

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Second Vice-President

January 28, 1969

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Headquarters! All of us attending this year's Ministerial Conference, which ended last Thursday, felt it was one of the most profitable and inspiring Conferences we have ever had in this era of God's Work! With a total of only 48 men who came in from the Field and overseas offices, it was the smallest Conference in terms of the percentage of ministers attending, but since the men attending were primarily District Superintendents, Faculty members from Big Sandy and Office Managers, it was, in a sense, the highest-level Conference we've ever held as well.

The sessions were very basic and practical, and the overall emphasis in the Conference was directed not toward minor doctrinal or Scriptural questions but toward the awesome job that lies ahead of us in finishing this Work.

We came to see that many of the brethren in God's Church just do not have the vision to comprehend their part in this Work and that many have begun to compromise with sin at a time when we as a Church need to be closer to God than ever before in gearing for the final push to finish this Work. I won't go into detail now about what was specifically covered since all of you will be getting that at District Conferences soon.

We are right now in the process of moving into the new "Hall of Administration -- which is the official name for the new building. The old Administration Building was often referred to as the "Ad Building," but as Mr. Armstrong pointed out at the Conference, this will be God's Headquarters Building -- the Headquarters for God's Work on earth. The "Hall of Administration" is a more fitting name for this impressively beautiful and fine building. It is the finest building in Pasadena, and we feel that it is the finest building of its type in the world! Perhaps we can put some color pictures of it in The GOOD NEWS along with an article about it in the near future.

The Pasadena City Council recently unanimously approved closure of Grove Street and Terrace Drive. The College address will no longer be 363 Grove Street since that street will be closed, but rather, it will be 300 West Green Street which is the address of the Hall of Administration. As soon as final details are worked out with the city, we will partially barricade these streets, and later on, they will be torn up and replaced by walkways which will also provide access routes for emergency vehicles.

Ann
The Work really leaped forward during the year of 1968. With the opening of major circulation magazine advertising all over the world, we experienced the greatest surge of growth in a one-year period that we have ever experienced. The PLAIN TRUTH subscription list jumped from 1,150,000 to 1,530,000, and we began two new editions of The PLAIN TRUTH -- the Spanish and Dutch editions. Here is a breakdown of the total number of mail returns brought in by some of the ads in the advertising campaign up to the beginning of the Conference:

18,291 -- Life magazine
53,575 -- T.V. Guide
14,330 -- Reader's Digest in Britain
10,024 -- Drive Magazine in Britain
60,996 -- Newspapers in Britain

To Do
These ads offered a three-month trial subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH as well as various booklets, and an amazing 43 percent responded to a letter at the end of three months encouraging them to renew their subscriptions! This means that almost one-half of those writing in for a trial subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH will remain on the mailing list, and many of them will eventually become Co-Workers. We are losing Co-Workers, however, almost as fast as we are gaining them, and this is a problem we must solve if we are going to continue to grow as in the past. The Correspondence Course is the most important means we have of getting and holding Co-Workers. We have found that many Co-Workers are not taking the Correspondence Course, and many prospective members are not either. I hope that all of you in getting acquainted with prospective members are making a point of asking them if they are taking the Course and encouraging those who aren't to begin. Encourage those who are taking it to continue, and emphasize to all of them how very important the Course is to their spiritual growth.

The growth of the Churches last year was not spectacular, but it was certainly consistent with the growth we have had in past years and was encouraging in that sense. In the calendar year 1968, 26 new Churches were raised up -- 21 in the United States and Canada and 5 in foreign countries. In the way of comparison, we started 26 new Churches, also, in 1966, and then 21 in 1967. The number of new Churches alone does not give a true picture of Church growth since the size of the average Church is now increasing. Another point to keep in mind is that when a new Church begins today, most, if not all, of the people were already attending a local Church; whereas just a few years ago, a new Church meant that most of the brethren were able to attend a local

Church for the first time. There are now only a few brethren who cannot attend local Churches at all because of the distance they must drive, but new Churches enable many to attend more often and cut down the distance that many others must drive each Sabbath.

The number of ordinations last year was especially encouraging. There were 60 new ordinations and 37 raises in rank in God's Ministry. This compares with 34 new ordinations in 1966 and 39 in 1967. Already in 1969 we have had 13 new ordinations and 23 raises in rank! These occurred either at the Conference or in local areas at the return of the District Superintendents from the Conference. Without differentiating between those ordained at the Conference and those ordained just afterward locally, here is a list of the new local elders:

Mr. Barry Chase, Mr. Richard Frankel, Mr. Bill Kaiser, Mr. Richard Kilbury, Mr. Judd Kirk, Mr. Randall Kobernat, Mr. Carl Koellner, Mr. Bobby League, Mr. Enrique Ruiz, Mr. Leslie Schmedes, Mr. Doug Taylor, Mr. Abner Washington and Mr. Lyle Welty.

Those raised to the rank of preaching elder were:

Mr. Etienne Bourdin, Mr. James Chapman, Mr. Theodore Gould, Mr. Stephen Martin, Mr. Lester McCole, Mr. Robert Morton, Mr. Wayne Phillips, Mr. Daryl Reedy, Mr. John Robinson and Mr. Larry Salyer.

Those raised to the rank of pastor were:

Mr. Gary Antion, Mr. Gary Arvidson, Mr. Hal Baird, Mr. Frank Brown, Mr. Keith Crouch, Mr. Al Dennis, Mr. Robert Fahey, Mr. Paul Flatt, Mr. John Pruner, Mr. Dennis Pyle, Mr. Richard Rice and Mr. William Winner.

We had one evangelist ordained -- Mr. Ronald Dart -- who has been transferred from Bricket Wood to Headquarters as Mr. Ted Armstrong's executive assistant in the Foreign Work.

Congratulations to all of you on the new offices and added responsibilities God has given you!

The transfer of Mr. Dart to Headquarters has necessitated certain other changes, as well. Mr. Sherwin McMichael, who has been in for a semester of College here at Headquarters and who was scheduled to go to Cincinnati, will now have the privilege of going to Ambassador College, Bricket Wood, to serve on the Faculty there! Replacing him in Cincinnati will be Mr. Edward Smith, who has been pastoring the Abilene and Odessa Churches in West Texas. He will be replaced in that area by Mr. Larry Salyer who had been serving in Houston as a local elder until his recent raise in rank.

Another change will be made soon as a result of the beginning of the new Wilmington, Delaware, Church. Mr. Walter Sharp will be taking this new Church along with Philadelphia, which was formerly linked up with Harrisburg. Mr. Paul Zapf, who has been the resident elder at Harrisburg for quite a while now, will assume the responsibility of pastoring that Church.

Another new Church scheduled to begin soon is Montreal, Quebec, in Canada. Mr. Richard Wilding will then have a two-Church circuit consisting of Ottawa, Ontario, and Montreal.

Scheduled on February 4 is a new monthly Bible Study in Victoria, Texas, which will be taken by Mr. Tullio Panella.

And some especially good news for the French brethren was the announcement of a new Bible Study which began on January 19 in Lyon, France. Mr. Colin Wilkins will go over from Geneva to take this monthly Study.

That brings us up-to-date on the recent news in the Work, but as usual I have several birth announcements.

On December 17, Mr. and Mrs. Gunar Freibergs announced the birth of their daughter, Karina, who weighed 7 pounds.

Mr. and Mrs. David Mills announced their new arrival, David Mark who weighed 9 pounds and 6 ounces, on December 19.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Martin's son was born on December 21. Russell David weighed 7 pounds and 12 ounces.

Judith Yvonne was born to Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Atlas on December 31 -- at 8:40 P.M. ! That is cutting it close, but that tax deduction slipped in under the wire!

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Albert announced the birth of their 8-pound, 4-ounce daughter, Jennifer Kayte, on January 3.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Holladay announced the birth of their son -- Ted Craig -- on January 7. He weighed 7 pounds and 12 ounces.

Congratulations to all of you on your new arrivals!

Because of a pressing need in the Work at this time, Mr. Norman Smith, head of the Radio and Television Division here at the College wanted me to pass on this announcement to you and ask you to read it at Sabbath Services:

"The Television Production Department has an immediate need for a qualified film editor. He should have experience in:

1. A and B roll cutting of 16 mm original
2. 16 and/or 35 mm syn-sound editing
3. Documentary film editing
4. Other related phases of film production

"If you feel you would qualify, please contact the Ambassador College Personnel Department right away."

Those of you who are local pastors recently received instructions regarding the establishing of a central Headquarters bank account which will be called the "Local Church Account." Deposited in this account will be the donations that the brethren send in for a Fund which at times has been called the "Poor Fund," the "Love Fund" or the "Emergency Fund." For the sake of a uniform name that best describes the use of this Fund, it should be referred to as the "Emergency Fund." It is not just for the poor and unfortunately, the word "love" has bad connotations in this society today. Please begin to refer to this Fund as the "Emergency Fund," and you might announce to the brethren to label their donations to this Fund "Emergency Fund" rather than "Love Fund" as was previously announced. Either way they will receive proper credit, but it would be better if everyone called it by the same name.

I need to clarify for you, too, how to handle Emergency Fund loans and loan repayments. We will not keep records on the loans or loan repayments here at Headquarters. You as the local minister need to know whether the person who was supposed to repay the loan actually did repay it. Therefore, you should keep a list of the loans that you make from the Emergency Fund, and the loan repayments should be given to you so that you can keep up with whether the loans are properly repaid. You should then send in the repayments in your Ministerial Report clearly labeled as "Emergency Fund Loan Repayments," and we will deposit them in the Local Church Account. We will consider these repayments as anonymous donations, and we will not keep a record of them in any way.

Any loan repayments which we receive from individuals in our regular mail will be handled in the same way, so be sure to explain to those receiving loans that they should give or send the repayment to you -- preferably in a check or money order made payable to the Worldwide Church of God.

One final note of instruction -- all of you who are pastoring local Churches need to be extremely careful in recommending married men to be brought in to College. Be sure that the men sincerely desire to come to College. Don't push or pressure them into it. Also, you need to realize that many men who may have the ability to succeed in College will be much happier, and therefore much better off, in a local area where they have attained a degree of success in the business world and can be a "pillar" in the local Church. These men who have "arrived" in their field and have responsible jobs sometimes have difficulty fitting in at Headquarters as a "small cog in a big machine" when they come in to College.

Be very cautious in considering anyone over age thirty for College. Those of us here at Headquarters are going to be evaluating them from the standpoint of not only considering whether they have the ability, but also whether they can wholeheartedly throw themselves into College and be satisfied to start all over. The best prospects will be young married men in their middle twenties who have ability and are eager to come to College.

Before I close I want to call your attention to a fact that is of concern to us here at Headquarters. We had a 30 percent increase in usable income in 1968, but only about 21 percent was actual income. The other 9 percent was in loans, and loans, of course, show up on our financial statement as liabilities. God's Work is continuing to go forward at an unprecedented pace -- far outstripping the actual growth in income. This has been possible as a result of the careful managing of our finances along with the opening up of very effective advertising mediums such as the T. V. Guide, which brings in returns at a cost of only about 65 cents each. This compares very favorably with the cost per letter of our most effective radio stations. To continue to grow at the rate we need to, however, we must, in the calendar year 1969, have an increase in actual income of 30 percent or more! And a large part of this income must come from our members.

Therefore, we want to ask you to begin encouraging and exhorting the brethren to GIVE more of their loans as a gift to the Work. Many of them actually, can, in fact, do this. But they have been under the delusion -- which we didn't realize ourselves -- that a loan is "just as good" as a gift. Now we're beginning to realize that because it hurts our credit rating that that is NOT so! So, while not discouraging loans, do stress the fact that we hope more of them will be able to give money to the Work -- as they are able -- without strings attached in the future. And encourage those who have made loans to see if they might now be able to turn these loans into a gift at the earliest opportunity! You will be receiving more information about this in the future as Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Portune may be sending out special letters to those who have made loans to the Work along this line. But be sure that you give all of the brethren this general information so they may be able to serve God in a financial way intelligently.

Also, we are beginning to look into the tithing situation. Up until we had our computer, it was very slow and difficult to check the tithing record of brethren. We still do not intend to do this all the time and try to "catch" people at all as some denominations apparently do. But, in order to help them fulfill their responsibilities, we are going to make spot checks in certain Church areas from time to time. In making a few of these already we have been SHOCKED to find that even some of our LEADING MEN -- those recommended for the Visiting Program Training Class -- were not tithing at all! Most of them, of course, were tithing, but many, even of this group, were giving very sparingly in offerings and to the Building Fund. So take this to heart, fellows! I want to ask all of you -- if you have not recently done so -- to preach one or two sermons on tithing, on giving generous offerings and on giving sacrificially to God's Work. Then, in addition, be sure that you preach more

~~sermons continually on the tremendous meaning and purpose of this Work and how important it is that each one of our brethren have his whole heart wrapped up in the Work of Almighty God in our age!~~ As Mr. Armstrong has said so many times, if people do not have their hearts in the Work -- then their own personal (and sometimes selfish) Bible study and prayer does NOT, in fact, keep them growing and many of these people tend to fall away sooner or later!

Be sure, then, that you stress far more than ever the importance of having our hearts in this Work. And ~~be sure to thank and praise those who have already done this~~ -- and those who have tithed and given sacrificially in offerings already. Then proceed to encourage, exhort and inspire the entire congregation to emulate this fine example of having their entire BEINGS -- hearts, pocketbooks, time, talent and energy -- wrapped up as instruments in the Work of God!

We must somehow motivate the brethren to realize that God has called us, not just to be in His Kingdom, but to be a part of the most important Work on earth at this time and the most important Work in the history of mankind! We are fulfilling the office of Elijah in preparing the way for the return of Christ! We must do all we can to help them to become totally committed to this Work -- in their prayers and in their offerings. Those who are growing spiritually are those who have their hearts in God's Work! By focusing their attention off their own problems -- off the self -- and onto this Work, we will help them in the most effective way possible while helping the Work!

Your brother in Christ,



Roderick C. Meredith

The first part of the document is a letter from the President of the United States to the Congress, dated January 3, 1862. The letter is addressed to the Senate and the House of Representatives, and is signed by Abraham Lincoln. The letter discusses the state of the Union and the progress of the war against the Confederacy. It also mentions the President's efforts to maintain the Union and his commitment to the principles of liberty and justice for all.

The second part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the War Department, dated January 10, 1862. The report is addressed to the President and the Congress, and is signed by Edwin M. Stanton. The report discusses the military operations of the Union Army and the progress of the war. It also mentions the Secretary's efforts to supply the Army and his commitment to the principles of efficiency and economy.

The third part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Navy Department, dated January 15, 1862. The report is addressed to the President and the Congress, and is signed by Gideon Welles. The report discusses the naval operations of the Union Navy and the progress of the war. It also mentions the Secretary's efforts to supply the Navy and his commitment to the principles of efficiency and economy.

Very respectfully,
Abraham Lincoln



January 15, 1862