

1. ECONOMIC CUTBACKS

2. EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN

3. MR. MEREDITH'S EYE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Minister

March 17, 1970

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Pasadena! With the month of March over half gone, the income is still very low. As of last Friday, the total income for the month stood at -6.2%, and the total income for the year to date stood at just 9.6%. These disappointingly low figures remained about the same over the weekend.

1. [After dipping heavily into our reserves in January, we had to borrow money in order to pay our expenses for the months of February and March. In my last letter I explained some of the drastic measures Mr. Armstrong decided to put into effect in this crisis situation to reduce our expenses temporarily. He decided last week that even more drastic measures were needed. He decided that TOMORROW'S WORLD would also come out only every other month for the next six months, alternating with The PLAIN TRUTH. The PLAIN TRUTH will come out one month and TOMORROW'S WORLD the next, etc. This will mean that those subscribing to TOMORROW'S WORLD will receive either The PLAIN TRUTH or TOMORROW'S WORLD each month. The GOOD NEWS, which has been coming out bi-monthly since last September, will continue to do so for at least another six months.

Next, Mr. Armstrong decided that we will sell both of our jets if we can find buyers for them. Because of the state of the economy right now, this may not be easy to do. Several other used Falcons are up for sale right now, and the company which builds them has not been able to sell any new ones for several months. The Grumman Gulfstream II, which is a larger, longer-ranged aircraft, is still in demand, however, and we may even be able to make a small profit on our Gulfstream II.

Mr. Armstrong has also decided that many radio stations on which the broadcast is now carried daily will be cut back to a once-per-week basis during the five-month period from May through

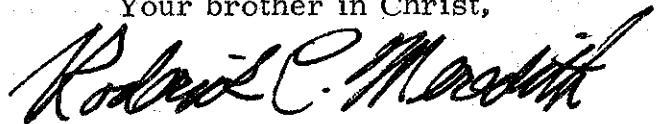
All of us here are very excited about this new evangelistic program and the possible effects it could have on the Work of God. But to be truly successful, the prayers of the entire Church will have to be behind this "pilot" Nashville campaign! We need God's guidance and help in every stage of it -- in planning, organizing and actually carrying it out. So pray, and encourage the brethren to pray, for its success ☐

With the Passover coming up in about one month, I hope all of you have halls secured and plans made. I have already discussed with the District Superintendents the probability of some of us flying out from Headquarters and some from Big Sandy to conduct preaching services during the first and last weekends of the Days of Unleavened Bread. Please let us know how these plans are coming and a number of us will be out to visit and preach if possible. Since we can use second tithe at this time, it is an excellent time to do so without dipping into the regular ministerial budget.

3. By way of a personal note, since many of you are calling, writing or asking about it, my injured eye is coming along fine. The repair surgery seems to be a success, and the specialist and our own college doctor both say it "looks fine." However, I do have to wear a patch on the left eye, a la Moshe Dayan. My patch is white, however, and I expect to have it off within another week or ten days. When it is off, I do now have the peripheral vision on my left side although the eye itself is somewhat coated with mucus and is bloody looking because of the operation. But I do appreciate your prayers and the interest so many of you have shown and felt you would want to know it is coming along fine.

[Finally, I want to exhort all of you to impart the information regarding the trimming back, the selling of the airplanes, and the ministerial salary reductions in a positive and heartfelt manner to all the brethren. Help them realize that we, too, here at Headquarters, are sincerely trying to SACRIFICE for the Work -- and this includes salary reductions for every Evangelist and Pastor-rank minister around the face of the earth, plus many others! I am sure if they realize that we are taking it seriously and trying to do our parts, they will respond enthusiastically in every way. And they, and we, need to pray fervently as never before that God will add more Co-Workers and cause the direly-needed funds to be sent in now for His Work. As we do our part, we know that the answer WILL come.]

Your brother in Christ,



Roderick C. Meredith

MR. O'BRIEN AND MR. JURY DISFELLOWSHIPPED

2. FINANCIAL CRISIS < NEED FOR LARGE DONATIONS
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Minister

March 31, 1970

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Headquarters! We are all fine here in Pasadena. Because so many of you have asked, let me say that my eye is much better and is coming along very well after the repair surgery. Thank you very much for your prayers, cards and interest. I did appreciate them a great deal and will have more to say about this and about the subject of repair surgery in a future letter.

But this letter needs to be in the form of a hurry-up emergency letter. You will also be receiving a member letter from Mr. Herbert Armstrong about the current financial CRISIS in God's Work.

Although we have had many recent blessings and even MIRACLES in the Work, ~~Satan the Devil is now trying harder than ever to overthrow this Work!~~ All of you older ministers will remember that virtually every pre-Passover season this occurs. A few years ago, Mrs. Swaney and others became bitter and left the Church. Three years ago Mrs. Armstrong had her trial just before the Passover. Another time, Mr. Justus had his problem and had to be temporarily expelled from the Church at this same season. And so it goes.

Now, even though the Work is bearing greater fruit than ever -- and I am happy to report that requested visits for January and February were at an ALL-TIME HIGH for this time of year -- Satan the Devil is striking at this Work in two particular areas: First, both a Preaching Elder and a Local Elder have excommunicated themselves and left the Church back in the Akron area! Secondly, the national financial slump, coupled with the recent postal strike and other problems, have conspired to greatly intensify the financial crisis God's Work was already in.

First let me explain, briefly, about the two ministers who have left God's Church. Mr. Carl O'Beirn, as many of you have known for years if you have known him well, has always been a "brooder," a worrier and somewhat of a negative individual -- an enigma to many of us acquainted with him. For many months now he has been studying and emphasizing, in his mind and to some others, the idea that we are bound to "keep" the new moons and to dwell in literal palm-frond or tree-limb-composed booths during the Feast of Tabernacles. Mr. Bryce Clark and others have talked with him at length about this, but to no avail. After he provoked the issue a week ago Monday with Mr. Clark, we had him fly out here to Headquarters for a personal meeting with Mr. Armstrong and a few of the leading Evangelists. We tried to discuss the subject with him. He repeated over and over: "My mind is made up." Mr. Ted Armstrong even offered him a "workshop" type of meeting where just two or three of us would go over the scriptures he had in mind with him for several hours, if need be. He said he did not see any point in it and repeated that his mind was made up in many different ways.

We now find that he had received a considerable inheritance within the last few weeks from a close relative. Now that he has financial independence, he apparently provoked this confrontation and expellation. We are now beginning to find out unusual ideas and teachings which he held. He was beginning to emphasize in many sermons and Bible Studies the approach of praying more to Christ than to God the Father, and other matters. He has been clandestinely imparting these ideas to some of the weaker members and even the new prospective members before they even attended Church, we find!

So, although we were very sorry to see him rebell and leave God's Church in the carnal, hard-hearted manner in which he did, we are now beginning to realize that it may be actually "good riddance" to a problem that would have grown much worse if it had been allowed to fester and grow within the body of Christ. Through comments Mr. O'Beirn's boys have recently made to others, it appears that he may try to start his own church, even his own broadcast and a competitive work of some kind. His wife and children have followed him in this completely -- except that his older daughter, Kay, does seem to be coming along all right and understands the situation as she is a student at the Big Sandy campus.

Mr. John Judy, a Local Elder in the Akron area, was obviously influenced and affected by Mr. O'Beirn and they had shared in many hours of griping, criticizing and rebelling against God's Work. However,

just like the pitiful situation of splits and schisms that used to take place in the Sardis Church when Mr. Armstrong knew it, he and Mr. O'Beirn don't even see eye-to-eye themselves! While Mr. Judy says he agrees with Mr. O'Beirn on the new moons, he disagrees on the idea of dwelling in primitive-type booths. Also, Mr. Judy feels that he should not have to take orders from anybody or any minister under age 30 and that no minister should be ordained under age 30. He also says he now does not believe in tithing and believes that Pentecost ought to be kept on Sunday! Any of these old heresies sound familiar?

Anyway, when Mr. David Antion, as recent District Superintendent, flew back to join Mr. Bryce Clark in having meetings with the Elders and deacons there, these problems came out from Mr. Judy. So he also left the Church on his own volition saying he disagreed with it on these points and apparently some others, but he said that he "could not follow Mr. O'Beirn, as he could see Mr. O'Beirn was in a root of bitterness." Mr. Judy's wife and son, Carl, have followed him in this. But his two daughters who are here at Pasadena, Mrs. David Albert and Mrs. Fred Teitgen, definitely do NOT follow their parents in any of this and are only very sorry that this had to occur. Mr. Albert told me just the other day that his wife was not really shocked, however, as she had worried that something like this might build up. For the last few years, she has been concerned about her parents' carnal attitude, their fighting like cats and dogs at home and putting on their "Sabbath smiles" before the ministers at Church and Bible Study so that they could get ahead, first as deacon and then as Local Elder and wife. So, again, although we are personally very sorry for the sake of these people and their children, it may, in fact, be a cleansing operation which was necessary in the body of Christ. It will work out for good in the end.

But, fellows, let us take it seriously, nevertheless! This certainly is going to be a disconcerting factor in the minds and hearts of many who hear it and a source of sadness and grief for those in the Akron area. So far as we know, no other families are following these two out of God's Church at this time. For that we are thankful. Yet, Jesus prophesied that false teachers would rise up. The Apostle Paul prophesied: "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29-30).

The really BIG publicity God's Work is beginning to receive, plus these kinds of defection and fallings away certainly indicate, again, that the END of this age is very near!

So let each of us examine his own heart, and let us be aware that in our Churches there could be people with similar attitudes and weaknesses! We must always be alert, as God's shepherds, to prevent the wolves -- coming either from without or within -- from killing any of the true sheep of Christ.

Emphasize the positive aspect of these things as much as possible when announcing the above. Explain that it is possibly a necessary cleansing of Christ's body when these things occur and that there was a long history of trouble with Mr. and Mrs. Judy -- and certainly with Mr. O'Beirn who had trouble and antagonism when he used to work in the "printing shop," as we called it then. He gave Mr. Lochner trouble and griped down at Imperial School as a teacher, gave Messrs. Dale Hampton, Carlton Smith, David Antion and now Mr. Bryce Clark trouble in every case when he worked under them. He now has finally excommunicated himself and his family as a result of an unusual self-righteous, hard-headed and increasingly bitter approach to God's Church and those over him in the ministry. Because word will be getting around, these men must be marked PUBLICLY, before the brethren, to prevent their hurting anyone else, and as a warning to others.

2 Getting back now to the financial crisis, I hope every single one of you will take this to heart and really impress upon your congregations that a definite CRISIS situation in God's Work has now been reached in this area! Working in many ways through the thieving mail clerks, the postal strike and other means, Satan the Devil is no doubt rejoicing in this crisis, which, if he has not caused, he has certainly aggravated.

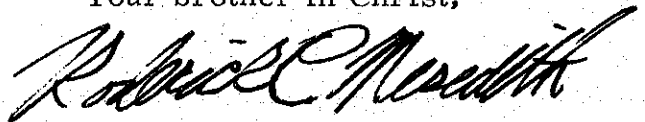
As Mr. Armstrong is no doubt explaining to you in his letter, although the mail income is slowly beginning an upswing again -- accumulated bills and financial pressures resulting from the months of lowered income and aggravated by the mail thievery and postal strike have caused us now to be extremely tight financially. We will be unable to pay bills for the month of April unless there is a sudden and EXTRA -- beyond normal tithes and offerings -- "shot in the arm" from brethren truly sacrificing to send in special offerings IMMEDIATELY. So be sure to read very carefully Mr. Armstrong's letter, meditate and pray over it. Then determine what you and your wife will do about it. Then get up in Church this Sabbath and tell the brethren in a most sincere and heartfelt manner about this CRISIS God's Work is in -- which is not an ordinary or minor crisis in any remote sense whatever -- and urge them to respond wholeheartedly.

Tell them, in general terms, without mentioning specific figures, what you are going to do about it and let them know that ALL of us are in this thing together and this is now an opportunity to TRULY "sacrifice" and show God where their hearts are when the chips are down! Use wisdom and BALANCE in your exhortation! Don't exhort or "command" elderly widows or extremely poor people with big families to get themselves "in hock" in a manner that would immediately put them on the Emergency Fund or in the "poor house" in a matter of a few weeks or months! But emphasize that those who can should dip very deeply into any or all savings, should even borrow money at the bank, as Mr. Armstrong will explain, according to their resources and send in these funds as a special GIFT to God's Work.

Also, Mr. Portune suggested that you might ask those who could to increase the LOAN on their homes or properties and send in this money. This would give them extra money without increasing their outgo! So mention all these alternatives; let the brethren know that it is a REAL CRISIS this time for sure; and appeal to them in a heartfelt manner about what you are going to do and let them know we are all in this together! Take time to really prepare these announcements for this Sabbath! Probably most of you should even preach on something related to God's Work and how our lives and hearts must be in it! Explain how it is, in fact, the BIG TEST of what we WILL DO
 ✓ when we are fulltime servants of God in His Kingdom and Family!

Well, that is it, fellows, and I will try to get out more general news and Passover instructions, etc., within a few days. I know that God will inspire every one of you to stir your people up and help them realize that this is a challenge to sacrifice and react wholeheartedly if there ever was one.

Your brother in Christ,



Roderick C. Meredith

P.S. I just realized the following matter could be a question and checked with Mr. Portune. Tell your people in this special case to go ahead and send in the big amounts they have borrowed or obtained in other ways by regular mail BUT, tell them to be sure that it is sent by check or money order and that it is sent by registered mail, return receipt requested. In this way, there is very little possibility of thievery. And if such thievery should occur, they would know about it immediately through their receipt and be able to stop payment on the check or money order involved.

