

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

END OF THE AGE -

SETTING DATES

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

July 8, 1969

OFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Minister

How TO HANDLE NEW Pms

LIT. AVAILABLE TO NEW Pms

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Pasadena! Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Ted Armstrong arrived back safely from their respective trips on Sunday, June 29, after seeing the first session of the Summer Educational Program get off to a good start. Mr. Armstrong then flew over to Big Sandy this past Friday along with Mr. Guy Bolam, who is our overseas radio station representative and was the one who helped us get on Radio Luxembourg back in 1953. Mr. Armstrong returned to Pasadena Sunday morning, accompanied by Mr. McCullough who will be here for a few days to take care of some business matters.

Mr. Ted Armstrong will be going to Cape Kennedy next week for the launching of Apollo 11, and at the end of the month will be going to Jerusalem to visit the "dig." Mr. Dart will join him in Israel, and they will go on to India from there. A final decision has not been made as to whether the office in India should be located in Bombay or New Delhi.

There are advantages and disadvantages either way. New Delhi is the capital, and many of the more educated live there. In addition, the climate is better and is not as overcrowded as Bombay. On the other hand, New Delhi is not as accessible as Bombay since it is located in the interior of the country, while Bombay is a port city, which is an important consideration. For the purpose of looking at the situation firsthand and perhaps making some of the preliminary arrangements for the establishing of a permanent office there, Mr. Ted Armstrong felt he and Mr. Dart should go to both Bombay and New Delhi before making the decision. They will then fly to Hong Kong, Tokyo and Honolulu to complete the round-the-world trip.

I have an important announcement to make regarding some more changes in the Field which were approved by Mr. Armstrong just this past week. It involves the appointment of a new District Superintendent, along with several manpower shifts! First of all, Mr. David Antion will be coming in to Headquarters as an executive assistant to Mr. Ted

Armstrong. He will act as the liaison man between Mr. Ted Armstrong and the various departments that are directly responsible to him -- such as Outgoing Mail, the Press, Data Processing, the Editorial Department and Imperial Schools.

In addition, Mr. Antion will be teaching one or two classes on a regular basis, including the Family Relations class. As all of you know, Mr. Ted Armstrong is extremely busy with just the radio and television programs, writing articles for The PLAIN TRUTH and TOMORROW'S WORLD and the trips he must take continually. As a result of the growth in the Work, his responsibilities have grown to the place that he simply has to have a high-level assistant who can help him with his other important responsibilities. Mr. Antion, who is a very able, capable man and an Evangelist-rank minister, is eminently qualified for this very important responsibility as an assistant to the Executive Vice-President of God's Work.

I should perhaps explain that Mr. Dart, as Deputy Director of the Foreign Educational Service, cannot be tied down to a regular teaching schedule and to regular departmental responsibilities here at Headquarters in addition to his other responsibilities. Mr. Ted Armstrong has been careful to keep Mr. Dart unencumbered in order that he might devote his full energies and attention to the Foreign Work. Therefore, Mr. Antion will be filling a position that has, in a sense, "gone begging" ever since Mr. McCullough went to Big Sandy as the Vice-Chancellor there. As Superintendent of Ministers, I, of course, certainly hate to lose Mr. Antion -- a District Superintendent and a top minister -- but I'm glad to see him get this new opportunity for service in God's Work, and I'm sure this change will be a great benefit to the Work overall.

To take Mr. Antion's place in Akron, we are transferring Mr. Bryce Clark from Nashville to Akron, which means that we have had to appoint a new District Superintendent to replace him in Nashville. The new District Superintendent is Mr. Burk McNair! Congratulations, Mr. McNair, on this new responsibility and added opportunity for service in God's Work!

Mr. Burk McNair, who is one of our senior Field ministers, graduated from College in 1954 and was ordained as a Preaching Elder at the Conference in 1955. He served in Corpus Christi until about 1959, when he was transferred to the Denver area. He was raised to the rank of Pastor, then, at the Conference in 1964, and stayed in Denver until he was transferred to Indianapolis-Fort Wayne in the summer of 1967. He

will now be pastoring the Nashville-Bowling Green Churches as the District Superintendent of the Nashville District.

Replacing Mr. McNair in Indianapolis will be Mr. Dennis Pyle, who will be replaced in Toledo by Mr. Bob Bertuzzi, who will be replaced in Lexington-Louisville by Mr. Kelly Barfield. Mr. Bill Cowan, who has been serving as a Local Elder in the Little Rock - Fort Smith area, will be elevated in rank to a Preaching Elder and will become the pastor of that area. Our congratulations to you also, Mr. Cowan!

We will need to send Mr. Cowan a Local Elder to help him in visiting, but we haven't yet definitely decided who he will be. All of these changes will begin soon, starting with Mr. Barfield's move to Lexington, and continuing as each man overlaps for a few days the one he is replacing.

We have added several new television stations recently, including a five-channel network originating in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and new stations in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Bakersfield, California, and Nashville, Tennessee.

We were especially happy to get on the station in Nashville since that is an area of the country in which the broadcast has been well-received for years over radio station WLAC, which is one of our top stations. We will begin on the Nashville station, WSIX (channel 8) on Sunday, July 13, at 11 a.m.

The first telecast in Minneapolis over station WTCN (channel 11) will be either July 19 or 20, depending on whether we are given a Saturday night time or a Sunday time. We will begin on station KERO (channel 23) in Bakersfield on Sunday, July 20, at 6 p.m. And we will begin on the CKBI network in Prince Albert on Saturday, August 2, at 4 p.m., which reaches into the cities of Alticane (channel 10), North Battleford (channel 7), Nipawin (channel 2), Greenwater (channel 4) and Big River (channel 9).

It's certainly good to see these new television stations added and to realize that more and more people around the United States and Canada are able to see the WORLD TOMORROW telecast every week!

I have a couple of baby announcements. Mr. and Mrs. John Pruner announced the birth of their daughter, Juli Anna, on June 20. She weighed eight pounds.

And Mr. and Mrs. Brent Curtis announced the recent birth of their son, Douglas Walter, who weighed eight pounds and nine ounces.

Congratulations to both couples!

We are now making up Feast assignments based on the area in which you live, so I hope all of you who would like to change areas have already made your request in accordance with the instructions in a recent ministerial letter. We'll be letting you know soon if your request was approved.

I wanted to caution all of you about a certain situation that came to my attention. We received a letter from one of our subscribers who was requesting a visit, and here is a section of her letter:

"I have a special question I want answered. I know this is another way the devil has of sidetracking us though. But I was visiting in ... (a certain city) two weeks ago and my sister-in-law was all upset over one of her neighbors joining your church and your representatives come ever so often and search her house, going through closets and dresser drawers and looking under things that I can't begin to believe. She is supposed to have been near a breakdown from all the pressure she has been under."

We realize, of course, that this description is a gross exaggeration of what may have occurred, but often, "where there's smoke, there's fire." Since you are constantly going into people's homes to visit them -- sometimes even dropping in on them without warning, etc. -- some are very sensitive about how you conduct yourselves in their homes and can be easily offended if you don't take care to show the proper respect for their privacy and their personal affairs. This would especially apply to prospective members, of course.

We want to leave the impression that we are friendly, courteous and anxious to help in any way we can but at the same time not to appear "nosey" or presumptuous. This is an area in which we need tact and discretion, as well as much wisdom and discernment in order to determine how each prospective can be counselled and helped to the greatest extent without offending him and making him feel that we are prying into his

personal affairs. This is why prospective member visits should be made by the top man in each area, or if necessary, by a College - trained Elder who is qualified to make such visits.

Another minor problem that was brought to my attention recently was that of some prospective members needing to receive certain literature quickly, in order to study it before the next visit. It was pointed out that even though the prospectives might write for the literature right away, they often do not receive it by the time of the revisit if the revisit is scheduled within a week or so. There are two possible solutions to this. First, if you tell them to mention that you had advised them to write for it and to mention that they need the booklet right away, we will send the literature by first-class mail. We usually get the literature out the same day we receive the request, but we normally send it by third-class mail, which may take two weeks or more to reach a person, depending on where they live, the time of year, etc.

Since special handling and processing of these literature requests costs the Work more money, I should emphasize that this procedure should be followed ONLY in those circumstances in which the prospective needs to receive the literature right away in order to study it soon -- before the next visit which is scheduled within a couple of weeks. Most of the time when you recommend literature, the person will not need to have it that quickly, so in most cases, no special service will be needed. Those key booklets on the subjects of baptism, the True Church, the Sabbath, the Holy Days, tithing, divorce and remarriage, military service and war and make-up, along with the reprint articles, "What Is Real Repentance?" and "False Conversion -- Mortal Danger," are the ones that are likely to be requested on a "rush" basis.

There is another possible solution to this problem. In some circumstances, it might be helpful to have some of these booklets on hand in order to give them to prospectives right on the spot while their interest is at its peak -- as long as you are careful not to overload them and give them too much at one time. We'll make these available, then, for those of you who would like to request a small supply of these booklets I mentioned. Just send your requests on a memo to our Mailing Department via your regular Ministerial Report, and we'll send them to you. We should generally limit this to the booklets and articles I mentioned above, but if any of you feel there are one or two other booklets or articles which would be helpful to have on hand, these could possibly be included among your supplies. You can use either of these procedures, when necessary, to get some of these key booklets and articles to prospectives quickly.

While on this subject of literature, I should explain that you should not give out to members copies of the literature index that we have made available to you as ministers. We could be flooded with lengthy literature requests such as the one we recently received from a member who had apparently been given an index. She listed, by reprint number and titles, 21 reprint articles. You can imagine the problems we would have if this became a "fad" that spread throughout the entire Church.

Also, I want to caution you about advising members to write in for xeroxed articles. We have had requests from members for xeroxed copies, for example, of the entire series entitled "Is Judaism the Law of Moses," or my entire series on the Protestant Reformation. In one instance, a minister recommended to his entire congregation that they write in for xeroxed copies of these series! While we want to make these available to as many people as possible, it just isn't practical for us to xerox such articles and send them out continually to individual members. I hope we can someday make a booklet out of my series on the Protestant Reformation but, meanwhile, one or two library copies for each congregation will have to suffice. We can send out copies of these two series, by the way, in bound form, for Church libraries. Those who are interested in obtaining library copies can request them from our Mailing Department by memo.

On the other hand, there are certain articles and types of articles that are no longer available, and you should not recommend them to anyone -- whether he be a member or a prospective member. Two articles that we have, in the past, xeroxed when requested are "The Origin of Medical Science" and "The Truth About Drugs and Vaccines." We do not send out copies of these two articles at all any more. Also, the booklet on healing, which we hope will be revised later on, is no longer being sent out, and neither are the articles on voting and the three articles on the race question. These subjects -- medical science, healing, voting and the race question -- are all very touchy, and we are not sending out literature on these subjects. We are still sending out the booklet on divorce and remarriage -- but only to members or prospective members who mention that a minister asked them to write in for it. Be sure to use discretion in recommending this booklet. If a prospective who has a D & R problem is not keeping the Sabbath, for example, or in some other way is not obeying God, then there is no need to recommend the booklet on divorce and remarriage.

The Personnel Department here at Headquarters requested that I give you the following information regarding employment opportunities in the Work at this time:

"As the Work of God continues to grow, there is an ever increasing need for specialized help in many areas at Headquarters.

"As you know, we are in an austere program and are hiring very few people here at Headquarters. Basically, the only new employees we are hiring are replacements for people who have terminated or special highly skilled individuals. So many of our current employment applications from members are from individuals who have had only mediocre or average experience, average educational training or average skill in the area that we need. We do not have enough of the very top applicants. We want men who are currently making their living in the job we have open. We do not necessarily need men who want to come to Headquarters to "take over the department" and be the boss, but rather men who would feel it a privilege to come here and work who have top-notch experience and education in the field in which they are working.

"We are currently looking for the following men:

1. A top-flight auto mechanic.
2. Skilled composers, pressmen and strippers, plus any other highly skilled technicians in the printing field.

"Secretaries: Our need for secretaries at this time primarily includes the older, mature woman who does not have younger children to take care of and has recent secretarial experience and preferably those that are not going to come here, work six months and then get married. Our Ambassador College-trained girls, both students and full time, provide a very valuable function in God's Work, but there are several key positions that must be filled by permanent secretaries where the turnover would be minimal. It is these permanent, stable, older, skilled secretaries that we are currently in need of at this time.

"In addition, we have a few other more non-skilled jobs open from time to time. Many of our members have written in over the past two to three to four years and notified us of their availability for work here at Headquarters. However, unless they keep their application current and notify us of all pertinent new information such as job changes, address changes, salary changes, new skills acquired and/or additional education, then

their application is not current and therefore hinders us in making a valid analysis of their application. So briefly encourage anyone who is really interested in working here at Headquarters to keep their application up to date.

"Please encourage any of your people who are interested in the above jobs and information to correspond directly with the Personnel Office. Corresponding with another department only delays the final dispensation of their application. If any of you ministers have any information that would be helpful on any of these types of people, we would appreciate hearing from you as well. Thank you very much for your continued help and cooperation."

✓ We need to request your help and cooperation on another matter, also, and that is in the conservation of our present supply of hymnals. We have just a few hundred left in stock, but because of the cost of printing the large number that would be required for an efficient press run, we hope to make our present supply last for one more year. We would like to request that all of you exert a SPECIAL EFFORT to conserve and care for the hymnals being used in your area, perhaps making a greater effort to repair any damaged ones. By conserving the hymnals now in use, and by having the churches which are reduced in size because of new churches starting, share their supply with the new churches, we can possibly make the few hundred hymnals left in stock last for another year.

A sad announcement that I should include in this letter is that an Ambassador College student, Larry Foreman, was killed in an unfortunate accident this past Friday while on a fishing trip in the mountains with Mr. Dave Albert and some other students. He was killed instantly when he slipped and fell ten or twelve feet from a large rock onto some rocks below. Larry, who was a freshman this past year, was nineteen years of age and was from Tahlequah, Oklahoma. His guardians, who are both in the Church, live in Oklahoma, and the funeral is to be conducted there. It is certainly saddening to see the life of a young man such as Larry -- a lively, energetic, outgoing young man -- cut off in such an untimely manner, but God allowed it to happen. It seemed to be just one of those time and chance circumstances which sometimes occur and in which God chose not to intervene. Larry was baptized just this past March, and he died "in the faith," so he will soon wake up and join us in God's Kingdom -- perhaps having been spared a great deal by not having to live on through the next few years in the flesh.

Now even though this letter is running a little long, I want to take time here to explain to you some points regarding a doctrinal and spiritual matter which we have discussed a good deal here at Headquarters over the last several weeks. Several of you have heard rumors about this -- either one way or the other -- and my purpose is to dispel them and make the truth plain. As you know, we have thought for the past decade or more that God's Work may end around the beginning of 1972. In evangelistic campaigns, Bible Studies and sermons, I am sure that I have expounded this as much as almost any of the rest of you. And circumstances in the Work and in world events could very easily speed up so that our work may STILL be finished about this time! No one knows this better than I do!

However, because we do not want to be a "laughing stock" -- ridiculed and made fun of by other religious groups and possibly by that time even by TIME, NEWSWEEK and other magazines and newspapers -- and because God's Work should NOT "go out on a limb" and be found to have FALSELY prophesied something -- we do want to reconsider our ideas about how much time we may have left. I have talked this over thoroughly with Mr. Herbert Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong on at least two separate occasions with each, and they both completely agree that we must definitely CAUTION all of you ministers and our Church members not to get too definite or dogmatic about "the world coming to an end" at the beginning of 1972! Mr. Herbert Armstrong has said for years and years -- in fact ever since I first met and knew him as an Ambassador student 20 years ago -- "We must NOT set dates!" In talking with him again recently, he reiterated the same thing and okayed my preaching these cautions and sending this information out to all of you ministers, worldwide.

Without giving you an entire sermon on the subject -- which I have preached three or four times recently -- I will simply say that it has come increasingly to my mind within the last couple of years that events are NOT speeding up as much as they apparently should if we now have less than two and one-half years left! What do I mean? Well, for starters, let me give you five major points, briefly, that you can think over and perhaps incorporate into sermons to help the brethren realize that we may -- notice I did not say shall -- have a few more years to finish the work than we originally thought.

First, although we know the prophecy regarding this, no temple has been built or is being built in Jerusalem -- so far as we know. There are still rumors circulating that part of the temple is under way

secretly and that complete architectural drawings have already been made. But this is only hearsay, and with less than two and one-half years to go the temple factor is a very BIG consideration!

Secondly, in some ways world conditions appear to be a little bit less imminent -- disease epidemics, famine and starvation of our people. Notice that I am purposely underlining some and appear so I don't stick my neck out too far. For instance, the June 30 issue of U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT has an article on the bumper wheat crop around the world and how there is, in fact, a danger of too much wheat -- forcing the wheat prices down to the detriment of the farmers. Another record harvest is under way this summer unless something cuts it short. Also, a recent issue of TIME magazine brought out the same thing under a smaller article called "The Food Glut." It mentioned that even the rice harvest in Southeast Asia was way up the last season or two so that starvation there is not as pronounced as they thought at first it might be. Meanwhile, President Nixon has, apparently, caused a certain amount of calming in the racial situation to take place and is pushing for an extension of the ten percent surtax and other financial measures which should, most economists feel, strengthen the U.S. dollar and our entire economy.

Third, although nearly every era of God's Church so far has had its own organization, ministry and separate meeting halls, etc., no separate Laodicean Church or work has yet appeared so far as we know. Yet, according to prophecy the Laodicean Church must appear and exist for at least several months or years, one would think, if they are so all-fired pleased with themselves, "rich and increased with goods" and this type of thing.

Fourth, seemingly -- again I underlined seemingly -- a great deal of time is yet needed to finish this Work! Although we are delighted to find that filling-station operators and other people we may meet in certain parts of the country have heard of us or ask about the broadcast merely through some casual situation that arises, yet it is a fact that most Americans and West Europeans still do not even know that we exist. And at the same time, our financial position has become increasingly bleak the last few months and the really BIG spurt of growth needed to finish the work within the next two and one-half years may be delayed at least partially by this unless some remarkable circumstances reverse this trend. Much analysis could be made on this point in either direction, of course. We can reason that all we have to do is reach most of the leaders and a small percent of the people in each Israelitish nation, or

that with Telestar and supernatural help and power the BIG WARNING could be given within the last few months. I realize this fully, and we will simply have to watch circumstances, and pray, as Jesus said, to see how this works out.

But so far, at least, our present rate of growth would not enable us to even begin to get ready to SHAKE the Israelitish nations and generally reach the educated classes of the world within the next two and one-half years. This is at least something to deeply consider.

Fifth, a militant United States of Europe and a militant, dominant church are certainly "slow" in developing! According to many observers, our relations with Western Germany, under President Nixon, are now better than they have been for some time and there has been no immediate move toward the extreme right in France ever since De Gaulle's political demise. A big factor to consider is the vast American military establishment still in Germany which would normally take years to phase out. Remember the extreme pressure that had to be exerted to get the American and NATO forces out of France within the two-year deadline -- and even how that deadline had to be extended slightly?

Regarding the Catholic Church, most authorities agree that the reputation, power and influence of the papacy has never been at a lower ebb in recent years than it is right now. In fact, a recent front-page article in the Los Angeles Times headlined this fact and the pope's concern over the lack of respect and affection paid to his office. The thousands of priests and nuns leaving the church and the millions of disaffected parishioners -- all upset over the pope's stand on priestly celibacy and the birth control issue -- have only tended to weaken the waning respect for a man in that office who lacks the austere sense of direction that Pope Pius seemed to have, or the personal charm and "charisma" which Pope John exuded. Therefore, it would appear -- based on all past experience and the time it would take to reverse such a trend -- that much time is yet required before the kind of fantastic influence and power exerted by the man described in Revelation 11 and 17 can be manifested.

Many other points could be added to the above but this will at least give you a starting point from which to consider -- and help our brethren to consider -- that we may have more time left to finish the work than we have thought. I did say "thought" because Mr. Armstrong has NEVER set dogmatic dates and we have NEVER -- and I hope you

understand this -- come out with an official chart of chronology at any time in this era of God's Work whatsoever!

A most important sidelight on this is the fact that the 19-year time cycles which we felt "appear" to apply to our age may either not apply at all, or else there will be a special work for the Church after those cycles are completed. After all, there is no scripture from Genesis to Revelation saying "Watch the 19-year cycles." The only Biblical teaching on this is the fact that there seemed to have been two 19-year cycles in the work of the New Testament Church. If we draw an analogy from this, we might ASSUME that we also are to have two 19-year cycles in our work. But, how many, many times have all of us older ministers heard Mr. Herbert Armstrong say: "Never ASSUME anything!" So while we may still regard the working of these 19-year cycles in our age as a very interesting possibility, or even a probability, we must NOT base our lives or salvation too heavily upon something that is merely an analogy from what apparently happened in the Apostolic Age. I say apparently because these dates do get changed from time to time and, also, the fact is that Peter, John and possibly other apostles besides did carry on at least a limited ministry for many years after 69 A. D.

Another major point of this type to consider is that we have, again, ASSUMED that the seven years of Nebuchadnezzar's personal punishment and banishment was to be deducted from the 2520 years of the Times of the Gentiles. Otherwise, the Times of the Gentiles would run up until 1982 -- NOT 1975. That, of course, would indicate we might have as many as seven more years than we had originally thought!

Anyway, to cut this short before I do get a full article here, let me say that Mr. Armstrong wants all of you to CAUTION all of the brethren to "quit setting dates!" And all of you ministers and Elders should now take steps to see that people do not automatically repeat over and over in their minds like a broken record -- "1972, 1975, 1972, 1975 ..."! Because, as some of the ministers have told me when I brought this up, many of our brethren are counting FAR too heavily on these dates -- forgetting entirely our constant modification of them and our constant warnings that we may have a few years in either direction from what we felt and believed might be the time for this work to end. Many brethren are buying things on time, doing things cheaply, letting property deteriorate or things of this sort because they are literally "counting on" the fact that this present society will come to an END the first week in January of 1972! And how ridiculous are they and we going to feel if it does not -- and if we have failed to MODIFY many of our

perhaps over-done exhortations and knowing implications that 1972 probably is "the year" !

After my sermon on this subject at Los Angeles, one of the lead men in the local congregation came up and laughingly but very sincerely said, "Ghastly, if we have that much more time, then I will have to get my teeth fixed! I was trying to get by and thought I could make it till 1972 but my teeth sure won't last beyond that!"

When all is said and done, the Living Jesus Christ undoubtedly has not intended that we should know exactly when He would return or He would have made it far more plain than He has. In His wisdom, He and the Father ~~must know that it is far better for us to have to~~ "watch and pray" and keep close to God at all times -- not knowing the day, the hour or, until very near the end, even the year of Christ's return. So realize this and preach it in a positive way! Help the brethren to realize that IF we have more time, they should be thankful that they have that much more time in which to overcome their human nature, to grow in grace and knowledge and to help fully accomplish the great work without leaving it only half done! How many of you, fellows, I might ask, feel that you do not need any more time to grow?

Well, I know that I do, so if there is more time, then I am sure that God knows that it will be a good thing for us all and that the brethren should use it in a positive manner -- not lapsing into the tragic lethargy outlined in Matthew 24:48-51. Our brethren must not say: "My Lord delays His coming" -- and begin to live it up, get drunk and bog down in the fleshpots of this latter-day Sodom and Gomorrah. Exhort them in this manner, and help them appreciate and USE this extra time to the glory of God and in the accomplishment of His Work!

That is about it, and I will try to cover other items in the next letter. Keep up the good work, keep getting right out on those prospectives before their interest wanes, and keep praying for Mr. Armstrong and all of us here at Headquarters as we certainly need it! Our prayers and concern will be with you also.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Roderick C. Meredith". The ink is dark and the writing is fluid, with some loops and flourishes characteristic of a personal signature.

Roderick C. Meredith

