

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Second Vice-President

March 31, 1969

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from Pasadena! With the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread only a few days away, many of us are preparing to leave for various areas of the country, and we are looking forward to a Festival which we are sure will be the "best ever." If this year's Conference and some of the sermons around the world afterward -- which we have heard comments about -- are any indication, this should be an outstanding Festival in every way.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong returned from Jerusalem the week before last after attending a special award ceremony in which Dr. William F. Albright received an award for his contribution to the field of archaeology. In Israel this annual event is considered highly important, and for the sake of our relations with the Hebrew University and certain government officials in Israel, Mr. Armstrong felt he should be there for the ceremony. God has continued to give Mr. Armstrong and Ambassador College unusual favor in the eyes of those with whom we are dealing in Israel, and with each successive visit to Jerusalem, we are more convinced that God has a very important purpose for establishing this relationship between the College and the Hebrew University in the nation of Israel -- or Judah, as God looks at it.

Mr. Ted Armstrong, Mr. Norman Smith and some others attended the National Association of Broadcasters Convention in Washington, D. C. last week, arriving back here on Wednesday afternoon. He had scheduled interviews for the television program on this trip with Mr. Arthur Goldberg, who was formerly a Justice of the Supreme Court and was later our Ambassador to the United Nations, and also with Dr. Wernher Von Braun, the prominent German scientist who has played such an important role in our manned space program. Both interviews had to be cancelled, however. Mr. Goldberg had to make an unexpected trip to Alaska, and Dr. Von Braun was called to a meeting at Cape Kennedy. Perhaps the interviews with these men can be conducted at a later date, but Mr. Ted Armstrong was able to interview Dr. Rolf Friedemann Pauls, the West German Ambassador to the United States.

And some good news that I'm happy to pass on to you is that the appeals court reversed the verdict against us in the Bradesku case! Here is part of the comment about this in the Akron Beacon Journal which Mr. Antion sent in explaining the details:

"The Ninth District Court of Appeals here has reversed a \$30,000 jury award to a Cleveland man who sued the Radio Church of God last Spring for alienating his wife's affections.

"The three-member panel unanimously agreed that the award clearly violated the church's right to practice its doctrines unfettered.

"One of the most cherished freedoms of the citizens of this country," wrote Judge Oscar J. Hunsicker in a tightly-reasoned opinion, "is religious freedom. It is a freedom to believe, in matters religious. The Federal and state government must keep their hands off the religious beliefs of (their) citizens."

"The bizarre case, apparently without parallel in American judicial history, was tried last March in Summit County Common Pleas Court. The complainant, 45-year-old Melvin E. Bradesku, charged that Radio Church of God minister David L. Antion of 185 Grayling Dr., persuaded Bradesku's wife, Isabel, that their marriage was adulterous, causing her to leave him. The couple has five children.

"Bradesku's argument centered largely on a letter that Mr. Antion wrote to Mrs. Bradesku, who inquired about the legitimacy of her marriage to her husband, who was divorced when she married him.

"It would be an unusual stretch of the imagination," the appeals court said, "to say that on the strength of the letter from Mr. Antion, which is in evidence here, that Mrs. Bradesku, a mature and reasonably normal person, would consider the contents of such letter as an enticement or inducement to leave her husband... It seems apparent to this court that the conduct of Mrs. Bradesku was the result of something other than the teaching of the Radio Church of God."

"The court also scolded the common pleas bench for admitting certain evidence which tended to hold up the Radio Church of God to ridicule.

"The right to advocate and disseminate any religious faith," the court reprimanded, "no matter how offensive or ridiculous to others, short of a faith dedicated to the overthrow of the government by force, is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, and is binding on all states."

"The evidence in question here dealt with certain practices and publications of the church which the plaintiff's attorney contended put Mrs. Bradesku in a frame of mind to leave her husband."

"The appeals court, however, said such 'evidence' seemed to be designed to play on the prejudices of the jury."

As you have noticed from the recent "Weekly Comments," the income so far this month has been very encouraging. It is especially gratifying to see that all the offices, worldwide, are reporting the same upsurge in the income after the slump in the first two months of this year. The brethren all over the world are responding in unison to do their part, and it is evident that God has inspired this and is the One responsible. We should certainly thank Him for it, but we also want to thank the brethren for their wholehearted response. The money increase for March has brought the cumulative increase for the year, as of last Friday, up to 28.8% -- for mail only. The increase in the total income from mail and all other sources, however, stands at only 22.8% for the year to date. This is a vast improvement, but we can't relax and let down because we still have quite a way to go before reaching the 30% mark for the year!

We are making good progress, also, in reducing our expenses in the Work. We are continuing, however, to look for ways to cut down in every area of the budget. I sincerely appreciated the response from many of you expressing your wholehearted support in our effort to reduce expenses in the Ministerial budget. Several even voluntarily requested that their allotment be reduced. As a part of this effort to cut expenses, we will be taking a look at all the allotments soon in order to see how much some of them can be reduced.

One change that we have already decided to make in regard to allotments is to take all ministerial assistants off ministerial expense. Since they don't have the expenses of postage, telephone bills, tolls, etc., their only need for an allotment would be for an occasional meal when they are out of town with either the local pastor or one of the other ministers. In that case the minister could pay the motel bill and the cost of the assistant's meals from his allotment.

In the way of baby news, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Samples announced the birth of their daughter La Donna Siobhan (pronounced Sha-von) on February 25. She weighed six pounds and twelve ounces.

And Mr. and Mrs. Keith Hoyt announced the birth of their six-pound, eleven-ounce son, Timothy David, on March 7. Congratulations!

Beginning April 1, we will have a new telephone system here on campus. Called "Centrex," this new computerized system is the very latest and most advanced telephone system available. It will enable outside callers to dial campus extensions directly. The new campus number will be 577-5000, and any of you can call this number to have the operator connect you with any extension as in the past, but you can also dial directly to reach any of us without going through the campus operator. You may want to write the following numbers in your personal telephone book in order to dial us directly during office hours:

Roderick C. Meredith	577-5135
Dennis G. Luker	577-5132
Daniel W. Porter	577-5141

Since we are fast approaching the end of another Spokesman Club year, you need to be considering who to recommend for the Certificate of Merit in your clubs. In order to get the hundreds of certificates printed and mailed out by the middle of June, we must have the requests by May 1 at the very latest. You should be able to determine by then who will be able to complete all the speeches before the end of this term. Remember to list each man's name (spelled correctly) just as you want it to appear on the certificate, as well as the Club name.

In the past we have sent out Third Tithe checks for regular Third Tithe recipients from Headquarters twice monthly -- on the first and fifteenth of the month. The procedure was that those receiving more than \$50 per month were sent two checks, but those receiving less than \$50 per month received only one monthly check. Having two separate Third Tithe lists handled in two different ways required that we go through complicated accounting and mailing procedures in sending out the Third Tithe checks. Since we add 15 to 20 new Third Tithe recipients per month, and make many other changes in allotments, we have found it necessary to establish new procedures to streamline the administration of Third Tithe. Beginning April 1, we will send everyone a monthly check for the total amount needed for the month. All checks for welfare, social security, veteran's pensions, etc., are

sent monthly, and we will be using this same procedure for Third Tithe checks from now on. All Third Tithe recipients affected by this change will be notified by a memo with their next Third Tithe check, but I wanted to explain the reason more fully to all of you.

* Mr. Royer wanted me to pass on an announcement regarding overseas transfers for the Feast of Tabernacles and ask you to read it to the brethren:

The Feast Office is receiving numerous inquiries on transferring overseas for the Feast of Tabernacles. Questions asked are: "Do we need shots, passports? Would Pasadena arrange charter flights? May we at the local level organize a charter? Who should transfer? How much money do we need, etc.?"

The Feast Brochure deals with overseas transfers in detail. No one should make definite plans until they have read the sections on overseas transfers and the instructions on "who should change Feast areas." The Brochure will be out May 15th. Charter Service arrangements are not approved either for Pasadena or for local churches. Each member should make private arrangements after receiving approval to transfer from Pasadena. Change of area forms will accompany the Feast Brochure.

Smallpox shots are required on re-entry into the USA. Passports are needed. Other shots may be required depending on extent of travel. Special instructions are included in the Brochure on extent of travel. Members approved to transfer overseas should inquire of immigration regarding shots, passports, etc.

* And another announcement that could be made concerns donations to the Emergency Fund. It is fine for you to continue to accept small donations to the Emergency Fund as long as the brethren do not want receipts. We know that some brethren will often drop their change into a box labeled "Emergency Fund" and actually prefer to do this rather than labeling a 25¢ donation to the Emergency Fund on their check when sending their tithes and offerings to Pasadena. You could announce that those who do not want a receipt can continue to give locally for the Emergency Fund. You can put a deacon in charge of this type of collection and have him give you a check or money order after the nickels, dimes and quarters have accumulated an amount of \$10-\$25. You can then send in the check or money order, labeled properly -- "Emergency Fund Donation from Akron Church" for

example -- with your next Ministerial Report. This might be done weekly, bi-monthly or monthly, depending on the amount collected each week.

Well, that winds up another letter. I hope I can write a ministerial letter even more often now that we are beginning to get settled into the new building. I hope this Passover season will draw us all closer to each other in this Work and closer to God so that He can use us more effectively than ever as His instruments. We as a Church really need more of the gifts of God's Spirit -- the gifts of healing and miracles -- as well as more of the fruits of God's Spirit in our daily lives. Pray with us that God will especially inspire all of His ministers to give His people the instruction, correction and inspiration we need during this Festival.

Your brother in Christ,

Roderick C. Meredith

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