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WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
RICHARD C. MERRITT, Minister

May 12, 1970

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from Headquarters! It was good for several of us to be out in the churches and see many of you this Passover season. Mr. Herbert Armstrong was in Jerusalem for the Passover, and in Bricket Wood for the Days of Unleavened Bread. I believe he is scheduled to return to Pasadena this Friday. We had not had much word about his activities, but understand he did fly to Salzburg and back and was to have dinner, I believe, with King Leopold. We will be giving you more news about his trip after he returns.

Mr. Ted Armstrong spent the Passover in Big Sandy as usual. However, on the Sabbath before the Passover he flew out to preach to the Church in Odessa. Then, next day he flew up to Lubbock and out over the area you may have read of where severe tornadoes had just gone through. He was able to interview a number of people for television and got some television footage of the destruction. In fact, they flew low over a large trailer park where some 200 or 300 trailers were ripped over and severely damaged and some 15 people, I understand, were killed in this one area alone!

Margie and I had a very fine Passover and Feast season and visited more places than usual this spring. We were in Miami for a couple days of rest and sightseeing -- having never seen Florida before. Then I preached in Miami Sabbath morning before Passover, flew to Lakeland and preached there that afternoon. Then I joined Mr. Kunz in conducting the Passover there and flew to Columbia the next day. We joined the Gary Arvidsons and others there for the "Night To Be Much Observed" in the Arvidson's home. We drove on up to Charlotte, North Carolina, with them the next morning. In Charlotte, I gave both full sermons of the Holy Day and we had a very fine crowd of some 1800 people. That evening, after eating and visiting with the area ministers, we drove on up to Greensboro, North Carolina,

with Mr. Roger Foster and spent the night in his home. Next day, Mr. Foster joined me in going over a number of Church problems with another minister who came over for this meeting. Late that afternoon, we flew up to New York City and spent the rest of the time with Mr. and Mrs. Bob Spence, our District Superintendent there. We had very fine attendances in our three days of meetings in New York, also, and the brethren were very warm and responsive. Right after the final Holy Day, we were able to get a flight back from New York City to Los Angeles and were in our own bed here on the West Coast before midnight! What a time of "running to and fro" we have today!

Overall, everyone is fine here in Pasadena and the Work and the college are coming along well. Since many have asked and keep asking, I will say that my peripheral vision is now fine as a result of the repair work done on my left eye. However, I will say frankly and heartfully to you ministers -- and I do NOT wish you to repeat this to the congregation as it simply brings more questions and wonderings to their minds -- that other complications and side affects have set in which are giving me a certain amount of trouble and pain. These are potentially very dangerous, and I will appreciate your heartfelt prayers in my behalf very much. I do need these at this time -- perhaps more than at any time in my life -- yet I do feel it best to ask you ministers NOT to repeat this to others or to involve the Church people in any way under these unusual circumstances. I know you will understand.

The Holy Day offerings, which were very good, brought the total income for the month of April (not including the special offerings) up to 32.1%! The total income for the year to date (not including the special offerings) stood at 18.1% at the end of April. Not including the special offerings in figuring our total income gives us a better picture of our financial situation since, as I explained last time, the special offerings did not provide very much in the way of extra working capital. They are being used merely to repay the money we borrowed recently and to replenish our cash reserves.

I want to emphasize again that all of us here at Headquarters really appreciated the response of the brethren in sending in those special offerings. Those special offerings, combined with the drastic budget cutbacks, have stabilized the financial condition of this Work and provided a sound foundation for future growth.

We had seven ordinations during the Days of Unleavened Bread! Ordained as Preaching Elders were Mr. Keith Hoyt (Wichita-

Salina) and Mr. Jerry Witte (Shreveport-Texarkana). Ordained as Local Elders were Mr. Bryan Hoyt (Pittsburgh), Mr. Mike Weber (Wichita), Mr. William Dixon (Perth, W. Australia), Mr. Ernest Monty (Milwaukee) and Mr. Gordon Upshaw (Tulsa). Congratulations to all of you!

Mr. Ted Armstrong has recently received, and accepted, several invitations to speak to various groups around the nation. He will speak at a Junior Achievement League meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on May 20. Then, on May 23 he will give the keynote address at the State Junior Chamber of Commerce Convention in Tallahassee, Florida. The anticipated audience of 2500 will include Governor Kirk and Wernher Von Braun, as well as several other public figures in Florida. While in Tallahassee, he has agreed to appear on a local radio station there, WMEN, which now carries the broadcast on Sundays.

He has also accepted an invitation to give the invocation on the "Stars and Stripes" television show which will be seen in at least 22 states on July 4. On the same day he has accepted an invitation to give the invocation for the dedication of the "Dwight D. Eisenhower Stars and Stripes" public park in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. These appearances, in addition to his upcoming personal appearance series beginning in Nashville, will put Mr. Ted Armstrong -- and this Work -- even more in the public eye than we have ever been!

Mr. Joe Bauer has been appointed to head up the new "Personal Appearance Department" which will handle the details and the preparations for Mr. Armstrong's personal appearances this summer. Tentative plans call for five appearances in Nashville, beginning on Saturday night, June 20, followed by an afternoon appearance on Sunday and evening appearances on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday in the Nashville Municipal Auditorium, which will seat 8,000 - 9,000 people. After a week for the crew -- the band, chorale, ushers and others -- to rest up, tentative plans call for a similar five-appearance schedule in Cincinnati beginning on July 4.

Depending on the circumstances that develop in the next few weeks and the success of the personal appearances in Nashville and Cincinnati, one or two more cities may be scheduled for appearances later in the summer. We will be keeping you informed as definite and firm plans are made. Let's all back up Mr. Ted Armstrong in these planned appearances by praying specifically for him and for the men assisting him in this very important undertaking!

In the way of baby announcements, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Freeze announced the birth of their son, Philip Andrew, on March 22. He weighed 7 pounds and 12 ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Swanson's son was born on March 29. William Leslie weighed 7 pounds and 5 ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Salyer also announced the birth of their son, James Scott. He weighed 7 pounds and 6 ounces and was born on April 18.

On April 30, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Taylor announced the birth of Troy Allan. He weighed 8 pounds.

Congratulations to all of you on these new arrivals!

Another announcement I wanted to pass on is that Mr. Dennis Luker's new address is 250 South Orange Grove Boulevard, Pasadena, California 91105, and his new telephone number is (213) 577-5762. Since most of you don't receive our confidential address book, I thought I should announce this so that all of you would have his correct address and telephone number. The home, by the way, is the one Mr. Norman Smith and his family lived in before moving to their new home over on Waverly Street. Mr. and Mrs. Luker had been living in an apartment for the past year, so they are very happy to be moving into this home right here on campus.

And, Mr. Raymond McNair wanted me to announce that they will have very limited facilities in England for the Feast this fall because the Feast falls so late in October. Since the Butlins Camp at Minehead is able to provide only a limited staff for catering in the main dining hall, most of those keeping the Feast there will have to do their own cooking in self-service chalets. There would be far fewer complications overall if the number attending the Feast there at Minehead were kept as low as possible. As a result, we want to avoid unnecessary requests for transfers to England from the United States. In general, we will not consider transfers from the United States to England unless, because of family considerations, such a transfer might be warranted. If you know of any brethren who are planning to request a transfer to England, please let them know of the circumstances and discourage them from requesting a transfer unless there is a definite reason they should attend in England.

From now on we will no longer send copies of The PLAIN TRUTH, TOMORROW'S WORLD and GOOD NEWS magazines for the Church libraries. All the brethren receive their own copies and new members who would like to read back issues can easily borrow them from other members. Also, for those few Church libraries which are

currently receiving the News Report, we will no longer send the News Report to Church libraries. Another change in our literature policies that will affect all of you is that we will, from now on, send ministers only one copy of each magazine. Several ministers have mentioned that the extra copies are not really needed and suggested this change as a way of saving money.

A couple of other items of news I should add here are that I had two different men call me personally while on my trip during the Days of Unleavened Bread about going off the payroll. Both of them had a very fine attitude and were simply doing it in order to serve God's Work. The men involved are Mr. Lyndel Wornat, a college graduate and Local Elder, and Mr. Garry Pugh, a graduate of Big Sandy and Ministerial Assistant. Both men had been advised in general terms that they might not be the strongest in this type of personal work and preaching, and simply felt they could render God a greater service at this time by supporting themselves with an outside job. Under the circumstances of this present crisis, I agreed with them and accepted their resignations with heartfelt thanks for their support of service and fine attitude of co-operation.

In describing this, I do not mean to imply that others of you should "resign." If there are unusual circumstances in any of your cases or those working under you, you could let me know but I feel that the situation is pretty well taken care of now at this point.

Moreover, I am very happy to report that nearly all the men I have heard of who have had to be let go as a result of this crisis have been truly "watched over" by God and BLESSED with an equal or better-paying job than we provided in this non-profit Work of Christ. I won't go into all the details involving each man, but several of the fellows are getting a job paying \$9,000 - \$12,000 a year with fine benefits and in each case of Ambassador graduates, their college training and degrees has been a definite help in procuring their new position. In fact, in two cases the very name "Ambassador College" served as a fine introduction as the prospective employer had heard of us and respected at least the decency and fundamental character reflected by our instruction by the broadcast, the magazines and other things reported about us and our people.

So I thought it would be encouraging to you -- and the brethren -- to mention these things and hope that you will be able to tell the brethren that by way of announcement. God is blessing the Work in spite of this recent trial and we will be making more happy announcements about growth

changes in the near future. In closing, let me say that it was encouraging once again to be out and see so many of you in your areas again. I had the unusual opportunity of actually staying and eating in the homes of five different ministers on this one recent trip. In addition, I got to eat, visit and fellowship with many, many ministers -- as did Mr. Ted Armstrong, Mr. Portune, Mr. Hill, Mr. ... etc., during this recent Passover period.

I was impressed more than ever that in spite of our recent persecutions and trials, the overwhelming majority of you fellows are dedicated and wonderful fellows to work with -- and I mean it!

So keep up the good work, keep sending in personal notes and suggestions as well as your regular reports, and keep praying for us here and we will for you as well.

Your brother in Christ,

Roderick C. Meredith

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