

# WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

1. END ROHAN TRIAL
2. FINANCIAL CUT BACKS
3. MR. LUKER NOW HEAD CAC
4. NIGHT TO BE REMEMBERED  
INSTRUCTIONS
5. SENIORS IN SPOCKSMAN CLUB

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG  
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF  
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Minister

December 30, 1969

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Headquarters! Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Portune arrived back here from Israel a week ago Friday evening, and Mr. Ted Armstrong returned from Big Sandy a couple of hours earlier. Mr. Armstrong's trip went very well. He reported that the "Rohan case" is out of the public limelight now that the trial is over.

Rather than adversely affecting our relationship with the Hebrew University and with the Israeli government officials whom Mr. Armstrong has met, the entire Al Aksa affair has served to enhance the image of Ambassador College in their eyes. As Mr. Armstrong explained at the Feast sites he visited this year, this incident provided us with the opportunity to put in their hands a write-up of the Church's basic beliefs. Mr. Armstrong emphasized in the write-up that our beliefs are different from the mainstream of "Christianity," and God inspired him to explain our beliefs in a way that would be acceptable to a Jewish mind. The write-up would not be acceptable in the sense that it would convict and convert a Jewish mind, but it would seem logical, reasonable and much more believable to a Jewish person -- without offending him -- than the doctrines of other "Christian" churches. I understand that the University and government officials who read the write-up received it very well and reacted favorably.

We are thankful that God thwarted Satan's attempt to discredit and defame this Work through the actions of Rohan -- who had had visions and was obviously demon influenced -- and that He has actually turned this incident to our favor and used it to further His Work. Perhaps some of the very favorable publicity we have received recently came as a result of this incident which focused the attention of the news media on this Work and made them aware of its worldwide scope.

Although we did set a new weekly mail income record week before last, we fell \$8,526 short of attaining our goal of our first million-dollar week. And because of the excellent income last year, it appears

that we may not be able to finish the month with more than about a 10% increase -- if that much. This will have the effect of lowering the increase in total income for the year even further from the 21.4% we had at the beginning of the month rather than increasing it as we hoped the December income would do.

I can now announce the men who will be coming in next month for a semester of College here at Pasadena. They are Mr. Vernon Hargrove and Mr. Rowlen Tucker. They have both been out of College and serving in the Field for over seven years, so this opportunity to return for a semester to sit in on classes, Forums and Assemblies and to attend various College activities and functions should be very helpful and profitable to both of them.

We try to keep all of you informed about changes in the Work and to keep you abreast of the latest developments, but it is difficult to really impart the "feel" of what is going on here at Headquarters through letters and District Conferences. These are certainly a big help, of course, but there is no better way to be renewed by the Headquarters' spirit and approach and to be brought up to date on Headquarters' policies than the experience of being here for a few months. We are happy these men are getting this opportunity and wish that we could rotate more of you in for a semester of College more often.

Mr. Hargrove is being replaced in New Orleans and Baton Rouge by Mr. Cecil Battles, who has been here at College for the fall semester, and Mr. Tucker is being replaced in Memphis and Tupelo by Mr. Jack Pyle, who is also finishing up a semester here at College.

2    ⌈ Since this letter was begun early last week, Messrs. Ted Armstrong, Portune and Dart flew up to visit Mr. Dean Wilson in Vancouver, Canada. They spent part of Christmas day going over various problems in the Canadian work and made some major adjustments which should save God's Work tens of thousands of dollars! As you all know, we are trying to cut back EVERYWHERE we can because of the critical financial situation. So certain radio stations in Canada are being cancelled that were not pulling much mail anyway; the Canadian PLAIN TRUTH list is going to be "pruned" by sending out renewal letters, and additional office personnel and ministers are going to be held to a minimum. However, a television network covering a few of the major cities may be added in Canada, though apparently being more than offset by the savings being affected in cancelling several radio stations.

Also, Mr. Armstrong announced Friday evening that the Summer Educational Program would be completely cancelled for this summer --

saving many thousands of dollars. Virtually all Reader's Digest foreign language advertisements are being cancelled. However, we may go into some ads in the Scandinavian edition which, again, would be more than offset by the others and would enable us to reach a part of the world which we have not reached before. In addition, we are cancelling the Reader's Digest English language ads for India and cutting way back on the expense of the Indian work.

✓ So all of us, fellows, should realize the great retrenchment program the Work is undergoing. If there is any way you see waste or inefficiency or know where we could save money without hurting the Work, please let us know.

3 One big change that affects our department is that Mr. Dennis Luker -- a Pastor-rank minister and former District Superintendent in the Field for over five and one-half years -- is now installed as head of the Church Administration Department. The former department head, Mr. Dan Porter, suggested this change himself as Mr. Luker has now completely familiarized himself with all procedures in the department and will work with me on a permanent basis.

This will, we all feel, facilitate the work of the department and help all of you to know that you are dealing with a "minister" when you deal with Church Administration. All basic decisions, policies, procedures, etc. will be approved by Mr. Luker personally and, of course, by me if they affect anything of major consequence regarding ministerial procedures. Although this is not a promotion for Mr. Luker as such, it certainly is an additional responsibility.

And I do want to express my thanks to Mr. Porter for the hard and faithful work he put in establishing the department, carrying on with many procedures and problems for me and for his tremendous attitude in suggesting this change in the first place! He will continue now as assistant department head, but all policies and procedures will be screened more directly through Mr. Luker and more will be originated by him than before.

4 Since some of you will soon begin making arrangements for the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, I should explain that we have changed the manner in which we observe the "Night to Be Much Observed." In the past, the local congregations have assembled for a brief explanation from Exodus 12 and 14 before eating a meal together. From now on, however, since many local Churches are now so large, we will observe this evening in small groups of two or three families. Individual families will make their own arrangements to get together for

a meal that evening. One of the men will read the Scriptures pertaining to the observance of the evening, noting especially Exodus 12:42 and 14:8. After a prayer, they will then have the meal -- which can be paid for from second tithe, of course. Observing that evening in this way should be just as enjoyable and meaningful as having everyone assemble together and, in all likelihood, will be more enjoyable because of the family atmosphere.

In some cases it may not be possible or convenient for two or three families to get together because of mileage, inclement weather, etc. Should this be the case, it would certainly be all right for a family to observe the evening by themselves. The purpose of the evening is to remember that God has delivered us from the bondage of sin just as He delivered the children of Israel from the bondage of Egypt. It is a night of rejoicing -- a night to be much observed -- and should be observed accordingly.

Therefore, you will NOT need to reserve big halls this year for the "Night to Be Much Observed." We will send out further instructions before that evening on the exact details. And Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong said that he may write a brief outline of the talk that the host or leading man could give that evening.

5 We goofed! Let me herein retract the statement in my last letter saying that only those high school seniors that had already been accepted for Ambassador would be permitted in Spokesman Clubs. A number of you wrote in about this -- and I even had a personal plea from a seventeen-year-old senior in Mr. Blackwell's area. I was simply hurriedly dictating the letter and forgot that we had before permitted any outstanding high school seniors -- especially Ambassador College prospectives -- to attend Spokesman Club if there is room. By this, I mean that you should NOT start additional clubs just to accommodate a number of high school seniors. In such cases, a few might be permitted in by pruning out the deadwood among the older men. But this will enable you to continue getting acquainted with Ambassador College prospectives in this manner and encouraging these young men in their personal and spiritual growth even though they are not as yet baptized in some cases.

Regarding the Ministerial ball, it has been decided that it will be held. A great many ministers expressed the fact that it meant a great deal to them and/or their wives -- and we know the students certainly enjoy it as well. So, be sure to bring a tuxedo if you have one and the ladies their formal wear -- as it will be helpful not only for this ball but also for two formal concerts which will be held on the nights of the 15th and 19th of January. Dark suits are acceptable for these occasions,

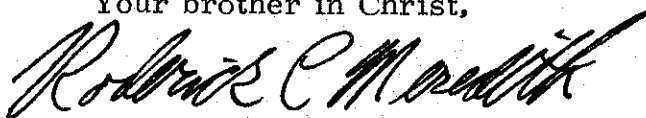
of course. But many of you will enjoy wearing a tuxedo as Mr. Armstrong was encouraging everyone here to do so if possible.

For some reason, a number of ministers are asking if they should bring their children. A few of you from overseas may have special reasons to bring yours and will have worked this out with Mr. Dart, anyway. However, most of the United States ministers should not bring their children unless it is absolutely necessary. The Work does not pay the way of your children or their board and room while here. It would be far better -- as we have always done in the past -- if you could find a stable, balanced family in the local Church area with whom you are very close and familiar and have them keep your children during the Conference period. Otherwise, you are constantly going to have to leave them while you attend meetings, socials, etc., and they will probably be more frustrated in the end than if they had stayed at home. And it certainly does you and your wives good to have this change once in a while anyway. We are not telling you what to do, however. This is only a strong suggestion we hope you will follow unless you have relatives out here or other important reasons why you should bring your children.

Also, let me mention ahead of time that in line with our retrenchment program, we are going to cut down drastically on the number of automobiles made available to the ministers during the Conference period. With a number of exceptions for special reasons, we will generally be limiting the cars to just the Evangelists and District Superintendents this year. And just this one measure will save thousands of dollars if a number of you "double up" so that we do not have to lease additional cars.

Well, that is about it until another letter either during or after the Conference. Whether you are coming or staying behind this year, be sure to pray fervently for the success of these Ministerial Conferences and for God's Work. We are trying to retrench, reorganize and revitalize God's Work in every way possible. Let's ask God to inspire all of us along these lines and to bless His Work in the coming year as never before.

Your brother in Christ,



Roderick C. Meredith

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