

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

May 6, 1969

OFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, *Second Vice-President*

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Headquarters! We will be especially busy for the next few weeks as another College year draws to a close and we enter the round of year-end activities, final examinations, Pentecost and graduation.

Field Day is scheduled for this Sunday, and it will be held at the Los Angeles Coliseum. Then, Sunday night, the Ambassador College Chorale will present their annual spring concert. This year they are presenting the highlights of two all-time favorite musicals, "The Student Prince" and "Brigadoon." We will be able to use the very fine facilities of the Pasadena Civic Auditorium for the concert again this year.

Final examinations will begin on Wednesday, May 21, followed by Pentecost on May 26, the Graduation Ball on May 27, the annual beach party on May 29, the annual brunch the morning of May 30 and graduation the afternoon of May 30. That's quite a schedule!

Mr. Herbert Armstrong is scheduled to arrive back here from his trip to the Middle East and Bricket Wood this Friday. Mr. Ted Armstrong is scheduled to return tomorrow -- Wednesday -- from his trip to the Middle East, Europe and South Africa. We'll be getting news and details of their trips to you after they return.

I want to thank those of you who have Visiting Program Training Classes for the evaluations which you sent in recently. Also we appreciated your suggestions for improving the class. Since this was our first experience with a class of this type administered from Headquarters, we knew that certain changes would need to be made next year, just as we had to make certain adjustments in the schedule and in the lecture topics during this year.

I have another important change to announce regarding the schedule, and that is that we will NOT have the class this Sunday.

Rather than ordaining the men who qualify on the Day of Pentecost and then having a "lame-duck" session afterwards, we'll just cancel this next class and conduct the last class on Sunday, May 18. The last class will be Number 17 and will be the lesson previously planned as Number 18. This last lesson, as explained previously, will be review and wrap-up of all the classes. We'll be sending out a brief outline of the last lesson, along with the final exams, early next week, and you can inform the men and their wives of this change so that they can plan accordingly.

The results of this class, by the way, have been very encouraging. We have decided, therefore, that the areas with sufficient qualified men can have a class next year. Perhaps not quite as many men will be ordained on Pentecost as we expected after a year of this class, but the fruits of the class are certainly evident. Many more will be ordained later, no doubt, and the class, according to your comments, has been a big help in bringing the men along to help them qualify for ordination and greater service in God's Work. We will be receiving your evaluations and recommendations for ordination at Pentecost, and we'll be letting you know as soon as possible whether those you recommended were approved for ordination.

Here is the breakdown of class results as evaluated and recommended by the individual class instructors on the evaluation forms:

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|------------|---|
| <u>20</u> | recommended for ordination as a Local Elder with Preaching Elder potential who would be a good prospect for a year at Ambassador College. |
| <u>55</u> | recommended for ordination as a Local Elder. |
| <u>119</u> | recommended as <u>lead men</u> on the local Visiting Program. |
| <u>98</u> | recommended as an <u>assistant</u> on the local Visiting Program. |
| <u>42</u> | recommended as a deacon or deacon's assistant. |
| <u>3</u> | were evaluated as having little potential for future service in any capacity. |

Although all of the recommendations have not yet come in, these figures represent 337 out of a total of 413 men in the class, not including the 68 Local Elders who are in the class. And five of these Local Elders

were local men in the class who were ordained either in January or during the Days of Unleavened Bread. As I said, those are certainly encouraging results! We will be able, for the first time, to have local Visiting Programs throughout the country which are trained to help the local Pastors in visiting and serving the brethren.

In the way of instruction, I need to remind all of you that all ~~requests for transfers of Feast sites from those of you in the Field should be directed to me as the Superintendent of Ministers rather than to the Festival Office.~~ You might remind your assistant of this, too, if he is planning to request a transfer. As always, we must wait until this summer to review the manpower at the various Feast sites before approving requests for transfers, but those of you planning to request a transfer can send them in any time between now and July 1. We'll let you know sometime in July whether your request was approved, but as in the past, we'll probably be able to approve most of them.

The full-time ministerial assistants from Pasadena should arrive in their assigned areas by June 10 or 11, and the summer assistants will arrive Monday, June 2. Those from Big Sandy will arrive a week later -- the full-time assistants on June 17 or 18 and the summer assistants on June 9.

The summer assistants from Pasadena will be terminated on August 17, and those from Big Sandy on August 24. They will then have a couple of weeks to go home, if they like, before returning to College. Those from Pasadena should be sure to notify us about their travel plans for the return trip home in time for us to arrange airline reservation, etc. Arrangements for those returning to Big Sandy will be taken care of from there rather than by Headquarters, however.

Those of you who will be receiving an assistant -- either full-time or for the summer -- ~~should not plan on taking your vacation in June.~~ It is an awkward situation for an assistant to arrive in an area to find the Pastor on vacation or for the Pastor to leave on vacation soon after he arrives. ~~Also, we won't schedule any summer District Conferences in June but will schedule them in July or August.~~

Before I close I would like to call your attention to the severe drop in income the Work has experienced in the past few weeks -- and in fact, since January. At the end of February, our total income for the year stood at a 16% increase, but then we had a fairly good month in March -- a 27% increase in total income -- which brought the cumulative total increase for the year up to 19.8%. The increase for April, however, was only 18.9%, which means that the cumulative increase

for the year was only 19.5% through the month of April. As of today, May 6, the mail income stands at -1.9% for this month. This means that the low cumulative total increase for the year through the end of April -- 19.5% -- is not being increased but is going even lower! This situation is serious, and I wanted to mention it, but I won't go into the ramifications of this situation. Our reserves are being depleted very rapidly, and I'm sure you realize that something drastic must occur soon or we won't be able to pay our bills. Either the income must shoot up phenomenally, or our expenses will have to be cut drastically.

I just wanted to mention the situation so that you would be aware of it and so that you can mention it to the brethren. I'm sure you'll be hearing more about it when Mr. Armstrong returns. But Mr. Portune was really shaken by the current trend when I talked to him the other day. So please exhort the brethren to pray fervently about this -- to fast in order to get closer to God -- and to beseech God to add THOUSANDS of Co-Workers to join us in this mighty Work!

Your brother in Christ,

Roderick C. Meredith

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