

NONE

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

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OFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Second Vice-President

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Pasadena! Although not all of the final reports from the various Feast sites around the world have come in, this Feast was outstanding in every way. In both of the two new major sites, Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, and Penticton, British Columbia, the people in the local communities welcomed us warmly and seemed very impressed by our people.

My family and I were at the Poconos for the first half of the Feast and at the Lake of the Ozarks for the second half. I certainly enjoyed visiting with many of you who were at those sites and was sorry I could not see and visit with more of you.

Mr. Ted Armstrong started the Feast at Penticton, and, as you may have heard, the mayor of Penticton and several hundred local citizens were there for opening night of the Feast! In the interest of public relations, our Feast had been billed as the "Feast Convention" which it certainly is. Therefore, the mayor requested to speak a few words of welcome to the people, and we certainly thought it advisable for him to do so. He was very friendly, and he and his associates were very well impressed with the clean-cut, wholesome atmosphere of our festival and those participating in it. So this was a somewhat unusual but very fine start for a new Feast site! Many, many other interesting and helpful events could be related about the Feasts around the world, but I will not attempt to cover these in this letter. It was a wonderful Feast, however, and undoubtedly the best ever in most respects.

However, it was somewhat marred for those of us close to the situation by the shocking and untimely deaths of two of our ministers' wives! Again, most of you have heard of this, but I felt it may be helpful to give a few details. Mrs. Al Dennis did have breast cancer, as we all know. Her condition grew steadily worse; yet, many of us sincerely felt that God would intervene miraculously -- even at the last minute -- as He had for another lady in that same church district about a year ago. But, in His wisdom He chose not to and Mary Jo Dennis died on the final Friday morning during the Feast. After having been somewhat cut off

from activities for quite a while and also having missed the entire Feast to that point, Mr. Dennis felt it best to fly right on up to Penticton and be with his brethren for the final three services of the Feast. The funeral was conducted the following Tuesday by Mr. Carlton Smith, with Mr. Portune in attendance -- on his way down from Penticton -- and Mr. Jimmy Friddle, Mr. Dennis' brother-in-law, and his family also swinging by for the funeral after attending the Feast in Penticton.

The other tragedy to which I referred, which was even more shocking because of its unexpected nature, was the death of Mrs. Charles Scott. Many of you do not yet know Mr. Scott personally, but he is a very fine and dedicated full-time Elder in God's Church and a graduate of Ambassador College. He is also a West Point graduate and was a captain in the army for some time before coming into the Truth. He has two grade-school-age children and is assisting Mr. James Kunz in the Lakeland-Orlando area. His wife was a very sweet and dedicated woman, a real help to him in his ministry. She had complained of headaches and neck pains for a few weeks, and they had taken her to a chiropractor, which seemed to give temporary relief. These pains got worse during the Feast of Tabernacles. After arriving back home, they planned to see a doctor and get a complete checkup, but the pains got extremely bad through that very night (Sunday). Mr. Scott did call two or three doctors, but when he explained the pains, the doctors all said they would see her "the next day." But she suddenly died early the next morning. From what I have heard, the doctors are still not dogmatically certain of the cause of her death but think it was some type of brain hemorrhage. In any case, it was certainly very sudden, unexpected and shocking to all of us -- and especially to her husband.

Both Mr. Dennis and Mr. Scott have maintained tremendous attitudes in the face of the trials that have beset them. Both men now must carry on with little children -- and without mothers to take care of them. Mr. Dennis' own mother is staying with him for the time being and helping out as a housekeeper and mother to the children. Mr. Scott is having an elderly widow in the church fulfill the same function for his household.

These men, and their children, certainly need our prayers. I hope all of you will especially do this, and of course, some of you may wish to write if you know these ministers personally. I know that they would wish above all that this would drive us -- as a ministry -- closer to God. Sometimes we take each other too much for granted, or allow little misunderstandings or personality conflicts to interfere with the deep love and compassion we ought to feel for one another as fellow servants of Christ.

God has permitted these things to happen for a purpose. So let us search ourselves in a positive way -- not brooding or faultfinding. And let us draw closer to our God and use with all of our might the opportunities for love, kindness, service and accomplishment in God's Work that lie before us.

X Mr. Ted Armstrong probably mentioned at all of the major Feast sites in the United States and Canada that he was interviewed just before the Feast by a staff writer from The New York Times. The Times is, in the view of many, the number one newspaper in the world and is unquestionably one of the top-ranked newspapers in the world in both circulation and reputation.

Because of our past experience with newspaper reporters, and because this particular writer seemed especially intent on finding something evil or bad to report, Mr. Ted Armstrong felt that the story would be highly unfavorable. The story, which was quite lengthy, was printed on October 10, and although it was not wholly accurate, it was more objective than we had expected it would be. The story was accompanied by a picture of Mr. Ted Armstrong making a television program.

I'm sure the writer felt he was being objective in his approach, but when an "outside" writer describes some of our beliefs and doctrines, (as this one did briefly) the effect is always going to be somewhat unfavorable. He mentioned that we believe Christ will return to set up a world government; that "like the Seventh Day Adventists and other Old Testament-oriented Christian groups, the Church of God observes Saturday rather than Sunday as the Sabbath;" and that we teach "what has been known as Anglo-Israelism, the belief that the Americans and British have replaced the Jews as God's 'chosen people.'" The latter, of course, is a totally false concept.

X → The New York Times has a wire service which actually ranks third in the United States behind the Associated Press and the United Press International services, and many other papers subscribe to it. We, therefore, have no way of knowing just how many other papers have run the story. The local Pasadena newspaper, The Independent Star News, did carry the story -- with certain deletions. This seemed ironic since this local newspaper had never run a story on the college in our 23-year history and has always ignored our groundbreakings and other activities which would normally be covered in a local newspaper. Now, however, they have picked up a story written in New York -- 3,000 miles away -- and most disappointing of all, the parts of the article which

were the most favorable were deleted by the Star News. "A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country...."

* As a result of our efforts to have the college at Pasadena fully accredited, two men from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges made what is termed a "preliminary visit" to the campus recently. They seemed to be impressed by what they saw, and we were encouraged by their favorable comments. Accreditation would, of course, help us in many ways -- especially since the college is beginning to be more widely known and is getting more and more publicity. It seems that God is working it out and giving us favor so that we can, at this time, proceed toward accreditation.

The next step will involve our requesting a committee of the Western Association to determine whether we will be accredited. The men who made the recent preliminary visit will send us a report offering suggestions for improvements in certain areas (such as expanding our library facilities) and giving us an indication of the date they feel we should request the official visit. From their comments, it would seem that we might be ready for the next step within a year or two, and if everything goes well, accreditation could follow within another three to six months after that.

Most of you have probably heard about the ordinations that took place during the Feast, but for the benefit of those of you who may not have heard the complete list, I'll list them by rank.

Raised to the rank of Preaching Elder:

Mr. Wayne Dunlap (Oakland-San Francisco)
Mr. William Freeland (Richland Center)
Mr. George Lee (Edmonton-Calgary)
Mr. Bill Rapp (Pasadena)
Mr. John Ritenbaugh (Long Beach-Anaheim)
Mr. Mike Swagerty (Findlay-Toledo)
Mr. Tom Williams (Richmond-Baltimore-Washington, D. C.)
Mr. Ray Wooten (Atlanta-Macon)

Ordained as Local Elders:

Mr. Richard Aitkins (Los Angeles)
Mr. Gene Bailey (Tacoma-Olympia)
Mr. Larry Bathurst (Anderson-Ashville)
Mr. Henry Bontrager (South Bend)

Mr. Steve Botha (Leeds, England)
Mr. Fred Davis (Pasadena)
Mr. Scott Erickson Jr. (Duluth)
Mr. Tom Fish (Philadelphia)
Mr. James Forrester (Memphis)
Mr. George Forsyth (Detroit)
Mr. Dan Fricke (Seattle)
Mr. Richard Fulks (Charleston)
Mr. Felix Heimberg (Flint-Midland)
Mr. Charles Jobe (Pittsburgh)
Mr. Kyriacos Stavrinides (Bricket Wood, England)
Mr. Robert Mangum (Memphis)
Mr. George Menassas (Kitchener - Toronto)
Mr. Bob Mitchell (Warrenton, England)
Mr. Don Morehouse (Seattle)
Mr. Ben Morrison (Bismarck-Fargo)
Mr. James Oakley (Detroit)
Mr. Bob Peoples (Eugene)
Mr. Stuart Powell (Bricket Wood, England)
Mr. Richard Rand (Grand Rapids-South Bend)
Mr. Bruce Vance (Findlay-Toledo)
Mr. Lyndel Wornat (Bluefield-Kingsport)

There were 8 ordained as Preaching Elders and 26 new ordinations to the office of Local Elder for a total of 34 ordinations.

Congratulations to all of you on this new responsibility and added opportunity for service in God's Work!

And another ordination that I had not heard of previously is that of Mr. Sherwin McMichael, who was raised to the rank of Pastor on August 9. He has also been appointed to the office of Dean of Students at Bricket Wood. Our congratulations to you, also, Mr. McMichael!

In the way of "baby news," Mr. and Mrs. Don Hooser announced the birth of their son, Randel Paul. He was born on August 28 and weighed an even 10 pounds.

On September 4, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Phillips became the parents of a girl, weighing 7 pounds and 8 ounces, Heather Anne.

And Mr. and Mrs. Larry Walker announced the birth of their son on September 14. Kelly John weighed 9 pounds and 10 ounces.

Mr. Bill Freeland had to make a quick trip home during the Feast when his wife gave birth to an 8 pound, 3 ounce girl on September 29. They named her Deborah Michelle.

Congratulations to all of you!

Turning now to our own responsibilities, I hope all of you will try to get out on the "prospectives" you are receiving as soon as possible now that the Festival season is past. Do NOT let these requests for a visit turn "cold." Organize yourselves, have your Elders and assistants take care of routine matters and try to be sure that these new people are reached while they are still at the peak of their interest. Then follow through with additional visits every few weeks if you find that God is really working with them.

In this connection, I would like to ask each of you to send me a follow-up report on how you are using each Visiting Program Training Class member who completed the program. Send in a brief paragraph on how you are currently using each man -- whether as a visiting leader, assistant or Elder.

We have heard that some of these men are not being used at all. This, of course, is often a cause of discouragement. These men should be used if at all possible if they successfully completed the class.

However, let me remind you again that we do want to help and encourage you in every way possible to get the right balance in your own activities -- especially your personal family life, Bible study and prayer. Some of the ministers with widely scattered brethren to visit did send in requests for cutting down their visiting average, and all these were granted! We certainly want to be the right kind of "prod" on you men -- because human nature does bog down. But let us know if there are any genuine difficulties and be sure that you keep close to GOD, or mere "numbers" of visits will not mean too much.

Another important bit of news that has taken place since I first started this letter (it is quite delayed now) is that Mr. Raymond Cole is now scheduled to work full-time with the Festival sites here in the United States! He has been devoting well over half of his time to this for over two years already. But now, because we either make this move or else force Mr. Portune to get further behind in the Business Office operations, Mr. Cole has been appointed by Mr. Armstrong as Festival Project
→ Director of construction and development of the new United States Feast sites. There are many hundreds of hours yet to be put in at Mount Pocono,

thousands of hours yet at the Ozarks' Feast site, and the completely new site at Wisconsin Dells is not yet even on the drawing boards. So Mr. Cole will have his hands full carrying on a tremendously important function which runs into the millions of dollars in outlay.

Congratulations, Mr. Cole, on this challenging new assignment!

→ Replacing Mr. Cole as District Superintendent in the New York district will be the man who has already been "working into" his shoes in this for over two years now, Mr. Bob Spence. Because of Mr. Cole's heavy load at Mount Pocono, Mr. Spence has already had to take a sizable share of the responsibilities in the district, making many district trips in Mr. Cole's stead, and he knows the district in that way as no one else could without months of experience there. So we are very thankful that Mr. Spence has this new office and opportunity. Congratulations, Mr. Spence!

Also, as part of the change reaction, Mr. Mike Swagerty, now a Preaching Elder, will be moved over from Toledo where he has been assisting Mr. Bob Bertuzzi to be the back-up preacher and assistant to Mr. Bob Spence in New York.

Other ministerial changes involve Mr. Ken Martin and his family journeying north to take over the pastorate of the churches at South Bend and Fort Wayne, Indiana. Mr. Meeker will retain the pastorate of the slightly smaller, but faster-growing, church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, which he requested and will be raising up an entirely new church at Kalamazoo. Then, later, Mr. Dennis Pyle will raise up a new church in the vicinity of Lafayette, Indiana, which will give him a second church in the place of Fort Wayne and will alleviate some of the pressure on the huge Indianapolis Church as well. Also, of course, these changes make the Sabbath circuits closer, easier and safer for the ministers involved.

Another important bit of news which is not directly related to the field ministry but is interesting and significant, nevertheless, is that Mr. Milton Scott is being terminated as our agent to purchase radio and television time throughout the United States and Canada. His duties will officially end January 1, but we have so arranged things that he will not have much to do between now and then. This was brought about because he has allowed some of the stations to get too far behind with the payments due them -- even though we were paying him on a completely current basis, sometimes even in advance! This could have reflected on the credit and reputation of God's Work even though it could easily have been proved

that Mr. Scott was without excuse. So, since he had had plenty of warnings along this line, he finally had to be eased out of this responsibility. With his characteristic generosity, Mr. Armstrong gave him many helps and benefits, even though he was forced to let him go, so that Mr. Scott should certainly have no complaints whatsoever.

At this writing, it appears that we will now set up our own "in-house" agency, which we will directly control, although it will be incorporated in its own name. So even this removal of Mr. Scott should prove a boon to God's Work and will ultimately save us tens of thousands of dollars as we are now large enough, organized enough and -- with the help of our computers -- are technologically capable of handling this operation better than anyone else at this time.

Well, that's about it, although things are really moving here on the Campus since the Feast, and it is impossible to give you all of the news. Mr. Hunting and Herr and Frau Hennig are due to arrive here tomorrow, accompanied by a representative of the West German government who wants to see our Headquarters! Mr. Herbert Armstrong and Mr. Rader leave next Monday -- again bound for Bricket Wood and Jerusalem! The Work is moving fast, so let us all plunge in with full force to do our parts. Remember to pray for the Work continually, and to encourage the brethren to do so, as the financial income is still quite low! And don't forget to pray for Mr. Dennis, Mr. Scott and their children -- and for all your fellow ministers -- that we may be as close to each other, and to God, as we ought to be in completing this Work.

With love, your brother in Christ,

Roderick C. Meredith

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