

# WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG  
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF  
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Second Vice-President

August 5, 1969

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Headquarters! We had a very fine district conference in Big Sandy last week, and I certainly enjoyed visiting the campus again and seeing everyone back there. From the reports I have received, the district conferences which have been held so far in the other areas have been just as profitable and encouraging to the men as the one we had in Big Sandy.

I understand that both Mr. Herbert Armstrong and Mr. Ted Armstrong were in Jerusalem this past Sabbath. Mr. Ted Armstrong left for India Saturday night, accompanied by Mr. Dart, Mr. McCullough, Mr. Christopherson and Mr. Jensen. Mr. Herbert Armstrong left for Bricket Wood Sunday morning and plans to return to Pasadena early next week.

In the way of church news, we are starting a total of five new churches this month. A new church in Gilroy, California began this past Sabbath. Mr. Al Portune will be pastoring this new church along with the church in San Jose which he is presently pastoring.

This coming Sabbath a new church will begin in Orlando, Florida. It will be linked up with the church in Lakeland and pastored by Mr. James Kunz. And also beginning this coming Sabbath will be a new church which will meet in our Administration Building at the new feast site in Lake of the Ozarks. This new church will be linked up with Columbia as part of a two-church circuit under Mr. Don Smith.

And, on August 16, a new church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin will begin as a result of the growth in that area. This means that Mr. Baird will now have A.M. and P.M. services there in Milwaukee. The other church to begin this month, Ada, Oklahoma, will begin on August 23 and will be pastored by Mr. Dale Hampton along with the church in Oklahoma City.

This brings the total number of churches in the United States to 167, and the total number of churches around the world to 215. By the end of this month, we will have begun 17 new churches here in the United States so far this year, and 5 new churches outside the United States for a total of 22 new churches around the world. This growth is certainly encouraging, and we can be very thankful for it as we continue to ask God to add new members to His Church -- along with the manpower to "feed" them and help them grow spiritually!

As all of you know, the Visiting Program Training Class has helped tremendously in training and equipping local men to visit and encourage the members, thus freeing the full-time ministers -- especially the local pastors -- to handle the problem visits and prospective member visits. Since we are just now making preparation for the beginning of the second year of the class, the comments of some of our leading ministers regarding the effectiveness of the class might be of interest to all of you.

Mr. David Antion -- "We have had many comments from husbands and their wives in the V. P. T. C. as to how much they appreciated being prodded and how it has helped their family life -- getting them away from the T. V. and on to study more and family activities."

Mr. Dean Blackwell -- "I was heartsick at the thought that we would not have the V. P. T. C. next year because it has done the men as well as those who taught it immeasurable good. I learned so very, very much in it and it was like having notes from some of the classes mailed out to us."

Mr. Raymond Cole -- "The following are some of the ways in which I feel the men were greatly benefited: 1) It gave them a semi-formal setting for study. The pressure to accomplish what most are incapable of doing in their own native circumstances. 2) Gave them the needed direction in their own Bible Study: Out of a wilderness of ideas and thoughts -- confusion of study habits and subjects to be studied, the men were given a real sense of direction. They could zero in on the study at hand. 3) Gave them the ability to organize their minds: Instead of superficially covering a subject they could evaluate it from all angles -- develop thought processes and order of priority."

Mr. John Hammer -- "Every man has a much more sound knowledge of the scripture and its practical application. If these men could take this information no further than their own families and lives, it would be well worth the effort. This will be a great help in forming

a stronger nucleus for our congregations. It will give every pastor more qualified assistants in each area and, no doubt, many will eventually qualify to be used in God's Ministry. Also, it has brought into focus the weaknesses in each man and his lack of qualifications in guiding other lives, and given them definite goals to strive for in their own personal overcoming in the hope of someday being able to help millions of others in God's Kingdom."

Mr. Leslie McCullough -- "As a whole, the class helped them specifically: 1) To develop an attitude of service. 2) To greatly improve personal Bible study and prayer habits. 3) To better organize their finances and give more to the Work. The class also made them realize their weaknesses in Bible knowledge and helped to correct that to some degree. There should be continued growth in that respect as a result of the class."

Mr. Bill McDowell -- "I feel this class has been one of the greatest boons and blessings to the local churches. At last we have had something tangible, concrete and coordinated by Headquarters!"

Mr. Kenneth Swisher -- "The V. P. T. C. has been tremendous! The men have been greatly benefited, not only in a better knowledge of God's Word, but a much better understanding of how to live a true Christ-like life 24 hours a day. Not only is this true for the students, but is also for the instructor. I have very much appreciated the opportunity to instruct the V. P. T. C. I am sure the men feel this has been the most valuable, helpful and inspiring training they have ever had in their lives."

Mr. Keith Thomas -- "It is as if a new dimension has been added to the local church area. The average 'Charlie-church-goer' can more closely relate himself to the wide scope of God's Work. There is a new eagerness to participate. The class itself has been a great help to the local ministers also. It has helped to standardize their answers on some details. It has helped to standardize the explanation of some of the difficult scriptures. It has been a good prod on the local minister to stay ahead of his class. I strongly feel that this is another way that Jesus Christ is binding His Church together. The class has been a thrilling stimulus to get all of the field more directly oriented to Headquarters."

Mr. Kenneth Westby -- "I feel that this class has been one of the greatest blessings God has given His Church! The men have changed greatly and aren't the same! They now have a good degree of confidence based on solid Bible knowledge. They can now organize and give effective sermonettes. Their minds have been forced out of mothballs and made to concentrate, study and write. The class has given the pastor an opportunity to get to know the men personally and this has built a special rapport

and sense of loyalty, as was the case when Mr. Armstrong was personally teaching the leading men in the Work. You don't need to guess at the men -- you come to really know them."

Those are certainly fine comments and others of you had similar ones -- which we appreciated very much -- showing just how profitable this class has been. We also appreciated the constructive suggestions many of you had for improving the class this coming year. We are implementing several of them -- including extending the time limit of the lecture period and adding a section for discussion and questions. Also, although the men's wives won't be able to attend every meeting, we will plan to have them in more often this coming year. Even though we will naturally have fewer men in the class this year, we are expecting it to be fruitful, productive and successful in every way.

With the Feast approaching, Mr. Portune mentioned to me recently that the second tithe and "tithe of the tithe" budgets are getting tight right now. Even though this was particularly stressed in the Festival Brochure, many of our brethren apparently have not responded and sent in their "tithe of the tithe" which is used to pay the expenses of conducting the Feast at the various sites. Please exhort and encourage those who have been negligent in this to respond right away!

Also, please encourage those who are able to do so to send in at least part of their excess second tithe in advance. Some of the brethren may not have excess second tithe to send in, and we certainly understand this, but many do. God has blessed us with six major sites in the United States and Canada now, which means that most of our brethren no longer have to travel the long distances that were often necessary in the past. In addition, God has abundantly blessed many so that their second tithe is more than ample for an enjoyable Feast. These are the ones God expects -- and commands -- to remember the widow, fatherless and Levite by sharing their excess second tithe.

\* [ It would help us a great deal if those who can would calculate their Feast expenses in advance and, after holding back a reasonable amount as an emergency reserve which can be turned in after the Feast, send in at least part of their excess second tithe now. Otherwise, many deserving widows will not be able to attend the Feast this fall. I certainly hope that none of the brethren who have excess second tithe will spend it carelessly and selfishly but that, instead, they will have the added blessing and enjoyment of knowing they were able to help someone else enjoy the Feast.

I should mention too, that all of you should send in your Second Tithes Requisitions right away. All of you know by now where you will be attending the Feast, so you should be able to calculate your expenses now. Please remind your assistants to send in their requisitions, also. In order to give us time to go over these and send out the checks before Trumpets, we'll set August 22 as the deadline.

I have a few baby announcements which I can give you before I close. Mr. and Mrs. David Bedford's daughter, Maryann Clare, arrived on July 2. She weighed 10 pounds.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Shiflet announced the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Ann, weighing 8 pounds, 11 ounces, on July 7.

And after 19 years, Mr. and Mrs. Al Carrozzo have been blessed with a baby girl! Paula Jean, who weighed 6 pounds 10 ounces, was born on July 23.

Another couple who have been waiting for a girl, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kellers, also have one now. I don't know her name, but she came on July 24.

The last one I have is that of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Williams. Mrs. Williams' mother, Mrs. Untiedt, called yesterday to let me know that the baby finally came -- after 56 hours of labor! We had been concerned because of the length of the labor, but everything turned out fine -- a boy, weighing 8 pounds, 9 ounces. They named him Joseph Bryan.

Congratulations to all of you on these new arrivals!

Well, that winds up another letter. I'll be able to give you news of Mr. Armstrong's and Mr. Ted Armstrong's trips in my next letter. Encourage the brethren to keep praying for the Work. The income situation grows more serious week by week as it remains low. We'll be keeping all of you informed about any change in this.

Your brother in Christ,



Roderick C. Meredith

P.S. Mr. Lowell Blackwell sent in the information given below about a man who should not be allowed to attend Church. You do not have to

read this to the congregation, but those of you in the northern midwest should let your ushers at the door know about this man.

"Vardon 'Woody' Holter was disfellowshipped in Fargo, North Dakota July 8, 1968, for lethargy and rebellion. He wouldn't get a job (bummed off parents for years), wouldn't quit smoking, shave, clean up, pay attention in services -- or do anything he was told to do. Probably never converted, as he 'doubted the need for literal physical baptism' at the time he was baptized in April 1963. Since being disfellowshipped, he has moved around to different areas in the northern midwest popping in and out of services as he pleases, until found out. 'Woody' may well be demon influenced or possessed, and will sponge off anyone who will offer it. He has a high school education and is no dummy. He is about 5' 10" tall, 190-200 pounds, pot-bellied, missing one front tooth, hair short and stands up like a rooster's tail, usually unshaven and chewing gum. He is a bachelor about 32-35 years old. He has relatives near Kalamazoo, Michigan and has attended in Michigan, Chicago, Minneapolis, and probably others. He shouldn't be allowed around God's people until he repents and changes."