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WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Minister

May 20, 1970

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Headquarters! Mr. Herbert Armstrong returned Friday night from his month-long stay overseas. Because of the wind conditions, he went to Britain this time by way of the Azores. Then, he went down to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem during the Days of Unleavened Bread, was the guest of Minister Kol at a kibbutz in Israel and came back to Britain by way of Belgium where he was King Leopold's guest for lunch. He was in England for the last Holy Day. Then, on Tuesday he went again to Jerusalem for a special meeting with President Shazar of Israel and presented to him a gift of a beautiful David and Goliath crystal piece. He said President Shazar now knows a great deal about the Church and what we believe and respects us very highly. It is amazing how God is allowing Mr. Armstrong to be a witness in a most unusual and personal manner to some of these world leaders!

On this second trip he went to the big "dig" where we are going to send 70 students this coming summer from the three colleges. During his stay over there, he was a guest of "Paris Match" magazine and was also able to make connections which may enable us to get on Radio Luxemburg at a very good time. ~~He mentioned to the Pasadena Church that events are moving very fast in the world and that he is beginning to get some information regarding really BIG decisions in this Work which may be announced this coming weekend!~~

Mr. Ted Armstrong left yesterday afternoon for Big Sandy campus where, incidentally, Mr. Herbert Armstrong has also gone, taking with him Ambassador Ravid of Israel, for a visit to our Texas campus. Mr. Ted Armstrong was going on from there to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he speaks tonight before the Junior Achievement League. Then, after returning to Big Sandy, he plans to go on to Tallahassee, Florida, where he will give the keynote address -- as I mentioned last week -- before the State Junior Chamber of Commerce Convention there. Be sure to PRAY that God will guide and inspire

him in these public appearances and that God will lead and guide Mr. Armstrong in making the big decisions of directing the overall policies of God's Work. This past Sabbath, Mr. Armstrong stated, "If ever we needed to pray for this Work and for wisdom, it is now"!

Margie and I flew back to Akron, Ohio, this past weekend. We were able to spend part of Thursday afternoon, all day Friday and Sabbath there, and had a very interesting and profitable trip. Some seeds of doubt and confusion resulting from Carl O'Beirn's subversive efforts still persist in the area. However, Mr. Clark reported that this is 95 percent gone and the brethren were certainly warm and responsive. I was able to conduct a ministers' meeting there, preach in the Cleveland and Akron Churches, and also interview the Police Chief of Kent, Ohio, where the recent riots occurred. This latter was certainly an interesting encounter. I enjoyed the interview and I am sure the Police Chief did also as he was most happy to talk to someone with a sympathetic ear to those in authority in this land. It seems that the big news services move in on these events, stay and practically live right with the rioters or troublemakers and take their side almost completely. As Police Chief Thompson pointed out, he was not interviewed at all and neither the FBI or National Guard commanders were interviewed very much -- the reporters concentrating almost entirely on the students' and rioters' point of view. There is no doubt that an organized conspiracy is behind most of these riots as the same people keep showing up in all of these places just before and during the outbreaks of trouble. If our "liberal" newspaper and television reporters in this nation don't wake up, they won't have any nation to report on any more!

The year-end events are closing in upon us here at Headquarters as usual. A week ago Sunday we had a very fine Alumni Dinner-Dance which I forgot to tell you about in the last letter. It was an unusually relaxed and happy atmosphere, and literally dozens of the alumni came to me and others on our committee commenting that it was one of the happiest and most enjoyable events they had ever attended even during their college days! We hope that many of you in the Field may be able to participate in something like this if plans can be worked out sometime.

Then, this past Sunday, the annual Ambassador College Field Day took place and the track meet was held out at Mount San Antonio State College where they have a very fine track. It was a fairly good turnout and good enthusiasm, but not too many records were broken because it was terribly hot and smoggy. Then, next Sunday night will be the Chorale concert, with a number of weddings through the day and the following Sunday and the following Sunday, etc.

Now for some important INSTRUCTIONS:

Mr. John Wilson recently informed me that we need to re-view and clarify the instructions for forwarding the members' tithes to Headquarters. There are certain specific points that need to be re-emphasized:

1. As Mr. Ted Armstrong specifically outlined in the preliminary instructions, ONLY local pastors should package and mail the tithes. If this is impossible some particular week because of special circumstances (the local pastor being ill, out of town, etc.), this responsibility could be delegated to a responsible Local Elder, but please include a note with the package explaining the circumstances. The Mail Department carefully records the receipt of all tithe packages from the local pastors and notes any irregularities.
2. You should normally use only one bag per week. When you have a large number of envelopes to send, bundle them with rubber bands in groups of 20 or 30 envelopes, but send them in one large bag.
3. Use "Jiffy Bags," "Jet-Pak Bags" or other similar bags rather than regular envelopes or manila envelopes. If because of circumstances you must use an envelope of some type, please reinforce it with heavy-duty tape.
4. Tithe packages should be mailed early Monday morning. Some packages are being mailed later in the week, and as a result some tithes do not reach Headquarters until eight days after being collected in Church. Any envelopes collected during the week should be held over until the following Monday.
5. Always send the tithes by REGISTERED MAIL and request a receipt. But do NOT designate it for "Addressee Only" since that requires Mr. Wilson, Mr. Seelig, Mr. Brown or Mr. Michel -- whichever the case may be -- to go to the Post Office personally to sign for the package. Never use "certified" mail or "insured" mail in sending tithes. Neither of these is as safe as "registered" mail.
6. Vary the Post Office from which the package is mailed, if possible.

It would also be helpful if all of you would stress the following points in an announcement to the brethren:

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1. We would appreciate it if our members would normally use the computer-labeled envelopes which are provided by Headquarters when they send in their tithes. We will be happy to send them a supply of envelopes labeled with their name (and index number) for this purpose. When it is not possible for them to use labeled envelopes, they should be sure to give their full address on the envelope. For example, if we receive an envelope with only the name "John Jones" and no street, city or state is given, it would be very difficult to credit the money to the correct John Jones.
 2. We recommend that the members do not mark the amount and/or the breakdown of the money on the outside of the envelope. If there is a breakdown of what the money is for, this should be written on the check itself or on a separate piece of paper enclosed in the envelope.
 3. Many members apparently do not realize the importance of following the instructions they have been given in regard to turning their tithes in on the Sabbath. We are still receiving from 50 to 100 letters daily from members who mail their tithes rather than give them to the minister on the Sabbath. Those few scattered members who cannot attend Church services should, of course, mail their tithes to Headquarters. But members who just forget to bring their tithes on the Sabbath, those who do not attend some particular week and those who can attend only every other week should hold their tithes and turn them in the following Sabbath rather than mail them to Headquarters.

Please let the brethren know that we need and appreciate their cooperation in following these instructions.

Mr. Norman Smith wanted me to pass the following announcement on to you:

"Recently four television stations were added to the list broadcasting The WORLD TOMORROW. These stations are carrying the broadcast as a public-affairs presentation without charge to us. Two of them are scheduling twelve or thirteen programs only but the other two indicate they will carry the program indefinitely as long as they have the time available and they like the program.

"We were advised of the interest of three of these stations in an educational public-affairs type program by members who either worked at the station or knew someone who worked there.

"If any of you have members in your congregation or members who have a personal or business relationship with a television station manager, program manager or promotion manager, I would like to have information regarding the individual.

"Let me emphasize that I do not want any of you to contact television stations in your area, neither do I want any member to contact a television station employee regarding use of The WORLD TOMORROW program until I first receive the individual's name and make a specific request that he contact his friend at the station. If I do make a specific request I will provide the individual with information regarding the program that will assist in his presentation to the station manager, program manager or promotion manager.

"If a member is a station manager, etc., and feels his station would be able to carry The WORLD TOMORROW television program on a public-service basis, I will be glad to forward information to him and an audition tape if he desires.

"Again, let me repeat, do not make any contacts with the station on your own without direction from headquarters.

"Also, I would like to make it clear that the contacts referred to here apply only to public-service time on either a commercial or an educational station. All broadcast time to be purchased for radio and television is purchased by Worldwide Advertising Agency with Henry Cornwall as Vice-President. You and the members should not make any contact with a radio or television station. If you have any station that you would like to recommend please send a note to me as we have stated previously.

"I presume most of you will not have anyone in your congregation that fits in this category but if we only obtain two or three more television stations through contacts with some of the members it should be worth the space and time in this letter.

"We appreciate very much your prayers for the continued improvement of the television program and we hope it will be released in your area in the not-too-distant future."

An announcement of a less pleasant nature is that we are having to publicly mark Mr. Stanley Marquand. He is a disfellowshipped member in the Bay area of Northern California who is now bitter toward God's Church. He has written accusative letters to several of the brethren and is actively trying to lead members away from the Church. He should be publicly marked in all the Churches.

Since all of you driving fleet automobiles are now paying cash for automobile expenses, we are no longer receiving the credit card slips that formerly provided a record of your fleet automobile expenses. We are, therefore, asking all of you to obtain some kind of cash receipt for each automobile expense, whether gas and oil or a repair. As in the past, please enter your speedometer reading on each of these receipts. If you use your own personal credit card, please go ahead and send in the credit card slips for our records.

Before closing, I would like to ask all of you ministers and Elders to pay special attention to some of the lessons we are learning through the defections of Carl O'Beirn and John Judy. Mr. O'Beirn, I found even more in talking personally with the ministers back in Akron, was very subtle in his hints and intimations that he disagreed with policies, procedures and certain doctrines promulgated by God's Headquarters. Nevertheless, at least two or three of the Elders back there realized that this was his tendency and was being mouthed about. But they were afraid that they would be "disloyal" if they went to Mr. Clark over Mr. O'Beirn's head! They were afraid that they would get in trouble rather than Mr. O'Beirn -- and besides it was no "big deal" as yet, etc. Therefore, the little seeds of heresy and disloyalty were allowed to sprout and grow and spread -- though certainly not very far.

In talking with Mr. Ted Armstrong and others about this, here is the procedure we should follow in such matters based on Matthew 18:15-20: If you detect a fellow minister -- even one of superior rank -- sowing any seeds of discord or disloyalty, you should first go to him in a friendly, respectful but positive manner and point out the problem. Tell him you are concerned about it for his eternal salvation's sake and the good of the Work. Then, watch and pray. If he does not change these wrong practices, then you should go to the ranking minister in the area or the District Superintendent if he is close by and have him join you in confronting the individual in question with these disloyal tendencies. If he still does not repent and really **CHANGE** his ways, you should absolutely write -- or **CALL** if speed is in any way indicated -- me directly, or Mr. Luker or, if necessary, Mr. Ted Armstrong or his father directly here at Headquarters. We need to

KNOW when and if some minister or Local Elder is starting off on a dangerous tangent BEFORE he is able to hurt others, and hopefully, in time to even "turn him back" if there is any way of saving him personally and his family.

This is NOT -- under any circumstances -- intended to get anyone all worried or start a "witch hunt." Ninety-nine percent plus of you fellows are very warm, co-operative, loving and loyal! Nobody knows that better than I do and I appreciate it -- as does Mr. Armstrong and, I am sure, Jesus Christ Himself. However, in the interest of preserving that love, loyalty and unity, we do need to take action in the future when seeds of discord and division begin to sprout. You are NOT being "disloyal" to a fellow minister in the Field -- even if higher rank -- if you go to him, or if necessary to those over him -- and help STOP him from hurting himself and others by leading off some kind of apostasy. Not to report this to the District Superintendent or Headquarters would be showing FALSE LOYALTY to the apostatizing minister -- and would, in fact, end up in being disloyalty to Headquarters and to God Himself! Naturally, dozens of us have little, tiny "picky-point" type questions and confusions that we would like to talk over and hope eventually to get cleared up by ministerial meetings here at Headquarters. I am very well aware of this and so is Mr. Ted Armstrong. As long as they do not "bother" you and are kept in the realm of little, insignificant points in your mind and the emphasis you give them, that is fine. In fact, that will probably always be the case as long as we are so busy in the administrative part of the Work, many of us separated from each other, and yet, we are growing in grace and in knowledge and in some little, technical points which cannot always be discussed the minute they come up.

But if someone begins to magnify these points -- shows serious concern and bitterness over them or over personal or policy disagreements he has with Headquarters -- then that is another matter. It is the attitude of the individual that really is the key factor. If the attitude is that of minimizing any personal misunderstandings, not "worrying" about tiny little technical points which take time to clear up and being loyal and enthusiastically involved in getting out the BIG TRUTH of Christ's gospel which we all understand and agree on -- then these little points will never give any trouble. They will not be subtly inferred to weak members or PM's, will not be constantly "chewed over" by the minister in question with others as though looking for sympathizers, etc.

This is the thing to note. As ministers of Christ, I know all of you will get the idea now and will follow through in the future by letting us know IN TIME, if at all possible, so we can stop any apostasy or heresy from spreading in God's Church.

Finally, let me say that the regular income is still only about 17.5% increase for the year so far -- that things are still very tight -- so please pray fervently and encourage the brethren to keep praying for God's Work at this most significant time in its history and in human history. Pray for Mr. Ted Armstrong's speeches and personal appearance tours. Pray for Mr. Herbert Armstrong's inspired direction and that God will give him special strength and wisdom in guiding this Work to its close.

Your brother in Christ,

Roderick C. Meredith

Roderick C. Meredith

P.S. I wanted to mention that Mr. Bill Homberger, one of our long-time, faithful, pioneer members who many of you knew and loved, died this past Monday evening. He apparently died peacefully in his sleep after having lain down for a nap. He would have been 66 years old next month.