

History of Worldwide Church of God Ministerial Conferences

Assembled by C. M. White

Version 2.5

In an article written to the members about the 1960 conference, Roderick Meredith stated:

“The annual ministerial conferences give God's ministers an opportunity to discuss and go through various points of scripture and to come to new understanding on various topics each year. This year, Mr. Armstrong led the conference in a discussion on various points of prophecy and on the subjects of divine healing, vows and Sabbath-keeping” (“Recent Ministerial Conference *a Big Success*,” *Good News*, March 1960, p. 1).

This indicates that there had been ministerial conferences which were previously held in the 1950s. Trying to find detailed information on these and other conferences pre-1960 is difficult and are probably contained within the various ministerial periodicals (viz. *Ministerial Report* 1956-1957; *Ministerial Letter* 1957-1970). For those held from 1970 on, the information would also be found in the ministerial periodicals (viz. *Ministerial Bulletin* 1970-1973; *The Bulletin* 1973 to 21 October, 1977; *Pastor's Report* 7 November, 1977 to 2 August, 1979; *Pastor General's Report* 6 August, 1979 to 1990s).

Below I present the highlights for those conferences I have information. Articles from old Church of God publications may be found [here](#).

| Year | Highlights | Reference |
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| 1953 | Probably a conference this year. | |
| 1954 | Probably a conference this year. | |
| 1955 | Six men ordained on 22 January (a Sabbath). The article nowhere states that this was some sort of conference but was very likely to have been given the information below. | “Six More Ministers Now Ordained,” <i>Good News</i> , Feb-March 1955, p. 1 by Herbert W Armstrong. |
| 1956 | “A ten-day ministerial conference is held each year during the latter half of January, when all ministers are called in to Pasadena headquarters ...” (p. 4) | Probably this year that <i>Detailed Statement of activities, history, and method of operation of Radio Church of God</i> was issued. This indicates that conferences likely commenced around 1953 or so. |
| 1957 | “First let me say that, to write this letter, I have been called out of the annual conference session of all our ministers and evangelists from all parts of the United States. All are here but two and those two started our latest evangelistic campaign last night in London, England ... Committees are being appointed on which will be teachers of elementary grade-school experience, and ministers, and myself, all collaborating with nationally-famous artist Basil Wolverton, who is in attendance at this conference.” [emphasis mine] | <i>Coworker Letter</i> , 24 Jan 1957 by Herbert W Armstrong. |
| 1958 | Unknown if a conference was held that year. But almost certainly. | |

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| 1959 | <p>"In keeping with the growing scope of God's work, the ministerial conference will be expanded to three full weeks. Many pressing problems will be dealt with and high level decisions must be reached.</p> <p>God's ministers from across the nation will begin arriving the weekend of January 2. The first of this vital series of meetings convenes on Monday, January 5."</p> | <p>"Ministerial Conference Imminent," <i>The Portfolio</i>, 11 Dec 1958, p. 1</p> |
| 1960 | <p>Discussions on prophecy, vows, healing, Sabbath-keeping</p> <p>"The indication of the Bible and prophecy is that God's church will be given greater POWER in these miraculous gifts toward the end of the age. But we must be <i>willing</i> instruments, and do our part with <i>zeal</i> and <i>humility</i>."</p> <p>Harold Jackson (the first African-American to be ordained by RCG) and Frank McCrady ordained as local elders.</p> <p>Gerhard Marx sent to Germany to take care of the increase in mail.</p> <p>Death of Helen Starkey announced. She was the first paid employee of the RCG.</p> <p>George Meeker and Robert Boraker moving to UK to take up duties.</p> | <p>"Recent Ministerial Conference a Big Success," <i>Good News</i>, March 1960, pp. 1, 9-10 by RC Meredith.</p> |
| 1961 | <p>10 January:</p> <p>"Soon after arriving back in London from our African trip, it was necessary for us to fly back to Pasadena, California, the world headquarters of God's Church. For the annual conference of God's ministers was due to begin on Tuesday, January 10! Indicating the world scope of God's work, this year ministers from many lands were in attendance. Mr. Herbert Armstrong, Mr. Raymond McNair and I ali flew back from England to be in the conference. Mr. Gerald Waterhouse -in charge of God's work in Australia -had flown to Pasadena to be in attendance. Mr. Pedro Ortiguero had flown from the Philippines to be in attendance. In addition, more than three dozen of the other servants of God assembled from all over America to attend this year's conference of God's ministers." (p. 2)</p> <p>"A special highlight of this year's ministerial conference was the inclusion of the ministers' wives in many of the conference sessions. They were invited right into the meetings, and special discussions and lectures were conducted to give them help in becoming the right kind of dedicated, spiritual partners in their husbands' ministry. The wives all responded enthusiastically, and We feel sure that many of you brethren will receive greater help from them as a result ot their inclusion in this year's ministerial conference. Mr. Armstrong has often said that his wife shares fully half the load in his ministry. That being the case, remember also to pray for the wives of God's ministers. Their job, too, is vital!" (p. 2)</p> <p>NB: some say that a paper advocating a Sunday Pentecost by Ernest Martin (93 pages) was discussed in some way during this or the 1962 conference. However, I have not found any verification at this time.</p> <p>"Others began to do some research into the subject. One faculty member in A.C. wrote a 93-page paper in 1961 and submitted it to Mr. Armstrong. The paper tried to prove that Pentecost should be observed on a Sunday. Mr. Armstrong was not convinced and would not consider changing the day Pentecost should be observed."</p> | <p>"God's Church Expands World Wide!" <i>Good News</i>, February 1961, pp. 1-2, 12 by Roderick C Meredith.</p> <p>The paper and issue was looked at by HWA that year, but whether it was discussed at the Conference is unclear.</p> <p>E-mail from Robert Boraker, 19 March 2012.</p> <p>Others have confirmed the existence of this paper. This paper by Martin is also mentioned in the <i>Bulletin</i> (Vol. 2 No. 1) 12 Feb 1974, p. 6.</p> |
| 1962 | <p>"Mr. Raymond McNair, evangelist in charge of God's work in the British Isles, reported that there are now <i>over two hundred</i> people attending the London Church. There are around eighty-five in attendance in Birmingham, seventy in Manchester, and forty in Bristol."</p> <p>"Reporting on Australia, Mr. Gerald Waterhouse said that there are now about one hundred fifteen in attendance in the Sydney Church. There are fifty-five in regular attendance at the newer church in Melbourne, Australia. And, about fifty now attend a bi-monthly Bible study just recently started in Brisbane. Mr. Waterhouse reminded us that we are on thirty radio stations in Australia which provide an <i>excellent</i> coverage of that</p> | <p>"Ministerial Conference Real SUCCESS!" <i>Good News</i>, Feb, pp. 1, 3-4, 11-12 by RC Meredith.</p> <p>(there is also an article "God's Ministers Welcome</p> |

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| | <p>continent. There are now 2100 on our mailing list - and it is constantly growing. <i>The WORLD TOMORROW</i> is beginning to have a TERRIFIC impact upon the Australian people!"</p> <p>"Mr. Apartian, as many of you know, came to Ambassador College as the Professor of French in 1955. He grew up in Switzerland, and spent many years in France as well. Mr. Apartian was formerly with the United States Embassy in Bern, Switzerland, during the second world war. After the war, he immigrated to the United States and has since become an American citizen, and, more recently, a member of God's Church and a direct <i>servant</i> of Jesus Christ. Mr. Apartian reported that the French broadcast started October 9, 1960, on one tiny station in St. Jermonie, Quebec Province, Canada, about 50 miles from Montreal. Then, on April 3, 1961, it started on Radio Luxembourg once a week at 5:40 in the morning. Yet, in spite of these poor times, about 80 letters a week are now coming in from the French broadcast! On October 3, J 961, we went on Radio Europe No.1."</p> <p>"Mr. Herman Hoeh reported on the German broadcast. We started on Radio Luxembourg in German in January, 1960 ... Mr. Hoeh as the over-all Director of the German work, Mr. Erhard Klammer, the speaker on the German broadcast, and the entire staff."</p> <p>"Dr Benjamin Rea was called on to report on the Spanish broadcast. He stated that although the program had been on the air on small South American stations for three or four years the response has been rather small because of the lack of Bibles, education among the people"</p> <p>Les McCullough ordained as preaching elder.</p> <p>"it was definitely decided for Mr. Gerald Waterhouse and Mr. Carn Catherwood to go to the state of Alabama and raise up two churches--one in Birmingham and one in Montgomery, Alabama! This will put two of God's churches in the very <i>center</i> of the Deep South – the only major area in the United States where we have not as yet had local churches."</p> | <p>to Annual Conference," <i>Portfolio</i>, 4 Jan 1962).</p> |
| 1963 | <p>"New truth and understanding was brought out regarding the policy of God's Church on healing, on child rearing, on tithing, and many important plans for growth in local churches and Bible studies were made and discussed. Your PRAYERS for the success of this recent Ministerial Conference were certainly answered! The servants of God now ministering to more than THIRTEEN THOUSAND people attending our local churches in the United States and around the world were certainly encouraged, inspired and instructed in these important meetings!" (p. 5)</p> <p>"During the Conference, on the Sabbath of January 12, seven ordinations took place in the services of the Shakespeare Club--where the Pasadena Headquarters Church regularly meets. This was an occasion of great REJOICING for everyone present!" (p. 6)</p> <p>These were: Pedro S. Ortiguero (formerly of Church of God (seventh day)) raised to local elder; Richard Plache raised to preaching elder; David Jon Hill raised to pastor rank; Bryce Clark raised to pastor; Wayne Cole, Gerald Waterhouse and Albert Portune all raised to evangelist rank.</p> | <p>"Christ's Power Moves His Church Forward!" <i>Good News</i>, Feb 1963, pp. 5-7, 14 by Roderick C Meredith.</p> <p>(there is also an article "Conference Reports Show Fast World-wide Growth," <i>Portfolio</i>, 28 Jan 1963).</p> |
| 1964 | <p>"The most important discussion under our section on doctrine and Christian living centered around the "spirit in man" this year. Mr. Herbert Armstrong introduced this topic, and has been doing a great deal of research into this matter. Suffice it to say at this time that all of us began to realize more and more deeply that man has a type of spirit essence connected with his mind which relates him directly to GOD--not the lower creatures of the animal kingdom! This "spirit" is undoubtedly the means by which God actually <i>transcribes</i> or preserves our individual <i>characters</i> and <i>personalities</i> so that they may be placed in our <i>spirit bodies</i> at the resurrection or back in bodies composed of <i>matter</i> for those who will not come up again until the Great White Throne Judgment."</p> <p>Ordination and raising in rank of 21 ministers.</p> <p>"Dean Blackwell ... pointed out that the real PEAK of man's worth and happiness is achieved only through <i>unselfish</i> SERVICE to God and fellow man. He reminded us that this is a Work of GIVING the most precious thing in existence to all the world as a witness"</p> | <p>"Christ's Guidance felt in Ministers' Conference", <i>Good News</i>, Feb 1964, pp. 3-6, 15-16.</p> <p>(there are also articles "Ministers Leave – Conference Over" and "Twenty-One Ministers are Ordained to Greater Service," <i>Portfolio</i>, 30 Jan 1964).</p> |

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| 1965 | <p>Emphasis on unity</p> <p>12 ordinations approved including Ernest Williams of the Johannesburg, South Africa office</p> <p>7 new churches over the coming months announced: Des Moines, Iowa; Richland Center, Wisconsin; Dayton, Ohio; San Jose, California; Wheeling, West Virginia; Baltimore, Maryland; Brooklyn, New York</p> <p>A number of new Bible study areas announced</p> <p>"Although we discussed continually the <i>blessings</i>, the <i>growth</i> and the spiritual <i>progress</i> of God's Church and His Work, if there was any one <i>spiritual</i> theme underlining this year's Ministerial Conference, it was the warning NOT to lose our first love - as the Ephesian era of God's Church - and NOT to think we are "rich and increased with goods"-as the Laodicean Church ... And let us become far more like Christ in every phase and facet of our own personal lives!"</p> | <p>"God's Unity seen in Ministerial Conference," <i>Good News</i>, Jan 1965 pp. 4-8, 20-22.</p> <p>(there are also articles "Conference Reviews 1964," <i>Portfolio</i>, 15 Jan 1965, pp.1, 6; and "Conference Sees More Ordinations," <i>Portfolio</i>, 30 July 1965, pp. 1, 5.)</p> |
| 1966 | <p>Jon Hill, Dibar Apartian, Les McCullough, David Antion ordained as evangelists</p> <p>Harold Jackson the first African-American ordained as a pastor in RCG. Also ordained as pastors were Dennis Luker, Arthur Mocarow, Arthur Craig</p> <p>Imperial School faculty began to assemble textbooks for the students</p> <p>"... the great future work to do and the tremendous understanding yet to be restored to God's Work shows there is a gargantuan task yet ahead ..." (<i>Church of God News</i>, p. 6)</p> <p>"Fourteen years ago, there were only <i>two</i> elders in the Philadelphia era of God's Church! Others had been ordained by Mr. Armstrong or had "joined" him in this ministry-but were soon found out to be unfaithful. Only Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Basil Wolverton-author of the Bible Story -remained faithful to Christ. Today, <i>less</i> than fourteen years later, there are 177 Ministers and Elders in this <i>living</i> and <i>acting</i> era of the Church of God! They are stationed on every inhabited continent except Asia-and the gospel is being preached to <i>over thirty million people</i> every week!</p> <p>In the spring of 1952, there were only <i>three</i> local churches in this era of God's Church. Today, <i>less</i> than fourteen years later, there are 124 churches around the earth-plus many more smaller meetings and Bible studies which would be dubbed "churches" by many denominations of this world!" (<i>Good News</i>, p. 6)</p> | <p>"Ministerial Conference 1966," <i>Church of God News. Headquarters District Edition</i>, Jan 1966, pp. 1, 6-7.</p> <p>"Church of God News Worldwide. Successful Ministerial Conference. Twelve Ministers Ordained and Three new Churches!" <i>Good News</i>, Jan-Feb 1966, pp. 3-6, 23-24 by Roderick C Meredith.</p> <p>(there is also an article "Ministerial Conference: 1966," <i>Portfolio</i>, 30 Dec 1966, pp. 1, 7.)</p> |
| 1967 | <p>Held 9-19 January</p> <p>"Subjects ranging from the understanding of God's laws on mixed fabrics to the milking of cows on the Sabbath were expounded and each of these will find its way into sermons in your local congregations and later into articles or question box answers in the pages of this magazine.</p> <p>Most important of all was the massive work on the subject of warfare and a complete understanding of God's command "Thou shalt not kill"" (p. 3)</p> <p>"In the calendar year of 1966, 26 new churches were raised up, 18 in the United States and 8 in foreign countries. This brings the total number of churches worldwide to 146. In this same year there were 34 new ordinations and 26 raises in rank in God's Ministry, bringing the total number of ordained men to 210." (p. 4)</p> <p>New church in Munich raised up bringing the total to 4 in Germany.</p> | <p>"Church of God News Worldwide. Ministerial Conference Convenes," <i>Good News</i>, Jan 1967, pp. 3-4, 24 by David Jon Hill.</p> <p>(there is also an article "'67 Conference Convenes," <i>Portfolio</i>, 16 Jan 1967, pp. 1, 7.)</p> |
| 1968 | <p>Unknown if a conference was held that year.</p> | |
| 1969 | <p>"We - the brethren of God's Church - have ALL been called to personally be an integral part of this earth-shaking Work." (p. 3)</p> <p>"Emphasis was placed on seeing the 'forest,' not the individual trees and surely not the 'twiggy' branches. Minor doctrinal or 'picky' Scriptural questions were preempted by the overall monumental purposes, objectives, plans and policies of God's Work as this age cascades toward its close." (p. 3)</p> <p>"On January 19, 1969, Mr. Colin Wilkins opened the new monthly French Bible study in Lyon, France. The January-February, 1969 total attendance was 54 - a very encouraging start. A new monthly Bible study at Brussels, Belgium, will begin on February 9 - with Mr. Carn Catherwood as its minister ... We have just completed moving into the new Hall of</p> | <p>"Church of God News Worldwide. Here is the 1969 Conference News," <i>Good News</i>, Jan-Feb 1969, pp. 3-4, 23-24.</p> |

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| | <p>Administration which is the official name for the newest and finest building at Ambassador College" (p. 4).</p> <p>36 men ordained (13 ordained for the first time and 23 raised in rank) whom are listed on pages 23-24.</p> <p>Ron Dart raised to evangelist rank.</p> <p>"1968 will be remembered as the year that God unveiled a most momentous opportunity for fulfilling the commission given to His Church. Major circulation magazine advertising (Life, TV Guide, Reader's Digest) opened up all January-February, 1969 over the world. In addition, some of the most prestigious newspapers in England also opened their doors to God's Work. All put together, we have experienced the greatest surge of growth in a oneyear period that we have ever had. The PLAIN TRUTH subscription list jumped from 1,150,000 to 1,530,000, and we began two new editions of The PLAIN TRUTH - the Spanish (now 26,000 and growing) and the Dutch (7,000 and growing)!" (p. 24)</p> <p>"Will YOU be ready? ARE you ready? Or are YOU delaying the progress of God's Work? God will not move until His instruments, His Church, are spiritually prepared to move! Every individual member must do his or her part." (p. 24)</p> | |
| 1970 | <p>1969 or January 1970:</p> <p>HWA - "we need to pull together - to respect each other ... we need to learn to go to each other and talk things over. There is the ever-present empire-building tendency among those in responsible departments ... and are very ambitious".</p> <p>"Mr. A said if there is anything, any difficulty, talk it over - come out with it, don't harbour it!"</p> <p>13 January:</p> <p>"just because one isn't in the ministry, it doesn't mean they aren't very valuable"</p> | <p><i>Ministerial Conference Notes 1969-73 by R McNair.</i></p> |
| 1971 | tba. | |
| 1972 | <p>"Today ministers are pouring in here from all over the world for the annual Ministers' Conference, which begins tomorrow. The evangelist-rank ministers are waiting for me for a meeting in our Board Room now, so must close this and run."</p> <p>17 January:</p> <p>Mr. A said the ministers feel nervous when speaking before him. But he said he does not sit there judging, evaluating- unless there is something outstandingly bad) ...</p> <p>He said some felt he had wanted ministers only to wear a white shirt on the Sabbath - if speaking, but could wear a coloured shirt if not speaking.</p> <p>He says he prefers to wear a white shirt on the Sabbath, but does not feel it is mandatory. He would wear a white shirt - if in the audience. But said this was merely personal preference.</p> <p>HWA: watch events and pray. Things to watch:</p> <p>a. US of Europe ;b. militant Catholic Church; c. watch US economic conditions</p> <p>d. Jerusalem and Mid East; e. This Work</p> <p>17 January - Pastoral Instruction:</p> <p>"Be a leader, not a driver."</p> <p>HWA: A leader should be an example of serving, love, dress - in everything. He should lead, not drive.</p> <p>Men's hair: Beatles started long-hair fad. Now many business and professional men wear long hair, but it is not too long necessarily. If this hairstyle becomes so common among conservative men, (60% or 70% do it), he may follow it and encourage you to do so...</p> <p>"However I am not quite ready to do that yet." "I am not going to start it yet". He hoped none of us would begin doing this, but if we did, he didn't believe it was wrong.</p> | <p><i>Coworker Letter, 12 Jan 1972 by Herbert W Armstrong</i></p> <p><i>Ministerial Conference Notes 1969-73 by R McNair.</i></p> |

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| | <p>HWA: Ministers, inspire by your example. Lead, don't drive. Some begin to be overlords - heavy handed.</p> <p>If I want someone to do something, I say "Mell, would you do such and such ..." I don't just order Mell (my driver) around". "Would you mind doing ..." or "will you do ..."</p> <p>Be kind, learn gentleness and patience.</p> <p>One man in a position of leadership, beat down and discouraged all of those under him.</p> <p>"Christ is love. Have an outgoing concern for those under Him. Be warm, friendly, sincere.</p> <p>Request.</p> <p>Mr A said "I wish I could just quietly put someone in his place". Said he was working to overcome.</p> <p>Be a servant. Christ was a servant. Don't over use those under you (Min. Assistants) having them serve his own personal needs or wants.</p> <p>If some are overlords - we might just jerk them right back here.</p> <p>Ministers must avoid running others lives, businesses for them. Don't make their decisions for them. Merely give them God's basic instructions.</p> <p>All ministers should sincerely avoid going overboard in styles, dress lengths etc. Look to headquarters as the example.</p> <p>Mentioned one minister who differed on certain points, but he had never taught these things to others.</p> <p>You are not at liberty to teach or preach contrary doctrines. These must first be cleared through headquarters.</p> <p>ITim 3:1 Some may desire office of an overseer, but most who want to be ordained should not be! - HWA said.</p> <p>Rod Meredith said - We have had tendency to have the people serve us too much. Some have deacons, deaconesses (or women members) serve them without pay. Lawn-mowing, maid services, baby sitting etc. Fix our cars, do our nanny act as nurse or sick maid.</p> <p>Some church members like to do these things in order to "make points" so he can gain favours with the ministers - perhaps be ordained later.</p> <p>Let us remember, we are there to serve them - not primarily to have them serve us.</p> <p>Some members give ministers food, presents, discounts at their business store etc.</p> <p>There are many of these people who later become offended if they are not ordained - or if they are corrected.</p> <p>Mr A said that he could not think of one time when he had deacons or members do these things. Mr A said this way is not of God, but is the way of Satan the Devil.</p> <p>Mr A said he wanted the Supervisors to see some of these "squirts" and teach them humility - not to abuse these things.</p> <p>Mr HWA said some of these people look upon ordination more as a coronation.</p> <p>A. Many ministers are not qualified to advise in business matters. We can only advise on spiritual principles.</p> <p>Don't be afraid to say, "I just don't know" or feel free to refer a member to another knowledgeable member for business advice.</p> <p>We used to be a bit extreme on the thing of church government - used to apply this too often in interfering in church family's homes.</p> <p>Avoid giving the impression of being against the teenagers - not knowing the real facts of what is going on. Teenagers do live in a different world.</p> <p>B. Must know what you are talking about. We don't want to encourage any "wild" music.</p> <p>But it isn't always easy to know where to draw the line on music ... Show them that some of the Beatles music is ok. Don't just harangue against teenage music.</p> <p>C. If you [ministers] aren't warm and friendly, sincere etc - then why? Lack of prayer? Study? We are entirely too rank-conscious. Many ministers have a wrong fear ["perfect love caste out fear"].</p> | |

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| | <p>D. When Mr HWA said it was ok to have shorter skirts lengths on the cheer girls - this was not communicated to the churches.</p> <p>E. Let us remember we are not policemen. Some try to legislate rules to prevent sin ... we need to avoid the two extremes of over- or under-policing. Don't feel that you have to police the Church's people's children ... we can make too many rules that we restrict people and their liberties.</p> <p>F. In the US Blacks are the best-off financially of any Blacks in the world.</p> <p>G. HWA: we are not dictators. Christ did speak sharply at times, but only when he had. to. Otherwise he handled everything lovingly and kindly.</p> <p>An ordination is not a coronation. We have to rule - but wisely and in love.</p> <p>Mr A admitted that he hasn't always corrected as he should. Don't have people fearing you in the wrong way - trembling before you.</p> <p>H. Disfellowshipping is for the purpose of saving others - and of eventually saving the erring brother.</p> <p>We don't have to "blow our tops" or make asses of ourselves. We want to help.</p> <p>Don't do this disfellowshipping in such a way to make their name vile for the rest of their lives.</p> <p>How to disfellowship? That depends. Sometimes, Mr A admits the hasn't done these things as he would like.</p> <p>Try not to act under strong emotion - where you might do something foolish or irreparable.</p> <p>Avoid slander, liable. or creating enemies unduly. Consider the welfare of the whole Work.</p> <p>I. We need to be open, frank and we need to work harder at sincere cooperation among ourselves.</p> <p>Don't crave status, position, honor - making points with the boss to get ahead.</p> <p>Learn to communicate - to have a continual give and take of ideas, suggestions etc.</p> <p>As the Work gets bigger, we can get more carnal if we aren't careful.</p> <p>Be willing to lay down your life for your friends.</p> <p>J. Loyalty is a 2-way street. Learn to appreciate and be loyal to those under you - especially in hard times.</p> <p>Rod Meredith: Some ministers get in a smart alec, sassy, flippant attitude.</p> <p>Originally, the Methodist movement was very fervent - but after Wesley died, this fervency died out. This type of situation could be repeated with us if we are not careful. [an almost prophetic statement – Craig]</p> <p>False prophets will rise up from our midst and will come in from the outside. We need to be serious, sober, grave - realize our serious responsibilities.</p> <p>We want to please, honor God in dress, family, and all we do. Don't resort to "little tricks", machinations etc.</p> <p>Have monthly prayer meetings with the ministers in England so we can keep close to God. Certainly pray before meals and pray every night as a family.</p> <p>K. Mr A said many in the room have had wrong feelings toward others. Even Evangelists against Evangelists.</p> <p>Mr A said if we have anything against anyone - go to them privately and in love.</p> <p>Satan would like to divide us. Pull together. Talk things over and work as a team.</p> <p>L. We are going to plan "as if we had another 100 years" - HWA</p> <p>We have never set dates officially.</p> | |

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| | <p>Watch the Work.</p> <p>Do some of you need to go to each other before you go home? I think some of you owe apologies to others.</p> <p>A further <i>Ministerial Conference Notes 1972</i> (4 ½ pages) states shows that Divorce & Remarriage was discussed (p. 2) and that ministers should quit trying to be “expert counsellors on subjects on which they know little.” (p. 3)</p> | <p><i>Ministerial Conference Notes 1972</i> (author unknown). Available here.</p> |
| 1973 | <p>16 January:</p> <p>Many in the Church of God have lost a sense of urgency.</p> <p>The Work was built on ‘bad’ radio time and we are using ‘bad’ TV time now – but we will get on better TV time as we go along.</p> <p>We need to learn to put Biblical truth in secular language.</p> <p>Mr A said we are trying to get out one [new] booklet per month.</p> <p>Doctrinal Team – Rod and others are now going into many doctrinal subjects.</p> <p>Divorce and Remarriage – We have been too lenient – not too strict.</p> <p>Mr David Antion said he found our District Superintendents could do more work than they were doing – didn’t have enough to do.</p> <p>Qualifications for District Superintendents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an AC graduate 5 years of experience wisdom and perception leadership and inspiration outgoing personality administrative and organisational ability a good speaker etc (incomplete list) <p>The biggest reason for cancellation of receiving Church materials is “I am now studying with the Jehovah’s Witnesses” – 59%!</p> <p>17 January:</p> <p>Mr A asked if we have had any problems, as ministers, with people in the Church criticizing our children. We need to guard against this and handle diplomatically – don’t need to make a big issue of this.</p> <p>GTA said the world is a powerful pull on our kids. He said we don’t need to beat over the head, be suspicious of our children etc.</p> <p>18 January:</p> <p>Mr A said the headquarters ministers (top) have been having a number of doctrinal meetings – to discuss any points in question.</p> <p>Tithing:</p> <p>HWA: We should tithe on gross income, but we can deduct legitimate expenses. One can deduct some types of traveling expenses.</p> <p>In countries where tithes cannot be deducted, or where taxes are exorbitant, one may not be required to tithe on the gross income. Further research is being done on this.</p> <p>HWA: The Levitical priesthood analogy should not be overdone. We are ministers under the Melchizedek priesthood.</p> <p>Rod Meredith mentioned that in the past ¼ or 1/5 of some congregations were unconverted.</p> | <p><i>Ministerial Conference Notes 1969-73</i> by R McNair.</p> |

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| | <p>Rom. 14:1-4 shows one can be baptized without knowing the finer points of life. "Mr Armstrong baptized some who were still smoking and eating unclean meats." But he knew they were so repentant they would obey when they understood. HWA: none of us have complete, perfect knowledge.</p> <p>19 January:</p> <p>We are going to have to have "some kind of revival." He said we are not having as many healings as we should have. "We are not having the miracles performed now that we did in the past." HWA said we need a new booklet on healing. Skirt lengths: women should not show thighs sitting or standing.</p> <p>22 January:</p> <p>Medical questions: we cannot forbid people to go to doctors, hospitals etc. Christ said 'according to their faith be it unto you.' You cannot live other peoples lives for them – you cannot decide for them! Mr A said let us find out if going to doctors, hospitals etc – is the same as Ahaziah going to Baalzebul.</p> <p>Mr A said we must not give up or change our beliefs – the truth – just to please or appease those in the world, newspaper reporters etc. <i>[try telling that to some folk who think we should ordain women to the ministry, who are going soft on homosexuality, refuse to speak out on abortion and euthanasia etc, wish to water-down British-Israel, do not see that the Gospel is to be preached as a witness and warning etc].</i></p> <p>Diet: Eat only those things which will spoil, before it spoils. Eat natural things, natural goods and avoid sauces, gravies, too much spices, dressings etc. Avoid too much sugar. But Mr A said he uses a little white sugar. Said he has eliminated most deserts from his diet.</p> <p>We need to avoid becoming cranks re food, diet etc [today, however, we have clearly gone to the other extreme].</p> <p>Proof of the Bible: Mr A said we had taken our Babylon, Tyre proofs from a SDA booklet. But we have since come to see that we were in error by applying these scriptures to present-day Tyre and Babylon – when they really apply to "the Day of the Lord."</p> <p>Herman Hoeh: Matt 18:15-17 – we are told to go to our brother if he sins against us. "I am not a liberal. I am a progressive" said one member-employee. We have gotten away from focusing in on a way of life and have concentrated on lifestyle.</p> <p>Histories of Rev. 2 & 3 reflected the economic, social and religious aspects of the seven churches. This is true of us today. We are being influenced by this world's attitudes and ways. Righteousness, according to one student, was being tolerant of other's life styles.</p> <p>Dr Hoeh says that many conclusions, judgments and decisions [by ministers] are made without first establishing the truth of the matter. One man said he didn't have any confidence in the ministry and didn't want the ministers solving his personal problems. "The relationship between the ministers and executives is like that of the nobility and peasants" said one woman in the Church. One person asked how often the ministers have operations – had heard of Dr Meredith's operation.</p> <p>Go through the proper channels in ironing out a problem. Don't go to the top first. Go up the ladder of authority. "We have not first gone one to another."</p> <p>Hoeh: "we have resolved the problem, but it has left a scar." Learn to go to one another.</p> <p>Mr A said a number of Kings in Old Testament were zealous in their youth, but fell away in their old age. He said he fears – and does not want to follow their examples. Mr A said he feels he is making progress <i>[with his spiritual life]</i>.</p> <p>Mr A said in Oregon they used to study the Bible in private fellowship. But not so today [he lamented]. He said today there is a competitive spirit. "If we don't do something about it the Church will fall apart." [how prophetic]</p> | |

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| | <p>23 January:</p> <p>We need a ‘renewed sense of urgency.’</p> <p>HWA: “I don’t know of any other church which teaches the truth re out being born into the God family. We will never be equal to Him in power and authority. What other church teaches the Gospel of the Kingdom of God?”</p> <p>HWA: We need to be more alert to the fact that there is a devil, and he is broadcasting his evil ways. Satan is subtle and he is getting at many in the Church.</p> <p>Personal Grooming, Style and Dress:</p> <p>Are we setting our affection on things above?</p> <p>We want to avoid extremes – undue tolerance or too much letter of the law obedience.</p> <p>“Ministers’ wives should set the example for others.” [how about growing their hair – much too many women with man-ish short hair nowadays].</p> <p>Mr A said tin the Sardis Church the wives of the ministers were liabilities to their husbands [in the 1930s]. Mr A said God gave him a find wife but said there will always be ripples in any marriage.</p> <p>We are not setting a definitive no. of inches for skirt lengths, but they must cover the thigh.</p> <p>Mr A said he hasn’t “cracked down” at HQ but he has preached a number of sermons etc, to combat wrong styles, fads etc.</p> <p>New booklet on Proving the Bible thru 10 chapters coming.</p> <p>GTA: He recommended that the local minister might visit a hospital once a month – visiting non-members. He said this may not [always] be a good idea. He said he feels the ministers could visit “half way houses” and learn what it is like to help people overcoming drug problems. He feels we need a more open, freer approach to people.</p> <p>Mr A said if our hearts are right we will not be too picky about exactly defining every principle. Mr HWA said some women are bound to show a lot of thigh, but we are not to be overly critical or pounce. We are not to be too picky – “but I will not be specific to the exact no. of inches.’</p> <p>The Church doesn’t have authority over our unconverted daughters [ie those not drawn into the Church]. But we (parents) do have.</p> <p>These things are important but don’t get down to the exact fraction of an inch. Avoid extremism.</p> <p>“If all men do it” – when “half or more” do it – wear side burns, then Mr A said he feels we could follow the styles. He said if 80% of Australians (according to Mr Cole) wear long side burns etc, it would be ok to do this.</p> <p>We are ministers of the spirit of the law – not the letter. But Mr A said he likes to see a woman’s skirt cover the knee.</p> <p>24 January:</p> <p>Mr HWA said he was amazed and dumbfounded to see mushrooming departments and lavish expenditure.</p> <p>Mr A asked the Ministerial wives to examine themselves to see if they are doing their job – are a proper help to their husbands. A wife can be a very great help [in the ministry]. She can give constructive criticism to their husbands.</p> <p>Encourage your sons to come to you. Be a good listener.</p> <p>Mr A said some tend to drink too much. Most of Mr A’ drinking (99%) is wine. He drinks a little beer – especially after perspiring. Some have been put out of the ministry because of being unable to control their drinking. God’s ministers cannot be drunkards.</p> <p>Neck ties: be stylish – but not wild or way out – not gaudy. We should not wear dull or dry colours.</p> | |

History of Worldwide Church of God Ministerial Conferences

| Year | Highlights | Reference |
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| | <p>A further <i>Ministerial Conference Notes 1973</i> (5 ½ pages) the healing booklet had been recalled and would be replaced (p. 1); questions why someone working in the medical profession (such as a nurse) are condemned (p. 3); skirt lengths, hair length etc were also discussed.</p> <p>Abuses were discussed such interference in family issues; personal tastes berated; relationships between members and ministers was like that between peasants and the privileged (p. 4).</p> | <p><i>Ministerial Conference Notes 1972</i> (author unknown). Available here</p> |
| 1974 | <p>Held 6-10 May</p> <p>HWA announced new understanding of divorce and remarriage and it was discussed\</p> <p>The Pentecost change from Monday to Sunday discussed</p> <p>"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."</p> <p>20 workshops held</p> <p>"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-today field ministry."</p> | <p>"1974 Ministerial Conference. The Biggest and the Best Ever," <i>Good News</i>, Sept 1974, pp. 17-19.</p> |
| 1975 | Presumably no conference was held that year. | <i>Pastor's Report</i> , 16 March 1978, p. 3. |
| 1976 | <p>Held 18-20 May</p> <p>Dean Wilson and Ron Kelly ordained as evangelists</p> <p>"minister and lay member, employee and co-worker - has a part in doing the work"</p> <p>Ted Armstrong conducted the remainder of the session. First he discussed the role and effectiveness of the ministers, stressing the fact that they are to be " helpers of their joy - not policemen of their faith" (see II Cor. 1 :24). He encouraged ministers to ask themselves: What kind of minister am I? What kind of counselor am I? Am I a good listener? Am I a compassionate person, concerned with others? He stressed that ministers should <i>help</i> people - whether within or outside the Church - whenever they see a need, a problem, or an affliction. The afternoon meeting ended with a 40-minute session of questions from the floor.</p> <p>"A shepherd is always with his flocks; he stays out in the field with them, protects them, looks after them and sees to it that they 're fed properly. The images that are drawn in the Bible of a shepherd are those of gentleness, kindness, love and concern ... He is not to make their decisions for them. He is there to provide guidance and counsel, to be a friend, a confidant, a comforter in time of trouble." (Ron Dart)</p> <p>There is no problem with Plain Truth readers attending services.</p> | <p>"76 Ministerial Conference. New Maturity and New Beginnings," <i>Good News</i>, Aug 1976, pp. 12-18.</p> |
| 1977 | <p>Presumably no conference was held that year.</p> <p>NOTE: "I want to announce with this Pastor's Report that we will once again adopt our former policy of annual ministerial conferences! I feel it imperative in a church of size to never fail to have one annual conference of some aggregate or another. For the next year, we will have a conference for area coordinators and senior pastors only, and the following year a wider conference including all pastors of churches and/or others. Wives will be invited as well."</p> | <p><i>Pastor's Report</i>, 16 March 1978, p. 3.</p> |
| 1978 | Held in January. | Referred to in <i>Pastor's Report</i> , January 1978, p. 5. |
| 1979 | <p>Held in Tucson for the first time (22-25 Jan)</p> <p>Rod Meredith explained the background to the crisis upon the Church by the authorities Burk McNair (ordained an elder in 1955) and Dennis Luker (ordained an elder in 1963) ordained as evangelists</p> | <p>"Mr Armstrong Opens 1979 Conference," <i>Worldwide News</i>, 5 Feb 1979, p. 1. Plus several other articles.</p> |

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| | 8 appointed to the Church Board: Stanley Rader, Ellis LaRavia, Richard Rice, Raymond McNair, Roderick Meredith, Dibar Apartian, Dennis Luker, Leon Walker. | |
| 1980 | "Arrangements have finally been completed for the annual Ministerial Conference, which will be held in Tucson again this coming January 21, 22, and 23." | <i>Coworker Letter</i> , 20 Aug 1979 by Herbert W Armstrong |

NB: there would have been further conferences after 1980 and these details will still need to be located in the *Pastor-General's Report* and *Worldwide News*.

Articles in this series:

- *Do Church Eras Exist?*
- *History of the Fair Chance Doctrine*
- *History of the Feast of Tabernacles in the Radio/Worldwide Church of God*
- *History of the Place of Safety Doctrine in the Church of God*
- *History of the Plain Truth magazine*
- *History of the World Tomorrow Broadcast*
- *History of Worldwide Church of God Ministerial Conferences*
- *History of Worldwide Church of God Foreign Works*
- *History of Worldwide Church of God Publications*
- *How the Israel Identity truth entered the Church of God*
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