

GN

The Good News



1974 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

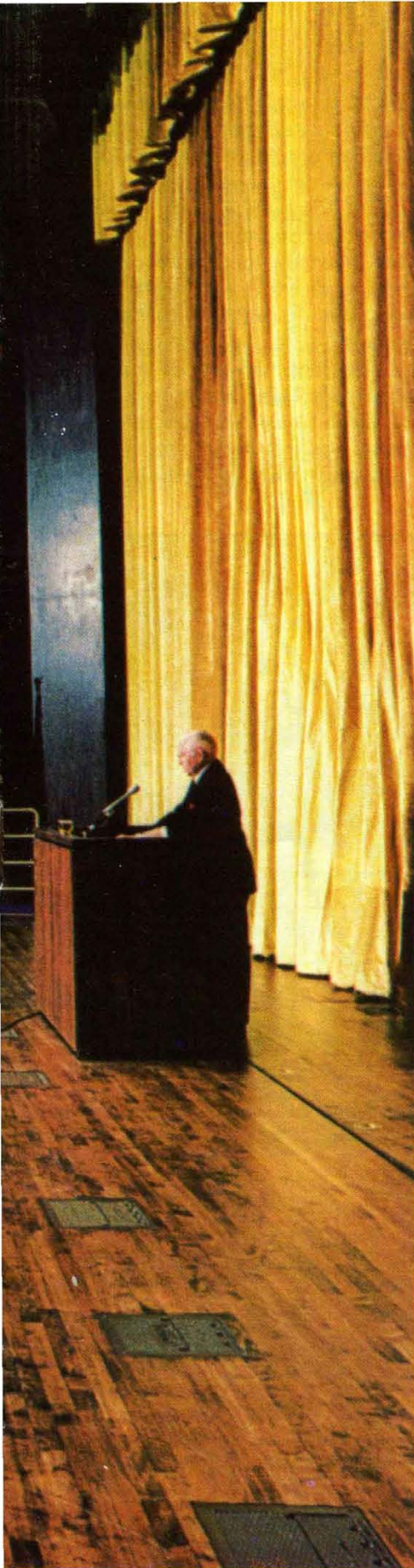
SEPTEMBER 1974



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MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

THE BIGGEST AND THE BEST EVER



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Mike Hendrickson

IN 1934 the modern era of God's Work began with the ministry of one man — Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong — and one small congregation in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. As the Work grew, expanding throughout the United States and then abroad, so did the need for well-educated, specially trained men to represent Mr. Armstrong in his ministry.

The founding of Ambassador College in 1947 made it possible to provide for the manpower needs of the Church. Today over 500 ordained ministers represent Mr. Armstrong and God's Work in 400 congregations around the globe. In this issue we report the ministerial conference held at Headquarters in Pasadena. In an upcoming issue we will take an in-depth look at the ministry of the Worldwide Church of God.

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"This is certainly one of the greatest occasions in the lives of all of us. It is by far the greatest ministerial con-

ference we have ever held. This day marks a new thrust forward in the Work of the Great God."

With these words, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong on May 6 opened the 1974 Ministerial Conference in Ambassador Auditorium on the Pasadena campus.

The opening session set the stage for a positive, uplifting, productive conference. It began with the formal dedication of the newly completed Auditorium to the glory and service of God. Some 1400 people, including over 500 ministers from around the world, were present for the landmark occasion.

Armchair Tour

Then Mr. Armstrong reviewed the history of God's Work in this era and announced new understanding of the doctrine of marriage. "From the beginning this Church has constantly grown in grace and knowledge," said Mr. Armstrong in presenting the findings of the Church's doctrinal committee.

After two days of forums on bibli-

cal subjects, ministers sat back and took a series of armchair tours of the worldwide Work via slides, film, lectures and information sheets. Those divisions reporting included Church Administration, Festival, Mail Processing, Subscriber Services, Bricket Wood, Big Sandy, International (including reports from regional directors), Pasadena Academic, Publishing, and Financial Affairs.

The presentations were eye openers for many in the field ministry — and for many at headquarters too! “I think it has been tremendously



helpful to me,” Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong said afterwards. “I received an absolute thrill in looking at some of the things I myself have a share in doing in this Work. It made me sit there and think, ‘Well, that’s what the whole thing is about, you know, that’s what in the world we’re here for — that’s what we’re doing.’”

As another minister put it: “The big message that came through loud and clear to me from the division reports was that this is a big Work, and a great Work, a Work that has



CONFERENCE '74. Ministers adjourn (top) from plenary sessions in Ambassador Auditorium presided over by Messrs. Armstrong (right of next page). Moderators such as David Antion (left) guided workshops in lively discussions of topics concerning the ministry.

Photos by Mike Hendrickson, John Robinson and David McKee

been long in the building. God has been building this Work for forty years to the point where it can now perform an effective, worldwide effort of preaching the gospel to all nations."

Profitable Four-Day "Talkathon"

Then the ministers settled down to four more days of talking, talking, talking — from 8:30 in the morning to 5:30 in the evening. In 20 workshops they discussed such topics as the calling of the ministry,



sermon ideas, Bible study ideas, pastoral administration, counseling, caring for God's people, and ministerial education. The candid give and take — sometimes fervent, sometimes humorous — gave new insights and understanding to the participants.

By the end of the workshops they were a little weary — but a lot wiser. "I was awakened to the practical problems of the field," remarked one minister stationed at headquarters. Too often some of us at headquarters have taken a theoretical, ivory-towered position in areas in which we have not had personal contact. The theoretical should not be ignored, but the practical input of everyday situations was invaluable in bringing some of us at HQ more in touch with the day-to-day field ministry." □

