

The Bulletin



of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 12

PAGES 345-366

JULY 1, 1975

Eyewitness Report —

NAIROBI CAMPAIGN

by Robert E. Fahey

The Gospel was preached in Nairobi. I know — cause I was there and heard it! You could almost say felt it. It was that strong!

Sunday, June the 8th, was the final night of the campaign. My wife, Ev and I sat almost bolt upright as we heard Mr. Armstrong deliver the strongest sermon I think I have ever heard him give. The good news of man's ultimate destiny came through *clearly* and *powerfully*.

The first night Mr. Armstrong talked about the conditions in the world today. Later that evening he mentioned that he felt somewhat disappointed that he hadn't gotten into more meat from the Bible. This may have helped him get across his message more powerfully the following two nights.

The second night was much stronger than the first. Mr. Armstrong showed from the pages of the Bible that God's government was on earth before man was created and administered by Lucifer. Then he explained how Lucifer rebelled and the attitude he exhibited. He finished up the second night by showing that the Gospel is the return of the government of God to this earth which will solve the problems mankind faces and replace the present god of this world.

I thought that was pretty strong.

But the next morning I talked to a few of our members (we have 4) in Nairobi. They were very inspired, of course, but mentioned that they had a little difficulty with Mr. Armstrong's accent. They are used to English coming with a British flavor.

Actually, most all the English teachers in Nairobi are Asians from *India!* For Nairobi Africans, American English takes some getting used to. I mentioned this problem to Mr. Armstrong — but I didn't see what he could possibly do about it. How do you change your accent in six hours? He must have prayed about it. Because to me he sounded exactly the same the third night. But our members and everybody else in the Auditorium felt there was no problem whatsoever. They sat transfixed. And nobody looked at their watch as God's servant on earth today delivered the message to Nairobi of the purpose for mankind's existence on earth and what is his ultimate destiny.

To give you an idea, towards the end of the sermon (you *have* to call it a sermon) Mr. Armstrong said "You know God's face is not black like yours!" He paused as those words sunk into the hearts and minds of the audience. He had our attention to say the least! Then he said "Nor is it pale and anaemic like mine! — His face shines like the sun in full strength! and so will yours and mine. We'll all be the same in the God Family. There will be no divisions — we'll all be *ONE!*"

I felt like cheering! I got all choked up and felt like I and that blackfaced audience already were *ONE!* I can't tell you how encouraging and exhilarating an experience it was that final night.

Later I reflected on the situation. Here Ev and I were, two Americans who live in Johannesburg,

(Continued on page 351)

Church Administration

Mr. Wayne Cole is currently with Mr. Les McCullough and Mr. Steve Martin in Bricket Wood attending a ministerial conference with a number of ministers from the British Isles and other nearby areas of the continent. He asked us to put in the CAD column some of those administrative questions that sometimes have to be set aside because of a lack of space in a particular issue. So for this Bulletin we'll play catch up. What follows is an administrative potpourri.

Advertising in Yellow Pages

A number of you have recently asked questions regarding advertising in the Yellow Pages of the telephone book. You asked for guidelines and instructions, wanting to know costs, etc.

We do not yet have a budget for Yellow-Page advertising. Some telephone companies apparently allow Yellow-Page listings of churches and ministers without charge, though this is probably a rarity. For the most part, as far as we have been able to find out, most telephone companies consider churches in the category of businesses and charge accordingly.

Mr. Ted Armstrong has stated that he would like to see every church listed in the Yellow Pages to enable people to find us more easily, and that's what we hope to do in the future when we have adequate advertising funds. In the meantime, for those of you who have found that you may advertise without cost, here's a word of caution. Even though you may not be charged for the listing, the phone company may decide to increase your monthly rate, charging you now on the basis of a *business* telephone. Be sure to clarify that point if anyone does seem to offer you free advertising space.

The cost to advertise all churches across the United States in the Yellow Pages of the telephone book each year would run well in excess of \$250,000! In this time of tight budget restrictions, we simply do not have the money no matter how much we may wish we could see the Church advertised in the Yellow Pages across the entire nation.

Fair Booths

A number of remarks have reached us indicating that at least a few of you feel that fair booth participation is more or less mandatory. That is

The Bulletin

of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

EDITOR IN CHIEF

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

EDITOR

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

C. WAYNE COLE

SENIOR EDITORS

DAVID JON HILL, HERMAN L. HOEH,
ROBERT L. KUHN

MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD H. SEDLIACIK

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

CHARLES V. DOROTHY, BRIAN KNOWLES

© 1975 by Worldwide Church of God. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright proprietor.

not true. You are under no obligation to participate in the fair booth program. We feel it is a positive thing for the Church and for the membership, but by no means something that you are *required* to do in any way.

We have found additional growth in those areas which have had fair booths. But we realize that not all ministers and not all church areas have the time nor the facilities for handling every project that might be available to them. While we may encourage things where they are applicable, we by no means make such things mandatory.

Another point to add is that while we may find some things distasteful about the approach of various other churches or denominations, we need not view every change that we make in our approach to the public as something to question or to look for comparisons in how other churches might do it. Neither do we have to find everything they do distasteful.

There has been a word or two of criticism of fair booths by those who at one time or another have been sorely pressed by some religious zealot. At times we may have been embarrassed or even angered by their aggressive approach. However, we don't want to let our distaste for the *wrong*

(Continued on page 350)

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

June 26, 1975

OFFICE OF
GARNER TED ARMSTRONG
Vice President

To all ministers and fellow laborers in Christ's Work:

GREETINGS!

I'm now back in Pasadena, just this moment having come from the radio studio after finishing another broadcast (I am ahead only about three or four at this moment -- and must do more before I can ever get away from hot, smoggy Southern California again).

I just returned from the Big Sandy campus where I was able to conduct one of the sessions of the most current Pastor Training School, attended by about 35 ministers and a number of their wives from many parts of the United States and even several provinces of Canada.

I had intended to take only about one hour, since they have a very tight schedule during these thoroughly-prepared and professionally-done pastoral training sessions, but I found the enthusiasm running so high and the questions so many and so varied on so many topics that before I looked around I had spent the entire afternoon -- about 3 1/2 hours with only a brief coffee break about halfway through!

However, when it was all over I know all the fellows and their wives there felt it was time well spent, and I could tell there was a tremendous appreciation on their part of being brought up to date and hearing from me the most recent developments in the Work, including a full-scale discussion and explanation on the new Foundation about which they had heard a great deal recently, and even including further exposition on such doctrinal questions as birthdays and D&R.

Really, we ran the gamut of every conceivable topic you can imagine, from ongoing projects in the Work to doctrine, and it was a very rewarding and fulfilling meeting for all of us.

The schedule included some top professionals from other fields, including lecturers on the subject of drugs. I was very pleased to see the careful way in which these Pastor Training Schools are being conducted and that our pastors can have exposure to many professionals in other fields who can give them valuable experience and expertise in areas of life that we may not be personally acquainted with. Mr. Helge was to conduct at least one session to brief all the men on some of the intricacies of today's current legal climate, and there were many other lecturers from both within and without the church who would contribute substantially to the program.

I was also able to play at least one softball game with some of the fellows and one basketball game. Conducting these meetings in Texas during this time of the year gives a terrific opportunity for a lot of the recreational activities which would not be available elsewhere, including Lake Loma for swimming and sunning for the wives and children if they wish.

So, all in all, I was very grateful to be able to take part in this particular series of meetings, and I believe all the fellows and wives who were there felt the same way.

One of the things I hope we never slip up on again in the future of God's Work is constant, open, direct, lateral, and fearless communication with each other!

LOYALTY is a two-way street. It goes both up and down as well as laterally. Though we have had to be saddened recently by a few more who have left God's Church on the "right," INSISTING that they will not change on the subjects of Pentecost, D&R, or make-up and a whole host of other imaginary or peripheral "reasons," I hope that the strong and viable majority of the ministry of Jesus Christ will grow ever more solidly knit together in the bond of LOVE as Christ commands, and that we will grow in those qualities of the ministry which the Apostle Peter made so clear in his chapter to the "elders which are among you." We are all to be "clothed with humility" and to be "SUBJECT one to another"! I know there is no risk of "familiarity breeding contempt" in the case of one who is literally filled to the brim with the very love of God! Never would a person who is illustrating the Holy Spirit of God and the very love of God in his life and his mind grow familiar to the point of presumptuousness and overbearing ego with anyone else.

Personally, the kind of camaraderie I experienced even for those few hours being with some of the fellows in our latest pastoral training meeting in Texas and the flow of warm and supportive letters and memos I receive from you fellows in the field proves to me we are growing closer toward those bonds of true fellowship in the way Jesus Christ really intends! I don't ever want a climate to be created around me, even UNINTENTIONALLY, by those who are only striving to help, that I am "hard to get to," or that I am not "easy to be intreated" when it comes to problems any of you would like to bring to my personal attention! Again I reiterate, even though I AM busy (but then, who isn't? -- you fellows know how busy you are!), I DO nevertheless read the letters and memos you send, and, even though I might not answer every one of them (I DO answer some!), I read them all and will try to answer them "collectively," either in the pages of the Bulletin or in other ways -- in my sermons or through attendance at SOME (and I hope to attend more in the future) of these smaller conferences.

In the meantime, once again, I hope you are preaching the strong, powerful, doctrinal and Christian-living kind of sermons your brethren and members are really thirsting for. Keep right on the firing line -- and especially those of you who are conducting open lectures and services for the general public, let me tell you how much we appreciate your support here at Headquarters. As never before, you are a dynamic part of the FIRST COMMISSION to the Church and a part of directly being used as a witness and a warning to call people to Jesus Christ and to His true Church. This is, truly, an exciting NEW DIMENSION in God's Church today and can ultimately result in tremendous growth.

So keep the lines of communication wide open -- write or call whenever you feel the need -- and THANK YOU for all the input from those who are contributing to the Bulletin.

Mr. Armstrong is currently back in Pasadena, and Mr. Stanley Rader is in New York and will be visiting Washington to talk to various of our Washington contacts. We just heard from Les McCullough who tells us of very constructive ministerial meetings in England (both Wayne Cole and Brian Knowles were also present), and Les was very enthusiastic and positive in all the comments he made concerning the recent series of meetings with the fellows there. Mr. McCullough will be gone to the continent for approximately a week or so and will be back in Pasadena shortly after you read this Bulletin.

That's about it for this time. I know you all read my very lengthy columns in the WN, and I don't wish to be redundant in the pages of the Bulletin, using this space to rehearse with you a lot of the things I tell the entirety of the brethren there, but I do want to encourage ALL of you to thoroughly digest the Bulletin, ESPECIALLY all of Mr. C. Wayne Cole's comments on CAD, and anything from the Business Office so you can give summary reports in your Bible studies or the announcement portion of your Sabbath day services to all the brethren, and really keep them INFORMED!

Your brother in Christ's service,

Samuel L. Armstrong

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

(Continued from page 346)

approach blind our eyes to the opportunity to use the right methods. Of course, we should never be ashamed of the gospel of Christ, and we should never be ashamed to tell anyone about the gospel. But we must remember to keep things in balance. Making ourselves available, in the sense of good advertising by announcing our presence to tens of thousands of people at a public event such as a fair, does not make the practise intrinsically wrong.

Pastor Reports

When the pastor reports were first sent out, it was mentioned that once we began to receive accurate church attendance information on the monthly reports, we could do away with the weekly church attendance cards. After five months of tallying the attendances off the pastor reports and comparing them with the information on the church attendance cards, we have found that the pastor reports are not effective as a means of obtaining church attendance figures. For the five months we have already completed, the total U.S. church attendance from the pastor reports has been 18,000 to 20,000 less than the total derived from the church attendance cards.

Because the church attendance figures are used as a monitor of church growth and as a gauge for budget planning, we need to have as accurate church attendance information as possible. Therefore, we feel it is necessary to continue to use the weekly church attendance cards. These cards provide us with more accurate information since they give us the attendances for each church on a weekly basis. The responsibility for filling out the attendance cards can be delegated to a deacon. They should be sent in on a weekly basis either by the church pastor or the deacon who is in charge of taking the attendance.

Vacation Policy

A few of you have asked questions regarding the ministerial vacation policy, especially with regard to individual problems.

The vacation policy, as stated in the *Ministerial Manual*, is still in effect. We do recognize, however, that there will always be situations where any policy could cause undue hardship or difficulty. No policy is going to cover every situation. The vacation policy is no different in that regard.

If you feel you need to make a special request because of requirements placed on you by the

Feast Office or Headquarters, or because of constraints placed on you by difficult situations for which you could not plan, then you should contact one of the area coordinators for a solution to your problem.

Health Benefit Plan

Our health benefit plan has now been in effect for a full six months. As claims begin to come in, questions regarding the plan naturally begin to arise. Most everyone we have talked to is very happy to have the fine coverage provided by the plan. However, some are asking what it would cost to have *full* coverage or a smaller deductible.

Before establishing our present health plan, a very thorough study was made of available insurance plans, and bids were taken from top insurance companies. These quotes projected a cost of from \$30-\$60 per month for an employee with a family. You can see that the \$16.50 per month you are now paying is a very reasonable rate.

The plan that we presently have costs the individual less than half what other companies had indicated they would charge. At this time we feel we have as good a health plan as it is possible to get within our means.

A \$250 deductible would almost *double* the present monthly cost to employees. Many of our employees who were contacted about the possibility of a lower deductible have indicated that they would not be able to participate in the plan if the premium were to be doubled. Those of you who feel that the deductible amount is too high might consider setting aside that extra \$15-\$20 per month yourself until you have saved the additional amount required to be used against possible future medical expenses.

That does it for this time. Be sure to read the material in the academic column by Dr. William Stenger, Director of Admissions for Ambassador College in Pasadena. His comments are regarding a new interview form for prospective students.

— CAD Staff

BIRTHS

Allan and Edna Barr (St. Louis): We are happy to announce the birth of our first son and third child, *Jonathan Allan*. He weighed 10 pounds and was 23 inches long at birth. He began life early Wednesday morning, April 30th, 1975. Mother and son are doing fine. We tried the new "le boyer" method with good results.

Daniel and Alice Bierer (Buffalo, N. Y.): We are pleased to announce that on March 24, 1975,

Jacquelyn Marie was born. She weighed 7 lbs., and six weeks later already weighs 10! Total labor was 2½ hours. Mother and daughter are doing fine.

Mike and Sandi Justus (Pasadena): We are happy to announce the arrival of our first daughter and child, *Stacey Michele*, at 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 7th. Sandi had a fairly easy nine hours of labor. She was only on the delivery table a total of 15 minutes and then was back in bed with our beautiful new addition.

Darris and Debbie McNeely (Lenoir, N. C.): After 20 hours of hard work Debbie gave birth to our first child, *Christopher Darris*, on April 8th at 3:35 a.m. — exactly one month later than expected! He weighed in at 8 lbs., 12 ozs. and is gaining weight rapidly.

Bernie and Arlene (Pratt) Schnippert (Edmonton, Alberta, Canada): We'd like to joyfully announce the birth of our second daughter, *Amber Yvonne*, born on May 20 at 8:06 p.m. She weighed in at 7 lbs., 8 ozs. and was 22 inches long.

I'd like to also joyfully announce that after two years of illness and 14 months of not being able to work, my husband Bern has recovered enough to slowly begin working again. He still has a long way to go, however, and would appreciate your continued prayers.

Ken and Marki Smylie (Santa Anna, Cal.): Our first child arrived May 23 at 7:00 p.m. We named him *Scott Kenneth* and he's a carbon copy of his dad & grandad.

Vince and Carol Szymkowiak (Jacksonville, N. C.): June 10 — My name is *Vincent Travis*. I am the second child and first son of Vince and Carol Szymkowiak. I weigh 7 lbs. and 7 ozs., and stand 20 inches tall (that is, when my Daddy stands me up)!! Mommy and Daddy (especially Daddy) are very excited about me. They keep telling everyone how wonderful it is to have a fine little boy like me.

Britton and Bonnie Taylor (Hagerstown, Md.): A true Mother's Day gift came to us this year — a beautiful baby girl, our first born, *Tricia Marie*. She was born at 7:51 a.m., May 11, and weighed in at 6 lbs., 10½ ozs. and was 19 inches long. All three Taylor's are doing just great!

NAIROBI

(Continued from page 345)

South Africa sitting in Nairobi, Kenya, with approximately a couple of thousand Africans and about ten other Whites listening to Mr. Herbert Armstrong deliver the clearest, most lucid and inspiring sermon on the Kingdom of God I have heard to date. It just seemed incredible!

Later that night we had dinner with Mr. Armstrong and his team back at the Hotel. I sat on one side of Mr. Armstrong and Ev on the other. Next to me was Mrs. Upton, Mr. Rader's secretary. Over a fruit cocktail, Mr. Rader was dictating an article for the *Worldwide News* and Mrs. Upton was taking it down discreetly in shorthand. Anyone sitting much farther away than I would never have known what was going on. Mr. Rader mentioned several announcements that he made that evening after Mr. Armstrong's sermon and general news for the Church as a whole. Later that night as Ev and I sat and talked — we were too excited to sleep — Mrs. Upton was sending the copy back to Pasadena for immediate publication. Somehow she also managed to get some typing done for me and another message regarding accommodations through to Tokyo before leaving early the next day for Japan.

Mr. Rader and Mr. Gotoh were busy the whole time I was in Kenya with communication with Headquarters, meeting various Officials and Ambassadors and setting up appointments for Mr. Armstrong. And other more mundane but equally vital functions, such as hiring film crews and air-freighting the films to Pasadena, hiring the halls, cars, microphones and who knows what all else, seeing to it that the *Plain Truth* was on every seat in the Auditorium, hiring ushers and usherettes, setting up ads in newspapers and billboards throughout the city and, of course, Hotel accommodations, protocol arrangements and becoming aware of the local conditions, economy, history, etc., etc. When you see how much they do it's amazing that Mr. Armstrong's "team" is only made up of three men, counting Captain Black!

Mr. Armstrong said that he couldn't do the Work without his team. I believe him! They all work together extremely well and each contributes his own part selflessly. I was struck by how much each one of the men respects the contribution of the other. It seems that is one of the fundamental reasons for the success they have achieved. They truly *respect* each other's strengths and seem determined to carry their own responsibility faithfully. I never saw an instruc-

tion given twice nor an excuse for a lack of success (in fact — there didn't seem to be any lack of success!) nor a suggestion of any kind that another hadn't done his job fully. I agreed with Solomon about the four things that are "beautiful in going."

So the "team" preached the Gospel in Nairobi with the approval of President Kenyatta in a powerful and clear way. And for Nairobi it's the beginning. Now the Worldwide Church of God moves in as a support function to the main arm of the Work. Mr. Rader hopes we can begin printing the *Plain Truth* there and he announced that we would have a minister there within two months of the campaign. The *Plain Truth* mailing list has already grown from 550 to 7,000 — in three days! A Bible study is planned soon and hopefully a full-fledged office after that. The door is not only opened — it looks like it's been pulled right off its hinges altogether! No wonder nobody can close it!

International Division

FRENCH WORK UPDATE

During the first half of 1975, the French-language phase of the Work has continued to grow at an encouraging rate.

According to the statistics available at this writing, the year-to-date income is up 27% over the same period last year. This increase is enabling us to gradually cover more of our own expenses and reduce subsidies required from U.S. funds. At present, all of our office and ministerial expenses (including salaries) in Europe and the Antilles are paid from local funds — and we will soon be paying for broadcast costs on Europe No. 1, which have heretofore been paid from the U.S.

The subscription list for *La PURE VERITE* is now up to 116,000, which represents a 30% increase over June of 1974. A little over half of our monthly circulation (59,000 copies) goes into Canada, with 32,000 copies going to France, 8,000 to Belgium, 2,500 to Switzerland and the remaining 14,500 copies divided up between some 145 different countries and dependencies. We expect the steady growth of the PV to continue as we are currently adding around 2,500 new subscribers per month.

Beginning with the July-August issue, the PV will take on a different look. At that time, we will be changing from the tabloid newspaper format back to a magazine format. We feel this will be

more suitable for our needs since we normally publish only once a month and have done considerable distribution through newsstands. The improved appearance and quality of the magazine format should boost our success in the latter area.

Along with the PV, the French-language Correspondence Course has also shown good growth. There are now a total of 4,000 students enrolled, up nearly 18% from this time last year.

In the Spring of this year, two semi-monthly French-language churches were raised up — one in Lausanne, Switzerland and the other in Nîmes, France. In addition, Mr. Apartian will be going to Guadeloupe on July 9 to open a new monthly church there. It will be pastored by Gilbert Carbonnel who also pastors the congregation in Martinique. This will bring to 8 the number of French-speaking churches (not including those in Canada). These churches are served by 6 full-time ministers and 3 ministerial trainees.

In an effort to bring the "meat" of the Gospel to as many as possible, we have embarked on a program of small, public Bible studies in various towns similar to those being held in many parts of the U.S. and Canada. Mr. Bourdin has conducted several in France, and Mr. Carbonnel reports a total attendance of 76 at the five such studies he has conducted in Martinique.

Mr. Apartian recently returned from Montreal where he conducted open Bible studies, in the French language, in two different sections of the city. Each of the four studies attracted between 20 and 30 new people which was quite an encouraging turnout. Mr. Dean Wilson was also in Montreal at the same time to conduct a series of open Bible studies in the English language. If his schedule permits, Mr. Apartian will conduct another series of studies in Quebec City in November.

— Tom Rogers

Data Processing

Greetings from headquarters! The hectic days of June are about passed. With year-end processing, budget planning for the next fiscal year, the rapid start-up of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, and planning the move of the entire Advertising Department from their present suite of offices in the Office Facilities Building to the Data Processing facilities, we have really been busy!

Here's a potpourri of what's been happening in the division since my last column:

Corporate Stationery Manual

We have put the finishing touches on the new Corporate Stationery Manual, and all international office heads should have received (or soon will) their copies. Some of the AICF stationery standards are at the press now and will be sent shortly. We'll be sending other materials on AC and WCG stationery for the manuals as time permits. Thanks for your patience and cooperation. We think this manual will be a good tool to help us unify our public image, as well as save money.

PLAIN TRUTH Circulation

As Mr. Ted Armstrong has mentioned, the *Plain Truth* circulation worldwide has passed the 3.4 million mark — 2.19 million in the U.S. — right on the planned target for the close of the 74/75 fiscal year.

Incidentally, we do *not* have a "trial subscription" any more as some might still believe. Individuals are given a full one-year subscription rather than the former three-month trial. Even though there are more *Plain Truth's* to print and mail, the overall simplicity of the straight one-year subscription actually saves us money in the long run because of the greatly simplified processing.

Circulation of the *Plain Truth* in the next fiscal year will continue to grow at some 50,000 new subscribers each month, but a key renewal program looks necessary to trim out non-active persons and to cut the budget somewhat. A plan for eleven of the major thrusts of the Work has been formulated for the U.S. which program directors and division heads have used to establish their fiscal 75/76 budgets. When all the budgets have been submitted to Financial Affairs, the entire package will be reviewed with Mr. Ted Armstrong for his final approval. More about this plan later.

GOOD NEWS Circulation

Although the *Good News* circulation has grown consistently (July issue — 266,706 U.S.; 314,316 worldwide), its growth has been lower than expected or projected. Norman Smith is preparing some commercials for the TV program to boost the *Good News* circulation. We want Mr. Armstrong to advertise it more on the radio too. We all want to have an active list of subscribers, with plenty of "new blood." So the plans for the next year include a one-shot renewal program (a series of three letters) of all Regular-status subscribers.

Direct Mail

Our recent letter to co-workers promoting the booklet, *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*,

produced a 25 percent response, one of the best we've ever had. And sixty percent of the requests for the booklet included donations as well.

Likewise the response to our letter offering the revised edition of *U.S. and British Commonwealth in Prophecy* has brought a huge response. Of course, Mr. Armstrong has also been advertising it on radio and TV. At last report we had already sent out practically all of the first printing of 75,000 and still had some 26,500 requests on hold in the computer, 35,000 estimated yet to be processed, and 50,000 more expected requests all waiting a second printing of 150,000 copies.

Soon to come off the press will be the new tithing booklet. It's not totally clear yet whether we will automatically send a copy of this booklet to all members and co-workers, or whether Mr. Armstrong will write a promotion letter for it. *Tithing* is an important and much needed booklet for all our members and co-workers. But it might also be an important tool to encourage more Regulars and Donors to see the need for greater financial involvement in the Work.

Fiscal 75/76 Circulation Plans

One of the most exciting projects I have been working on lately with other division and program directors is a circulation plan covering eleven of the Work's major programs. As mentioned above, we now have a handle on the *Plain Truth* and *Good News* circulation for the next year. In addition, the Direct Mail program is all laid out for the coming year. Growth of the Correspondence Course, a most important involvement tool, has been planned. And how all these programs impact the Booklet program has also been worked out. All the major programs of the College and the Church interrelate and interact with each other. Really, no program can be considered by itself — isolated from others — since each impacts the other in some way.

For instance, the one program that seems to be impacted by practically all others is the Booklet Program. Brian Knowles and I have recently had several meetings to discuss this program and plan for the next fiscal year.

An analysis of MPC Terminal Department, Direct Mail and our Literature History computer files showed that we mailed over 3.9 million booklets in the U.S. in the 15 month period between January 1974 and April 1975. Approximately 3.1 million booklets were mailed in a twelve month period. The following table shows the number of booklets attributed to the various types of media producing the response:

Type of Media	Number of Lit Requests	% of Total
No Media recorded	848,973	21.6
Radio (mail)	295,972	7.5
Radio (phone)	173,892	4.4
TV (mail)	250,499	6.4
TV (phone)	344,147	8.8
Direct Mail (including co-worker and member letters)	1,442,109	36.7
PT ads (some additional responses are in "coupons" below)	792	0.02
PT phone calls	50	0.001
Good News (mail)	311	0.008
Good News and miscellaneous publications (phone)	39,561	1.0
Correspondence Course coupons	108,126	2.7
Referrals (mail)	3,347	.08
Referrals (phone)	7,986	.2
Coupons	385,141	9.8
Unidentifiable radio / TV	26,555	.7
Total	3,927,281	100%

For purposes of "guestimating" the fiscal 75/76 needs, this data was simplified to eliminate the relatively small areas by lumping responses in similar categories. The "Unidentifiable Radio/TV" was proportionally divided between Radio and TV. Mail and WATS responses were likewise lumped together.

The simplified data looks like this:

Program	15 Months	12 Months (Est.)	%
Radio (Mail + WATS + Portion unidentified Radio/TV)	481,585	385,268	12.3
TV (Mail + WATS + Portion unidentified Radio/TV)	609,480	487,584	15.5
Direct Mail	1,442,109	1,153,687	36.7
Good News	39,872	31,898	1.0
Correspondence Course	108,126	86,501	2.8
Booklet Program:			
Referrals (Mail + WATS)	11,333	9,066	0.3
Booklet Coupons	385,141	308,113	9.8
No Media	848,793	679,034	21.6
Plain Truth	842	674	0.0
Total	3,927,281	3,141,825	

There was little *Plain Truth* response since advertising did not begin in a direct way until very recently.

The twelve-month data was used to project the 75/76 needs, based on what knowledge and planning we had of the other programs. Those estimates for 75/76 are:

Program	Quantity	%	Comments
Radio	390,000	13.7	Same basic program as last year
TV	250,000	8.8	Less Booklet commercials, more GN commercials
Direct Mail	932,000	32.7	Scaled down somewhat
Good News	32,000	1.1	Same as last year
Correspondence Course	120,000	4.2	Increased enrollment
Booklet Program:			
Referrals (Mail + WATS)	10,000	0.4	Same as last year
Booklet Coupons	400,000	14.1	All booklets will have coupons
No Media	680,000	23.9	Same as last year
Plain Truth	30,000	1.1	Now advertising booklets
Personal Appearance Tours	2,000	0.1	Fewer campaigns
Total	2,846,000		

Obviously, any changes in our major thrusts will result in certain changes in booklet needs. But at this time, with our present plan, we can expect the Work in the U.S. to send out over 2.8 million booklets — a little less than 10 percent under last year. Brian and I will be carefully tracking this program this coming year and make necessary modifications in advertising, direct mail, or making recommended changes to other programs to stay on target.

Similar studies of other programs with their directors have been made. Fiscal 75/76 plans have been established for each. A computer model of these eleven programs is being constructed too. I'll report on this more next time.

— Benjamin R. Chapman

Academic

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your fine work in interviewing Ambassador College applicants, as well as to update you on the new interview form we are using.

One of the amendments to the General Education Provisions Act of 1974 passed by the U.S. Congress (generally known as the Buckley Amendment) requires student access to academic records in schools, colleges and universities throughout the U.S.A. We are now instituting procedures for compliance.

Under the statute there are several important exemptions, including confidential letters and statements of recommendation, provided the student has signed a waiver. Therefore, the new interview form (purple ink on white paper) has a place for the applicant to waive his or her right of access

to the interview form. Please have the applicant sign the waiver BEFORE you write your comments on it. In this way we can maintain the confidentiality of your recommendations.

Should the applicant have any questions about signing the waiver, you can explain that it is necessary for the college to comply with U.S. Government regulations. It should be "no big deal," but if a problem arises, feel free to call the college on the WATS line, leave your name and phone number, and someone in the Admissions Office will call you back as soon as possible.

There are still a few old forms (green ink on white paper) in the pipeline. You may continue to use these or, if you prefer, give us a call and we'll send you some new ones.

One other small point, not necessarily related to the new form, which may be of some interest to you. As we have expanded our audience via PT we have begun to receive applications from a number of individuals not in the church. Many of these know very little about the church but are interested in the college. We would like to give such applicants an opportunity to attend Ambassador as long as they are academically acceptable and can go along with us philosophically, if not religiously. Any positive encouragement you can give to such applicants would be helpful.

We really appreciate your efforts in meeting with prospective Ambassador College students. In many cases the ministerial recommendation is the factor that tips the scales one way or the other on an admissions decision, and in every case members of the admissions committee hold your recommendation in high regard.

— William Stenger

Mail Processing

Our mail for June is continuing to come in at a *very good* pace. In fact, the week ending June 20 is the *second best week* for mail in 1975 and is raising our letter count for the month to 183,148 letters — a 29.4% increase compared to last year at the same time! Our accumulated total mail for the year now stands at 1,101,468 letters.

Response to the direct mail letter offering *The United States and British Commonwealth In Prophecy* is also continuing to come in strong. Through June 23 we have received 97,308 requests for this booklet and estimate that requests from the direct mail letters *alone* will total over

110,000. And this figure does *not include* additional requests brought to us by our radio and television programs! The U.S. booklet may well be one of our more popular pieces of literature for the year.

Another area of good news is in the number of responses we are receiving to *coupons* in *Plain Truth*. Requests for booklets advertised with a mail-in coupon has substantially increased the number of letters received from *Plain Truth* readers. Through the 20th of June we have received 15,293 such requests for literature and anticipate that by the end of the month we will TRIPLE the PT letter count we had before booklet coupons were introduced!

Hats Off To "Mother Earth News"

Below are excerpts from a glowing review given to us in *The Mother Earth News*, Number 33, which is a magazine devoted to individuals interested in the homesteading idea and the arts and crafts related to it. A number of new subscribers have already been added to our files because of the review and we thought you might be interested in some of the *good* publicity we get from "unorthodox" quarters:

Keep the faith, folks... there really are people still in this world who do good work just for the sake of doin' it. A case in point: the folks at AMBASSADOR COLLEGE PRESS.

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE PRESS is a national and international news-watching and gathering organization affiliated with Ambassador College... which, in turn, is a liberal arts institution associated with the Worldwide Church of God. The PRESS' research and reportage is published in a bimonthly current events and human experiences magazine called *Plain Truth*, as well as in a bevy of booklets and reprint pamphlets on all manner of worthwhile subjects ranging from raising worms for your garden's good to the worldwide implications of "modern" agricultural techniques. And it's all good, useful, informative, attractively executed material of the sort many of MOTHER'S readers will appreciate....

If you're interested, the best thing you could probably do would be to write the PRESS and ask 'em for a subscription to — or a single copy of — *Plain Truth* (and maybe a list of available booklets) to see for yourself what those good folks are up to. And remember that the AMBASSADOR COLLEGE PRESS has been making a considerable "unsolicited contribution" to the public good nearly every day for years now... so you might want to return the favor and send 'em a buck or two just to show your appreciation. — TK

That does it for this time. Hope we can have more good news to report next issue.

— Richard Rice

LETTER COMMENTS

RESPONSES TO SPECIAL GTA C/W LETTER

Comments about the special letter from Mr. GTA (in which he included comments from those who read his previous letter) were so numerous and so inspiring it is unfortunate that we cannot include them all, but we have tried to choose the best (a difficult task) to include in this report. Several commented that putting the letter comments in (the special letter) was inspired by God — that it brought their eyes back to the goal and their need for Mr. Armstrong to spur them on, to tell them the needs of the Work, etc. Excerpts from these recent letters follow.

"Your last letter is the most warped letter I have ever received!! It is warped because I cried all over it and when it dried, it warped.

Seriously, it was so touching to read all the letters that had been written to you that I did cry partly out of love for those who had written and partly out of shame that I hadn't.

"So I'm going to turn the negative, neglect and shame to the positive — action and joy. Here's money for the building fund or you can give it to Mr. Norman Smith for his budget or anywhere else it could help.

"What was said in those letters is true. We like you 'telling it like it is' no matter how it is. And some like myself need it told to us twice, and three times probably wouldn't hurt!

"So don't worry about the things you have to say or ask us because to change a phrase, they ain't heavy, you're our brother!"

— Cathy Voit
Aurora, IL

"I just finished reading your letter with the letters from all those in the Work in it. I laugh at my nature, because at first I got sorta sick to my stomach. I come from a Protestant background and always they publish these corny, syrupy and always fake sounding testimonies or stories about 'what God had done for me!' However, to my surprise, these letters are definitely not in that area. The letters these people wrote were truly inspiring (helping me want to tighten my belt also) and I'm sure a great help to you.

"I seldom write to you simply because I know how very busy you must be. However, when I read how inspired you were at these letters I thought

maybe this is the one thing we can do for you and your father personally in return for all the inspiring things you do for us. Oh, we always pray God will help you and be with you, but surely you need to be told.

"I'm sure you did feel bad about writing the letter about the building fund. At first I also got mad. We give tithes and offerings all we can then taxes, Social Security and on and on out of our check and leaves us with only \$249.00 per month to live on. We grow awfully tired of not being able to give more or do more for those here in our Church. But I know it was hard for you to ask and you even stated that you knew some just could not give. God has blessed us so well. We live in a 2 bedroom house that isn't small but is terribly hard to heat. We only have one light bulb burning at night, etc. so our expenses are cut quite a bit more than other people's. But through a team effort of our family and God we live quite well considering.

"I also feel you should let us know if the Work needs money. I quite agree with the rest of the people who wrote in. We have no idea what the Work needs so please let us know. I'm truly glad you sent out this letter and I'm going to save it, and when I get to feeling down I'll read it over again."

— Mr. & Mrs. Jim Ford
Estancia, NM

"Your latest Co-Worker Letter was like a Bunsen burner on my posterior. The letters you reprinted were uplifting, inspiring and humbling. Other than tithes and Holy Day offerings I have not contributed to the Work as I should. I am sorry for that. God has always provided in fantastic abundance for my family and myself, but I have not been as generous to His Work, which you, Mr. Armstrong, are doing so well.

"The way world events are going I'm sure the interest rate in heaven is far greater than at my local savings bank anyway. Besides, I understand the inflation rate is a bit low there. If the government ever gets around to sending me my rebate check, I will send it along. God bless you."

— T. Ronald Quinlan III
Staten Island, NY

"Thank you for your letter allowing us to read the comments and personal observations of others who responded to your mid-March letter. It was indeed inspired of God to help us realize the wonderful gifts God gives to His people. It was inspiring to us and made us feel more of a part of the Work and closer to each other. We pray for

(Continued on page 360)

OPEN FORUM

OPEN FORUM was created to continue the same give-and-take discussions conducted during the workshops of the May, 1974 Ministerial Conference. *OPEN FORUM* affords you the opportunity to freely express your thoughts, ideas, opinions and suggestions regarding any area which you feel will contribute to the edification and stimulation of your fellow ministers and department managers. We want *OPEN FORUM* to be encouraging, thought-provoking — a vehicle through which constructive ideas can be born.

But please remember — and pardon our disclaimer — the views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the official policies or procedures of the Worldwide Church of God or Ambassador College. Neither do they necessarily represent the views of the editorial staff of the Bulletin. Nor do they necessarily reflect any absolute conclusions or dogma on the part of the individual contributor — just food for thought and discussion. Send your OPEN FORUM contributions to the Bulletin, 300 West Green Street, Pasadena, Calif. 91123. Be sure to double space your copy.

FORTY-NINTH PARALLEL — GOOD BIBLE LECTURE RESPONSE ON BOTH SIDES

During this past fall and spring, it has been a most challenging and rewarding experience to have conducted public Bible lectures on both sides of our U.S./Canadian border.

Here in British Columbia (and across Canada) last fall, we in the Canadian ministry were privileged to be part of the first public Bible lectures begun by Mr. Dean Wilson. The response to them was very encouraging all across Canada, and those lectures here in southern B.C. certainly shared that good response. In the area of southern and southeastern B.C. I, personally, had the opportunity of conducting three such lectures, with the result of combined efforts being the establishment of a new church and three outlying Bible studies in that area.

Then just this past May, in cooperation with Mr. Don Wineinger from the neighboring Spokane Church, I held three lectures in areas just south of the border in Washington State. The results were, again, very gratifying in seeing people respond to the vital knowledge we presented to them. From those three lectures, we have just started two regular outlying Bible studies which promise future growth as they become established.

Having had the somewhat unique opportunity of being involved in lectures in both the U.S. and Canada, and seeing the warm and appreciative response of both Americans and Canadians, it

deeply impresses on my mind that we truly are the WORLDWIDE Church of God where political boundaries exist on maps only. Our message is worldwide in scope, and the people we bring it to are truly one and the same in that sense.

I hope these public Bible lectures do not in our minds become an end in themselves, but rather serve as a springboard for a bigger, more universal and more powerful witness to come. In many areas of the world this Work is still a virtual unknown entity which just recently is beginning to come out of obscurity. And people do appreciate us, as ministers and representatives of that work, being as open and candid about who we are and what we're doing as Mr. Herbert Armstrong is with world leaders! With the combined efforts of all in this monumental work, I deeply feel that we are now on the very threshold of the real *great leap forward!*

— Jon Kurnik
Penticton, B.C.
Canada

REACTION TO A.I.C.F. & HUMAN POTENTIAL

Greetings Mr. Cole: AICF and *Human Potential* are answers to our prayers! I realize now that I had been limiting the power of God. I apparently felt God could effectively reach the poor Southern "Bible-belt" farmer or the Northern factory worker, but not the leaders of this world. Along with the rest of you I'm *thrilled* at the open doors God has given us. It's clear that we really are going to reach the *whole* world with God's message.

Since reading about this new open door before us I've come to see God much more as the *great* Being He really is. I had Him pictured as being powerful enough to create the universe but unable, somehow, to impress the minds of this world's leaders and intellectuals. I hadn't seen the God that could dazzle a room full of the cream of humanity with His personality, intellect, wisdom, intelligence, friendliness, poise, charisma, charm etc. I'm slowly seeing that there is no box big enough to put God in.

Human Potential is an excellent title for a *beautiful* magazine. Is there another like it? If there is I've not seen it here in the U.S. *Great!* If I were a national leader, educator or scientist I'd want to

back it. *Human Potential* will undoubtedly be accepted even by atheistic Russia and China.

I'm 100% in back of *Human Potential* and AICF. Mr. Ferdig said we'd get more excited about it as we found out more about them. What has been said is very exciting.

Thank you for your *hard work* as well. The mini-conferences you've been conducting have got to be hard work for you and your wife (let alone your other responsibilities). Thank you for the sacrifice — we need to hear from you. The MET tape on "A Positive Perspective" is very helpful.

Thanks Again,

— Ken Williams
Kalamazoo, Mich.

Greetings Mr. Cole! Just thought I would drop a line and thank you for the pocket conference in Big Sandy. It was a treat to see the campus after thirteen years.

During the conference you expressed a desire to receive feedback from the pastors on how the people were responding to the changes and their general support of the Work.

Judging from the congregation in Fayetteville, I would say your summation that 90-95% are loyal and dedicated is correct and will remain so as long as the leadership is too.

After returning from Big Sandy, I gave a report in Fayetteville on the conference and the AICF along with the goals of *Human Potential*. The congregation's enthusiasm exploded in spontaneous applause at the conclusion of the report. I was somewhat stunned as this area is considered quite conservative. However, at the same time I was very encouraged and thought you would be as well.

Thanks again for your openness and warmth at the conference.

Respectfully,

— George A. Panteleeff
Fayetteville-Fort Smith, Ark.

Dear Mr. Herbert Armstrong: I have not been able even to finish reading all of the new information about AICF and the *Human Potential* magazine. And I have never written to you personally before. But I must take this occasion — filled with exuberance and excitement — to tell you how I feel!

Congratulations! And great thanks to God for what to me is the boldest stroke He has inspired the Work in this age to take yet!

Thank you for your wonderful leadership, always carrying us forward — and now in a dynamic and bold fashion unequalled ever before! Not only do you now have a universally respected

banner under which to meet world leaders and lead them; but you have also provided the worldwide ministry the same kind of great Cause which can be used in our new commission to advance the Gospel through local involvement!

If you will pardon my admiration for you as God's servant in this bold step — I would like to offer an idea for what your middle initial "W" must stand for. I believe it stands for Wisdom. I personally believe that a Proverb is being fulfilled in your life as your travels expand: "He that loves pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend" (Prov. 22:11).

It's a privilege to be with you in God's great Work.

Sincerely, in Christ's name,

— Charles Scott
Sioux Falls-Watertown, S. Dak.

Dear Mr. Cole: Just a note to let you know I think this is truly a tremendous development. I can't remember when I've been more excited over a new project or publication. It lifts our message out of the stigma of religious prejudice and places it on the respectable level it deserves.

I believe the effects may be more far reaching than any of us imagines. Count me in as a charter member! My prayers are certainly with this new thrust. I personally believe it will prove to be one of the most important doors ever opened to us. I usually don't get excited to the point of jumping up and down over anything, but today I'm jumping!

— Arch Bradley
Pasco, Wash.

Dear Mr. Cole: Just had to write you a note to thank you for the information on the AICF and the new magazine *Human Potential*. It would be very difficult to be negative about a project that was presented so clearly and enthusiastically. I think that we ought to have enough loyalty and respect of the personnel at H.Q. to accept your judgment concerning new projects and new magazines (if that's what comes) without an explanation being needed every time; but it sure does help us to share in the enthusiasm when we are loaded with the background and future potentialities as we were in the recent Bulletin re: AICF and *Human Potential*. Thank you again and also, if you get a chance, please convey our thanks to Art Ferdig.

— Daryll Watson
Lake of the Ozarks, Mo.

I can no longer contain my wonder, joy, and excitement over the latest and biggest advance in

God's Work here on planet Earth. Neil Armstrong uttered those now famous words as he set foot on the surface of the Moon, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for Mankind." Well, in my mind, what we see happening with the development of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation and the fantastic new magazine, *Human Potential*, is, in reality, the "giant leap for mankind."

Let me explain. When you start looking at many scriptures in the New and especially Old Testaments, it can bring tears of joy to your eyes. Scriptures like Isaiah 2:2 which says, "And it shall come to pass *in the last days*," prior to as well as after Christ's return, "that the mountain" — government — "of the Lord's house shall be *prepared* (margin) in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." Or how about Isaiah 49:1-7, "Listen to me, all of you in *far-off lands*: The Lord called me before my birth. From within the womb he called me by my name . . . 'And now,' said the Lord — the Lord who formed me from my mother's womb to serve him who commissioned me to restore to him his people Israel (Mal. 4:4?), who has given me the strength to perform this task and honored me for doing it! — 'you shall do more than restore Israel to me. I will make you a light to the nations of the world to bring my salvation to them too.' The Lord, the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel, says to the one who is despised, rejected by mankind, and kept beneath the heel of earthly rulers: 'Kings shall stand at attention when you pass by; princes shall bow low because the Lord has chosen you, the faithful Lord, the Holy One of Israel, chooses you'" (*Living Bible*, trans). Now, I certainly appreciate the arguments that this scripture is referring to Jesus Christ. But could it be referring to a human type too? I think that is a fair question.

What about Mark 9:12, "And he answered and told them, 'Elias verily cometh first and *restoreth all things . . .*' Restores international cooperation and brotherhood — or at least begins the process — "As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee'" (Mark 1:2).

Speaking of the reign of Christ and how His government will bring peace and righteousness, David wrote, "The kings of Tarshish [son of Javan, grandson of Japheth] and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of *Sheba* [Ethiopia] and *Seba* [son of Cush, grandson of Ham] shall offer gifts. Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him" (Psa. 72:10-11).

Is that path being prepared already? Have you ever read Psalm 102:13-16 or Isaiah 60:3-5, 9 where

it talks about the kings of the earth coming to Christ at His return, and the "ships of Tarshish first." Where are the people and kings of Tarshish today?

Anyway, all of the above may be a lot of empty guess work, but even if none of them applied to what we see happening right now, I am, and all the Bluefield church are totally 100% behind God's Work and the Foundation, and we intend to have as close to 100% total membership involvement in the A.I.C.F. as possible.

Thank you for allowing us to have a part in this fantastic Work.

— Bill Moore
Bluefield, West Virginia

This is the "instant age." We have instant coffee, instant milk, instant letter copiers etc.

But do we yet have instant people? Are you one that instantly rejoices over new developments in God's Work? Well, I am not! Perhaps you think I should be. However, bear with me a little.

I cannot be enthusiastic and instantly rejoicing about things that I don't understand. Appreciation is a developing emotion that comes with understanding, and understanding comes with time.

Let me illustrate. Upon reading the latest *Bulletin* regarding AICF and HUMAN POTENTIAL magazine, my first reaction was a little negative. I said to myself, "Oh! No! We have just had to cut back on production costs of the *Plain Truth* and now we are launching a new glossier magazine."

Such a reaction was hasty and typical of cynical human nature. It was negative. At the split second that I read the news of the AICF my mind did not have any back-up understanding on which to make a rational assessment.

Hence a quick, unthinking negative reaction.

However when I sat down, read all the articles, gleaned the relevant facts, then I was able to make a proper decision based on understanding. My mind now had fact — not fancy.

It was then that I could truly *rejoice* about the new door that Christ has opened for His Work. The potential for this new vehicle is awesome. So even though this is the age of instants — our understanding still suffers a little "time-lag" at times. As Mr. Art Ferdig so aptly wrote in his article, "I wish we had instant communications — and with it *instant understanding* — but unfortunately we don't."

Rodney J. Gowland
Launceston, Tasmania
—Australia

A VALUABLE TOOL

As ministers in God's Work, we must be able to have easy access to valuable tools — books especially — which will enable us to do our work more effectively.

When and where possible, it is undoubtedly wise to purchase at least one good encyclopedia for general use in carrying out our ministerial, editorial, teaching or other responsibilities and duties.

Personally, I still believe that the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* is the most valuable set for the average person in the Work. Another very valuable encyclopedia is the *World Book Encyclopedia*. It is not as complete or exhaustive as the *Britannica*, and consequently is less expensive.

If you can't afford these or other multi-volume encyclopedias, then I have a recommendation for you — one that will fit anyone's budget. There is a most informative and helpful one-volume encyclopedia called *Hutchinson's New 20th Century Encyclopedia*, edited by E. M. Horsley and published by Hutchinson of London. (The American version, which is exactly like Hutchinson's is titled: *McKay's One Volume International Encyclopedia*.) This handy, informative, reasonably up-to-date (1970) encyclopedia contains about 1250 pages and is available at some U.S. bookstores. The price is \$12.95.

Hutchinson's (or *McKay's*) one-volume encyclopedia is so handy, that I have purchased one for my home and a second one for my office. It is no larger than a regular desk-size Webster's dictionary.

If you are unable to procure a copy of this very handy one-volume encyclopedia, then I am sure the Paper Egret here on campus could get it for you (with postage prepaid, of course).

— Raymond F. McNair
Senior Editor
Pasadena

GIVES HIS FIRST SERMON(s)

This is my first time to write something for the *Bulletin*. It is a privilege to do so. Never in my wildest imaginations did I ever expect to be a minister. Now, as the saying goes, "I are one!" A newly ordained one, green, and wet behind the ears. Although not employed by the Work, I am helping Mr. Terry Swagerty wherever and whenever needed.

This comes as a hearty THANK YOU to everyone making the *Bulletin* possible. It is tremendous — full of news, ideas, encouragement, inspiration, and solid spiritual meat.

Mr. Richard Rice's contribution a few months ago was especially helpful to me. It applied

directly, just recently. He wrote about preparing a spiritual feast well ahead of time, in relation to sermons. Not dishing up leftovers, and cooking up last-minute smorgasbords.

I had read his contribution quite some time before being ordained, and never thought it would ever apply to me. For some reason, his advice stuck in my head. Good thing, too!

A few months later, Mr. Swagerty said it would be good experience for me to give a sermon. With my heart in my throat, I agreed. The date was set, and my mind went to work feverishly. The subject was picked, then research, study, and prayer followed rapidly on its heels. Recall, if you will, the time when you gave your first sermon. Then imagine the slight (!) turmoil in my head, when the morning of the big day arrived and I suddenly had the responsibility for not just one Sabbath Service and one sermon, but two! We were preparing to leave the house when a phone call came. A minister who had originally been scheduled to take one of the Services said he was ill. Could I do it for him? Fortunately, I was prepared. Mr. Rice's contribution on preparation had done its work. Our family sallied forth to grasp the challenge firmly, and to rise to the occasion. *This was my very first occasion to take charge of services and to give a sermon.* And I was called upon to do it twice in the same day! It was an experience that will not be soon forgotten! Other than being nervous, with butterflies in the stomach, and perspiring like an athlete, services went well. Both times.

Now I know it is no easy job to give a sermon, especially two on the same day! My prayers will be more fervent and effective now for those ministers who have double responsibility.

Again, thanks to the staff of the *Bulletin* and to all who contribute.

— Ron Sower
Boise, Idaho

LETTER COMMENTS

(Continued from page 355)

you continually. Stay close to God and you can't miss!"

— Mrs. George K. Lane
Chamblee, GA

"Thank you, thank you, for sending that last letter. It made me feel as if I had let the Work down. What with all those widows and people on Social Security giving their last dollars. And here I am not giving as much as I know I should. It's

about time for me to wake up and start giving. You and your father have been doing it all along. Keep on giving Mr. Armstrong, more of us will start 'waking up' really soon now. Here's a few dollars to put where they're needed the most."

— Ronald P. Felling, Jr.
Highland, In

"I just finished reading your letter on the responses and sacrifices made by the Church members in the crisis of the building fund. For some reason I never got to read that letter, but anything that hurts the Work hurts me. It would be impossible for me to enumerate all of the blessings God has given me. Very few have been physical, but God knows what I am in most desperate need of. I think, even though we have had some serious financial trouble, He has led us to more responsible attitudes in these matters, by allowing us to experience the hardships of real need. Often I see problems when God wants me to see opportunity. So we're having some difficulty financially. We don't need physical help nearly as much as we need a spiritual rededication to the commission and the great God who assigned it to us.

"I don't want to get out-of-line, but I want to make a suggestion which I know I need to apply in my own life. Would it be possible for the Church (as a whole) to have a day of fasting and rededication to the principles what are right and necessary to the completion of God's Work? I know I am to pray daily for the Work, but often we as the smaller, lesser members of the body lose the goal which must be first. One or even two days dedicated to contacting God for our needs would, I know, eliminate the need for letters such as the one you must have agonized over on March 11.

"I'm sure you have already thought of this, and maybe I am out of line by being forward in my approach, but I know God could not refuse the combined prayers of His people . . ."

— Ron Davis
Bay City, TX

"I just received Garner Ted's letter and was so glad to read the encouraging letters from other brethren. I want you to know I feel the same way as all of them. I love this Work. I am so thankful to be a part of God's true Church. I am backing Mr. Armstrong and Garner Ted 100%. My husband is not a member of God's Church but he gives tithes and offerings and I am so thankful for that."

— Mrs. Luana K. Guy
Visalia, CA

"I just received and read the latest Co-Worker Letter in which you printed several letters you had received. Thank you, thank you very much! You were entirely correct to think they would inspire us!

"This is the first time I've written to you, despite years in God's Church. I always felt it just wasn't my 'style' or something equally as ridiculous. But now God has finally gotten through to me how important it is to encourage one another, especially in times of crises.

"I just want to let you know, Mr. Armstrong, that my husband and I completely support you and your father. I know God will reward you for your combined zeal and diligence in doing your part in this great Work.

"We're now trying harder to help the Work financially and pray for your continued health and happiness. May God bless you and this Work as it fulfills our commission."

— Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Wilson
Oxnard, CA

"Thank you very much for the fine informative letters which I receive. I'm new in the Church and need your letters to encourage me in one of my weak areas — \$\$\$#! Your last letter I took with a casually bad attitude. I did not give any written or financial response. After reading all of the 'hang in there' letters from other Co-Workers, it made me think twice. I was inspired by these letters which portrayed the fine attitude which a Christian should have. Thank you for including them in your recent Co-Worker letter. They helped me greatly. Enclosed is a money order for the help of the Work. You've just brought one more person 100% behind you and your father's commission. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart."

— Wally Peterson
Islamorada, FL

"Thank you so much for the inspired letter you sent us about how other members of God's Church felt about the building fund and the Work of God! It made me wake up and realize how important each and everyone of us is in relation to the commission God has given us to do. From now on I am going to pray as often as I can (something of which I have been lagging behind on or of which I have been falling short on, and also am very, very sorry for!) for the Work, the brethren, the potential for new members to be a part of the Work of God, and the financial situation of it! Keep up the good work, both of you, and remember — God is our Father and He will give us what we need, if we ask! May God bless you and your father and all

the other brethren so that we may all give in abundance to keep the Work going!!"

— Mr. & Mrs. William Osborne
Moorhead, MN

"I just read the letter including the letters of brethren and Co-Workers. This is my first 'still there' letter also. With your heavy schedule, I'm ashamed to say the reason I haven't written is because I didn't think it would be read by you (or one of the workers out there).

"I was just baptized this last February and am coming to know the love and support of the brethren worldwide. For a few years I thought it was just 'God and me and Garner Ted.' Thinking I was the only one on this road this side of Pasadena. How happy I am that there are brethren all around me!

"I started tithing because it's a command, never really understanding the blessing that grows from it. My husband is unconverted and won't contribute, so I send my widow's mite when I can. A lots of times I send 50% of all I receive and it's still so small. But the more I give, the more I receive. I've never had problems with money because I've never had any! So, as well as a new person in Christ, I'm new to finances and their problems but I learn quickly.

"My husband has started attending Sabbath services and asking questions about prayer, the Holy Days, etc. If he comes to understand this great way of life, I'd be able to contribute much more. You're always in my prayers and thank you for the letters."

— Cathie Morgan
Du Quoin, IL

"This is to tell you how much I look forward to your letters. Your last Co-Worker letter was really great telling of the need and, of course, other peoples' letters. It's really great to hear other's expressions, good or bad.

"My wife and I may not have really done all we can all the time. Like for instance we received a check yesterday in the mail of a kind of rebate. The wife would like a new bathroom set, but I knew right away what I was going to do with my half of it. Of course, when I told her what I was going to do with mine then she said, 'Well, I will too since you are doing that with it.'

"Here is a check for that amount for God's buildings and there will be more coming from now on.

"It was those other peoples', our brethren's letters, which gave me the spark to do this. They got

me to thinking. Even if only a dollar or whatever was sent by each, if all of God's Co-Workers did so it wouldn't be long before the building would be paid for.

"Those that take exception to your letters letting us know the need — well, I will let the matter stand there, but God will deal with them in His own way in time, I feel.

"I say remind us, let us know. As God says, search the scriptures daily. There is a reason, so we'll learn more; so too if we are reminded, those who are truly trying to follow God's way will try a little harder with prayer and finances. We must remember Satan is ever present, fighting his battle to get us on his side.

"In closing I just say fight the good fight and it will come out right. May God bless you and your father and give you more power to tell the world."

— Robert Zeppenfeld
Puyallup, WA

"It was good to read how our brethren in other church areas felt about God's great Work. We need to read things like that to keep up our own faith and to really get down on our knees and pray harder.

"Mr. Armstrong, you're doing a wonderful job. Keep up the good work. May God keep you and all our brethren in the faith and a part of His family. I am behind you 100%. And I'll get down on my knees and really put my whole heart into my prayers."

— Tonia Prindle
Pasadena, CA

"I have felt for several weeks that I have been faltering in some way as I was simply growing stagnant. Reading these letters that these fellow Christians sent to you made me realize why. I have known it all along but forgotten until now. I must continue to give of myself to God and sacrifice a little when the need arises. I must pitch in and do my part in God's Work along with living a witness. Then and only then will I continue to grow

"I should have remembered this. When I was baptized I looked at my financial situation and said to myself, 'I don't know how I am going to send my tithe and can't even pay my bills.' I exercised the faith God gave me and started tithing. Within two months a new higher paying job, I was not even looking for, fell in my lap out of the blue and my wife, who has been working, temporarily, to help get the bills paid off, received a promotion. I just don't know how I forgot that so

soon. For it hasn't been very long. But I did. Now I'm putting my faith back to work and I just finished a prayer to God, asking Him to forgive me, before I wrote this letter. I don't know where the extra money will come from, and still have to run a tight budget, but God will provide. I am sending this small amount and I plan to send a little with each tithe. You need this money, which is really God's in the first place, to keep the Work going. This is more important than all I have here at home.

"Thank you and God bless you and all of God's people for helping me to see my faltering."

— Steven Starr
Imperial, MO

"Enclosed you will find a check. Our financial plight is somewhat improved, thank God. My work has picked up some and I am once again able to work and concentrate on my business.

"We are behind — that is a misnomer. We are beside you 100%. I am in the process of selling some tools that I could do without and we (my wife and I) are planning to sell our land to contribute to the Work. We don't use it now and as we will someday inherit the earth anyway, we feel that it is a very small sacrifice."

— Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Denney
Jabez, KY

"I just this morning returned from the Post Office with your latest letter in which you shared with us some of the letters you received in response to your mid-March Co-Worker letter.

"You've no idea how inspiring it was to read some of these letters, letting us know how our fellow Co-Workers and Church members felt — how willing they were to sacrifice, even necessities, in order to get the building fund back on its feet, and to keep the Work moving forward! Thank you very much for sharing some of these letters with us. It is helpful knowing how fellow Co-Workers feel, and very, very encouraging.

"Enclosed please find an additional offering to be given to the building fund. I only wish it were more, but maybe in the future, I will be able to send more in.

"Thank you again for your kindness in sharing with me (us) these beautiful and inspiring letters. They really serve as a spur — impressing me with the feeling that there is more I can do if I really try harder, both in sending in offerings, and in more heartfelt, deep and determined prayer. After all, this Work is what it is all about — and the only thing that really matters !

"Keep up the good work and remember we are all behind you all the way!"

— Marion C. Reed
Mineola, TX

"I was moved by today's letter with all the different excerpts from God's people, and ashamed of myself that although I've responded to most of your appeals, I've never responded with the depth that showed in those letters.

"God has been working so powerfully in my life, personally, and has changed everything that I thought was solid and stable into the opposite of what it was just six weeks ago. And instead of being nervous or scared, my family and I are really and truly excited, waiting to see what He will do for/with us next.

"We here have been absolutely dumbfounded with the speed and perfect, logical answers God provided when we asked and only He could help

"I pray daily that Christ will return soon and show others the happiness and joy we now are beginning to possess."

— Mr. John Gitter
Milwaukee, WI

"I am writing in response to your letter received just recently. Reading the letters of others that you had printed was certainly moving. You said that '... It draws me closer to each one who wrote.' Well, reading those letters draws me closer to each one who wrote! Thank you for the opportunity! The letters were very informative. I especially noted the one of the persons who wrote concerning prayers for the Work. I now realize I have been praying in too nebulous terms. Specificity shall be the rule of the day, everyday."

— Mary Ann Kovalchick
Youngstown, OH

"I recently read your Co-Worker letter. I was uplifted to see so many brethren concerned about the Work. Well, so am I. I don't have the knowledge to respond in the same manner as others but I will respond.

"Yes, my heart was torn when I saw those Vietnamese leaving in such a tragedy knowing the very same thing that has befallen those peoples will certainly befall the U.S.A. someday soon.

"Truly God is working through you and Mr. President (HWA). I love to hear you 'cry aloud' and spare us not, if only we all are listening and as a result respond. Once again hang in there and so will I."

— William Collins
New York, NY

"After sixteen years I still am behind the Work and those who make the decisions. I know God is also with you and I feel sorry for those who become dissatisfied with the changes. My prayers are with you all the way."

— Mrs. Rena M. Carr
Sandy, OR

"Thank you very much for your inspiring and moving letter. Recently I sent as much as I could (it seems like I send tithes and offering right before a Co-Worker letter and then pray that I had more to give). I've never prayed harder for you, your father or this great Work. Maybe my small offerings will make up for the offerings the less fortunate cannot give. God blessed me exceedingly with a job that I enjoy, and now a much needed raise (50% more than I made before!!). Yes, you'll be hearing much more from me. God bless you for your hard work! Together in Christ."

— Janis Lynne Motta
Tuckerton, NJ

"My husband and I want you to know we look forward to your letters to us and Co-Workers and that also holds true for your father. They inspire us so much. We need this inspiration when we listen to the news these days. As we read the excerpts from others' letters, they speak for us. We have never dreamed of having been given the literature and teaching as we have received since we came into this church and even before. The least we can do is respond when you are in need. We should never forget where all this knowledge came from. It has all come from God through you people in Pasadena. You have filled us with the most precious spiritual food. We know what a responsibility is on you there and also all our ministers."

"Our tithing hasn't been up to par this year. We are retired on less than \$300 a month, but God blessed us in paying for our home and getting us out of debt which left us with very little savings. We are trying to get something started to bring in some more income; with God's help we'll make it."

"Just keep up the good work. And as for those who don't back you up, well, that will be between them and our soon coming King."

— Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Hariell
Huntington, OR

"Thanks ever so much for your very inspiring Co-Worker letter."

"It is so thrilling and exciting to read that your travels have taken you to Jerusalem and to the

Mount of Olives where our oldest brother Jesus Christ will soon return in all power and glory."

"And those letters that the brethren wrote to you in answer to your letter having to tell us about the decline in finances for the building fund. How else can we know about the needs of our great Father's Work, unless you inform us of the needs?"

"I do wish I could give much more than I am giving now to our Father's Work, but since this is impossible I pray constantly that many others would be inspired to give to this great Work."

"I once again remind you that I am behind both you, your father and God's Work 100% — all the way!!"

— Mrs. J. L. Halstead
Metairie, LA

"When I received your letter of March 11, I did not see where I, living on a pension and Social Security, could do anymore financially than I was doing. However, after reading the sampling of letters which you received in response, I decided that if these people could make an extra effort I could also. So I am enclosing a check as an extra contribution to the building fund which seems to be in need of help. With it goes my earnest prayers as ever."

— Herbert W. Marsh
Tampa, FL

"Please do not feel you are invading our privacy by printing the moving letters in the Co-Workers Newsletter. It indicates the growth of the Worldwide Church of God! — for which I am enclosing this needed contribution."

— Arthur L. Druet
Los Osos, CA

"After reading Garner Ted Armstrong's recent letter to the Co-Workers and all the samples of letters received in response to the March 11 letter from him, I knew I had to do better. I have not given to the building fund before but want to now on a regular basis. I am enclosing tithe and an amount for this fund at this time."

— Mrs. C. M. Hill
Kalamazoo, MI

"Your last letter regarding the status of the building fund moved me deeply. By United States standards my salary is small, but quite obviously from the letters of brethren sending their few dollars and pennies, I am not half as poor as I thought I was — consequently the enclosed check."

— Mrs. Eve Lynne Eliasson
Miami, FL

"After reading your most recent letter and the letters from Co-Workers, we checked to see if we were up-to-date with our building fund. We hated to discover we were several months behind. This made us wonder if we had been putting God's Work first.

"Be assured that we are behind you in our prayers and hope to be more careful in the future."

— Kenneth Dickeson
Midland, TX

"Thank you Mr. Armstrong for sharing the letters from our brethren with us. They really made me look around and see what I could do without to make sure others could get the same message. Others certainly did without to make sure I received it. Please continue to inform us when and where there is a need. How else can we know? Truly it is far more fun to give than receive."

— Margaret Doak
El Cajon, CA

"The screws are definitely being tightened, but by God's help we are 100% behind you. Keep doing the tremendously heavy job before you and please keep admonishing and leading us onward toward God's Kingdom."

— Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Wilson
Fort Lauderdale, FL

"I received your most recent letter today and was really moved and inspired by the letters of other members. They could give so much of themselves, where I was just sitting on the fence watching. Things have a way of getting back to you. This letter has shown me that I am not the only one with problems, but that I have been a selfish giver instead of a cheerful giver. I have a lot to learn and I think our Father in heaven finally has shown me where and how to begin. I just had to write and tell you that I am behind you 100% whatever might happen to us in this fast failing world.

"Furthermore, if some people can give of their last few dollars, why can't I give of mine, so find a check enclosed for what I can afford. Again, keep up the good work, and spare not anything needed to fulfill our job, before our Lord and Master returns."

— Ted Espinosa
Westminster, CO

"I just finished reading the inspiring letters which you have received from brethren. I was made to feel ashamed as we have many blessings

which we are not using as we should. Enclosed find check for the Work.

"Keep in there!"

— T. Apple
Rushville, IN

"I just read your letter to the Co-Workers sharing letters you had received. It made me feel ashamed. I guess we all have our spiritual ups and downs. And your letter was what I needed to rededicate myself to better and more prayer. We are all charged to encourage each other because none of us is perfect and therefore each of us at sometime falls prey to trials. Mr. Armstrong, pray for us, somehow in your busy schedule, that our zeal and the sense of immediacy might increase, that we may all be found worthy of the name of Philadelphia Era Church! Satan is working subtly as he is known to do, to confuse us with everyday living difficulties. I have been one that has let this happen this last week. Each one of those letters reflected our desire and need to back this Work and you and your father. When you grow tired at the end of a day, we pray that God will refresh you. And when this Work, His Work, tires, we pray for the financial refreshing that only He can bring. And He will bring it! . . . each day this Work is a little closer to completion and maturity.

"Remind us of that.

"May God bless each of His children for their giving attitude.

"How can we as children grow to accept new responsibilities if the Father does not direct us in them and call them to our attention?"

"Never shrink from calling us to our duty and don't feel bad when you have to, nor apologize."

— Mrs. D. F. Keeler
Brookville, IN

"Thank you very much for sharing with us those very moving letters. I think most of us have the same feelings but hold back expressing ourselves. I know I am very thankful to be a part of the Work and to know the needs of it."

— Marjorie Hill
Waco, TX

"We were more encouraged than ever to know how much you have accomplished in getting God's Word to the world. If you had only sent more letters, letting your people know the needs of the Work, we could have long ago started skimping on other things, and, put our shoulders to the wheel. We are encouraged to know that finally you are

doing this. May God bless and guide you along the way.

"Keep up the good work, and be of good courage. God will help you to do what He wants of you. Pray for us as we do for all of you."

— Mrs. Henry F. Marshall
Kirbyville, TX

"I just finished reading the excerpts of some of the letters received by Mr. Armstrong about the financial needs of the Work. All I can say is the letter helped me to realize how self-extravagant I have been and I do hope it will continually inspire me to be in more of a giving attitude so that we can really get on with the Work as I profess to do in word but not as much in deed. . . . I thank you for your continued efforts and hope you will continue to uplift us all with the needs as well as the successes of the Work.

"Thanks again!"

— Thomas Elsinger
Colesburg, IA

"Your last letter was very inspiring to us. I suppose we were hiding our heads in the sand as it were. After reading all of those letters from people less fortunate than we and how much they sacrificed, we felt ashamed for being so selfish and not doing our part. We pledge to do better."

— Mr. & Mrs. Gus Bird
Seattle, WA

"Thanks for letting us read some of the letters and comments of our brethren. I was moved more than a 'little emotionally.' It took so long to read them, as I had to keep taking off my glasses to wipe away the tears of joy! Thank you for sharing them with us. Enclosed is a money order for the building fund. I wish it were more, but we are having a very hard time of it right now. So, instead of paying all of my phone bill this time, I'm sending to the building fund. A building for God must come FIRST! I have been praying that our Creator God will send His great Work a financial miracle.

So I, too, say, 'hang in there' Mr. Armstrong. God will hear and answer!"

— Rosemary Rose
South Charleston, WV

"I have just received your letter dated (it is not dated) but it's the one where you printed all the letters from the Co-Workers. I just kept wiping the tears from my eyes as I read it! It is so inspiring! God's people are like that. God causes all His people who obey Him to be that way! And I'm glad that I can say I am part of His Family. God is the cause and should receive all the credit for the actions of His people as long as it is for the good of His Work. This Work must be accomplished and it will be as long as we are obedient and do as God instructs us to.

"I just had to write and let you know how I feel and to also let you know that I am 100% behind you and Mr. Herbert Armstrong and the Work of God."

— Wayne G. Plumlee
Dallas, TX

"I just received your Co-Worker letter, and I want to tell you that it is so inspiring to know that the members of the Church are giving cheerfully to God's Work. When I read testimonies like these, it makes me look at myself and ask myself: 'Why couldn't I give more and follow the example of my brethren?' But sometimes things get a little tough. I know God looks at the heart, and He knows who can give the most.

"Please Mr. Armstrong, keep asking for more financial help. It's our duty to support this great Work. As Christians we know better. We know that Jesus left a job for us to do and it takes money to complete it, and it's going to take a lot more. It is up to us, how far we want to go with it. You and your father are doing your part and doing a fantastic job. . . . You should feel confident that the Eternal has placed each of us here in His Church because He knows we can do the job, because He knows we obey His commands of giving.

"My wife and I are 100% backing you up with our prayers."

— Mr. & Mrs. Enrique Vidal
Long Beach, CA