

INTER-OFFICE

To: The Field Ministry

Date: April 18, 1969

Department:

Subject: Evaluation of Men in V. P. T. C.
and Change in Lessons

From: Roderick C. Meredith

Greetings from Pasadena,

Now that we have completed 15 classes of the Visiting Program Training Class, each of you has had sufficient time to really get to know your men, hear them speak, observe their ability to explain the scriptures clearly and completely, and you have been able to determine whether or not they have made the changes in their lives necessary to qualify them as spiritual leaders and servants in their local areas. Therefore, we would like at this time a complete evaluation of each man, his character, attitude and spirit of service, his capacity, knowledge and understanding of the scriptures, his savvy and wisdom, his speaking ability and potential as a preacher. Let us know what changes he has made in his personal life. Does he really put first things first, organize his time, love, teach and train his family and practice and live this Christian way of life?

How do you feel he should be used at this point? Is he ready for ordination at Pentecost? If so, fill out an Elder Evaluation Form and send it to your District Superintendent for approval, but send us an evaluation on him for the class as well. Does he have preaching elder potential and should he be considered for a year at Ambassador College? Should he remain and work unemployed by us in his local area? Does he qualify as a leader of a local visiting program team, the unordained, or as a second man? Or is he unqualified for any further consideration?

At the District Superintendents' Meeting at the Conference this year we re-evaluated our concepts of who should be ordained and who should come to College for one year. We should not usually consider for ordination the "big businessman," flashy, worldly-wise type or the overly humble, uneducated, "hound-dog" type. The latter group can never be real leaders and, therefore, should not be more than deacons. The former type will not have time to serve or help and do the work of the ministry, as they are pre-occupied with their business and social interests. We need to consider men for ordination in between these categories -- balanced, liking people, able to teach the scriptures, good character, deeply converted, men of faith, able to adjust, and sufficiently unencumbered by other interests and responsibilities to be able to visit and serve the brethren in the local areas. Ordination is not a "badge" or "reward" for a "good attitude" or impressive looks and ability in the world, but an office given for service. If a successful big businessman will really humble himself and have time to serve and give

himself to the people, he could of course be an exception and could be considered for ordination as a local elder. And so could a less educated, more backward man who really changes, improves himself and will NOT appear "backward" or uncouth to the more educated brethren.

As for recommendations for College, you should not recommend older men who have "arrived," are competent in their field of business, are used to exercising authority, and are making good salaries. Best bets are younger men with potential, who haven't "arrived" yet. We need to remember that this is a virtual city out here -- with about 2000 College and Imperial students, teachers and employees. Many executives and ministers of high rank are constantly coming and going and a "mere" local elder does not get a great deal of attention by comparison. Those who come will be a little cog in a giant wheel and machine. You should only recommend men who have the potential and are really eager and enthusiastic to come. They will not get much personal attention here. Many students will know more about the Bible than most of them, but it is a tremendous opportunity for those who qualify and yield themselves to absorb the Headquarters' atmosphere and approach and concentrated Bible knowledge they cannot get elsewhere, and to qualify to serve God and His people to a greater extent. Therefore, we should consider young men in their 20's who are more pliable and workable. Men over 30 should be looked at with a jaundiced eye.

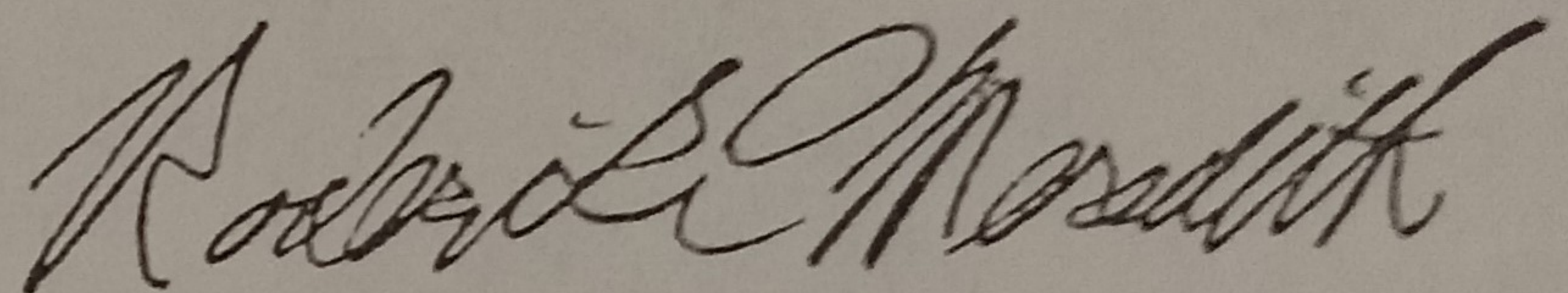
Please put your evaluations on the enclosed forms and get them back to us as soon as possible so we will have time to review them and make decisions before Pentecost.

One other note, we have changed lessons Nos. 16 and 17 to give the men the most help with situations they will actually be handling in visiting. We have eliminated "How to Handle Serious Problems" as this is the responsibility of the pastor in charge of the area. Lesson No. 16 will be "How to Advise the Brethren Regarding Health and Medical Problems," and Lesson No. 17 will be "How to Advise Regarding Legal and Military Problems to Avoid Trouble." Then for the finale after Pentecost, we will send you a page or two of concept and summary material and ask you to fill in and prepare to really inspire and encourage the men and their wives along the basic lines we outline.

Last, I would appreciate having a candid evaluation of the Class from each of you and any suggestions you feel would be helpful for improving its effectiveness. We have considered skipping next year, and having the class again the following year, thinking that many of you will not have sufficient qualified men for a class next Fall. So, I'd appreciate your letting me know approximately how many men you feel would qualify for

Men, I know that these evaluations and reports are going to take time, but this is tremendously important to the immediate and future growth of God's Work. So, I'm asking each of you to consider this your most important responsibility this week and take an extra day off if you need to devote to getting it done promptly. It will take us time to review 500 evaluations, so please help us by getting these in to us by May 1 at the very latest.

I want to thank all of you for the fine job you have done in backing up Headquarters and the living Jesus Christ by wholeheartedly, loyally and enthusiastically teaching these classes and working with these men. I'm sure Christ is well pleased by the fruit that has been borne and the additional effective laborers that now can be added to the harvest.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert L. Meredith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.