

The Bulletin



of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 10

PAGES 415-454

AUGUST 27, 1974

News Briefs

Highlights of news from division reports in this issue

ACADEMIC (page 435)

Ron Dart reports that the new school year started on a note of real enthusiasm, with everyone looking forward to a great year in Big Sandy. He goes on to explain how increasing their student body by 20% actually *doubled* their problems!

BRICKET WOOD (page 434)

Results of campaigns in Glasgow and Edinburgh are enumerated by Charles Hunting. Latest word shows an exceptionally high number of new people have attended the first two follow-up Bible studies in Birmingham. All are enthusiastic about the future potential of the Work in Britain.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION (page 422)

Wayne Cole was out of town for several days and does not have any personal material for this issue, but he has authorized the inclusion of a writeup explaining changes in the Area Wage Adjustment policy, and another giving guidelines regarding ministerial housing standards.

DATA PROCESSING (page 429)

For this issue Ben Chapman relates the history of ACTS — not the book, but the "Ambassador College Terminal System" which has become so vital to the maintenance of our mailing lists.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS (page 423)

Frank Brown reports that the fiscal budget is now complete and approved, and that our bankers are happy with it. Also included is a report from

Bob Ashland updating everyone on changes in Physical Plant Operations.

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION (page 431)

Now back from his tour of offices in Australia, Southeast Asia and the Philippines, Les McCullough reports on his campaign in Brisbane, follow-up Bible studies in Manila, and growth in overseas areas. Featured is an interesting report from Guy Ames about activities of the Work centered in Singapore.

MEDIA (page 425)

Good news! Norman Smith lists 10 new TV and 6 new radio station outlets which have either begun or will soon begin airing the broadcasts. A discussion of TV avails follows, along with some caution on financing local broadcast time.

MAIL PROCESSING (page 416)

Encouraging news about mail activity, responses to Mr. Armstrong's PT gift subscription letter, and co-worker activity are related by Richard Rice. Also be sure to see the special announcement re the literature index. A must for everyone's reading are this issue's letter comments.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES (page 427)

Included in this issue: Garner Ted Armstrong's campaign schedule for the rest of this year and on into 1975; updates on recent campaigns; news of upcoming in-person evangelistic efforts in Düsseldorf, Paris and Martinique; summary of a program to develop *free* local radio and TV promotion.

PUBLISHING (page 426)

Brian Knowles submits key excerpts from a new GN editorial policy recently approved and instituted by Garner Ted Armstrong.

Mail Processing

Mail Activity

Up through August 19 the amount of mail received for the month totals 107,022 letters. Our accumulated total for the year thus far is 2,031,236 — about the same amount as last year at this time. Anticipated expansion in radio and television coverage across the nation should begin to generate a progressively positive increase in mail within the near future. Also, a large direct mailing (175,000 letters) to our *donors* should bring in a 20-30% response. As Mr. Ted Armstrong has been stressing recently, the Work is viable and being given positive forward momentum.

Responses to PT Gift Subscription Letter

Continuing the report begun in previous *Bulletins*, Mr. Armstrong's PT gift subscription letter is still bringing a favorable response. Our updated figures show that as of August 19, we have received 36,079 letters. Of these letters 78.7% have contained contributions for someone else's subscription. The accumulated donations from this mailing now total an estimated \$226,500, averaging approximately \$8.00 per donation letter.

Co-Worker Activity

Over 3,644 new people have begun to receive Mr. Armstrong's Co-Worker letters this year. Co-Worker cancellations amounted to 153, but 126 others have been reinstated. These are very positive indications for the future.

— Richard Rice

NEW LITERATURE INDEX

In the next Bulletin you will find included the latest Literature Index. It is a list of all the currently available booklets and reprint articles for your personal use. May we, therefore, ask that you *not loan your list to Church members or allow it to be duplicated*. This could cause considerable expense to the Work.

We are always happy to provide members with any reading material they need or request. However, when *long lists* are sent in requesting dozens and sometimes hundreds of pieces of literature, our postage and processing costs increase considerably.

Thanks always for your help and cooperation. Any recommendations for improvements in the Index will be appreciated.

The
Bulletin

of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

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LETTER COMMENTS

RESPONSE TO CO-WORKER LETTER

Our experience in dealing with the mail over the years shows that virtually all of the letters are straight to the point with few comments on any one subject. So when we receive several dozen comments about a specific item we feel that it is worthy of note. However, over the past few weeks we have been *deluged* with letters of support and encouragement for Mr. Herbert Armstrong in response to his latest co-worker letter. At this writing (Aug. 22) we have counted well over 500 letters, most of which exceeded one large page of writing — in fact, most were two to five pages in length!

These letters indicate that the membership is overwhelmingly behind and fully supporting Mr. Armstrong in this Work. These members and Co-workers were not attempting to flatter but were simply pouring out their hearts to the man they feel God is using in these last days to do the greatest Work of all time.

A summary of some of the feelings expressed are as follows:

"100% behind HWA" — some even "1000%"
Holding up his hands
They know he is doing God's Work
Many were sorry they had never written before

(Continued from page 421)

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
GARNER TED ARMSTRONG
Vice President

To all ministers and key supervisory personnel in Christ's service:

GREETINGS AGAIN! Seems impossible, but another Feast of Tabernacles is almost upon us; another school year well under way, another summer drawing to a close, and we're all about 10 years older!

I've been grinding out new TV programs the past couple of weeks; we're all enthusiastic about our new approach through placing the TV program in many more areas where our own church brethren can view it, and going back on daily radio with the more current, hard-hitting news analysis prophecy type broadcasting. Hope you're listening -- and I'll certainly appreciate your comments; or those of our members.

Though the "avails" on radio and TV have been coming more slowly than we might wish; you'll notice, through the WN, as well as in the most recent PT radio and TV log, that we are making steady progress!

I was just discussing two more availabilities with Norman Smith following the daily radio program today; one is in Lubbock, Texas. But, we had a CPR (cost per new response) of \$117.00 there when we were on previously -- which is obviously terrible! I hope our brethren understand that, even though we so desperately want to allow ALL of them to be able to see the TV program every week, it may just be IMpossible in some few areas because of the prohibitive costs! I asked Norman to check with the Agency to see if they would offer a better time (they opened up 12:00 noon, Saturday) for less money. Maybe we can send you the facts, and you can inspire the people there to help, Brent!

By the way, we ARE DEFINITELY USING all the input from you fellows in the field in our selections on radio and TV. EVERY report I see includes your own evaluations (or sometimes two or three of you in the general area); so don't feel, even though some months may pass without good coverage in your area, that your requests or suggestions are ignored; they represent a vital part of every report on radio and TV availabilities I read!

Mr. Armstrong is due back from his most recent trip in another very few days; all here anxiously awaiting word of any new doors opening up for future meetings and campaigns. I believe Mr. Armstrong will be going back to Central and South America within a few months --

through the door opened by the Japanese on this trip.

It looks, from world news, that any campaigns in Ethiopia have been indefinitely delayed -- since Selassie's power has been stripped away; most of his hand-picked officials jailed, and a military government in charge. The situation changes on an almost day-to-day basis, in country after country, as you know!

I had a profitable meeting with some of the CAD men the other day; talking about our ongoing training programs. I hope you all avidly devoured, as I did, every line of the article appearing in the WN about a month ago concerning the two and one-half week workshop for all the ministers and their families there. I am very much encouraged by this new program; heard nothing so far except the very finest comments; and, incidentally, I am very thankful for the way Art Mokarow is helping in these workshops and seminars.

I'm sure you were encouraged to see our CAD budget had allowed us to draft directly into the ministry some few of our Imperial teachers as ministerial assistants, rather than simply asking them to seek other employment, when, in fact, their education was exactly similar to others of you in the same graduating class. They have had the added benefit, of course, of teaching five days a week ever since.

We have finally BALANCED the budget! It was titanic; it was traumatic (and still is), but we have cut over FIVE MILLION out of the earlier projections, and were able to show the bank a balanced budget for the fiscal year!

BUT; that's on the basis of a projected FIVE PER CENT INCREASE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30th! Believe me, that's an AMBITIOUS figure, looking at recent statistics, and at the world and national financial pictures!

I know you all sense, and understand, as do I, the unbelievable URGENCY of these times in which we're all living, and working! Top economists fully expect stringent government CONTROLS in the near future; more government SPENDING, to artificially pump up a DEFICIT economy again; about TWO YEARS of BULL MARKET through '75 and '76, and THEN they see a really disastrous result when the temporary spurt runs out by 1977! How accurate their predictions are is anyone's guess; but they are the people who advise the big banks -- not just people on the street complaining about prices.

So; maybe we will see two big, growing, booming years ahead for God's Work -- and maybe we won't! But, at least, we're forging ahead in POWER now, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom in STRENGTH and POWER in radio, TV, personal evangelism, and in print! I hope you notice the new look in the current PT, and are happy to see the CURRENTNESS of it; we have taken a three MONTHS' lag time, and shortened it up to about 10 days! We certainly appreciate everyone's cooperation in bringing this about -- with special thanks to our regional editors, HQ staff, and the press.

Please keep holding up our hands, fellows, as we strive to hold

up yours. We need your help in encouraging and inspiring God's people to really give the Work a HUGE BOOST during this entire upcoming Holy Day season! I know you've read my personals in the WN, and the recent HDO letter, and I know you're aware of the need without my repeating it, endlessly. But YOU are the key! The inspiration YOU show -- the support, and dedication to the job we're doing -- THESE are the keys!

I hope to see ALL of you at the Feast in just a few weeks; meanwhile, to borrow a phrase from Peter -- you younger men; don't be afraid to call upon your older brothers out there for counsel, advice, ideas, or just plain help! Let's mutually love, and honor, and respect one another; let's appreciate one another, and let's not be afraid to say it! My thoughts ARE with you all CONTINUALLY.

Until next time, thanks for your prayers and for the job you're doing!

Your brother in Christ,

Samuel Lee Armstrong

Doctrinal Research

PLENARY SESSION ON TITHING

The first plenary session on tithing was held Wednesday, August 14 in the Academic Center of Ambassador College. Garner Ted Armstrong conducted the meeting which was attended by some 60 ministers, including Ronald Dart representing the Texas campus.

Mr. Armstrong pointed out at the beginning that the object of all previous discussions on tithing was to take a fresh look at the doctrine rather than to react to those dissenting ministers who have argued against our present teaching. He likened the attitude of some to that of the late Dr. DeHaan whose philosophy was "I'll do it if it's my idea." We cannot place ourselves above the Bible, he emphasized — instead, we must tremble before its divine authority. Tithing, pointed out Mr. Armstrong, is a voluntary act — much like Sabbath keeping or baptism. The Church does not force people to tithe — or to obey any other law of God.

Following these introductory comments, Herman Hoeh gave a summary report on the studies of the committee. He then reviewed the various approaches to tithing that have been discussed in the doctrinal discussions. He explained that Hebrews 7, in actuality, departs more widely than any other chapter from what we have previously written — the illustration of tithing in Hebrews 7 ceases with verse 10.

The main point of the book of Hebrews is to show us why we are here and what Jesus' office now is, as Mr. Herbert Armstrong has long held, said Herman Hoeh. But in Hebrews 7 the change in law is specifically referring to the lineage of the high priest which once required a son of Aaron, and now is in the family of Judah. At the same time it must not be overlooked that the principle of a change in law extends to *all* matters regarding priesthood — including tithing — as one sees from Hebrews 9:10.

In reviewing the considerations of Malachi 3, Herman Hoeh pointed out that the focus is on the *moral* implications, whether historical or prophetic. And as a moral or spiritual issue it is robbery to withhold tithes and offerings. As such the question of tithing is a moral or spiritual issue for all time — as robbery is a violation of one of the Ten Commandments, an eternal law.

Leviticus 27 does not introduce tithing as new — it merely provides special legislation on redemption for an *already existing* practice. It is especially interesting — and important — that we have no actual biblical record of where God *introduced* tithing. The book of Leviticus was written during the 2nd year of the Exodus in the spring, as is demonstrated by a comparison between Exodus 40:17 and Numbers 1:1.

A fundamental error that has been made by some is the assumption that God turned ownership of the tithe over to the Levites. As long as the Levites functioned they had the right to *take* the tithe for the Lord — but they did not own it in place of God. God paid it to them for their service in the temple. But it has always been *His* tithe. And only when they tithed of the tithe did they have any final claim to its use for their living.

Going back briefly to Malachi 3, Herman Hoeh pointed out that the term "land" can also be rendered "earth," meaning all of mankind. Malachi uses the phrase "Will a *man* rob God?" So nowhere is tithing *limited* to Palestine exclusively in the Bible.

After the report was concluded, Garner Ted Armstrong again took the floor and discussed the need for a new booklet on tithing to replace the old. He showed that the Bible states that it is also robbery of God to withhold *offerings*. Tithing is like prayer in that it is a deep personal activity. Marital relations too, like tithing, are voluntary — yet refusing to perform one's "conjugal dues" is counted *fraud* by Almighty God (I Cor. 7:4-5).

God does not intend His Church to be forced to beg for money. Tithing is dignified and it is a sound financial principle which He has established for the support of His Church and Work.

Ted Armstrong also showed that it should be the first thing you do — it's the first tenth. Tithing is a major *test* to a Christian: Judas was resentful of the way money was spent on Christ — he was critical of "wastage" of funds that "should have been given to the poor." Granted, there have been some human abuses and mistakes where money is concerned. Human beings are fallible and therefore subject to such errors — but God is utterly incorruptible.

A Christian, pointed out Mr. Armstrong, cannot have an attitude of reluctance when it comes to tithing and giving offerings (II Cor. 9:7).

Further discussions are being held on just what constitutes tithable income around the world as well as on the third and the second tithes. A study paper on tithing, much like the ones on Pentecost and Marriage and Divorce, will be forthcoming as

soon as possible for consideration by the field ministry.

C. Wayne Cole invites your comments, papers and any other input you feel may be pertinent at this point. Please feel free to get in touch with him or Herman Hoeh or Frank Brown if you feel you have any significant contribution to make on the subject of tithing while the topic is still in the discussion stage. Your comments are always welcomed and appreciated!

Editor's Note:

Ongoing discussions on healing are also continuing. Basic recommendations on administration are slated to be presented soon to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong for his consideration.

LETTER COMMENTS

(Continued on page 416)

Several wished to be "his sons" like his "Japanese sons"

Virtually all said they loved HWA and were praying for him.

Many spoke of the wonderful example he had set for the brethren

They realize how much pressure is upon his shoulders

They want him to walk through the doors God is opening

If we reproduced every letter in the *Bulletin* they would take well over 50 pages of space. However, we have taken the best of the letters covering the full gamut of response. Following is a small cross-section of the many letters received which we know most, if not all, of the ministers will want to read to their congregations during Sabbath services or Bible study.

"Truly God's Strong-Armed Warrior"

I have just read your absolutely inspiring letter of July 25, 1974. You are truly God's strong-armed warrior, doing a magnificent job. I cannot tell you, strongly enough, how much we are with you. No matter what future troubles or persecutions come to us we will stick with you — after all, we're in this thing together. You and Garner Ted just look over your shoulder — we are right there behind you — 100%! We're the weak of the world, all sizes and shapes, but strong with the armor of God.

Onward!!

— Mrs. F. Klein
New Orleans, Louisiana

"... Wise and Honorable Patriarch"

I'm writing to let you know how deeply thankful I am to be a part of this Work, and I know that

(Continued from page 435)



Q. I understand that third tithe is to be used in place of medical insurance for the field ministry. What benefits are available from this fund and how do we apply for them?

A. The July 19, 1973 issue of the *Bulletin* established as temporary policy what had previously been followed as a general principle; the third tithe account would be used in lieu of a group insurance policy to provide assistance to ministers affected by sickness or accidents.

However, because of the recent heavy demands on the third account, *that temporary policy must be rescinded.*

We do hope to have group medical and hospitalization insurance available in the future. Until we are able to offer such a policy we urge you to take steps to provide adequate coverage for you and your family.

All full-time ministers are covered by workmen's compensation that will provide coverage for work-related accidents.

Q. I've heard that a minister can buy a home and be exempt from paying property tax if he puts the title in the name of the Church. Is this correct?

A. Mr. Helge has recently written a memo dealing with this situation. A portion of that memo has been reproduced below to answer the question.

Some ministers have received information that if they are going to purchase a home they should take title to it in the name of the Church. They have been told that by doing this they will then be able to have the home declared tax-exempt from real property taxes.

Many state laws grant tax-exemption on a home owned by a church when it is occupied by one of its ministers. These laws specify that the tax-exemption is afforded to the church on such homes "owned" by them.

In other words, when a minister places the

title to his home in the name of a church and then claims tax exemption on it, he represents the home as being owned by that church. Most exemption forms require this to be stated under oath. As a consequence, the minister is in effect donating his home to the church.

The consequence of such a donation is that the minister no longer has any equity in it. This means he actually has no right to sell it. He would simply no longer be the owner. Unless the minister actually intends this result, he could not legally claim exemption on the taxes. Otherwise he would obtain the tax-exemption based on a misrepresentation of a material fact.

Q. Since we quit collecting members' tithes at services several months ago, I have had the black metal "tithe box" stored in my closet. Should these be returned to Pasadena or disposed of locally? What should be done?

A. These metal boxes represent a considerable investment, and since we have no plans to use them in the field, we would like to dispose of them locally. The postage for mailing them back to Pasadena would be quite high. Please offer them for sale at \$14.00, but don't refuse any reasonable offer. All checks should be made payable to Worldwide Church of God and should be sent to C.A.D. Staff Services.

Church Administration

Mr. Wayne Cole is out of town at the present time, so this issue's column will be abbreviated. While talking to him on the phone, he felt the two following items should receive the attention of the ministry and requested that we publish them for you. He sends a cheery hello to all, and says he will have some personal copy for the next issue.

— Ted Herlofson

AREA WAGE ADJUSTMENT

Last December we instituted an Area Wage adjustment program for field ministers. It was instituted to compensate those of you who live in high cost-of-living areas [using Department of Labor statistics]. Prior to that time some men received a special housing subsidy to help them

cover high rent costs in certain areas. It was handled strictly on an individual basis and one man in a city would get a subsidy, while another man in the same city might not. Need for a subsidy was left strictly up to the individual minister involved. Since going to the Area Wage Adjustment, this inequity has been removed. All men in a given high cost area will receive the same percentage area wage adjustment. We are now revising, updating and expanding the Area Wage Adjustment system to make it more complete and thorough.

As our basis for comparison of area living costs we are now using the American Chamber of Commerce Research Association [ACCRA] statistics which lists cost-of-living statistics for 150 cities nationwide. [We will still be using U. S. Department of Labor statistics for cities not listed in ACCRA.] We have chosen this as our basis because it lists over 100 more cities than the U. S. Department of Labor statistics, and because the salary range and items we compared, are a closer parallel to those of the ministry.

Since the Los Angeles area cost-of-living level is the basis for salaries in the Work, cost-of-living in all other areas will be compared with that of the Los Angeles area. For example, if your city is ten percent higher in cost-of-living than Los Angeles, you will receive a ten percent adjustment in your pay.

The amount of your wage adjustment which shows on your paycheck stub as "other earnings," will be applicable *only as long as you are required* to live in your particular high cost-of-living city. It will be dropped from your paycheck if you are transferred, or will be adjusted if your new residence is also a high-cost city.

A large number of you will begin receiving this adjustment who didn't before [due to the expanded list of cities covered by ACCRA], and a few of you who were receiving the adjustment will be dropped because the relative cost of living in your area is no longer higher than that in Pasadena.

Some of you may transfer from one area to another and find that your living costs jump dramatically, and yet you won't get the Area Wage adjustment. One major reason for this could be that you have moved from an extremely low [25% less than Pasadena] cost of living area to an area only slightly [5%] lower in cost of living than Pasadena. Your costs will jump dramatically in such a move, yet you are still getting by cheaper than if you lived in Pasadena or Los Angeles. In

such a case, you will simply have to absorb the increase in your cost of living.

If the city in which you live does not currently qualify for the wage adjustment program, it does not mean that it will never qualify. Additional cities will be added to the program as they are shown by statistics to be higher cost-of-living areas than Los Angeles. Cities will also be dropped as they are shown to have a lower cost-of-living than Los Angeles. These adjustments will be made twice per year. We feel this is a just program in that it will take the largest cross-section of cities available [almost 200] and will apply equally to all men in the field. While we realize it is not perfect, it is as close as we can get at this time. We have checked with over 25 major companies to find out how they handle the area wage adjustment situation and found that the overwhelming majority felt it was such a "bear" of a problem, they didn't even approach it. [Only one out of 25 had any such kind of program. So, you can see that we are doing what many major corporations have not been willing to attempt.]

MINISTERIAL HOUSING STANDARDS

De facto policies and rules have their start oftentimes in the absence of specific written guidelines. That's the case with the subject of housing standards for the ministry. From time to time situations and questions are brought to our attention which indicate certain misconceptions regarding what is expected of you, by Headquarters, in regard to the level of quality we want you to maintain in your housing.

Undoubtedly, things have been said from time to time that could be interpreted to mean that the field ministry *must* maintain a high level of quality in their housing. What we mean is that the home you have should be maintained in a quality way. A well-maintained home of whatever cost can be a quality example.

Mr. Armstrong has stated the basic principle many times. It is "buy the best quality you can afford." That's really it in a nutshell. Obviously, you would not want to buy more than you can properly maintain.

As of August the parsonage exclusion is being raised to your actual level of expenditure for housing. This will give additional advantage over members on a similar salary level in that you have a greater share of your income available for housing.

While it's certainly reasonable to expect you to live on a par, or slightly above those members on

similar income levels, you are *not* expected to live at the level of members who might make two or three times what you do. No minister should live in a home above his real ability to afford. To do so would be against the basic principles he teaches and for which he stands.

As far as possible, within the constraints of his budget and other circumstances, a minister should set an example in the quality, and especially the care of his home. A negative example is set by a minister living in a home beyond his means. An overly fine home can be a stumbling block to poorer church members who are scrimping and sacrificing to support the Work. An average priced home [for the minister's salary level] with above average care will set a better example than a more expensive home with slipshod care and upkeep.

Financial Affairs

Greetings again from the Financial Affairs office. Since my last report, the year-to-date income has nudged upwards slightly and is now standing at 1.9% increase, with most categories holding fairly steady. Naturally, there is some seasonal income included in the current figures for such things as tuition payments and other miscellaneous items. Probably no real firm indicators will become apparent until after the Feast.

The fiscal year budget is now complete, and all division heads have been given revised figures for expenditures. A recent luncheon meeting with our bankers proved to be very successful, and they are happy with our present fiscal plan thru June 30. Naturally, with the present reigning economic circumstances, all bankers are very, very cautious in dealing with many varying types of organizations since they themselves are experiencing a certain amount of cash shortage. They, naturally, want to be reassured that we can maintain certain levels of bank balances which make our account profitable to them. At the present time, based on our current projections, they are quite happy.

As I had mentioned earlier in the *Bulletin*, in order to bring our income and expenditures more into balance we have had to make some fairly large reductions in expenditures in building the fiscal-year budget. We reduced our overall expenditures by 9% which represents a considerable sum when you realize how many fixed costs are already a part of the budget which cannot be

reduced. These fixed costs include Church Administration, radio and TV time, etc. The reductions we made represent actual cash savings in expense, but will not necessarily add anything to our reserves until our income increases. This is what we are hoping — and praying — for!

One part of bringing about these larger savings did, of course, involve the layoff of approximately 200 employees to date since January 1 this year — either through normal employee turnover or the phasing out of certain operations. We have actually reduced our total payroll by \$2 million since 1973 — even after giving a cost-of-living raise of between 5 and 7 percent.

We will continue to constantly look over the operation and trim out any areas of excess or inefficiency and strive to do only what we have been called to do, i.e., preach the Gospel thru radio, TV and the printing press, and support those activities in the most efficient and economical manner.

We are getting more of a proportional balance now between our front-line activities and what we have called our support areas. Perhaps in a future report I can give you more statistical details as to what changes have actually been made. In the meantime, we are going ahead (with Mr. Ted Armstrong's approval) and implement our present fiscal-year budget.

Please continue to pray for all of us here at Headquarters as we do for you!

— Frank Brown

P.S. I felt that it would be good to announce the changes that have taken place in Physical Plant Operations so that others would know who the key personnel are and how this department is organized to serve as part of the Headquarters support team. Following is a report from Bob Ashland, giving these and other pertinent details:

PHYSICAL PLANT OPERATIONS

A complete reorganization of the Physical Plant Operations portion of the Financial Affairs Division has just recently been accomplished. Because of the current budgetary restrictions on construction and remodel projects, it was necessary to combine the Physical Plant Construction and Maintenance Departments to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The purpose and organization setup of the new organization is summarized below.

Purpose

The purpose of Physical Plant Operations is to provide the architectural, engineering, construc-

tion, remodel, maintenance and support services required for the efficient operation of Ambassador College buildings and associated equipment. These services involve 1) space and facilities planning, 2) architectural design and preparation of plans, drawings and specifications, 3) electrical, mechanical, structural, civil and utilities engineering, 4) contracting, constructing, remodeling and refurbishing, 5) maintenance, repair and replacement, and 6) fire prevention, fire protection, safety coordination and miscellaneous support activities.

In effect, Physical Plant Operations provides landlord service to all of the operating departments located at the Pasadena campus of Ambassador College, as part of the support team, which enhances the capability of the other college departments to accomplish the Work in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

Organization

Physical Plant Operations is managed by Robert Ashland (who reports to the Financial Affairs Division Head, Frank Brown) and is composed of a Technical Staff and the Plant Maintenance Department.

Dale Bailey is the newly appointed Plant Maintenance Department Manager. Reporting to Dale Bailey are the following foremen supervising their respective shops: Adolf Romike (Air Conditioning), Russ Leimbach (Mechanical), Sandrup Abrahamsen (Carpenter), Lloyd Norheim (Cabinet), Paul Byrd (Electrical) and Warren Krieger (Paint). Dale is assisted by Ed Tolleson (project supervisor), Bob McCann (scheduling supervisor), and Pete Arguien (office manager).

The Physical Plant Technical Support Team is staffed by Earl Smith (architect), Bill Scott (project designer), Paul Troike (plant engineer), Jim Snook (campus safety engineer), and Otto Petersen (staff support).

This reorganization has allowed a streamlining of Physical Plant Operations and a reduction of personnel. From an initial 56 full time employees, 8 are being laid off for a 14% reduction in workforce.

New procedures are presently being worked out to handle job requests more efficiently and expeditiously. Announcement of the new procedures will be sent to the various departments as soon as details are completed.

— Robert Ashland

Media

I thought to begin this time by bringing you the good news that we have added the following stations recently:

NEW TELEVISION STATIONS FROM 7/22/74 — 8/21/74

- KTXS-TV** ch. 12 Abilene, TX
5:00 PM Sunday 8/18/74 - 8/25/74
5:30 PM Sunday 9/01/74 - 8/10/75
- KXJB-TV** ch. 4 Fargo, ND
11:30 PM Saturday
- WPHL-TV** ch. 17 Philadelphia, PA
11:00 PM Sunday
- KTVN-TV** ch. 2 Reno, NV
3:30 PM Saturday
- WTCN-TV** ch. 11 Minneapolis, Minn
5:30 AM Tuesday
- KIII-TV** ch. 3 Corpus Christi, TX
2:00 PM Sunday
- WICS-TV** ch. 20 Springfield, IL
1:00 PM Saturday
- WILX-TV** ch. 10 Lansing, MI
10:00 AM Sunday
- WPRI-TV** ch. 12 Providence, RI
2:30 PM Saturday
- KPLR-TV** ch. 11 St. Louis, Missouri
9:00 PM Sunday

Note: Most new TV stations will start in mid-September.

NEW RADIO STATIONS FROM 7/22/74 — 8/21/74

- KYAK** Anchorage, Alaska
650 khz 9:00 PM Monday-Sunday
- WNCT** Greenville, NC
1070 khz 12:00 noon Monday-Saturday
- WMBD** Peoria, Ill
1470 khz 10:30 PM Monday-Sunday
- WRNG** Atlanta, GA
680 khz 6:00 PM Monday-Saturday
- WREC** Memphis, TN
600 khz 10:30 PM Monday-Saturday
- WDEE** Detroit (Southfield) MI
1500 khz 11:30 PM Monday-Sunday

I am sorry that TV avails are coming in more slowly than I had anticipated. Henry Cornwall

expects TV avails to be submitted in the cities we have requested fairly soon as the fall programming situation settles in. Don't give up yet, but keep praying for these avails.

Dan Ricker and I are most appreciative of your radio and TV evaluation forms which you have recently submitted. Dan and I will be going over these first of all in the areas where we have requested TV or radio, to forward on to the agency your specific station recommendations.

Next we will be going over all the other evaluation forms that are below our "money available" point to see if there appears to be any areas more urgently in need than those we have selected. We want to be as informed as possible in order to be completely fair in our selection of cities for increased coverage.

We in the Media Division are extremely thankful, as I am sure all of you are, for the determination of Mr. Ted Armstrong and of Mr. Brown to add radio and TV coverage on faith that it will be supported financially. Likewise, we sincerely appreciate all the encouragement you can give to the brethren regarding their financial and prayerful support. Also, please encourage them to talk about the program to their friends and associates, encouraging others to listen. Let's begin to pray for more of the type of miracle which we used to hear about where God, by some unusual circumstance, causes people to tune in and become interested in the radio and TV program.

Perhaps some of you have thought about starting local fund raising projects for radio stations in your area. This at first glance might be good, but we have to keep in mind that the Work must be administered by those who have the overall picture in view, and so we can't logically have each department in the Work urging fund raising for their individual use. For credit on income tax and for the wise managerial distribution of funds, they should be logically placed in the general fund at Headquarters.

I suppose if money is sent in by fund raising as Bill Gordon did in appreciation of the program in his area, then it may have a bearing on the speed with which radio and TV coverage is increased and will certainly have a bearing on the overall increase of the Work.

I hope that we are becoming spiritually mature enough to trust Herbert W. Armstrong and Garner Ted Armstrong or to trust God to guide them in the determination of what is most important in the Work at a given time.

In the meantime, until we can add radio cov-

erage at a reasonable time in your area, I would like to suggest that some of you may wish to obtain a time clock to be used in conjunction with a cassette or other tape recorder and a radio. Some of the common time clocks if used in conjunction with a 45-minute cassette recording are sufficiently accurate to turn on the radio and tape recorder, let's say at a late night or early morning hour, thereby making a recording of our broadcast which you can play back at a more opportune time. You might like to suggest this possibility to your congregations as well.

Our fair booths this year have been very successful in some areas and so-so or less than expected in others. Dan Ricker and Mike Cox will be analyzing the reasons and making this available for the future.

I believe John Robinson is planning an article in the *Worldwide News* regarding one of the fair booths in a successful area.

Please continue to pray for new availabilities and for Mr. Ted Armstrong's continual inspiration on radio. Also, our TV crew will appreciate your prayers that he may have available time to work with them to produce a challenging weekly TV program.

Thanks again very much for the evaluation forms and the letters which you have sent to us.

— Norman A. Smith

Publishing

GN EDITORIAL POLICY

Garner Ted Armstrong has recently approved and instituted a new, clearly defined, editorial policy for the *Good News* magazine. This policy gives clear direction to those who write and edit that publication. We are reproducing key excerpts from Mr. Armstrong's memo showing the main points of the policy:

"The new *Good News* is addressed mainly to the *donors, co-workers* and *regulars* on the mailing list. It is also intended to provide the 'flock' — the Church — with inspirational, educational and exhortive type articles. The *main* emphasis however, is on those *new* people who are being called.

"The GN must *educate* them concerning the *basic doctrines* of the Bible and God's Church. It must encourage them to become more *involved with the Work* and the Church, emotionally, *spiritually*, philosophically and financially. It is to *inform* and *inspire* them re the activities of the people of God in this age. In a sense, we must 'sell'

them on the Work. We intend to provide them with articles that will help them to understand the basic issues of true Christianity — and encourage them to come along to *repentance* and *baptism*. In short, the GN must publish the *Gospel*.

"We do *not* intend the GN as a vehicle for airing our 'dirty linen' or grinding axes against those who have left us (for whatever reasons). Rather, we hope to keep the orientation and approach *positive* in nature.

"It is of utmost importance to remember that *most* of our GN readers are not members (in fact, 51% are regulars who have never contributed a dime to this work). Most are brand *new* people who know very little about the Bible and the Worldwide Church of God. We must give them a positive, encouraging first impression. We must give them a *powerful witness* in print. If they never come along to total involvement and membership, they must still *know* that they have read the very Gospel of Jesus Christ (of the Kingdom).

"At this writing we have over a *quarter of a million* readers of the GN. These people represent the future membership of the Church. They are 'babes in Christ.' They are the harvest of the telecast and the radio program.

"Editorially, the GN represents the *transition* step between the *Plain Truth* and direct membership and involvement in the Work.

"A word about *doctrine*:

"For several years now we have had an *ongoing study* into our own doctrines and teaching. Some of you are acutely aware of all the 'issues' and arguments of the doctrinal area. Others are not. We all have various opinions, 'postures' and points of view. *We all are trying to preserve, defend and maintain 'the faith once delivered.'* We want only to teach and preach the pure TRUTH of God. We are not out to defend 'sacred cows' (unless they can be proved to be *biblically true*) — nor are we interested in tearing down those solid truths about which we all agree!

"But, whatever our personal viewpoint, we must not allow ourselves to use the GN as a 'sounding board' for preaching at each other! We must think *FIRST* and foremost of our reading *audience*. We need to consider the needs of those little ones who compose our mailing list. They are hungry and thirsting for knowledge, truth and righteousness. They are being called of God. They search for the *eternal life*. It is our responsibility, as God's chosen servants, to show them *The Way!*

"With the recent administrative changes here at headquarters, I can honestly say I believe the whole thing is going to *come together* as it never

has before! Plans call for a very close and cooperative coordination between telecasts, radio programs, the *Plain Truth* and the *Good News* magazines. *Booklets*, too, will be chained to these publications so as to bring people along to progressively stronger material and involvement. Brian is presently working on a *totally new and revitalized booklet program* that will greatly streamline our existing literature.

"Jon Hill, Wayne Cole, Robert Kuhn and others are working very closely with me and with Brian in the coordination of our media and publishing efforts. Dr. Hoeh is still very much involved with the *Plain Truth* magazine as a functioning, contributing *senior editor*. I am working directly with Art Ferdig in the planning and writing of future issues of the PT. We'll have more information for you on that later.

"We believe that the GN and the PT will represent a very powerful *double-barrelled* editorial one-two punch. Both magazines will serve a distinct purpose and function. Each will complement the other. They will in no way compete."

We are happy to hear the *Good News* is doing its job. This letter from Mr. Van Belkum in South Africa is an indication of the response we are receiving to the GN.

"Greetings from Jo'burg! Thought I would pass on some encouraging news regarding the GN.

"My visiting covers a large area of Southern Africa, and it has been extremely stimulating to hear the very many good comments regarding the GN. The vast majority of people mention how much the articles have helped them to come to a greater and more comprehensive understanding of the Truth.

"Many of our outlying PMs are not visited on a regular basis. Yet it has often amazed us how some have grown a foot virtually overnight — basically due to the prod they received from the GN. (I realize naturally that God is the One who promotes growth. Yet I feel the GN has been used as an instrument in His hands.)

"There have also been a number of cases where PMs had been 'dropped' — some for years — and have once again asked for a visit after receiving the GN. Some mentioned that the articles were of such a nature that they were forced to 'get off the fence' and begin to act.

"Others mentioned they came to a clearer understanding of God's plan of salvation, their calling, part in the Work, the commission God has given to His Church, prophecy, repentance and so on.

"Many mentioned they felt a greater personal

warmth to the Work and a desire to 'get more involved.'

"CAD is expecting an increase in the number of new visit requests. Already we have received a number directly due to the impact GN articles had on them.

"This is just a hurried note, but we do appreciate the hard work you all put into producing the GN. Thanks a lot!"

If you have any comments, article ideas or other suggestions for the GN, please do not be reluctant to let us know. We are always glad to hear from you!

— Brian Knowles

Personal Appearances

Greetings from Personal Appearances!

We missed the last edition of the *Bulletin*, but have some exciting news for this issue to catch up with. Mr. Ted Armstrong's campaign schedule for 1975 is now virtually complete. He may add one or two more appearances depending on his other responsibilities, but six contracts are now confirmed and can be announced.

Mr. Armstrong's schedule for the remainder of 1974 and of 1975 is as follows:

1974

Nashville, Tennessee	October 25, 26, 27
Buffalo, New York	November 15, 16, 17
Portland, Oregon	December 13, 14

1975

San Francisco, California	March 21, 22
Minneapolis, Minnesota	April 18, 19
Pittsburgh, Pa.	May 2, 3
London, U.K.	June 22, 23, 24
Houston, Texas	October 17, 18
Kansas City, Missouri	November 8, 9

To date, we have a total of 14 personal appearances (Mr. Armstrong and other speakers) scheduled for 1975, so it would appear to be another fruitful year ahead.

Campaign Results

The Personal Appearance Program is beginning to wind down now for the Feast of Tabernacles. Prior to the fall festival, we only have three more programs to conduct: San Jose, California, and

Victoria, Canada, August 23 and 24, and Toronto, Canada, September 4 and 5. Following the Festival we roll into high gear again for the months of October and November with 16 campaigns scheduled both here and abroad during a period of about one and one-half months.

At this point we have conducted 29 campaigns during 1974, beginning with St. Louis last January 25. During that period of time, Mr. Ted Armstrong and the other ministers have spoken to some 61,000 people. As a result, over 1,000 *new* prospectives are now attending Bible Studies with some 240 attending local church services.

For the remaining 19 campaigns in 1974, we expect an *additional* attendance of some 60,000. The reason for the increase in attendance at the campaigns during the last quarter of 1974 is that Mr. Ted Armstrong will be conducting *three* of these programs. Of course, his two and three night series bring attendances of many multiple thousands.

Bricket Wood

I thought you would be interested in a recent telex from Mr. Hunting in England:

"Greetings again — just returned from a very pleasing Glasgow campaign. We had 312 new people first night boosted by members to a total of 446. Second night had 273 new people boosted to 404 by members. Of these 170 were there for the first time on 2nd night, that is 170 new from outside.

"Edinburgh first follow-up Bible Study — we had 61 who attended campaign, plus 20 who had not attended either night. Total new people 81, and very exciting.

"For 8th and final Bible Study in Birmingham we had 73 present, but 2 wrote asking what follows and desiring to come though unable to be there on this evening. So we have 75 who have been invited to regular Bible studies."

The schedule for British campaigns for the remainder of 1974 is as follows:

Bristol	September 22, 23
London	October 15, 16
Dublin	October 20, 21
Belfast	October 25, 27
Manchester	November 3, 4
Liverpool	November 10, 11
Leeds	Date not firm

In addition abroad, there are three foreign language personal appearance programs to be conducted yet in 1974. For the first time in this era of the Work an *in-person* evangelistic effort is scheduled in the German language. Mr. Frank Schnee

will be speaking to a German audience in *Düsseldorf*, September 7 and 8. We're all anxious to see how this initial program in Germany is received.

Following the Feast of Tabernacles Mr. Apartmentian will be speaking in *Paris*, France, October 12 and 13. Then, on his return trip to Pasadena, he will stop in *Martinique* to conduct a campaign there, in French, October 18 and 19. Hopefully, we will be able to schedule campaigns for Geneva, Switzerland and Brussels, Belgium for 1975.

Radio-TV Exposure

The following is the essence of some material we presented to Mr. Ted Armstrong following an experimental program to develop *free* radio and TV local promotion.

"As you [Mr. Ted Armstrong] have stated, the two primary reasons for the campaigns are (1) to provide a strong and dynamic witness to the cities we reach and (2) to motivate as many of the people now listening to the broadcast, watching the telecast and subscribing to the literature to act upon the truth while there is yet time.

"We have found that in addition to the primary reasons for initially establishing the campaigns and the results which are listed above, there are other *additional solid benefits* being accrued by this program. One of them is the free radio and television exposure we are receiving in many local areas.

"By curtailing the newspaper advertising budget to support the 'E' campaigns, we have limited our total exposure to any given market to approximately 5% of the potential — this 5% now being reached only by the direct mail letter to the *Plain Truth* list.

"In campaign cities, we have embarked on a heightened publicity and promotion effort to help take up the slack lost through cutting newspaper advertising. Actually, this cut has been a boon to our whole program, as it forced us to develop *free local promotion*.

"By using the campaign event as the fulcrum, we then seek radio, TV and newspaper interviews on various types of programs such as news, public affairs, and women's programs. In this effort, to date, we have had some excellent success. For example, in Cleveland we developed four and one-half hours of radio and television interview time at an estimated time-cost (if it had been purchased) of \$7,000. In Rochester, New York, we developed three hours and fifty minutes of radio/TV interview time, at an estimated time-cost (if purchased) of \$4,000-\$5,000.

"Through this means we have not only devel-

oped a greater awareness of the up-coming personal appearance program, but more importantly, we have been able to use the 'event' as a springboard to further educate the local metropolitan area to the *total Work*: that is, the radio and TV programs, *Plain Truth* magazine, worldwide offices, worldwide church membership and Ambassador College.

"This type of 'seed planting' on the local level seems to be of inestimable value to the Work through developing additional awareness in these major population areas of the Work as a whole, and specifically, of the name Garner Ted Armstrong as a commentator on today's social, domestic and international crises.

"I feel it is just one more solid factor in developing in this nation an awareness of the Work leading up to the grand smash climax of the commission we have been given."

Well, that pretty well sums it up for this time. We'll try to have more of our schedule for 1975 ready for publication next time. By the way, please take note of Les Stocker's campaign article in the latest *Worldwide News*, pp. 3, 7. It provides a fine overview of campaign activities in the local area.

— Sherwin McMichael

Data Processing

ACTS is an acronym for "Ambassador College Terminal System." It is a computer-based system that provides, via video terminals, *input* of and *direct access* to all master subscription records for the United States and Canadian *Plain Truth* subscribers and literature recipients. Also, several "satellite files" associated with these master records — but containing additional, vital information — can be displayed. The initial system with only subscription record *inquiry* and limited *update* capability began operation in mid 1967.

But let's review the growth of the *Plain Truth* list and the circumstances leading up to the implementation of ACTS.

Our first neostyle printed *Plain Truth* list was at first maintained and hand-addressed by Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong. It was when the list grew past 250 in number that an Elliot Stencil machine was obtained to address the magazine. This automated foot-operated stamping machine was initially installed in our offices in Eugene, Oregon and then moved to Pasadena in 1947.

The list continued to grow at what seemed to be

an incredible rate, and when the number reached 74,000 in 1956, a Speedamat Addressograph machine came to our rescue. It was able to label the magazine at 8,000 per hour. I'm sure some thought this would surely fill our needs! It did — but for only four short years. By 1960 the number of *Plain Truths* being mailed out reached 212,000 a month and the time had come to install a Facsimile Printer to accomplish our mailing.

Continued rapid growth led Ambassador College to rent our first computer equipment, an IBM Accounting Machine in November 1963. To use this electro-mechanical first-generation computer hardware (with its wire-maze plugboards) required our keypunching the name and address file into IBM cards — a rather monumental conversion job but absolutely necessary to permit the growth rate to continue. By 1966 the list had grown to 746,000 and a *second* 407 Accounting Machine was needed to print all the address labels. These runs grew so lengthy that frequent breakdowns required rewiring the plugboards to allow use of different segments of the printing type bars! It became a race as to whether the list would be completed *before* the equipment totally failed!

The need for more reliable, faster printers and a more powerful computer was recognized in early 1965. File growth projections showed that by the end of 1967 the *Plain Truth* subscription list would pass the 800,000 mark and would show no sign of stopping its growth. *One million* names and addresses no longer seemed impossible! Some new system was desperately needed!

Many Independent Departmental Files

Before the computer age dawned for Ambassador College, *six* different major departments maintained their own *separate* name and address files. For instance, a person writing in for the *Plain Truth*, Correspondence Course, with a question for the Letter Answering Department, and including a donation would require four separate "adds" to be made to four separate files by four different filing staffs. In addition, these files were maintained with much difficulty by often partially trained personnel, some of whom were part-time with resultant rapid turnover. At one time LAD (Letter Answering Dept.) had a staff of over ten employees just maintaining their files.

In practical fact the new PT subscriber mentioned above was communicating with four separate organizations. Many letters took up to *six weeks* and longer to get through the labyrinth of processing steps.

We had no subscription number (index number

uniquely assigned to each person) to maintain quality control over the file and eliminate duplications. The punched card system of that day could not effectively handle requests from people who may have written their name or address in any manner it happened to please them at the time.

Co-worker donation processing was fast becoming untenable. The accounting machines posted only 60-70% of all donations, leaving 30-40% for manual posting. The whole process was subject to considerable error.

Besides the 150 hours of continuous usage to print PT labels each month (with numerous breakdowns) and donation processing, there were many other accounting, Church and College related jobs which kept the accounting machine operation virtually saturated — an average of 13 hours per day usage.

Many departments — Selective Service, CAD, Personnel, Visiting Program, for example — really required up-to-date information concerning people to be fully effective. But due to the many inadequacies, the existing system at its best could only provide *two-week* out-of-date information.

Under this system there was no possibility of having any type of unified data base of information concerning our subscribers. Consequently, reports with conflicting statistics were produced which obviously caused management to lack faith in some reports!

Most companies who maintained mailing lists greater than 100,000 had already begun to computerize their operations. Popular at that time were the earlier second-generation models of computers — IBM's 7044, 7090, 1401, 1620, etc. But after the announcement of IBM's new 360 system of third-generation computers in 1964, many of these companies converted their systems to this new 360 system with resultant operating inefficiencies. An "old" system on a "new" computer could not take advantage of all the potential of IBM's new hardware; but because of considerable costs involved in developing new systems, many firms postponed changing their systems until only recently.

Not so with Ambassador College. We had the tremendous blessing of starting clean with the opportunity to build a system that could take full advantage of this modern equipment!

In June 1965 work began on our ACTS system and an IBM 360 Model 30, with the necessary peripheral Input & Output equipment, was ordered. In March 1967 our computer was installed and testing of ACTS began. In May two

terminals were in operation. We were aided by IBM directly: one of their Customer Engineers wrote the *change-of-address* mode for us. By October five more terminals were installed and the conversion of the PCD data began. By the end of 1967 a total of eight terminals were kept busy maintaining the master records on IBM's first mass storage on-line direct access storage device — the data cell. (You may wish to review the *Good News* article of several years ago for more details on this amazing memory device.)

Growth of our mailing list would continue, but now there were *no* limits (except hardware costs) on this growth!

Bigger Computer Systems

The Model 30 did not last long. Growth of terminal usage and number, along with a growth in other areas, dictated our installing a Model 360/50 in 1968. The Model 30 was turned over to the Accounting Department for its exclusive use because of growing needs. The Model 50 made use of the faster 1403 Printer which spews out labels at nearly 1,000 per minute and the new high access speed, high volume 2314 disk storage drives. Each drive could store 58,000,000 characters, any one of which could be electronically found in approximately 1/20 second!

By the end of 1968 the mailing list reached 1.2 million. In another two years that number nearly doubled — to 2,150,000 in February 1971. By this time the Accounting Department's Model 30 operations had been moved back to the Data Processing Center, merging the two DP operations into one. Shortly after this a Model 40 replaced the Model 30. Now we had both the Models 50 and 40 sharing common disk drives, tape drives, printers, and card readers.

In March 1971 we installed the new IBM 370 system, Model 155 that permitted growth to 10 million subscribers. The one central processing unit replaced both the 40 and 50. For quite some time the 155 simulated the previous operations until conversion of all programs to the new 370 operating system was completed.

Our last change occurred in July 1973 when the 155 was swapped for the 370/158 capable of the newer virtual storage operating techniques. Our name and address file leveled off at 2.2 million, primarily through the recently established *Plain Truth* renewal system. A report on the effects of this renewal program will appear later in *The Bulletin*.

This brings you up to date on the history of

ACTS. In the next ISSUE we'll discuss what it does more in detail.

(By the way, much of the data for this historical summary was taken from a large pictorial display depicting the growth of the *Plain Truth* subscription list and the equipment used to maintain it. This pictorial history is on display in the upstairs reception area of Data Processing. Visitors are always welcome.)

— Benjamin R. Chapman

International Division

Greetings from the International Division. I'm pleased to report that progress in this area continues to be made. I've just returned from a recent trip to the New Zealand, Australian and Philippine offices. All areas have shown good, steady growth. While I was in Brisbane I was able to hold a personal appearance campaign which all felt was very productive. We were able to reach 800 outsiders on these two nights in Australia's third largest city. Dennis Luker has just reported that 17 people attended the first follow-up Bible study, and 31 attended the second study.

While in Manila I was able to conduct one of the follow-up Bible studies in the series of eight Colin Adair is holding following Mr. Herbert Armstrong's campaign. We have a good solid core of prospective members who come week after week despite adverse weather conditions. On the day I was there, the rain was so heavy most of the streets in downtown Manila were flooded. One woman attended the Bible study even though the dress she was wearing was wet from the knees down. She explained to Mrs. Adair that her house was flooded, however she didn't want to miss these important meetings. From this group we expect to add many new members to the Manila Church. It's been eight weeks since Mr. Armstrong's campaign, and 100-200 prospective members continue to attend these follow-up studies week after week.

We are happy to report, as I mentioned in my introduction, that the International Work continues to grow. While in Australia figures released for July show they have had the best month in income ever! Year-to-date figures now stand at an 18% increase over last year. All of our foreign areas are reporting between 10 and 20% increase in income over the preceding year. This, needless to say, is very encouraging, and we are very grateful

that God is blessing the various areas in the International Division of His Work.

In keeping with our program of highlighting various sections of the International Work, we would now like to present a report from Guy Ames covering the Singapore office. (Next issue we'll highlight the activities of the Philippine office.)

By the way, since Guy completed this report my assistant, Steve Martin, was able to visit Guy and Helen in the Singapore office and hold a special Bible study with all the members in Singapore. He reported that all but two of the members affected by dissident material showed up and asked all of the usual questions we have come to expect from those who have left the Church. All of those who attended were apparently satisfied with the answers given, and reported that they would be coming back to church the next Sabbath. To date we haven't had a report from Guy on whether or not these members have followed through on their commitment.

While there, Steve learned of one of those "minor" miracles that happen wherever God's people are. A member from the Kuala Lumpur Church (450 miles away) was able to attend the special Bible study. This member reported that when I came through six months ago and held a special service, he had asked God if He would provide the way for him to attend that meeting. His company subsequently decided to send him to Singapore on business and he was thus able to attend. This same member, learning about Steve Martin's visit, went back to God and expressed another desire to attend the Singapore service. You guessed it. His employer decided to send him, his wife, and two children to Singapore on another business trip! The member also reported it was his third tithe year and that besides these two "little" miracles, financially they had never been better off. It's nice to know that God is "alive and well" all over the world and answering the many prayers of all His children.

That's all from me for this *Bulletin*.

Now here's Guy's report.

— Leslie L. McCullough

UPDATE FROM THE SINGAPORE OFFICE

The more one travels throughout Southeast Asia, the more obvious it becomes that the small island Republic of Singapore is the ideal location for a regional office of God's Work. There are currently more than 400 American companies with operations here. Singapore has one of the

largest and most efficient sea ports on earth. Because of Singapore's nonaligned foreign policy, nearly every trading nation in the world patronizes its efficient port and repair yards. Singapore services Soviet merchant ships as well as the U. S. Seventh Fleet. Peking and Taiwan are both in business here while Singapore has joint ventures with both the Arabs and Israelis.

The brilliant and industrious Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew, demands hard work from Singaporeans and tolerates little dissent. He is a non-smoker and abhors the habit so much that no one is allowed to smoke either in his presence or in a room he plans to enter. Long-haired "hippies" do not appreciate the posters in every government office in Singapore which state that "males with long hair will be attended to last." Long hair is specified as "hair falling across the forehead and touching the eyebrows" or "hair covering the ears" or "hair reaching below an ordinary shirt collar."

The *Plain Truth* Regional Office was established here in Singapore early this year on the 40th anniversary of the *Plain Truth* magazine. Regular Sabbath services began here on the first weekend of January 1974 with an attendance of 28 adults and 3 children. This coincided with the 40th anniversary of the "World Tomorrow" broadcast which went on the air the first weekend of January 1934.

Our mailing list for the *Plain Truth* in Southeast Asia currently stands at 40,000, with most of the subscribers living in Malaysia and Singapore. By having an office here, our readers are able to write to us for the equivalent of U. S. 4 cents (in Singapore and 6¢ from Malaysia) compared to 20¢ to Australia or 40¢ to the U. S. This is quite a savings for those requesting our literature and services.

Our first office employee, Mr. Kurup, was baptized by Mr. Wayne Cole on the first tour to Southeast Asia 12 years ago. He and his wife live across the causeway in Malaysia. At present he is working 4 days a week and keeps the mail going out as fast as it is received. As soon as the work load increases sufficiently we plan to hire a secretary. At the moment we have no broadcast and no advertising here. The *Plain Truth* mailing list continues to grow daily thru "word of mouth" from interested subscribers. It costs us *nothing* in media to add new subscribers. Most of our subscribers are young business men, teachers and students of university and high school level.

We have two churches — one in Singapore and one in Kuala Lumpur, the Federal Capital of Malaysia. The K. L. Church meets every third

Sabbath and the Singapore group meets every Sabbath when I am in town. It would be possible to have services in both areas each week since the plane flight between these two cities is only 45 minutes. This, however, is not yet in our budget.

At the beginning of July this year I had a visiting tour to all the major cities in East Malaysia and Brunei. This was the first tour to East Malaysia in three years. After spending the Sabbath in Kuala Lumpur, I flew to Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah (formerly Jesselton, North Borneo). Sabah is called "The Land Below The Wind" and may explain why the Philippines has expressed an interest in the area. The entire Philippines from Aparri to Zamboanga is in the typhoon zone and gets its share of "wind and wet" each year. Sabah is just below this typhoon zone and enjoys lovely "Hawaiian" weather. In "K. K." I met our one and only member who has been very steadfast, faithful and loyal since Mr. Cole and Mr. Docken baptized him nearly five years ago. I met with two PM's here but neither was ready for baptism on this trip.

From Sabah I flew to Brunei, the small British Protectorate, which claims to have the largest water village in the world. If you ever get a chance to see Brunei be sure to take a guided boat tour of the water village. There are around 7,000 homes built on stilts over the Brunei River. This village hosts a population of some 20,000 people and about as many cats. Every home has a boat under the house and there are even some "two-boat families." One of the obvious advantages to living over the water is that there is no need for any elaborate or expensive sewerage system.

My next stop was Miri in the northern part of Sarawak where I met a young man who will no doubt be baptized on the next tour. In Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, I met with eight young prospective members; and even though none were baptized on this trip, we should have some members there by my next visit. Of all those visited only one was a girl. Two of the young men came in to the city from 17 miles away where they had to get home before the curfew and roadblock. There are still some areas that are not the safest for travel. On the day I left Kuching the local newspaper had the following inscription on the front page: "Operation SRI AMAN — 2 more days to D-Day. Those who want to come out under Sri Aman terms, come out now! Give up the armed struggle to save your lives, the suffering and hardship of your relatives, and restore complete peace for the purpose of nation building." So even in

remote "peaceful" areas of the world there is the need for God's Kingdom to come.

For the past three years the Feast of Tabernacles has been held in Kuala Lumpur in the Federal Hotel. This year we are transferring our Feast site to Penang, a small island in the Straits of Malacca. A new resort hotel with beautiful convention facilities opened late last year and is looking forward to hosting Ambassador College for its annual convention this year. Penang is called the "sister city" of Adelaide, South Australia — another new Feast site this year. Colonel William Light founded the city of Adelaide in 1836, exactly 50 years after his father, Captain Francis Light, of the East India Company, took possession of Penang in 1786.

The 256-room Rasa Sayang ("feeling of love") beach resort was planned by a firm of Hawaiian developers and officially opened by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Haji Abdul Razak bin Hussein on November 9, 1973. In addition to the miles of white sandy beaches the recreational facilities available include boating, fishing, golf, tennis, badminton, volleyball, cycling, and bullock cart rides. Most visitors will probably want to take a drive or boat ride around the island which is about 15 miles long and 9 miles wide. No visit to Penang would be complete without a ride up the 2,300-foot Penang Hill aboard the funicular railway with a drop in temperature to a cool 65 degrees. We are looking forward to having about 20 visitors from Australia and one from Canada this year.

After the Feast I hope to make the long-awaited tour to Burma where we have 40 requests for baptism in the Chin Hills northwest of Mandalay and another area southwest of Rangoon. I will plan to make stops in Rangoon and Mandalay since it is difficult to get permission to travel all the way up into the Chin Hills. The people of the hilly areas are not blessed with regular plane landings due to frequent engine trouble and bad weather.

Earlier this year when I was planning a trip to the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, all universities, colleges and schools in Burma were ordered closed in the aftermath of food rioting and demonstrations which erupted in bloody violence near Rangoon University. At least five demonstrators were killed. In other incidents 22 people were killed and 16 injured when Burmese troops opened fire on demonstrators at a textile factory and a dockyard near Rangoon. Shortly before this, two men who were looking for a pair of stolen oxen were lynched by some 50 people of another village. Organizing a tour to some of these areas takes

careful planning and of course we always need God's protection and a lot of wisdom and discretion. The Buddhist nation of Burma is very cautious in allowing any new religions to be introduced.

The recent problem with defections from the Church did not leave Southeast Asia unscathed even though it took a bit longer to reach us. Dissident material came here through one person who promised me just before the Headquarters Conference in May that he would not show it to any of the other members. Later, after he resigned from the Church, he admitted to me he did not keep his promise and directly showed the material to at least eight others where it quickly spread until our losses in Singapore reached 42% and in Malaysia 16%. So far, none of those who have resigned or just stopped attending have come back. [Recall that this report was written before the special meetings Mr. McCullough mentioned — *Editor*.] Our small group in Singapore is now meeting in my home each Sabbath for basic sermons and studies and "family" singing around the piano followed by "biscuits and tea." Every third week I fly to Kuala Lumpur for all day services.

Those who have weathered the storm are now building a stronger foundation. I have received some very encouraging letters from our members here in Southeast Asia as well as from as far away as England and New Zealand. One member all the way down at the south end of the south island of New Zealand wrote a very encouraging letter after having heard of our difficulties here. She wrote, "I guess it's like seeing part of a valuable building collapse. You immediately look about for suitable material to rebuild. Some of the old material may be salvaged and used and new must be brought in to replace the unusable. God will call many more for His priceless building." We have (at least temporarily) lost 11 of our members here in Singapore but we have another 15 good prospective members who will, no doubt, more than make up for any loss.

Just as soon as I can fit it into my schedule I need to make a tour of all the capital cities of West Malaysia where I have 42 more visit and baptism requests.

I'll end this report on a positive note. We have just recently had our first student accepted at Ambassador College. Miss Teo Bin Hong has been hoping and planning and saving for years to go to Ambassador College and is now making last minute plans (as I write) to leave her teaching job in Kota Bharu, Malaysia for one of the biggest events of her life. Bin Hong and the entire Teo

family have been very faithful and dedicated and loyal to God's Work for years since Mr. Wayne Cole baptized them on one of the early tours to this area. I am sure she will make a fine student at Ambassador and her twin sister, Bin Hoo, may soon be the first girl to work in the Regional Office here in Singapore.

— Guy L. Ames

Bricket Wood

Greetings again from Bricket Wood!

I have just returned from Glasgow where we had the third in the present series of British *Plain Truth* lectures. And the audience was boosted by members to a total of 446. On the following evening, 273 new people attended, with a total audience of 404 — 170 of whom did not come on the first night. All together, we reached a total of 482 new people. We are very pleased and look forward to a good attendance at the first Bible study this Saturday.

On the same weekend, Mr. Richard Plache took the Edinburgh first follow-up, with 81 new people present. Of these 61 had attended the campaign in Edinburgh the week before, also conducted by Mr. Plache; and the other 20 came as a result of a letter sent out inviting people to come to the follow-up lectures even though they may have missed one of the first two evenings. Attendance at the campaign in Edinburgh was 190 for the first night with a total of 340 including members. The second night was 250, total 375. So we reached 315 new people in that city. The percentage of people attending the first follow-up was 26 percent, the highest we have had so far.

Dr. David Wainwright conducted the final follow-up lecture in Birmingham, and invited 73 people who intended to come to the regular church Bible studies. These people have now been exposed to the two primary *Plain Truth* lectures and eight follow-up studies. They have learned where the true Church is, which day is the Sabbath, what the purpose of life is, and many other vital points about God's way of life. Actually, we have invited 75 people in all since two people desired to attend but were not able to be present on the last evening in which the invitation was made. As most of these people continue on into the Church, there is going to be a massive boost for

the Birmingham Church. Everyone here is excited at the way God has caused fully 10 percent of the new people reached in Birmingham's campaign to continue this far.

I plan to take the first follow-up in Glasgow and the second in Edinburgh, and we are optimistic about the prospects there. We hope that it will be possible to start an Edinburgh Church as a result of the campaign. If the pattern that has been set so far continues — and the people in Britain are praying that it will even improve — within the first year of campaigns we shall have a harvest of members which will really begin to produce the kind of results Christ talked about when He said "the fields are white with harvest, but the laborers are few." Wherever I have gone in the British churches, I find that the people are thrilled with what God is beginning to do here. In spite of the closure of the college, I do not find that the people are in any way discouraged, disheartened, or full of despair. Obviously, there is sadness that such a tremendous opportunity can no longer continue, but this is lessened by the enthusiasm of the entire Church here for the future of God's Work both here and around the globe.

The last of the students who were transferring to either Pasadena or Big Sandy have now left, and we are getting used to the new situation with a tremendous challenge before us. All of the faculty here, the administration, and the staff have really appreciated the wonderful opportunity of working these past 14 years with literally thousands of young lives. We have seen so many people come here, change and then go out into responsible positions all around the world. It has been one of the most gratifying experiences any human being could have. And I know that the students have really appreciated the opportunity of learning God's way of life at one of His campuses. Even those who did not have the chance to complete an Ambassador education at one of the other campuses by transferring have been given knowledge that will have a lasting impact on their lives and on the lives of all with whom they come in contact.

Until next time then, cheerio from Bricket Wood, and I'll hope to have exciting news of the follow-ups to the three campaigns.

— Charles F. Hunting

OPEN FORUM

Something For The Women?

Since many of the wives also read the *Bulletin*, would it be possible to have advice for them in it once in awhile? It would be helpful to have instruction on the wife's role in the ministry, and on how to better serve her husband and the Church. Maybe some of the wives themselves could write in telling how they cope with some of the problems that are unique to the ministers' wives and families, and how they adjust to the schedules and situations that arise.

— Mrs. Ron Jameson
Columbia, South Carolina

Editor's Note: Good idea! Perhaps we'll start a new section in the *Bulletin* with the type material Mrs. Jameson is suggesting. Let's hear what you ladies think about the idea. Better yet, why not start sending in some material you feel would be helpful to all the ministers' wives *right away*?

BEFRIENDING UNCONVERTED MATES

I certainly appreciated Richard Rice's comments in a recent *Bulletin* on how to handle hostile visits. He had many good points on disarming a person who may be upset, disgruntled, or very bitter toward God's Church. All of us, if we have been in the ministry for any length of time, have been confronted with similar circumstances. It was very good to get the ideas, suggestions, and methods of handling this type of situation from someone else who has gone through it.

Richard's write-up brought to mind another point that I feel is worthy of mentioning. That is, how should we deal with the unconverted mates of members? Many times these are neglected people who are overlooked by the ministers in their hurry and scurry to visit PMs and members, as well as to carry out the other aspects of their jobs. I think that sometimes there is the feeling that, "these people aren't members and aren't interested in God's Truth, so why bother with them?"

Some of these mates are hostile, whereas others are just not interested in God's Church and are rather blasé about it. Of course, even this type of person can become resentful or antagonistic when something (or someone) strikes them in the wrong way.

One of the ways we have found to help unconverted mates have a better family relationship, as

well as a better relationship with the Church, is simply to go out of our way to befriend the unconverted mates. God's Word says: "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly" (Prov. 18:24). I feel we need to apply this principle much more fully with the unconverted mates. It is helpful, not only for the sake of the converted mate and his family, but also for the unconverted mate.

I know a number of examples of people who are now converted, who initially became interested in God's Truth because of the friendliness, warmth, and love shown by the brethren. These unconverted mates saw the qualities of true Christian character in some of God's people which they admired and wanted to emulate. In this way God has used His ministers and wives, and brethren as instruments in helping to convert some unconverted mates. I feel that we can derive a principle from I Peter 3:1 in showing proper conduct toward the unconverted mates of members. In so doing we may well win over these people to God's Truth.

I have several suggestions which Penny and I have used over the years in befriending unconverted mates. They are as follows:

(1) Invite the family over to your home — perhaps for dinner — or just for an evening of socializing. Also, going together with the family on a picnic or other type of outing — especially if there are children near the same age, would be good. Spend time to really get to know the unconverted mates. Make them feel welcome and right at home. Talk about that which would interest them — perhaps sports, hobbies, their families, their background, their work, etc. Many times the unconverted mates get the feeling that the Church and the ministers are rather strange, weird, and unusual creatures, who can do nothing more than talk about religion. Having them over and getting to know them in a warm, relaxed atmosphere will do a great deal to dispel these feelings, and help them to realize that we are fairly normal after all.

(2) If the unconverted mates are wives, I feel it would be good for our wives to get together with them occasionally — perhaps for lunch, to go shopping, etc. Penny has done this and it does much to establish a bond of friendship. Once a close association is established, it is also helpful for our wives to periodically talk to these ladies over the phone, and show friendship, warmth, and concern in this way.

Academic

BIG SANDY

A new school year is under way! At the moment we have 590 students registered, but we are still awaiting last-minute transfers and some Jerusalem diggers. Mr. Ted Armstrong came down for an orientation assembly and then we kicked off classes Tuesday, August 20. Everybody is tremendously enthusiastic — both students and faculty. Everybody seems to think we're going to have a great year in Big Sandy. Our new classroom building is not yet complete, but we hope to have it available right after the Feast of Tabernacles.

Someone told us that we would increase our complications and problems by far more than 20 percent when we increased our student body by 20 percent to 600. Were they ever right! It seems like that simple increase from 500 to 600 in the student body *doubled* our problems. I don't know what we would have done without the additional classroom space we got in Imperial. Frankly, I think we would have been having classes on Sundays and evenings.

We are now calling the Imperial school area our "humanities complex." It has provided additional office space for faculty, and a science laboratory which we can use until our new classrooms are completed. We have moved into the band hall for band practice, and the chorale has use of the old home economics rooms. In addition to all this, we have 12 additional badly needed classrooms. As I said, I don't know how we would have gotten along without it.

We picked up about 1500 usable volumes from the Imperial library along with quite a few tables, chairs, and shelves. We've also recently had several substantial donations of good books from other nearby institutions. We have been able to accomplish an enormous amount this year, even in the face of a 20 percent cut in our allocation from Pasadena.

That's all for now. I'm keeping my report short so I don't discourage you from reading it.

— Ronald L. Dart

LETTER COMMENTS

(Continued on page 421)

all of God's people feel towards the Work and you in the same way. We all have a sincere desire to do more for the Work and pray always for the efficiency and effectiveness of each member in his or her own calling that we might work together as a team, united, to do the Work of God on earth as led by you, through Jesus Christ.

Mr. Armstrong, I haven't written to you personally since I first wrote in 1968 asking for help. I thought that with all your work you would be too busy to ever read my letter. But I realize now that I was wrong — wrong in both understanding and attitude. You have a sincere desire to read each and every letter, although that is obviously impossible. So in a way you have extended yourself by choosing others to help you. To some this might seem a little impersonal — but a little Biblical research will show that this is God's own way. And as God is our spiritual Father we all are looking to you as that wise and honorable Patriarch who leads us in truth and knowledge through Jesus Christ our Lord. Keep up the good work!

— Vic Puryear
Lytle Creek, California

More Excited About Finishing the WORK

I've just received the Co-Worker letter and I am more excited now than ever before about finishing the Work! Please know, sir, that as a part of the Body of Christ, I am 100% a part of and 100% in back of this Work!

Please realize, Mr. Armstrong, that we are all thinking of you now more than ever! And God is being asked more and more to strengthen you, physically and spiritually by all Church members — at least all that I know! We all praise God for His using you in this new dimension, and know that this is not your doing, not our doing, but God's doing.

I hope you can see this letter, because I mean every word of it. We're all behind you! And Mr. Ted Armstrong as well! We know you both are doing the Work of God, and we're so thankful for it!

Once again, we're all pulling for you, so take encouragement and strength from it.

— Bob Hanks
Port Arthur, Texas

Co-Worker 100% Behind Mr. Armstrong

I am a Co-worker with God's Work in this end time. Through much proving and study I have

(Continued on page 447)

(3) If the unconverted mates are husbands, we ministers can perhaps get together with them on hunting and fishing trips, or other sporting or recreational activities. It is also good to give them special invitations to come to our Church socials and picnics. This helps them to feel wanted if they are included in some of these functions.

Many times, through befriending unconverted mates, these people become far more agreeable, warm, and friendly. Their mates often notice that they are much easier to live with. I know of examples where divorces, and possibly legal action involving the Church, have been averted largely because of special attention and concern given to the unconverted mates by God's ministers and their wives. Also, as stated before, it is quite possible that through our proper conduct some of these people could be won over to God's Church.

— Guy L. Englebart
Denver, Colorado

THE TEST OF OUR CONVERSION

Is there a reliable and simple way an individual can measure the depth and quality of his conversion?

I believe there is — at any time or place, under any and all circumstances.

The answer I have in mind is clearly evidenced in the life of Jesus Christ just before His crucifixion. In His final hours on earth He prayed, "... Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless, not *my will*, but *Thine*, be done" (Luke 22:42).

This attitude, "THY WILL BE DONE," was the keynote of Christ's life — an attitude that should exist in us, too, if we also are converted. In all that He did, Christ continually expressed supreme loyalty and trust toward His Father.

Note these scriptures:

"Jesus saith unto them, my meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His Work" (John 4:34).

"The Son can do nothing, but what He seeth the Father do... I can of mine own self do nothing... because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me" (John 5:19, 30).

"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me" (John 6:38).

"I do nothing of myself, but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things... I seek not mine own glory... if I honor myself, my honor is nothing: it is my Father that honoreth me..." (John 8:28, 50, 54).

How convincingly apparent. Doing the will of God above any personal desires or interests was the real test of Christ's conversion.

Jesus Christ knew, as He plainly taught, that there are two kinds of wills — God's will and self-will. That's why He said, "Not my will, but thine, be done."

Human self-will is different from and diametrically opposed to the will of God. It takes on the form of selfishness, greed, contempt for law, rebellion and all the other characteristics of the carnal mind. You might say self-will is a blend of man's instinctive nature and Satan's spirit. It runs the gamut from mild reluctance to open rebellion against God's law and government.

Conversion, then, is a process of dying to one's will, his own vile nature, and surrendering freely to God's will.

This is what Christ meant when He said, "... If any man will come after me, let him DENY himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it" (Luke 9:23-24).

In like manner Paul admonished: "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man [carnal self-will] with his deeds; and have put on the new man [God's will — conversion] which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him" (Col. 3:9-10).

There will be instances in your life where you'll be tempted to revert to old habits and patterns — your old self-will. The fight will be painful and intense. Whether or not you win the battle and remain in right standing with God will depend on how closely you are walking with Him and the strength of your conversion.

To stay converted, then, you've got to cheerfully, willingly, enthusiastically and conscientiously bring every thought into subjection to the will of God and die to your own will daily. "... Be thou in the fear of the Lord *all the day long*" (Prov. 23:17). "Blessed are they that keep judgment and he that doeth righteousness at all times" (Ps. 106:3).

This, in my opinion, is the test of true conversion.

— Richard Rice
MPC Manager
Pasadena

TERMINATIONS — OR BEGINNINGS?

Jesus told His disciples — His followers — "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted?"

We, today, are Christ's disciples. He says to us,

today, "You are the salt of the earth," and some of us, due to departmental cutbacks, have recently felt a sudden jolt and a dizzying, turbulent upheaval as though some giant hand has suddenly lifted a giant saltshaker from its place of placid repose.

Salt is *violently* shaken from a shaker — in order that it might cover as much area as possible. It is jammed through tiny holes and tossed indiscriminately about. It seems to land haphazardly — but the area in which it lands suddenly changes. It becomes different.

That grain of salt spices — enhances — and *improves* that area. If it has not lost its savour it is GOOD!

Some here at Ambassador College — employees of the Worldwide Church of God — are being *shaken!* Upheavals are occurring swiftly and turbulently and lives are being tossed about, seemingly even ignominiously, and feel that they are being jammed through little holes. Long time employees — disciples — are suddenly experiencing a disoriented feeling as they wonder where they might fall.

David said in Psalm 23, "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies." Ambassador College, and the great Work of Almighty God, *has* been prepared in the presence of our enemies — and each of us who has been blessed to work here has been a *part* of the preparation of that table. David added, "Thou anointest my head with oil..." — and so have *we* been anointed by God.

On any table which is abundantly prepared there are condiments. Spices designed to improve the end result — to enhance something and make it better. The saltshaker from that table has been lifted up by Jesus Christ and is being shaken. *Salt* is being scattered about over a world which desperately needs to be flavored.

Long time servants — for years accumulated in limited confines while the table was being prepared — are now given the opportunity to glorify God wherever they go. They are taking some of the finished product of that preparation and offering it to a bland world.

It won't be as comfortable — for awhile. It won't be as secure — for awhile. Giant changes must necessarily occur in lives as this transformation takes place. Different cities. New schools and friends. New jobs. It will be a whole new "ball-game" — but now the years of preparation at Headquarters can be put to work in a brand new manner, affecting many new people.

Christ said "Be the *salt* of the earth!" For many the opportunity has never been greater.

— Bob Smith
Deacon, Personal Correspondent
Pasadena

EARLY N.T. CHURCH WASN'T DOCTRINALLY PERFECT

Some people seem to be shocked that the Church could have been wrong for many years on certain important aspects of the doctrines of Pentecost and divorce and remarriage.

All too many think that one led by the Holy Spirit can do nothing wrong! And they feel that a Church led by God's Spirit is doctrinally perfect. But, the Bible itself proves that isn't necessarily the case!

Probably everyone who is a Christian would acknowledge that the Holy Spirit was guiding and leading the early New Testament Church under the original apostles. Yet, they were wrong for ten years, at least on a very important point of doctrine. For the first ten years of the Church, it was made up entirely of Jews or Jewish proselytes. It was thought that Gentiles could not enter the Church with equal standing.

God had to send Peter a special vision in about 41 A.D. and He granted Cornelius and his family the "gift of tongues" in order to positively demonstrate that Gentiles could be converted the same as Jews (Acts 10). This discovery startled the Church about ten years after the resurrection of Christ!

But that wasn't all. Many ministers still taught the necessity of circumcision and adherence to other Jewish customs. This is the question that led to the historic Jerusalem conference in 49 A.D. (Acts 15). It was finally decided and communicated to the entire Church that Gentiles need not be circumcised or adhere to Jewish customs in order to follow Christ.

So, here is a Bible example that proves people who are led by God's Spirit can be wrong for a time on some important points of doctrine or policy. But, in God's own time, He brings these things to the attention of His servants and inspires them to make the necessary corrections.

Truly the Church continues to GROW in grace and knowledge and understanding (II Pet. 3:18).

— David Hunsberger
Personal Correspondent
Pasadena

DEALING WITH MEMBERS' CONCERN OVER CHANGES

I believe that a certain number of our members are deeply concerned about the Church becoming

"liberal" and "watered down" as a result of the many past and possible future changes we've heard of. I think this situation can and should be met head on. First, I think we should admit that these changes are *big* ones and that they drastically affect many lives. Here are some questions and answers I think we need to consider:

1. Can the Church make mistakes and still be God's Church? Revelation 2:4, 14, 20; 3:1, 15-19 show it can.

2. Can a minister make a mistake and still be God's minister? Philip managed to make two pretty good ones. According to Acts 8 he didn't lay hands on several people after baptism, causing them to be delayed in receiving the Holy Spirit. He also was duped into baptizing a pagan priest — one with quite a reputation.

3. Can the Church be wrong and still be God's Church?

God is no *respector of persons*, but for a time the New Testament Church was and God allowed it. The Church was practicing racial bias and discrimination until God revealed the meaning of His vision to Peter in Acts 10 and 11. What if we refused to baptize chicanos, blacks or Indians today? We'd be doing the same thing the early Church did for the first 10 years!

4. Can the true Church of God make judgmental changes and still be God's Church?

Acts 15 shows that's exactly what happened. I imagine a few people left the Church because of this. Jewish converts then could have easily seen this as a very liberal move.

It's also interesting to note that the choosing of deacons in Acts 6 was evidently without precedent. We are not told that Christ directly communicated this decision to the apostles. Perhaps the decision was made by them out of mere necessity.

5. Can the Church discover new bits of truth?

Josiah did in II Kings 22. Although not a direct New Testament example, I think it illustrates the point.

There's a lot more that could be added here, but I think this is enough to get the point across. Matthew 5:48 carries a lot more meaning than many of us may have allowed. To become perfect means you start imperfectly and you make *plenty of mistakes* along the way. Kinda like noodling for catfish — you have to feel your way through a lot of times.

— Arch Bradley
Pasco, Washington

PRE-FEAST SERMONETTE IDEAS

Since the Feast of Tabernacles is *only* two months away, now is the time to begin to point the

brethren towards the Feast via our sermons and sermonettes. Here are a few sermonette ideas I've found profitable in helping prepare our people for this wonderful time of the year:

• **PLAN NOW FOR A SUCCESSFUL FEAST.** Discuss the value of planning, and its importance in any event that is to be successful. Break planning down into such areas as transportation, recreation, clothing, budgeting, spiritual life at the Feast. Special emphasis might be given toward preparing for the offerings during the feast, in light of Mr. GTA's personal letter in a recent issue of the *Worldwide News*.

• **MAKE THIS THE BEST FEAST EVER... FOR OTHERS.** Stress showing real love and concern for others at the Feast. Three areas might be: 1) Be punctual 2) Be actively considerate 3) Follow instructions (Prov. 4:13), in such areas as parking, offerings, checking in with monitors, etc. Acts 20:35 — the Feast is a special once per year chance to give.

• **HELP YOUR CHILDREN HAVE AN ENJOYABLE FEAST.** Deuteronomy 14:26 — household (includes children) are to rejoice. How? 1) Build-up anticipation for the Feast via family discussion, keeping track of days until Feast, stressing many enjoyable aspects of this time. 2) Buy Feast-oriented gifts for children 3) Make the Feast a family affair, with proper recreation.

• **HAVE A HEALTHY FEAST.** Philippians 4:5 — Emphasize moderation in three areas: food and drink, sleep and rest, physical recreation and exercise. You might talk about how the number of anointings goes up as the Feast continues, and how it's no fun to get sick during the Feast. Stir the people to stay healthy by following the laws of good health.

• **BALANCE — A KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL FEAST.** Use each letter in the word "Balance" to begin a different point. For example: B = Be faithful to work assignments. A = Attend every church service. L = Look for ways to serve. I'm sure you can finish the word out with other ways to be balanced.

As God's ministers, we are commanded to "Preach the word . . . in season" (II Tim. 4:2). Let's do our best to help God's people look forward to the Feast of Tabernacles for 1974.

— Tom Tullis
Des Moines, Iowa City
Iowa

ON THE JOB TRAINING

I had the opportunity recently to participate in the "On The Job Training Program" with Mr. Art

Mokarow. Art arrived in Lexington on Friday, July 12. He and Mel Dahlgren took the Pikeville-London circuit that following Sabbath.

Sunday we enjoyed a fine picnic in Lexington; Monday night a meeting with the leading men in the London Church; Tuesday night a meeting with the leading men in Lexington; Wednesday night a special Spokesman's Club; Thursday night we set up a booth in preparation for the Blue Grass Fair; Friday afternoon we charcoaled steaks at a get-together with the leading men and wives from London and Lexington; Sabbath A.M. and P.M. services in Lexington.

Between all these events we were able to tour many historic sites in and around Lexington, plus making a few visits.

Saturday night we drove back to the Cincinnati airport where Mr. Mokarow caught a flight headed toward Big Sandy. On the following Monday the two-weeks training program for 20 pastors was scheduled to begin.

I definitely feel this "on the job training" will be a tremendous help to the field ministry. I also feel Mr. Mokarow is a very good man for the job. I really appreciated his help and encouragement. The opportunity to have someone here from Headquarters and to become better acquainted with him, to receive help and advice to better serve God's people was just great!

I do hope Art will be able to make it to one of the church areas each month. This "on the job training," plus one or more two-weeks summer training programs at Big Sandy, and one or two semesters at Pasadena, should help tremendously in unifying the entire ministry.

I, for one, certainly look forward to visits from my fellow brothers at Headquarters! Thanks again.

— Kelly Barfield
Lexington, Kentucky

OUR APPROACH TO THE INQUISITIVE

Often, in teaching or counseling within the ministry and among the brethren alike, there is a "reactionary" response to questions or inquiries. All too many have taken the stance that a dynamic preacher or minister must meet all doubt with a head-on collision of what we know (or think we know) with what others don't know.

Many times this approach will serve to "shut them up" for awhile, but does not usually resolve the question or dispel the doubt. There's a deep need for us in the ministry to deal with the

"doubting Thomases," yes, even the "picky questioners," or outright *challengers*, with a calm, patient approach that Jesus had for the original Thomas. Because frankly, nothing is ever accomplished by the *force* of an explanation, but by the persuasion of its logical *truth*, and this is more effectively presented with calm, sincere humility.

Paul must have had this in mind when he taught Timothy: "In *meekness* instructing those that oppose themselves; if peradventure God will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth."

We find *many* who are at odds with themselves — we need to be gentle, patient, and HUMBLE.

— Larry Van Zant
Hamilton, Ontario,
Canada

WE MUST SET THE RIGHT EXAMPLE

The other day I saw a man and woman standing together. Both were a part of the "Work." The man had longer hair than the woman. The woman was a minister's wife. Of course, I have recently seen other ministers' wives with hair as short or shorter. And I have on occasion seen ministers with longer hair.

To some this is a "little" or trivial matter. To me it is a sad thing to behold, especially when I know and love the people involved and, even more, love God's Word.

If I were the man I would fear greatly that God might be ashamed of me (I Cor. 11:14). If I were the woman I would fear even more that God might have removed His angelic protection (verse 10).

As ministers we ought to set the right example. Is it any wonder that many men and women in the Church now presently follow the same hair styles.

There is so much that is good and right in God's Church that I don't like to be negative. But I fear that because of such "little things" as these some people may fall short of God's soon-coming kingdom.

— Leroy Neff
Controller
Big Sandy

A WORD ABOUT LEADERSHIP

Some years back, Prince Philip stated that the world was composed of two basic kinds of people — the leaders and the followers. This is essentially true of the Church.

Those of us who are ministers are appointed to positions of leadership in the Church. The main way we are to lead is by example. As Peter said,

member involvement in God's Work. The additional cost of printing more newspapers would be money well spent in terms of producing the desired effect.

— Guy L. Englebart
Denver, Colorado

BOOK REVIEW

Open Marriage, by Nena O'Neill and George O'Neill. Avon paperbacks, 1973, 288 pages, \$1.95

Marriage manuals, sex studies, and do-it-yourself divorce guides have, as usual, topped the recent best-seller lists. *Uncoupling* promised us a civilized no-fault divorce, while *The Intimate Enemy* provided a sort of Geneva War Code for those who decided to fight it out together. Meanwhile, the ubiquitous sex manuals — both popular and pornographic — told you everything you never wanted to know about sex and didn't think to ask.

They all sold well, due to the dismal state of bed and board in America, but many of these volumes merely aggravated the marital woes which they were urging us to escape. Although *Open Marriage* sold just as well as the others, the O'Neill's book (in my opinion) can do much to reverse America's lemming-like drive toward divorce.

Although *Open Marriage* is best applied to couples who already love and respect each other, it is also effective for those couples who currently despise each other. Basically, *open marriage* involves the right of each partner to live independently, *within* the marriage unit. Each mate gives his partner the freedom to pursue his or her own private interests — jobs, hobbies, friends, and even finances when necessary — independent of the other's control. A mate is not treated as a "possession," with the accompanying mistrust, jealousy, inequality, or role-playing. Instead, each partner grants mutual trust, equality, personal privacy, identity, and full "personhood" to the other.

The authors of *Open Marriage* do not advocate extramarital "living together," divorce, or communal marriage. They believe in the merits of the marriage and family, but more as a "home base" for personal expression than a regimented role-playing prison.

Someone may argue, with some justification, that this freedom could be turned to license, or that family role-playing is biblically based. After all, the Hebrew word for wife (*beulah*) means "owned"; women were treated as possessions in the Old Testament, and Paul admonished men, women, children, and slaves to perform their compartmented roles in the home. Of course, it would

be impossible to debate this major subject in a book review, but a few points for Women's Lib must be mentioned in passing.

Most of humanity has lived under some form of slavery, including the rigid codes of large family hierarchies. Bible authors lived and wrote in the context of such times. But just as the "role" of slave has been modified or abolished, so has the *slave function* of wife and children changed. Only in the last few centuries have some societies enjoyed widespread freedom, and only in the last few decades have women won some of their basic rights. But in the Near East, from before Abraham was born until long after Paul died, and continuing for the most part today, they were unknown. Is it then possible that these "roles" that Paul seemingly advocated were a reflection of the times in which he lived? And if some "free" Christian uses this freedom for license, then he is not yet ready for true freedom; he is still better off as a *self-condemned* prisoner or his role and his rules.

Also, Paul preached *voluntary* (not compulsory) submission: "Women, submit *yourselves*," rather than "Men, *make* your wife submit." Elsewhere he advocated we should *all* (husbands included) submit ourselves to *one another* (wives included). In an open marriage, the wife will grow to respect her husband much more than in a closed marriage, and gradually she will *voluntarily* submit part of her freedom to him, joyfully, not out of fear of him or his legalistic due. Even in a troubled marriage, the mates will learn to *like*, then *respect*, then *love* the person they previously hated, because that person is once again exhibiting the unique individuality that first attracted one to the other before they were betrothed.

Also, remember that we are talking about open marriage for those who desperately need new life in a *dead* marriage. Look at the fruits of their old "closed" marriage. It has become unlivable. They desperately need a transfusion of new ideas, a new marriage contract, or else they are probably headed for the divorce court. The old concepts (many of them more Talmudic than Biblical in nature) have not worked for such couples. Open marriage *may* help them.

Of course, I don't agree with the entire book (especially the libertine conclusions of pages 248 to 255), and I don't expect you to agree with my entire review of it. That's why I'm writing this review to the more mature audience that reads the *Bulletin*, rather than the general Church audience of *The Worldwide News*. When counseling couples, you can discern whether they are ready to

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"Tend that flock of God whose shepherds you are . . . *not tyrannizing* over those who are allotted to your care, but *setting an example* to the flock" (I Peter 5:2-3, *New English Bible*.)

This type of leadership is a lot more difficult to perform than any other! Setting an example is hard. It requires enormous self-discipline. It means we have to set our own standards somewhat higher than we might expect of others.

Because of the obvious difficulty of setting an example, some of us have resorted to the cop-out "Don't do as I do, do as I say." We've probably even used that one on our kids from time to time!

But that line is not acceptable to God. God says through the Apostle Paul, "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? Thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?" (Romans 2:21.)

Sometimes, I think we have substituted "drivership" for leadership! But badgering, intimidating, threatening, whipping and yelling is not really leading — it's driving!

The late President Eisenhower summed up the matter of leadership by a very simple analogy. When asked about the quality of leadership, he replied, in effect: "Take a length of chain about 18 inches long. Put it on a table. Now get behind it and try to push it in a straight line. See what happens? It bends, buckles and goes nowhere. Now, get in *front* of the chain and *pull* it. See how straight it goes? It will now go anywhere you want it to! That sums up the nature of effective leadership."

If no one is following you, you are not a leader!

God's attitude to leadership is summed up in Isaiah 40:11: "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall *gently lead* those that are with young."

— Brian Knowles
GN Managing Editor
Pasadena

SUGGESTIONS RE INTRODUCING THE WORLDWIDE NEWS TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

In a recent *Bulletin*, both Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong and Mr. Wayne Cole encouraged God's ministers to take along a copy of the *Worldwide News* on visits to prospective members in order to more specifically inform them of the news of the Church and Work. I am convinced this is an excellent idea which will encourage more prospective member involvement, and help them find out more quickly what God's Church is all about. Cer-

tainly, through reading the WN, PMs will be much more knowledgeable about the Church and Work.

The prospectives will read a newspaper that is "chock-full" of news about the Work. They will be taken "behind the scenes" to see the informative, personal, human, and newsy aspects of the Work and the people who are doing it. It therefore should also help to bring PMs along more quickly toward conversion and a direct involvement in God's Work.

I suggest that the Church pastors be sent two or three extra copies of the *Worldwide News* with each mailing. The pastor could then give the prospective member his own, personal, free copy of the WN. To me, this would be a far better way of exposing a PM to the *Worldwide News*, instead of just letting the prospective see the minister's personal copy for a few minutes, or having to "borrow" a member's copy. Most members wouldn't want to lend their copy of the WN until after they have read it, and by then the paper would contain only "old" news. Others are hesitant to lend out their copies for fear they won't get them back — they may have a point here. Each pastor could perhaps inform Mr. John Robinson as to how many extra copies he needs per mailing — depending on approximately how many PMs he visits every two weeks. By having his own, personal, free copy, the PM could take the time to fully digest the contents of the WN — perhaps even marking and underlining certain sections of articles — without feeling rushed to get the newspaper back to somebody.

I also feel that a provision should be made for a PM to receive perhaps two additional *free* copies of the *Worldwide News*. Perhaps a card could be made up and sent to the pastors so they could give them to the appropriate PMs to fill out and send in. In this way the PM could get a very good idea what the WN is all about without feeling pressured to immediately subscribe to the newspaper in order to receive it. Then, after receiving the free copies, I feel that most PMs, if they are really interested in God's Work, will be very anxious to subscribe to the WN.

These suggestions, I realize, are going to cost additional money. Personally, I would be very happy to make an additional contribution to the WN for this purpose. I am sure many others would feel the same way. I definitely do feel that if these suggestions were instituted, we would have more PMs reading the WN, and consequently more PM involvement. This, in turn, would produce accelerated conversions and therefore quicker and greater

Ministerial Education & Training

(*Editor's Note:* Because of the enthusiastic response from those men who attended the recent Pastoral Training Course held on the Big Sandy campus, we thought all the ministers would be interested in seeing some of the basic content of the classes. Therefore, we asked Mr. Art Mokarow and staff to submit material from the various classes for this and subsequent issues of the *Bulletin*.)

Since the *Worldwide News* gave some coverage to the project in a recent issue, we will be dealing mainly with the content and subject matter presented in the various classes. Following are introductory comments, an overall survey of the classes, and then excerpts of the lecture from Principles of Preaching. In the next issue we will feature a lecture from another class. Please let us have your comments and suggestions.)

M.E.T. PROGRAM

Pastoral Training is one phase of the overall Ministerial Education and Training Program (M.E.T.) engineered at Headquarters in conjunction with Garner Ted Armstrong, Wayne Cole and Art Mokarow.

Other phases include On the Job Training, advanced Pastoral Training, Senior Pastoral Training and rather than incur the extra effort and expense for a separate Ministerial Journal, it is envisioned using a section of the *Bulletin* for educational and training material.

In the works is the M.E.T. Tape Program as another means of ministerial education. It envisions sending the Church Pastors educational material with selected tapes for the deacons, elders and membership that he could administer locally. The membership might appreciate an occasional tape of the Headquarters Friday night Bible study or a sermon by Mr. Armstrong or an outstanding student assembly. Please feel *very free* to send us your comments and suggestions. They are more than welcome.

— M.E.T. Staff

Educational Material Covered in Big Sandy Pastoral Training Course

LOCAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION The pastor's role as an

administrator. How to delegate effectively. Training your staff. Team-building activities. Feed-back from the congregation.

HUMAN RELATIONS Explanation of basic human needs and the five dominant personal drives. How these needs and drives affect attitudes. Types of personalities.

PRINCIPLES OF PREACHING The quality of preaching. The "sermon trap." Principles of language. Stewardship and mental cultivation. The three elements of language.

MINISTERIAL ETHICS The concept of professionalism. Minister-to-minister relations. Ethical guidelines for the ministry.

HOMILETIC EXEGESIS Qualities of good arrangements in sermons. Chief sources of misinterpretation of Bible verses. Suggestions for study.

SOCIAL SERVICES Assisting local members in job seeking. Employment opportunities. Business and financial counseling. Government services.

THE FIRST PASTORATE A brief walk-through of the circumstances a new pastor would encounter coming into his first pastorate. Relationship with previous minister. Duties of first pastorate.

CONTRIBUTION OF A MINISTER'S WIFE Guidelines and discussions on the significant contributions made to the work by the minister's wife and her role in her husband's ministry.

IMPROVING PASTORAL TALENTS Continuing education and development of pastoral talents in the field.

MINISTERIAL AUTHORITY The power of authority for good or for bad. Concern for proper type of administration.

THE LANGUAGE OF LEADERSHIP (A Lecture From Principles of Preaching)

Isaiah, in the third chapter of his book, prophesied of the death of competent leadership. "For behold the Eternal, the Eternal of Hosts doth take away . . . the mighty man . . . the man of war, the judge, the prophet, the prudent and the ancient . . . the counselor, the cunning artificer and the eloquent orator."

Last, but not least, is listed the disappearance of the eloquent orator or as the original Hebrew puts it, one possessed of personal magnetism and "charisma."

Without mastery of language, leadership loses its impact. In a way, this prophecy seems to have been fulfilled already. Where can we find today really eloquent leaders — the Winston Churchills?

Certainly not in the pulpits or on the political platforms or at the union meetings.

Western culture has applied the boring assembly-line method to the lips and to the pen as a substitute for the continual cultivation of the mind. The factory concept is in vogue. The speaker takes a few raw materials from the *Reader's Digest*, or the *Encyclopedia Americana*, throws them into the mind and out is supposed to come an eloquence and rhetoric package?

It's like the product the farmer gets when he neglects to cultivate his soil and throws his seed into the sterilized mineral beds his fields have become. He gets a crop — plenty of volume, but sadly lacking in quality and short of living ingredients, vitamins, minerals and nourishment.

So it has become with speaking and writing; and as a result, leadership is losing its grip on the hearts, minds and imaginations of the people. They remain tied only by slender shreds of financial affection provided by the economy.

In some ways it seems to get an effective study of language we have to go to the old books of a hundred years ago.

On the subject of style their authors have distilled out three ingredients; beauty, force and clarity. Let's look at the possible combinations and separations of these three elements and at the effect of the seven styles of language produced.

Beauty

Language in which beauty is the main element in its fullest form becomes poetry. Our generation tends to feel there is no valid use for this form of language. However, where would we be without the inspired blank verse lyrics of the Psalms? Millions have been lifted and inspired by their fantastic emotional and literary beauty.

During the darkest days of World War II when France was writhing under the German heel, General De Gaulle liked to calm his mind and strengthen his determination by reading Rudyard Kipling's "If."

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you.
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you
but make allowance for their doubting too.
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise.

If you can dream — and not make dreams
your master

If you can think — and not make thoughts
your aim

If you can meet with triumph and disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same
If you can bear to hear the truth you've
spoken

Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools
Or watch the things you gave your life to,
broken
And stoop and build them up with worn out
tools.

If you can talk with crowds and keep your
virtue

Or walk with kings — nor lose the common
touch

If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt
you

If all men count with you, but none too
much

If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds worth of distance run
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it
And what is more — you'll be a Man my son!

Only the few have mastered this language form. But the rest of us can certainly use and enjoy it. Discourse without any vestige of beauty becomes so unappealing. If all our food was put through a blender and served up to us as dull gray gruel, how many would look forward to it with relish and expectation?

Or as Job expressed it so aptly in the sixth chapter of his book, "Can that which is unsavory be eaten without salt — or is there any taste in the white of an egg?"

So the spiritual nourishment in sermons needs to be garnished with a dash of beauty and color here and there.

Unfortunately, for language quality, our super-efficient western culture is packaging everything including our vocabulary. Everybody knows that "things go better with Coke" and that "Winston tastes good" and that cereals "snap, crackle and pop," "that we have borrowing power at the bank" and that we are in the midst of an energy crisis, etc. Our words and thoughts are being pre-fabricated for us and slipped into our minds like so many cards into a computer.

Our ears are losing the critical faculties and our minds are becoming sloganized. We can reverse this trend by using our ears again to discriminate between the different shades, hues and colors of words.

We can listen critically again and articulate in our minds the different notes and tones and chords of their meaning. Or as Elihu puts it in the book of Job, "The ear trieth words as the mouth tasteth meat" (Job 34:3). Try this for a week and you will be amazed how easily the gray will begin to vanish from sermon language. Outcrops of individual color will begin to punctuate the text to the audience's delight.

They will go home appreciating the sermon more and feeling a little fuller.

Force

Language in which the main element is force, in its extreme form, becomes a command or legal order.

It is the language of the Sergeant Major as in, "Get your hair cut." Or the bank robber, "Your money or your life." Or the judge, "I sentence you to hang by the neck until you are dead." It is very necessary in sermons to be earnest and convicted and to use force from time to time.

It is also very easy in sermons for the speaker to be mechanically dynamic and emotionally synthetic — to think that volume is the power of spirit and that loudness is the authority of God.

To the speaker those sermons sound so good — the audience is hushed, the seeing eye dog is crawling under the chair and the janitor is trembling in the corridor.

However, many times it is easy for the audience to see that lots of volume is a compensation for lack of substance.

Or as the Baptist minister wrote into his notes — "point weak — SHOUT!" Here is the penetrating evaluation of this type of sermon by a Bishop of long ago.

The pace of his sermon is a full career, and he runs widely over hill and dale till the clock stops him. The labour of it is chiefly in the lungs; and the only thing he has made in it himself is the faces. His action is all passion and his speech interjections! He has an excellent faculty in bemoaning the people. His style is compounded of twenty several amens.

He will not draw his handkerchief out of place or blow his nose without discretion. His commendation is that he never looks at

books. He preaches but once a year — though twice on Sunday; for the stuff is the same, only the dressing a little altered, he has more tricks with a sermon, than a tailor with an old cloak, to turn it and piece it and at last quite disguise it with a new preface.

Force, like strong condiments, tastes best in moderation; too much force or a style based on force alone is repugnant and ineffective.

Clarity

Language in which the main element in its fullest form is clarity is found in the dictionary or encyclopedia. It is the crisp language of articulate definition.

Look at the clarity and fine discrimination of meaning between courage, mettle, spirit, resolution, and tenacity. Courage implies firmness of mind and will and absence of fear in the face of danger and difficulty. Mettle suggests an ingrained capacity for meeting stress, strain and with fortitude and resilience. Spirit conveys the quality of being able to keep up one's morale indefinitely when opposed or threatened. Tenacity adds to resolution implications of persistence and unwillingness to admit defeat.

Of course, in general discourse clarity is not usually present in this extreme form.

The element of clarity carries the very important informative function. Clarity of speech springs from clarity of thought, which is the fruit of meditation. Solomon describes the process of mental digestion in Proverbs by saying, "The heart of the wise teaches his mouth and adds learning to his lips."

Getting a sermon subject early and thinking about it all week really helps out the clarity.

You can lack all the other elements of language and still get your point over if you have clarity. You can have all the other elements of language and make nice fireworks from the pulpit, but without clarity it will all be so much sound and fury — signifying nothing. Clarity is the foundational element on which all the others are built. However, a style based on this single element is unattractive and non-compelling since it approaches the intellect alone without touching the emotional or esthetic nerves and finally seems to degenerate into an equation or definition or a catalogue list.

These are the three basic elements that language builds upon.

It is interesting to analyze our sermons from this point of view from time to time and see how we can improve them for the benefit of the audience.

Do I need to be clearer or more colorful or more forceful?

It is also very interesting to combine these elements two by two and take a look at the kinds of language produced. They are not all suitable for sermons but it's interesting to take a look.

Force and Clarity

In a style based on the elements of force and clarity, the force convicts and compels and the clarity feeds and informs. However, the complete lack of beauty tends to create a repugnance which undoes the effects of the other two.

This is the language that the Internal Revenue Service *attempts* to use. Its papers and forms carry the force of the law with various warnings, penalties and fines. Then the I.R.S. *tries* to spell everything out, avoiding all ambiguity, and covering all eventualities — so that its publications become wordy, cumbersome and wearying. The complete lack of attraction creates repugnance and most people hurry off to a tax service and have a paid professional take care of the problem.

It's the language of the traffic ticket, the hunting license and the loan contract — not noted for its popular appeal.

Beauty and Clarity

In a style based on the elements of beauty and clarity, the beauty attracts and holds while the clarity feeds and informs. However, the lack of force in the style leaves the audience or readership somewhat unconvicted or morally unmoved.

This is the language of National Geographic magazine. Attractive pictures accompany colorful, well-written articles which clearly inform about interesting far-away places and events. It does not need force. It is not trying to emotionally move or morally convict. This is the language of lucid scholarship and educational documentary.

Beauty and Force

In the dangerous style based on beauty and force, the beautiful elements, the color humor and majesty attracts. The forceful elements, the resolution, sincerity and determination compels and convicts.

This style is the uniform and language of the Church in Revelation 17. The fallen woman is attractive because she is arrayed in purple and scarlet color and decked with gold and precious stones with a golden cup in her hand. Religious buildings, sculpture and art have held the attention of the world for thousands of years.

Her language is in the same style as her uni-

form. The haunting babble of incantations chanted in an atmosphere charged with color and incense. Sonorous prayers and holy phrases mumbled and sung with a background of statues, tapestry and flickering tapers.

The forceful elements in the language are equal to their powers of attraction. A papal index sees that convicted minds stay closed. Her excommunication brings repenting royalty to stand before her, barefoot in the snow. Her interdict placed on a nation leaves the bells unring, the dead unburied and provokes the people to the hysteria of revolution. So, with the uniform and language of beauty and force, religion has practiced her arts and to a great extent attracted and controlled the mind of man.

The main element lacking in this style is clarity. This would be of little use since the golden cup in her hand is full of *abominations* and the *filthiness of her fornication*.

Beauty and force make language attractive and compelling. Yet the complete absence of clarity creates the suspicion that perhaps there is something to hide. The combination of these two elements creates a very powerful but dangerous style.

Beauty, Force and Clarity

This broad-based style combining the three elements in proper balance is successful and complete.

The beauty attracts, the clarity informs and feeds, and the force compels and moves. The beauty and clarity should be the elements present in largest proportion and the force used in controlled moderation because of its strength. This is the language of leadership.

The last truly eloquent leaders in the West seem to have been General of the Army Douglas MacArthur and Sir Winston Churchill. Their complete style contained the three elements of beauty, force and clarity in the correct combinations to fit the occasion.

The leadership of Churchill's language captured the spirit and imagination of the British in their darkest hour.

If those Nazi villains should drop down upon us from the skies in raid or heavy attacks, we will make it clear to them that they have not come down in the rabbit warren or the sheep fold but into the lion's den of the zoo!

The Battle of France is over. I expect the Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilization. Upon it depends our own British

life, and the continuity of our institutions and our Empire. The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him all Europe may be free and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands. But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new dark age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted by the lights of perverted science. Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties and so bear ourselves that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour."

After the Japanese surrender, General MacArthur broadcast to the American people.

Today the guns are silent. A great tragedy has ended. A great victory has been won. The skies no longer rain death — the seas bear only commerce — men everywhere walk upright in the sunlight. The holy mission has been completed. And in reporting this to you the people, I speak for the thousands of silent lips, forever stilled among the jungles and beaches and in the deep waters of the Pacific that marked the way.

And as he reviewed the cadets for the last time on the Plain at West Point, he said:

The shadows are lengthening for me. The twilight is here. My days of old have vanished tone and tint; they have gone glimmering through the dreams of things that were. Their memory is one of wonderous beauty, watered by tears and coaxed and caressed by the smiles of yesterday.

I listened vainly but with thirsty ear, for the witching melody of faint bugles blowing reveille, of far drums beating the long roll. In my dreams I hear again the crash of guns, the rattle of musketry, the strange, mournful mutter of the battlefield. But in the evening of my memory, always I come back to West Point. Always there echoes and reechoes in my ears — Duty — Honour — Country. Today, marks my final roll call with you. But I want you to know that when I cross the river my last conscious thoughts will be of the corps, and the corps, and the corps. I bid you farewell.

These men recognized the great power of language and the need to use it in fulfilling their purpose.

Language is also a basic tool of our trade. Jesus Christ our High Priest and Saviour and head of our profession is called the Word of God.

Of all men we have the need to master its use and, inspired by the Spirit of God, make our commission felt among men. For we are dealing with a very special kind of language — a language containing *the words of Eternal life!*

OPEN FORUM

(Continued from page 442)

possibly be helped by some of these concepts, before recommending the book. But if a couple is incapable of discerning good from evil on their own, then they are not ready to cope with the responsibilities of an "open marriage" at this time.

Finally, if some of the "buzz words" (open marriage, closed marriage, contracts, role-playing, personhood) are still unclear, don't blame the book. Blame the reviewer and his [self-imposed — *Editor*] thousand-word limit. Reading *Open Marriage* will clear up these concepts, for the book is very clearly written and fully developed. If a couple reads it, through the light of God's spirit and His laws of love, then a troubled marriage could be saved, or a happy marriage could be enriched.

— Gary Alexander
PT Associate Editor
Pasadena

LETTER COMMENTS

(Continued from page 435)

found God's true Church and have within myself, though not a member, a deep love for you; your son Garner Ted; and every member of the Church.

I was most happy and relieved at receiving the long letter from you of July 25, 1974 from Cairo, Egypt. I know this is a form letter, but I felt as if you had written personally to me. I can feel your concern and sincerity in the very paper and type of your message. It is always comforting to see the heading "Dear Co-Workers" included in your letters. I don't really fully understand how we Co-Workers stand in God's sight, but I hope to be drawn to repentance and baptism before the end of my first life.

I only wish there was more I could do to help you and God's Work.

Mr. Armstrong, I have been, along with my wife, so deceived and "taken" by religions in the past, that, well frankly I, especially, am a little uncertain even about this Worldwide Church at times.

Let me say here though, that I am behind you one hundred percent as I believe if there is a God

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A Guide to the Use of Bible Commentaries

by Lester L. Grabbe

WHICH commentaries come to mind when you want to find more information on a particular Bible passage? Clarke's Commentary? Jamieson, Fausset and Brown?

As Strong's and Young's concordances were once thought to be *the* reference works for Greek and Hebrew, so many have assumed Clark's and JFB are *the* Bible commentaries to possess, consult, and depend upon.

In actual fact Clark's and JFB are only two of several dozen commentaries available, many of which are much more reliable, up-to-date, and informative. There are linguistic commentaries, theological commentaries, and homiletic (preaching) commentaries. There are one-volume commentaries and multi-volume commentaries. There are so many commentaries you need some sort of guide to pick your way through the forest of them.

Before discussing specific commentaries and commentary series, it is necessary to explain certain principles about commentaries in general.

Commentary Design

Commentaries usually incorporate a number of aims or purposes. But there is generally some overall aim which tends to dominate and distinguish one particular commentary from others. A commentary is usually directed primarily at one of three audiences: the *layman*, the *educated layman*, or the *scholar*. This does not mean an educated layman could not use a commentary aimed primarily at scholars. But he might find it heavy going. Scholarly commentaries usually comment directly on the Greek or Hebrew text while others will generally key off the English translation, even though they may discuss the original text at certain points.

Commentaries for the layman and educated layman (most of our field ministry would fall into the category of educated laymen, since they do not know Greek or Hebrew and are not engaged in scholarly teaching or research) usually try to cover a range of areas, including some discussion

of the text, the original language, historical exegesis, and the theological portent of the passage in question. Some also try to bring in points relating to homiletics. They tend to give a broader overview while avoiding technicalities.

Scholarly commentaries, on the other hand, are most often more specialized and tend to fall into one or the other of the following categories: historical-philological, theological, or literary-critical. Most will include some elements of the others but will be dominated by one of the three major approaches mentioned.

Liberal and Conservative

The reverence with which the Bible is approached varies widely among the various commentators. There are many *conservative* commentaries (especially the older ones) which view the Bible as the inspired word of God much as we do. Their treatment of the text will generally be more compatible to our way of thinking. Thus our natural tendency to gravitate toward this type of commentary.

However, we can miss a great deal of good solid information if we stick solely to conservative commentators and ignore the contributions of liberal scholarship. True, the lack of respect which many liberal commentators exhibit toward the Bible will immediately put us off. But this approach is not generally because of a malicious desire to tear down the Bible (there are exceptions to this, unfortunately). They simply treat the Bible as they would any human literature — whether Plato, Herodotus, Shakespeare, or James Joyce.

But this seeming irreverence can also be of great help because liberal scholars tend to be less denominationally prejudiced than conservatives. Conservatives often think they are being loyal to the Bible when in actuality they are only being loyal to their particular Protestant tradition! Thus, a liberal scholar may in the end come closer to the true meaning of the biblical text — despite his different view of inspiration — simply because

he isn't so likely to be working from a sectarian bias.

Naturally, the terms "liberal" and "conservative" present too neat a division. In the real world of scholarship, views range all the way from radical, through liberal, moderate, moderately conservative, to evangelical. (The really extreme sects such as the Pentecostals and the JW's are excluded from the term "scholarship" by nearly everyone.) German scholarship tends to fall into the liberal and radical side of things. British scholarship on the other hand most often falls into the moderate or moderately conservative range. A number of very respected British scholars are even evangelicals (F. F. Bruce, for example).

American scholarship is quite diversified. There is a very strong evangelical segment (of which Fuller Seminary would be an example). Unfortunately, the American evangelical scholars tend to work within their own circles rather than contributing to the scholarly community as a whole. That's why evangelicals tend to have a bad name among liberal scholars. A moderate wing of Old Testament research is represented by the Albright school. German scholarship is presently having a great impact in this country and will continue to do so for some time to come. For this reason, American biblical scholarship tends to be dominated by the liberal theologians.

The past few paragraphs may seem to be a wide digression from the subject of commentaries. Not so. This overview of some aspects of scholarship is necessary in order to help you evaluate different commentaries, especially new ones which may not be directly covered in this article. The important thing is not to reject automatically a commentary because it accepts the Documentary Hypothesis or the non-Pauline authorship of the Pastoral epistles. There may still be a lot of good information despite such obvious defects.

What about the label "Roman Catholic"? Traditional Catholic scholarship of past years has been heavily dominated by the Catholic religion. But liberal Catholic scholarship of today differs little from liberal Protestant or even liberal Jewish scholarly research. In fact, as one leading Jewish scholar said, "There is no longer any such thing as Protestant scholarship or Catholic scholarship or Jewish scholarship. There is only scholarship — good, bad, or indifferent." Recent Catholic scholarly publications have some very good solid material for a technical understanding of the Bible.

A final note about commentators. No scholar is an expert in every area of biblical research, and no real scholar would attempt to present himself as

such. A scholar naturally knows more about his particular specialty than that of others. This means one-man commentaries almost always lack the depth and quality of those with multiple authorship. While a one-man commentary might be very helpful from a general point of view, realize the need to go to the specialists on those occasions when you need more depth and expertise.

One-Volume Commentaries Versus Commentary Sets

The first question about commentaries almost everyone will ask is, "Which commentary is the best so I can buy that one and forget about the rest?" As the comments made so far already indicate, there is no proper answer to this oversimplified question. There is probably no "best" commentary for you. Even if there is, you can probably be sure it will not be so complete and reliable as to obviate the need of consulting any others.

This state of things is probably just as well. If there was one superior commentary which we could recommend as *the* commentary to have, it could have very bad effects. The tendency would be for readers to accept it at face value without giving its comments the critical evaluation they should have. You would also easily become dominated by the thinking of the one commentator and would not receive the stimulation of different approaches and ways of seeing things.

In the final analysis the commentary or commentaries for you depend on your personal needs. Your needs for preaching are different from my needs for teaching or research. The commentaries on my shelves may not belong on yours. And there's always the question of "bread" — commentaries cost money, sometimes a great deal of money.

If you aren't used to using commentaries, your first buy is logically a one-volume commentary. A good one-volume commentary usually costs only a little more than a single volume of a multi-volume commentary. You might also find a one-volume commentary useful while trying to build up your library with commentary volumes on individual books. But in the end a one-volume commentary is too skimpy to serve all your needs.

On the other hand, it is *almost always unwise to buy a commentary set*. The reason is that sets usually vary greatly from book to book. For example, the Isaiah volume of a particular series may be excellent while the Hebrews volume is utter trash. Seldom does a multi-commentary maintain a high level of competence and value

throughout (exceptions will be noted below). Yet most multi-volume commentaries can be purchased on an individual volume basis. So the best thing is to find what are the best commentaries for the individual books and then buy them separately, regardless of what set they belong to.

Also many good one-book commentaries exist which do not belong to any set.

Evaluation of Different Commentaries

Since the list which follows is rather extensive, I will give the approximate price with each one rather than giving a separate list at the end of the article. For the commentary sets, the individual volumes generally vary quite a bit, depending on the size of the book. So only an approximation of the price can be given; some volumes may not fall within this range.

Descriptions will vary slightly from one another. But I will try to include information on the following points: range of treatment (general, linguistic, homiletic), level of scholarship (scholar, educated layman, layman), stance (liberal, moderate, conservative), and how up-to-date (approximate age). If nothing is said about range, then it's probably quite general; if nothing about age, it's fairly recent.

One-Volume Commentaries

The New Bible Commentary, Revised, \$12.50. Evangelical. Done by a number of different scholars, mostly British. Quite suited for the layman or educated layman. Most of you would probably find it the most helpful of the one-volume commentaries.

Wycliffe Bible Commentary, \$12.50. Evangelical. Several scholars, mostly American. Somewhat similar to the New Bible Commentary but the other seems to have the edge of quality.

Peake's Commentary on the Bible, \$19.50. Moderate. Several well-known scholars (mostly British), including some conservative ones. Doesn't always have a verse-by-verse commentary, but very good background material to the different books and their individual difficulties.

Jerome Biblical Commentary, \$30.00. Liberal. Roman Catholic scholars (but note comments above about RCC scholarship). Some very good background essays.

Multi-Volume Commentaries — Whole Bible

New International Commentary, \$5.00-\$10.00 per volume. Evangelical, mainly British authors. New Testament is almost complete but only the book of Isaiah is available for the Old Testament. Educated layman. Uses the Revised Version for

the text but gives some technical comments on the original languages. Readable and generally helpful exegesis.

Tyndale Bible Commentary, \$2.25-\$4.00, paperback edition. Evangelical, mainly British authors. Most of the Bible is complete. Somewhat similar to the New International, but more for the layman. Many would find it too nontechnical, but it might be good for someone looking for sermon material.

New Century Commentary, \$8.00-\$12.00 vol. Moderate. Mostly British scholarship. For the layman and educated layman. Somewhat like Harper's New Testament Commentary listed later on. Based on the RSV text.

Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges, now out of print. Moderately liberal. British effort. Technical language held to a minimum but a lot of value despite the small size of the volumes. Try secondhand book shops since they are no longer in print. The volumes may be anywhere from 70-150 years old so realize their information may be out-of-date.

Anchor Bible, \$6.00-\$8.00. Liberal. International scholars, though more heavily American. Supposedly for laymen as well as scholars but not always so in actual fact. Very uneven. Some very good volumes (Genesis, writings of John, Job) and some to avoid (such as Psalms). Don't buy a volume until you have had a chance to look it over.

Interpreter's Bible, \$8.75 vol., 12-vol. set (several books to each vol.). Liberal. International scholars. Supposedly designed for the preacher. Has an exegetical section and then a separate homiletic section. But the printing wastes a lot of space which adds to the expense.

International Critical Commentary (ICC), \$5.00-\$9.00 vol. if ordered from Britain; \$13.00-\$15.00 vol. through an American distributor. Liberal. Designed for the scholar though the educated layman can also get a lot of good out of it. Almost all of the volumes are of excellent quality. This is the commentary to go to for technical information. Its critical approach may put you off initially. But almost all of the commentators were outstanding scholars and knew what they were talking about from a technical, scholarly point of view. Unfortunately, it has never been completely finished and most of the volumes are about 50-75 years old. But there is nothing in English to replace it as yet (except for some commentaries on individual books of the Bible).

Hermeneia, \$12.00-\$15.00. Liberal. Designed for scholars though educated laymen can use it. Once it is finished it will probably replace the ICC just

discussed. But it has only begun for the New Testament and the first Old Testament volume will probably be out only later this year. Thus far, good for technical information and the trends of modern biblical scholarship.

Speaker's Bible Commentary, out of print. Moderately liberal. British scholarship. Almost a century old. A lot of good general information if you can find a copy. Designed for the educated layman.

Cambridge Bible Commentary, paperback \$2.50-\$5.00. Moderate. Based on the New English Bible translation. Aimed at the layman and educated layman. Some extra volumes give good background information. But the commentaries themselves are rather skimpy.

Lange's, out of print. Seems aimed primarily at the preacher. Has some technical material, though not too much plus some specifically homiletic material, often verbose. Its major drawback is age — a century old.

Broadman Bible Commentary, \$7.50 vol., 12-vol. set. Conservative. Southern Baptist effort. More for layman than anyone else.

Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown. This needs no introduction since you are all familiar with it. But it does need a conclusion: don't rely on it! It was originally designed for the layman and is now over a century old. The men who wrote it were reasonable scholars in their own time. But this particular commentary did not represent the best scholarly efforts of its own time, much less those of today. Don't throw it away if you have a copy, but use it with care (and large quantities of salt).

Clarke's. Actually, Clarke seems to have been a better scholar in his own day than were the JFB trio in theirs. However, Clarke lived about half a century even before they did. So he is over a century and a half out-of-date, especially so in areas relating to the natural sciences. He also represents a one-man work which has its drawbacks as already noted. Ditto about using with caution and care.

Multi-Volume Commentaries — Old Testament (alone)

Keil and Delitzsch, \$8.00-\$10.00 vol. for the new 10 vol. set. Conservative. Designed for the educated layman. Good comments on Hebrew text. Probably the best all around on the Old Testament for the preacher. But remember it is getting toward its centenary. A few things have been learned since it was written. The new edition in 10 volumes can be obtained for about \$60.00 from the Religious Book Discount House.

Soncino Books of the Bible, \$5.00-\$10.75. Con-

servative Jewish, designed for laymen. Some of the volumes much better than others. Somewhat expensive for the amount of material actually given (about half the space is devoted to printing the Hebrew text and the JPS translation). With an exception or two (such as the volume on Proverbs), there is comparatively little technical information given, either on the historical background or on the Hebrew text. But you might find it has some good material for use in preparing sermons.

Old Testament Library, \$10.00-\$15.00 vol. Liberal. Designed for the educated laymen but mainly oriented toward literary and form criticism. Some exceptions which you might find useful are the volumes on Proverbs, Psalms, and I and II Kings. Somewhat expensive.

Multi-Volume Commentaries — New Testament (alone)

Harper's New Testament Commentaries (Black's... in England), \$5.00-\$8.00 vol. Also available in a paperbacked edition from England. Moderate. Mostly British scholars. Good general coverage in non-technical language. For the layman or educated layman. About the same level and format as the New Century Commentary.

Moffatt New Testament Commentary, out of print. Liberal. Different authors. Based on the Moffatt translation. Clear and understandable language on the whole. For the educated layman.

Lenski's Interpretation of..., \$6.50-\$8.50. Moderate. One-man work. Lutheran theology sometimes shines through. A great deal of comment on the Greek text (he gives his own translation), but he seems too dominated by A. T. Robertson's grammar which is now somewhat out-of-date. His exegesis seems to me to be too hair-splitting at times. But he can also put things in just the right way at other times. Done in the 1930's.

Building a Library

We have already pointed out the hazards of buying a commentary set. You should buy according to the value of the individual book. But as you well know — or would certainly learn in a hurry! — commentaries are expensive. You want your commentary dollar to go buy as much value as possible.

The first thing to consider are your needs. As a field minister you are primarily interested in what will help you speak to your church and only secondarily interested in technical detail for your own sake. So homiletic interests will usually dominate your choice of commentaries.

Yet never forget an important point: *you can't expound a scripture until you first understand it*

yourself. This means you will want a commentary which gives reasonable exegetical guidance as well as homiletic material. It's no good keeping the audience's interest if you are using erroneous information to do so. Technical accuracy is not to be ignored even though it might not be your number one concern.

Most of the commentaries designed for the educated layman will give you plenty of homiletic material as well as a readable exegesis. So most of you will find more of what you need in commentaries designed for educated laymen. But a great deal depends on your own personal education and your individual interests. One person may happen to like a particular commentary series or commentator which leaves the next man cold. The major concern is that the commentary be helpful to you and accurate for the area in which you wish to use it.

I would first suggest investment in a good one-volume commentary. The majority of ministers would probably like best the *New Bible Commentary, Revised*. But some might prefer some of the others listed.

After that, you will probably find it easiest to buy volumes for individual books as you happen to be studying them. It is always best to use a volume awhile before deciding to buy it. Borrow a copy from a library and use it in your private study for a time if possible. At least give it a careful perusal in the bookstore before putting cash down for it.

Though I somewhat hesitate to give specific recommendations to field ministers, I think most of you will find the *New International Commentary* helpful for most of the New Testament. It is conservative, readable, and yet also generally sound from a technical point of view.

The *Harper's* and *New Century Commentary* should also be quite helpful though less conservative than the NIC. The *Tyndale Bible Commentary* has a little less substance than the three just mentioned. But it has the advantage of being very cheap as well as of good quality.

For the Old Testament alone, the Keil-Delitzsch commentary would probably still be at the head of the list despite its age. The new reprint in 10 volumes can be obtained for as low as \$60.00 for the entire Old Testament. Or you could buy the individual volumes separately. Some used-book shops might have volumes from earlier reprints.

You might run across other useful commentaries not listed here. There are many older commentaries I am not familiar with plus a few

modern one-man commentaries. If you find one you like for a good price, fine. But always be careful to see it is really as good as it appears to be.

Parting Advice

The *best* commentary is the one which serves your needs — so long as it is accurate. So be sure to examine before buying. Don't buy solely on someone else's recommendation. His needs and interests may be different from yours.

This article is not something to be memorized. It's a guide — to be read, reviewed, and hopefully consulted when you are in the market for a commentary. It is not an end in itself. Its purpose is to help you in making use of tools which can add new depth to your Bible understanding — if used judiciously, armed with the doctrines of God's Church and led by His Holy Spirit. □

LETTER COMMENTS

(Continued from page 447)

and if He does have a Church, then this has to be it.

May you, by the grace of the Creator, be energetic, resourceful, and successful in your duties for God. Maybe some day I will get to see you personally — what a joy that would be.

— Roger Matherly
Louisville, Kentucky

"... Very Dear and Precious to Us"

I have just read your letter from Cairo, Egypt of July 25. I received it today, August 3. I enjoy so much these letters from you and knowing how the Work is progressing.

My impression is that you are doing the Work of Elijah the prophet that God promised to send before the coming of the great day of the Lord in Malachi 4:5 — like John the Baptist before our Lord's first coming.

You are very dear and precious to us of God's Church. I pray for you daily and nightly. You're most precious to all of us and to the great God who has sent you.

— Mrs. Lotus L. Bryant
Gridley, California

"How Inspiring"

I have just read your recent letter which told about your trips to Cairo and other centers of the

world. How inspiring! It is a wonderful thought that the Work of God is getting done and that we are that much closer to relieving and restoring this very sick world.

I want to very much encourage you and I, like many, many others, pray for your strength and guidance from God. I am 100% behind you and deeply believe that this is the Work of God. And I am confident that I speak for thousands of others.

— Jean Pifer
Metamora, Ohio

Letters Most Encouraging

I received your latest member letter, dated July 25, 1974, and felt that I just must write you to let you know that we are so very happy to hear of the great strides God is making in His Work at this very end time! It is very thrilling to hear of the invitations coming in from across the world inviting you to speak to the nations, from the very top, and of how fantastic doors are being opened up. Truly, we can see the invisible hand of God working out these meetings.

We all do need encouragement, Mr. Armstrong, and your letters are the most encouraging thing that can happen to us — to be able to read of the ways in which God sets up these meetings for you — of the favor which He causes you to have in the eyes of those who are in offices of rulership. I don't think anything else could inspire and encourage us — or me — in quite the same way.

In turn, I would like to encourage you (and I am positive that thousands of our fellow brethren feel the same way), in whatever way I can. Keep up the good work! I truly do believe that you are getting younger every year, and we fervently pray for this — that God will give you youth, vigor, strength, power and wisdom, through His Holy Spirit, to continue this Work, seeing it through, until the coming of our elder Brother, and the establishment of God's government on this earth. How we pray that it will be soon!

Our heartrending prayers are behind you 100%, Mr. Armstrong. Please be assured of that!

— Marion C. Reed
Mineola, Texas

God's Chosen Servant

Today I received your letter from Cairo, Egypt. How can anyone doubt that this is the very Work of God on this earth? The way God is moving you (and so very quickly) into these many Gentile

nations, before their rulers and with such honor! It must "shake you" a bit to be put in this position, but Mr. Armstrong, if God has so much confidence in you, how can we not? You are His chosen servant to do this very exciting part of His Work. If you weren't, you simply would not be in the position you are now in — before world leaders with love, confidence, friendship and great honor to you and this Work which in turn honors God, who has made it all possible. It is fabulous. Words simply can't express the way I know must of us feel.

As for the letter you quoted from one of the brethren that you found so inspiring, rest assured that had we all heard that special assembly in the College gym, you would have heard an even *more* thunderous applause in answer to your questions. We are behind you in everything you do as you follow our living God and His Son Jesus Christ. You are His chosen and we know it. Our prayers, our confidence, our compassion, our tithes and offerings are with you to carry on as God wills. May God continue to give you health, energy and the sure knowledge of our love and backing for you and Garner Ted and all who labor so hard in this Work.

I know we all wish we could give more than we do, but sometimes it just isn't possible. So we labor in prayer for others to be called to help finance this Work with us. They will gain far more than they will ever be able to give. I know!

Mr. Armstrong, we love you! Keep up the good work.

— Mrs. Edwin B. Schlipf
Massapequa Park, New York

Wants Her Ungratefulness Forgiven

It seems that some of us, like children, think that their parents are invincible. We forget that you are human and also in need of some manifestation of gratitude from those you so unselfishly help and guide to see the light. Please forgive me for my ungratefulness.

I want you to know that I'm behind you one hundred percent. I know this is God's Work. I also know that He is the only One who can open these doors and give you grace and affection in the eyes of those with whom you have to deal.

Please ignore the palaver of those whom Satan is using now to attack the Church. God chose Abraham and Moses at your age and used them mightily to accomplish the task He had for them to do; and since God has chosen you for this great

task in this end time, who are we to object or complain?

To me Sir, you stand as "tall" or "taller" in this end time than the Patriarchs did in their time. So please don't be discouraged, but encouraged, because we know God's Church will not fail, no matter how bad things look. I'm praying daily and will continue as long as I live, for the success of the Work God is accomplishing through you and for your mind to be alert and your body strong to finish this task assigned to you.

— Mrs. Mabel R. Cunningham
Richmond, California

"These Are Momentous Days"

Your letter of July 25, 1974 was extremely inspiring to me. And so I would like to return some inspiration and encouragement to you. First I would like to thank you for having loved me before I was even born. Because of your efforts back in the early days of this great Work, God was able to call me now, change my life, and head me towards a fantastically wonderful future with Him and His family.

And now, after years of hard work by you and others, the culmination of it all appears in sight. I am therefore willing to push my own throttle wide open and blast off towards the finish line. I fervently intend to add my voice to those of my brethren in a unanimous cry before God Almighty to give you constant protection and renewed physical strength and endurance. To provide whatever is necessary to accomplish a tremendous witness according to His will. To be able to go as far as He thinks we should and would like us to. These are momentous days, and it is tremendously exciting to be living now. And a real privilege to have a part in the Work.

— Frank Charest
North Hollywood, California

Fruits of His Labors Inspiring

Because of your complete and humble dedication to God and the office you occupy under Him, I have come into a knowledge and understanding of His Word and His personality. If this is not the Work He set out to accomplish through His inspired leaders, there is none.

The fruits you have accomplished through inspiration has, in turn, inspired those of us who look to you for leadership. We can only thank God for you and Mr. Garner Ted always in our prayers in greatest appreciation.

Julia Foushee
Greenwood, MS

Moved to Tears

Mr. Armstrong, I cried when I read your words, out of sheer joy and thankfulness, and I am sure I speak for other brethren. In the Missoula, Montana Church sometimes we feel isolated from the mainstream of the Work. But once again God has shown that our prayers and tithes and offerings are being used to accomplish the most marvelous Work accomplished since the first century after Christ's ministry. And it is a wonder and source of thrilling happiness that the mighty God, who can not only part the waters of the Red Sea but has the tenderness and mercy to help us in the smallest matters of life, has privileged us to witness this end-time Work and be a part of it.

Your favor in the eyes of the world leaders is nothing short of miraculous. Pardon me for saying this Mr. Armstrong, but you are an ordinary man with beginnings just like us. But God needed a man of your particular talents, especially drive and zeal, and by His power a man of your ordinary background is now accomplishing such extraordinary things. We pray more than once a day for your continued health, vigor, and ability to serve God.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong, you are first and foremost God's worker, but you are also our representative because we are not so direct a vector in the Work. So your joy is our joy, by your accomplishments we, too, are accomplishing for God. You have asked us to be faithful to this commission, but I ask you, how could we be faithful to another? There isn't any other. God, in using you, is using us as well. So our work to earn money and to pray as hard as we can is satisfying even though we hope to be able to serve even more as opportunities arise. We love you and support you and your decisions.

Also, about selling the jets, they seem so important. Are they so expensive compared to the effectiveness they bring to God's Work? I certainly will gladly help pay for them if they are necessary.

So thank you again for your words; every bit of news you send helps us to know God is working wonders. Your presentation to Mr. Sadat proves how much favor God has granted this Work.

Anonymous (a member)

OOPS — WE GOOFED!

In the last issue the report on the work in Australia stated (page 406) there were 12,514 members in Australia. That should have read 2,514.