

# Church of God News—

# WORLDWIDE

*Ministerial Conference convenes — new truth and new doors opened. More Churches and Bible studies begun. Greatest growth ever planned.*

by David Jon Hill

“**W**E ARE going to have to accomplish more in the *next two years* than we have in the *past thirty-three!*” This sobering yet thrilling statement made by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong set the theme for the 1967 Ministerial Conference at Headquarters here in Pasadena. From January 9, through January 19, the key ministers from around the world convened for the thirteenth time in the most important conference on the face of the earth!

I have been blessed in being able to attend each one of these Conferences and feel qualified to say that this year's Conference was *outstanding!* Just as each Feast of Tabernacles seems to get better than the last, so does each Ministerial Conference — but *this* Conference was not just “better than the last”—it was **OUTSTANDING!** This seems to be the year God's Work goes into *high gear!*

## From The Conference

You will be reading articles in *The GOOD NEWS* in future months which will be the direct fruit of this Conference. A very thorough study of the farming situation has been taking place on our Ambassador Campus in Texas, and a thorough report of all their findings will be presented to you in the months following. A thorough and better understanding of God's tithing laws and the *real purpose* for them

came very clear in this Conference. Articles on this subject will be coming your way. Also many more principles of family relations—the husbands' and wives' responsibilities to each other and their children—were thoroughly discussed and more articles are already assigned to cover these discussions and decisions.

Subjects ranging from the understanding of God's laws on mixed fabrics to the milking of cows on the Sabbath were expounded and each of these will find its way into sermons in your local congregations and later into articles or question box answers in the pages of this magazine.

Most important of all was the mas-

sive work on the subject of warfare and a complete understanding of God's command “Thou shalt not kill” that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong presented to the Conference ministers. A great deal of time and energy—both physical and spiritual—has gone into the preparation of this subject. New light from God's Word and a most thorough understanding of the subject has come out of that time and effort. As soon as the finishing touches are put on by Mr. Armstrong, he plans to run the product serially in the pages of *The GOOD NEWS*.

There were also many reports made from around the world regarding the state of the Work—there were ordi-



Our Pastor-General, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, presided at the majority of the meetings.

*Ambassador College Photo*

Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong addresses the conclave of ministers during an afternoon session.  
Ambassador College Photo



nations (which will be covered individually in the next issue of this magazine) — the most productive Ministerial Conference to date has adjourned and the new life that it inspired in the men responsible for carrying out the commission God has given to His Church will be felt more dynamically in this year to come than in any other past year!

#### 1966 In a Nutshell

A very succinct annual report on the growth of churches, Bible studies and ministers in the Church of God worldwide in 1966 was given at this Conference. Following are some excerpts from this report.

The total income increase this year fell below the usual 30 percent to a 24.7 percent — this should drive us to our knees more often and more fervently and make us more diligent in our own tithes and offerings, sacrificing more than ever for the Work in this year to come.

In the calendar year of 1966, 26 new churches were raised up, 18 in the United States and 8 in foreign countries. This brings the total number of churches worldwide to 146. In this same year there were 34 *new* ordinations and 26 raises in rank in God's Ministry, bringing the total number of ordained men to 210. In addition to these ordained men, there are 41 unordained men serving full time ministering to the churches throughout the world.

The total number of people attending church in the United States at the end of 1966 was almost 35,000 and there were 5,100 plus attending in foreign countries giving a worldwide total of over 40 thousand people at-

tending services each week in God's Church worldwide!

In the United States alone there are a total of 115 churches with an average attendance in each of these of 304 persons. Although there are 134 men visiting full time in the United States, each is responsible for serving an average of 261 people! Overseas, taking charge of the 32 churches, are 27 full-time men each serving an average of 189 people! In addition to these church locations there are 39 separate Bible studies worldwide available to brethren who do not have a local church to attend.

#### New Churches

Three new churches have been begun since the fall 1966 report on worldwide distribution of manpower which you all received with the October-November GOOD NEWS.

On November 12, of last year the Manchester, New Hampshire Bible study became the Manchester Church! Mr. Raymond Cole, the District Superintendent and an Evangelist in God's Ministry was on hand for the first Sabbath service there. Mr. Reg Platt is the resident pastor serving the more than 170 people in attendance each Sabbath.

Later that same month Mr. Frank Schnee raised up a new church in Munich, West Germany. There were 30 people in attendance on that Sabbath, November 26. Mr. Frank Schnee and the Local Elder, Mr. Gunar Freibergs, have a unique situation in Germany. With the new church in Munich there are now four churches for these two

Mr. Dale Schurter gave a full report on the tremendous progress being made in the Texas Farm Program.

Ambassador College Photo

men to pastor. Each of these churches is from 100 to 200 miles from the others and in Europe that's a long way!

Therefore, the four German churches each meet only once a month. Mr. Schnee finds himself traveling on a circuit through Assyria just like Samuel did going through a circuit in ancient Israel stopping at Beth-el, Gilgal, and Mizpah each year. In today's Germany Herr Schnee and Herr Freibergs travel in circuit to Frankfurt, Hamburg, Düsseldorf, and Munich, month by month!

During the successive Sabbaths in all four cities the day begins around nine in the morning. After a little fellowship, a Bible study begins at 9:30, and during the next hour and a half or so the German members are able to have questions they have accumulated during the month answered straight from God's Word by God's Minister. The meeting place in each instance is a fine hotel and the people adjourn from the Bible study to have a pleasant luncheon together. Then a sermonette is delivered, special music and announcements are given, then a full sermon just as in any Sabbath service anywhere in the world in God's Church. After Sabbath services in the afternoon the brethren again get together for fellowship and personal counsel — this time over cake and coffee! Mr. Schnee reports it is usually about 6:00 p.m. before the last member leaves! The membership of each church runs some-

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in the Kingdom of God?" the motivation must be that of wanting to give and serve. We are all *preparing* so we can be qualified to be mighty *SERVANTS* in God's Kingdom.

This takes time and experience. No one is qualified to assume a position of rulership immediately upon entering God's Church. Much growth and overcoming is necessary. Therefore, no *NOVICE* (I Tim. 3:6) — no inexperienced and unqualified "greenhorn" — is ready to discharge the sweeping and awesome responsibilities of rulership in God's family.

We must all go through a time of trial and testing before God will entrust such powers to our charge. Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have

finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Tim. 4:7). We also must prove faithful "under fire." It is the heat of the battle that changes the boot camp trainee into an experienced, battle-hardened veteran. Even so we must have our character proven "under fire." We must remain on the firing line no matter how rugged the battle might be. Christ said, "he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Mat. 24:13).

*Now is the time* to be developing these qualities in *your* character. Don't let down — don't become *careless* in your conduct! Make sure those who are following you will be able to *see* Christ living His life in you. Remember — our goal is perfection.

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where between 30 and 75, so the Sabbath during the month when each church gets to meet is really just a big *family* Feast Day — both in the good food which is available in the fine German hotels where they meet, and in the *more precious spiritual food* which they receive from God's Word.

list and the Business Manager for God's Work. Mr. Portune had previously been pastoring the San Diego church and this has now become the full responsibility of Mr. Richard Plache, a former field minister of Pastor rank who has been called into Headquarters to serve on the Faculty and to



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Mr. Gerald Waterhouse and Mr. Wayne Cole discuss a personal point just prior to a session.

The fastest growing church area is the Headquarters District centering around Pasadena. In the past as more members were brought into the Church by God here at Headquarters it became necessary to establish other congregations in the nearby vicinity to take the overflow from the halls we were using. This process continued until we now have 11 churches served from the Campus in Pasadena. The latest addition of a new congregation was established in Anaheim, California on December 24, by Mr. Albert J. Portune, an Evange-

be Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong's assistant. Nearly 170 were in attendance for the first Sabbath service, but the Anaheim church will soon be over 200 as it is located in a very rapidly growing area as far as prospective members for God's Church is concerned.

### New Bible Studies

A new monthly Negro Bible study was begun in New Orleans, Louisiana

on November 23. The racial situation in the southern areas makes it unwise for mixed meetings, so we are very thankful that we are able to have Mr. Elbert Atlas, a recent graduate from Ambassador College and a fully ordained Preaching Elder in the Church of God to serve his own colored brethren in this area. The attendance figure was not very high but considering that only the colored brethren were present, it was heartening to read of the 45 who were in attendance there.

On December 4, a new Bible study was begun in Farmington, New Mexico. Mr. Cecil Battles drove the 150 miles from his central location in Albuquerque to Farmington in the extreme northwest corner of New Mexico to provide the once-a-month Bible study for the 45 brethren who are able to attend from that very sparsely settled area. With the addition of Farmington this gives Mr. Battles the responsibility for one entire state since he also has a Bible study in Las Cruces and the church there in Albuquerque.

### Future Growth

The Building Program is continuing as rapidly as possible under the austerity program — new Science and Music Buildings will be added to the Pasadena Campus as well as the beginning of the first stage of the new Administration Building which has so desperately been needed for many years now. More details on this, *with pictures*, will be included in future articles in this news column.

If the growth for this next year is to continue as it has in the past we will be establishing about 35 or 40 new congregations in the year of 1967 — 50 or more men will be ordained from God's Colleges and from the local congregations around the world — millions of more watts of radio power will be added — Mr. Armstrong has authorized going more completely and thoroughly into mass advertising in magazines and newspapers — all in all the Work of God is braced and ready for a powerful surge forward in every aspect in this coming year! *Be sure you grow with God's Work!*