YOUNG ADULTS GROUP DESC. OF THREE MIRACLES

## WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS Pasadena, California

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HERHERT W. ARMSTRONG

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RODERICK C. MEREDITH, Minister

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Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Headquarters! We have been having beautiful, clear weather here overall for the past few weeks. It is certainly lovely right now -- warm and clear, and no smog.

The most important news at this time is the income of the Work. The low-income trend so far this year is continuing. As of today, the mail income for the month of February stands at 10%, while the total income stands at 11%. The total income for the year to date is only 15%. Our outgo exceeded our income by nearly a million dollars in the month of January, which meant that our cash reserves were reduced by that amount in the month of January alone. This cannot continue, of course, and Mr. Armstrong has said that we will have to cancel radio stations and in other ways cut our expenses by whatever means necessary in order to balance our budget. The situation serious, and I hope the brethren realize it and are continuing to pray fervently that God will provide the income that is needed for this Work to continue to go forward!

We had a very fine dinner-dance Sunday night for the "Young Adults' Group' here in Southern California. It was held at the Ambassador Hotel's famous Coconut Grove. One interesting sidelight was that we were the last group to use these facilities -- which have been in use for fifty years -- before a complete renovation and expansion of the old Coconut Grove was begun this week. The Ambassador "Big Band" provided the music, and with a turnout of about 650, the occasion was certainly a success.

Since many of you may not be familiar with the "Young Adults" Group, "this would perhaps be a good time to explain more about it. This group includes both single people and young married couples and has taken the place of the organization formerly known as the "Single

People's Activity." We have found that including married couples adds a certain balance to the atmosphere which is usually lacking in a group made up of only single people. This change has been enthusiastically received by the single people -- who can now participate in group activities without the stigma of being in a "single people's" or "eligibles'" group -- and it has also been enthusiastically received by the young married couples who welcome the opportunity for this type of activity.

Those of you in the larger Church areas which have had a "Single People's Activity" modeled after the one that Headquarters' formerly had will want to make this change in the name and in the basic concept of the group. Those of you in areas which have not had such activities need not feel it is necessary to begin them on an organized basis. In the smaller Church areas, especially, it is often better to let those who are interested get together for such activities on an individual basis rather than in an organized way. But in those areas which have a number of single people who would enjoy and profit from planned group activities in which interested married couples would also participate, such "Young Adults' Groups" may be formed. Remember, however, that any such activities should not usurp your own time and energy but should be coordinated by one of the leading local men -with your advice and guidance, of course. I should mention that the activities of the group here at Headquarters are those which would normally appeal to young adults, but no specific age limit has been set. Anyone interested in participating may do so.

An ordination announcement that I am happy to pass on to you is that Mr. Ernest Hoyt was ordained as a Local Elder in Eugene on the Sabbath of February 14. Congratulations, Mr. Hoyt!

And an upcoming manpower change which will affect that same area, Eugene, is that Mr. Frank Bruce, a Local Elder who has been serving full time in the Eugene area, will be moving to Wisconsin as Mr. Raymond Cole's assistant in Feast Site Development.

In the way of "baby news," Mr. and Mrs. Larry Salyer announced the birth of their daughter, Julie Renee, on February 12. She weighed 7 pounds and 14 ounces. It was a breech birth, but both mother and baby are doing fine.

Mr. and Mrs. Randall Kobernat are the happy parents of a son, Brett Randall, who was born on February 9 and weighed  $7\frac{1}{2}$  pounds.

Mr. and Mrs. Felix Heimberg's daughter arrived on February 13. Ruth Larainne weighed 7 pounds and 9 ounces.

And Mr. and Mrs. William Hinson announced the birth of their son, William Roderick, on February 13. He weighed 7 pounds and 9 ounces, who have to come the state of the states of the state of the s

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militari ay ilikilmas mathali niliqa tilili ishifi hovo je malimbo kashboriga Since the income tax deadline is approaching, I wanted to remind any of you men employed by the Work who have not already done so that you must file Form 4361 before April 15 of this year in order to receive exemption from payment of social security taxes. As I explained last year, unordained employees of the Church are automatically exempt from payment of social security taxes, but ordained Elders employed by the Work must file for exemption. (It is not necessary to file every year. Filing the form once is all that is required.) Those of you who are ordained but are serving in an administrative capacity for the Work rather than a strictly ministerial capacity might also be required to file this form in order to be exempt from payment of these taxes. It certainly would not hurt to do so in order to be on the safe side. Since April 15 of this year is the absolute filing deadline for those of you who have been employed by the Work as an ordained Elder for more than two years, I wanted to mention it once more as a reminder.

We recently learned that in at least one particular area, fulltime ministers are eligible for a 25% discount on their telephone bills. Such a discount is not available for ministers here in the Pasadena area, but others of you in the Field might be able to obtain one. It would certainly be worth checking into. All you would need to do in order to find out would be to call your local telephone business office. We can provide any official "certification" that you might need in addition to your ordination certificate in order to qualify for such a discount, if available in your area.

Now I would like to take time to rehearse some really good news that should inspire all of us in our prayers and our faith in God's promises. It seems we always get the bad news here at Headquarters and I do want to encourage you again to send in more of the miracles, blessings and healings of outstanding note that occurred in your respective areas. Please send in the details on these -- check them out -- and be sure they are ABSOLUTELY true and accurate! The following are reports that I have checked and I am sure fit in this category. With so many to pray for who have cancer right now and with other serious ailments and problems, including the low income of the Work, we need to realize that God is very much alive and powerful! And He IS still intervening miraculously in His Church!

On my recent trip to Salt Lake City, I was reminded again of the fantastic miracle that occurred last Passover when Mrs. Crain of the Portland Church was healed of cancer! She had had cancer for some time and was diagnosed as having it by at least two doctors. She was anointed, but grew steadily worse until, for several days before the Passover, she was bedfast, had begun to lose her color and it appeared that the end was imminent. Finally, on the very Passover night which pictures Christ's sacrifice, she appeared to literally "breathe her last." After emitting what seemed to be her final breath, one or two in attendance in the room murmured that she had died.

Suddenly, she looked up with <u>alert</u> eyes -- for the first time in a few days and began to breathe more deeply. Then, after a few minutes, she sat up and looked around. Soon, she got up and walked across the room, to the bathroom or to get a drink. This she had not done for several days! Everyone was astonished.

She felt consistently better, slept soundly without pain that night, and next day began to eat regular meals which she had not done for sometime either. She was still too weak to attend the "Night To Be Much Remembered." But on the following day after this she attended both Holy Day services! You can imagine how thrilling this was for the brethren -- hundreds of whom had been praying for her. And it was soon definite that she had been totally HEALED of cancer by God Almighty.

Then, during my visit at Salt Lake City, Mr. Coulter introduced me to a young married woman who had recently been healed of cancer, also! Her healing took place just two or three months ago. A few years ago -- before she was in the Church -- she had been diagnosed as having cancer and had been treated by several doctors. She progressively grew worse even though she was converted during this time. Finally, she was given up by the doctors and told she only had about six more months to live. She was, of course, anointed by Mr. Coulter more than once as different critical phases of her illness would occur. Finally, her right side and breast turned completely black. She was so weak now that she spent much of the month of November in bed with various Church women taking care of her in relays as her husband had to work and was even sometimes out of town because of his work. Several of the Church women -- including Mrs. Fred Coulter -- saw her blackened skin and felt the hard lumpiness under the tissues of the breast itself -- the blackness even extending into her right eye. There was no question but that she was about to die of cancer, humanly speaking! The last week or so the pain became terribly severe. She would scream and cry and finally got to the place that she found it was no use to scream and would just lie there quivering and moaning.

Finally the pain became so intense that Mr. Coulter was called over one night and spent several hours with her trying to encourage and

comfort her as he had done a few times before. On this occasion, he acceded to her wishes and prayed fervently that God would either heal her very soon, take away the pain or else let her die as she simply could not stand it.

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Now I want to quote directly from an inspiring report from Mr. John Bald about a miraculous intervention by God which saved the life of one of our members in the Des Moines Church area. Here is the member's first-hand account of what happened:

"On Friday, February 6, 1970, I was melting copper in a No. 80 crucible pot which holds 260 lbs. of metal. My helper was sick so I was trying to break in a new man. We were using a chain hoist with a pair of tongs which squeeze together on the sides of the pot.

"Copper cools very fast so we had to move quickly. We picked up the pot from the furnace, took it about 40 feet and then started to lower it to the floor to skim off the slag -- which is scum, dirt and waste. In trying to lower the hot pot, the new man pulled the 'up' chain by mistake. The chain hooked on the tongs. I yelled to stop, but he again grabbed the up chain and pulled it. The pot was about 5 feet off the floor. The pot slipped out and down on the floor. The metal came out and on me. (Temperature 2300°; 250 lbs.) There was nothing I could do but let it cover me. All but about 10 lbs. hit me.

When the smoke cleared I was still on my feet. I had not so much as a slight burn -- not even a scratch. The men who

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saw it said they just knew I would be dead; no one walks away from something like that. They also said I was 'lucky.' One older colored man had the true answer. He said, 'The Lord was sure on your side,' and 'it was just like watching one of those three guys walking around in that fiery furnace.'

"Many people will say anything like 'lucky' but will never admit to the intervention of God. When the metal came at me like a wall of fire, it covered me and must have hit very hard with 250 lbs. of pressure. I felt no hit, and not a bit of heat. It was as though there was a shield covering me and the metal just sort of rolled off."

What an inspiring report! I hope that all of you fellows will read and re-read these reports occasionally, and study Hebrews 11. Psalms 103 and other Scriptures showing God's POWER and His promises to heal. Also, I hope all of you will read at least some of these accounts to your local Churches -- encouraging and inspiring the people to pray IN FAITH for God's Work, and for those who they hear are sick with supposedly "incurable" illnesses. Let us realize once and for all that NOTHING is "incurable" with God! And let us help the members to understand this also.

With that background, then, let me again urge you all to pray fervently -- in LIVING FAITH -- for the most serious financial crisis God's Work is in right now and for those even associated with God's ministry who are critically ill! I would like to remind you again of Mrs. John Portune, over in England, who has a cancerous tumor in her eye which continues to grow and which will take her sight and probably even her life unless God intervenes miraculously through our prayers! Please remember this and keep on remembering it before God!

Also, I should tell you that the parents of Mrs. Dennis Luker are still in very bad condition from cancer. While her husband was on a Field trip this past weekend, Mrs. Luker flew up to Portland to be with her parents and try to encourage them. She did this especially because he received word that her father was failing fast and it might be the last time she would ever see him unless God intervenes. He is now down to skin and bones and may not last more than another month or so without a miracle from our God. Mr. and Mrs. Livengood are now both members of God's Church and are only in their early fifties with their youngest daughter, Merna, only a Freshman in Ambassador College. Yet they are both now stricken with the same thing -- cancer! So let's remember this REGULARLY before our God!

And we should always be remembering such people as the Lichtensteins' boys with their crippled and hydrocephalic conditions, the Ted Armstrongs' boys with their deafness, Gary Sefcak, Clayton Steep, Paul Petranek, Norma Davis and Margaret Silver with their crippled and arthritic condition and many others of whom you may know in your local congregations. We should NOT pray despairingly, mournfully and gloomily. We need to talk to God more often and more fervently, let Him talk to us much more through the prayerful study of His Word, and KNOW that He is the living, directing Head of this Church and that He is demonstrating His power and love through such healings and miracles as I have just described. Our part is to hold these things up to Him, get closer to Him, have Him show us or teach us wherever our shortcomings may be in this regard and ask Him expectantly to intervene -- in His time -- as He already has in these inspiring cases I have just related.

As I asked before, fellows, get the definite facts of each unusual healing or miracle you send in -- but send them in! Too often we tend to dwell only on the negative and "bad" things that are happening. We need also to stress the positive and thank God and rejoice in the blessings and miracles God is performing, now, in His Church!

Your brother in Christ.

owner C. Mesel.

Roderick C. Meredith