

PASTOR'S REPORT

PUBLISHED BY THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. 2, NO. 38

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 25, 1978

MR. RADER COMMENTS ABOUT HIS ROLE IN THE WORK

Editor's Note: PASTOR'S REPORT #37 (Sept. 21) contained Mr. Rader's comments about Faith which he delivered in Tucson on September 18. However, space did not permit us to print his concluding comments of that date, which we now include in this report. Our readers should find them most interesting and informative.

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I want to share something more with you today that I have been sharing with members of my own immediate staff at headquarters. My staff work in the Financial Affairs area and are exposed to all of the financial data of the Work. Many of these people may begin to think that because they have access to the information, they know what was best for every other department, and, inevitably, a few may begin to think they even know what is best for Mr. Armstrong and hence what is best for the Work. I cautioned them that, as much as they know, they don't know everything. The Test that I gave them was as follows: to think for a moment. "Take the person closest to you, whether it be a wife or a husband, a father or a mother, a child, a close friend, a business associate, and I guarantee you that there is something important, something relevant, something material about that person that you don't know. Yet you would feel confident that you know that person like a book. (That would be the type of expression that you might use.) You can read him like a book. You know him like the back of your hand, and so on and so forth. Each of you, those of you who have been married for a long time, I assure you that there are things about your mate that you do not know. I'm not saying it's something that's bad. I'm not saying it's something that's being hidden from you consciously, but there are things that we will tell our friends, there are things that we will tell our parents, there are things that we will tell our children, there are things that we will tell our ourselves, but there are also things we won't even tell ourselves."

Hence I cautioned them about feelings of omniscience, of knowing it all, of presuming to know better than others and so forth.

Of late, I have had to think a little bit more about my own role in the Work. As weeks go by, I get many letters from brethren around the country, and many from ministers who have responded to me and to Mr. Armstrong who has invited comment about me. I have found a remarkable number of letters which have said that "we don't know why we didn't trust Mr. Rader, but we wondered about his motivation. We wondered where he came from. And now we began to think, why? Why did we question his motivation?" These are some of the conclusions that I come to--not necessarily conclusions, but in some cases observations.

Essentially, I was called to serve Mr. Armstrong who is Christ's Apostle in this end time. In essence, there was simply no way for me to serve Christ, to serve the Living God, and to serve Mr. Armstrong, and at the same time, win a popularity contest. In fact, I never entered a popularity contest. But, if I had tried, I would have certainly lost because it was only important that I satisfy the needs of Christ's Apostle. It made no difference if I pleased others--not that I tried to discourage others, not that I tried to hurt anybody else. The only person that I had to satisfy by my performance, by my service, if you please, was Mr. Armstrong.

Because I was consistent in that service and forthright, candid, and cogent in my advice over the years, I have picked up few, if any, friends within God's Work. I've had to deal with issues, rather than with people. And I've had to be objective and unemotional. I've had to be more rational not irrational. And too often, I'm afraid, just as a concomitant of doing my job, as I was called to do that job, I have stepped on the toes of other people, because by serving Mr. Armstrong, I incurred their enmity or their resentment or their jealousy or their envy. And whatever "personality" you have, as a consequence simply becomes injured and eroded as time passes. One has only so much capital of this sort. And every time that I had to throw myself into a breach, every time I had to do something in opposition to what Mr. Armstrong knew had to be done in order for God's Work to be fulfilled, more of my personality was eroded. And that capital, you might say, was diminished.

And as a consequence, I have realized that for 19 years--the first 19 years--before my baptism in '75, I had remained somewhat of a "mystery man." That's the word that keeps turning up in the letters. I was very visible. My picture appeared in a lot of places. My name appeared in a lot of places. And I appeared with Mr. Armstrong very often. But I had deliberately kept myself from being identified as an individual. I was always very solidly with Mr. Armstrong on every issue and on everything that was important to the Work. And as a consequence, I was always simply merged with him. And that was the proper role for me to play.

In some cases, I became a scapegoat for the failures and frustrations of others. At other times I served as a lightning rod to protect Mr. Armstrong and to protect the entirety of the Church from any harm.

But, in 1975, upon my baptism, an event that was received with an outpouring of love and affection from the brethren, I began to suffer an unjustified attack on my reputation and character from Ted Armstrong and a few in his close circle.

Therefore, I have come to believe very strongly, particularly in recent weeks that my direct role in the Work will end at a time that is perfectly coterminous with Mr. Armstrong's role in the Work. We hope and pray that he will remain strong and vigorous in order that this Great Commission be fulfilled within his lifetime. But if that should not be in the nature of things, then I feel that would be the time that my direct role in the Work will also come to an end.

But I want you all to know that my Faith in the Living God grows stronger each day, as it has for the past 22 years. And I tell you this with as much power as I can muster because without that Faith, and without that Faith growing each day, I don't think I could continue to perform my work, because it is a very, very lonely place from which I work. I have had to leave behind me all of my friends, all of my past associations. I've had to leave behind me in a certain emotional sense or spiritual sense, my children, as well as my wife. They're not antagonistic to the Work and they love Mr. Armstrong very much. But they are not in the Church. And all of you who are, know what that means. And as a result of leaving those things behind, and because I have made few friends within the Work, I have had to become closer and closer to God.

It is difficult also because in the position that I'm in, there is no one in God's Work, other than Mr. Armstrong and the Living God, with whom I can share openly and candidly and revealingly the personal burdens of my own position. Everybody in the Work can come to me and over the years they have. I have counselled with people in the Work of any consequence by telephone, face to face, and by letter. You can name the person, and I've counselled with him. But I can't go to others for personal counsel. I can go to Mr. Armstrong but I don't want to burden him. So, I only have one other person that I can go to, and of course, that's the Living God.

Thus, I want you to understand that in the performance of my duties, in the performance of those things which have been delegated to me by Mr. Armstrong, how very important it is that I have Faith and how very important it is that I continue to grow each day in Faith because the work that I have to do for Mr. Armstrong does not become any easier as time goes on.

SUBSCRIBER DEVELOPMENT LIT PULLING WELL A new flyer has been recently designed by the Subscriber Development staff and Graphics department, which we call the "Add Flyer." It is sent to all new subscribers to The PLAIN TRUTH and offers them the following literature: Does God Exist?, Why Were You Born?, and The Seven Laws of Success. Responses to this new "Add Flyer" are coming in very well. In the first 18 days after it was first mailed to new subscribers, MPC had received a 16.7% response!

Responses from our offer in The PLAIN TRUTH magazine to all those requesting The Modern Romans booklet has also done exceptionally well. In four weeks time we sent out 32,918 flyers offering The PLAIN TRUTH. As of September 15th, approximately 18% had requested the magazine!

A new article series on "Christian Living" was offered to co-workers and donors in the August "Co-Worker Newsletter." In only four days it had drawn a 5% response from co-workers. We believe that all of these very good response rates show that our readers and supporters are hungry for more of God's Word -- and that Mr. Armstrong's new drive to spiritually "beef up" the Work's literature and outreach is answering a REAL NEED in people's lives!

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

UPCOMING Y.O.U. YOUTH CONFERENCE The 1978 annual International Youth Conference is just around the corner. Plans are being made for a December 26 through December 30 schedule somewhere in the midwest. The most promising sites are in Oklahoma and Kansas.

It is impossible to have the conference in Pasadena because there are too many representatives to house on campus. To offset the housing costs it is necessary to choose a central location, thereby saving the difference on transportation costs and travel time.

Again this year we are planning on having two representatives from each Y.O.U. chapter -- one boy and one girl. We will send you forms in a future mailing to complete with the names of your representatives. The deadline for the return of that information will be November 1, 1978. Transportation for the representatives will be paid from Headquarters for those from churches with current chapter memberships. (Any Church which has not yet renewed its chapter charter may want to do so soon in preparation for the conference.) Others wishing to send representatives are welcome to come at their own expense. We are now making arrangements for the featured speakers and workshop sessions. More detailed information will be forthcoming as the program becomes finalized.

We are planning to tape the featured speakers for distribution to all chapters after the conference. No tapes of the workshops will be sent, but the workshop moderators will provide an outline of the important points which will be sent to the chapters along with the tapes. This will cut down on the expense of taping and mailing costs and still provide a written verification of what was said for the convenience of all pastors and Y.O.U. coordinators.

We are looking forward to an exciting and profitable conference and will continue to keep you posted as we go.

--Ron Dick, Y.O.U.

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE New records for September were set this week with over 107 degree temperatures for two or three days here in Southern California. The Plain Truth newsstand program has also set new records with 6,509 new P.T. subscriptions in the last five days.

We're suggesting that newsstand coordinators get together informally at their respective Feast sites to compare notes and go over ideas for improving the very worthwhile newsstand program. A representative will be selected at each site who will be responsible for getting the people together. I will be discussing this with Sherwin McMichael at the Festival Office.

-- Roger Lippross, Publishing

ON THE WORLD SCENE

BIG WOES FOR TWO DOLLARS There seems to be no end in sight to the plunging value of both the American and Canadian currencies. Regarding the latter, the Canadian dollar has dipped below 85 U.S. cents for the first time since the 1930s Great Depression. An 80-cent dollar appears around the corner. Sluggish economic growth, an inflation rate in excess of 9 percent and the continued uncertainty over Quebec's break-away threat are prime factors. Prime Minister Trudeau hopes to spur an improvement in the economy before national elections next spring. If he can't pull it off, his political future is seriously in doubt.

Regarding the American dollar, nothing seems to help it, not even the qualified success of the U.S. President at Camp David. Today (September 26) it plunged to a new all-time low (everyday produces a new all-time low) against the Swiss franc. In one three-hour trading session the dollar lost 2% of its SFr value! The dollar will now buy only 1.47 Swiss franc. A one-to-one ratio is seen by some. The dollar will also fetch only 1.93 West German marks. Only once in history was it ever that low.

The run on the dollar has entered a panicky, almost irrational syndrome. Every tidbit of bad news concerning the U.S. economy sends it down again, whether the reaction is truly warranted or not. Said one European banker: "The dollar is no longer a currency. It's an animal that waves with every political announcement."

There are over 600 billion dollars in circulation outside of the U.S. in banks, central banks, and in the portfolios of the money managers of the huge multinational corporations. Just a slight jiggle of bad news -- and millions of dollars are nervously dumped! And with the plunge of the dollar the price of gold has reached around \$220 an ounce.

The dollar crisis is making the European nations more determined than ever to establish the European Monetary Union they have discussed over the past several months.

For a while it looked like the EMU plan -- approved in principle at the July Common Market summit in Bremen, West Germany -- was in for some trouble, due to differences between France and West Germany, as well as reservations by some other EEC members. Now however, a compromise appears to have been made for implementing the first stages of a monetary union early next year.

Each downward dip of the dollar makes European currency stability that much more imperative. Belgian Premier Leo Tindemans said in Tokyo on September 21 that Europe must establish a unified currency system to protect itself from the effects of the rapidly-weakening dollar.

Tindemans, in Tokyo for the first official visit by a Belgian premier, said he briefed Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda on the importance of a unified European currency unit (ECU).

"There is \$600 billion floating around," Tindemans said of the Euro-dollar market, the pool of dollars held outside the United States or on the books of the U.S. banks' foreign branches. "Should one country be asked to take all those dollars, that country's currency would rise, wreaking havoc on the economy," he said.

At the annual International Monetary Fund (IMF) meeting currently underway in Washington, the sick dollar and the chaos of floating exchange rates is a hot topic of debate.

French Finance Minister Rene Monory told the IMF that it is not surprising more and more countries are opting for a return to some kind of fixed parities, such as the proposed European monetary union.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau