

THE CHURCH OF GOD, INTERNATIONAL

POST OFFICE BOX 2530  
TYLER, TEXAS 75710

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG  
PRESIDENT

November 2, 1995

Dear Fellow Ministers and Hosts:

First, let me thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the many compassionate, sincere expressions of understanding and support from so many of you all over the country.

The enclosed letter was submitted by Ron Dart, following his resignation from the boards of the church, Evangelistic Association and Imperial Academy.

Many do not know Mr. Dart has had serious concern over a heart condition for a long time; few know that he was hospitalized briefly several years ago; that he has been on heart medication for years.

Mr. Dart was wearing many hats. He was helping in directing the foreign work, was over the computer and mailing sections, was overseeing letter answering; was writing many personal letters each week, as well as writing the correspondence course, and preaching almost every Sabbath.

During the weeks following the feast, Mr. Dart experienced some additional heart problems, for which he went to see a doctor several times. At the moment his letter was being read to me over the telephone, he was at the cardiologists' office. As I write this letter, Thursday morning, November 2nd, Ron is scheduled to enter the hospital tomorrow for "observation" over the weekend. I know he will appreciate all our prayers that all will be well.

I know all of God's people have enjoyed and appreciated Mr. Dart's contribution to the Church of God, International over the years. He is a gifted speaker; a fine teacher of the scriptures. He is doctrinally and biblically sound; has adhered tenaciously to the "faith once delivered" to the saints, and, with me in these trying years, has been like a bulwark of the truth of God against many heresies that have bewildered and confused many thousands of God's people. He wants to continue with his teaching, but in a more relaxed atmosphere, out from under many administrative and executive responsibilities -- out from under stress, as much as possible. Ron and I go back many, many years. We have been together on a 'round the world trip; have been hunting and fishing buddies, and have been closely involved in God's work together. He will be sorely missed.

Sadly, but in hope for the future,  
a brother in Christ,

  
Garner Ted Armstrong  
GTA:gb  
ENCL:

October 29, 1995

To all my friends and brethren in the CGI:

After much prayer and soul searching, I have come to see that it is God's will for me to make a change in the direction of my ministry. I will try to explain.

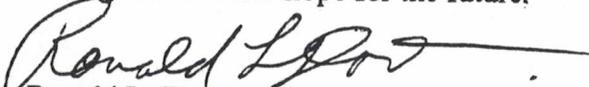
A couple of weeks ago, I had another episode of cardiac arrhythmia. I saw my doctor, had an EKG, and discussed a change in medication with him. His conclusion was that the episode had been brought on by stress. This episode made me think very seriously about my future effectiveness to God and the church. I know He will sustain me, but He also expects me to use common sense.

At the same time, the church at large (we in the CGI do not believe we are all there is to the church) has suffered shattering blows. I have called this the age of confusion, and the church has lamentably not been immune. The number of hurt, confused and bewildered refugees seems to grow by the hour. Some have come to the CGI, or gone to one of the splinter groups (which show signs of splintering again). Most, however, have not. They do not trust any of the existing church organizations. Many have decided that they are through with organized religion for good.

I believe it is God's will for me to step out of the administration of the CGI and to reach out to these people as a non-aligned minister whose objective is to serve. At the same time, I want to stay in touch with all our friends in the CGI, and I intend to be available for counseling, for prayer, or for any other individual spiritual need. It may be that I can personally be more effective even with the CGI by stepping outside of the organization itself.

I love the CGI, the brethren, and all the ministers. We have come a long way together, and much has been accomplished. There is still more to do. In 1978, Garner Ted Armstrong promised that we would all walk shoulder to shoulder. I want to go on record that he has kept that promise to me. I am grateful for the freedom I have enjoyed in the CGI for the past 17 years-- freedom to grow and freedom to study and think. I sincerely hope to maintain a warm and friendly relationship with the CGI in the years to come, but (and I do not use this expression lightly) God has shown me it is time to move on.

With great love and hope for the future.

  
Ronald L. Dart