

Church of God News—

WORLDWIDE



Here's the 1969 Conference news — the theme of this momentous meeting, the ordinations, new appointments, a brief summary of last year's accomplishments, and a glimpse of 1969.

WE ARE involved in the most significant, most awesome, most challenging WORK that exists on earth today! We — the brethren of God's Church — have ALL been called to *personally* be an integral part of this earth-shaking Work. We must ALL *pour out* a deep, personal commitment, and a steadfast, unbending LOYALTY toward this very Work of God.

These were the pre-eminent themes which dominated the recently concluded 1969 Ministerial Conference. Personal Commitment and Loyalty! These were the thrilling yet sobering principles which compelled every minister attending the Conference to experience more inspiration than ever before, to be aware of a greater responsibility, and to realize a more complete conception of the imagination-defying job that lies ahead of us in finishing this great Work.

Top Level Conference

This Ministerial Conference was the "highest level" Conference ever held, in that the attending ministers were primarily District Superintendents, top representatives of Big Sandy and Bricket Wood, and Directors of the Foreign Work from around the world. The sessions were very basic and enormously profitable. Emphasis was placed on seeing the 'forest,' not the individual trees and surely not the 'twiggy' branches. Minor doctrinal or 'picky' Scriptural questions were pre-empted by the overall monumental purposes, objectives, plans and policies of God's Work as this age cascades toward its close.

It was brought out that many of the brethren in God's Church just do not have the *vision* so vitally necessary to comprehend either the Goal of the entire Work or their specific personal role in it. Time and time again, we were told that we are *yet* grossly *underestimating* the shattering Mass-Impact that God's Witness will have on the nations of this world. When the complete history of mankind will eventually be written, it will be this very Work today which will be afforded a most prominent position. Indeed, it will be our *individual* actions, our *personal involvement* in the Work, during the next few years, which will radically alter the destinies of every human being on the face of the earth. We, as a unified Church, need to be closer to God than ever before in order to "tool up" for the final all-out push to complete this Work. These concepts were the powerful meat of this Ministerial Conference!

Keynote

Perhaps the most inspiring moment for the Headquarters congregation came when Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong delivered an "impromptu" sermonette at the special Friday night preaching service on the Sabbath during the Conference. It epitomized the entire Conference. Mr. Armstrong exhorted us that our whole hearts must be totally and completely wrapped up in God's Work. Only then can we grow spiritually! God's Work *must* always be pre-eminent in our minds, the crux of our prayers, the very focal point of our lives. Personal, selfish Bible study

and inward, self-centered prayers are worthless — God's Work must be FIRST! Saving this world, *not* just saving ourselves, must be our goal.

Mr. Armstrong went on to emphasize that we have *not* just been called to be in the Kingdom — all mankind will eventually be called for the Kingdom. But we, as the brethren in God's Church in this calamitous age preceding Christ's return, have been called for a *special assignment*, the most important task in the history of the universe! We are preparing the way for Jesus Christ's triumphal rule! We are preaching and publishing His Gospel around the world for a witness! We are being *personally* trained for the rulership, for the government, and for the education of the World Tomorrow.

The fate of the world is in our hands!

Each one of us will have many vital tasks to perform — and we must be preparing NOW!

Is it any wonder then that Mr. Armstrong was visibly shaken because so many brethren have failed to catch the vision, failed to realize their personal part in the Work *today*, failed to grow toward their forthcoming responsibilities in the World Tomorrow? Every person who would put himself first, Mr. Armstrong continued, making *his* Bible Study, *his* prayers and *his* problems predominant would eventually fall away, while every one who would put *God's Work first* would surely enjoy unlimited personal growth. The point was crystal clear — *you* must learn and apply this keynote in *your* life also. I hope this brief

summary starts you on a personal rededication to the tremendous worldwide Work God has *drafted* you to perform.

New Appointments

As God's Work mushrooms, so do the new positions of responsibility. During the Ministerial Conference, several appointments were announced as God's Government expands to meet the demands of His fast-growing Work.

In the early hours of Friday, January 7, Mr. Ronald Dart was sound asleep at his home in England. A momentous phone call roused him and changed his and his wife's whole life. By late afternoon, that same day, he was in Pasadena — with a new job: Deputy Director under Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong supervising the entire Foreign Work!

That night Mr. Dart delivered a sermon that will be long remembered. He told of his Freshman year at Ambassador in 1958, a scant 10 years ago. "There are an unlimited number of 'top jobs' in God's Government available," those Freshmen were told. "Surely, all the 'top jobs' were already taken" thought those same naïve Freshmen. Then Mr. Dart proceeded to name some of the other members of *that* Freshman class besides himself: Mr. Charles Hunting, Mr. Richard Plache, Mr. Dean Wilson, etc. The positions WERE indeed available — God was just waiting for the men to qualify! Those "top jobs" were plentiful then, and are even more plentiful now. God is waiting upon us to grow! But to qualify we must all put God's Work first, being profoundly committed and 100% Loyal! Then we will receive the unequivocal, exhilarating rewards that God promises to His servants.

Also called back to Headquarters to fulfill important new responsibilities was Mr. Dennis Luker. He is now assisting Mr. Roderick C. Meredith in his many duties as Superintendent of Ministers. Mr. Luker had been District Superintendent over the Oakland and later the Minneapolis Districts.

The transfer of Mr. Dart to Head-



Ronald Dart, Evangelist. (Not all those ordained will be pictured because the photos are not available.)

quarters has necessitated certain changes. Mr. Sherwin McMichael, who has been in for a semester of College here at Headquarters and who *was* scheduled to go to Cincinnati, will now have the privilege of going to Bricket Wood to serve on the faculty there! Those who have known Mr. McMichael will realize what a fine example he will be to the Ambassador students on the English campus.

Replacing Mr. McMichael in Cincinnati will be Mr. Edward Smith, who has been pastoring the Abilene and Odessa Churches in West Texas. He will be replaced in that area by Mr. Larry Salyer.

Another important transfer was made during the conference. Mr. John Butterfield was transferred to Headquarters in Pasadena to take on greater responsibilities as Director of Printing Worldwide. Mr. Butterfield was serving as Plant Manager of the English Press, and now finds himself in charge of *four* Printing Plants — Pasadena, Watford, Sydney and Big Sandy!

Here is more GOOD NEWS! On January 19, 1969, Mr. Colin Wilkins opened the new monthly French Bible study in LYON, France. The

total attendance was 54 — a very encouraging start.

A new monthly Bible study at BRUSSELS, Belgium, will begin on February 9 — with Mr. Carn Catherwood as its minister.

Headquarters Building Completed

We have just completed moving into the new *Hall of Administration* which is the official name for the newest and finest building at Ambassador College. The Hall of Administration is a fitting name for this strikingly beautiful and impressive building, since, as Mr. Armstrong pointed out during the Conference, this will be the very Headquarters for the Most Important Work on Earth! It is the finest building in Pasadena, and we feel that it is the finest building of its type in the world! You see its rough portrait in an unfinished state on this GOOD NEWS cover. A thorough pictorial tour will appear in the 1969 ENVOY. This magnificent edifice is already yielding enormous benefits to this great Work!

There is other exciting news about the Pasadena Campus! The Pasadena City Council recently unanimously approved closure of all the streets running through Ambassador College. These streets will eventually be torn up and replaced by exquisite landscaping and walkways, further enhancing and augmenting the beauty of Ambassador College. The master plan for Ambassador College is steadily growing towards fruition: the operational prototype for the World Tomorrow!

New Ordinations

One of the greatest joys of the Ministerial Conference is the announcement of the ordinations: new men being brought into the ministry of Jesus Christ, and the raising in rank of ministers who have proved their dedication to God and effectiveness for His Work. God's Church was surely blessed at this Conference as 36 men were ordained [completion (3) x (12) organizational beginnings = 36 for those numerically inclined]. 13 men

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Readers Say . . .

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chance for us to have children of our own. We're so glad to be able to have a part in God's Work.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. D.,
Many, Louisiana.

• *You have a very unusual blessing (see Matt. 10:36) and we rejoice with you in it.*

SEVEN TIMES

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year. We know from personal experience and from dealing with others that you can't *out-give* God. Those in the Church receiving the greatest blessing are those who have their hearts in the Work—spiritually, physically as well as *financially*.

Were you able to give more this past Feast than the Feast in 1967? What about the 1966 Feast? Think back, check up on your *involvement* in the Work. If you're really growing, then God is blessing you yearly, thus enabling you to give more each year than you gave the year before.

Brethren, we don't call these matters to your attention just to try to bolster the income of God's Work. It's for *your* good that we mention them. Many are simply *missing out* on blessings through drifting along and not looking ahead.

Strive to do better. Really work at it and recall God's penetrating words in Malachi 3:8-10, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and *OFFERINGS*. Ye are cursed with a curse, for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes [*and offerings*] into the storehouse, that there may be meat [food] in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not OPEN THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN, and POUR YOU OUT A *BLESSING*, that there shall not be ROOM ENOUGH TO RECEIVE IT."

Habit Pays Feast Expense

"Two and a half years ago, with the help of the Eternal, I quit smoking. Last year I was baptized into God's Church. This year I was able to enjoy the Feast of Tabernacles with the brethren in England (more than 60 nations harmoniously represented). What does that have to do with smoking? Well, I calculated what my smoking habit *would* have cost me this past year had I continued at the same rate. Would you believe that it came to the same amount that the trip to the Feast (including transportation, food and lodging) cost. Truly God's ways are best. Take it from one who is smoking *none* now and enjoying it *more!*"

Stanley D.,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

College Tour Highlight

"I want to thank those who made it possible for me to attend the Feast in Long Beach. I have always wanted to see the college since being baptized over eleven years ago. I am most thankful that I was given this opportunity. God has blessed me so much. I saw so many brethren from other areas that I have known for several years. The tour of the college was one of the highlights. I will never forget the beauty of the buildings nor of the grounds. I hope I can come

back in a couple of years to see its growth."

Mrs. Arlie G.,
Martinsville, Indiana.

Baptism Request

"I feel that I really need to be baptized as soon as possible. I want to be completely keeping the laws and commandments of God, but I need to be led by God's Holy Spirit to be sure that I am living by every word of God. Please, Sir, baptize me as soon as possible. Enclosed herewith is a five-centavo coin. It is one-tenth of what I earned from selling empty bottles. God requires me to tithe."

Mrs. Mila F. D.,
Ilocos Norte, Philippines.

Unique

"I must admit that as disturbing as your programme is, it is interesting. Though I am not a Christian, I always take the opportunity to tune in to Herbert W. Armstrong. What religion or organization is represented on his programmes? As yet, I have not come across any Christian organization as dynamic and positive in approach and outlook."

Mr. G. C. D.,
Picnic Point, New South Wales.

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were ordained for the first time and 23 were raised in rank. Here is the list so that all the brethren in God's Church can rejoice and give God thanks:

Those newly ordained to the rank of **Local Elder**: Mr. Barry Chase (Akron, Cleveland, Youngstown area); Mr. Richard Frankel (Richmond, Virginia); Mr. Bill Kaiser (Cape Girardeau, Evansville area); Mr. Richard Kilbury (Boise, Idaho); Mr. Judd Kirk (Houston, North & South, Texas); Mr. Randall Kobernat (Fayetteville, Greensboro area); Mr. Carl Koellner (Wheeling, Uniontown area); Mr. Bobby Leaque (Huntsville, Alabama); Mr. Enrique Ruiz (Mexico City Office

Manager); Mr. Leslie Schmedes (Chicago, South Side); Mr. Doug Taylor (Ann Arbor, Detroit area); Mr. Abner Washington (Los Angeles area); Mr. Lyle Welty (Columbus, Dayton area).

Those raised to the rank of **Preaching Elder**: Mr. Etienne Bourdin (Geneva Office); Mr. James Chapman (Los Angeles); Mr. Clarence T. Gould, Jr. (Bricket Wood, England); Mr. Stephen Martin (Reno, Nevada); Mr. Lester McCole (Kansas City, Missouri); Mr. Robert Morton (London, England); Mr. Wayne Phillips (Seattle, Washington); Mr. Daryl Reedy (Big Sandy, Texas); Mr. John Robinson (Big



Frank Brown, Pastor



Al Dennis, Pastor

Sandy, Texas); Mr. Larry Salyer (Abilene, Odessa area).

Those ministers raised to the rank of Pastor: Mr. Gary Antion (Toronto, Kitchener area); Mr. Gary Arvidson (Asheville, Columbia area); Mr. Hal Baird (Milwaukee, Richland Center area); Mr. Frank Brown (Santa Barbara; Assistant Comptroller, Ambassador College, Pasadena); Mr. Keith Crouch (Sydney, Australia); Mr. Al Dennis (Eugene, Salem area); Mr. Robert Fahey (Melbourne, Australia); Mr. Paul Flatt (Houston North & South, Lake Charles area); Mr. John Pruner (Flint, Midland area); Mr. Dennis Pyle (Findlay, Toledo area); Mr. Richard Rice (Huntsville, Birmingham area); Mr. William Winner (Perth, Australia).

The ordination of an Evangelist carries a special sense of excitement; and at this conference, Mr. Ronald Dart, beginning his new position as Deputy Director of the Foreign Work, was so blessed.

Congratulations to all of these men who now have additional opportunities to serve the Creator God in His majestic end-time Work.

The Year Behind and The Year Ahead

The January issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* featured a three-page spread outlining the catastrophic worldly events of "1968 — The Impossible Year." But for the Work of God, 1968 was a spectacular year, the greatest year in our history! 26 new Churches were started (21 in the United States and Canada, and 5 in foreign countries), 60 new ministers were ordained and 37 raised in rank. Furthermore, the attendance at many of the local congregations swelled toward the wall-bursting point. Literally dozens of new Churches await only the ministers to pastor them. Brethren, we must earnestly pray that God calls and trains dozens of desperately needed ministers!

1968 will be remembered as the year that God unveiled a most momentous opportunity for fulfilling the commission given to His Church. Major circulation magazine advertising (*Life*, *TV Guide*, *Reader's Digest*) opened up all

over the world. In addition, some of the most prestigious newspapers in England also opened their doors to God's Work. All put together, we have experienced the greatest surge of growth in a one-year period that we have ever had. *The PLAIN TRUTH* subscription list jumped from 1,150,000 to 1,530,000, and we began two new editions of *The PLAIN TRUTH* — the Spanish (now 26,000 and growing) and the Dutch (7,000 and growing)!

From every indication 1969 will bring enormous breakthroughs for God's Work, dwarfing into insignificance the events of 1968, and eclipsing and overshadowing even our bold estimates for 1969. God's message WILL reach this world in full power. This world will surely know that they have been warned by God's messengers. And God wants every member of His Church to be personally *involved in and committed to* God's Work. What doors will God open next? We don't know! But this we do know: when those doors are opened we MUST be fully prepared to walk through them! It is thrilling to await God's next move. But God's Church must be ready.



Enrique Ruiz, Local Elder

Will YOU be ready? ARE you ready? Or are YOU delaying the progress of God's Work? God will not move until His instruments, His Church, are spiritually prepared to move! Every individual member must do his or her part. We all must heed the basic COMMAND of this year's Conference:

PUT GOD'S WORK FIRST — ALWAYS:
BE LOYAL TO GOD'S WORK — FOREVER!!!



Etienne Bourdin, Preaching Elder