

PASTOR'S REPORT

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NEW APPOINTMENT Ray Wright has been named vice president for financial affairs for the Worldwide Church of God, announced Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong February 12. Mr. Wright fills a post vacated by Mr. Stanley Rader February 1 when he became senior consultant to the Church. Mr. Wright has, in effect, functioned as the Church's vice president for financial affairs for some time. Mr. Rader, commenting on his resignation from the financial post, noted his "minimal involvement with the day-to-day administration of the Church and College" in recent years because of his full-time duties with Mr. Armstrong.

With Ambassador College's pursuit of accreditation, a separate business manager for the college was named earlier this year, freeing Mr. Wright to concentrate on Church matters.

SUPPORT OF YOU POLICY On behalf of Pastoral Administration, I want to go on record as saying that we are very pleased with YOU's increasing emphasis on spiritual orientation. We've been deeply pleased to see the attention to the development of character, obedience to God, the establishment and maintenance of standards of conduct, etc. that YOU has been actively fostering among the youth of the Church.

We also wanted to make it clear that Pastoral Administration totally supports both the policy and emphasis of YOU and that we expect all Field Pastors to do the same. Of particular concern is YOU's policy requiring Sabbath observance as a condition of membership in YOU. Over the years, a number of young people in the Church have made considerable sacrifice in order to keep the Sabbath. One of the motivations in the establishment of YOU was to provide activities where these young people could participate. In a way, YOU's policy regarding Sabbath observance is a gesture of respect to those young people who have faced the problem squarely, made a firm decision, and have stuck it out.

If this somehow creates a conflict for you in your local church, you should contact us immediately to discuss the matter while you continue to actively and openly support YOU policy. Any hint of a lack of solidarity between the field ministry and YOU is bound to be detrimental to the Church and especially to the youth.

The YOU policy regarding Sabbath observance for its members has the total support of Mr. Ted Armstrong as well as the Pastoral Administration Staff. However, if there is something wrong with an existing policy and there is a need to change it, then all of us, like mature Christians, will work for and stand by that change.

Thanks for your continuing support.

--Ronald L. Dart, Pastoral Administration

GTA SPEAKS OUT ON PANAMA CANAL Garner Ted Armstrong recently completed taping an extremely interesting and timely program, entitled "Fifty Miles of Trouble: The Panama Canal." The program will air on February 26 on first-leg stations and on March 5 for the remainder.

Copies of the program are being sent to the various House and Senate committees presently dealing with this extremely controversial issue. We will also be able to provide 3/4" videocassette copies to any interested civic groups or educational institutions.

In this program Mr. Armstrong analyzes the issues pertaining to the Panama Canal controversy and finds the very question of returning the waterway illustrative of a deterioration of American spirit and indicative of our coming national decline. Following is a key quote by Mr. Armstrong:

If, for whatever reason, good or bad, the Panama Canal is surrendered by the United States to another nation, it will represent a significant milestone in the prophetic decline of this country.

The program is a commentary taped in-studio. About two-thirds is covered by graphics or film, including scenes from the early 1900's of canal construction, film of U.S. forces training to defend the canal against guerillas, scenes of current use of the canal, and film of Panamanian riots.

--John Lundberg, Media Division

INTERNATIONAL NEWS In keeping with Mr. GTA's intent and direction, notice has been given to the French, German and Spanish regions to translate the Systematic Theology Project as rapidly as possible. The uniform high standard and quality of the original presentation will be preserved by ordering the binder and sub-section headings for all areas at one time, once the translations are completed.

The Spanish Work has announced a series of ministerial moves to take place over the first six months of 1978. Tom Turk, his wife Jody, and daughter Tamera, have been granted a visa which enables them to move all their household furnishings into a home in Mexico City, duty free. Tom will pastor the Mexico City Church of 96, and manage the local office and its staff. It will also be necessary for Tom to cover the territory from Guadalajara, where Alfredo Mercado, a local elder, ministers to a church of 48 members and prospectives, to Vera Cruz, Chiapas, Tabasco and Yucatan--approximately one-fourth of Mexico.

Robert Flores II, who was ordained a local elder at the ministerial conference, and his wife Dorothy, are moving to Monterrey, Mexico to minister to the Northeast section of Mexico from Tampico on the Gulf of Mexico to Ciudad Juarez near the Texas border at El Paso. Bob will be assisted by Al Sousa, a ministerial trainee, in covering this territory which is approximately one-third of Mexico. They will recommend establishment of appropriate Bible studies to minister to and feed the members and prospectives of the area.

Pablo Gonzalez has been granted a permanent working visa for Colombia and will be moving to Bogota this summer to pastor the congregation of 104 in that city. He will also conduct Bible studies in Cali,

Medellin and Barranquilla, Colombia and travel to Caracas and Barquisimeto, Venezuela where there are growing Bible studies.

Mario Seiglie and his wife, Catalina, are currently serving in the San Diego and Escondido Churches assisting James Friddle. Mario also holds Bible studies in Tijuana and Mexicali, Mexico twice a month. They will be moving to an area of Central America later this spring.

--Leslie L. McCullough, International Division

A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR CO-WORKERS A few weeks ago we mentioned the new program of inviting co-workers to attend church services when and where Mr. Ted Armstrong will be preaching for combined services. During this month 2,100 co-workers are being invited to services on February 18 in Hershey, Pennsylvania (which is near Harrisburg, the state capital).

Another 2,000 co-workers are being invited in the Pasadena-Los Angeles area to attend our February 25th Southern California combined church services at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. We are sending them ticket coupons (for preferred seating), which we hope will help us determine how many co-workers actually respond to these special invitations. Even if not many co-workers come to services, we believe much goodwill is being generated by these invitations. It shows that as a Church we are not exclusivist and that the co-workers are welcome to participate more closely with us.

Mail counts are holding up, probably due to the semiannual letter and initial responses to the latest co-worker letter. We are sure, however, that mail from the Midwest and East is being hindered to a large extent by the severe winter weather.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing

TO BE ANNOUNCED Please announce the following paragraph in Sabbath services: Attention all prospective Ambassador College students. The Admissions Committee is now accepting students for the 1978 fall semester. Completed applications will be given immediate attention and applicants should be notified within a few weeks time as to the Admissions Committee's decision. Students are encouraged to return completed applications as early as possible. For application forms and information concerning financial aids, housing, degree programs and scholarships you may write to the Admissions Office, Ambassador College, 300 West Green St., Pasadena, California, 91123.

Any minister interested in showing the movie "Welcome to Ambassador" in his church area may now obtain a copy of the film by writing to the College Relations Department. The 16 MM film narrated by Mr. Ted Armstrong, which runs approximately 28 minutes, was first shown last spring as a television special on our network of outlets throughout the United States.

--College Relations Department

QUEST INTERNATIONAL DEBUT QUEST/78 was recently simultaneously launched in more than 20 countries. Two areas of particular significance were Britain and South Africa.

Because of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's recent trips to South Africa, it was decided to invest in a small promotion budget to announce QUEST/78. In addition to ads in the press and on cinema screens,

Liam Nolan (International Editor) and Tony Vinter (International Circulation Director) were interviewed on radio, T.V. and by the press.

Following are excerpts of some of the press clippings:

QUEST believes there's lots of good in the world
Is it really possible to create a sophisticated magazine that appeals to our best instincts rather than our worst-- yet doesn't sound like a dialogue between Mrs. Grundy and Dr. Pangloss? [Editors Robert] Schnayerson and [Liam] Nolan think so, and they are backed . . . [by] Herbert W. Armstrong, founder of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation. This aims at "strengthening mankind's spiritual, mental and cultural resources throughout the world."

. . . It is an entertaining magazine, even if it is all about winners--Virginia Wade of Wimbledon, Seamus Heaney the Irish poet, Robert Shaw, successful actor and writer, photographer Andre Kertesz, premier danseur Peter Martins . . . no losers, no Playboy pictures. Everything in the garden is lovely, but no lovelies (TO THE POINT INTERNATIONAL, Feb. 6, 1978).

Questing for the good, positive side of life-- . . . at the launching of the new magazine QUEST/78, at the Heerenracht Hotel on Tuesday . . . [they were trying to tell us] . . . that the magazine is not pushing the seamy, negative, iconoclastic approach to life and people. But what is positive and uplifting, revealing the best--not the worst--of people and their achievements in all spheres of living

These days you've got to have a pretty strong reason to launch a magazine when far more periodicals and newspapers are folding rather than prospering.

But it is good that here is one that is staking its all that there are millions who've had a belly full of all the world's bellyaching and are prepared to read and buy (most important of all) a magazine projecting those aspects of our lives which are still wonderful, worth celebrating and still excellent (Fiona Chisholm, THE CAPE TIMES, Jan. 19).

We hope to end up with a circulation in SOUTH AFRICA approaching 20,000 by the year's end. The first issue looks like it will be in the range of 15,000-18,000 (newsstand and subscription copies). Bob Fahey reports strong interest by South African advertisers. We hope to be able to include these advertisers in the third international issue.

In BRITAIN where a much larger promotion campaign introduced the magazine, we have had excellent sales. Final figures will show a circulation in the area of 90,000 copies for the first issue. (Since some subsequent issues will not be so heavily promoted, sales will, of course, drop.)

We were able to advertise QUEST/78 on T.V. which I know was tremendously encouraging to the British brethren. This was the first time "the Work" has been able to use T.V. for any of its activities. The response is more than we imagined we would achieve and Frank Brown and his team are working hard to maintain the initial success.

--Jack Martin, Vice President of Publishing

ON THE WORLD SCENE

NAMIBIA CRISIS: Over the weekend there has been a breakdown in efforts to secure a peaceful transition to an independent Namibia (South West Africa). South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha left U.N. sponsored talks on the issue in New York saying, "I am going away profoundly disappointed." He added that Western negotiators fail to appreciate the need for adequate military safeguards to prevent a takeover by Marxist terrorist forces.

The South African government, present overseers of the territory, has bent over backwards to comply with demands of the United Nations and the "Big Five" Western powers in the Security Council--the U.S., Great Britain, France, Canada, West Germany. Pretoria agreed to the principle of free elections under U.N. auspices, according to the formula of one-man-one-vote.

What then, is holding up the process? Simply this. The "Big Five" have caved in to the demands of the guerrilla group, SWAPO (South West African People's Organization), that South African anti-guerrilla security forces in the territory be greatly scaled down prior to elections, which would permit SWAPO bands to intimidate the population in heavily-populated Ovamboland in northern Namibia into voting its way. Without intimidation, it is extremely doubtful SWAPO could win in any open election.

The Big Five are pushing for the replacement of South African troops by a U.N. force--mostly from Black African nations. This would not solve the problem, however, since the U.N. is already on record as recognizing SWAPO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people"--hardly an impartial stand. In the eyes of the Ovambos (half the population) the U.N. and SWAPO are virtually the same.

Further indication of the U.N. and Big Five bias is the fact that America's U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young hosted a formal dinner party Thursday evening in New York for SWAPO guerrilla chief, Sam Nujoma, who two days later vowed to keep fighting to win on the battlefield what he may not be able to get at the conference table. Thus, both the U.S. and Britain are committing the same blunder in Namibia as well as in Rhodesia--placating the "guys with the guns" instead of throwing support behind moderate, peaceful leaders seeking broad-based popular support.

Where have the senses of our leaders gone?

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau

LETTER COMMENTS

The weather is very much in the news so we are running comments on the subject. All of these letters were received this past week and

would concern the first big storm which occurred the middle and latter part of January.

The weather has been pretty rough for us here, not much work for me.

--Gus Permann (Glen Ullin, ND)

We are having terrible blustery weather today so do not know when you will get this or whether the mail can go or not.

--Olive Detrick (Jackson Center, OH)

My husband has a short paycheck because of missed work due to the bad weather we have been having in this area.

--Mrs. William Mayer (Philadelphia, PA)

I was afraid I wasn't going to get the tithe sent out. We are right in the middle of the blizzard and we haven't received our mail for a week.

--Mrs. Starling Beekman (Peebles, OH)

Enclosed are my tithes for January. It is less than usual, but I have not been working as much due to the bad weather.

--Mary Farmer (Harrisburg, IL)

Sorry that I am sending my tithes in a few days late. We had some terrible weather here in Ohio. The Dayton area had more snow than we have ever had, all in a couple of weeks. Because of this bad weather our checks came in late.

--Dale McCarroll (Dayton, OH)

Columbus, Ohio is getting back to work after four days of no bus service and impossible driving conditions. We all missed two days of work last week. This winter, and last too, has been bitterly cold and all one could do to get to work and safely home. We have not had Sabbath services in Columbus for two weeks.

--Mrs. Mary Whiting (Columbus, OH)

We are snowed in here. We had ten inches of snow and it snowed all day today. I am getting old and afraid to get out. I get so tired being shut in. Everything is closed down anyway.

--Alby Hoglen (West Plains, MO)

Haven't gotten paid yet. I have been off work two days already because of the ice and snow.

--Dean Hickman (Columbus, OH)

We have our hands full contending with a devastating blizzard in Ohio. It's reportedly the worst in the state's history, which offers very little consolation. It sure would be nice to be in California--I'd even settle for Alaska.

--Gene Fox (Springfield, OH)