

The Bulletin



of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

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PAGES 109-180

JUNE 4, 1974

News Briefs

Highlights of news from division reports in this issue

ACADEMIC

Dr. William Stenger, Registrar at Pasadena, gives a summary of the admissions profile for applicants to the Headquarters campus, together with an urgent request to help speed up delinquent applications. The upcoming summer session at Big Sandy, the conferring of AC's first AA degrees, the senior trip to Mexico City and the selection of next fall's student body officers are main topics of Mr. Dart's report.

BRICKET WOOD

Excitement at Bricket Wood mounts as the date for Mr. Hunting's first campaign in Britain rapidly approaches. In his report, Mr. Hunting especially focuses in on the grave problems our brethren in Ireland must face daily.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

The untimely deaths of Mike and Ginny Weber are discussed by Mr. Cole, together with admonitions on safe driving. Whys and wherefores for ministerial moves are covered, with a list of new transfers given after the CAD column. Some current thinking on local church offices and the fleet program are also related by the now *official* "Director of CAD."

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Income for the Work dropped somewhat below expectations, but hopefully the current upward trend will continue, reports Mr. Frank Brown. A solution to the Emergency Fund deficit is proposed and some guidelines for its use given.

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

For the sake of those who were not able to attend the recent conference, Mr. McCullough gives a summary of the presentation by the International Division.

MARKETING AND SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

Instead of a division report this time, Mr. Hill has included an interesting selection of letters the Mail Processing Office received in response to the new House for God and the taped dedication service.

MEDIA

Mr. Smith includes the latest listing of confirmed stations slated to air two one-hour TV specials during the summer. Plans for an extensive spot TV campaign (30-seconds or one-minute) are also under way.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

Campaign scheduling for 1974 in the U. S. and Canada is now complete and listed in Mr. McMichael's report, together with other interesting campaign news.

PUBLISHING

The recent decision to transfer the Ambassador College Press from Publishing to Financial Affairs is discussed by Mr. Cole, and considerable insight on behind the scenes activities and sidelights in producing the latest PT is revealed.

NEW FEATURE

This issue introduces a new regular feature titled, "OPEN FORUM." See page 137.

Marketing & Subscriber Services

DAVID JON HILL

LETTER COMMENTS

COMMENTS ABOUT THE AUDITORIUM

There have been a great many comments about the Auditorium since Mr. Armstrong's letter giving a description of it. Only a few of the more typical comments have been used.

"As I read your welcome letter of the description of Ambassador Auditorium, my emotions were tears of great joy for you. The description you gave of the surroundings gleaming in the sunlight, visible from the walkway and dedicated to 'the honor and glory of the Great God' was an emotional wallop for me also. Thanks to our Great God who made all of this possible."

— Mrs. M. V. R.,
Alvarado, Texas

"I just want to say thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for your last letter, the joy of seeing the House for God through your description has brought tears every time I have read it. And I am sure every one who has read your letter has the same feeling."

— Mrs. L. V.,
Gilbertsville, Kentucky

"I have really enjoyed viewing the pictures of the House of God in *The Worldwide News*. I would love to see it."

— Mrs. N. R.,
Urbana, Ohio

"After reading the letter in which a member described the beautiful Ambassador Auditorium and knowing that the dedication and ministerial conference are being held at the same time, I just felt I had to send something extra toward the building fund [he enclosed 100 dollars]. I know that God is well pleased with the beautiful Auditorium dedicated to His honor and glory (I Kings 18:8)."

— Mr. A. H.,
Berwick, Pennsylvania

"We are so very grateful for such a wonderful and beautiful building to present to our Father. I pray He will be pleased with it. I had to dry away tears all the way through reading the description

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of it in your letter. I am so thankful to you and my God for letting me have a small part in such a great Work."

— Walter C.,
Big Sandy, Texas

"Just two weeks ago I returned from Pasadena, where I was privileged to visit 'The House for God' and to attend the Tuesday evening concert presented at the Auditorium. Splendid! Magnificent! Superb! Nothing could more fittingly fulfill the beautiful inscription in the front of the building, 'To the honor and glory of the Great God'. As for the building, there are not words to describe the splendor and beauty I beheld there. Everything about it reflects God's goodness and character. It thrills me beyond words to realize that is what God wants for all the world to enjoy eventually. I heard a comment from one no longer with us to the effect that the money could have been used to help the poor. Sounds like what Judas said when the woman anointed Christ. Can it be so wrong to want to present something lovely and precious to God? By this nation's standard we are a poor family; but God always provides for us. The very little we have given can never repay Him. Thank you for requiring the very best!"

— Terry M.,
Beaverton, Oregon

(Continued on page 130)

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
GARNER TED ARMSTRONG
Vice President

May 31, 1974

To all ministers and key supervisory personnel worldwide:

GREETINGS again in Christ's service!

This bulletin speaks for itself; instead of me taking time and space to make the usual "best ever" glowing statements about the conference, I'll let a few of the many, many remarks from many of you be read by all the rest of you; that should suffice.

The GREAT thing that happened is, of course, the broadening, deeper comprehension of OUR OWN ROLE in this sin-sick world. As we come to greater understanding on the real degree of intervention from God in the world, perhaps our understanding can broaden even more.

God IS NOT RULING this world NOW! I have had the experience of seeing jaws drop open when I have preached sermons which may have included reference to welcoming back from the operating table a brother whose faith was weak (and whose isn't, at least from time to time?).

We are NOT the proprietors, owners, possessors, rulers, or policemen of this earth. Maybe it shocks some of us yet, to be forced to realize we are not ruling any single country, or any state, or any city, or any group of human beings; AND to realize that we have "rule" (tempered with love, gentleness, and mercy) over the church ONLY INsofar AS THOSE BEING RULED ALLOW! "Helpers of their joy" I believe sums it up.

In the past, there has been too much attention to discipline imposed by US when someone breaks God's law, as if WE must insure they don't somehow "sneak" by what God Almighty says is SURE DEATH! Discipline is absolutely necessary, in the classic sense of order, decency, respect, care and preservation of property (such as in the colleges) and is a great principle of God's word; but PUNISHMENT is something we should ponder a little more thoroughly. Our own actions, according to God's word, PUNISH us -- automatically -- because of God's spiritual laws and principles, and they can deprive us of eternal life unless we repent. If we ministers are "God's own special policemen" to scrutinize individual lives, insuring, as nearly as we can, that each and every action is "paid for" by those perpetrating them, is this not, in its own way, another kind of lack of faith? Are we not saying, in effect, that God is UNABLE to bring to pass the surest, swiftest consequences for human sins?

I believe we are seeing less of the extreme, in either direction, and more balance.

As watchmen, to shout a WARNING to this world; to be witnesses of His resurrection, and preachers of the Gospel, we can never allow ourselves to drift into some narrowly pharisaical, talmudic traditionalism which "spells out" each tiny nuance, every vagary, all possible hypothetical situations, until our "ministerial handbook" simply oozes billions of choice, stock answers for each human situation. Preventive legislation is something even God has never, in His great wisdom, tried. By "preventive legislation" let me make a clear distinction in what I mean as opposed to "deterrent legislation."

We must, of course, fully recognize the very powerful deterrent effect of such things as death penalties, or in the case of the theocracy of Israel, the surest and swiftest punishment for infractions of God's law, or the "eye-for-an-eye and tooth-for-a-tooth" principle, which God enjoined upon Israel. There was a POWERFUL deterrent effect for any would-be lawbreaker to "hear and fear" as a result of what might happen to some other offender! We all know this, and we must use it in child rearing, in the conduct of Imperial Schools and Ambassador Colleges, and certainly even as a spiritual principle in our sermons!

I do not by any stretch of the imagination mean that we should not preach and teach God's Law, obedience to it, a deep apprehension or even "healthy fear" -- please check my article on "Fear Religion" -- about consequences for breaking God's Law.

But I mean to define the difference between that healthy fear we should all feel over consequences for sin as opposed to the formulation of laws which we might assume "prevent" humans from breaking them!

I hope we can ADMIT, deeply, in our own hearts, that our God means what He says when He plainly describes the spiritual condition; the mental darkness; the physical corruption, and the present spirit leader of this earth!

We have preached for YEARS the "all deceived" (Rev. 12:9), "all have sinned," "there is none righteous, no, not one," "if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear," "come out of her my people, and be not partakers of her sins, that ye be not partakers of her plagues," "love not the world," "I am not of the world," "the whole world lies in darkness," "He gave them (up to have; over to) statutes that were not good," etc., etc., etc.

Strange, then, that we should have been so long in seeing deeply that God is not intervening AT ALL in personal lives except in rare cases here and there where someone really ASKS Him to!

The subject of Marriage, as you had opportunity to hear it expounded; and opportunity to discuss it again in give-and-take sessions; and opportunity to study the material you were given at the conclusion of the conference, is vast. The booklet Mr. Armstrong

wrote, so far as all he said concerning the God-plane relationship, the sanctity, holiness (when God is directly involved in it), and PERMANENCY of marriage, is very good. I doubt that any changes will be made in whole sections of the booklet. But the TRUNK of the tree regarding divorce and remarriage is the great PRINCIPLE God revealed -- that God Almighty is NOT holding billions (that's right; there are BILLIONS involved!) of people accountable as an UNPARDONABLE SIN, a physical, human, contractual (or illegal) "marriage" done through whatever tribal, religious, social, political, or personal and lustful stimuli -- for all eternity.

I don't wish to "flog a dead horse" on the subject of D & R, but whatever individual procedural and administrative questions crop up or which do remain should be sent to HQ (Mr. Wayne Cole or Dr. Dorothy). Let's keep the lines of communication wide open.

Even though I went over perhaps twenty or more practical or hypothetical situations resulting from the Doctrinal Forums in the final morning's plenary session, I recognize thoroughly that in that format you could not get each word down or even remember more than a part of what was said. I also must recognize that every answer I gave cannot be expected to represent the most perfect wisdom on the subject, though I do believe that it was all, in principle, correct.

By the way, we would appreciate any comment concerning the marriage and divorce paper you received on the final morning of the conference, so any of you who wish to send in suggestions as to deletions or additions to that material, please feel free to do so at your earliest convenience.

Now to some other vital important topics:

A VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: In lengthy talks, after a great deal of input from the field ministry and after meditation and discussion over the entire CAD structure, I have decided to make permanent what we have had as a "temporary arrangement." In this regard, I have now officially appointed Mr. C. Wayne Cole as the Director of Church Administration. He will be assisted by a Headquarters' team composed of Paul Flatt, Burk McNair, Dennis Pyle, and Art Mokarow. (I should also include as part of the team, Mr. Ted Herlofson, who has been tirelessly carrying out the vital "behind-the-scenes" functions as Department Manager of Ministerial Services.) Specific responsibilities and areas of demarcation for each individual will be assigned later; however, I want to hasten to tell you all that this is not creating some vertical structure or some separate "division" within the Work which takes the church apart into some separate category away from direct and personal contact with Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and/or with me.

In a further edition, we can perhaps show you an organizational chart which will spell out very clearly and in graphic form exactly how the whole thing functions. As it will very clearly delineate, there is a DIRECT line from any ONE of you directly to Mr. Cole and another DIRECT line to me! We will show this by lines out to the sides, so that, even though in day-to-day administrative problems

(such as hall rentals, Church and Bible studies, visiting, lease cars, salaries, transfers, etc., things will continue to function just about as they have been. I want to make it constantly and explicitly clear that there is direct open communication available from any one of you to any one of us!

Actually, this organization is the result of input from ALL of you, and the vast majority of you have said this is precisely the way you wanted it! While there was no voting involved, there was certainly extensive and in-depth opinion sampling, which led to this final decision -- which was a consensus.

I am very happy with it and will work very closely and personally with Wayne Cole, as I have been, and I'm sure all of the fellows here on the team are equally as pleased .

AMBASSADOR COLLEGES: Fellows, frankly I believe that many of us have been letting down concerning our enthusiasm for Ambassador College. Permit me to explain a trend which has begun to occur.

When It became evident that only smaller percentages of Ambassador College students could actually be drafted into the ministry, I believe a basic attitude began to emerge regarding Ambassador College. No longer could we in all honesty excite prospective students with the great and shining goal of the ministry as the one great and true success story of Ambassador College; and speak glowingly of an almost automatic position in the Work if the average student got a diploma!

It became more and more obvious that larger and larger percentages of our students were being given a "handshake and a diploma" at the end of their four years -- which used to be a euphemism for failure. Further, the attitudes of a few of our students were somewhat affected by the plain and simple fact that after a full four years of Ambassador, many a student went right back to the exact same job (perhaps working for his father) that he had occupied prior to coming to the college.

Defeatist attitudes concerning this might nullify the fabulous experience of four years at Ambassador College, and take the negative view that those four years do not, in fact, really build something of tremendous value into that young person and, in fact, change his entire life for the better!

Today, we are far closer to the exact kind of college Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong envisioned way back in the 40s when he intended to establish a Co-educational liberal arts institution from which only a FEW might be selected by God to be called into the ministry.

Ambassador College is still the greatest bargain in education the world has ever seen! -- with its tuition below the average for private colleges in the United States, readily available student loans through local banks who hold Ambassador College in high esteem, student work programs and limited scholarships available, accreditation (hopefully) just around the corner (really, I believe it!), VA approval for Big Sandy, a flight school in Big Sandy, a really exciting business program beginning to be offered in Pasadena (and

I could take another ten pages and not even begin to extol all that Ambassador College offers -- as you so well know). I think we, as a ministry, need to be instilling more exuberance, excitement, expectancy, and enthusiasm about Ambassador College among our youths!

There has been a very noticeable trend among literally hundreds and hundreds of our teenagers to simply quit their education at the 12th year (or even before) and go out and get a job and get married. Fewer and fewer seem willing to delay marriage and all the "goodies" they think they are going to discover in the midst of their young lives for a few years of Ambassador College training!

I have just had a lengthy talk with our entire academic administration in Pasadena. Dr. Germano tells me that there are still a number of vacancies available for the coming year -- and wanted me to be sure to inform all of you that he hopes you will be closely talking to and working with the teenagers who are college prospectives in your areas and inspiring them about Ambassador College! I'm sure all of you know, fairly well, exactly what most of the teens in your area are planning to do with themselves following high school. Are there some fairly good college applicants or prospectives in your area, who are not seriously contemplating coming to Ambassador? If so, why not? Remember, we have the two-year program (junior college -- with the A.A. degree in Big Sandy). Frankly, with the very impressive record of literally dozens of our Ambassador College graduates earning very respectable wages out in "the world," any negative feelings about "not being able to earn a living" after coming to Ambassador should have been erased long ago!

We can cite many cases of Ambassador College students not directly employed in the Work who went back out into their own choice of environment and became very successful! Of course, we are very sensitive to the need for more vocational type training, and it is becoming more available! So please, if there are youngsters in your area who have rather half-heartedly sent in for an application, but have been slow in returning it, or some who are just going to decide to while away their time and have no specific or particular goals, as an Ambassador College graduate yourself, get in there and give it the "old college try," inspiring these young people to do more with their lives!

We should not allow very valuable young lives, with the very real potential of going into very important positions in the Work, to be wasted. We still have room for more qualified students for this coming year. So let's encourage our kids!

MEDIA: I am considering the possibility of going back to making strong, powerful, live daily radio programs and cutting back to only once a week on television. I must continually ask what is best for the Work and in what manner are we going to be most effective in reaching the world, and in what fashion can I do my very level best in each and every responsibility? All of us here do know and understand that we can do a much better quality telecast by devoting ourselves to a once-a-week program -- and, combined with our summer specials and perhaps other one-hour specials (on Creation, geopolitics,

etc.) which we would do a few more of than before, plus our television one-minute spots which go before far larger audiences than our early morning daily programs do, we will certainly stimulate much more mail.

But that's not the issue. First of all, stimulation of mail is only one of the purposes of TV -- and perhaps not even the major purpose! Secondly, as Mr. Hill might say from the Marketing Division, "The last thing in the world we need right now is more names on the PLAIN TRUTH list"! Some of you may not understand that statement -- but let me make it clear. We could go into a give-away program of the PLAIN TRUTH by newsstand distribution, cards in the PT, hand-outs, massive advertising in printed and electronic media, and simply be UNABLE to produce and mail the PLAIN TRUTH magazine in sufficient quantity! At the present time, with one and one-half million on the list for the PT, in the United States, we are about as large in circulation as we really SHOULD be at this point in time.

I know it surprises no one when I say I have found that only comparatively few of those even right here at Headquarters do watch the program every single morning. Of course, daily television has only been available to a very limited number of "markets" in the United States; and weekly television has reached a far larger audience --including the entirety of the nation of Canada, where daily television is only available to some few who might be able to pick up an American channel.

Further, we find that once a week television will enable us to place the television program in many more cities, in better hours (in most cases) -- making the telecast available to a far broader number of our local church brethren!

By devoting our dollars so heavily in daily television, and, of necessity, being limited to fewer outlets, we receive impact on a fairly narrow audience very early in the morning.

But as I've said, the main thrust of the television program is not the pulling of mail alone. It is the continual impact of the television program that creates a dedicated listening audience, people upon whom God's witness and warning message has a real effect. Furthermore, a few of these people then become far more deeply involved with the PLAIN TRUTH, GOOD NEWS, booklets, correspondence course, and eventually, through either personal campaigns or a request for a personal visit, may be called of God and brought right on into the church.

I must look at all facets of this critical decision. Personally, I find that my own speech is suffering somewhat from daily television. Locked into maybe three programs here or five programs there on this or that highly structured scientific, economic, historical, or doctrinal series of programs, I find myself less and less involved with the really critical day to day issues that scream at us from the headlines of our newspapers and weekly news magazines; whereas with live daily radio I must continually be aware of practically everything that is going on, tying it into the living Bible prophecies, stimulating audiences with the kind of programming that really was the

backbone of this Work as it experienced the years of its greatest growth! Some of the highest listener interest we ever had in the radio programming was when I did "on the spot" radio programs from Cape Kennedy, the garden tomb, the Golan Heights, Gibraltar, West Germany, South Africa, etc., etc., etc.

On my upcoming trip to the Middle East, I hope to get many, many on-the-spot radio programs in Egypt, Kuwait, Israel, and several points in Europe.

Again, radio is FAR FROM DEAD. When we finally got on super-power WOR, in New York City, at 10:30 p.m., after all these years, we began to get a VERY satisfactory mail response from a very wide area in the Northeast.

I'm sure you all know that countless hours of my time have been devoted to daily television -- time which COULD have perhaps been devoted more productively for writing articles for the two magazines, new booklets, doctrinal input, procedural and administrative problems within the Work itself, not the least of which is closer personal contact with all of YOU in the ministry; more contact by taking trips out to local churches, etc., etc.

Then, by a live and viable daily radio program, a top-quality once-a-week television program (which, with added stations, could give us even more mail than our normal television mail) I believe I will be far more stimulated to keep aware of world news and happening; have more time for the crushing load of administrative responsibilities and contact with the field ministry, have more input doctrinally, spend more time in writing and research which is absolutely essential; and can be more involved in accepting the steady stream of requests for speaking engagements before civic organizations, various broadcasting associations, educational institutions, and the like.

My thinking along these lines (spanning more than a year now) has never been influenced by financial necessity! It is not a financial necessity NOW, but I must continually reevaluate the overall programs at the very spearhead of the Work and ponder whether we are getting the absolute MOST for our dollars spent.

Actually, we will be exchanging "dollars for dollars" if I get back onto live daily radio and enlarge both the number of daily radio stations and the number of weekly television stations. We will be trying to purchase MORE of the really important 50,000-watt radio stations and even begin coordinated promotional campaigns for both our radio and television programs in the media.

So we are NOT going to be saving any money, and frankly, I would rather spend far MORE money in media with this type of approach than we are presently doing.

In retrospect, both the effect and experience of daily television has been tremendous. And there may come a time when we will go back on daily TV in a much more massive way -- to finish the job God has

given us to do by giving this nation an intense witness and warning.

On a sad note, Mr. Albert J. Portune has finally decided to sever ties once and for all with the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong sent him a very warm and fatherly telex from Manila re-emphasizing how deeply he grieved for Mr. Portune, as I know we all do. Who knows but that in a year or two or three that Mr. Portune will be right back among us, doing a vital job in the service of God's Work. Forgetting any recriminations or attitudes which are not Godly or right, at least we can rejoice in the many positive years Mr. Portune gave to God's Work and, even in the fact that right at this moment, there are many new members in God's Church, having been baptized and converted as a direct result of Mr. Portune's campaigns during the calendar year of 1973.

I will not speculate on what Mr. Portune intends to do at this juncture, since I have not heard from him personally, and have no direct way of knowing. To speculate would merely be to add to rumor, which I think is improper.

I think I expressed myself at the Conference and repeatedly in personal conversations with many ministers including Mr. Al Portune, Jr., concerning the fact that the door is always open for Mr. Portune, Sr., as well as for any of our former loved ones, fellow laborers, and close personal friends, who have allowed themselves to be so deeply affected that they chose to go their own separate way.

I have just finished what I hope will be a very powerful article on the subject of financing God's Work for the GN. I hope all of you went home from the Conference deeply inspired, as I believe most of you were, with the whole global overview of this great Work of God -- and will really be pouring out your enthusiasm to those loyal and faithful people who are, after all, the real muscle and backbone of this church and of God's Work!

I'd like to share a thought with you: as I told the people in Muskogee on the day of Pentecost, tithing and the giving of offerings is an "intense PERSONAL exercise"!

I feel tithing is much akin to prayer! You cannot find one of the Ten Commandments devoted to prayer! Yet, Jesus gives not only many commands, but many examples of prayer as does the entirety of the New Testament! We read that "men ought to pray" and Jesus saying "WHEN you pray" (not if).

Prayer to God is an offering of one's deepest heartfelt intent, coupled with thanksgiving and gratitude, plus making "our requests known to God." Tithing and the giving of our material substances is, I believe, in exactly the same category! As such, it is the heart and core of what Christianity and conversion is ALL ABOUT! Frankly, the attitude of "just how much do I HAVE to give?" is as totally carnal as an attitude of contempt, hatred, unforgiveness, or any other carnal motivation. Anyone whose very life is wholly dedicated and given to God, who is totally converted, and who knows that ETERNAL SALVATION is at stake, would want, with all their might,

to give all they possibly COULD in a last-ditch desperate effort to preach a witness and a warning to a sin-sick, fear-ridden, chaotic and dying world.

Where went our concepts about "dangerous knowledge"; the analogies of pioneers in the World Tomorrow, forerunners of a greater coming World Tomorrow and government of God which is soon going to rule on the earth; a tough inner cadre of called-out specialists, who have a vital commission to fulfill?

The whole APPROACH of those few reluctant to tithe is a self-serving approach which gets one's mind on the rudiments of this physical life, this world, this society, and begins to simply push God and His prophecies and the impending calamities to strike our people completely to the back of the mind!

Though the little widow gave her mites in the midst of the most splendid and beautiful building which existed on the face of the earth at the time, so far as we can know, Jesus did not condemn the building, but rather commended the little widow who, after all, had given PROPORTIONATELY of her substance!

We need, fellows, to HAVE among ourselves the spirit of GIVING: the giving of our substance, our material goods, our time, our energy, our concern, and our PRAYERS. If WE believe this and follow it with all of our hearts and beings, we will AUTOMATICALLY be communicating a deep desire to give, to share, to help those we are serving -- to get Christ's Gospel to the world.

So let's throw off any shackles of hesitancy, doubt, and confusion over the subject of tithing resulting from the false claims of some few and realize it is a great and a good and a godly principle -- that Jesus Christ upholds it! -- that the New Testament DOES command a total sacrifice of your life to support God's Work. If you want to take issue with that word "command," and insist there is no such "thus saith the Lord" then I suppose you would be technically correct -- but how does God speak to us? Does He not in many cases reveal His will through example, or through mistakes of other human beings? Does He not, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the writings of the Apostle Paul, tell us that as a God-ordained PRACTICE of the church the Apostles of God have the power (authority to take tithes) over the material substance of the people?

Every one of us must be 100 percent ROCK SOLID on the doctrine of dedicating the totality of our lives, including our financial resources to God's Work, and deeply committed and dedicated to the concept of GIVING as a way of life among God's people. We must have full enthusiasm without hesitancy or doubt, to get up and give the most inspiring and powerful statements concerning the needs of the Work, inspiring people to continually give from the heart as God blesses them and as they are able.

I believe some few of us have been slacking off alarmingly! I believe some few have allowed doubts to creep into the backs of their minds so they have been half-apologetic, too slow of speech

and perfunctory and matter-of-fact-of manner, and they have not been powerful, positive, and enthusiastic in the taking up of offerings among God's people on God's Holy Days and in reminding God's people to continually support the Work in tithes and offerings.

CONCERNING THIRD TITHE: Reiterating what I said at the final plenary session about "relieving the heavy burden," remember, fellows, that if there is any individual in your local church area who contemplates entering his third tithe year by literally having to sell a home, sell a car or equipment, reduce the scope of his business, deprive his family of the essential elements of life, or go in debt or borrow money in order to pay third tithe, then such a person should not pay third tithe. This decision should be made both by the individual himself and the ministry in their mutual agreement that third tithe should not be paid.

I do not believe we need to be like policemen (as I went on and on about much earlier) to try to make sure that "no one sneaks by and avoids" this responsibility! If someone wants to play games with God, wants to kid himself that the spirit of rebellion, resentment and reluctance can get him into God's Kingdom in the place of the spirit of giving, then he is kidding no one but himself; If a person is truly and fully CONVERTED and his whole heart is in God's Work and God's Church and he wants not only personal salvation for all ETERNITY, but a way of escape and protection for himself and his loved ones, in the troublous times ahead, then I do believe he will not be playing "funny little financial games" with whether or not he just has to give a certain number of extra dollars here and there into God's Work!

Regarding the administration of third tithe, it would take me another ten pages to tell you all of the circumstances surrounding the misallegations of the abuse of third tithe in the past, and to remind you all that the ultimate administrator of third tithe was, and is, in practical fact, the local pastor himself! Routinely, if one of the local pastors told CAD he approved the allotment of third tithe for this or that or the other person in an area, it was merely routinely approved and a check began to be issued! I do not believe there has been any "neglect of widows"!

Finally, let me reiterate briefly what I said about the support of relatives. We have ALWAYS taught (and if some few have gone out into the field without knowing it I can only but apologize for the sad lack of communications) that if "any have widows, let them support them that the church be not charged." We have ALWAYS SAID that those who have needy relatives of their own should support those relatives out of what would normally be coming to Headquarters as third tithe. IF such support does not require a full ten percent of their income every third year (or 3 1/3% distributed over the three years, if this is the way they should choose to disburse it), and some is left over, then it should come to Headquarters to be disbursed nationally and internationally to those in need.

Whether this was ever spelled out in print I do not know, but I certainly do remember saying many strong statements about it myself

in past years in Bible studies, sermons, and in classes.

We will of course be fully addressing the entire subject of Tithing and financing God's Work in the coming months in our regular series of meetings on doctrinal and administrative questions. (In the next issue of the Bulletin, we will present a detailed report of our organization, procedure and approach to the doctrinal input given at the Conference.)

Fellows, I want to close with a very important admonition. We have a VAST number of PMs out there who desperately need your attention! I know I am asking for the moon when I tell you to stimulate and encourage the young college prospectives, study, pray, prepare, drive, visit, be a good father, husband, companion and provider, be a "great guy" for all of the local brethren in your charge, preach inspiring sermons, contribute to the Bulletin, etc., etc.! However, knowing that you know that I know how hard many of you do work -- and with all of these apologetic statements out of the way -- it nevertheless is true -- that there are somewhere in the neighborhood of SEVEN THOUSAND -- that's right -- SEVEN THOUSAND prospective members scattered around the United States awaiting the closer and continuing personal contact with you.

There is NOTHING more vitally important to the very reason for your being a minister in the service of Jesus Christ than making these first visits with these prospective members whose whole lives are trembling on the verge of complete and total conversion and being called right on into God's Church, and made secure for His eternal Kingdom!

We are working hard at providing more and more manpower! We want to encourage any and all of you who may have former Ambassador College graduates in your areas, or some few who were laid off in the great "cutback of 1969," to write us of your feelings of their present qualifications and whether or not you can begin using them on a volunteer basis, part-time.

But in whatever manner and by whatever means we can provide the time and energy, we desperately need to visit these prospective members!

Again, THANKS very much for the enthusiastic input and communication from all of you during the recent Conference. There is no need for me to wax eloquent about it -- so many hundreds already have. Thanks especially to all of those who gave me personal notes of encouragement or letters.

This is growing long and burdensome. Please forgive any excessive wordiness you may find.

Finally, let's never forget to COMMUNICATE! First, let's begin DAILY communication with God, and with His Son Jesus Christ! If we all are in DAILY close, personal contact with God and with His Son Jesus Christ, then we are, in a very real and vital spiritual sense, in daily communication and contact with each other! Call, write,

contribute to the new Open Forum Section of the Bulletin -- let us hear from you, and let's begin to WORK HARDER THAN WE EVER HAVE BEFORE! I am certainly trying to set this example and I know the time IS growing short.

Until next time, your brother in Christ,

Samuel Led Armstrong

CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

Now that the greatest and most productive ministerial conference of this era of God's Church is over, we would like to solicit *feedback* from all you fellows regarding any and all aspects of the conference. Please let us know your thoughts and ideas about the way things went. Although the conference next year will be undoubtedly shorter, tell us how you think we can make it even better. We've all got opinions and ideas about the meetings, so why not just take a few minutes and jot them down. We want to make the next conference as meaningful to you and the Work as possible. Address your communication to the managing editor. Thanks. We *value* your opinions.

Church Administration

C. WAYNE COLE

Greetings again.

The ministerial conference is now behind us. Many of you have written notes expressing your appreciation for the very successful way the conference was conducted. We are grateful to you for your thoughtfulness in taking time to write. Here are just a few excerpts from some of the letters we have received:

"My wife and I are back from the conference — both feeling charged up to help in God's Work. We would like to thank you . . . We feel the conference was infinitely valuable for us personally and certainly for all of God's people. We do have one request — that conferences like this could be held annually for the benefit of all."

"I just wanted to jot a note thanking all at HQ for all the hard work that went into the conference. I came away feeling inspired, confident, and really 'tuned in' to the Work. I pray that God will help me to do my job as well as I saw the work being done out there."

"Just wanted to say that I think the conference was the finest I have ever attended — have never been to anything that remotely compared to it."

"It was my first visit to Ambassador College and one of the most, if not the most, rewarding experience of my life . . . The House for God was indeed a jewel and the experience of being inside that magnificent structure is truly a remarkably uplifting one."

"It was the consensus of those I talked with that this was the greatest conference of its type that has been held in this modern era of God's Church . . . The local church elders really appreciated being able to come to Pasadena . . . Hopefully the common bond of unity among the ministry that was exemplified at the conference can be spread to all the brethren . . . a firmer bond of brotherhood seemed to be taking place. The events

of recent date have helped us see the absolute need we have of being of "one mind." One thing is for sure, God's people will be scattered if God's ministers aren't unified."

In recent meetings here in Pasadena, Mr. Ted Armstrong has officially approved an H.Q. structure for Church Administration. Further comments about this are included in Mr. Ted Armstrong's letter in this Bulletin.

The untimely and saddening deaths of Mike and Ginny Weber near Cozad, Nebraska, May 21st, should bring us face to face with the grim reality that any of us can meet a similar fate at any time. No one is immune. We do not know the specific cause of the accident that took their lives at the concrete bridge. The Nebraska State Patrol officer at the scene *indicated* it was not mechanical failure. However, the explanation of the accident given by their five-year-old daughter indicates "hitting a bump in the road" before hitting the "fence in the road" (the metal guard rail). Since we don't know what really occurred and whether Mike may have been momentarily distracted by something within the car, or perhaps by fatigue or drowsiness, we certainly don't want to imply carelessness in any way. But, let's all realize *once again* that driving is full time business and dangerous under the best circumstances.

The workers who removed the bodies from the car could not remember whether the seat belts had been in use or not, but the state patrolman felt they would not have made any significant difference in an accident of this sort. The car was flipped over at normal highway driving speed after striking the bridge abutment and crushed the front part of the top down to seat-back level. There is no indication that the car was traveling at an *unduly high rate* of speed.

We have had few deaths for the many, many miles we drive. This we are very thankful for. But perhaps the more miles we drive without accidents tends to take the edge off the sharpness of our attention to the job of driving. As you all know, it can get to be a dull routine, especially when you spend so much time behind the wheel.

Fellows, please, let's all take this very severe lesson to heart and be conscious of the responsibilities toward our families, toward others on the road, and most importantly, toward the God we serve. It is so easy to forget the responsibility inherent in driving a modern high-speed automobile. Getting involved in a conversation, shifting items around, rubbernecking; all are dangerous habits to follow if you drive.

Thankfully, both children survived the accident with only minor cuts and bruises. They are now with Ginny's parents in Portland, Oregon, where they will live.

We have just finalized the latest round of ministerial moves. These moves have been necessitated by several factors — health problems, personal requests, some coming into College for next term, the need to get further ministerial coverage in areas affected during the events of the past few months, and, of course, the tragic deaths of Mike and Ginny Weber.

I refer to this as the "latest round" because it seems we will always have a mobile ministry. We will always be moving men from area to area in order to serve the people of God. I'm sure we have all wished from time to time that it could be otherwise. The uprooting of families and hauling all our possessions about becomes a very clear form of sacrifice. Yet it is the job we have been called to do and over the years it has been done willingly by the servants of God.

We have done everything we can to hold the moves to a minimum. Yet the domino effect is unrelenting in its pressure. We try to make every move logical in every way. We consider preferences, health, family, background along with opportunities for personal growth and development.

In a meeting with Mr. Ted Armstrong the other day, we discussed the concepts concerning ministerial moves. Settling *permanently* into an ongoing comfortable life in a desirable community is just not the lot in life for a minister of God in the end of this age.

There are also other reasons for moving men than those mentioned above. Generally speaking, each of us is capable of giving about so much to a congregation. We each have distinct reservoirs. We have different approaches, strengths and weaknesses. Each of us is capable of giving something different to a congregation. After a certain length of time our individual reservoirs begin to run low. Individual study and growth in Bible understanding should and undoubtedly does help in refilling this reservoir. Yet it is more than just Bible knowledge that helps us effectively minister to a congregation. We each have our distinct way and our individual approach in teaching God's Word.

After we have given our all to a congregation over a period of years, it becomes harder and harder to find interesting ways to inspire and guide them. Here's where another man, with a different personality, approach, background, likes and dislikes, etc., could bring fresh inspiration to

M & D INPUT

In approximately one and one-half months, further meetings on the subject of Marriage and Divorce will be held here in Pasadena. Therefore, we would like any additional input you may have on any aspect of this subject — whether doctrinally or administratively — *prior* to these meetings. Please send your papers to Dr. Dorothy *no later* than June 28th. Thanks for your help.

the congregation. So our manpower moves are not without benefit.

Mr. Ted Armstrong felt that we should as a general practice — not an arbitrary rule — not plan to keep a man in any area more than five or six years. In reality, this has always been pretty generally practiced. So fellows, by the time you have been in an area five to six years you may be thinking about the possibility of a move. Hopefully that telephone call from H.Q. that goes something like this "Hi Joe, guess what, you're moving to (the last place on earth you would ever have desired)" won't be too shocking. Of course we hope it won't happen that way anyhow, but rather you will be involved in the plans for moving.

The present round of moves is a reminder that five to six years is an ideal that we will not always reach. We are still forced occasionally to move someone after being in an area for a short time. We dislike it as much as you do. Sometimes there is no other way. Again this is the life we have been called to. We are trying to make it as reasonable and comfortable as possible, but jobs entail work and work we will do.

A number of questions have been asked recently regarding local church offices. I feel it might be appropriate to review the reasons for the idea of such an office in order to answer questions any of you may have.

It is *not policy* to establish local church offices. We do not wish any to be started without specific need and definite headquarters approval. Those existing offices that have been approved are really an experiment with an idea. We want to examine any idea that would hold promise in increasing our ability to minister to or counsel the brethren.

It was such a hope that initiated the offices we have. Application of the idea, however, is limited. A church office in a rural area would have little value. Yet an office in a high member-density metropolitan area with good transportation facilities would be beneficial. It seems there are as many

arguments against the idea as there are for it. I suppose that's because circumstances vary so widely.

For the moment at least, we do not want a *proliferation* of offices. Budget for offices has primarily come from money saved by local pastors cutting down visiting expenses. A very small amount was added to each of the regional budgets for 1974. It was enough to cover probably no more than two offices per region. It wasn't our intention that the money *had* to be used. Only that it was there if an office seemed practical.

An evaluation of the success of the idea will have to be made after adequate time has elapsed to allow definite patterns to form. Hopefully the fruit will be good, and hopefully other ideas will be tried to fit other circumstances and also prove beneficial. Any ways that can be devised to help us do our jobs better in doing the Work and ministering to the churches need to be examined.

We are currently re-evaluating the benefits and reasons for the automobile fleet program. **It may be there is a better way to provide ministerial transportation other than a fleet program. Possibly a means whereby you can select and own your own cars and be paid for company use can be found.**

At this time we are *ONLY studying* the fleet operation. No decisions for change have been made. I am mentioning this so you can have your input if you wish. Any personal desires, ideas, observations, etc. are welcome. Please drop us a memo at your convenience.

Well, that does it for now. More things to write about but not any more time to write them. Fellows, I am personally pleased to be permanently involved with you in the ministry of God's Church. Above all let's respect each other, love one another, support one another and communicate with each other. If we draw together in the bond of unity, that feeling will be spread to the brethren and they will close ranks behind us. If for any reason you have any criticism of me I would prefer to hear it from you rather than someone else you told it to.

And one final thing. Please do your best to get to the PMs as quickly and as effectively as possible. I know you have been busy, under-manned, attending conferences, etc., but as you can you should reach these people who represent "tomorrow's" members in God's Church.

Keep up the good work fellows!

— C. Wayne Cole

SPECIAL NOTICE

Please announce the following message from the Legal Office:

Attention all members of the Church who are employed by the U. S. Postal Service. Mr. Helge of the Legal Department in Pasadena needs to make a survey of all members employed by the U. S. Postal Service. Would you therefore please write, mentioning that you are employed by the post office and giving your name and address. Send your letter to: Mr. Ralph K. Helge, Box 111, Section E, Pasadena, California 91123.

Also, a reminder fellows, all calls on the WATTS line should be of the type that can be completed in less than 5 minutes. Some have thought the WATTS line is less expensive for any type of call. *This is not the case.* Any call that goes over the 5 minute time limit becomes more expensive than normal service lines. If you are not sure how long a call might take, dial direct without attempting to use WATTS.

TRANSFERS

PASTORS

1. Adams, Dennis San Francisco
2. Albert, Dave Eugene AM & PM
3. Coulter, Fred Ambassador College
4. Dennis, Al Long Beach
5. Dick, Bob Columbus AM & PM
6. Freeland, Bill Springfield-Joplin
7. Gipe, Rodger Las Vegas
8. Hooser, Dan Grand Island-North Platte
9. Kackos, George Wisconsin Dells
10. Kirk, Judd San Jose AM
11. Kobernat, Randy Des Moines-Iowa City
12. Kurts, Paul Montgomery-Geneva
13. League, Bob Raleigh-Fayetteville
14. Martin, Ken Birmingham AM & PM
15. McColm, Les Glendale
16. McNair, Carl Atlanta
17. Meyer, Ray Akron
18. Mills, Joe Kingsport-Bluefield
19. Orban, Dave London-Pikeville
20. Prunkard, Don Minneapolis North & West
21. Quillen, Bill Torrance and Santa Monica
22. Reyer, Jim Cincinnati North & West
23. Royer, Paul Santa Rosa-Fairfield
24. Scott, Charles Sioux Falls-Watertown
25. Smith, Ed Cincinnati East
26. Wooten, Ray Little Rock
27. Zimmerman, Dr. San Marino AM & PM

ASSOCIATE AND ASSISTANT PASTORS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Briggie, Lloyd | Baltimore |
| 2. Clauson, Arnold | Erie |
| 3. Creed, Dan | Little Rock |
| 4. Daniels, Kerry | Greeley |
| 5. Dick, Randy | Washington, D.C. |
| 6. Dobson, Joe | Oklahoma City |
| 7. Harrison, Tom | Akron |
| 8. Kubik, Vic | Paducah |
| 9. Walker, Larry | Raleigh |
| 10. West, Roger | Tulsa |
| 11. Wooldridge, Larry | Buffalo |

MINISTERIAL TRAINEES

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Dyer, Art | Sioux Falls |
| 2. Foster, John | Montpelier-Concord |
| 3. Griffin, Gene | Chattanooga |
| 4. Mattson, Terry | Kansas City |
| 5. Nedrow, Bruce | Mobile |
| 6. Pack, Dave | Elkhart |
| 7. Robinson, Mark | Fort Worth |
| 8. Snyder, Tim | Jacksonville-Gainesville |
| 9. Tuck, Jim | Harrisburg-Lancaster |

BABY NEWS

Bruce and Phyllis Gore (Macon-Valdosta, Georgia): We are pleased to announce a new addition to the Gore family. Her name is *Shari Lynn* and she was born April 23, 1974. Everyone is doing just fine.

Mitchell and Ruth Knapp (Modesto, California): Ruth and I are happy to announce the arrival of our eight-pound, one ounce firstborn on Wednesday, March 27, 1974. After threatening to "arrive" at any minute for six weeks, *Michael Howard* finally decided on the unlikely hour 3:06 a.m. Mother, Baby and Dad are all doing fine.

Mr. Artie Satterfield (local elder in Modesto) said he guessed no one would be upset if they see us having a little "(K)napp" in church services!

Rainer and Claudia Salomaa (Sudbury, Ontario): We are pleased to announce that on the last day of Unleavened Bread God gave us our second daughter. Her name is *Sonya Lee* and she weighed 6 pounds 3 ounces. The labor lasted only 2 hours.

SUMMER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The special help of the ministry in the United States and Canada in supporting and plugging the Imperial Schools Summer Educational Program is needed.

This year, due to various reasons, applications were mailed to the members at a late date. This coupled with various rumors about cutbacks in the program in areas such as skiing, has tended to complicate filling out both sessions with both boys and girls adequately represented. Our specific need is for *more boys*.

A New Emphasis on Adventure

This summer, the program of activities will feature a major new emphasis on the adventure sports of rock climbing, white water canoeing and canoe camping. Extended fishing trips, which will feature overnight trips to nearby streams, are also being added.

These activities are aimed at the older teenagers who have already participated in the program before. SEP is experiencing the same decline as most youth-serving organizations — a decreased interest on the part of older teens, especially boys. We feel that part of our problem at SEP is in not providing activities which offer bold challenges and stirring opportunities of *adventure!*

These adventure activities are geared to those who can meet the safety prerequisites, and will, consequently, not be experienced by every student the first year they attend. However, the promise of qualifying to participate in this phase of the program should serve as a big boost in helping to recapture the interest of our older teens.

Other Campus Activities

Other activities for the '74 SEP will include water skiing, canoe instruction, swimming, water polo, ecology field studies, casting instruction, archery, volleyball, a complete eight-hour course in multimedia first aid (an American Red Cross certificate is given upon completion), sing-alongs, a special once-a-week water show, one-half hour GTA TV programs shown daily to each dorm, and a variety of optional activities to fulfill coeducational interests such as cook-outs, parties, and games. (Horseback riding is canceled because of an overwhelming increase in prices by the local people providing this service to SEP. This is the only activity which SEP has had to rely on other than our own facilities.)

Application Procedures

Because we now have staffing year round at Pasadena for SEP, youth are welcomed to make

applications up until the second session, which begins July 12, 1974.

Application should be made to:

Imperial Schools
Summer Educational Program
300 West Green Street
Pasadena, California 91123

Bricket Wood

CHARLES F. HUNTING

Greetings from a very warm and sunny England!

The Church is very excited by the news from the conference, which all but two of the ministers here in the British Isles were able to attend. All systems really are "go" for the British branch of the Work, and the opportunity to be in Pasadena has given our ministers added impetus for the job which is before them. Never have we stood on such a threshold of excitement in the Work here!

The new "z-cards" system of introducing *Plain Truth* readers to our booklets is starting to produce real results. As well as placing literally thousands of booklets in the hands of many readers, we have now received almost 100 responses to the last of the series of cards, which offered a visit. This big visit request influx will undoubtedly prove to be a gigantic boost to the churches here, bringing many people right along toward membership far more effectively than we have ever been able to do before.

On top of this, we are now ready to start our campaigns. The first one is scheduled for Birmingham, June 14th and 15th, and we are expecting somewhere around 400 people who have never attended any of our services before. I plan to speak for two nights — the first covering the present critical situation in the world (with special reference to Britain, showing that we are in the end time); the second showing Britain's future, getting into the prophecies of the wonderful World Tomorrow. It should prove an exciting beginning to the campaigns here, and we'll be keeping you up to date with results and plans for campaigns in other centers. Birmingham will be one of our smallest, but it could bring exciting results!

We are pleased with the way the income is holding up this year, and presently the mail income is showing a fairly steady 17.71 percent increase over

1973. This past week actually saw 1,065 letters come in containing donations, pleasingly above the weekly average. We hope the situation continues throughout the rest of this year.

Newsstand response continues to hold up well, and although we are "between magazines" for response at the moment, the past week nevertheless saw 2,083 replies (each of them a request for a full year's subscription). The next issue is just now going onto the newsstands.

As of mid-May, we had received 298,000 items of mail for the year to date. This represents an average weekly turnover of 16,555 letters and cards.

Dr. Meredith will be bringing you a more detailed report on progress in college life in the next issue, but I might mention that we have had a very fine year and we are right now in the middle of test week, with graduation looming up fast. Mr. Armstrong will be here again for graduation and everyone is very excited at the prospect.

I want particularly to draw your attention to the problem in Ireland in this report. Our brethren are living in very strenuous circumstances, literally in jeopardy of their lives. The Protestants are holding Belfast in the grip of a strike which has brought the city to a virtual standstill. I have been in constant contact with David Bedford, and he reports that it is becoming increasingly difficult to travel anywhere because of lack of fuel and the danger of terrorist activities. But I hope to have been to Ireland to dateline a *Plain Truth* article by the time you read this report, and to see first-hand what is taking place. Thankfully, the Feast of Pentecost was not greatly hampered by the crisis, with attendance in Belfast at 192 people, only a fraction down from what we would normally expect. Please do remember to pray for the members in this troubled land, so that God's Work here can continue.

Warmest regards to everyone from all of us here, until next time!

— Charles F. Hunting

Financial Affairs

FRANK BROWN

Greetings from the Office of Financial Affairs. It was indeed gratifying to see all of you here for the conference, and this whole division took a great deal of pleasure in being able to present an inside look at our activities. I have heard many fine comments from many of the ministers in the field to the effect that their eyes were really opened as to how money for the Work of God is handled. In fact, many were very surprised at the overall complexity of the Work as illustrated by each division presentation.

I was very happy to have the opportunity of sharing with you some of the day-by-day problems that we encounter and even happier to have you help us bear the burden! I hope all of you feel a little closer now to Headquarters, and I am sure that the realization of how much *you* contribute in dealing with God's people — how that affects the overall financial health of the Work — is inspiring. We here consider ourselves to be a part of one great team, and, as I mentioned, we will continue to watch the clocks and dials and will let you know what specific needs there are and will try to solve our problems together.

One such problem that I mentioned to you in the last Bulletin is still, as yet, unresolved. It is the matter of the continuing deficit in the Emergency Fund. As I did mention, then, we were expending more money than we were receiving, and the automatic result is that we are supporting Emergency Fund requests directly out of the Work. I am sure that were this situation made known to God's people it could be almost immediately rectified. If those who contribute to God's Work would dedicate a couple of dollars a month to the Emergency Fund, we would see our present situation dramatically reversed and our problem solved. The other factor, of course, is of holding down expenses so that we can give emergency help when it is *really* needed. I know that there are a large number of genuine emergencies cropping up all the time, but perhaps a bit more careful discussion and scrutiny of the needs would help us to reduce our expenditures enough to solve our problem at the other end. I am sure a simple announcement by you to your Church will have a good effect.

At the present time, we are making various budget adjustments in order to better handle the over-

all deficit situation that generally comes upon us in the first half of the year. As I mentioned at the beginning of the year, we *planned* a first-half deficit in order to get a better feel of what our needs would be and how the income would flow. As it happens, the income dropped somewhat below expectations — now standing at 4.4% for the year to date, instead of the 9% that we needed to offset our deficit. Hopefully, the income trend we are presently experiencing, which is upward, will continue and we will have to make no further major reductions. However, in order to confirm that this is a genuine upward trend, Mr. Ted Armstrong has determined that we should wait for at least 30 days before any further adjustments are made.

Since we have to restructure the budget for the 1974-75 fiscal year anyway, no ground will be lost in taking a watchful posture. I certainly hope that you will all be praying for the income to turn upward sharply, so that we can do the Work in a way that will enable us to gather momentum in the darkening months and years that lie ahead.

As I mentioned, our present income trend is slightly up, but the holy day offering for Pentecost looks, at present, as if it will be no greater than last year's. There is at present no discernible increase over last year's offering, but since Pentecost 1973 was 9% greater than the previous year, and in view of much of the trauma that has beset the Church over the last several months, perhaps this should be taken as an encouraging sign! Certainly, my feeling in visiting various field churches is that God's people are absolutely solidly behind the Work and want to do everything they can in sacrificing to support it. They, of course, are hit just as badly by the inflationary spiral as we are! They had less money with which to make offerings because prices are rising so rapidly all the time.

I have recently been in meetings with Mr. Ted Armstrong, Mr. Cole, and others here at Headquarters who are responsible for some of the Work's future planning, and I am not at all pessimistic about the future! Although the inflationary economy is nightmarish and a peek behind the scenes in the international banking world is deathly frightening, I feel that the opportunity is presenting itself to do the Work in a way never before possible! Please pray that God will give us the money with which to do the job in order that His Kingdom may be established that much earlier!

— Frank Brown

Personal Appearances

SHERWIN McMICHAEL

Greetings from Personal Appearances!

Campaign scheduling for 1974 in the United States and Canada is now complete — with confirmation of a few dates in Britain and Germany to round out the program. To date we have conducted 13 campaigns in the United States. By the end of November, 35 personal appearances will have been added to the total. These programs are scattered across the United States, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Martinique.

In fact, by the time you read this bulletin, the *first* in-person evangelistic effort in a foreign language (French) during this era of the Work will already have been conducted. On June 1 and 2, Mr. Apartian is scheduled to speak to some 2,000-2,400 people in Montreal, Canada.

This breakthrough into what are to most of us "foreign languages" is an exciting thing here in Personal Appearances. At present, we also are scheduling one campaign for *Germany* later this year. So, plus the other two campaigns in French (Paris and Martinique), we have definitely scheduled a total of four campaigns in these diverse language areas.

In addition, Mr. Ted Armstrong has authorized serious preparation for future campaigns in the *Spanish* language. The International Division is already in the process of translating the necessary campaign material into that language. Hopefully, in the near future, there will be some definite details on our first campaign in Spanish.

The *present* campaign schedule is as follows:

Amarillo, Texas	June 6, 7
Salt Lake City, Utah	June 7, 8
Birmingham, U. K.	June 14, 15
San Antonio, Texas	June 15, 16
Montreal, Quebec	June 15, 16
San Francisco, Calif.	June 21, 22
Providence, R. I.	June 28, 29
Cleveland, Ohio	June 28, 29
Winnipeg, Manitoba	July 5, 6
London, Ontario	July 5, 6
Toledo, Ohio	July 12, 13
Atlanta, Ga.	July 27, 28
Rochester, N. Y.	August 2, 3
Brisbane, Australia	August 3, 4
San Jose, Calif.	August 23, 24
Victoria, B.C.	August 24, 25
Hamilton, Ontario	August 29, 30
Toronto, Ontario	September 5, 6
Paris, France	October 11, 12

Martinique, W. I.	October 18, 19
Detroit, Michigan	October 24, 25
Nashville, Tenn.	October 24, 26, 27
Columbus, Ohio	November 1, 2
Fresno, California	November 1, 2
Fargo, N. Dak.	November 8, 9
Buffalo, N. Y.	November 15, 16, 17
Miami, Florida	November 20, 21
Birmingham, Ala.	November 22, 23
Edmonton, Alberta	November 23, 24

As I mentioned, to date we have *completed* some 13 campaigns in 1974. The following is a list of those cities:

St. Louis, Mo.	January 25, 26, 27
Raleigh, N. Car.	January 27, 28
Kingsport, Tenn.	February 1, 2
Knoxville, Tenn.	February 23, 24
Dayton, Ohio	February 23, 24
Cincinnati, Ohio	March 1, 2, 3
Wichita, Kansas	March 9, 10
Houston, Texas	March 30, 31, April 1
Charleston, W. Va.	April 27, 28
San Diego, Calif.	May 3, 4
Mobile, Alabama	May 10, 11
Lexington, Ky.	May 17, 18
Phoenix, Arizona	May 24, 25

As a result, God's ministers have spoken to a total of 41,025 people, including 27,257 new prospective members during the first five months of 1974. Some 850 new people are attending either local Bible studies or Church services. During the remainder of the year, we expect to speak to an additional 150,000 people. We hope, with your help and the prayers of the local congregations, that we'll be able to have an increasingly stronger impact on these people.

Regarding the thrust of the Work and our message, Mr. Ted Armstrong has been emphasizing recently the importance of *physical*, as well as spiritual salvation. Our national peoples are going to experience a time of trauma in the near future, which presently is very difficult to grasp even in one's wildest imagination.

At the campaigns, we want the audience to *understand* in no uncertain terms, that they are *living in the time of the end* — that they and their families face a time of crisis! If, on the first night, we can help them grasp the fact that there is no human solution to these problems, the succeeding nights of the program take on added meaning.

God's protection during such a time of extreme trouble suddenly becomes important. In the campaigns we are emphasizing a theme perhaps best summed up in Peter's statement in Acts 2:40, where Peter exhorted the people on the day of Pentecost to save themselves from "... this untoward generation."

People know that they are living in unique times. A recent Louis Harris poll indicated that for the first time, certainly in recent history, over 50%

of the American people believe they are living in abnormal times and that they face a unique crisis ahead.

As this feeling begins to move people to seek a solution, we are going to be experiencing even larger crowds at the campaigns. Personal evangelism spearheaded by the programs conducted by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong are undoubtedly going to have a major impact on this nation and the world.

We all hope everyone gained a much more detailed insight into the many divisions of God's Work at the recent conference. I hope our presentation on campaigns added to that insight, and that as a result you will be able to work with and support the program even more fully!

We are heading into our busiest season of the year. We'll see some of you from city to city at these campaigns during the summer, and hope that the rest of you will not forget us. Please continue to pray — and encourage your congregations to pray — for the success of these personal appearance programs. We will be remembering you in your efforts too!

— Sherwin McMichael

LETTER COMMENTS

(Continued from page 110)

"I received the newspaper and when I saw the picture of the Auditorium I felt awed by it. Tears came to my eyes and happiness overcame me to see this beautiful building dedicated to our God. Surely God must be proud of it."

— Mrs. H. M.,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

"It is such a joy and thrill to hear about the Auditorium and how beautiful it is. Even though I probably will never see it personally, I feel I have seen it through your description. Thank you for wanting to build it and thank God for allowing you to do so. Mr. Armstrong, I just had to send in something to help. Since I have no income of my own it's not always easy, and this is only a very small amount (\$2.00), but I know it can be used. Thank you for being what you are; that God can use you to help us and others."

— C. D.,
Henderson, Kentucky

Note: The letters giving the greatest moral support and encouragement have been from those who have been the least able to financially support the Work.

"After reading Mr. Armstrong's letter and the description of the beautiful Auditorium, I decided to help pay on that debt. So far I have read that letter twice. I know I will never be able to see the building personally, for I am nearing my 90th birthday. But if you have some pictures of it I would enjoy them."

— Mrs. C. F.,
Clinton, Michigan

COMMENTS ABOUT THE AUDITORIUM DEDICATION

A large number of letters from the membership, virtually all encouraging and positive, were received concerning the taped dedication of the new auditorium. Following are a few of these comments.

"The dedication ceremonies were beautiful and inspiring. Sure hope you TV taped the whole thing so it can be seen by the entire Church body. The love and unity among the ministers present could be felt by us all. My prayers will always be with you. Please continue in all zeal."

— David B.,
Boynton Beach, Florida

"We were very excited about the tape of the dedication and the fantastic revelation it contained. Thank you very much for passing it on to us."

— Harry J.,
Maryville, Tennessee

"It's a great idea, it's marvelous, really a very special blessing to be able to hear the voices of you and Mr. Ted Armstrong in full length messages, and especially so on the Sabbath Day. Thank you very much for these tapes, we truly enjoyed listening to the dedication ceremonies, the prayers of both of you and your praise to Almighty God. Please consider this a very important instrument (tapes), one we would very much appreciate more often. We would love to hear messages from you more often and if possible some of the other evangelists — PLEASE!"

— J. D.,
Depew, New York

"It has been a thrilling experience to hear the tape on the dedication service. It was most exciting and informative. I would very much like to see the new House for God and certainly am looking forward to hearing the many details Mr. Prince will bring us after the ministerial conference. I am happy to be a part of this Work. I am

(Continued on page 134)

Publishing

C. WAYNE COLE

Greetings once again from the Publishing Division. Much has taken place since my last column, so I want to use the space this time bringing you up to date.

First of all, an explanation. In the last Bulletin I announced that the June/July *Plain Truth* was going to feature the Auditorium opening. That was the intention and layouts and copy were prepared. However, as is often the case, a rush request came through for an issue to spotlight Mr. Armstrong's first personal appearance in Manila. That's when the fun began.

We needed a picture of President Marcos for the cover, but could not find anything suitable. Art Director Allen Merager suggested a painting and sought out Neil Boyle, one of the top commercial artists on the West Coast to do the job. (Neil Boyle has done much of the art work for the current Continental Airlines ads.)

You saw the results on the P.T. cover. Reaction varied, of course, and we appreciate the comments some of you made. This style is rather contemporary for the *Plain Truth*, but most of the comment was on the very favorable side. President Marcos was quite pleased and expressed his gratitude to Mr. Armstrong during Mr. Armstrong's interview with the President.

An interesting sidelight to the cover is the fact that using this good painting actually cost *less* than if we purchased a photograph for cover use. This type of cover can be overdone, of course, and we want to be careful not to use it too often. However, the painting did capture the color and feeling of Asia more than any photograph could, and it has strong appeal on the newsstands, which is now an important consideration.

And so, in addition to the Auditorium opening, the August *Plain Truth* and the August *Good News* will also feature the Manila campaign. They should prove to be extremely interesting issues.

Another interesting project being considered is the use of a four-page insert for the center of our magazines which will advertise personal appearance campaigns in the city where the meeting will be held. These inserts will contain an article explaining the personal appearances, giving the speaker, date, time and address of the local meeting. This should provide a powerful tool to increase interest in the meetings, since most of

those attending the meetings are already PT readers.

There has been a lot of teamwork developed to continually improve the quality of our publications. Graphics and Photo Service Departments are largely responsible for the attractive visual appearance of what we print.

The Photo Service Department has been doing an exceptional job these past few months providing photographs of the Auditorium, slides for the various division presentations at the conference, traveling to far-flung areas of the world to obtain photo coverage for Mr. Armstrong's future personal appearances.

Dave Conn heads up the photo team composed of photographers Ken Evans, Gary George and Mike Hendrickson; lab chief, Warren Watson; color technician, Charles Buschmann; and the prettiest member of the team, secretary Joyce Hedlund. They are a hard-working team who don't always receive the recognition they deserve.

Dave's department works closely with the Graphics Department to come up with some extremely fine work. Allen Merager, the Editorial Art Director, has seven artists working under him. They are responsible for the layouts of booklets and magazines published by Ambassador College.

Greg Smith is responsible for *The Good News*, Bill Schuler handles booklets, Ron Lepeska and Monte Wolverton put together the *Plain Truth*, while Garry Haggerty and Randy Cole fill in when and where they are needed. (Garry Haggerty did the outstanding cover painting depicting "Cracks in the Atlantic Alliance" reproduced on the October '73 *Plain Truth*.)

Another important member of this team is Al Leiter, who heads up our Editorial Photo Library. It is his responsibility to procure needed photos from commercial photo agents around the world, as well as keep track of the thousands of slides and photos taken by our own photographers.

We are proud of our publishing team and anticipate even more exciting things in future publications. Once again let me ask for your comments, criticism and article ideas. We consider you an important publishing team member and your ideas *do count*.

A recent decision transferred the Press from Publishing to the Financial Affairs Division. This may sound strange at first, but it really is a practical and realistic move.

Publishing is a creative function while printing falls into the service category. The Press has done and will continue to do an excellent job of producing *on time* every sort of job imaginable. They

have been working day and night recently to produce the many letters and bulletins which were necessary for the Work to weather the storm we've just come through. But we expect they will be able to do an even better job overall under this new organizational structure.

We feel a bit of sadness in this move because of the fine relationship that has been developed between us all. We do expect that good, solid relationship to continue and, if anything, to continually improve. I believe, however, that this move is absolutely necessary to improve the overall efficiency of the corporation, and that is what we should all be striving for.

Let me express here and now my sincere appreciation to John Egbert and all Press personnel for the excellent job they have done while in the Publishing Division. I expect to maintain the many fine personal relationships I've had with these men — relationships I have valued greatly.

—C. Wayne Cole

BOOKLETS AND REPRINTS

We would like to keep you posted on what's happening in the booklet and reprint area. Many at the conference asked about old reprints and booklets that have been killed (discontinued).

The old "beast" booklets were discontinued in 1969 by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong personally. He apparently felt the material might be somewhat inexpedient in terms of the Catholic Church and some of our developing relationships with European officials. We are hoping that the material will be reviewed and rewritten in the future. Our basic understanding about the "beasts" of Daniel remains as before at this writing.

A number of the other older booklets were killed for various reasons: style, obsolescence, dated material, replacement by new booklets, new understanding, reduction of stock and a number of other reasons. The entire booklet program is under constant review. You will receive new or revised material as it comes off the press in advance of the laity. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions about the booklets, please feel free to send them in!

The Plain Truth About Childrearing (CT)

Portions of the first few chapters were altered or deleted which indicated that children are born evil. The scriptures from the book of Proverbs relative to childrearing were added into the

text in the appropriate places. Otherwise the text is essentially the same, though photos and graphics are new.

This Is Ambassador College (AC)

This new revised booklet is just off the press with completely new graphics. (We hope to have a brand new cover for the next printing.) Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has personally edited and deleted the material about the race survey because of some previous negative reaction.

The Origin of Life (260)

There have been a limited number of deletions; otherwise the copy is the same. It has been given a new color cover and a new full color PT advertisement for use in a TV program.

Probability (262)

Dr. Stenger added a good portion to the original material which appeared in *Tomorrow's World*. It has a color cover for advertising over our television program. There is a full color PT advertisement.

Deserts (771)

This reprint article has had only minor editing, but is dressed up with color cover for use on TV. A full color PT advertisement has been included.

The Plain Truth About Old Testament Polygamy (720)

The polygamy reprint has been discontinued because of some aspects of the new understanding of marriage and divorce.

Academic

MICHAEL P. GERMANO
RONALD L. DART

PASADENA

The big activity on campus this week is commencement. Since so much material was presented at the ministerial conference, I am going to skip giving a complete report this time. Instead, I have asked Dr. Stenger, Registrar and Director of Admissions, to give a summary report concerning admissions.

By the way, the slide presentation concerning the Pasadena campus is now available in either a traditional or dissolve form. Please let me know which you would like to use.

— Michael P. Germano

ADMISSIONS REPORT

Now that the conference is over, our admissions mail has begun to pick up considerably. We are especially pleased with the ministerial evaluations that are coming into the office.

As of May 24, the number of applications which were complete except for the ministerial evaluation has been whittled down to 26. Of course there are many other partially complete applications also awaiting your evaluations.

The following is the May 24 summary of the admissions profile for the Pasadena campus:

	Men	Women	Total
Applications Requested	885	493	1378
Partial Returns	140	83	223
Complete Except Ministers Eval.	14	12	26
Complete	69	58	127
Accepted	48	46	94

Attention!

Please encourage prospective Ambassador College students in your area to complete their applications as soon as possible. The Pasadena and Big Sandy Admissions Offices have already sent out about 2200 applications. However, less than one-third of these have been returned and less than one-sixth have been completed. Many young people have apparently been taking a "wait and see" posture during these past few months.

As you saw presented in the conference, many advances are being made on all three Ambassador College campuses. Now is the time to get the ball rolling and to light a fire under those who have been holding their applications. Never before have the opportunities for an Ambassador College education been better.

The young men and women in your Church areas represent an important component of the future of God's Work and God's Church. Let's stir them up and turn them on to the Work, the Church and Ambassador College!

— William Stenger

BIG SANDY

The busiest time of the year is probably the last couple of weeks of the school year. It seems like all the activities mount up and come upon us as an avalanche. Returning from the ministerial conference in Pasadena, we began to wrap up another college year and to give the final touches to the summer session, which will begin on June 24 with approximately 110 students.

Senior Trip

Before we got back from Pasadena, the seniors had already left for Mexico City on the annual senior trip. Traveling with the seniors were a number of faculty and staff chaperons, with their wives, to bring the total of the group to 90 people. The seniors were warmly hosted by the staffers of the Mexico City office of the Work. The staff arranged tours and escorted the seniors to the Ballet Folklorico, a bullfight, the National Museum of Anthropology, the Aztec pyramids, the Plaza of Three Cultures and other tourist attractions. This year also was the first time the graduating class spent a Sabbath with the Mexico City brethren (who number about 30). I am very pleased that our seniors had such an educational as well as enjoyable experience on their trip.

While the seniors were gone, we decided to announce the student body officers for the 1974-75 school year. Actually, they will not have to wait until next year to find themselves burdened with responsibility. The summer session of classes is only a few weeks away. The three junior men chosen to serve these incoming students are: Ross Flynn, student body president; Randi Bloom, student body vice-president; Dave Molnar, senior class president.

Graduation

For the first time in the history of Ambassador College, associate in arts degrees were confirmed in recognizing the fulfillment of a two-year undergraduate program. Nine candidates received the initial diplomas for the AA degree.

The 79 seniors who received their bachelor of arts degree comprised the tenth graduating class from Big Sandy. Presiding at the ceremony on behalf of Chancellor Herbert W. Armstrong was Vice-Chancellor Garner Ted Armstrong. Dean of Faculty, Dr. Don Deakins, presented the candidates to Mr. Armstrong for the conferring of degrees and the receiving of diplomas.

Although the commencement ceremonies of May 31 marked the end of their college careers, the very word "commence" explains what is actually happening to the class of '74. As another group of young people leave Ambassador College, we feel that we have given them many of the answers in life which they will need in facing the future. Now we await a new crop of freshmen to start the cycle again.

— Ronald L. Dart

Media

NORMAN A. SMITH

Two one-hour summer specials of Garner Ted Armstrong's Seattle campaign held last January will be released on approximately 50 stations in the U.S.A. during June, July and August. These specials will be presented by the Worldwide Church of God and will contain brief filmclips in the opening, describing the activities of the international organization behind Garner Ted.

The sermon topics are: "Real Jesus" and "Repentance." The specials will be released in major markets where the *Garner Ted Armstrong* program has been on throughout the year. We are hoping these strong spiritual messages will capitalize on the interest built up by the program throughout the year, as well as reach many new people in prime-time viewing hours.

The two one-hour specials have been confirmed for each of the following cities:

Confirmed Stations for Summer Specials

CITY	STATION	DATES	TIME (PM)
Charleston	WCBD	Aug. 14-15	10:00
Dallas	KTVT	July 22-23	8:00
Detroit	WJBK	July 10-11	7:30
			7:00
Fargo	KTHI	June 12-13	9:00
Flint/Lansing	WJRT	July 3-4	10:00
Honolulu	KHON	Aug. 12-13	9:00
Jackson	WJTV	July 10-11	7:00
Johnstown	WJAC	July 24-25	7:00
Los Angeles	KHJ	July 8-9	10:00
New York	WOR	July 15-16	9:30
Plattsburg	WPTZ	June 12-13	7:00
Providence	WJAR	July 1-2	7:00
Rochester	WORK	June 19-20	10:00
Sacramento	KOVR	June 26-27	10:00
Salinas	KSBW	July 10-11	8:00
Salt Lake City	KSL	June 17-18	9:00
Seattle	KSTW	June 10-11	10:00
South Bend	WSBT	Aug. 19-20	7:00
			7:30
Springfield, Mo.	KMTC	July 17-18	9:00
Tampa/St. Petersburg	WCLY	July 31-Aug. 1	10:00
Indianapolis	WTTV	July 10-11	8:00
Norfolk	WAVY	Aug. 7-8	8:00
Scranton/Wilkes-Barre	WBRE	July 15-16	7:00
Minneapolis	WTCN	June 19-20	7:00
Oklahoma City	KOCO	July 24-25	9:00
New Orleans	WDSU	July 3-4	7:00

Spot TV Campaign

To maintain our *Plain Truth* mailing list during the summer and early fall months, when the daily television program will not be on the air, we are

planning a fairly extensive spot TV campaign placing 30-second or one-minute commercials in prime-time news or other programming. We are anticipating an expenditure between \$100,000 and \$200,000, depending upon the Work's income. We plan to keep the ministry informed of the spot TV schedules in advance.

We have given you the good news — now for some bad news. Due to a need for reduction of Media expenditures to stay within our income, there has been a cutback of several radio stations and there will be a few TV stations deleted during the remainder of the year as their contracts expire. I know this is going to distress some of you, but please remember and emphasize to your congregations that we are deleting those stations which are less efficient in order to add more efficient coverage in areas where the exposure to the program and the PT penetration is even less than it is in your area.

With more efficient use of Media dollars and with continued member involvement and trust in the media activities, we expect the income to increase sufficiently to permit an equivalent or even better station to eventually be added back in your community. Again we would like to invite and urge you to send in your reports of media coverage or the lack of it in your area.

We have recorded the audio of Mr. Herbert Armstrong's campaigns, press conferences, awards presentations, etc. on his recent trip. If the material lends itself well we hope to produce a few Sunday broadcasts featuring Mr. Armstrong and his campaign in the Far East.

Production is continuing on the film of the Auditorium opening. We hope to have several prints available to begin circulation among the churches in a month or two.

On behalf of all of the men in the department who have labored diligently during the past TV season, let me express my thanks to all of you for your kind comments regarding the Media Division's presentation at the conference. We hope to be able to improve our service to the Work.

— Norman A. Smith

LETTER COMMENTS

(Continued from page 130)

most grateful for all the letters, literature, magazines, newspaper, tapes, and your devoted efforts to keep us informed in these perilous times. Thank you so much."

— Mrs. W. N.,
Maryville, Missouri

(Continued on page 135)

International Division

LESLIE L. McCULLOUGH

Greetings to all of you in the far-flung areas of God's Work. For those of you who were not able to attend the past ministerial conference, we would like to give a summary of the presentation the International Division gave during the conference.

Last year was a fine year of growth for the International Division in every category that we measure. For example, PT circulation climbed from 1,050,687 to 1,357,464. This was a 29% increase over the previous year. The baptized membership grew from 10,829 to 12,497 — a 15% increase. During 1973 we saw a growth rate of 55% in the number of ordinations, with 135 ordained men in the International Division in 1973 as compared to 87 in 1972. The income for the International Division (excluding subsidies given by Headquarters to overseas areas) was \$9,918,766. This was a 20% increase over 1972.

By projecting the growth rate we've seen in the past, we feel the PT (outside the U. S.) will have a circulation of 3.8 million copies in 1977. This means that in 1977 one in every 900 people in the world will receive the PT. Currently one in every 2,500 receives the magazine.

For 1977 we are projecting that our income will meet our expenses and thus cease the need for direct subsidies from the United States. Of course, this allows for excesses of income from Canada and the other more wealthy nations of the world to support the poorer nations which will not be able to meet their expenses. At our current rate of growth the Church membership should double by 1977, giving us a projected membership of 22,000. By 1977 we project 350 churches outside the U. S., whereas currently there are 107.

It should be noted that these projections are somewhat conservative, based on past experiences of projecting. For 1973 we had projected the growth of the PT circulation to be 1,187,600. In actuality the PT circulation grew to 1,357,464. Thus we had an actual increase of 14.3% over our projected increase. The projected income for 1973 was \$8,581,808. When all figures were in, the income reached \$9,918,766. This is a 16.3% increase over the projected increase.

With Mr. Armstrong's international campaigns and the effect of his visits with heads of states, we

realize that our projected growth could be a very poor guesstimate of the actual growth. However, we have had to project some type of plan from which to base our budget and manpower needs for the future.

For those of you who were not able to attend the conference, we do trust that these facts will be inspiring. Those of us in the International Division are inspired to realize the future, as it has been said many times, holds tremendous potential for all of us in God's Work.

— Leslie L. McCullough

LETTER COMMENTS

(Continued from page 134)

"I wish we could always get a report of the ministerial conferences. You have no idea how close it brings me to the men who labor so hard in this great Work."

— Mrs. C. G.,
Phoenix, Arizona

"I'm wondering if what happened here in Chicago on May 6, 1974, (The day God's House was dedicated) did not also occur elsewhere. It seemed to me that God decided to let strife, hectic conditions, weather, etc. take a holiday that day. This whole year, so far, has been very hectic for me, with many things going wrong continually. But on that day, May 6, everything all day went 'real smooth' for me. It was a beautiful day, with the sun shining brightly and a few clouds in the sky. The trees were singing with a beautiful melody. I have never experienced such a serene day in my life. I wonder if this condition did not prevail over the entirety of the world. If so perhaps we should dedicate more things to God more often."

— C. L.,
Chicago, Illinois

"Please thank Mr. Armstrong and also Mr. Ted Armstrong for the great love and time they put into the tapes we heard last Sabbath. The tapes were inspiring and a brighter hope for the ones with D & R problems. The tapes were like having a little Feast of Tabernacles again."

— George C.,
Elkhart, Indiana

"Thank you for the opportunity of hearing the tapes of Mr. Armstrong and GTA last Sabbath. We sat there listening in awe to what was being

said to us. God does reveal his true word to His true ministers. What a privileged people we are."

— Mrs. A. M.,
San Diego, California

"Today we had the honor of hearing the tape on the dedication of the House for God. Well, it was simply fantastic! I felt as if you were speaking in person to us and almost applauded with the congregation there. What can I say but thank you. Thank you for coming into our congregation and letting us be a part of the audience. When it was over, I could not restrain the tears that welled in my eyes as I think of the truths that you revealed; tears still slide down my cheek. How thankful I am to God for calling me at this time. We love you both very much and are 100% behind this Work. I'm not good at expressing myself, but I just had to write and let you know that message had a great impact on me."

— Mrs. P. B.,
Tyrone, Oklahoma

"Because of answered prayer lately, the material from HQ including the tape of the dedication services and the clearing up of the D & R subject, (which seems to open up the way for more answered prayers) I am sure that God is taking a personal hand in waking us up. I thank my God that through the voice of Mr. Ted Armstrong I have been given the gift of knowing this way of life. Be sure of one thing: nothing on this earth could stop me from helping to hold up your hands,

unless it were being trampled by the tens of thousands who would be rushing to do the same thing."

— L. N.,
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

"Enclosed is a special offering in thanks and appreciation for the great blessings God is bestowing upon His Church. This past Sabbath I was privileged to hear the tape of the dedication ceremony. It was truly a very great truth that God has revealed to His Church at this time. I am thankful that we have a building to represent the character of our God. Mr. Armstrong, I pray continually that God will sustain and keep you and your son Garner Ted, and I truly look forward even more to the time when this world will be under the government of God, for it is a great government."

— S. C.,
Chicago, Illinois

"My wife and I just returned home from Sabbath services. I feel the people of the Flint Church were truly and compassionately moved by the dedication of the House for God. I am very grateful and pleased that God Almighty has called and chosen you to raise up this Work, along with your son Garner Ted. You both have given me more strength, love and concern than I've ever known. I feel more love and compassion just from those tapes we heard than ever. Frankly, I'm proud to be a son in the Lord to you. I wish I could just embrace you like a father."

— Craig W.,
Davison, Michigan

OPEN FORUM

INTRODUCTION

The Conference was a smashing success! We all were tremendously enthusiastic at the opportunity for massive communication. But, the Conference is only once a year (for most, even less often). How can we continue the same give-and-take discussions? The need for this Open Forum section of The Bulletin became immediately apparent.

This new section affords you the opportunity to freely express your thoughts, ideas, opinions and suggestions regarding any area which you feel will contribute to the edification and stimulation of your fellow ministers and department managers. This would include sermon ideas, commentary on world events, problems within your local area, new scriptural ideas, etc., etc., etc. Often many good ideas are generated in good "bullsessions" with fellow ministers and managers, but never go any further. Here's your opportunity to share some of those ideas too.

This is your Open Forum. Please send in your material. Feel free to contribute anytime on any subject, even if controversial or philosophical--whether with much verbiage or just a couple of lines. Furthermore, your commentary on what others write--your criticism, compliments, additions, questions, etc.--is very much encouraged. Let's create a dialogue! But please remember--and pardon our disclaimer--the views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Worldwide Church of God, Ambassador College or the editorial staff of The Bulletin. Nor do they necessarily reflect any absolute conclusions or dogma on the part of the individual contributor--just food for thought and discussion. Send your contributions to the Managing Editor of The Bulletin, 300 West Green Street, Pasadena, Calif. 91123.

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CONFERENCE COMMENTARY

The "greatest" conference ever? A misnomer from my own experience of the last ten years--the "only" conference would be more descriptive.

Webster defines conference as "a formal interchange of views; a meeting of two or more persons for discussing matters of common concern, etc." This conference was a beginning of straightforward communication and "conferring" (again see Websters).

At times during the conference each one of us looked at someone else, and they looked back at us and thought--"constipation of mind and diarrhea of the mouth." BUT, at least now we know what we have.

Consistency of approach can never be achieved until we know what we have to make consistent. This conference revealed that morass of inconsistencies that have "grown like Topsy." Mr. GTA stated at a meeting of ministers in March that we were going to "slay some of the sacred (not really) cows, and sweep out the closets of "doctrine" (inconsistent traditions). This conference showed us where to start.

Nothing but superlatives for the over-all conference structure and organization--BUT--NOT SO LONG in "midnight" sessions next year--and repetitive overlapping topics for workshop sessions.

The participation of the local church elders, and their experience from a non-payroll point of view was excellent. Also, it was unifying and pleasant to have ministers from the far-flung areas of the world all together as "iron sharpening iron."

Just Great!!

--Dennis Pyle

Editor's Note:

Fully agree with Dennis--but just a few friendly comments: 1) How about changing the word "beginning" in the second paragraph to "continuing"--"the conference was a continuing of straight forward communication and 'conferring.'" Why the change? Simply because of the tremendously inspiring and open doctrinal meetings on Pentecost following the January conference--first with Mr. GTA and then with Mr. HWA, then the discussions on D&R, the ongoing division head meetings, CAD meetings, etc. In other words, we've been having at HQ for a considerable period of time the same type of atmosphere evidenced at the conference. In fact, that's why Mr. GTA and others planned the conference to be a conference--in order to bring to all of God's ministers the same opportunities and responsibilities in God's Work.

2) Why the LONG conference--both in hours per day and number of days? We wanted to pack as much as possible into this conference--since we knew it would be the only opportunity for the many ministers, especially our local church elders, to attend such a conference for a few years. It wasn't easy for many of you to take time off your jobs. We appreciate your coming to H.Q.--and we wanted to give you everything we've got. Next year we will probably have a shorter and less frenetic conference--still, of course, with total opportunity for input and discussions. But we hope to have another large conference for all of God's ministry every few years.

3) Overlap of Workshop topics was purposefully done to emphasize those areas pertaining to work and calling of the ministry, especially relating to pastoring God's people. We found that the different personalities and experiences of the moderators--plus the totally different mixture of participants created a constantly changing group dynamics situation--yielding fresh ideas and approaches to similar subjects.

(Thanks Dennis.)

* * * *

"The mind can only absorb what the bottom can endure" is the old saying. I believe this concept should become dogma! Especially for people with bottoms like

mine. I'm not much on meetings, conferences, etc. at the best of times but I'll have to admit that this one was as incredibly and inspiringly productive as a conference could ever be. I think more was accomplished at this conference than at all the previous conferences combined! The booklet and Good News staff are truly motivated as a result of the material that came out of the conference. Thanks for the input! It really gives us something to sink our typewriters into. We hope to be presenting you and the members with some really substantial articles in future issues. We are also working on a number of totally new booklets on much needed subjects. We welcome any suggestions or ideas you may have!

--Brian Knowles

Having served as secretary for twelve sessions of doctrinal input on tithing, I was awakened to the practical problems of the field. Too often some of us at Headquarters have taken a theoretical, ivory-towered position in areas where we have not had personal contact. I feel the theoretical should not be ignored (especially the college's need to be free to pursue Truth on a theoretical level), 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. I feel input/discussion sessions such as were conducted must be continued in the future.

At future conferences, I would like to see changes in the daily schedule. To have a day replete with either doctrinal input or plenary sessions strained my attention span. One or two 90-minute plenary sessions where material on a topic of interest is presented, followed by two or three discussion sections on that or other material would, I feel, make the conference even more balanced and profitable.

--George T. Geis

Editor's Note:

It was pretty much unanimous that we should have alternated between plenary session and workshop forums on the same day--to conserve both top and bottom. We stand corrected. For next year: "So let it be written so let it be done." (Who said HQ never changes? Or did we change "under pressure"?)

* * * *

It was with some trepidation that I saw hundreds of ministers descend upon Headquarters with their myriad questions. There seemed no possible way--in view of our track record--to give positive satisfaction to the landslide of various questions which were certain to be asked.

Even though H.Q. made no pretense that the answers would come immediately, it seemed probable that pressure-filled queries would demand instantaneous response. Happily, the great majority of the ministers were willing to wait awhile longer. Perhaps a prime reason for their continued patience resulted from the dramatic first day announcement in the doctrine of divorce and remarriage. That monumental pronouncement relieved the distress which had been mounting to insufferable levels. It provided yet another indication that change is possible and answers to many other problem areas are in the offing.

The questions asked in the sessions which I attended did not seem to be basic to the unrest which has been extant. Most were not profound. They only nibbled at the edges and dealt with comparatively "little" issues about cosmetics, wigs, self-defense, birth control methods, dancing, birthdays and so forth. They

concerned Pharisaic detail, not the larger issues of real spirituality and how to preach the Gospel.

It occurs to me that this sort of question was asked because we have been busy training each other to think in this small way. We have been so intent on being law-keepers that Matthew 23:23 applied more directly to us than one would wish. We have so enmeshed ourselves in our own universal dogmatism and authoritarianism that we have demanded specific answers for every little question that anyone might have ever addressed. In many areas we have been busy writing our own kind of "Talmud" even as we sneer in disdain at the Pharisees and Sadducees.

In my opinion this conference helped us pass a transition point in our development which can provide a great blessing if we but take advantage of the painfully won gain. There is evident need for us to teach the congregation how the mind of Christ encompasses the fruit of the Spirit in a broad and grand way, rather than try to find a scriptural combination which will provide an answer for every possible circumstance in which we might find ourselves. We have all too often tended to bind ourselves in picky, Pharisaic chains.

If we are able to concede that we had fallen into a trap and need not write any supplementary laws to the Law of God, we will have gained much from the conference. Nonetheless, I fervently hope that our "weightier" approach will not find us in the other ditch making judgments out of our own reasonings and imaginations, or thinking that mercy means God has relaxed His Law into license to sin, or that our faith can proceed from an improperly educated and undisciplined conscience.

It has long been obvious that our communication has needed much improvement. Hopefully we will not neglect to follow through, find the answers and communicate them throughout the Church. We have begun to relearn that we can trust Christ to pull us together. We have begun to communicate in a brand new dimension. We have proved we are cooperative and compassionate. The field ministry must be willing to make their needs crystal clear and the leaders at Headquarters must be attentive to those needs and shoulder their full responsibility in finding the answers to the questions which plague the field ministry. Then we will find ourselves unitedly effective in fulfilling both commissions which Christ has given to all of us.

--Clint C. Zimmerman

The Ministerial Conference was extremely beneficial in many ways. But perhaps most of all in the areas of judgmental decisions which God's ministry must make daily -- the areas where quite often the ministry has felt compelled to speak, but where the Bible was silent on a particular subject.

We have all experienced being asked questions along these lines. To use an extreme example, "What do you think of this style of shoe?" To this question you give your judgment: "I think only queers would wear a shoe like that!"

With the speed of an electronic computer the word has spread to all the congregation that a particular style of shoe is "sinful." Of course, there

has been an interpretation put on the minister's comment. The minister did not say it was a sin to wear it. But it was interpreted as such because of his dogmatic-sounding statement and because of his forceful dislike of that style of shoe.

When a minister is somewhat isolated he tends (and oftentimes has) to give judgmental remarks on various topics in counsel. Being alone we tend to become a law to ourselves.

But at the conference we met with our fellow ministers. We heard discussions and various points of view on a variety of subjects. We perhaps felt stirred inside to hear that others felt quite differently about food, child-rearing, styles, socials, recreation, kindergarten, clothing, etc. than we did. Perhaps we became a little defensive in our feelings thinking that "no matter what they feel I still believe I'm right."

But as the conference went on we saw a broader spectrum of opinion than just our own. Perhaps now when we are asked a question about marking our Bibles, drinking coffee, wearing colored dress shirts, etc., we can say something like this: "Well, personally I do it this way. BUT I know of several of my good friends in the ministry who do it differently. They prefer to mark their Bibles in other ways and some prefer not to mark them at all. So really, in this area you are perfectly free to choose what you like best."

Of course, this applies to areas where the Bible is silent. But where it speaks we have far more unity because all of God's ministers fear the Word of God and want to conform to it, not only with their words and advice, but also with their very lives!

--David L. Antion

One of the main ingredients in the success of any conference is a fruit called GROWTH. This fruit was abundantly evident in the recent ministerial conference.

It was obvious not only in the size of the conference, but in the attitude of communication, and brotherly love. There was a sense of responsibility and a common desire to accomplish the Work of God that I personally had never experienced to the same degree before.

This conference was like the opening of a new door to growth and understanding. Now we must walk through that door, and continue what we saw happening during the conference. Continue keeping the doors of communication open, and with an open mind respond to what lies ahead.

Truly, this conference was evidence of present and future growth.

--Paul Flatt

To this observer and participant, the ministerial conference was a tremendous success! It gave me a fresh, new perspective on this great Work of God and renewed enthusiasm for fulfilling the commission God has given us!

The opening session could not have been more dramatic. Within minutes after Mr. Armstrong's dedicatory prayer asking for God's inspiration on those

who would speak in the beautiful new House for God, it seemed as though God had already answered that prayer by revealing greatly significant new truth on marriage and divorce. The timing seemed more than coincidental. It was as if God wanted to give that important revelation to His Church at the very first use of the House for God. That announcement set the stage for a positive-oriented, forward-moving ministerial conference.

As to the building itself, we have all been impressed with its beauty and much has been said already in that connection, but I was equally impressed with how functional it is! It proved the perfect setting for meetings of such importance to the assembled worldwide ministry of God's Church. It is a pleasant and comfortable building to meet in. The comfortable chairs, air conditioning, and lighting and fine sound system helped those who meet there to get the most out of the meetings. Let's put it this way, it wouldn't have been the same conference over in the gymnasium!

Some would probably quip that it's good the surroundings were comfortable considering how long the meetings ran, which may be true, but I think there was a benefit from the fact that the sessions were long and hard-working sessions for a week and a half. I think that there is something inevitably gained by a long hard pull together. It makes for a shared effort and produces a kind of unity that cannot be gained by a shorter easier means. It was billed as a working conference and it proved to be just that.

Another benefit of the length of the conference was that it afforded everyone the opportunity to get together with old friends and buddies now scattered to the four corners of the earth. Old friendships were renewed, new ones begun, and the ranks of God's ministry had a much-needed chance to pull together. Perhaps as much good came from the informal and social get-togethers as the scheduled meetings.

To see the ranks of God's ministry and leadership force assembled in the new Auditorium about 1,400 strong was an impressive, heart warming sight. They are a sharp looking bunch of men who are obviously leaders--men in the prime of their lives, men of ability, men who with renewed inspiration and motivation can accomplish a great deal, with God's help, before the end of this age. I think it was good for everyone just to have a chance to see the whole team of which he is only one member. Some may have lost sight of that perspective. Being together again for meetings and meals, "bull sessions," or basketball helped to get it back again.

The big message that came through loud and clear to me from the division reports (not to be confused with reports on division!) was that this is a big work, and a great work, a work that has been long in the building--and no one is going to go out on his own and start his own work at this time and even begin to come close to matching it in terms of accomplishing the Work of God! God has been building this Work for forty years to the point where it can now do an effective, worldwide work of preaching the Gospel to all nations. How can anyone in his right mind suggest that he is now going to drop this Work in favor of a fractured, dissident movement preying on manufactured "issues" and disgruntled, confused followers? God doesn't do anything in vain. And it should be obvious with anyone with eyes to see that He hasn't built this Work, of which the new Auditorium is like a fitting capstone, in vain--He will use this Work to accomplish His purpose!

--Dave Albert

Now that all the dust has settled, and having had time to think and look back in retrospect, I marvel at what God accomplished during the recent conference.

As all of us know, the most urgent and volatile issue needing resolution was marriage and divorce. Prior to the conference I did not see how it was possible to avoid a head-on collision and heated controversy over this matter. Just about everyone had sincere and deep convictions about what he thought the Bible taught on this subject.

The trouble was we had strong and fundamental differences of opinion and oneness of thought seemed unattainable. No one could come up with a common denominator that "rang true" and was satisfying to all. Reconciliation seemed out of reach.

I pondered these things even a year ago when the doctrinal committee that I was on clashed violently over these issues. In the almost 20 years I've been in God's Church, I had never experienced such a divisive atmosphere. Some of the controversial arguments brought forth by a few in those early meetings, which I and others vigorously opposed, have subsequently been proved to be unscriptural and untrue. But even then I privately wondered why we couldn't see eye to eye. Was there something basic we were assuming or overlooking? If there was, we couldn't pin it down. Therefore, with nothing conclusive in sight to change our long time D and R understanding and administration, I resolved to "hold the line" and maintain the traditions of the Church in this area regardless of the pressures or obstacles.

To say the least, I was greatly concerned and perplexed just prior to the conference when the question of whether all marriages were bound by God began to be aired amongst us. This was a basic issue we had never seriously questioned or examined. As Mr. Armstrong has now said many times before us all, it was a matter that seemed so self-evident that we never thought to check it out.

Frankly, I seriously questioned the validity of the idea at first. Many questions came to mind and I was very skeptical. I imagine some of you had the same reaction. But little by little, after thinking about this new premise throughout the conference and after, and studying the very comprehensive and excellent study paper prepared for us, I came to see so clearly that our new understanding was indeed scriptural and true that I wondered, like Mr. Armstrong, why I didn't see it years ago. It became very apparent that we had been looking at the wrong issues for months and that God had brought us through a kind of doctrinal elimination process.

I was also happy, like I'm sure all of you were, for the people affected by the new decision. Our previous understanding and administration had often imposed a heavy burden on many individuals who sometimes remarked that it seemed unfair of God to hold them accountable for laws they knew nothing about prior to conversion. But God is not unfair. He is a God of great mercy and equity. It is our imperfect understanding of His Word that sometimes makes God's laws and actions seem unfair. We should all be thankful for scriptures such as Numbers 15 and I John 1:9 which show that God really forgives us of sins committed in ignorance.

But mostly I am grateful for the unity God is restoring to His Church and ministry. To me this is the greatest miracle of the conference. With the terrible unrest that Satan had brought into our midst, such a restoration could not have been

humanly accomplished. A year ago I would not have believed such a thing possible. Therefore, even though there is still much settling down and resolution needed in different doctrinal areas, of the many lessons that can be gleaned from our past conference the greatest to me has been that we can confidently look to God for the proper solutions to any future problems that may beset us.

--Wilbur A. Berg

Editor's Note:

Thanks, Will, for your straightforward and heartfelt comments! It has been literally miraculous how God has pulled all of us together. The closer one was to what was "really going on" the more obvious God's intervention was!

* * * *

The recent ministerial conference was a monumental step forward in the history of God's Church in the 20th Century. The doctrinal forums and workshops provided opportunities for asking direct questions and presenting ideas and research materials on a host of topics.

The benefits to be derived are many. Everyone is more aware than ever before of the nearly chaotic state which can result from either lack of clear definition of many doctrinal points, too explicit legislation on other matters, or the failure to communicate new understanding to the field ministry in an official and orderly fashion.

And, hopefully, the field ministry has been encouraged by the opportunity to state their questions, frustrations and ideas on so many topics with the knowledge that someone is listening and is responsible to seek and obtain authoritative answers and solutions.

Several of these hopes have already been realized and others will be. We know it takes time, but finally we have started.

Two principles for all of us to keep in mind now are that patience is a great virtue and that "hope deferred makes the heart sick".

--Ivan L. Sell

From my point of view the recent ministerial conference has been highly beneficial in promoting unity between those of us at H.Q. and the ministers who are dedicating their lives to serving God's people in far-flung areas -- not only in the U.S., but around the world as well. It gave us all a greater insight into each other's problems, frustrations and struggles encountered in serving a mutual cause. I feel that the vast majority of those who came to H.Q. with a sincere desire to better understand the present situation left with a feeling of having many of their questions answered and of having ample opportunity for their personal input, whatever it may have been. By this I don't mean to imply that I think all who returned to their field positions were completely satisfied; such did not appear to be the case. Hopefully God will see fit to bless His work with sufficient income to make such a huge undertaking possible again in the not-too-distant future.

--Leonard Schreiber

For almost seven years I did not see Pasadena. I heard about new buildings, presses, etc., but neither words nor pictures are quite like the real thing!

However, it is not the physical plant and its great growth which impressed me most.

For the first time since I left college ten years ago, a conference has gone beyond national, regional, departmental, and personal boundaries!

We were all able to see a melting pot available into which an assortment of attitudes and views could be deposited. It was interesting to view how men from the International Division, colleges, and departments thought and felt about various questions. Then there was the so-called field point of view. Again, opinions expressed by church elders and church pastors showed both commonality and differences.

The point is that the conference did reveal where our attitudes have crept and in some cases leaped apart from one another due to geography or jobs. I think we learned that a lot of our "problems" are, in reality, "personal opinion" or "narrow points of view." It was good to exercise my mind to see that something that seems to be a problem was not necessarily a problem if viewed in another context.

However, the main attitude which I felt should be captured was that of the entire conference. If every question, idea, or problem were viewed in the context of the open, honest, patient, sincere, respectful, simple, loyal and loving attitude expressed by Mr. Herbert Armstrong and Mr. Ted Armstrong, then we would have very few of the differences which have existed and would solve, and happily so, any remaining.

I feel the overall approach given by Mr. Herbert Armstrong and Mr. Ted Armstrong of stability, soundness, mercy, and warmth in the face of defections, questions, and wonderings set the pace of faith and confidence in them, the Work, and God!

This conference more than any other had the ingredients of unity, one-mindedness, singleness of heart, and cooperation. It was truly an opportunity, not to be taken lightly, to follow Christ's injunctions to become One!

--Ron McNeil

EXCERPTS OF LETTERS TO MR. GTA

On behalf of the two men who assist me in the ministry, Ron Jameson and Julius Mize; the entire Columbia and Walterboro, South Carolina Churches of God; and myself personally; I want to express heart-felt thanks to you and your father, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, for the wonderful ministerial conference just concluded. Much good I know is going to come from it!

I also want you to realize that all of us here are behind you 100%. Rest assured that with God's Spirit I am striving along with many others to do everything in my power to keep God's dear people loyal to God's government. And if there should ever come a time (God forbid!) when I cannot serve as a faithful minister of God, I will endeavor to remain loyal to you and God's way of government. If resign I must, resign I will -- but let it be known only to God, those

directly over me in authority, and myself -- but certainly NOT to those dear little ones I serve and deeply love and who all deeply love you and your father.

--Joel Lillengreen

I want to thank you for the conference. It was just what we needed in the present situation, and I hope it helps all of us to do the Work better. Personally, it made me feel freer to communicate, and brought me up-to-date on the various aspects of the Work worldwide. I had lost contact with various parts of the Work since graduation in 1962 -- I feel it would be extremely beneficial to be updated every few years, especially as the Work expands at ever more increasing rates.

Also, I want to thank you for the fine "red carpet" treatment at the conference, in lodging arrangements, meals, etc. God's Work has always been good to me and I know most of us ministers feel this way -- I hope we will always be good to God's Work in the same way.

Thanks again for everything -- please continue carrying on with the Work.

--Dave Mills

This is just a short note to express appreciation on behalf of all the key staff of the Australian office and myself for the concern and hard effort you quite obviously put into "righting the unrightable wrongs" that have been plaguing the Work for so long. It is so encouraging to see these changes coming -- and not from fiat or caprice, but an open-minded evaluation of all the facts.

This should turn the most hard-bitten cynics into optimists, but of course, human nature being what it is, that is too much to expect, I fear. I only wish that the sincere but impatient hotheads could view things from a worldwide perspective before jumping off the deep end. As for the insincere, perhaps they deserve what they get.

For my part, having invested over 13 years at it, I choose to remain active where I see the Work being done (never was much one for church social groups anyway). In viewing the events of recent months via all the printed letters and newspaper articles, it is hard not to read into the actions of the chief dissidents such things as crass opportunism (in too many cases) and wounded ego in others.

Just having recently completed two seminars on human relations, it is easy to visualize in wide-screen color the various fundamental elements of human temperament in action.

I appreciate all the more your efforts in trying to reeducate all the would-be hard-line autocrats to the fact that it is more important to understand one's own blind spots and shortcomings first, then properly lead those under them with a measure of understanding of individual needs, than to fulfill one's own ego needs through driving and using up others.... Thanks again for your hard work and that of those behind the scenes.

--Gene Hughes

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

I feel that in order to communicate more effectively, we must make a conscientious effort to do so. Communication cannot be made without effort. After being in the Church for some time, I notice that communication does not seem to be a problem until there is a conflict. Unfortunately, a formula that could break the barriers to communication arising from conflict is rarely ever used. It is the instruction of Matthew 18:15-20.

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

This formula gives the conflicting parties three opportunities to break down barriers. It also will rid the church of a negative approach that could cause greater problems in the future.

In communicating over difficult problems, the Bible seems to emphasize the spirit of meekness as a powerful tool to bring about a meeting of minds. In Galatians 6:1, II Timothy 2:24-26, and Philippians 2:3 such a spirit is emphasized in the effort to communicate in order to resolve differences. I'm sure all of us have been pleasantly surprised at the reaction of someone when we approached them with a difficult situation in a meek spirit. I feel this is an extremely vital key to building communication bridges.

Also, in overcoming the communication barriers we sometimes set up, we need to pray for and exercise a forgiving spirit. Often, we avoid talking with someone because we are not willing to forgive for some "evil" (real or imagined) they have done to us. The lack of a forgiving spirit is another barrier to communications in the world as well as God's church. It was in the context of communicating over difficulties that Jesus Christ said what he did about the forgiving spirit in Matthew 18:21-35. Also, in Luke 17:3-4 Jesus warns us to be careful not to get in the unforgiving spirit and thereby not be able to communicate with our brother in the ministry or church.

--Jeff McGowan

COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP SUMMARIES

Following are seven summary reports from the Communication Workshops conducted during the recent ministerial conference. Each section reflects the approach and personality of those conducting it, which explains the lack of uniformity in format. We hope to publish the remaining reports in the next two Bulletins.

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(WS-4) DEVELOPING UNITY & LOYALTY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Moderator: Raymond McNair
Ass't. Moderator: Norman Smith
Secretary: James Young

Never before in the history of the Church of God have we needed the character trait of loyalty more than today. God's Church has probably never seen a greater demonstration of disloyalty--than we have recently witnessed.

It is high time that we all examined the true meaning of loyalty. What is it? How does one acquire it? How can you tell if you do or don't have real loyalty? What is true loyalty not? How can we ministers inspire God's people to greater loyalty to God, to His Headquarters, to His ministers--especially to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong?

Loyalty to a Man?

Some seem to think that all they need is loyalty to God--not to any man or group of men. But is it really possible to have true loyalty toward God--without having real loyalty to those men whom God has used to call you, whom God has set over you in Christ?

Hopefully all of you have recently studied Mr. Armstrong's very inspiring and very comprehensive letter concerning the proper type of CHURCH GOVERNMENT. Mr. Armstrong made it abundantly clear that Satan tries to destroy God's Work and His people--by first destroying the government which rules over those individuals. Once the props of government have been knocked out of the minds of God's people, then there is no superstructure left upon which to build faith, hope, love or any other character trait worth having. All Satan has to do is to destroy God's true concept of right government--knocking this out of your mind--then time and human nature will do the rest. In time you will become an empty shell spiritually--a shadow of your former self.

This also applies to any local congregation. If the local minister does not keep the right kind of church government and true loyalty constantly in the minds of God's people, then Satan will sooner or later confuse their minds. They will begin to wonder about the government which God has set up in His Church. They will begin to wonder whether or not they can still remain loyal to those men they formerly thought God had set over them--but which they now have begun to doubt that God is using. Satan's technique is not new: confuse, divide and DESTROY!

What Is Loyalty?

What, then, are some of the main principles of true loyalty? In essence, what is loyalty?

The word "loyal" is defined as follows: "unswerving in allegiance, faithful in allegiance to one's lawful sovereign or government, faithful to a private person to whom fidelity is due, FAITHFUL TO A CAUSE, IDEA, or custom" (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, 1973 ed.).

Yes, being loyal means that you are faithful to a belief, cause, government, person or being.

Will any ever enter into the Kingdom of God who have not learned to be completely loyal 100% trustworthy? Notice this important scripture: "And they that are with him [Christ] are called, and chosen, and FAITHFUL" (Rev. 17:14).

None will appear before the presence of Jesus Christ unless and until they have developed this all-important character trait of loyalty or faithfulness.

"Many are called, but few are chosen" (Matt. 22:14).

The elect are the chosen members of God's Church (see Matt. 24:22,31; I Pet. 1:2, 2:9).

But some of those whom God chooses to become part of His Church (His elect, meaning His chosen ones) are not faithful unto death, and will not therefore receive a crown of righteousness which God has promised to all those who are faithful (Rev. 2:10).

Basics of Loyalty

What are some of the basics of loyalty?

You cannot be faithful to a cause or to a person or being, a work or a church unless and until you are really convinced that cause or person is genuine, and worthwhile. You would find it hard to die for a cause which you did not believe in.

American servicemen in Korea found they did not have the mental armaments to prevent them from being broken down under the pressure of brainwashing. Many had not been trained in the old-fashioned virtue of loyalty to their country. Many did not know what they were fighting for. They were either against their country's objectives, or did not know what their nation's goals really were. Without this vital conditioning all too many of them succumbed to Communist propaganda.

So it is with members as well as ministers of the Church of God. You have to be fully armed with the facts. You need to know that this is the most important work or activity on earth today. You need to believe in the integrity of God's servants, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong, or you will soon find that you will not be able to stand up before the constant barrage of criticism of those two men whom God has commissioned to be His chief instruments in preaching the true gospel into all the world--I know God has called them by their fruit.

You and I as fellow ministers need to humbly realize that (comparatively speaking) we are called to do an important but lower level type of work, and that this is God's doing--not your's or mine. If we are loyal, we will be willing to go where we are sent, to do that which we are asked to do--without grumbling, doubting, fearing or without looking over our shoulder to see what it is that God is having someone else do in His Work.

Loyalty is a two-way street. Until you learn to take orders, how can you qualify to give them? You must learn to be totally loyal to those over you, then you can expect to have complete loyalty from those under your charge. And, remember, you owe complete loyalty to those under you--whether or not they always deserve it.

Learn to loyally keep confidences. Learn to be willing to "go to bat" for someone under you whom you know to be in the right.

Even If You Don't Agree...

One of the most important ingredients of true loyalty is learning to obey implicitly, loyally carrying out orders or instructions even when you feel there may be a better way to do things.

Of course there is a time when it is necessary to go to a superior and inform him that there is a "crisis of conscience" in your being able to carry out instructions. You may honestly feel you cannot do something which you are expected to do without defiling your conscience before God. If you will honestly, loyally discuss the matter with any superior(s) over you, and will rightly seek guidance, you will always be able to resolve such a situation.

Vegetarians, teetotalers, etc. should not be forced to eat vegetables or drink wine until they have had a chance to re-educate their consciences according to the Word of God. Then they will be able to freely, conscientiously partake of these.

Should a minister in the field obey a minister over him whom he believes is not loyally following the teachings and practices of H.Q.?

We are commanded to obey those who have rule over us. And we are told to submit to those whom God has placed in His Church over us. And we are commanded to do what they tell us, but we are also told: "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). And the Apostle Paul said: "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (I Cor. 11:1).

The Bereans were commended because they received God's Word with all readiness of mind, then searched the scriptures daily to see if those things were so (Acts 17:11).

Furthermore, we are commanded: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21).

These scriptures reveal to us that we are to follow God's servants (to imitate them) as long as they follow Christ. If you had been under the jurisdiction of one of the defecting Regional Directors, and if he had ordered you to do something contrary to the Word of God--then you SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWED GOD AND HIS WORD --and not the R.D. (Acts 5:29).

But I can truthfully say that I can't recall ever being asked to preach or teach or to do anything which I felt was directly contrary to God's Word (i.e. by my superiors). I doubt if most of you have ever been commanded to teach or do something directly contrary to the Word of God.

Remember, it is easy to obey orders when you fully agree with them. But when you think you know better--that there is a better way--it is more difficult to do what you are told without getting in a bad attitude. Of course, there is a time when you ought to communicate this "better way" to your superiors. Perhaps they will see it and will agree. But if they don't then it will take real loyalty to faithfully try to make your boss's "bad" ideas work when you don't really think they are all that great.

I have had to face this matter of loyalty to my superiors many times--both as a child and as a minister in God's work.

Examples:

- A. Finger in light socket
- B. Recall from ministerial assignment
- C. Pentecost
- D. Marriage and Divorce.

Biblical Examples

There are many Bible examples of those who were loyal to God: Abraham, David, Jesus Christ.

Also, there are many examples of disloyalty to God and to God's servants (religious or secular) in the Bible: Adam and Eve, Saul, Absalom, Korah, Lucifer.

God's church needs ministers who are deeply loyal--ministers who believe deeply in their work, our cause, and those human servants whom God has set over us. If you merely think you should be loyal to God--and not to Messrs. HWA and GTA--then you are badly mistaken. Sooner or later, unless you change your understanding and your attitude, you will fall by the wayside. If we reject God's servants, we thereby reject God (I Sam. 8:7).

You can help those people under your charge to become more loyal if you will keep pointing them to God's Word, to His Headquarters and to His Work.

Do all within your power to have the right balance of mentioning what Messrs. Armstrong are doing--asking continual prayer and blessings on behalf of those servants of God. Use the Bulletins and letters and other means at your disposal to constantly point people to God and to His human servants--through whom they were called into this church and mighty work!

(WS-7) IDEAS FOR SERMONS AND SERMONETTES

Moderator: Jon Hill
Ass't. Moderator: Clint Zimmerman
Secretary: Dale Hampton

The purpose of this Workshop is both for input and output and to act as a springboard to help you generate and develop new ideas and concepts for sermons and sermonettes.

The first thing I want to point out is that this does not deal with gimmicks one way or the other. I have twelve points. They are not necessarily in any order, and I'm sure there are very many more points, but this is a beginning anyway.

1) EVALUATE YOURSELF. Define and write down your own stereotype, admitting to yourself, first of all, that you do have a stereotype, that you do have a rut that you fit in, that you do have barometers to your personality and your method of doing things that are pretty well set by the time that you're whatever age it is you now are. Be honest with yourself, pick at yourself and evaluate where your weak spots are. Otherwise, you'll stay in the rut you're in and you never will have any new ideas and concepts.

2) PICK A PREJUDICE AND DETERMINE TO BREAK IT. Some people don't like broccoli. Some people don't like to go to the movies. Some people don't like to read books. Some people hate to get up in the morning. Some people don't like to associate with different racial groups. (Some people don't like to associate with me!) Pick a prejudice -- whatever it is that is a hang-up that you can easily change by putting your mind to it. First of all, of course, you have to admit that you have one. This helps you in order to have new concepts and ideas since you have to break out of the old mold that you're in.

3) DO SOMETHING YOU NEVER DID BEFORE. I have a very intelligent sister-in-law. She has an IQ of 141 and a sterile mind. She will argue about anything. She's very well read -- all the stuffy books that have ever been written. She's never read a novel in her life and she's not about to read one! She thinks people who do read them are weak minded. And I think it's just about exactly the opposite. If she would read just one -- even a historical novel or something that had more essence of fact than fiction it would get her out of her rut. Here she is, thirty-nine years old and she's the perfect woman's-lib stereotype. A gal who has her ideas all set and she's not about to change any of them. And she never has a new thought coming into her head.

Doing something you never did before doesn't have to be too difficult: Take a walk in a park. Go to a farm. Go down to the docks. Museums, the race track, maybe. Go to a factory. Nearly every manufacturing or industrial plant has tours that take you through and describe to you the processes by which we arrive at the manufactured items that we all take for granted.

Walk around downtown. You've got to be careful about that if you live in New York. And you want to pick the spots you walk around. But, done at the right time, I guess and you could walk around nearly anywhere. Attend a lecture. Go to a class. Take a correspondence course. When you go to the hospital next time get a tour of the facilities. Find out how they put the whole thing together.

LISTEN. This may be the most important advice to give, because being preachers we usually have our mouths open. And when they're open and making sounds, you can't have any input. So there comes a time when you need to balance the out-go by the input and shut your mouth and open your ears and listen to things that are going on.

Read a whole newspaper one time. Not Sunday because it's too much, but one day, like maybe a Thursday, which is good here in LA as far as a real rundown of what people are interested in is in the paper. They sell a million of them, and that means people are interested in those things, or they wouldn't sell a million of them. So you just read right from page one, and I mean read the cut lines, the headlines, the body copy, the advertisements -- I mean everything!

Go to any air show or some other special interest group that's always meeting together.

Play a new game, learn one.

Go shopping with your wife -- really intently listening and thinking and going along and seeing her go through her routine.

Learn an art or a craft.

4) WRITE DOWN IDEAS IMMEDIATELY. Ideas often come in a flash, therefore always have something handy to write them down. Write key idea words down immediately. If you just get the key words, the ideas will come back later. When the idea comes, it's so fresh and so good that you are sure you will never forget it. Ten minutes later you won't be able to remember it.

5) TURN OLD IDEAS AROUND IN EVERY DIRECTION. You've heard Mr. Armstrong say as an application of this, "Let's turn the lemons into lemonade!" We get stereotyped in the way we look at things. And we think we can only look at them one way. Look at things backwards for once, analyze them from the back to the front. Reverse the concepts. Say, "what if?" to the situation in your mind, and turn it around. Out of it, of course, a lot of chaff will come, but out of it, we hope, a grain or two of wheat will come as well, as far as new ideas and applications and fresh thoughts. Write down brand new notes. My practice is to write the notes in as short a time before the event takes place as possible so that it really is literally fresh. Then it comes out with that kind of vigor that needs to be there when you're speaking.

6) LEARN LOGIC. I don't mean you have to take a six year course in it and get a masters degree, but learn the basic principles of logic. Even if you don't use them, it's good to know them!

7) GET A BALANCE ON TRENDS. We live in a society which has such fantastic communication systems available that we all, whether it has to do with the cut of our clothing or the way that we wear our hair, the terminology that we use, the pat expressions, the pace of change is dynamic. When I listened over the phone to some of the dissidents recently, particularly the ones who have gone out, I remember one of the expressions they used: "the party line" -- referring to the good old Ambassador party line. But after I listened to five or six of them I discovered they had their own party line -- all the standard static statements that they use. Each one of them sounds like a recording. By the time I'd listened to four of them, I could have told you what five, six, seven, and eight would say.

And almost in the exact order. And what the counter-arguments would be whenever any proposition was brought up. And they are standard, they have been inculcated into our language and our culture by Satan the devil, because he's in charge of the culture.

A few years ago, we cut the lipstick off and did away with cosmetics in the Church of God. That was at the time when the current trend was to slap as much on as you possibly could and every woman looked like a clown. But then a few years went by and the whole world was getting into the "natural look" and the cosmetic industry was going crazy because they had to come up with some kind of a product to sell. So they had to come up with cosmetics to make you look like you didn't have any on! Well then we fit right in. Oftentimes Satan will pick up and overexaggerate something that we in the Church of God have been doing for quite some time. We were interested in health foods -- and the whole world got interested in it. We were interested in ecology, and the natural way of doing things, and gave broadcasts on it and everything else -- now the whole world's doing it, but Satan carries it to such an extreme that he uses it as a tool to erode away the confidence in the Work of God by the phraseology and spirit that goes along with it.

I think one of the best ways to keep track of a trend is to read the daily comics because humor is wont to pick out the heart and core of trends and ideas. Whenever I don't understand the comics, I know that I have not read the news well enough. And so I go look for whatever it is they're talking about because it'll give me a clue as to what's happening.

In all this you've got to remember to keep to the trunk of the tree. With all these new ideas and coming up with concepts that are original, we should not get so far out on a branch being new and interesting, like the Areopagites, that we miss the trunk of the tree. Certainly not. It's just a matter of presenting in a fresh and a new and an interesting way the same truths which are not only ancient, but eternal.

8) GO INTO SOMETHING IN MINUTE DETAIL. For example: "Death on the Highway," referred to by Mr. Graemme Marshall from New Zealand. One of our best in-roads down there was the Ministry of Transport. In "Death on the Highway" we go through an in-depth description of what happens in about half a second when a tree is smashed into by an automobile at 55 m.p.h. Now it takes a long time to tell what happens, but it just breaks down an event or thing that is happening in such minute detail that overall it gives a fantastic picture.

It's a new or different way to present an old thing.

Rather than just saying, "The car hit the tree and the guy died," you describe it in such minute detail that it becomes a blazing picture in people's minds, and then they may become a little more careful.

Bill Cosby does this with his humor. He takes five to fifteen minutes to go into every little detail about a little girl eating her breakfast cereal, a common-place thing that happens everyday. You can do this with just about every situation you can think of if you just slow down sometimes and observe things a little bit more.

Now, in order to do that, of course, you have to observe detail. Some people go through life and they're just a bland piece of stainless steel. So in

order to develop observation, maybe you ought to take a notebook and go out and look at a flower for half an hour and describe it. Use three pages, four pages, ten pages, whatever, and do your very best to force yourself into a focus on the detail and the small things in one exercise.

9) ASK, SURVEY, INTERVIEW, INQUIRE, PROBE. Other people are probably better than you think they are. They're a source of information and new ideas. Begin with your wife, your kids, your neighbor, whoever's handy, nearby, and since you're in the talking business, do a lot more listening!

10) DETERMINE YOUR BEST MENTAL TIME. Build the rest of your activities around it. Each of us functions better at a given time of day. Some of us are night people, some of us are morning people. We live in a world that works from eight to five. Some people function very well at two o'clock in the morning, and if you happen to be one of those, use that time! If you have to get up at ten or twelve the next day, and, if you really do use that time profitably, your life will demonstrate the fruits to give you the excuse to get up late. (Fortunately, mine is early in the morning.)

11) TAKE TIME OFF TO DO NOTHING. Maybe Church Administration will disagree with that, but I'll disagree with them if they do. All too often we get caught up in the rush that we're in and we're in such a rut we don't have enough time to unwind. I'm not talking about a three-month vacation, but just time off from time to time when your fuses are about to be blown -- and take that time off in order to let your mind focus on not anything in particular. Let it wander a little bit. Not uncontrollably so that some demon takes you over -- but relaxedly!

12) STUDY YOUR BIBLE, PRAY. Ask God to help you expand your mind. In this kneeling is not absolutely necessary. You can pray to God -- and He understands -- while you're walking in the park, or going through the factory, or doing any number of these other things, and/or just out by yourself in a quiet place doing nothing -- except praying.

(WS-8) IDEAS FOR BIBLE STUDIES

Moderator: Herman Hoeh
Ass't. Moderator: Richard Plache
Secretary: Robert Oberlander

Following are many of the ideas that were generated in the various sections of this workshop.

PREPARATION

In order to prepare, you must live with a subject. Spend adequate time in preparation during the day of the Bible Study--even half of the day or more. Perhaps study your topics for months in advance, meditating on them.

Prepare in prayer.

Be interested in the subject yourself, or the congregation will not be interested.

The minister must know the people in order to give a meaningful study. Visits should give you some indication of what the people need. Be open with the members and find out what they want or what they feel they need. Many may tell you they prefer an in-depth study of a single topic rather than a verse-by-verse study. The former takes thorough preparation. Try to get a feed-back response from the members.

Avoid "oral readings" of the books of the Bible. People can read on their own.

Use basic Bible tools apart from college notes and the like. Even go to the public library to use helps which you may not own.

Review old material and get new meaning as a result of recent events in the Church.

Approach a study as a challenge, not as a problem.

Avoid areas of the Bible that are not important to the brethren and not meaningful as a Bible study. Also, don't "overwork" other areas.

The local minister must have the confidence of the people and must show them love and concern. He must be approachable.

Stick to your strengths, not your weaknesses.

Reading a book does not make you an authority on the subject.

Don't let the people manipulate the ministry. "Dare to discipline" when necessary. (This applies also to current problems with dissidents.)

If you haven't had time to prepare a thorough study, choose something that relates to the work of that day, and that has been on your mind.

SCHEDULING AND FREQUENCY

People often are involved in too many other activities to attend Bible study. School-age kids have too much to do for school and related activities, especially without the Sabbath for their use. Those who do come often do so only because they would feel guilty if they didn't.

Experiment with Bible study schedules. Some ministers are trying to hold Bible study on the morning of the Sabbath, with services in the afternoon. Another way might be to have it after dinner on Sabbath evening, following services, and perhaps only every other week. Friday night study is hard for many people. But so is middle-of-the-week study. The latter, however, brings the church a needed uplift between Sabbaths.

Some could try a Sunday Bible study for people without a regular church.

Bible study is for the people's benefit, so try to schedule it so that more people can attend.

Hold Bible study in private homes once a month, in areas that lend themselves to this.

Bible study is not a commanded assembly, so people don't feel the same urgency to come as in the case of services. In some areas the members have been told that attendance is commanded and are then counseled when they don't come. This is putting too much pressure on the congregation.

We have bored some people "to death," to the point that they no longer enjoy coming.

During winter, in some areas, to venture out in the bad weather is tantamount to "tempting God."

One-third is good attendance for Bible study. If below this, we really need to work on it.

Time: 7.00 p.m. proved to be too early for some; 7:30 boosted attendance over the usual 8:00 attendance in other areas. Check also with the people to see what they would prefer.

The meeting should last no longer than 1½ hours. Stopping on time is very encouraging to the brethren.

Switch churches with another minister once in a great while.

Rent a hall that's conducive to inspiration. If it's a dump, people won't want to come.

Every other week saves everyone an extra trip. And if you have it on the Sabbath, it not only saves a trip (gas, etc.) but saves on hall rental.

Don't cut the number of studies, but build each one up to make it interesting.

Attendance has been known to drop when you switch to bi-weekly Bible studies.

Canceling meetings for the summer (vacations) may be advisable, depending upon the area and needs.

BREAK

Adults have only a 30-45 minute attention span before they need a break or change. A five-minute break in the middle can help hold their attention afterwards. Maybe sing a hymn at a natural break in the Bible study. Have refreshments and fellowship after Bible study.

PROMOTION

"Satisfied customers" make great promoters.

NUMBER OF MEN CONDUCTING

It is often good to have two persons take the study; one can be thinking while the other is speaking. The second man gets involved and draws from the one speaking. It "elevates" the second man. This is very encouraging to both the LLE and the people to allow the LLE to share the study with the pastor. Let the congregation see that their ministers have a good working relationship.

Some ministers prefer to take the study alone; it bothers them to have someone speaking beside them. People may be distracted by a second man there at times.

SEATED OR STANDING

Divided opinion; this depends upon the man. Standing can give more power. Sitting can make you and the audience more relaxed and allow for better response. Remember, Bible study is not a second church service.

If seated, cover the area beneath the table; better for appearance's sake (posture).

People need freedom of style.

CONDUCTING BUSINESS

People sell eggs, milk, meat, etc., to one another. (Obviously not on the Sabbath, though.) Consider whether this would be offensive if, for example, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong were to come through. Some members have even asked to have their products advertised in services; not generally wise to do so.

Church libraries are a good idea; they stimulate study. Better to conduct these at Bible study than on the Sabbath.

FORMAT

Could be similar to a classroom situation. Make them realize they are getting the refined product of years of A.C. training, getting what A.C. gives its students. Find a happy balance among the many format areas. A list of ideas follows:

News of the Work

The Worldwide News covers much of this; little need for repetition. But you

can enthusiastically re-emphasize current events in the work, activities of Mr. HWA and Mr. GTA, especially with more details from the Bulletin. Bring your area up to date on local church news and on your experiences of the week.

Difficult Scriptures

"Explain" these even if no more than to say you don't understand. Don't leave critical issues untouched.

World News

In a format change of three years ago, this portion of the study was deleted. Perhaps there are times when this should be covered.

Lecture 45 Minutes

1) Book

Studies of whole books are helpful especially for those areas where there are no Sabbath services. You can choose the books that may be the most helpful for the particular group. Be careful not to choose the "wrong" book of the Bible--for you or for them. Cover the background material for each book. This develops listener interest. Different books require different approaches. If you just cover the books historically, the people will miss many of the principles involved; they need both.

2) Doctrine or Topic--Principles

Helpful especially since many have some different religious background. However, this may be somewhat of a problem when there is a large variety of backgrounds represented. Takes thorough preparation. Each topic requires a different approach. Study through Proverbs on a specific topic or principle. "Preach" from the song book, perhaps; give background of why we sing. Make topics timely and practical. Don't "argue doctrines." Rather, present a way of life.

Series

If weighty, should not carry a series on for many weeks. A series can be a problem for those who miss a week and for new people who come in the middle of a series of studies.

Question-Answer (see also section on "Some Principles on Handling Questions")

PMS participate more readily, which is important. Find a balance between all questions and no questions at all. Answering questions can "settle" the congregation. There is no need to cover questions where we already have literature. We have so much literature that people have fewer questions to ask. It is harmful to ridicule any question; this could cause people to stop asking questions. When they do ask a good question, let it be known to encourage them and others to continue to ask questions.

Outside Reading Assignments

Tell them of things they should read. HQ should send supporting information on this, perhaps in the Bulletin. Future Shock could be appropriate reading for

introduction to prophecy. QB VII gives a good report on WWII. Our purpose is not to replace the Bible, but to supplement it. Commentaries, dictionaries--encourage them to use library copies, not to try necessarily to buy their own copies. Good for them to learn how to use reference materials.

Visual Aids (slides, movies, etc.)

Announce these in advance; give a preview. Anticipation is very helpful. Ask questions about them that the people can identify with. Visual aids are not as effective where there are new PMs in the congregation. Means extra work for the minister. Study your area for slides and films. Check with foreign consulates, university information offices, etc., on getting educational films. Slides on Babylonian and Persian periods, etc., could be very good in conjunction with a study of prophecy. King Leopold's slides would be good for a Saturday night. Films or slides on AC would perk up kids' interest in AC. AC must sell itself to the church. We have "experts" in the church who could give slide presentations. Visual aids should be supportive, not just for entertainment.

Following is a memo from Learning Resources at AC:

Slide programs produced by Ambassador College and the Worldwide Church of God are available on loan. To request these programs please contact Dr. R.E. Walther, Director of Learning Resources. Programs available are:

Search for Jesus
The Corinthians
Dr. Happy
Ashpenaz
Into the Universe
Ambassador College Presentation
Introduction to Study of Biology

For the following programs contact Mr. Joe Clayton at the Press:

The Farm Program
Mail Processing Center
The Press.

Also available from the Television Studio is a film produced by Jean Pierre Hallet (pronounced Au-lay) entitled The Pygmies.

Outside Speaker

Someone with authority, qualified in a particular area--on some pertinent subject (e.g., police chief; drug problem, etc.). Outside speakers will support what you say about world conditions, etc.

Handouts

Preparing a one-page handout shows your interest in the subject and preparation. People especially like handouts from AC. Be sure to check with HQ if there is the least question about a handout's accuracy or whether or not it is up to date. Check with the appropriate instructor.

Tests

Challenge them to be "AC students." Tests can be stimulating; gets people

involved; proper prods to learning. Emphasize principles that all should know. To have missed questions helps one remember later. Avoid rote memorization. Get the "spiritual discernment." Give them feedback on correct answers immediately. Get feedback from them on how difficult it was. Some people feel threatened by tests. Don't collect tests; this can cause embarrassment. Don't test too often. Exercise caution in how you use test results. If you grade the tests, do so with positive comments; will bring people closer to you. Give young people a survey-test (unsigned) to find out what they are interested in learning.

TYPES OF STUDIES

Open (members plus new PMs)

The fact that some members have been attending for many years while others are "right off the street" itself can present problems. Must be careful how you approach a problem in a study that is mixed. Must keep the basics interesting to the old-timers but informative to the new, to bring them all along. Quite a challenge. Frequently the basics are going to be as helpful to the old-timers as to the new members. Cover topics thoroughly when you have new people there, for their benefit.

SOME PRINCIPLES ON HANDLING QUESTIONS

Don't act as though you are an authority when you are not. People need to learn to ask questions in order to learn. Who-what-when-where-why-how.... Sometimes ask the congregation questions; helps people relax. Ask questions without obvious answers, encouraging them to think.

(WS-11) PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Moderator: Arthur Mocarow
Ass't. Moderator: Richard Ames
Secretary: Graham Vernon

For the most part, those who took part in these sessions were very open and free with their problems and their evaluation of present circumstances. Some men were doing the right things, but only because they had stumbled across the right way. Doing the right thing without the knowledge that it was right caused a lack of confidence in some vital areas.

It was very evident that our men need considerable orientation in the field of good basic management principles and how to relate to people instead of things -- human relations.

Here are some of the areas presented and discussed at the Conference. We will be working on all -- with recommendations forthcoming over the coming months.

The office of a deacon

The following questions were asked: Is this an eternal office, or can we lay "hands off"? What do we do with a deacon who may have outlived his usefulness? If a deacon moves from one church area to another, should his office remain with him? When should we ordain a deacon in a local church? What are the real qualifications of a deacon? What do we do if we inherit too many deacons from these previous organizations?

Considering the above questions, there seems to be a considerable lack of understanding where the office of a deacon is concerned. Many men are faced with the situation where they have to work with deacons someone else has ordained (for whatever reason he felt necessary), but now they don't seem to fit very well into the present church structure. Some do seem to be qualified by the new minister's standards; others seem to be turned off with it all. How we are to learn where the man fits, or how to work with him in a "human relations" way needs to be stressed. For instance, why is he turned off? Whose fault is it? Has the minister been fair with his evaluation? Was the man ordained as a surprise? Was he ever asked if he desired the office of a deacon?

The office of a deacon obviously is a very useful tool in the church. If we can advise our ministers how to skillfully use this office, there would be less tension, more compatibility, and a real respect from both ministers and members for this responsible office.

The office of a Local Church Elder

Questions: What is a Local Elder? What are the qualifications of a Local Elder? Does a Local Elder carry his office with him if he moves from one church area to another? What should we do if we inherit too many Local Elders in a church area into which we move? Again, ask a man if he desires the office of a Local Elder before ordaining him. What are the legal limits of a Local Elder's responsibility throughout the U.S.? Some states require a man to be a fully-

qualified minister before performing any tasks with legal overtones (e.g., burial or marriage).

Again, the above questions indicate some considerable concern on the part of the pastor as to the whole scope of the office of a Local Elder. Favoritism, petty politics, babysitting, grass cutting, car washing, etc. have played a very large but erroneous part in qualifying many Local Elders. The need to do away with this kind of qualifying process is obvious, but some men remain in the ranks of the ordained with only these qualifications. Another question is how to remove or work with a man with such feeble qualifications.

Stress was made in pointing out that a man's private life yields much evidence as to whether he could be considered for ordination. The Local Elder should definitely represent the background of his church area. This is very important in being able to relate to the local congregation.

Ministerial Assistants

Questions: Is there a set format for advancing an M.A.? How long should a man remain an M.A.? How do you groom an M.A. for his future in the Church? Should a man have to prove himself to each new incoming pastor before he is considered for elevation?

Guidance in the field of human relations and career development for the new M.A. is a paramount necessity for the pastors. Some feel a set time period is a good way to determine when a man should be advanced. Others feel they should start right away to let the man give sermonettes and evaluate his talents along that line, because H.Q. has already proven his spiritual qualifications. Some feel an attitude of service is a good guideline.

The Field Minister

If each minister were to be asked directly the question, "What are you as a minister?" -- the answer would be almost without exception, "I am all things to all men." But is he? This is another very good question. Is he really what he thinks he is?

Some have requested that an extension course from H.Q. be provided to keep them up on the latest scriptural developments. Some also feel that joining a local civic organization such as a Toastmaster's Club keeps them in touch and gives them outside evaluations. Others may feel a wife's evaluation or the evaluation of a leading man is OK.

It is vitally important that a minister first set the right example as an individual, and secondly as the head of the family unit. Some may have lost sight of this point. In setting the right example, it was stated that H.Q. sometimes does not give the feeling of loyalty from the top down, but expects it from the bottom up. For example: I can trust you with your local church of 400, your fleet car, and your home, but I can't trust you with your expense account.

Much in the field of ministerial ethics is required. Many do not get "tie in or overlap" from the out-going minister, creating an air of uncertainty where the local organization is concerned. In many cases the congregation is not advised about a change-over until the last minute. Many men wonder why they are

being transferred or being brought into H.Q. Being a minister and a gentleman, or respecting one another with common courtesies in a professional way, will help solve many problems. Awkward and unnecessary situations of smashing organizations or others, either privately or publicly, should become a thing of the past.

Other in-depth discussions were introduced with topics such as: How do you evaluate yourself? How do you get grassroots feedback? What is your wife's responsibility in the Church? What makes you feel sensitive or uncertain in your job? How do you create a church organization and how do you delegate? How do you handle a church which needs to be split into two separate groups? What is the part of a deaconess? Never make decisions out of fear or on the spur of the moment, and never let emotions enter into decision-making.

Some expressed that from this conference it is apparent that guidelines and orientation or education along lines of blending together previous business practices with Bible principles would circumvent the vast majority of problems we have had, whether real or imagined.

We will be continuing the discussion.

(WS-12) LOCAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Moderator: Dennis Pyle
Ass't. Moderator: Paul Suckling
Secretary: Mike Justus

The purpose of the communication workshops was "to expedite a full interchange of ideas, concepts, etc., enabling ministers to improve in their profession: Church speaking, administration, counseling, and serving."

The following report, therefore, is a brief summary of those ideas. It is not a policy statement. Following are some of the ideas and concepts given.

Time and Frequency of Social Activities

"Plan a minimal amount of activities. Yet, don't legislate a specific number, etc."

"There should be no 'pressure' to attend socials."

"There is the danger of having too many activities and the resultant financial problem. They should not be compulsory."

"Should have only what is absolutely needed and wanted by the members."

"Church members starting to object because of too many socials."

"The Church should not be a big 'babysitting' organization."

"You must adapt the number and types of socials to the area you are in."

"You could draw up a questionnaire and ask the members their candid, frank opinions about programs best serving their family."

"You name it, our area did it."

"Very difficult to find one Sunday free per month. Planning ahead for one year reveals the amount of activities members are involved in within the Church."

"School activities are considered extra-curricular. Church activities should be the same."

"One major social per summer and one per winter."

"One major activity per month."

"A major activity per quarter."

"Not necessary to 'root everyone out' to socials. No pressure."

"Used to be almost mandatory to go to everything. People needed a social like they needed a 'hole in the head'."

"Shouldn't socials be supplemental to other Church functions?"

"People are just beaten over the head with socials."

"Leave their Sundays, the only day the Father has off from work other than the Sabbath, free!"

"I try to group all church activities on one Sunday per month and leave the others free."

"Some areas do not have enough activities."

Youth Activities

"Involvement cannot be delegated."

"Some young people interested in sports, etc., deprived because of Friday night sabbath."

"It is a mistake to force the child into something the parents do not like."

"Need to upgrade the teenage involvement in the Church."

"Young people need to be kept busy. Working with the parents around the home is good."

"The primary responsibility rests with the parents."

"Young people need the peer group association within the Church."

"Oftentimes we have more 'problems' with teens within the Church than we do with the new teens coming into the Church."

"Youths identify with other teens. They need activities. They need to go, go, go."

"Most parents are not 'up' on what is going on in the world."

"Boy Scouts takes a lot of time."

"Boy Scouts started off with a bang and then dwindled."

"Boy Scouts is a fantastic program in our area. Kids and parents are relishing it."

"Scattered rural areas have more difficulty maintaining enthusiasm in the Boy Scouts because of time and distance."

"Our scout troupe invites friends of Church boys to join."

"Even though it takes time with our children in all kinds of Church activities, I look upon it as a sacrifice of myself for my children."

"Youth activities, particularly for teenagers, should be given special consideration because of the needs."

Working With the Families

"One of the Church's primary functions is to 'turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to the fathers.'"

"We have gotten away from family orientation."

"People have not been taught how to be families."

"The minister should set the example family-wise. Occasionally let 'slip out' in sermons 'my family and I were...'"

"Perhaps we could formulate some suggested guidelines for a family night -- something along the line of what the Mormons have done."

"The ministry is supposed to be 'given to hospitality.'"

"Let the families initiate their own get-togethers in the form of satellite socials [clusters of people in same areas]."

"Through the over-categorization of the Church [done through different age group socials] the Church feeds the generation gap. Categorization emphasizes the separate elements of the congregation rather than the whole."

SUMMARY

Church Socials

The general consensus of the field ministry is that we are fast reaching a point where the members feel "activity to death." There were a few Pastors who desired more activities, but most felt there were far too many.

The following is a list of church involved activities and functions. Although no church area is involved in ALL these activities, many have participation in a majority of them:

Sabbath Services	Teen Club	Bowling League
Bible Study	Pre-teen Club	Softball League
Holy Days	Spokesman Club	Basketball League
Church-wide Socials	Woman's Club	Chorale
Satellite Socials	Graduate Club	French Club
Boy Scouts	Leadership Class	German Club
Explorers	Young Adult Group	Teen Prom
Girl's Club	Over 50 Group	

The question was posed: "When do the members have time to pray and study with all these activities going?" Some have wondered if the drop in Bible study attendance the last few years might reflect the increase in church activities.

The cost factor of activities should also be considered. A family can spend literally hundreds of dollars each year in trying to participate in the many different activities. They might have a teen in teen-club, a son in the basketball league, Father in Spokesman Club and Mom in Woman's Club. In some cases we have allowed a financial burden to come upon our members.

The question of how many Church involved activities we should have needs to be weighed considerably. Do socials and activities serve the same purpose today as they did ten to fifteen years ago?

Youth Problems

The problems with teens in God's Church are accelerating.

The ministry's first responsibility is to teach the parents how to work with and understand their children. Mal. 4:6: "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children...." Activities do not necessarily solve teen problems. Most of the ministers do feel that there is a definite need for teen clubs and teen activities, however.

The Church has at times been looked to as a baby sitter. It has taken away (through multiple activities) the initiative of the family to plan and do things together.

Most felt unanimously there was a need for well planned teen activities. The program needs to be kept vibrant and "involve" the youth in the planning, etc.

Spokesman Clubs

Interest in Spokesman Clubs in the United States Churches appears to be waning in many areas. Club formats have been radically altered. Some have cancelled clubs as all interested men have now graduated, but in new Church areas the ministers feel it is still a useful and helpful tool. Should the Spokesman Club manual be reviewed and perhaps revised?

Church's Responsibility vs. Parent's Responsibility

The Church, through so many activities, has tended to take away the responsibility of the parents. Malachi 4:6 was brought up repeatedly concerning this. How do we go about educating parents in the right approach to family relations? Something along the lines of the Mormon's "Family Night" was mentioned.

Involvement In Activities Outside the Church

We have created a "society within a society" or as one minister said, "we revolve around ourselves." We have duplicated activities and programs available in the community. In many instances, children of members are in local community and school activities such as the 4-H, FFA, band, etc. and whenever the Church begins the same programs, the parents are caught "betwixt and between."

We as ministers should caution members to use wisdom in deciding which activities they allow their children to participate, but need not "run scared" of participation in community and school activities.

Time Enfringement

In the past, attendance at socials was virtually mandatory. A person's spiritual zeal was gauged by wholehearted "participation in the Church" (meaning Church services, Bible studies, and all other activities). The majority of the ministers stated that attendance at socials should be strictly voluntary with no pressure to participate. They should be of a "service" nature.

One pastor said he had co-ordinated all Church activities to fall on only one Sunday per month, leaving the remaining three weekends free.

Most of the ministers said they had major socials once each quarter, and some had two per year.

Efficient Use of Time

- 1. Conducting group Bible studies with 15-20 people in a member's home. It has proved very beneficial and the members are very responsive to member comments and questions and support with the message.
- 2. Learn to use the telephone rather than a personal visit in some cases.
- 3. Assign someone to visit widows and provide for their physical needs.
- 4. Use of lunch time to visit with wife members of the congregation. Also, several and ideas of doing the lunch period for getting together with widows, etc. in a common situation.
- 5. Scheduling of several families, particularly with known handicaps, for new sessions. An opportunity to discuss problems with the team without reprisals.

How Far Do We Go in Recommendations?

Discussions came up repeatedly regarding how far we should go in making and compelling people in physical actions. The cases normally discussed were those

(WS-15) CARING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Moderator: Edward Smith
Ass't. Moderator: Les Stocker
Secretary: Ellis La Ravia

There was much valuable input and lively discussion in the Communication Workshop. Many worthwhile exchanges of ideas were presented and several areas that needed clarification were explained. Most of the ministers seemed to appreciate the candid and straightforward atmosphere in which the workshops were conducted. The most common comments and recurring questions are itemized below.

Shortage of Manpower

There were many comments from the U.S. ministers noting a lack of time to fulfill their ministerial duties because of lack of personnel. Many of them felt they were not staffed to handle the new prospectives and baptized members.

Another associated problem was a lack of attention to their family and its needs. Some felt they did not know what is the right balance in serving the people (whether prospective or baptized) and providing for the physical and spiritual needs of their own family. A few even expressed guilt feelings when taking off time to do something with their families when brethren and prospectives needed attention.

Dean Wilson had some excellent comments on planned growth for Canada and preparing assistants to handle the growth. His feeling was that properly cared for people keep the church strong, and these people pay for the ministerial costs associated with serving them. The ratio of ministers and assistants in Canada is about 1:100.

Efficient Use of Time

With the present shortage of ministerial personnel and assistants, there were many good ideas promulgated for more effective use of the minister's time:

1. Conducting group Bible studies with 15-20 people in a member's home. It has proved very beneficial and the atmosphere is very conducive to member comments and questions and rapport with the ministry
2. Learn to use the telephone rather than a personal visit in some cases
3. Assign deacons to visit widows and provide for their physical needs
4. Use of lunch time to visit with male members of the congregation. Also, several had ideas of using the lunch period for getting together with widows, etc., in a common situation
5. Assembling of several families, particularly with known complaints, for rap sessions. An opportunity to bring problems into the open without reprisals.

How Far Do We Go In Recommendations?

Discussions came up repeatedly regarding how far we should go in advising and counseling people in physical matters. The areas normally discussed were diets

and nutrition, alcoholism, legal and financial matters, purchase of a car, or home etc.

There were divergent opinions and activities in this area. Some felt that these areas should not be a part of the ministerial responsibility at all. Others felt an obligation to help and assist in all matters; even giving diets and advising in many areas. Still others felt that the ministry was skilled in Biblical knowledge and God's principles and should only counsel in general principles and guidelines. Finally, some ministers felt that they should point the member toward professional people or organizations for assistance.

The question, of course, remains: What should be the minister's role in counseling people with regard to the matters listed earlier?

Counseling Children

The question, "Should a minister counsel children (primarily teenage) apart from their parents?" also came up. Most felt that this is all right if the children desired private counseling, but that the children should be informed that the matter would need to be brought to the attention of the parents.

Guidelines In Personal Preference Areas

The subject of hair-pieces, wigs, skirt length, hair length, make-up and other areas of personal grooming and apparel were discussed quite often. There have been inconsistencies in enforcement in many church areas even to the extent that members would move to another area where the minister was more "liberal" in the application of rules and policies.

Some ministers have felt that there are absolute policies in all of these areas, others have not. There was generally, though, a misunderstanding of where the church stands in these areas. Several commented that people have learned of divergent applications through the various media of the telephone, personal contact with members in other areas, the Envoy, visiting ministers, etc.

Question: Can we have guidelines so all the ministry can speak the same thing?

Pastorate Changes

There was a generous number of comments concerning frequent changes of pastorates. The consensus was that we tend to change ministers too frequently. Most agreed that a longer tenure, three years plus, is generally desirable. The reasons: It takes a minister one or two years to really get to know the people and gain their respect and be able to serve them effectively. Also, the credibility of an individual minister and the ministry in general is enhanced with longer tenures. People often feel that they cannot divulge their innermost thoughts and problems to someone who will only be in the area for a short while. Several local elders felt that because of short tenures of the minister, people gravitated to them for counseling rather than the pastor.

Also, when pastorate changes are made, there should be overlap time to enable the new minister to get his feet on the ground. Also, the outgoing minister should fully support the incoming minister to the congregation and vice versa. Some ministers have created problems for other ministers by derogatory comments from the pulpit.

Finally, incoming ministers should make changes gradually regarding church activities, etc., so as not to upset the church or discredit the previous minister.

Care of the Elderly

The question arose as to whether the elderly should be institutionalized. If so, should these be private rest homes or operated by the church? Should members be encouraged to take the elderly into their homes (family or baptized brethren) when children are involved?

Counseling In Sexual Matters

The question was raised about how much do we counsel members in sexual matters? Should we counsel as to number of children, use of contraceptives, etc.?

Use of Church Offices

We had good reports on the utilization of church offices. Most felt that the primary utilization should be in metropolitan areas with a large concentration of people.

Advantages:

Uses the time of minister most effectively

Tends to shorten the counseling sessions. People get down to business

Ministers can be reached during specific, defined hours

It creates more of an atmosphere of stability as opposed to visiting in member's or minister's home.

Disadvantages:

It is not convenient for some members. Must make appointment at member's home

Some few are not comfortable in an office atmosphere.

Counseling Dying Members and Survivors

There were questions and comments on how to properly counsel people who are dying and their survivors. The general feeling was that some want to grieve privately, others want to have visitors and deal more lightly, while still others want to understand more of God's plan and purpose. The primary thing: the minister should be present.

First-name Basis

Should ministers and members be on a first-name basis? Or should this be limited to close friends? Most of the ministers felt no issue should be made. Most members will preface the name with "Mister" anyway.

Specific Questions

Should members be encouraged to be on a first-name basis with the ministers?

Should ministers reveal their individual sins to the congregation, or be very general by saying that we are human and have problems, too?

What is the best way to counsel people who are dying or the members of the family who survive the dead member?

Is a church office in the business district feasible?

Should people declare bankruptcy or not?

What is the church position on adoption?

How much of a burden do we place on overweight members to lose weight?

Should we visit privately with children apart from their parents?

Is it all right to visit privately with a female member in the minister's home as long as the wife is present?

What is the proper balance in spending time with family and church counseling?

Should deacons dispense anointed cloths?

What is gluttony?

How much can we use local church elders in visiting, PM contacts, etc.?

Do children qualify as a third party to allow a minister to visit with a woman?

How should we counsel young people to marry if we feel they are underage?
What is too young?

Should we visit PMs mainly rather than members?

How familiar socially should we be with members?

How much should we expect a person to change basic dietary habits, cleanliness, etc.?

With what frequency should we have church-sponsored socials?

How quickly should PMs be invited to church?

Should we strive for a particular number of visits?

How much should we advise people in physical matters?

Should we counsel people in sex relations? To what extent?

Request for assistance in preaching funerals

Under what circumstances can a minister visit women in hospitals, sickbed, etc., alone?

Should the elderly be institutionalized?

What is a proper balance in church socials and other functions?

What guidelines can we give in the area of personal preference: wigs, hair-pieces, skirt length, hair length, beards, make-up, etc.?

(WS-16) SPIRITISM AND GOD'S MINISTRY

Moderator: Sherwin McMichael & Norman Smith
Ass't. Moderator: Dale Schurter
Secretary: Wilbur Berg

In recent years, the topic of Satan and evil spirits has increasingly become the theme of books, movies, and TV programs around the world. Popular books such as Satan is Alive and Well on Planet Earth and The Exorcist have sparked the interest of millions of readers everywhere.

Chilling movies such as The Other and Rosemary's Baby (in which a woman has a baby by a demon) have been box-office attractions topped now by The Exorcist.

One major international airline is even offering a 14-day psychic package tour of England, complete with a banquet dinner sponsored by the "Spiritualist Association" of Great Britain.

Perhaps there is no more interest-arousing subject in society today than spiritism. Over the centuries people have been interested in mysticism, the occult, astrology. Today, however, in fact within the last two or three years, interest in Satan, demonism, black magic, witches, ouija boards and exorcism has literally skyrocketed. At last count, ouija boards have now outsold the ageless favorite, monopoly!

In spite of this obvious interest in the supernatural and publicity in every form of media worldwide, mankind generally does not really believe in a devil. The average person envisions the devil as a rather silly character with a red body, long pointed tail, a pair of wicked little horns, and a mischievous grin. At worst, he seems no more than a harmless bit of quaint religious tradition.

As we know, the devil does exist as a literal spirit being--an evil spiritual entity that most people know little or nothing about. Uncovering his identity, his impact on mankind as a whole, his efforts to destroy the individual, and revealing this to the Church of God is a responsibility of the ministry. We must by all means protect God's people from Satan and his demons.

The Bible reveals Satan as a being of great subtlety who has deceived the whole world. He is referred to in II Corinthians 4:4 as "the god of this world." Other passages picture him as the ancient serpent called the devil or Satan and the one deceiving the whole world (Rev. 12:9).

The Bible describes the devil as a being of superior, yet distorted, mind power capable of injecting twisted thoughts and impulses into unsuspecting human minds. Ephesians 2:2 labels him "the prince of the power of the air."

In this workshop, we addressed ourselves to the problem of Satan and demons influencing and/or possessing prospective members and influencing or even attacking members of God's Church.

There are, perhaps, two basic areas for discussion. Number one would be what might be entitled "The Battle for Your Mind." That is, the general influence that Satan applies to every individual through the society that he has created. Questions or statements here may involve the importance of controlling one's

environment. The second point would be satanic influence or possession of an individual.

Here is a brief outline of material covered:

- I. Battle for mind--beyond general influence of society--importance of controlling environment.
- II. Satanic influence/possession of individual--questions.
 - A. Any evidence of influence in members or PMs?
 - 1) How many have experienced?
 - 2) Problem in your area?
 - 3) What way?
 - B. Any evidence recent upset was Satan master-minded?
 - C. Do you feel you understand demon influence and/or possession?
 - 1) If not, what will solve lack of understanding?
 - 2) Feel it exists or not?
 - 3) How many have never preached to warn members?
 - 4) Never recognized this problem in anyone?
 - 5) Do not feel it is a force to resist?
 - D. When to be involved with demon possession?
 - 1) Member's families
 - 2) PMs
 - 3) Friends, relatives, etc.
 - E. Who can cast out?
 - 1) Experienced men
 - 2) Spiritual condition
 - 3) Danger involved?
 - F. Hypnotism, ouija boards, tarot, astrology
 - 1) Hypnotism as sedative for childbirth, dentist.
 - G. How is casting out demons done? Formula?
 - 1) What said?
 - 2) Pray, anoint?
 - H. When attend services?
 - 1) Protect church
 - I. How is demon possession expressed?
 - 1) Mental
 - 2) Physical Health.

Instant Analysis

Spiritual world very real, has many manifestations. Our ministers not confident about discernment of evil spirits, or what to do when encountered. Many feel serious need for instruction along this line.

Summary of Input

How can the ministry better recognize evil spirits? Need instruction to know when and how to deal with them. Command, anoint, lay on hands?

All strange behavior not demonism. Cause is often physiological. Or psychological. Can easily misinterpret. For example a diabetic coma can look like demon possession.

To have a demon cast out, the person must want it to leave. Most don't want to lose what they have, think such "power" is from God.

Lead PM into knowledge about demons gradually? Too soon turns away. Must first come to understand to gain motivation to fight problem. Don't invite to church with such an affliction. Many spirits want to get baptized. The possessed can't repent. How does Leviticus 19:31 and 20:6 apply to PMs?

Demons take advantage of weaknesses and wrong influences--discouragement, self-righteousness, unforgiving and accusing attitudes, negativism, pornography and sex perversions, drugs, alcoholism, movies like The Exorcist. Guard membership by strengthening them in these areas (James 4:6-11). Teach them to forgive offenses of others and be reconciled. Keep mind free of hostility, discouragement and hopelessness. Ask God to guard mind.

Demons great time wasters! Prevent minister from doing his work.

Many spirits don't go out when exorcised. Only 15% of ministers said they had cast out demons. Some spirits, if they go out of person, return. Why? Some even seem to voluntarily leave on occasion. Some ministers even question existence of demons relative to emotional and mental aberrations (2%)--relegating to natural causes.

Not our responsibility to deal with demons at this time. Exorcise only those people who ask and want to resist devil and demons.

Should we exorcise houses troubled with demons? If so, how?

ESP, ouija board real. Such experiences appeal to people because supposedly sets them above others. Most don't want to give those things up, not recognizing real problem.

Characteristics of demons vary greatly. Some dirty in behavior, others meticulously clean. Some glassy eyed, others not. Some vigorous, some reticent. Some subtle, others brash. People sometimes possessed by one demon, others have many demons. How to recognize?

Some music seems to set mood for demon influence.

What is spirit of infirmity in Luke 13:11? Can demons manifest symptoms of illness (Matthew 12:22)?

Do certain of our ministers have greater discernment than others (I Cor. 12:10)? Can ministers from other churches cast out demons?

Too much emphasis on subject makes people fearful. But still need to educate congregation so it knows what is around them and how to withstand influence.

Are all forms of hypnosis always to be avoided? Several ministers knew of cases where mind was damaged for a time after submitting.

Acts 19:12--anointed cloth carries minister's presence rather than principle showing we should anoint for evil spirits?

Is there reason to visit possessed in asylums?

Can a church lay member cast out demons?