I sent a check for \$500 as a loan. I hear finances are low for January so I would like to give this money for the Work. I have gotten along these three years without it. And I will trust God to see me through what few years I have left. "

"I return my Certificate of Trust of the \$300 I had loaned to Ambassador College as of June 23, 1967, and request that the aforesaid \$300 be made a gift to the work of God. I do this with the faith that God will take care of me. My only regret is that it couldn't be more. "

"Concerning the loan I have made you I would now like to make it an offering. And I would like to thank Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong for his sermon on having a contingency plan. I didn't know that's what I had until he explained it in his sermon. God has blessed and provided for me and my family and I know He will continue to do so as long as we do our part. "

"Mr. Armstrong's letter of January 29 was received with much interest and concern. After thinking the matter over and much prayer I have decided to join Mr. Armstrong in turning the loan into a donation... So, as of this date the loan becomes a gift to the work of the gospel. A few more years and it will all be over. Let us work together to speed up the work so that our reward will be, Well Done. "

"In response to Mr. Armstrong's Co-Worker letter of January 29, I am launching out on faith, and I wish at this time to make this \$500 a donation to the Work of God, the greatest and most important Work on earth... At the present I'm not employed because I won't work on the Sabbath. God can intervene there too, if my faith is sufficient. "

"I thank God daily for the blessings of the knowledge of the Truth, and the gifts of Faith, Hope, and Love, that He has

implanted in me. I know I don't prove my gratitude by my works as I should, so I am grateful to you when you stir me by your co-worker letters to give more generously. You can, therefore, as of this date change my \$2,000 loan to a donation."

"After counselling with the minister today, I decided to release half of the sum that I have out there on loan as a gift to the Work, which would be \$550. This represents all that I have left then in a reserve fund, except some that my children have. My wife and I hope there will be a great response to the powerful sermons that the ministers are bringing us as a result of the conference. Our heart is in the Work and our prayers and our pocketbook. My wife has some expensive rings that I gave her when I married her that we're going to try to sell very soon. All we intend to keep from this sale is enough for a wedding band."

"Please accept this letter and all the necessary paper as a request to turn the \$42 which I now have as a loan into a free will offering. . . I was reluctant somewhat to do this realizing that I now have less than one dollar in my possession here at home now and I expect to use that today for bus fare. But I am not pleased with my spiritual growth at all and this is a step in attempting to put God first in all of my plans. I must fully admit that I am not yet big enough to give the entire amount that I have as a loan for I am trying to save for the Feast of Tabernacles. But with God's help and an increase in faith I may be able to do soon. Thank you for your patience with me."

(This person's total loan was \$142.)

Those were fine letters, and I'm sure God will bless those individuals and all the others whose hearts are in this Work to the same degree.

Well, that winds up another letter. I hope all of you are escaping the flu. We are having an epidemic of whooping cough in Imperial Schools and even among the pre-school children of the brethren in this area. And I understand that another type of flu which is even more debilitating than the Hong Kong type is beginning to sweep across the country and that those who have had the Hong Kong type are just as susceptible as anyone else.

Thankfully, the Work has not been crippled by absenteeism as a result of these epidemics nearly to the degree that some organizations have, but we have felt it. We'll have to look to God more and more to deliver us from these plagues as the end draws nearer and as the

plagues of this world increase at the same time the manpower needs of the Work increase.

Your brother in Christ,

*Roderick C. Meredith*

Roderick C. Meredith

P. S. Just this noon, after this letter was already basically finished, I had the opportunity to talk to Mr. Herbert Armstrong at lunch. He did have a very fine and successful trip to Tel Aviv. He was able to meet with a number of Israeli officials, and straighten out certain misunderstandings regarding our participation in the excavation there. He and Mr. Rader were able to meet with a number of high-ranking men in the Israeli government, including General Yadin -- the man who has helped reorganize the Israeli army and helped mastermind the success of the Six-Day War.

Mr. Armstrong noted that God seems to have given us unusual grace and favor in the sight of the Israeli government officials and the officials of the Hebrew University. It is almost impossible to understand this unless God has some greater purpose in it.

Also, I want to add that last night most of us here had the privilege of attending a very fine concert by the combined Ambassador Chorale with the Headquarters' Church Choir, accompanied by an orchestra composed of professional musicians which we had engaged for the occasion and directed by Mr. Russell Reiner and Mr. Gary Prather, respectively. Mr. Reiner directed the first part of the concert, as Mr. Prather was the soloist, with orchestra, playing Tchaikovsky's piano Concerto in B Minor. He did a beautiful job of it, and the number was certainly a credit to the musical faculty of the college. The second half of the program, directed by Mr. Prather consisted of Brahms' German Requiem with orchestra and combined chorus. Although the Chorale and Choir had not had as much time to practice as, I believe, the groups did last year, they did a very creditable job and the performance was certainly uplifting and inspiring. So, once again, Ambassador College has sponsored a very fine musical program in Pasadena's beautiful Civic Auditorium.

One final point before closing. For those of you who had divorce cases which we have questioned, please defer telling the people about what the final decision is for one more month -- until about April 1. We have been so terribly busy moving into our new offices -- you can't imagine the complications -- and with other matters that we have simply been unable to catch up on reviewing all of these important cases. But we have another meeting scheduled for tomorrow night and will have one or two nights each week taken up with these until we finish them -- I am sure before April 1. Thank you for your patience.