

The Bulletin



of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

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JULY 29, 1975

Church Administration

Y.O.U. UPDATE

By now all of you church pastors should have received the packet of information on the talent contest, the photo contest, and next year's basketball tournament. We hope you are all as enthusiastic and excited about the program as we are here in Pasadena. We feel we have the greatest bunch of teenagers in the world and are striving to show them that we do appreciate them by providing an outlet with activities for them.

We have an exciting and varied program in mind — but it will only be a success to the degree you men support it. If you are enthusiastic about the program and show this to your congregations, your enthusiasm will catch on with members and teens. At the same time, however, if you are "cool" toward the program and disinterested, that too will be contagious. We would like to encourage any of you who don't particularly enjoy, or feel comfortable working with the youth, to appoint someone as youth coordinator who is enthusiastic and does enjoy working with them.

In the U.S. and Canada we have about 17,000 teenagers attending church. In fact, based on 1974 Festival attendance figures, over 46% of our total church attendance is under 20 years of age. This is an incredibly high percentage when compared to some churches, and should in itself answer the frequently asked question as to why we need a youth program.

Returns from Y.O.U. brochures which went out with Festival mailing have begun to come in. So far, we have received almost as much money in

general contributions from members who have no teenagers as we have in membership contributions. Many of the comments accompanying the general donations from members have been very encouraging. Such terms as "God-sent," "answer to prayer," "very badly needed," and "long-overdue," have frequently appeared. We will try to compile some of these comments and run them in the next issue.

One question that has come up several times regarding this brochure is whether or not teenagers can participate in more than one activity. The answer is that they can participate in as many activities as they feel they can handle.

Your comments would be welcomed or any questions you may have about the program. We appreciate your enthusiasm and support.

EMERGENCY FUND

Now that it has been over two years since the last update on the Emergency Fund, we would like to make a few comments and reminders concerning its use.

A central account is maintained at Headquarters, and each Church Pastor is issued a checkbook to be used in emergency situations to alleviate an immediate demand for payment in the local church area. The checkbook should not be considered solely as the "Emergency Fund" as in the past, but as an *instrument* provided to meet a broad range of contingencies of a financial nature in the conduct or performance of ministerial responsibilities.

The financial needs handled through the Emergency checkbook fall into three general categories:

1. Widow assistance (Third Tithe)
2. Assistance to individuals (Emergency Fund)
3. Urgent ministerial/church expenses

Expenses may be paid by using the Emergency checkbook if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The need cannot wait 10 or more days to receive payment from Pasadena. Note: Needs that can wait 10 or more days may be requested on a General Disbursement Voucher, by memo, or by calling on the WATS lines.
2. The check will alleviate an immediate demand for payment.
3. The expenditure is for
 - a. Member assistance, or
 - b. Urgent ministerial/church expense. Note: General or routine expenses should be paid by the Traveletter system or by using General Disbursement Vouchers or Hall Rental Vouchers.
4. The check is not payable to "Cash" or yourself.
5. Not more than \$300.00 is written to the same payee for the same purpose. (Exceptions must be approved by Headquarters and the approver's name noted on the Emergency Fund Expense Card.)

As with loans, no general assistance may be given to ministers in the employ of the Church without the approval of Mr. Cole or Messrs. McNair, Pyle, or Flatt.

Each month the Accounting Department produces an Exception Report (a listing of checks that have cleared the bank for which we have no corresponding expenses cards) which lists thousands of dollars of expenses that are unaccounted for. Never has it been below \$10-12,000, and it has risen to over \$50,000 on occasion. Try to picture the problems you would have if you didn't keep a check register of the expenses on your personal checking account. Then, multiply that problem by 200 times. That's the number of checkbooks we presently have in circulation. So please don't be delinquent in reporting Emergency Fund expenditures.

Since this is a multipurpose checking account, as checks clear the central account, funds are drawn out of the "General Account" and it is imperative that you send us the necessary backup and documentation which will enable us to make the necessary cost distribution into the various expense categories. This backup is then retained in our files as substantiation for the cancelled checks and is subject to IRS audits.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

— C.A.D. Staff

The
Bulletin

of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

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BIRTHS

R. (Shorty) and Patty Sue Fuessel (Detroit [East], Michigan): Greetings to all! We want to take this opportunity to share with everyone the big news at our house. On Thursday, July 10, at 1:52 p.m., our 2nd child, *Angie Kay*, was born. She weighed 8 lbs., 2½ ozs., and measured 21 inches in length. Mom, little Angie, Dad, and big brother Ryan (now 3 years old) are all doing fine. We're so elated to have been blessed with such a healthy, beautiful little gal!

Mail Processing

Traditionally, the summer months have reflected a decline in mail. We go off some stations. People take their vacations. The trend is holding true this year. Up through the 21st, we've received 81,743 letters for the month, giving us a cumulative total for the year of 1,236,991 letters.

As mentioned in the last issue of the *Bulletin*, however, June was an above-average month for

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WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

Herbert W. Armstrong
President and Pastor

Garner Ted Armstrong
Executive Vice-President

July 25, 1975

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

GREETINGS!

By now I know you are all quite surprised (and I hope pleased!) by the sensational news you saw in the last issue of the WN. I am going to include with this Bulletin a memo I have written to all parties concerned clarifying our most exact present position regarding on-going considerations for the possibility of reopening the Bricket Wood campus so there will be no misunderstandings.

The most important single consideration is obviously monetary! The desire to open the campus is real enough; the very fact of the existence of the extensive and magnificent plant with all attendant facilities is, in itself, a constant reminder.

With one of the largest incoming freshman classes (approximately 300) in Pasadena, California, and with a large number of international students who COULD begin attending once again in Bricket Wood, plus the growing needs of the International Division, all indicate a definite decision in the affirmative!

However, as my memo will explain, there are many important considerations to be weighed -- the most important single one being that of budget.

Shortly after completing this Bulletin I will be en route for a quick trip to our Bricket Wood campus, together with Frank Brown, Ronald Dart, Les McCullough, and Art Ferdig -- all of whom will be engaged in meetings with various of our personnel on the British campus.

I expect to be in Denver, God willing, for the Sabbath tomorrow (I'm writing this on Friday, the 25th of July) for combined Sabbath services and a dance/singalong on Saturday night. I really enjoy and look forward very much to getting out to some of the local churches on an occasion such as this when it is possible.

I notice a number of letters are beginning to come in expressing appreciation for the new series of broadcasts on the Gospels. I am interspersing programs of a more newsy nature (such as a couple of recent ones concerning the upcoming Helsinki conference and the signing of a resolution in the context of the European Security Conference, which, in effect, grants the Soviet leadership its more than 30-year-

old desire to in effect recognize the permanence of the divided condition of Europe, and especially a divided Germany, which is tantamount to achieving a peace treaty with West Germany after 30 years!). But during most of the programs I am wading through the scriptures verse by verse as I used to many years ago.

I certainly hope that this gradually builds up a solid audience, and that many people are being given in-depth biblical understanding as a result of listening to the series on the Gospels. I will be watching very carefully not only our own mail, but in the future checking on station ratings with our agency to determine whether this new-type programming (beginning a whole new Bible series, and slowly wading through the scriptures on the air) is really a successful format.

Also, we are buying one-minute spots in a selected number of network stations, which I am to do yet this afternoon -- so it is going to be a busy day!

I hope all of you fellows and your families are well and happy in God's Work -- and that you are keeping up your zeal and enthusiasm for the Work of God and for the service to the flock over which God has placed you; that you are remembering the admonitions of the Apostle Paul to the young evangelist Timothy of the many problems both from without and within -- and that you are remaining STRONG and firm in the faith, preaching sound doctrine and solid scriptural "meat" to your congregations, insuring that they are constantly growing on a solid, stable diet of spiritual food!

Many is the letter that comes in as a result of good, solid MEAT in local congregations! Our local church brethren are simply ravenous for strong, spiritual food. Let's never forget the admonition Jesus gave Peter: "FEED my sheep"!

Peter must have never forgotten that thrice-repeated admonition, because it is exactly what he said in the fifth chapter of I Peter to all the other elders: "Feed the flock of God"!

Thanks very much for the many notes and personal letters which continue to come in -- it's always a joy and a pleasure to hear from you. Let's continue to keep the lines of communication wide open!

In Christ's service,

Barney Lee Armstrong

MEMORANDUM

To: All Concerned

Date: July 24, 1975

Subject: Reopening of Bricket Wood

From: Garner Ted Armstrong

By now you all know I have been entertaining ideas of reopening the British campus as soon as possible.

However, to avoid any misunderstandings or false assumptions, I thought it wise to send all interested parties a memorandum on the subject.

1) I am hoping to be able to reopen the British campus without any increase in allocation from the United States, meaning our present financial policy of sending no further monthly allocation beyond January 1, 1976, remains in effect, and any funds other than indigenous British income needed for the maintenance of a small academic complex would have to come in the form of travel subsidies, scholarships or by other means from the various offices of the International Division, as well as a grant from the newly-formed Ambassador International Cultural Foundation.

2) No one should interpret the reopening of the British campus as some "massive leap ahead" in THE WORK in England. The reopening of the academic complex is contemplated as precisely that -- a group of students on campus for the purpose of studying toward their respective degrees with the hope that some few (and it would be unwise to speculate on what percentage, since both the needs of the Work and the dictates of budget would arbitrate) might eventually be drafted into the International Division of God's Work.

THE WORK in Britain would be largely unaffected. By that I mean to say that all activities connected with the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom as a witness would remain precisely as they are, with the Plain Truth's printing, circulation, newsstand program; activities of church administration, including lectures and maintenance of churches and Bible studies, remaining precisely as they are and being unaffected directly by the possible reopening of the academic complex.

In these early stages of a "financial feasibility study," it would be precipitous to conclude the reopening of the campus is even possible this fall, in the coming winter term, or even sooner than the autumn of 1976. Present conditions in Britain -- with continuing runaway inflation, the many government and political problems (British newspapers are heavily laced with talks of strike), plus the total income picture for God's Work around the world as a whole -- will all weigh heavily, not only in the decision whether to reopen the academic complex in Bricket Wood at all, but IF it is reopened, WHEN.

Only after I have complete information concerning the possibility of travel subsidies, scholarships or other sources of revenue which can meet the projected requirements of a full faculty, staff, and student body of 120 students (an arbitrary figure which need not be considered final), can I really know whether or when the British campus can be reopened.

I would appreciate any input, especially in the form of written memoranda from any concerned which might prove helpful as a part of our feasibility study prior to a final decision concerning whether and when to reopen the British campus.

International Division

EUROPEAN TRIP

(Telexed from London)

Well, greetings again to all of you from London. Don't believe everything you hear about English weather. We have been here and in Europe for three weeks now and have had some of the best California weather imaginable. Bright sunshine, clear and around 80 degrees has been the order of the day all the time.

Wayne Cole and I had a ministerial meeting with everyone here June 23 through 26. Mr. Hunting and all of those I have spoken with feel it was most helpful and hope we can do something similar once or twice a year.

We had around 50 to 60 in attendance including the men from the Continent, two of whom spoke no English. But with the help of their fellow ministers, who interpreted as we spoke, they were able to get along very well and generally were able to understand what was going on. We covered general topics just as Wayne and I have been doing in other conferences.

Following the meetings, Steve Martin and I had a few days of work meetings with Mr. Hunting and Staff. It is not secret that the budgetary reductions made here have created some problems. But I am happy to say that some very encouraging steps have been made. The campaigns here in Great Britain have been very well received and several new churches have been started. Even so with the closure of the college, we have been a little over staffed. In order to help the budget as well as fill some needs in other areas, we are transferring six of the men to other areas.

Dennis Luker has been needing some additional manpower in Australia. Therefore we are returning two Australians to him. They are Mr. and Mrs. Colin Sutcliffe and Mr. and Mrs. Peter McLean. Both are graduates of Bricket Wood and have been serving in the ministry for some time. Colin was head of the Agriculture program but was sent into the field ministry with the closing of the College. Peter is a local elder and has been serving in Liverpool.

Bob Morton is going to be coming to Pasadena for a semester of college and then be returning to his home area to be assigned either in Australia or New Zealand.

David Stirk, Ron Stoddart and Davie Hume are going to help out in the South African work. Bob Fahey needs the help and has the budget, so they can be a big asset to him and the Work doesn't lose their experience.

On July 1, Marion and I flew to Brussels, while Steve visited the Church in southern Ireland. We only spent one day with Ray Kosanke but were able to go through E.E.C. buildings and get a feel of that hub of European activity. While there we enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Carion. He is self-employed but handles the French Language Church in Brussels. It was a very pleasant evening and they have a most beautiful home. Fortunately he spoke English, although Mrs. Carion didn't. We flew from Brussels to Copenhagen where we joined Stuart Powell. He has been working with the Scandinavian Churches for eighteen months or so.

I had the privilege of conducting services at one of the members' homes on the Sabbath. The next morning we flew to Oslo, Norway and conducted services there. Then the following day drove to Sanderstolen where the Scandinavian Feast is held. If anyone has the financial ability, I would strongly recommend it for the Feast. It is an absolutely beautiful area. The next day we flew to Stockholm and that evening had a Bible study with about 20 people in the hotel room. We had one man present who was baptized last year in Pasadena after travelling all the way there from Finland. Obviously he doesn't get to many of the services and greatly appreciated this one.

All in all we saw roughly 100 people between the three services. I had the chance to explain the *Human Potential* and A.I.C.F. to them. In every case they were very enthusiastic. We were also able to report that the Scandinavian area has about a 65 percent increase in income over last year.

We hope to be able to move Stuart Powell and his family to Oslo later this year. As it now stands, he is the pastor of two Churches here in the London area and takes the long trip through Scandinavia every few weeks. There is not time to visit new prospectives or even church members for that matter. We feel that by the first of the year at the latest he can devote full time to the Scandinavian area and more real growth will be coming as a result.

From Stockholm we flew to Bonn, Germany and spent some time with Frank Schnee. All is well there. All of the employees are now relocated in Bonn and everyone else feels it has been an excellent move.

Tomorrow we go home and will that ever be

good. There is simply nothing like your own bed. At the same time, there is nothing like the opportunity to talk and work with these men and the Church members face to face. So much more can be accomplished in the hours of talk than ever could by letters. Just let me say fellows, I deeply appreciate the work you are all doing and especially the willing sacrifices some of you make in this Work we're all a part of.... Thanks, until next time.

— Leslie L. McCullough

CANADIAN WORK UPDATE

Greetings from the Canadian branch of God's Work!

There are many areas of activity and growth in the Canadian Work. I'll try to put them in logical order to help keep you abreast of what is going on in the following vignettes put together by our Office Manager, Don Miller.

Vancouver Office

Facilities: Following the release of the auditorium space, some offices and remodeling of the area retained, we have 5,200 sq. ft. of office space and lounge with 4,800 sq. ft. of warehouse. The facilities will accommodate our needs for any foreseeable growth in the next 4-5 years. There are suitable private offices and work locations for the staff, and overall work conditions will have been improved by the recent changes.

Staff: The work force is made up of 28 full-time and 3 part-time employees. This is down from 1974's high of 38 full-time people. The reorganization of the staff last summer, and continuing adjustments of individual efforts and duties has provided the office with a closer, and better oriented staff for getting the job done.

Data Processing: The IBM Visual Display System (terminals) are on order and we're hoping to be "on line" with the resident files in Pasadena by January 1st. By being able to handle our own file maintenance we'll greatly facilitate taking care of our list for Canada. The terminal system will afford us, at some later date, the ability to place other applications of our mail handling, receipting and financial information on the computerized format and without large outlays of money.

Income: Running comfortably at a 20% increase over last year and as this budget year draws to a close, we anticipate 1975-76 to be about as good. All indicators point to another good year.

Members continue to carry the bulk of the load giving 63% of mail income and 69% of overall

income. Co-Workers now number about 9,000 and represent 25%, with donor contributions making up the remaining 6 percent.

Mail: The overall mail count has been down all year — a strange phenomenon as everything else has been up. This is partly due to closer and more immediate contact in the field and a remote possibility that a degree of saturation of effort is beginning to set in.

During the fiscal year we will have processed some 103,000 donation letters, 40,000 ad responses, 71,000 reply mail cards or circulars along with some 90,000 pieces of white mail for a total of 304,000 letters.

Printing: With 6 months behind us now each printing and circulation of the PT gets easier. The copy is received from HQ and is on the press within 24 hours of the U.S. copies and into the mail bags at the post office within 72 hours. This coupled with shorter delivery time, as it originates in Canada, the list benefits from earlier delivery dates by 5 to 6 days.

We have our printing expense down to \$.034 per copy and once our second class mailing permit is approved, we'll cut our postage expense by 50 percent. Now that our files have the Canadian postal code on it, we're proceeding with the filing on our 2nd class permit and should have Ottawa's ruling by the end of the summer.

Circulation: Presently our file totals are: English PT 180,000; French PV 58,000; GN 17,000; CC 3,600; Co-Worker/Member mailings 12,500.

Public Displays

We thought you might appreciate a rundown on the fairs we have conducted so far, including a few statistics on the most successful ones. Up to now we have received requests from 44 different areas for public display supplies (PT's, booklets, etc.). In some of these areas more than one fair is planned — or has already taken place. For these 44 fairs, we have sent 42,000 PT's and PV's. Some of the most successful have been:

Quebec City International Book Fair — 2,059 PV's taken; 315 lit requests.

Quebec City "Salon De La Femme" — 2,500 PV's taken; 400 lit requests.

Windsor Home/Sport Show — 329 PT's taken; 67 lit requests.

Chatham Fair — 271 PT's taken; 131 lit requests.

Spring Bible Lectures

Here is a summary of the spring Bible Lectures for 1975 (mostly in large cities and areas where

they know we have established Churches, hence a small percentage of people attending):

Number of lectures	75
Number of letters sent	83,651
Number of new people	1,176
Percentage response	1.4%

Fall Bible Lectures (1975)

There are 570 lectures scheduled to begin to take place immediately following the Feast of Tabernacles.

Churches & Bible Studies (June 30, 1975)

		% Increase over prev. fisc. yr.
Church attendance	8,796	9.1
Outlying Bible study attendance	1,145	57.9
Baptisms	656	7.2
Number of churches	61	35.6
Number of outlying Bible studies	57	96.6
Number of ministers & assistants	101	8.6

— Dean R. Wilson

MAIL PROCESSING

(Continued from page 392)

mail because of the direct mail letter which offered *The United States and British Commonwealth In Prophecy*. The response received for the U.S. booklet has come to 11% — over 136,000 letters which is keeping us quite busy as we work to process them all.

WATS Helps Out

Though mail may be showing a seasonal decline, the WATS line is holding its own quite well. The response to the telecast concerning Animal Oddities has been better than average. As is usually the case with this type of program, many calls were from children. As of July 21, over 31,700 registries have been received for the month.

On the Lighter Side

In past *Bulletins*, we have listed many amusing items from the mail. However, not wanting to "overdo a good thing" we have felt just an occasional tidbit of humor slipped into the column now and then could add a little spice. Recently the following list of humorous requests was seen by the Managing Editor and we were prevailed upon to include them in this issue for you. Hope you and your congregations enjoy them.

How to Stop Crying

How to Escape the Great Rupture and the

Tribelations

What's Missing In Sex

The Four Horsteman of the Acroplatic

The Four White Horses of Apocalypse

Singing Against the Holy Ghost

Phantom, Can We Survive?

Prophecy for Birds

After Death Than Watch

Is There Life After You Are Dead — Then What?

The Book on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Hell

Some unusual addresses have also appeared on letters sent to us:

Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong, Jr.

Ebassador Colage

Vancouver DC Box 444

Mr. Frank Garner Robinson

Mr. Herbert (TED) Garner

Mrs. Reberent Ted Barner G. Rmstrong

Well, that is it for this time. Enjoy your summer activities.

— Richard Rice

LETTER COMMENTS

"THIRD THOUGHTS"

"I have a suggestion for Mr. Wolverton's 'Third Thoughts' cartoon. Picture: Someone running and obviously exhausted. Caption: 'What do you mean, am I behind Mr. Armstrong?! Have YOU seen anyone who can keep up with him?'"

"But seriously, I do want to say that my wife and I are indeed 100 percent behind Mr. H. W. Armstrong and Mr. G. T. Armstrong. Though I normally don't put my feelings in writing, I feel I need to now. We both are living examples of Mark 10:28-30. Both of us had to choose between family and God's way when we were in our early teens. To both of us Mr. Armstrong is like the father we did not have at home, but did have in the Church. And for both of us Mr. G. T. Armstrong is like the big brother we never had at home. The Armstrongs are our family and the Church the hundredfold now in this life.

"Maybe those who accuse and criticize have never had to make a choice between family and obedience. Maybe they have never looked in a mirror and seen a sinner. Maybe they have never seen the \$30 billion a year spent on printing filth. Maybe they have never seen the plans and trips involved in the efforts to overthrow this and all other free countries. Maybe they have not seen the

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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.

A.I.C.F. AND THE UNITED NATIONS

I was happy to see the positive comments in the Open Forum regarding AICF.

In some ways I compare it to a United Nations that will *succeed!* It is interesting to note that the UN was established to bring world peace and provide humanitarian aid. Progress towards these goals *will* be achieved by the AICF.

The *Human Potential* magazine will serve as a "General Assembly." World leaders will make their contributions, and so will the leaders of God's Church. Thus the knowledge of many will be heard. Most important of all is the knowledge of peace that will be heard.

Another comparison with the UN can be detected between the founders. Thirty years ago the United States (Physical Israel) was the primary instrument in organizing the UN through its initiative, use of land, and finances. Today the Church (Spiritual Israel) is the primary instrument in organizing the AICF through similar channels.

At this point, I want to stop my comparisons and present a departure. Whereas the U.S. has lost influence in the UN; I feel the Church will gain influence through the AICF. Not only that, but the message of world peace will become the reality!

— George Kackos
Wisconsin Dells

UNIQUE FACTORS IN OUR COUNSELLING

Recently we have had quite a number of tapes and M.E.T. articles on the art or techniques of

counselling. Many of the points raised have broadened our appreciation of the subject.

In order to see what was being offered on the subject here, I approached our local university to put a course on for lay counsellors. Quite a number of people enrolled — they included nurses, social workers, union leaders, ministers, etc. It was interesting to hear the various views expressed and the type of work each is involved in.

From the lectures I noted a few observations. The first one was prompted by a lecture given by a clinical psychologist in charge of a government-run community health agency. He said the trend today is away from specialization in counselling to the generalist. And some of the most successful counsellors are lay counsellors. Why? Because they have a natural rapport with people. Many non people-oriented types carefully study techniques of handling people but still just don't have what it takes. He added that the more people learn techniques of counselling the greater the inherent danger of sacrificing their naturalness to the artificiality of a technique. They become technique oriented rather than people oriented and this creates a stilted encounter. Our greatest asset as counsellors is our open naturalness and our enjoyment of people. If we haven't got this, no technique will make up for it.

Another observation I made at these lectures was the fact that most counselling techniques are based on building an empathy between the counsellor and counsellee. Carl Rodgers is virtually the high priest of empathy with his client-centered approach. But one thing we should never forget is that the majority of people we counsel with have God's Spirit. That means we are of one mind — one attitude — and have as brothers in Christ an immediate empathy. Our client comes to us not as a stranger, but as a brother who wants us to help him to achieve our common goal — the Kingdom of God. Most counsellors in the world are dealing with strangers who do not share the same overall goal or the same value system. This leads to my third point.

We live in a purposeless world without any absolutes. Counsellors basically are directionless in the sense they can't impose their values (which after all are only one man's opinion) onto the behaviour of their client. They merely guide the person to see clearly his choices and his responsi-

bility to make a decision. Of course this is what we are to do too, but in all this there is no authority or absoluteness brought in with their counselling. We do have absolutes and authority behind us — which of course is the Word of God. Our people come to us because we are to be teachers of God's law — which is our wisdom and our understanding.

We do need to realize that there are unique factors in our counselling. It is important not to underestimate the good will that exists between members of God's Church and their minister. They come voluntarily to us because we are helpers of their joy. In the world, many counselling situations are referrals from one stranger to another, sometimes with the idea of getting "this fellow" to conform to society's concept of normality. Therefore a more stilted, defensive environment is generated.

I hope this has been helpful to show that our counselling does differ from much of the counselling given by psychologists or psychiatrists in our society.

— Rodney Dean
Newcastle, N.S.W.
Australia

ABOUT THE FOURTH CHARACTERISTIC OF MATURITY

I want to say thanks to M.E.T. for the article on *maturity* in the May 20, *Bulletin*. Also thanks to Vernon Hargrove for emphasizing that some of the "Ole Heads" should write more.

The fourth characteristic of maturity — *having values* — certainly struck home to my mind. Quoting from the article, "It should also be said that true maturity requires that these values be self-chosen. An individual who only compliantly conforms to a set of values belonging to another (God or man) is not nearly as mature as one who has internalized those values and made them his own."

Mr. Herbert Armstrong has been strongly emphasizing for several years now the tremendous difference between the two ways of life — "getting" and "giving." Messrs. Ted Armstrong and Wayne Cole have emphasized again and again the need to reach out to humanity, to become involved, to *not run away* from society! But to go into the world and help — yet always staying within the *law of Christ* and never compromising with the true values of life. So true maturity means that doing such must be *self-chosen*. If we only love, serve, give because we're told to — our character is not very mature. Therefore we must internalize those values and make them our own.

Doing so is exciting!!!

The opportunity to reach out in the Bible Lectures is exciting. I've conducted *five* and have three more to complete before the Feast of Tabernacles. Also we have three follow-up Bible studies in progress with good results.

David Jon Hill recently said in an article, "Why Not?" One day while waiting in a long line, on the last day to get auto plates, I thought, "Why Not?" Thus I began talking to one person about normal day to day problems, etc. Before long three or four were listening. Questions were asked. I found myself explaining how the world has gotten into such a wretched mess.

A freshman at the University of Kentucky who is also a Catholic, became very interested. She wanted to learn more. Wanted my phone number to call later. Three months later she called in desperation. I was the last person she knew to call, who seemed to have confidence and knew some real answers, before *she threw in the towel*. We talked for at least three hours. She was helped and who knows — maybe someday soon she will be in God's Church.

Thanks again to Messrs. Ted Armstrong and Wayne Cole for the encouragement to reach out toward humanity. To know that is what Headquarters wants us to do — what God wants us to do. In confidence we can do just that, with balance, and know it has God's approval and blessings.

— Kelley Barfield
Lexington, Kentucky

BOOK REVIEW

Liberal Christianity at the Crossroads

by John B. Cobb, Jr.

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Most of us would more or less automatically condemn the view of anyone who claimed to be a *liberal* Christian. Most of us would associate liberalism with permissiveness, licentiousness, hedonism and social activism. Only the last term is truly appropriate however.

John B. Cobb is one of the leading thinkers in modern liberal Protestantism. He is well respected in the world of theology — and not without good reason. He has an incisive way of getting at the core of things. I found his book to be philosophically stimulating, thought-provoking and enlightening. I don't agree with every view espoused in this book — but it did help me to see the flip side of the coin. Cobb is an intensely moral, conscientious individual — if his writing is a true reflection of his character. Here are some of the more piquant quotes:

"But there is another difficulty about this liberal Christian life. It is also exhausting. Constant self-criticism alone cannot constitute our existence. None of us is strong enough for that." (page 15)

Quoting Reinhold Niebuhr he writes: "... the function of preaching is to afflict the comfortable and to comfort the afflicted." (page 15)

That's a beauty!

On page 32 Cobb observes: "Men are capable of endless self-deception, so that the emergence of every ideal becomes an occasion for hypocrisy. Those who pursue truth most vigorously and those who love justice most passionately often become most cynical."

Cobb's formula for producing catastrophe is indeed valid: "... to produce catastrophes we need only to continue to think and act as we now think and act."

This is true of all of our self-destructive modern society. It's the very heart and core of our message!

The book contains many other profound thoughts and observations. Cobb has the moral courage to be self-critical of the liberal view. He plainly shows its weaknesses while insisting that it shore up its strengths.

I'm sure we can all learn and be challenged by this important volume and I hope the above quotes will stir your interest so that you will want to go out and obtain a copy. Cobb is Ingraham Professor of Theology at Claremont University here in California.

— Brian Knowles

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LETTER COMMENTS

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size of the colleges and universities that teach mostly lies and worthless trash. Maybe they have not seen the tiny mustard seed that this Work is. Maybe they have not seen the prophecies of what the Work still has to accomplish. Maybe, just maybe, someday they will see.

"But I do object to how my money is spent! Not God's tithe, MY money. I object to having to spend it in the world instead of in the Work. I wish that there were some way that a fraction of what we must spend in our own homes just to stay alive could be turned in to the Work in some way. I wish there could be Church-owned grocery and department stores in every community. I wish

there could be a Church bank, insurance company and a whole host of other day-to-day items. Of course, I realize that most of this is not possible, but I feel as though I am casting my financial pearls before the swine only to be trampled under foot. I cannot help think how if only one percent of the money we spend on ourselves could go to the Work, that would be a five to ten percent increase in the income for the Work. Maybe I am too impatient for the arrival of the Kingdom when all of these matters on my mind will be set right and when God, not Satan, will be the One in charge of all aspects of our daily lives.

"Again I want to say we are 100 percent behind the Armstrongs and the Work. We really appreciate the job all of you are doing. And I want to say to anyone who may feel discouraged about how little he is able to do, maybe someone in your own family will be converted as a result of what you do. I recall now some encouragement I received at Big Sandy some years ago: 'The way to enjoy cleaning toilets is to set your mind to being the best toilet cleaner in the world.' Can you picture a king or president visiting Ambassador and having to use a dirty toilet — no paper in the dispenser, dirt on the floor deep enough to leave tracks in, the sink stopped up, no hand towels and the toilet won't flush? If that toilet were your responsibility when the king or president steps out, would you be able to look him in the eye and smile?

"Stick in there, everybody!"

— Mr. & Mrs. Ray M. Rottmann
Houston, Texas

RESPONSES TO GTA TAPED SERMON ABOUT GOSSIP

Comments from "zip my lip" to "shocked about gossip," etc., etc., were received at Mail Processing Center in response to the tape on Gossip, distributed to the Churches. Although two mentioned they had not heard anything until then, the rest had various feelings as a result of the sermon. Excerpts from some of the letters follow.

"I attended one of your Sabbath services where they played the tape from G. T. Armstrong. It was a most enlightening recording and service I have ever been to. Would you believe that after that service I took a good look at myself and want you to know that I was quite shocked to find out that I am of the groups of 'tongue-wagglers.' Be assured that now I watch myself and try to find the good qualities instead of always the bad. Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for a most fascinating service that

taught many people a good lesson, including myself."

— Kathy M. Bailey
St. Louis, MO

"We would like to tell you how much we enjoy listening to the tapes at Sabbath services. They are a great inspiration to us and also they help us to see just what is going on at Headquarters as far as the Work is concerned. This last tape we heard by Garner Ted on gossiping and negativism really stepped on people's toes. It made you stop and think just what you have been saying about people and that God is recording all this down. It is certainly astonishing and bewildering to hear about some of the lies that have been told about various people in God's Work. I find it very hard to imagine how people can be so low as to spread such garbage. But, again that is what Satan wants people to believe about God's Work and it is a dirty, rotten shame.

"I hope we haven't much longer to be concerned about such things. A day is coming when these people who spread such filthy rumors will be judged and taken care of by God. I pray that none of us will be in that group. One thing for sure after hearing the tape from GTA — I'm going to be more cautious of what I say and about whom. Again, thanks for the tapes. They are truly encouraging."

— Mr. & Mrs. Terry Grade
Tulsa, OK

"Thank you for the taped sermon on gossip. I felt as though it were directed at me only. Made me realize how Job must have felt when he found out his attitude of self-righteousness. Thanks again. 'I needed that!!!'"

— Mrs. A. M. Graves
Albion, PA

"Thanks a million for that sermon (the tape). I really needed that. We truly are the tribe of Manasseh — so forgetful! At least I forget so easily. I hope it will be a year before you must give another sermon on gossip on pouring out vomit on our friends and anyone who will listen. No wonder children are so cruel at times — they learn so well from us.

"Thank you again. We all enjoy the tapes and hope you can do it more often!!"

— L. Bogue
Gladewater, TX

"This is to express my personal appreciation for the recorded sermon played locally on June 14. The tongue certainly has been the cause for end-

less personal misery for many. It is always exciting when a taped sermon is played, and always on such timely topics."

— Eric M. Zeppenfeld
Dalinghurst, Australia

"Thank you for the tape sent out to the Churches on gossip. It's a reminder we all need from time to time. It's also one of the hardest things to overcome — I've found.

"To deliberately spread rumors and falsehoods and things we know are lies is awful. I don't think I've been guilty of that, I hope, but when a group is together and there's much talk and laughter, sometimes things will be said that would have been better not said. We are all guilty and fall short.

"It really does scare me to death to realize there is a tape running all day long recording all my words! Like I said, I'm thankful for this reminder.

"Thought that was a very good scripture (I Thess. 4:9). 'Study to be quiet and do (mind) your own business.'

"I'm sorry those rumors about your father and your son were spread about. I hadn't heard them and wouldn't have believed them anyway. The upset we had last year in the Church taught me a few things. In the heat of the battle you can't believe everything you hear.

"So, thank you for taking time to teach us these things — to remind us. Keep sending these tapes — it's good to hear you give a sermon on the Sabbath."

— Mrs. Harley Brown
Oklahoma City, OK

"We were privileged to hear your taped sermon last Sabbath. It was a real inspiration. I do hope we'll hear more of them. It's the next best thing to being there. When I think of the two of you trying to visit every Feast site in the U.S. again this fall, I wish you would reconsider and settle for 2 or 3 each, so you could have a little time to relax and enjoy a little feasting yourselves. I have heard others say that, too, even though we appreciate seeing you in person. *Audio and video tapes can go a long way to filling the gap.*"

— Mrs. W. J. Turkovsky
The Dalles, OR

"We have just returned from Sabbath services, which was the tape you sent out on the tongue and rumors. I doubt that there was one person in the whole Church that will not profit from it. I know I certainly did. I wish you would send out more tapes. They are very inspiring. Just know

that myself and many others are with you each day in thought. And remember the old saying, or maybe it is a new saying . . . Keep trucking."

— Clifford Mongler
Mexico, MO

"Last Sabbath at services we had a taped sermon from you and I thought it about time I write and let you know how I feel about the Work you do. What I mean to say is you spend most of your time in the service of others by writing articles for the *Plain Truth*, the *Good News* and doing the radio programs, trying to expose people to a way of life that we all should be living. Some of us understand and we start to study and pray thanking God that our minds have been opened to realize there is some future hope for us. Of course, other people don't understand and all they can do is criticize. This is understandable because their minds are not opened to the truth as yet.

"I really feel bad, Ted, for the way people try to discredit you and your family with lies and made-up stories. Well that is Satan's way of hurting us and we must fight constantly against him.

"I'm not a great letter writer, but I hope you understand what I've tried to say. I want to be your friend and Co-Worker in God's Work. Maybe all I can do is pray and send what tithes I can, but I hope this will help keep you strong."

— Helen M. Krupp
Tonawanda, NY

"We heard your sermon on gossip and negativism last Sabbath. Thank you so much. I, for one, really needed that and pray daily that I will truly apply it to my day-to-day life. As you were speaking, a poem my father used to quote came to mind. It was so fitting, I thought you might appreciate it.

'Sweeter than the murmuring breezes
'Wafted from the balmy South,
'Are the tintinnabulations of my Automatic
mouth.
'How I love its giddy gurgle,
'How I love its rhythmic flow.
'How I love to wind my mouth up,
'How I love to hear it go!

"Again, thank you for the sermon and I hope this poem will no longer apply to any of us who now know better."

— Linda Gentry
Spokane, WA

"Regarding your sermon that we heard on tape this last Sabbath, I've had this problem to some degree in the past. It is a very dangerous problem

that can come from a long siege of other difficulties and I've often wondered what was the one ingredient present in our lives to keep us from giving in to the urge to quit. That same ingredient helps us to keep our mouths shut from complaining, in fact, to just keep plodding along with the struggle day after day and not really so out of balance that we see so much to complain about.

"I know that for me, failing to keep the goal in mind — to put the Kingdom first — has been the nucleus of my much-stumbling. And it takes a lot more than just saying the magic words, 'Put the Kingdom first' to understand how putting it last ends up only with hardship . . .

"And you have another thought coming if you don't think you made me tremble when you thundered out Matthew 12:36-37 about being made to account for our idle words. No matter how I try to worm out of that one, no matter who else I try to blame for my own instrument of sometimes perpetual motion — it all boils down to the plain and simple fact that it is mine, not someone else's. I've never been one to suffer in silence, so when it seems like my toes have been stepped on I yell 'Ouch' very loudly. I keep forgetting we all are in something very much like New York's 7:30 a.m. B.M.T. subway crush at Canal Street. One still always manages to get to work in spite of the toe-stepping. It's either go through that or leave town.

"I know you were not talking specifically just to me in this sermon, but I have been part of the group you were aiming for and I'm sorry for that. I've prayed that the next time I hear such a sermon it won't have to be so devastatingly applicable to me."

— Lester Zimmerman
Fort Worth, TX

"I was very moved by your taped sermon on the tongue which was played at the Pittsburgh Church this past Sabbath. I strongly agree with the spirit of that sermon, and it came at just the right time for me personally, because I've been doing some thinking on the use of the tongue for the last few weeks now. Yes, too many times the wrong words do slip through our lips in the form of put-downs. I know from experience how it feels to have someone put you down all the time — I was one of those who got picked on a lot in grade school and high school, the type of person you described in part of your sermon. What you said is very true. This sort of continual downgrading of a person can form attitudes which makes it very difficult to gain a positive self-concept and to normally relate to people. On the other hand, I realize

that I have also put people down a lot and I've seen their hurt feelings too. The solution, difficult though it is, is to watch your lips so that put-downs and negative talk do not have a chance, and to dwell on the positive side by complimenting people whenever possible. I've both felt and seen the effect of a sincere compliment, and they can do wonders. I hope to implement this difficult but necessary solution in my own life and your sermon helped further my understanding of the seriousness of controlling the tongue. Thanks again for the needed correction."

— Frank Lewandowski
Indiana, PA

"You showed us love by giving us that sermon on gossip, no matter what the critics say. Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you. I was starting to slip back into that wretched sin — hopefully now I won't. Please, Garner Ted, never get discouraged. Hang in there, and be bolder. Thank you for being such a great leader. Thank you for everything from the bottom of my heart."

— Roy Koons
Littletown, PA

"Thank you for the superb tape we enjoyed this past Sabbath in Cupertino.

"I am sure all our sermons always hit home for someone at the time, and I would like to tell you how it applied to me.

"I am 'new.' I was baptized just before last Feast. I guess when coming into the Church we are filled with high hopes of perfection and don't expect to find any error or human condition we run into on the outside.

"Well, some of my illusions have been shattered concerning human relationships among brethren, including gossip. Where did I get the idea that human beings could be perfect? I don't know, unless it indeed is self-righteousness.

"We've had many sermons on gossip and judging others. I have been a little turned off at times by things I hear and see. Not from the Church itself, I don't believe I would ever leave. I was a long time coming. I believe in my newness, that I am solid enough not to be swayed concerning the government of God's Church. And we are God's Church. Whatsoever is not of God, He will not allow. I have faith in that.

"I have been confronted with many of the situations you mentioned, and it's really easy to get caught up in them. It burns me up to hear people talk about the ministry. But somehow, it didn't penetrate concerning some others.

"So, I see where I have had a bad attitude myself concerning individuals and shall zip my lip and try to spread some sunshine from now on.

"Again, thanks for much needed words and correction, which are from above."

— P. Thompson
Palo Alto, CA

"Thank you Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong for the tape we heard at our Church last Sabbath. It really made me hang my head in shame of some things that had slipped out by using the wonderful member of our body, the tongue. I certainly have been guilty. I've repented of it and hopefully, with the help of God's Holy Spirit, I'll overcome these wrong mouthings of gossip. I'm learning to despise it and the sermon has helped me stop and think about it all the way! Thank you so very, very much. Please give us more tapes from you, as you have the time."

— Mrs. Bobby Prince
Whiteville, NC

"Tell Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong thank you for the tape recording on gossip. I always appreciate all the sermons on human relationships."

— Lue Ennis
Pasadena, TX

"We sincerely appreciate your great sermon on the subject of gossip as heard last Sabbath. Although our local minister is very helpful, it is also very encouraging to understand that your sermons add a great deal to our spiritual menu. We back (and thank also) your father for his work and letters and we will continue to work harder, pray harder and longer for you and this Work."

— Gerhard Zink
Kent, WA

"I am praying for this last end-time Work God is using you to do. I am 100% behind you and was very moved by the taped sermon last Sabbath on gossip. I'm sure God inspired it and I intend to do my best with God's help not to listen to or repeat such things. It literally makes me sick when I hear the horrid things people say about others, and it must make God feel sick inside also."

— Mrs. Stanley Davis
Milwaukie, OR

"Thank you very much for your last sermon of this past Sabbath which was taped for all the Church.

"As Mr. H. W. Armstrong has stated before, we are going to be told time and time again until we understand. Thank you for your willingness to be

used of God and your constant loving admonishment. Unfortunately we have more immature attitudes than we should."

— Ruth Davalos
Los Angeles, CA

"We heard the sermon delivered by Garner Ted Armstrong on tape yesterday and I felt as the lady next to me rightly said, 'It brings us closer to Headquarters and Garner Ted, when we hear a taped message from him as we did.'

"The message on gossip was highly instructive.
"Thank you."

— Theodore X. Economou, D.C.
Calumet City, IL

"I just had to say 'thanks' and compliments for the taped sermon which I was privileged to listen to today.

"Now, I in turn would like to share some of my thoughts and reactions with you. A local radio station here carries a fifteen minute broadcast each weekday morning. On it a man named Don Spate usually has a positive contribution to make concerning 'thinking positive,' etc. I listen to Mr. Spate on my way to work each morning. The other day I heard something he said which really struck me in its effectiveness as a good analogy to also characterize the kind of spiritual lethargy which affects all of us now and then. Mr. Spate was relating how the thoughts which are inside a person determine what kind of character he has. It is the mind and what kind of thoughts we allow to be filtered into our minds that can lead to wrong attitudes, desires, etc. Mr. Spate compared our minds to a heating unit which uses a filter to trap dirt, lint, as well as filter clean air. If the heating unit's filter is not changed or renewed periodically,

it loses its effectiveness to filter. In the same way, we must 'filter' the thoughts which come to us, accepting the good, rejecting the bad. If we fail to 'renew' our filters often through contact with God, prayer and Bible study, the Holy Spirit, just like a filter that needs to be changed, no longer functions within us. I thought it to be so thought-provoking that I wanted to share it."

— David P. Kammer
Lutherville, MD

"I just heard your latest tape in Sabbath services today and I just had to write and tell you how thankful I am for it.

"It has really inspired me to watch my tongue more carefully. God has really corrected me through you. At times I have sat and thought negative thoughts about myself and my life. Now I'm going to change. With God's help I'm going to be thinking positive about everything.

"Thank you so very much for the tape. It's so exciting and inspiring to hear from you."

— Miss Kathleen Gribbin
Kansas City, MO

"Today we of the Toledo Church heard your terrific sermon on gossip, and my wife and I just want to tell you how inspired we are, and how we feel it was much needed.

"I must say that I cringed when I heard you mention the malicious rumors being spread, because this was the first time I had heard anything about them, and I feel your strong corrective sermon was timely and to the point.

"So, thank you very much for a good strong powerful sermon."

— Mr. & Mrs. Miller
Toledo, OH