

RADIO CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

Broadcasting
"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Publishers of
The PLAIN TRUTH

January 3, 1961

To all ministers of God:

GREETINGS, in Jesus' name! I'm writing this personal letter just before the conference for a special personal reason---but will try to include some of the last minute news before you arrive as well.

Actually, I've been putting this off---wondering about it, stewing over it, for quite some time. It concerns my two younger boys, David and Matthew. You all know their problem, of course, and how long it has gone on now---and I know you have all remembered them in your prayers.

I have never used my position to try to get "special favors" from God's people, in the way of announcing their deafness to the Churches, asking all to fast and pray at certain times---I am constantly aware that there are so many others who are actually in serious pain, in mental torment, in affliction---and it has seemed unfair and unjust to take precedence over such cases as the child of the Lee's, Gary Sefcak, Walter Letterman (who has since died) etc. I have asked my father about it, and some of the ministers here---and, after investigating all my reasons thoroughly enough, I hope, I have decided to attempt to reach all of you just before you come here for the conference.

I'll explain. Shirley and I took the boys to the Tracy School, a foundation established primarily for educating the parents of deaf children ---but also a pre-school age nursery for the deaf---for a complete audiological test. They are both profoundly deaf, although Matthew does react to some frequencies quicker than David. The Tracy School, like all worldly clinics of this type, wants to immediately live our lives for us. They suggest we move closer to a school for the deaf---that I change my job if necessary. They suggest sending the boys to a boarding school, away from their parents, so they can get some of the permissive slop, swine wash and swill that goes under the label "child therapy" today. They desperately need to be IN SCHOOL, say the do-gooder women doctors of the learned Tracy Clinic. Of course, all these suggestions are sheer idiocy and totally impractical. BUT, to get the Tracy Clinic off our necks, we have had to take some steps to begin some steps to begin some type of formal schooling for the boys IN THE MEANTIME, PRIOR TO THE TIME GOD HEALS, so we can satisfy them. Otherwise, I fear, they might even attempt to show in court that we are unfit parents, taking the boys away from us (over my dead, lifeless body)! Mona Zachary, a student here with a degree from another college, has had the Tracy Course---she specialized in college in working with deaf children! We have arranged to have her tutor the boys, allowing them to play for recess period with other children their own age in the Imperial Schools. BUT THIS IS MERELY A STOP-GAP MEASURE! It will not even BEGIN to solve their problem.

Shirley and I feel God will not allow their condition to continue much further---that their mental frustrations and misunderstanding just cannot go on. I'm going ahead with this letter, then, just to ask all of you personally if you will FAST AND PRAY with us at some time before or during the conference. I want to say I am not even beginning to think of issuing God an ultimatum---setting a time limit on Him---demanding that He answer RIGHT NOW! I don't want anyone's faith shaken if He DOES allow this to go on for a little while longer---BUT GOD CAN AND WILL ANSWER!

Ministers of God---WE ARE THE ONLY REAL STEWARDS OF HIM ON EARTH TODAY! If WE cannot receive answers to fervent, prevailing, earnest FASTING AND PRAYER ---then NO-ONE can! God has PROMISED! It is not a question about what is His will! He has already WILLED to heal the boys---and all the other afflictions on people in God's Church!

Jesus said WE would be able to do even GREATER things than He did! He didn't DO much by HIMSELF---He said it was the FATHER'S power, His Spirit, within Christ! WE ARE BEGOTTEN AND ENLIVENED BY THAT VERY SAME SPIRIT! I know God says we have LITTLE strength---and I know I have less strength, spiritually, than most! I know my own personal problems and faults, my sins, and mistakes, are greater than yours---and, what is worse, when I make mistakes, it hurts and affects MORE PEOPLE! I am asking God's forgiveness for all of these---asking Him not to let ME stand in the way to HINDER HIM!

I think, sometimes, of even little gnats, mosquitoes, flies, etc. They buzz by in the air---little, microscopic organisms, with the ability to fly, with complete digestive systems, tiny brain or sense cells of some type, with SIGHT, a sense of SMELL, TOUCH, and HEARING! Little, insignificant, bothersome insects! But these boys are made in the very similitude of GOD! They SHOULD become POWERFUL MINISTERS FOR HIM in the opening years of the millennium ---and yet, they are without one of the most important senses! They have never even heard their father or mother's voices. They've never heard the wind, a bird call, never heard any of the thousands of sounds all of us are unaware of ---a part of our constant, every-day environment. And, they MUST HEAR, to hear of GOD---To HEAR HIS WORD---to hear their parents' teaching.

THIS IS GOD'S EXPRESS WILL! It is not God who is holding it back! I have thought, many times, that God is telling me---"When you begin to really HEAR ME---then your sons will HEAR YOU!" Perhaps this isn't true---and yet, didn't God even cause some of His servants' children to be born certain ways, even be named certain things as SIGNS in Israel? This was true of Hosea, and others. I hope I can really begin to HEAR God's voice---more than ever before ---serving Him, laboring for Him, OBEYING HIM! I desperately want to remove every obstacle that could be standing in the way of this healing. I know God will help me in this---I know that through CHRIST, with HIS direct experience in the flesh, with His Divine POWER, that this is possible.'


I sincerely do hope I'm not doing the wrong thing. I know all of you HAVE thought about, prayed over my boys. It seems like I am writing to stimulate what, presumably, we have all been doing ANYWAY! But---nevertheless, my wife

and I will be very grateful if you will all enter into combined, urgent, prevailing PRAYER with us for our boys' sake. This certainly is not a ministerial edict---I don't want anyone to consider it that---it's merely an appeal to each of you as brethren and sisters in the body of Jesus Christ---knowing there is no stronger FORCE than that of the combined prayer of God's own people.

We want to wait until sometime in the conference, or perhaps just after it to ask Mr. Armstrong and a few others to pray for, and anoint the boys again.

This letter is in anticipation of that---not setting a time limit on God ---but knowing that PERSEVERANCE, IMPORTUNITY, and real spiritual zeal is well pleasing in His sight. So---in advance, and with deep love and gratitude to all of you, Shirley and I do thank you for your personal concern, for your love and your prayers. God tells us to pray, to fast PRIVATELY---and I didn't feel it was wise to try to set a time for all of us to fast and pray simultaneously, since it would look like we were trying to tell God when to act. But I do hope you will all find the time at some time before the conference is over.

In love and gratitude, and in Jesus' name,


Garner Ted Armstrong

GTA:faw