

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHURCH OF GOD — SEVENTH DAY

Post Office Box 2370

Denver, Colorado

Sept. 1, 1954

Dear Brethren:

BLESSINGS FROM THE LORD

It has been some time since you have heard from either the budget committee or from the General office. This does not mean that we have forgotten you. The Lord has been and still is very good to us, and we feel that we want to share some of these blessings with you brethren.

CAMP MEETINGS

The summer is almost gone. The camp meetings are over, but not forgotten. The first camp meeting that I attended was in North Dakota. This was a very good meeting. The Lord was there. One mother of three children gave her life to the Lord and was baptized. She went home with great joy in her heart as did also her husband. Then we attended the Lodi, California meeting. This, too, was a wonderful meeting. Fourteen gave their hearts to the Lord and twenty-one were added to the church. Several others were reclaimed. Next was the Michigan camp meeting. God was there in our midst. Five were added to the church at that meeting and as a result of that meeting we are looking for others to be with us who have not yet cast their lot with us. Bro. Charles E. Adams reports a good camp meeting in Canada in which four cast their lot with the church and several others were reclaimed. The last camp meeting was held in Stanberry, Mo. It, too, was a wonderful meeting. An attendance of 250 was enjoyed in the first meeting. God sent us many showers of blessings, both in literal and spiritual rain. Nine were baptized and ten were added to the church. This makes forty-one added to the church in the above mentioned camp meetings. The brethren in Oklahoma had a camp meeting also, but I do not have a report of it. I feel sure that it was a good meeting as the brethren there usually have good meetings. Brother Olson had a short convention in North Carolina which just closed and I do not have the report from there. I was also in the state of New York where one sister joined our number and we rejoice with her.

OTHER BLESSINGS

On my way back I stopped in District 7 where Bro. W.W. McMicken is the Overseer. I was very pleasantly surprised to find a new church group there of about forty-eight members. Nearly all of these folks came in from Sunday churches in the last two years. These brethren are happy in the truth and have real pleasure in worshipping the Lord according to the Bible teachings. Also in another part of that same district, they are building a new church with a nice number of members. Upon my return from the Stanberry camp meeting, we had a letter from a church who is not with us now, but wants some one to come there because they would like to cast their lot with us. I also have a report of a group of people with several churches that want to work with us. Brethren, I am very happy and much encouraged with all these blessings, because I know these reports are not wild guesses, but are genuine. These brethren want to work with us because they see that the church is moving forward and that we try to reach out to a world that is going down fast. Brethren, if we are humble and stay that way, God takes pleasure in blessing us.

The world is hungry for something real. People have come to ministers after hearing only one sermon, saying, "This is what we need, but we don't get it any more." Brethren, let us remember our duties that God has placed on each one. There are many sheaves yet to be gathered. Will you stand empty handed when the Lord comes?

OUR NEEDS

## OTHER BLESSINGS

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## OUR NEEDS

We are still in great need of your help. Permit me to tell you some of our needs. Sometimes I wonder just which department is the most important, and after meditating upon that, I always come to the same conclusion. All are of equal importance. We may have to do some things first, but eventually all departments must function PROPERLY in order to accomplish the work of the Lord.

## FOREIGN MISSIONS

It is a direct command of the Lord to go into all the world and preach the gospel. We have tried to carry on this work under great difficulty because of the financial conditions. Our foreign workers are behind in their allowance just like some of our ministers here at home. These brethren in foreign fields need their salaries to keep on in the work.

## HOME MISSIONS

Next I want you brethren to know that without a strong home field, it is impossible to keep up a foreign work. The home field is our means whereby we support all departments and even our home fields in our districts. Did you ever think about that? Most all churches have become strong only through Home Missions. This is only sensible reasoning. It is not only reasoning, but it is cold facts. There is an organization which does not hold church meetings or evangelistic meetings. Yet they baptize hundreds and thousands of people. How do they do it? The answer is Home Missions (house to house work.) Our Home Mission department has planned a wonderful program, but is badly jeopardized because of lack of funds to carry out its plans. Brethren, I am convinced that if every one saw what the Home Missions Department is capable of really doing, you would all stand ready to push it through.

## PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT

It is equally impossible to get along without the Publishing Department. I would say this department is the heart of our work. Without it, we would lose all contacts. Besides that, it has, in many cases, taken the gospel in print to places where a minister could not go. Our publications have reached hearts that could not be touched by ministers. The tracts and Sabbath School quarterlies are silent and yet very effective witnesses for the Truth. Let us boost this work. Do you want a part in it?

## MINISTERIAL DEPARTMENT

Let us look at the ministerial department with its radio work. Do you know of any other or better way by which the gospel can be brought to the millions? I wish all of you could see the hundreds of letters coming in to the office. You could soon see why we want to see the radio work go on, even in a much greater measure than we have in the past. This work can become self supporting. However, we must carry the load until such is the case.

The Lord will soon be here. Have we done our duty to save those groping in darkness? By way of our radio program we have heard of people who did not even know that our church existed and they have become members of our church.

## OUR SCHOOLS

What could be of greater influence and bring our young people and ministers into greater unity than our schools? This is another department that has been neglected much too long in our church, and we should stand behind our schools with all our might. Through our schools our young people are being taught the good Christian principles they all need so badly in this present world. Brethren, your hearty support is needed for all these good things.

We do very highly appreciate your help, not for our sakes, but for the work of the Lord. Try the Lord. Tithes is an obligation; it belongs to the Lord. Offerings are a blessing and the Lord will surely bless you if you will do all you can for the Master's cause. Try Him.

Your humble brother,

*E. A. Straub*  
E.A. Straub, Chairman