

TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus:

Again we would like to come into your homes and have a little chat with you. So, please do not throw this down before you know what it is all about.

To some of you, it may seem there is just too much demand for funds to carry on the work. Yet when one really considers the matter, is this not the way it should be? The greater the program and progress, the more it will cost to carry it on.

Of course, as the work progresses, we will have more and more members to help with this load, or would it not be better to say, share in this privilege. Truly, it is a privilege for human beings to be asked to have a part in the great plan of salvation. Can we possibly look upon it otherwise?

We are happy to report that real progress is being made in the work of the church. Our radio program is bringing us new contacts. Contacts with people, some of whom have been almost at the doorsteps of some of our local organized churches and who did not know that we existed. Our brethren in charge of this program are to be commended for their efforts which, along with your support, is bringing success to this part of our work.

The Home Missions Department, which has only recently begun to function, has a program that promises results that are also commendable, and while the Ministerial Department has been going ahead with the radio work, this latter arm of service is beginning to be generally felt.

The Educational Department has been pretty well advertised, and we are confident you will agree that the students of our schools, Spring Vale Academy and Midwest Bible College, are to a large extent the hope of our tomorrow in the Church of God if we are to continue in the program of preaching the gospel to all the world. From the college we hope to produce men and women who are missionary minded, and who are prepared to go out as ministers, evangelists, missionaries and workers in all lines of church activity.

In future letters we shall deal more extensively with the program and needs of the Ministerial, Home Missions, and Educational Departments, but in this letter we would like to call special attention to our Foreign Missions Department.

The reason we are picking this department for mention at this time is because, here and at this time, there is a very particular and urgent need, which, interpreted into the language of a truly converted Christian would read, "a very particular and urgent opportunity." Yes! Opportunity to be about our Father's business; opportunity to minister to the needs of mankind and, ultimately, opportunity for a joyous meeting in the kingdom of God with the fruits of our labors.

In the Foreign Missions work, the leaders have constantly been at their wits end trying to meet the requests and needs of the field abroad. These needs call for both more money and more workers.

It is true we have expanded some in our Foreign Missions efforts, yet we have a long way to go to be comparable to other denominations. We do not wish nor are we planning on going into this program of expansion in the foreign fields blindly with little knowledge of how the funds are spent, just to say we have a foreign missions program. We are doing our best to limit our support to only the authentic requests with the limited money we have for this use.

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It is, however, gratifying to receive reports of progress in spite of the little we have been able to do in the fields abroad.

We shall just mention a few of the encouraging things we have learned from these fields. In Africa, we have more than 350 students in our schools, receiving a Christian education. In this way our missionary work is being enhanced, because children taught about God will respond at times where their parents are already set in their ways.

The results of this work are best understood when we tell you that a recent report from Nigeria told of the baptism of forty-one persons.

From the West Indies also comes encouraging word, but the greatest expansion in our foreign work is seen in Mexico, where we now have 130 churches and most of them with far larger memberships than we now have in the United States.

To all three of these fields mentioned we have sent representatives from this country and while these contacts were limited and of short duration, yet we are seeing the results of those contacts.

We feel God is calling us to further expansion and have undertaken another venture into foreign lands. Many of you remember the work of the Adams family in Nigeria and some have heard of the work done in the West Indies by Elder Charles Adams last spring. Now we propose to send them to the Philippines. Once before we started to send both Elder Adams and Elder Straub there for a short stay; but the expense of such a trip and for so short a stay made it impractical, and the venture was abandoned. Now we propose to send Elder Adams and family there for at least a two-year stay, circumstances and conditions permitting, and we have already started work on this. Getting them over there will incur considerable expense and then we must support them while there.

A down payment has already been made on their passage, but we lack funds to complete this and to also continue the foreign work already in progress and which we are obligated to continue.

One reason why we come to you with this letter so soon after the previous one is that the balance of passage has to be raised before the first of May. That may seem a long time off, to some of you; but the time can slip up on us before we know it. The time to act on this matter is right now.

Other departments have had their needs laid before you from time to time, and it is not our intention to boost one department at the expense of another, for really, under our present budget system, it is intended that no department should go without the necessities for operation. But from time to time it is expedient to bring more forcibly to your attention the needs of specific departments.

We have urged that all churches co-operate with us in the taking of a special offering each week for the general fund, for it is from this fund largely that our departments must get their support.

It is not intended that anyone should be deprived of the privilege of making a special offering for any department which they feel they wish to support. Anyone has the privilege of sending in ear-marked funds for whatever department they wish, and this will be credited to said departments. If, for instance, one would wish to help with this special project of sending the Adams family, they will be permitted to send what they will and it will be appreciated. But it is not our intention to make special drives, one after another, as was done before the budget system was inaugurated; however, we feel that all of you will pardon us if we find it necessary to make a special drive now and then for something coming up which was not provided for in the regular budget.

If some of you live where you cannot co-operate with us through a local church, would you send something to help with this program through your state or district treasurer? Or if you do not know the address of such, then send it directly to "The Church of God General Conference, P.O. Box 2370, Denver, Colorado," and it will be used for the work of the Master and also will be properly credited to your district.

It is later than you think. What we do we must do quickly. Already we are being squeezed out of India. How long do we have for this work? No one knows save Him whose work it is, and to whom we stand responsible for how we have tried to get this important job done.

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We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours for a greater work to the glory of God,

A. E. Lidell, Chairman
Burt F. Marrs
E. A. Straub

The Budget Committee