



Bulletin

of the Worldwide Church of God

Mail Summaries and Letter Excerpts

MAIL SUMMARIES

HEADQUARTERS

June 9, 1972

First returns of the Special Offerings as a result of the recent member letter are coming in. This initial response has brought the total adjusted income for the year through Friday up to a 5.7% increase over 1971. However, the mail count for the year to date stands 16.3% below last year.

Offerings for the Building Fund have been falling short of expectations. For the first five months of the year, donations to the Fund averaged about \$117,000 a month — down 6.3% from last year.

Responses to the April ad in Reader's Digest continue to trickle in and now total 9,486. Responses to the May ad after 49 days now total 2,717. The June ad has brought in 2,383 responses after 19 days.

Correspondence Course coupons inserted in the May PLAIN TRUTH continue to pour in. Over 25,000 have been counted so far.

LONDON, ENGLAND

May 24, 1972

British-European Section:

We are already receiving responses to the June Reader's Digest advertisement on pollution. This is a week before the Digest becomes generally available. A three-month trial sub-

scription to *The PLAIN TRUTH* is offered with each *Reader's Digest* advertisement. When three issues have been sent to those who responded to the advertisement, we send a renewal coupon offering a full year's subscription. Late in April we sent out over 11,000 of these coupons and have received back over 2,300.

West Indian Section:

Between 20 and 30 West Indian members have expressed their shock and disappointment that Mr. Clarence Bass was not able to have his work permit to stay in Barbados renewed. Now that he has returned to Pasadena, members have written wondering whether there will be anyone to visit and counsel with them in the West Indies.

VANCOUVER, CANADA

June 1, 1972

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Income — month-to-date | 9.4% decrease |
| Income — year-to-date | 18.9% increase |
| Letters — month-to-date | 14,038 |
| | (25.8% decrease) |
| Letters — year-to-date | 110,759 |
| | (22.3% decrease) |

Letters continue to show a gradual drop in percentages while the income for this week jumped 5.2% in the year-to-date figures compared to last week. This is because the Holy Day Offerings came in May rather than June this year. We anticipate a drop in year-to-date income next month. We have had a very good response from PLAIN TRUTH subscribers enrolling in the AMBASSADOR COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE as advertised in the May issue.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

May 31, 1972

A good mail income in the last week of May

(Continued on page 58)

Personal NOTES

BABY NEWS

Bruce and Lockietta Anderson (Columbus): Greetings from Columbus! Lockietta and I are new parents of a 7 lb. 10 oz. baby girl — born 2:50 a.m., Tuesday morning, May 16th. We named her *Kimberly Sue*. Both she and Lockietta are doing fine.

Jack and Leslie Pakozdi (Wichita): For unto us a son is born! 7½ lbs. worth, after 13 hours of hard labor on the Sabbath, April 22. We named him *Jonathan David* (meaning "Beloved Gift from God"). Mom and dad are as pleased and happy as two parents can be.

Jim and Karen Redus (Tulsa-Ponca City): Our daughter, *Rebecca Lynn*, arrived last night (May 29th) at 6:37 p.m. She weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz., at birth. Parents and both brothers are doing fine.

Wade and Sue Whitmer (Kansas City): On April 4, 1972, we eagerly welcomed *Ginger Sue* into our home 45 minutes before the doctor arrived. Close to 9 lbs., she is a healthy, happy sister for 2-year-old Michael James. We are richly blessed!

WILLS & DONATIONS

Please make the following announcement to your congregation:

If anyone has questions in regard to naming God's Work as a beneficiary in his will, or any other question regarding a donation to God's Work, you should simply write to the Worldwide Church of God, c/o Mr. Ralph K. Helge, P. O. Box 111, Pasadena, California 91109. Any such information will be furnished without cost or obligation.

MAIL SUMMARIES

(Continued from page 57)

has arrested the downward swing of the percentage of mail income. Year-to-date figure now stands at -1.3%, while May was down only 8.5%.

Mail also has shown a little improvement. Total mail for the year is now 10.1% up on the

Ministerial

Bulletin

of the Worldwide Church of God

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same period last year. May 1972 is 40% below the figure for May 1971.

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND May 26, 1972

Mail continues to be average for this time of year. A pick-up, though, is expected with the circulation of the May **PLAIN TRUTH**.

Noticeable responses have been received to the articles in the April **PLAIN TRUTH**, viz. "Learn, Baby, Learn" and "New Myths About Marijuana."

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|----------|----------|
| Income — month-to-date | | 13.12% | increase |
| Income — year-to-date | | 12.27% | increase |
| Letters — month-to-date | | 3,513 | |
| | | (29.11%) | increase |
| Letters — year-to-date | | 27,188 | |
| | | (67.09%) | increase |

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA June 1, 1972

Percentages for the month of May are as follows:

Mail Income shows no increase
Total Income shows 18.1% increase

For the month of May we received 6,574 letters. Of these, 903 were subscribers renewing the three-month trial subscription. We added 1,493 new subscribers this month. The **CORRESPONDENCE COURSE** change-over is still taking place — 665 are on the new Course now. Our **PLAIN TRUTH** subscription list now stands at a total of 45,704.

FRENCH WORK May 1972

Over fifteen hundred new subscribers were added to The **PLAIN TRUTH** subscription list this month.

Our year-to-date mail is up 78% and in spite
(Continued on page 66)

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
ALBERT J. PORTUNE, *Vice President,*
Financial Affairs and Planning

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again! As you have all now received the Member Letter, you can see that the income has not improved as much as it should have by this time of the year. The latest figures show that our year-to-date income stands at 5.5% above last year, not including the special offerings requested by Mr. Armstrong. The figure including special offerings is presently standing at 5.7%. The most encouraging indicator, however, is that the general donations and contributions stand at 18.4% increase over this month last year. This is an upswing, and I hope indicates a trend from here to the end of the year. The special offerings are coming in slowly so far, but I hope they will begin to pick up later this week.

We are presently in the process of making a major budget cut here at Headquarters, and all the department heads are closely reviewing their expenses for the rest of the year and are trying to reduce them without affecting any of our First Commission activity. As a result of some of these cutbacks, there may be some layoffs of personnel; but this, I am afraid, is necessary during this critical time. I am hoping we can save two million dollars out of our present budget. This, with a hoped for boost from all the brethren in a special offering, will enable us to meet the 1972 revised budget and enter 1973 in the black. Please encourage all the members in your area to be praying for the situation.

As Mr. Armstrong also mentioned in his Member Letter, Mr. Ted Armstrong has returned to radio and will soon be reappearing on a revitalized television broadcast and also will soon embark on a series of personal appearances. The approach is going to be much more Biblically oriented, compared to the last several years; and we are sure will stimulate a much greater response. Hopefully, income will jump proportionately. If, of course, we wish to pursue the program as outlined in Mr. Armstrong's letter, there may possibly be increased costs which will have to be taken into account as we reduce expenses in other areas. We are not planning at this time to cut any radio or First Commission areas, and I am indeed hoping that we can increase the budget in these places as things pick up.

Some few have written in asking about the Holy Day Offerings and what the picture is in that area. The latest figures on the Pentecost offering show that we had an increase this year of 8%. This somewhat offsets the deficit in the offerings during the Days of Unleavened Bread and gives us a 3% increase for Holy Day Offerings for the year to date. As I may have mentioned before, since

Holy Day Offerings come directly from members only, it gives us a good indicator as to how our member income will perform overall. In a statistical survey that was taken comparing a group of members who donated in the first four months of 1971, it was shown that the same group donated about 1% less for the comparable period of 1972. There may be many reasons for this drop off, but so far no one single causative factor has emerged.

I also mentioned in my last letter that I was having a survey made in order to try and determine why the Holy Day Offerings were down, and this is now completed. After reviewing the overall situation from every visible standpoint and applying statistical analytical techniques by use of the computer, we have learned that there are a wide number of factors involved. There apparently is not one specific factor to account for the drop off. In order to fill out the survey completely, I would like to solicit your cooperation and ask if you have noticed any trends in your area which would account for a lessening of member donations. Some of you have already detected some and sent suggestions for which we are grateful. My comment in this regard does not mean that our members are not tithing or giving offerings, it simply indicates that the offerings they are giving have been reduced. If you feel that your area has been heavily hit by unemployment or inflation or an abnormal rise in the costs of living or any other factor that might affect a person's giving to the Work, I would very much appreciate hearing about it.

Overall, all of us here are extremely encouraged by what God is beginning to do. We feel He has truly actively intervened to show us we are going to begin a much more accelerated and fruitful period in His Work. Perhaps the final phase.

Certainly, what both Mr. Herbert Armstrong and Mr. Ted Armstrong said in their recent letters to the members truly indicates we are going to see some giant leaps ahead in the vital areas of the First Commission of His Work.

We all feel the recent fast day brought about a reenergizing and rededication of the Headquarter's employees and brethren. I hope the same was true in your areas.

If God truly does begin to energize us as never before and also intervenes in events in His Work and in our relationship with the public and their reaction, we will be caught up in an irresistible thrust forward that will inspire and lift us all to finish the Work He has given us to do. Let's all pray He will do it.

Continue to remember us in prayer as we do all of you.

In Jesus' name,



Albert J. Portune

- 2) Continually emphasize Headquarters, loyalty toward and working with and never criticize, either publicly or privately, any Headquarters' policies.
- 3) Any changes to be made in the area should be done slowly (preferably over a year's time) unless there is a new policy change from Headquarters.
- 4) Never over react to situations and problems and do not act on any situation until you are personally acquainted with the facts, people, details, etc.
- 5) Most problems will resolve themselves in time. The time to act swiftly, decisively and with authority is when heresy, doctrine and dissension arise. Always keep in mind the person's attitude when dealing with problems.
- 6) Look at yourself as a servant of God's people -- not as an important wheel maintaining a pompous office and job.
- 7) Keep on guard for your personal problems and weaknesses.
- 8) Don't select any church member to become a bosom friend with whom you spend most of your time. Socialize primarily with elders and others in the Work.

Regarding the above points, I think we can see, fellows, it is simply a matter of following the "Golden Rule." Yet, too many of us have failed to put ourselves in the other fellow's shoes when we have changed pastorates in the field. We don't try to honor and uphold him as a brother in Christ's ministry so much as we try to self-righteously "catch" his mistakes -- and sometimes there ARE mistakes. We try too hard to enhance our own "image" before the new congregation rather than emphasizing the continuing loyalty we should all have toward Christ, toward His Headquarters, toward the District Superintendent, and toward us AND the former minister -- since we are all part of the human "team" Christ is using to do His Work and are brothers together in this wonderful calling.

I won't spend an entire paragraph expounding each one of the above points as you are capable of doing this yourselves. But I will ask you to review these points and use them as a working manual and guide to your conduct in handling field changes and transfers within the ministry. If we all do this, I am sure that we will encourage the brethren and serve them more -- as well as ourselves before God -- by building the kind of love, loyalty and UNITY which God wants us to have as members of His begotten family.

Many of you have no doubt heard by now that we are all having to make severe slashes in our budgets here at Headquarters because of the continuing low income. We have been asked to do this in the field ministry and have been instructed, this time, not to do it by means of 15 percent or 20 percent salary cuts but rather by simply terminating any who are not absolutely needed in our employ at this time. I have already contacted your District Superintendents about these cutbacks and some of you will be communicating with them this week.

However, I would like once again to remind you that God's Work is in a SERIOUS emergency situation. Nearly everyone responded magnificently two years ago and several of the field men even "volunteered" -- at that time -- to go off the payroll and seek jobs elsewhere. Once again, therefore, I would like to ask for your cooperation in making these cutbacks and to urge all of you men who, for one reason or another, feel that you should or could -- OR, who are simply willing at this time to go out and support yourselves for a while -- to immediately contact your District Superintendent or Headquarters about this to help us in solving this serious financial problem.

If any of you are doubtful about your continuing desire to remain in the field ministry or your ability to do so, NOW is the time to let us know! We will try to extend you every financial help -- including third tithe -- so that you will have no great financial hardship during the time you are looking for a new job.

Finally, I must tell you that I have been made to feel sick inside by recent information showing the extent of spiritual weakness and utter degradation in the lives of one or two more of our field men. The degree to which even some of us in Christ's ministry can be hypnotized by the world and the lusts of the flesh is amazing. The degree to which grown Christian men can descend into infantile and youthful fantasies and then try to act them out in degenerate ways of living is sickening.

Regardless of the lusts of the flesh and the pull of this world's amusements -- which certainly do play a part -- we had all better pay heed to Mr. Armstrong's recent warnings about how a very real SATAN, the Devil, is trying to trap and overthrow any and ALL of us in Christ's ministry! Fellows, we simply must begin to conduct our lives more in the FEAR of GOD!

I don't care how "strong" spiritually we think we are, we simply cannot afford to make compromises with this world or with Satan's ways in our lives. We cannot afford to go to topless bars, to drink too much, to dance with other men's wives, to tell dirty stories, to see dirty movies, to gamble or play strip poker or ANYTHING of this type.

No matter who you think you are, it will hurt you and eventually wreck and DESTROY your character, your ministry, your marriage, and your very LIFE.

We MUST spend far more time in prayer ON OUR KNEES and in fervent Bible study -- asking God to show us His ways -- so that we will be far more GOD-oriented in our thinking. Then, we must LOVE our wives and children, LOVE each other and LOVE our brethren enough that -- being oriented by GOD -- we sincerely enjoy clean and wholesome fellowship with one another, with God's people and with our own families. We must not feel the "need" to continually go traipsing around to restaurants, nightclubs, bars, movies or even ball games, rodeos or other worldly amusements to get our "kicks."

I am being very plain and blunt but I am sure you follow me.

Obviously, I am NOT saying it is wrong occasionally to go to a decent restaurant, supper club, movie or sports event. I am saying that if we are so devoid of God's Spirit that we rely on these amusements to fill an "empty" spot in our lives, then we are in trouble. And we need to face it, admit it and REPENT of a lot of things!

Then, we need to re-orient our lives to GOD so that we come to enjoy fellowship with our wives, children and brethren at picnics, swimming or sledging parties, our own ball games, non-gambling card games such as hearts or bridge, hikes or campouts with our families, etc., etc.

In Jesus' name, I ask all of you to re-read the above and honestly apply it to you. Sincerely ask yourself: "Do I at least partially fit into this category?" Then ask God's help and make the CHANGES that must be made in your life. For, as I write this, a couple of field men are on the way out of Christ's ministry because of a spreading cancer that is already known of by too many brethren.

I am very sad to have to mention the above. It hurts very much because I love the people involved. But it is my duty to help and warn the rest of you. And these tragedies can, I hope, make the rest of us realize how weak and human we are and draw us closer than ever to our God and Father.

Let's pray more fervently than ever that God will stay Satan's hand and will give each one of our fellow ministers and brethren the spiritual strength to RESIST Satan with zeal and determination.

Obviously, God is trying, testing, searching and purifying each of us at this time. We are being judged for all eternity. God is separating the men from the boys. Yet, I think we can be sincerely encouraged by the realization I know we all feel that we are on the verge of wonderful "breakthroughs" in the Work of God. So let's respond to the challenges Christ is putting before us to get even better organized, to become even more pure and dedicated to our God and to finish the Work as the humble servants of Jesus Christ -- knowing now more than ever that it is HIS Work and HIS power that must do the job, not our own. He has a LOT of power -- and we are learning more than ever where to go to get it.

Pray for one another. And especially pray for Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Ted Armstrong that God will divinely inspire them and lead them in finishing the Work with greater power.

In Jesus' name,



Roderick C. Meredith

feels a little small for his new responsibilities.

Brethren continue to ask about the situation in the Philippines. The fighting we reported earlier has calmed down considerably, but the members still have serious problems. The main one is extreme poverty. It isn't just that the brethren there have trouble making ends meet. They have trouble having enough food for their children! Mr. Adair has requested assistance from the United States' emergency fund to help them, and funds will be sent shortly.

Used clothing was sent from the Manila office, but we have just learned that it was broken into and stolen in the post office in Mindanao.

Now that we've finished the bad news, here's some good news.

On June 4, we began daily broadcasting at 10:30 p.m. on Radio Ceylon again. We are using the Bombay address this time, and so our response should be much higher. I have no doubt that this will help the many people who are reading the PLAIN TRUTH magazine to turn to the radio broadcast and come along much more quickly.

Also, beginning on the same date, the broadcast started on 100,000 watt Radio Lakeland from Malawi. The transmitting antennas are arranged to beam the signal into South Africa, and it should be heard easily throughout Mozambique, South Africa, Rhodesia, and probably even Zambia. We did some monitoring of the station while it was still operating on 10,000 watts and it was heard all the way to Cape Town. The time is 10:30 p.m. daily, which is a good time for that part of the world and for the frequency we're on. This is by far the biggest door that has ever opened up to us on the African continent.

Other good news from Southern Africa is that we recently received permission to send additional funds out of South Africa to pay for their PLAIN TRUTH magazine. As you probably know, currency is frozen in South Africa and you must make application to the Exchange Control Board for any funds to be sent out of the country. This additional money being sent to England will mean that 15,000 PLAIN TRUTH magazines will be placed on the newsstands in South Africa every month. Needless to say, the South Africa office is up in the air about this new development.

Mr. Jackson and Mr. Bob Morton are busily preparing for their African baptizing tour again this year. I know they will appreciate your sup-

port, and you'll be hearing the results of their travels later.

There's one more manpower assignment we haven't covered yet for the Foreign Work. We're sending a third year student, Doug Johnson of Pasadena, to assist Mr. Colin Adair in the Philippines for the three summer months this year. He will return to Pasadena in the autumn for his senior year. This has generated enormous interest in the Foreign Work among the students, and our office has been barraged with requests by students to be used in the Foreign Work at graduation. As the Foreign Work continues to grow, we hope we will be able to fulfill these requests. □

MAIL SUMMARIES

(Continued from page 58)

of having had a poor month, income-wise, we show a 12% income increase over the year-to-date.

Our offer in the French TOMORROW'S WORLD for the new CORRESPONDENCE COURSE has brought in a very good response. Currently, the CORRESPONDENCE COURSE shows 59% increase over the same month last year.

This month, our regular mail from France has been affected by strikes of all French communications systems.

MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES May 25, 1972

Income this week rose above last week's level. The Feast of Weeks offering, although a 12.52% decrease compared to last year, greatly assisted our income to an encouraging level. Our month-to-date increase is up to 25.58%; and our year-to-date increase now stands at 11.07%.

Mail count improved this week with a total of 1,842 letters. Mail receipt early in the week was over a thousand letters, but tapered off to just over a hundred letters as of the latest weekly count. But the total count is fairly good.

SPANISH WORK June 3, 1972

Mail income for the month of May finished with an increase of 51.1% above May of last year. For the year to date increase is 2.9%. Total letter count for May was 4,322. The letter count for the year to date stands at 25,838, or 106.2% above 1971.

LETTER EXCERPTS

WHAT YOU CAN DO

This is a popular feature among our readers as shown by these comments. They don't always agree — but they read it.

(Continued on page 69)

Festival Office

LESLIE L. McCULLOUGH

We are now well under way with plans for the 1972 Feast of Tabernacles. Housing applications have been rolling in and at this point we have an 86 percent return. Having returns come in this early helps us tremendously in planning properly for the fall Feast.

However, there is one slight problem you can help us with. Last year the total returns were only 86 percent. There were several factors in this — some attended with others and did not return their applications and some stayed at home, etc. This year, we would like to have as many returns as possible even from those who stay at home. Would you help us by announcing that all persons who received an application should return it whether they are attending or not. Also, while you are at it, you might make a mental note to be sure to send in your own ministerial housing application as soon as your plans are finalized.

For the first time in two years, the second tithe income has increased considerably for this time of the year. This is due primarily to the tithe of the tithe and excess second tithe being sent directly to Big Sandy along with the housing application. We did this for the convenience of handling the money and to encourage the people to send it on time. Normally all funds go to headquarters, this being the only exception. Since some have asked about it, it might be well for you to mention this to anyone who asks you. All other tithes and offerings — including tithe of the tithe and excess second tithe — should go directly to Headquarters *except for that which comes with the housing application* (which we process here and send directly to Headquarters).

Construction for the Wisconsin Dells festival site is going "full blast." Mr. Cole recently returned to Big Sandy from the Dells and, though the men will be working up to the last minute, the site will be ready on time. At this time the steel is going up for the high convention center and the men are ready to begin final grading and paving.

As I write this, accommodations are being signed up for Wisconsin Dells and our new site, Alexandria, Louisiana. As I explained in a previous Bulletin, we have special plans for these two areas. In the past our members have absorbed the cost of sign-up through the excess second tithe. For some time we have known it is standard for the hotels and motels to pay for this, but we have not had the manpower to take advantage of that practice.

Because of the need for a professional convention approach, a special convention bureau has been established under the auspices of Galaxy Travel Agency of Pasadena, California. This convention service will be responsible, in cooperation with our Festival office, to sign up the housing accommodations for Wisconsin Dells and Alexandria this year, and will receive the standard fee from the hotels/motels for their services. Next year we expect this service to expand to include all festival areas.

We hope to streamline all our operations and lessen the financial burden on God's people wherever we can.

Some have asked about transfers to other areas outside the United States. Mr. Raymond McNair informs me that they will be able to accommodate approximately the same number of people this year as last in Minehead, England. Therefore, we will handle requests for England much in the same manner as last year.

The accommodations for Hawaii have not been fully settled. Mr. Tommy Blackwell is presently working toward that end and we should have the final figure for the number of people we can expect to transfer to Hawaii by the end of June.

Some have considered transferring to Barbados. However, due to problems with the government, we will not be allowing any transfers to Barbados this year.

In any case, except for special problem areas, the requests for transfers to all other foreign sites will be handled the same as last year.

In closing, just let me say "thanks" for the help from all the field ministry in making the announcements for second tithe income. They helped immensely. Please be sure to pass those thanks on to all the brethren. Their help and cooperation is certainly making this year an easier one to work with. All of us in the Festival office greatly appreciate it. □

BIG SANDY FARM PROGRAM RECEIVES FAVORABLE PUBLICITY

On Sunday, May 14, *The Dallas Morning News* published an article which reported on the activities of our Farm Program at Big Sandy. We thought it was such a *refreshing* bit of OBJECTIVE news reporting for a change, that we wanted to share it with all of you.

The article was written by Murray Cox. Mr. Cox was a county agent 11 years prior to his more recent 25 years as Farm Editor for WFAA radio and television in Dallas, as well as Farm Editor for *The Dallas Morning News*. He gave basically the same material on the radio along with a taped two-three minute personal interview.

Here now is the complete article:

On the Farm

School Applies "True Values"

by Murray Cox

Ambassador College, founded by Herbert W. Armstrong and promoted around the world by his son Garner Ted Armstrong, sets in beautiful, rolling, pine-covered hills of East Texas near Big Sandy. It is the most beautiful college campus I have ever seen.

I did not go to Ambassador College recently just to admire the beauty of the place, however. I am extremely interested in their agricultural program and especially their research. What intrigues me most is their effort to prove that we can attain maximum production of more healthful food without the use of pesticides, herbicides or acid-type fertilizers.

Dale Schurter, director of the Department of Agricultural Research, invited me to visit the campus and see their work. He said, "Ambassador College's motto is 'Recapture True Values.' The motto applies to every division of the college, including our agricultural program. The research program's primary objective is determining what are the 'true values' in agriculture."

He said they are not advocating a return to "old-fashioned" or "out-dated" farming methods, but a full realization of the right principles governing agriculture.

Their researchers believe the soil, given a chance to develop naturally, can be rebuilt and that plants grown on this healthy soil will have the ability to resist insect and disease invasion. This, again, is putting their program and goals in the simplest of terms.

One of the very interesting details of the research with soils is the study and usage of earthworms. Schurter said, "As with everything God created, there is a purpose — an important purpose — for the Oligochaeta, or order of the earthworm. He is a valuable asset to you whether you are an amateur horticulturist, backyard gardener or full-fledged farmer. He is equally as valuable to the consumer who has never seen a farm or been beyond the confines of his particular city block." The researchers have proved to themselves that the lowly earthworm actually consumes pathogenic or disease-causing microbes along with the soil itself. The result is not only the loosening of the soil but the building of rich productive earth. In tests at the college, they have increased rich top soil through the use of earthworms, along with good soil management.

Their research, in addition to soils and crops, includes beef cattle, dairy cattle, poultry, gardening and horses. An interesting part of a tour through the big farm is the sight of Scottish Highlander beef cattle, Brown Swiss dairy cattle, various kinds of chickens and a fine stable of horses.

These are used not only for research but for instruction of the hundreds of students and the production of meat, vegetables and eggs for the dining hall. The students live in beautiful quarters, eat well and obviously love their surroundings.

There are many more aspects to their agricultural program. I want to return some day for reports of specific projects such as their \$150,000 giant "digester machine" that will process garbage, sewage and other wastes and turn it into fertilizer for the fields.

What they are doing in research may not be accepted on the farms of Texas in my lifetime but I will be the last to say that it shouldn't. We need the information they are developing.

Then on the evening of the next day, Monday May 15, TV station KSLA, channel 12 in Shreveport, Louisiana, aired a 4-minute segment covering our agricultural program. It appeared twice, once during their regular 6:00 p.m. news time, and again on the 10:00 p.m. news. Several weeks before, Tom Erwin, anchorman for KSLA news, came to the campus with a cameraman and shot some very good film footage of many of the college agricultural areas, along with a one-minute personal interview with Dale Schurter.

Following is the script, typed from a taping of the newscast:

TO ALL FLEET CAR ASSIGNEES

The Transportation Department would like to express sincere thanks to all of you who have been putting forth effort to sell your old fleet cars in your local areas. Every time you sell a car it saves us not only several man hours in time, but it also saves the Work many dollars in drive-through costs and reconditioning expense. Naturally, the more tender loving care you give your car as the months progress, the easier it is to dispose of. Often cars that are returned from the field are in very good condition for the amount of mileage accumulated, so we know you are aware of this.

Overall, things are going very nicely with the fleet as a whole. Perhaps one of the major problems we're still having is that of lost or misplaced titles, registration slips and other official documents. A lost piece of paper can cost the sale of a car and a long delay. In some cases cars have been inoperative for five to six weeks while new titles are applied for. Meanwhile the payments go on.

Now here is some information concerning shock absorbers. As you probably know, shocks are a real high profit item for service stations and garages. They use all sorts of high pressure and scare tactics to con you into replacing good old shocks with good new ones. Perhaps, armed with the following information, we can better defend ourselves.

If you suspect you have bad shock absorbers, stop in at your friendly Chrysler dealer, and ask to see *Master Technicians Service Conference Reference Book 70-3*, titled "Shock Absorber Facts." This book will tell you what shocks are designed to do, and gives the proper procedure for determining the necessity of replacement.

Following are excerpts from this book:

Would you believe . . . that damaged, worn or leaky shock absorbers won't cause a car to droop or sag . . . that shocks don't have anything to do with supporting your car and, consequently, have nothing to do with the height of it?

. . . that a shock absorber which shows fluid on the outside is not necessarily leaking or faulty . . . that a certain amount of seepage is normal and necessary for lubrication?

. . . that a noisy shock absorber doesn't mean that the shock is damaged and should be replaced . . . that shocks tend to be slightly

noisy in the winter months and a few miles of driving should eliminate the noise?

. . . that you really can't test shock absorbers by bouncing the car up and down . . . that the only real way to test shocks is by road-testing and comparing a test car with a car you know has good ride and handling characteristics?

. . . that it is seldom necessary to replace shocks in pairs, and rarely ever necessary to replace a complete set of four . . . that except for physical damage or extensive leakage, a shock will last indefinitely regardless of the number of miles it has been used?

Shock absorbers are probably one of the most misunderstood components of an automobile. Although it is not a complicated part, most people just don't understand what the shock absorber does or how it does the job it's supposed to do.

Actually, the name "shock absorber" is somewhat of a misnomer. The shock absorber really doesn't absorb shock at all. The springing system, or as it's more commonly called, the suspension, does the shock absorbing. What is commonly referred to as a shock absorber is really a device to dampen spring movement. In fact, in England and Europe they are referred to as "dampers."

A shock absorber is basically a piston within a cylinder filled with hydraulic fluid. The action of the piston forcing the fluid through a restricted passage, or valve, achieves the dampening effect.

Probably the most common misunderstanding is that if a shock absorber is worn out, damaged, or has lost its fluid, the car will sag closer to the ground.

You're liable to run into quite a variety of shock absorber problems; but the most common conditions will be shocks that are either weak, noisy, or leaking. New car owners are the ones that are most likely to claim that the shocks are weak. Let's cover that particular condition first.

Virtually all of today's cars are designed to give a soft ride. There is a reason for this. First of all, most owners desire this type of ride. Secondly, today's improved road conditions allow this type of suspension design. Some owners are simply not aware that the ride is normal for most new cars, and that if there was something wrong with their shocks they wouldn't be getting such a smooth ride.

There are two instances when the owner is most likely to think that he has weak shocks. After about five thousand miles, spring stiffness and friction will work out and the ride of a new car may become noticeably softer. The rate of weak shock complaints is also

likely to increase in the springtime when warmer weather decreases fluid viscosity.

Springtime is when you may notice what seems to be abnormal seeping of shock fluid. That doesn't mean that you won't get seepage at any other time; but, there's a good reason why it's common at this time of the year. In winter the seal gets a little stiffer and fluid loss will be greater than usual. A certain amount of fluid seepage is normal and necessary for lubrication, and does not mean that the shock is bad and should be replaced. Shock absorbers actually have more fluid than is really necessary. The average new shock has about a 30% fluid reserve, so a minor loss of fluid won't affect operation. A clear indication that the shock is bad and should be replaced is when leakage is sufficient for the fluid to be dripping from the bottom of the shock.

Noisy shock absorbers should be replaced only if they are consistently noisy. The shock may make some noise if the car has been sitting for some time, especially in cold weather. However, a couple miles of driving should warm the shock up and eliminate the noise. If it doesn't, you should replace the shock.

The old question is: Do you or don't you replace shock absorbers in pairs? Well, the chances of shock absorbers going bad in pairs are few and far between. Except for leakage or physical damage, a shock will last indefinitely. So, don't waste your time by replacing a good "old" shock with a good "new" one. Don't try to test the shocks by bouncing the car, you'll only be wasting your time. You really can't check shock absorbers by bouncing the front or rear of the car.

And, don't be alarmed if the car bottoms out over a smooth, rolling bump. Remember, today's springs aren't designed to absorb that much of a load.

As mentioned before, these are only a few chosen excerpts from the book. I think you will find it quite revealing.

That's all for this time. Drive cheerfully and let us know if you have any suggestions on how we can better serve you.

— Leonard Schreiber

LETTER EXCERPTS

(Continued from page 69)

daughter came running to tell me her eight-month-old sister needed help because she was "falling out of bed." When I got to the baby's room, she was hanging by her head, over the side of the bed! My husband and I have been trying to train our children using your booklet on child training. It really works! Since my

husband was at work and I couldn't get to the phone, I told our three-year-old to go downstairs, open the back door, go to the neighbors house, knock on their door and tell them "Mommy needs help." She did exactly what I told her and with the neighbor's help we freed the baby from her crib. By the grace of Almighty God she was all right and even smiled afterward. I later measured the space between the slats; all of them were 3 inches except for the ones on the ends where the bed folds. Those two measured 3½ inches. I just hope that this might help other parents to take action on your helpful articles. I certainly plan to from now on.

— Mrs. Thomas M., Delaware, Ohio

I was surprised and shocked in your last issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* to find you defending wine. I know of course Paul counselled about wine to Timothy. But Scripture clearly makes a difference between fermented and unfermented. You mention moderation. No doubt you know recent discoveries show that even one glass sludges the blood. In the same issue you had a marvelous article about the human brain. It seemed incongruous for you to recommend something to destroy the brain.

C. S., Dowagiac, Michigan

LEARN, BABY, LEARN

This article drew by far the most comments — almost all of them favorable.

One day, I read your article on "Learn, Baby, Learn" by Clifford C. Marcussen. It happens to be a superior article, reassuring me that all children can learn if stimulated properly during the pre-school years. Would you send me your free copy of "The Plain Truth About Child Rearing." This book has been read by many of my friends and thought of as a good formula for a young couple to rear children.

— Mrs. Anne H., Pinconning, Michigan

I would like to receive a copy of the book "Plain Truth About Child Rearing" which was listed in the March-April 1972 issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. I felt that the article "Learn, Baby, Learn" was very interesting and am hopeful that the book will be useful also. If you can furnish information concerning the possibility of purchasing several issues of the book "Plain Truth About Child Rearing" I would appreciate receiving such information.

— George T., School Psychologist,
Meridian Public Schools, Meridian, Miss.

This is just to inform you that the title to your article and some concepts concerning the progressive education of slum children is racist, though I'm sure you had little intention of being so. Those surprisingly high IQ's of the children in Wisconsin only indicates that the activities of the center teaches them to respond to American middle class conceptions of IQ as represented by relatively culture/class bound tests. To me, a prospective teacher, it matters little if a child achieves high scores on such a test. However, one good thing was mentioned, and that is the recognition that children can learn things (i.e., reading) at ages much earlier than standard education permits them to. Your magazine does its job in exploring a wide variety of issues. However, I find too often that instead of revealing the plain truth you shirk that duty and often leave the issue somewhere in the middle or in the nebulous hands of God.

— Heather T., Putnam Valley, New York

NEW MYTHS ABOUT MARIJUANA

Letters agreeing with the article have been outnumbering the critical ones 3 to 1.

I really enjoyed your article in *The PLAIN TRUTH* on "New Myths About Marijuana," especially with the often-used statement "What's the physical harm?" This article helps me realize even more what an escape thing this is. I do not use drugs but am very interested in the effects they might be having on so many others. It did not use just fear tactics without facts, but honestly seeks to tell the truth as much as is known on marijuana.

— Sandra T., Portsmouth, Virginia

I've decided that marijuana is a bad drug, psychologically, if not physically. It didn't cloud up my mind at first, but it started to. The worst part is that it takes at least 2 or 3 days for its effect to fully wear off. On the other hand, I've learned to gauge my intake of alcohol so that I don't get muddled at all. A little bit of hard liquor is fun to drink because it warms you inside. You're absolutely right that there is no way or reason to smoke marijuana, except to get "drunk," while alcohol can be gauged so that only beneficial effects are experienced. I've become completely disillusioned with hippie-ism. I'm sad to admit that I was once a hippie.

— Lowell C., Hot Springs, Arkansas

I realize that you have a purpose to your magazine, therefore, it is likely to lack objectivity on occasions. I refer to the article you published on "New Myths About Marijuana." In it, you make the statement "Marijuana's use has encouraged strife, disillusionment and hatred — not love and understanding," but do not back it up. It is because of reasons such as this one that I often fail to see the "plain truth" of your message.

— Mrs. J. Metts,
North Plainfield, New Jersey

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICES BEFORE JESUS' BIRTH

Reaction to this article in terms of comments has been fairly evenly divided.

I enjoyed reading of the origin of "sunrise services" before Jesus' birth in your March-April issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine and would like more information on Easter and other popular customs that may have their origins in paganism. Thank you for any information that you can send me.

— Mrs. David M., Harrisburg, Penn.

Ordinarily I enjoy your articles and agree with most of them, but it irritated me the way you put Easter down in your March-April issue. I am a Christian and we celebrate Easter every year, the same as many others. To us the holiday holds the same Christian meaning that it was meant to when it was established as a holiday commemorating the resurrection back in the days of the Roman Empire. What this day means to us is not what it means to pagans, therefore there is no reason we should not set aside this day to rejoice at the resurrection of our Saviour. As for the Easter eggs, they could be compared to the firecrackers we shoot off on the Fourth of July. They are just tradition and harmless fun for the children. They mean nothing to us as far as worshipping a sun god. A person who is radical enough can find sin in everything. I'm sure a person isn't going to hell for hunting easter eggs all in fun. I just don't understand why your magazine, professing to be all for God should put down a celebration in which undoubtedly ninety-nine percent of all the people honor our Saviour and one percent use it to revert back to their sun god services.

Maryanne B., Wise River, Montana