

Bulletin

of the Worldwide Church of God

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 7

PAGES 81-92

JULY 25, 1972

General News and Comments

MAIL SUMMARIES

HEADQUARTERS

July 21, 1972

The income for the year to date through Thursday is 11.9% increase over last year inclusive of special offerings. The mail count is beginning to climb considerably now that we are back on radio and TV. However, total letters for the year through July 20 are 18.8% behind last year. Below is a breakdown by week for radio and TV mail:

RADIO:	last week in June	5,852
	first week in July	5,701
	second week in July	7,612
	this week	7,771
TV:	last week in June	1,547
	first week in July	2,349
	second week in July	3,597
	this week	5,284

The following is a summary of the advertising campaign, through Thursday:

Nationwide TV Guide (July 15 issue)	722
Reader's Digest	
April issue (Mind)	10,090
May issue (Mind)	3,239
June issue (Marriage)	4,954
July issue (Marriage)	4,321

VANCOUVER, CANADA

July 12

Income: 15.8% (Month-to-date increase)
 17.4% (Year-to-date increase)

Letters: 2,703 (Month to date)
 38.9% Decrease
 132,542 (Year to date)
 36.9% Decrease

The television mail is beginning to increase and will no doubt improve even more once Canadian viewers begin to respond to the daily telecasts beamed from the United States. The article "Ten Reasons Why I Tithe" in the July PLAIN TRUTH is resulting in a good number of requests for the booklets *Ending Your Financial Worries* and *Managing Your Personal Finances*.

LONDON, ENGLAND

July 14

Weekly Mail Report

The year-to-date total regular mail is 67,000 letters. Nearly 700 people have requested a full year's subscription to *The PLAIN TRUTH* during the week, while an additional 400 have responded to advertisements and will be receiving a 3-month trial subscription. We have had our first response to Radio Ceylon which began broadcasting July 1, as well as eight letters mentioning that they have heard the broadcast from Radio Manx, and 45 mentioning broadcasts from West Indian stations.

Newsstand and Library Distribution

One year after its inception, the newsstand project is continuing to make good progress. From
(Continued on page 82)

RECENT COLLEGE APPOINTMENTS

To keep you up to date on recent appointments to new responsibilities in the Academic area of the college, we include this list of men who will comprise the team assisting Dr. Roderick C. Meredith in his new responsibility as Deputy Chancellor of the Pasadena Campus:

Dr. Michael P. Germano, who has served four years as Dean of the School of Education, is now Executive Assistant to Dr. Meredith.

Dr. Herman L. Hoch remains as Dean of Faculty.

Mr. C. Sherwin McMichael is now Dean of Students and Director of Admissions. He has been serving effectively in that capacity at Bricket Wood for the past 3½ years.

Mr. Daniel W. Porter — Director of Student, Faculty, and Alumni Services. His responsibility will be largely in career guidance and placement and is administering a number of services for students, faculty members and the alumni.

Dr. William Stenger — Registrar. Dr. Stenger has been coordinating the academic advisement program for the past two years and has been administering the Mathematics Department. He has served on the faculty of two major universities.

Dr. John L. Price — Director of Libraries. Dr. Price has been our faculty member who has specialized in international education and has served on the faculty and in Imperial Schools for several years.

Dr. Richard E. Walther — Director of Learning Resources. This is a rather new responsibility at the College. Dr. Walther's primary commission is to assist faculty members in developing and continuing to upgrade their courses. He has been an education consultant to Bell Laboratories in their training area and has many years of experience in educational media and curriculum work.

PASADENA ADMISSIONS OFFICE

As a result of talks during the past Ministerial Conference and since that time, we have been in much closer contact with many of you in the field ministry regarding students or applicants in your areas. We are glad to see many of you calling in about occasional student problems or questions and would encourage you to drop us a line or give us a call on rush items that do come up from time to time. All of us in the Admissions Office can answer any of your questions concern-

Ministerial

Bulletin

of the Worldwide Church of God

EDITOR
HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

MANAGING EDITOR
DAVID JON HILL

Title to this Bulletin is reserved in The Worldwide Church of God and it is loaned only, subject to return upon request. Copyright © 1972 by Worldwide Church of God. All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright proprietor.

ing admissions or applicants. We can also help provide information on a student's current status in college, how they are doing, and why in some few cases they may have been dropped from college.

Many of the contacts we have had with you as Ambassador College representatives and local ministers have resulted in much better understanding of the total picture on admissions, students' progress, campus policies, etc. So when questions come up, let's keep in touch! Our phone number is (213)577-5027. □

MAIL SUMMARIES

(Continued from page 81)

an initial 400 copies placed on the newsstands in July 1971, the figures have risen dramatically. August 1972, upwards of 100,000 magazines will be placed in libraries and retail outlets.

Last month, the figures were increased by distribution in a new area — Holland. A total of 2,800 copies were placed in various Dutch cities, including The Hague, Amsterdam and Rotterdam. In July, the Dutch and English magazine will be seen for the first time in libraries in Holland. Even Iceland is being reached, beginning with the June issue.

Since the programme of newsstand distribution began, approximately 30,000 subscribers have been added to the mailing list as well as hundreds to the Correspondence Course.

British European Section

As many as 100 people have commented on the article, "Truth About Ireland," in the June PLAIN *(Continued on page 85)*

Church Administration

DAVID L. ANTION

The District Superintendents' Conference concluded a week ago. I feel the meetings were very successful. However, the success of any conference is determined by the results produced.

The conference lasted four days. No wives came on expense. However, three of the men brought their wives at their own expense. We sat in meetings five and one-half hours per day. These were workshop-type meetings of general discussion on many topics pertinent to field work. You will all be getting a detailed summary of the decisions, conclusions and exhortations at your local district conferences.

Some of the Decisions

There were lectures emphasizing *teamwork* — district superintendents working as a team with us here at Headquarters. Also emphasized was *teamwork* in the local district — the district superintendent working with his men in the district. And each pastor working with assistants and elders in *teamwork* in the local church area.

We rehearsed some fundamental points: purpose of the Church, purpose of the ministry, purpose of Church authority. We talked about the chain of authority. We discussed delegation down the chain. We discussed the proper procedure of appeals up the chain. We want to write this up and have it approved and then send it to all of you.

Your district superintendents contributed a considerable amount of valuable input in all these conferences. We intend that they continue to have an input on all decisions that affect the field. So can you! The best way is to go through your district superintendent. We encourage the district superintendent to seek your ideas so we can get the view at the "grass-roots" level.

Procedural Changes

Upon the recommendations of the district superintendents and thorough discussion of the pros and cons, we have decided to make the following changes.

We will do away with:

1. *Regular visit slips*. But you will retain new prospective member visit cards, deletion visit cards

and disfellowship visit cards. You need not send copies of the new prospective member card or deletion card to your district superintendent. Just send them to Headquarters. Send your district superintendent a copy of all disfellowship cards.

Though you don't need to write up any regular visits, you should type up all *serious problem visits* on memos. These would be potential *trouble-causing* problems that could involve Headquarters or your district superintendent. You will have to use judgment to decide whether it is a serious problem or whether it is just a local problem the pastor can handle. Send these memos to your district superintendent who can evaluate whether they should be sent to Headquarters. If urgency is involved use the telephone.

The idea we want to get across is that work does not equal a certain number of visits. We are responsible for a job. That job includes the total condition of our local churches. We can't go home after a certain number of visits feeling that our work is over — that "we've done our job."

There are some weeks when many problems will spring up. That week will require long, hard hours (perhaps many visits, perhaps not so many), sometimes 50 or 60 hours. Other weeks things will not be so demanding and perhaps 30 hours will do the job.

But it is the job that is important — the overall job of pastoring, serving, overseeing and feeding God's people.

This is the concept of total dedication to the job — being a "self-starter" — addicted to the ministry of the saints.

2. *Blue mobile file cards*. You can alphabetize the white mobile zip card for now. No more blue cards will be sent out.

3. *Ministerial visit summary card*. You will be accountable to your district superintendent for the *total condition* of your church area. We want to give you the freedom to do your job the best way you can, but will hold you accountable *for that job*. Each local pastor should oversee and apportion the workload of the men under him.

4. *Church area visit summary card*. The pastors of churches will be making monthly reports on the churches under them — the condition, manpower, problems, plans, etc. (we will define this more in the near future). This report will include the unvisited prospective members. The district superintendent will have this information and can recommend help or send it as he deems wise.

5. *Transfer information*. Rather than sending in a packet of visit slips with each change of address card, just type up a memo and send it with

the C. of A. card *only* where there is a serious problem or important information the new minister needs to know about the people moving into his church area. All such problem memos should be sealed in an envelope with the name of the person and the new address (if known) and should be stapled or clipped to the C. of A. card.

About Master And Mobile Files: CAD will look into possible types of computer listings to replace the present master and mobile files. If feasible, three-ring notebooks could hold listings rather than boxes. Updated listings could be sent out twice per year. All you would have to add is the phone numbers. Any ideas that you men have on this would be appreciated. Just write them up and send them in.

About Spokesman Clubs: The minutes reports will be retained in the local area and not sent to Headquarters or the district superintendent. A report (a brief memo) will be sent to Headquarters each fall telling the total number of Spokesman Club members in the area. This is all the information on clubs that will be reported to Headquarters. The district superintendent will know the ones in charge of clubs in their districts.

Again, all club directors will be accountable to the pastor and then to the district superintendent for the overall *condition* of the club and its conformity to club policy.

District Conferences

Mr. Raymond Cole and I will be attending the District Conferences all over the United States this summer. We will be very happy to discuss any of the above points with you to help clarify them if necessary. Also, CAD will be working on a permanent type of policy manual where new procedures can be inserted easily. For now the use of the Bulletin will suffice, plus a good memory.

Mr. Cole and I are certainly looking forward to visiting with all of you and getting to know you at these conferences. We want to know how we may help you do a better job of serving God's people. I hope you will feel free to ask questions that are on your mind and important to your work. If we can't answer them on the spot we will seek counsel on them when we return to Headquarters.

Lay-offs

This is confidential information, but we feel you men should have it. Here is the list of elders and

ministerial assistants who have been laid off during this recent cut-back. This is for your information to prevent rumors. *Elders:* Gene Scarbrough, Frank Wilson, Joe Szymkowiak, David Roenspies, John Roper, Stanley DeVeaux, Charles Wire, Robert Bragg. *Ministerial assistants:* Bob Simcik, John Wilson, Steve Fallaw, Dan Biedler, Dave Pack, Terry Thompson, Bill Pack.

Mr. Ken Mattson has been transferred to P.C.D. here at Headquarters. Mr. Richard Prince will be retired after the Feast of Tabernacles this fall. He will be a pillar in the local church where he attends.

The Ministry and You

One of the vital essentials of our job is *knowledge*. We have to *know* — have knowledge of, be acquainted with — God. We have to *know* God's Word, the Bible. We have to *know* how to pray. We have to *know* God's will, His law and His mind.

We must know human nature. We must know how to work with people — dealing with them in knowledge and wisdom — knowing how to teach and instruct.

We must know how to preach God's Word and teach it to our congregations. We must know the condition of the local congregation we pastor.

A minister doesn't have to know *everything* about everything. He is not expected to be an authority on every type of work, profession, sport or hobby. As a minister, you will not be despised if you don't know everything in the field of carpentry, health, or baseball, etc.

But you are expected to *know* the things mentioned above.

What happens if you don't know what is going on in the minds of your members? What happens when you don't know the condition of the congregation?

Answer: You will eventually lose control. Knowledge gives you the advantage and enables you to stop problems from becoming ponderous. Knowledge of what is going on helps you to keep problems from spreading — from finally blowing up and causing severe damage.

A minister who doesn't *really know* his congregation (as well as God's Word, will and law) is on his way to real trouble.

How can a minister get to know his congregation? By visiting. He must visit the people. But while visiting he must be approachable, "easy to be entreated." He will know more about what is

going on if people feel free to talk with him about their problems, troubles, trials.

But how can you be approachable?

Your mannerisms, smile, tone of voice, general demeanor all affect your approachability. Do you listen with your whole self? One book on communicating gives the following suggestions for listening. It says: "Listen with your head to what is said. Listen with your *heart* (mind) to what isn't said. Listen with your body, by reacting physically — with posture, gestures, nods. Listen with your voice, by asking questions and by responding with playback, words or silence as appropriate." In other words — *listen with your whole self*.

But approachability is more than listening. *It is how you react* to what you hear. It's patience, sympathy, empathy, concern and love.

To be approachable you must put people at ease. If they fear you or feel uncomfortable with you, they will not communicate with you totally. Fear is a barrier to proper communication — and thereby a barrier to your knowledge of what is going on. Your people must not be afraid to come to you with their problems. YOU MUST MAKE SURE THEY ARE NOT! You must go out of your way to *see to it* that they are not afraid!

In this connection it is wise to be aware of your idiosyncrasies. Do you have habits or manners that make you appear harsh, stern, severe, hard or austere? Do these traits tend to be portrayed in your approach behind the pulpit — in sermons, announcements or Bible studies?

If so, people may be afraid even to venture to get to know you better.

Work on being approachable — *more approachable than you are now!* Ask your wife for help. Ask your fellow ministers what idiosyncrasies give you an unapproachable facade, and to suggest *how* you can be more approachable — what you have to CHANGE.

Do you really know your congregation? Do you know where the potential problems are? Do you know *who* needs your help? Do you know who is weak and in what areas? Who is strong and in what areas?

Do you really know or do you *think* you know? And how current is your knowledge?

Remember, one of the vital requirements of your job is *knowledge!*

Help!

We need your help to make this column effective. We can't always know that everything we write here will be helpful to you. Please write to us if you have any suggestions or comments.

to FEEL FREE to ask questions on anything you don't completely understand.

Give us feedback, please. Whatever is not understood should be clarified. If you want to check with your district superintendent for clarification, that is fine. But if he isn't exactly sure, he should write and ask or encourage you to do so.

Your feedback can be positive, too. When you show that you do understand, it is also encouraging. But please, don't allow time to go by while in doubt, or wondering what is meant. Ask. Will you? Thank you! □

MAIL SUMMARIES

(Continued from page 82)

TRUTH. Although the magazine was mailed over three weeks ago, the article on Ireland is still bringing in a number of comments. People favouring opposing sides in the dispute write us, both from Ireland and abroad.

African Section

Last minute preparations are now being made for the African baptizing tour due to begin in three weeks. Altogether the tour will cover over thirty thousand miles through eleven countries. Letters have just gone out to nearly 300 people, many of whom have been waiting nearly ten years for a visit from one of God's ministers. The tour, due to leave on August 8th, will include a two-week stop-over for the Festivals in South Africa. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Morton are due back in London on October 9th.

COMMENTS ON THE JUNE PLAIN TRUTH

DOES GOD EXIST?

Your June 1972 issue was a most inspiring magazine. The article "Does God Exist?" has brought about a change in my outlook on life. Not only is the article "food for thought," but it has strengthened a weakening faith in the Almighty.

— Mrs. R. T.

College Park, Georgia

Your article "Does God Exist?" is wonderful. How anyone could read this or to just look around at the things we have growing in this world of ours or know and think about all of our organs, glands, etc., in our bodies and their functions and not know there is Someone behind all of this is beyond me. There has to be! I like the way you write —

— Mrs. R. T. — very interesting. Thank you

(Continued on page 86)

A Survey of Funeral Customs

Bill McDowell has written a master's thesis on the subject of funeral customs. We felt his last chapter, "What Should a Christian Do?" would be especially informative for all you ministers. Do not construe this as "orders from Headquarters." It is for your education in general — the first of many helpful features we hope to include in future issues of the Bulletin. Any contributions you send in for this area are welcomed.

— Jon Hill

"DOWNRIGHT PAGAN" decries Edgar S. Born, Jr., director of worship for the United Lutheran Church — describing many modern funerals! (*The Christian Century*, p. 717.)

Other church representatives are equally as vociferous in denouncing today's trend of burial — but these practices continue! The objections are against the secular ostentation with which "the deceased" is treated. The elaborate preparations, long and senseless "wakes," viewing of the body, materialistic display and needless expenses are causing more than casual concern in many religious communities.

Though it is seldom done, the first recommendation by church bodies is to notify the local pastor of a death. He should then be responsible to assist the family in their time of need.

Ministers' Responsibilities

It has long been recognized as one of the prime functions of the minister to help in time of death. The ancient Waldenses made specific note of this:

And whereas, in former times, it hath been the custom to cause the disconsolate widow to spend much money on singers and ringers, and on persons who eat and drink, while she weeps and fasts, wronging the fatherless children: *it is our duty*, from motives of compassion, to the end that one loss be not added to another, *to aid them with our counsel and our goods*, according to the ability which God hath bestowed on us, taking care that the children be well instructed, that they may labor to maintain themselves, as God hath ordained, and live like Christians (*History of the Church of Christ*, vol. iii, p. 447).

Contrary to the modern conception of the minister "staying out" of the "physical" needs of a death-stricken family, those ministers felt a duty, a compassion, a responsibility to *do* something to relieve the burden of the widow!

Times have not changed so much, after all. Great amounts of money are still being squandered needlessly on "singers, ringers, eating and drinking!" How often does a minister see this happen today, feel personally appalled, but does *nothing* about it, because he feels it might be "out of place" for him to speak up? Without realizing it, Mr. Brown echoed the very wording of the Waldenses by stating: "Every Christian has a responsibility to live his faith. Funerals are a good place to begin" (*The Christian Century*, p. 717).

But records indicate the average minister is ill-prepared to be of real help in these matters and is relegated to a "simple flunky" who says a few ritualistic words at the funeral service!

A *responsible* minister will *make it his business* to know the facts and be fully prepared to give *wise* counsel to the survivors on both spiritual *and* physical matters of death and burial so that his charges may "*live like Christians*"!

The Christian's Responsibility

To "live like a Christian" in a time like this, the Christian must do at least *two* things: (1) He must thoroughly know, understand, believe and have faith in what the *Bible* plainly teaches about death and the resurrections; and (2) he must be practical, realistic and concerned with the living even during the crisis time of grief and mourning.

The Church and the ministry *should* be respon-

debts, payments — those items which would quickly tell a widow where she stands and help her avoid as much confusion as possible. One more advantage to include in the safety deposit box is information concerning a memorial society.

The Memorial Society

Because of the unfair advantages and flagrant practices of the funeral industry, societies have been formed to assist the average individual in his struggle against the high cost of death. Principally, a memorial society is a voluntary grouping of people who have joined together to obtain dignity, simplicity and economy in funeral arrangements through advance planning. It provides the advantage of collective bargaining to obtain the desired services at a moderate cost.

Joining a memorial society is not like joining a "union" or politically oriented club or organization. There is a nominal lifetime fee of \$15.00 which makes these services available. Information can be obtained through the Yellow Pages of the telephone book or from:

Continental Association of
Funeral and Memorial Societies
59 East Van Buren Street
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Generally, these societies encourage cremation, but are concerned about a simple burial as well. This simple burial can be obtained at a much reduced price through the society. A sampling of the latest costs through the society showed the traditional funeral to be from \$400.00 to \$500.00 (maximum), and a "simplified" traditional funeral to be from \$250.00 to \$350.00 (Jennifer Schroeder, Secretary, Chicago Memorial Society, personal interview, May 12, 1970). These costs are exclusive of cemetery costs which must be arranged individually.

In addition to price advantages, the society has prepared very helpful and instructive material to assist at the time of death. The memorial society provides a distinct advantage in our age of commercialism and extravagance in the funeral industry!

The Final Step

No one desires or anticipates death! It is an *enemy*, the *last* enemy to be destroyed in God's plan of salvation! (I Cor. 15:24-25.) To a world confused, unsure and frightened about death, the Christian can and must set the true example of hope and confidence — looking with certainty toward the coming resurrection from the dead when death shall be conquered for all time!

PLAIN TRUTH COMMENTS

(Continued from page 86)

have all he has coming. I'm only 17 years old, but even I can't ignore facts like that. Thank you sincerely for the article.

— Perri D.,
Gilmer, Texas

SO YOU'RE A HOUSEWIFE

Your article "So You're a Housewife" by Paul W. Kroll is truly a life saver to my personal fulfillment and also the happiness of our home. The PLAIN TRUTH is helping me to fill the unanswered gaps in my life. No words could ever express what it has done for me.

— Mrs. R. T.,
College Park, Georgia

I'm in prison. One day soon, God willing, I'll be home. I made a mistake and I'll pay for it. But you folks are blessings that'll change my whole life; not only mine but my wife's. To start with, I was blessed with an exceptional woman who has stuck with me in doing this time. In the June issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, the article "So You're A Housewife," I learned a great deal. It was directed to women, but I read it anyway. My wife is a great woman. Thank you so very much for helping me to see.

— R. M.,
Riverton, Wyoming

Reading your article "So You're A Housewife," June 1972, I couldn't help but laugh at your "A magazine of understanding" line. That article was total bologna. . . . Not once was there a mention of the husband helping a bit with housework! I am not surprised to see a man wrote the article. Can he really expect me to accept his rap? I ask this man to spend only one year (when for us women it's more like 50 years) dusting the house, vacuuming the house, rearranging the house, cooking in the house . . . and see how long he can keep thinking how almighty important he is. What's wrong with a real marriage of being equal where the man gets up off his bottom and cleans after himself? I can't believe it. I could write 5,000 pages. I just can't believe you're serious.

— Sheila S.,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

COMMENTS ON THE JULY PLAIN TRUTH

WHAT YOU CAN DO (ASPIRIN)

In the July issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, appeared an article, very frightening, about the uncommon knowledge about the common aspirin. I am writ-

ing this to ease the minds of those troubled. I am 81 years of age, in good health, and very active. I have taken two aspirin tablets, four times a day for the past eleven years. I take two tablets (ten grains) after each meal, and at bed time. I always take a snack at bed time, before taking the aspirin. NEVER TAKE ASPIRIN ON AN EMPTY STOMACH, and no one will have the symptoms described in the article printed in your magazine.

I sincerely hope this will be published in *The PLAIN TRUTH* letter section of your magazine. Thank you. In all sincerity.

— Cecilia M. W., R.N.,
Phoenix, Arizona

TEN REASONS WHY I TITHE

Please find personal check for twenty dollars (\$20.00) to use as you see fit. Thanks for the article on tithing in the July *PLAIN TRUTH*. The above contribution is the result of that article. I have been lax on the matter and hope to improve on this from now on.

— Norman F.,
Ancortes, Washington

I have decided to quit robbing God. I am 86 years old and I think it time to quit and I think you are doing more to please God than any church I know, so here is a check for 10 percent of my Social Security check for the month of June.

— R. L. A.,
Fremont, California

I have just finished reading Mr. David Jon Hill's article in the July, 1972 *PLAIN TRUTH*. In my opinion the article is a masterpiece! I especially enjoy reading articles written by Mr. Hill. I have been tithing since December of 1966 (except for a month or so when I felt I could not "afford" it. Then I, too, got into trouble like the people quoted in Mr. Hill's article).

A couple of months after I started tithing I received an \$850 windfall. About 6 months later I received another job with about a 50% increase in salary. That *did not* include \$1200 a year (for two years) of *tax-free* money under a separate program. I have also continued to receive raises and move up in this job. I give all the credit to God. I am so very thankful to have a part in His work.

— Margie G.,
Jackson, Mississippi

Regarding these freewill offerings, we'd like you to know of the agreement we have made with God. We are starting our own business here in Monahans. It will be a wood shop and small engine repairs shop. Well, when we opened we agreed on sending, besides our tithes, whatever we made from every 3rd job or piece of work we sold. Here is our offering for our first month, May. It's not much yet, but I believe if we hold to our agreement, things will get better.

And also we are being tested carefully on our agreement. You see our 1st job was \$1.00, our 2nd job was \$3.00, our 3rd job was \$7.00, our 4th was \$20.00, our 5th job \$5.00, our 6th job was \$43.00, our 7th job was \$1.00, our 8th job no fixed price yet and our 9th job \$20.00. So as you can see, its been rough to stick to, especially since we really don't have much to start with. We feel that God's Work at this time is much more important than our own pleasures and only wish we could give more.

— Thomas H.,
Monahans, Texas

REQUEST FOR BOOKLETS ON SEX EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

In the May 5, 1971 Co-Worker letter, Mr. Armstrong mentioned work being done on three sex instruction books. They were to be for ages 6-7, 10, and young teen-agers. That has been well over a year ago and nothing has been mentioned about them since.

We sincerely hope that nothing has gone wrong and that work is still being done to get these books printed. Having read "God Speaks Out on the New Morality," and "The Missing Dimension in Sex," we know that these instruction books will be excellent.

— J. B. M.,
Pueblo, Colorado

GENERAL LETTERS OF GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION

Here is a small sampling of the many letters we receive from people whose lives have been dramatically changed and blessed as a result of this Work:

At long last through the blessings and mercy of God, a dream has come true for my family and myself. About 2½ years ago I undertook the greatest task in my life. I have lived in the city all of my life and was really not satisfied. With the mounting problems of city life, I decided I had to do

something to insure us of a better living. The real awakening was when I was robbed by two men at gun point. I had read in your articles about the pleasures of rural living and all its advantages. So I asked God to give me means to build my own house. With three hundred dollars and God's mercy I started to build. For 2½ years I worked day and night. God gave me knowledge and strength and many people to help me in this undertaking. God opened doors for us that only God Himself could open. I have just moved into a new house along with my family, out in the country, with four acres of land and mortgage free. God is truly wonderful to us all. I have been blessed to be associated with such a wonderful and revealing work.

— John C.,
Washington, D.C.

I would like to start out by saying how great a job you're doing by telling people the truth about Jesus Christ and also the world. I should know because when my brother and I came to your college to talk to someone for answers to our problems, your work was all we needed to see; and also our conversation with your counsellor really encouraged us as to what we were to do in life. We both whole-heartedly support your work which we know for a fact God controls and watches over.

— Mr. Patrick L.,
St. Petersburg, Florida

I have just recently come to really believe yours is God's Work. My husband has been reading your literature and has believed yours is God's Work for about the last six years. About 2½ years ago he decided to send his tithe to the Work. We both attended the SDA Church and I believed it was the true church. I felt he should give the tithe to them. He refused saying that he had to send it where it would do the most good. We still sent another ½ tithe to the former church for some time. I began to read everything I could find, pray, talk to my minister and with friends to prove to him that he was making a mistake. Since I wanted to be fair I began reading a lot in TOMORROW'S WORLD and other articles we have, and later the Bible Course. Well, after 1 year I began to see the lack of understanding in the church I attended — the 3 ministers never answered one question from the Bible! I had thought they knew the Bible. Later, two of your representatives came to see us and were here 4 hours. I had many questions; they answered them all — not with "we think" or "the Church says" or "I believe," but they turned to

verses of the Bible to answer them all. The answers are all there and I never understood before! I found how wrong I've been! The emptiness I've felt so long has changed now and I'm so happy about it all!

— Mrs. Clyde L.,
Riner, Virginia

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I read and try to absorb every article in both TOMORROW'S WORLD and *The PLAIN TRUTH*, plus several specific periodicals received from your most enlightening publications. I was privileged to spend three years at St. Charles Seminary, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada, studying for the priesthood, eventually becoming a drop-out; and with God's help and that of my wife, brought up three children — two married and one still with us. At times the road seems impassible, but the answers are quickly found in your articles. World conditions being so constantly unstable and fraught with uncertainty, your explanation of what to look for reawakens one to the reasons for God's motives.

— Leo P.,
Lynn, Massachusetts

I find great inspiration from your program and it gives me the will not to give up. My life is still full of sin and ignorance, but already life is beginning to throw a few breaks my way. More than money or fame I wish to learn to do good and quit breaking the Ten Commandments — to learn to love God with all my heart and mind and to love my fellow humans as myself. I have been running my big mouth about Ambassador's great work while not living a very good life myself. Needless to say this has done you fine people some harm, and I hope that you or someone will pray that I get some sense and grow up.

— Mr. R. L.,
Ionia, Michigan

The staff of our counseling center had the opportunity to read the articles in your February issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. We commend you for your sincere focus on the problems of today's youth. We have found your publications to be a great help in counseling and rehabilitation of Juvenile Delinquency, and we wish to continue using your magazine for the purpose of enlightening our misguided youth. Will you please add our name to your mailing list.

— Mark S., Probation Counsellor,
Salt Lake City, Utah

Received your good letter recently so will reply with great faith in you and yours. I am just a poor prospector. I live out where the desert is my cathedral and the mountains are my mansions. You might call me a desert wanderer. I have many prospects in sight, but no assets on hand. But I have hope. If they mature you and yours are at the top of the list. God bless you.

— Jim H.,
Trout Creek, Montana

I want to thank you for including me on your mailing list of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. This check is a donation. I tell you this because you sent one back to me thinking I was trying to pay for the magazine.

— Mrs. Z. M.,
Toledo, Ohio

Enclosed is a little contribution to help this wonderful work. Wish it were possible for me to do more. God's richest blessings shine on all of you. The magazines have brought me more peace, comfort and understanding of God's plan than I ever have known in my life.

— Mrs. Vickie K.,
Paola, Kansas

Your article "Does God Exist?" is wonderful. How anyone could read this or to just look around at the things we have growing in this world of ours

or know and think about all of our organs, glands, etc., in our bodies and their functions and not know there is Someone behind all of this is beyond me. There has to be! I like the way you write — just like you talk — very interesting. Thank you so much for *The PLAIN TRUTH*, and I let others enjoy it along with me.

— Mrs. Vernon S.,
Amarillo, Texas

I would like to thank you for printing the article "Does God Exist?" and Herbert Armstrong for writing this excellent article. He has effectively proven the existence of a higher force than man presently called God. I hope you have other articles as good as this.

— Alex R.,
Pacific Palisades, California

I would also like to commend the author of the piece on the proof of God's existence. It had the effect of converting me from an agnostic to a believer in the existence of a Supreme Being.

— Arthur M. V.,
Somerset, Massachusetts

The article "Does God Exist?" is very important to me, as for years I have believed in evolution. The way you explained the answer surprised me. Again, I thank you very much for accepting me as a subscriber.

— Adolf G.,
Ballston Spa, New York