

The Bulletin



of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2

PAGES 49-68

FEBRUARY 10, 1976

Financial Affairs

Greetings from the Business Office! The long silence has finally ended. We have been busy reorganizing the financial area as a result of Mr. Brown's transfer to England. Things are finally settling down to a dull roar and I am happy to report that January was a very good month. The response to the co-worker letter was extremely successful and turned around what appeared to be a rather low income month.

We are presently working with Mr. Ted Armstrong on budget projections for the next six months, taking a careful look at all our options. At present we are not anticipating any budget cuts per se, but are in the process of looking at some of our major projects and operations with the idea of evaluating what we are doing and whether we can restructure our major thrusts more effectively.

The year-to-date income is still running a -2% and we would like for you fellows to encourage the brethren to continue to pray for the needs of the Work. The membership is certainly doing its part in the way of donations and offerings and we really do appreciate their strong, dedicated support.

One point on the Building Fund; it is starting to dip again and we need to remind the brethren of the need there as well, and if they have any extra from time to time that they can allocate to the Building Fund, we would certainly appreciate it.

We have just concluded a meeting with Mr. Ted Armstrong and Mr. Sherwin McMichael of the Festival Office and are presently pursuing the possibility of the sale of some of our church-owned feast sites. The sale of any assets of this nature is

very beneficial to us in that it will help to supplement our cash reserves.

I am making this short now, but will keep you posted on any shifts in the income and on some of our up-and-coming budget plans and projects here at Headquarters.

— Ray Wright

International Division

Greetings to all ministers and supervisory personnel worldwide.

We here at the International Division need your help. Many of the members of the Church have been very interested in writing to some of the brethren in the overseas areas. But the many ads for "pen-pals" have created somewhat of a problem. The problem is especially acute with regard to the correspondence from "under-developed, newly-emerging or have-not nations." Recently a number of letters from members or local pastors have been forwarded to this office or to Mr. Jackson. All too often the pen-pal correspondents have established a friendly relationship through two or

NOTICE

Since deacons who give sermonettes are now receiving personal copies of the Bulletin in the mail, we would like to know if there are any other pastors who *no longer* need to receive two extra copies for their deacons to read. Please notify the Managing Editor.

three letters and then... "the touch." Numerous ways are found to acquaint the "pen-pal" of the terrible needs — financial and otherwise — of their new found friend. Some of the most heartfelt letters then come to us asking if there isn't some way these poor people can be helped.

On investigation, it is usually found that such requests are not coming from members of the Worldwide Church of God but from individuals who, through their experience with the missionary movements in their country, have learned that Christian-minded people will often send money.

In some few cases, our local minister is already working with the situation. We obviously want to give all the help we can where it is needed and deserved. But at the same time, we don't want to see our other members taken advantage of by undeserving individuals. If the request is a genuine one which we are unaware of, we will make every effort to provide assistance.

Please ask your church members to forward such requests for assistance to this office for handling, or if they would rather, they can send the requests directly to Mr. Jackson, Mr. Adair, Mr. Dickinson or whoever the man is who is working with the area involved.

Thanks for your help.

—Leslie L. McCullough

Mail Processing

Greetings for the new year of 1976! The year is off to a favorable beginning in many respects and is giving us some *very good news* to report — something we hope can be a keynote for the rest of the entire year.

Excellent Response to GTA Letter

In the last issue of *The Bulletin*, we referred to the fine response Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong's December letter had from the members, co-workers, and donors it was mailed to. In fact, it did so well it became the *best* "co-worker" letter for 1975!

Now, we have received an *even better* response from the letter Mr. Ted Armstrong wrote later in the month of December, also mailed to members, co-workers and donors.

Membership reaction to this letter has been pouring into the Mail Processing Center in the last few weeks and, without a doubt, they contain comments which are the most enthusiastic, full of loyalty, and inspiring that could be hoped for!

The Bulletin

of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

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They state they are behind the Messrs. Armstrong and the Church to the limit and are confident that the act of "stepping out in faith" will not fail, because God is faithful. Mentioned again and again is their gratitude for the dedication and faithfulness of the Armstrongs, father and son, toward God and the Work they both have been called to do. Thanksgiving for their own personal conversion as a result of this ministry is also a predominant theme expressed by the many writers of these letters of response.

As of January 30 we have received 34,732 responses to this most recent letter. Out of those letters we have been able to process, 96% have included an offering given to God's Work — another indication of the wholehearted and genuine sincerity these people feel! Selected excerpts appear in the "Letter Comments" section.

Annual Recap

Looking at 1975 in brief review, a lot has been accomplished by God's Work. Below is a general summary for the year showing the proportionate number of mail or phone responses to our various media:

(Continued on page 63)

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

Herbert W. Armstrong
President and Pastor

Garner Ted Armstrong
Executive Vice-President

February 8, 1976

To all ministers:

GREETINGS in Jesus' name!

Included in this Bulletin, for your advance reading, is a vitally important letter which I am going to send to the entire Church concerning the upcoming 1976 Feast of Tabernacles.

Read it very carefully, because it represents a "restatement" of official Church POLICY concerning the "festival tithe" (I much prefer that all of us refer to "second tithe" by this term, rather than ever using the term "second tithe" again) and the practice of sending in the "tithe of the tithe."

The letter speaks for itself in these areas, so I will not belabor it here, except to say that this letter supersedes any over-zealous statements made in past years, not only from pulpits but in print. (While I don't think they appeared in any important articles either in the Plain Truth or in other leading publications, they did occur in some of the material circulated among the ministry and in other mimeographed material which I am sure could be used against us by enemies.) These statements implied that for anyone, for whatever reason, to avoid saving a full ten percent as second tithe was tantamount to stealing from God and would result in burning forever in the Lake of Fire!

It has been years since any such statements or sentiments were either written or voiced, and the practice for the last several years in God's Church, not only in exceptional cases handled individually in the United States, but most specifically in the entire administration of the festival tithe in Australia and to a large extent in England and other countries, has in fact altered the previous policy.

I explained this in my letter quite thoroughly. However, I wanted to mention to you in the ministry that it very likely was additionally a misinterpretation of the statement in Malachi 3:10 concerning bringing all the tithes into the storehouse. Some may have assumed, since the word "tithes" is used rather than the word "tithe," that this obviously implied more than one tithe and thus meant a second and/or a third tithe!

But this is a drastic forcing of the text! In the first place, it is speaking of "tithes"--in the plural--brought by a number of

people rather than one individual bringing a number of tithes! Secondly, it is speaking of bringing the tithes and OFFERINGS into "the storehouse," obviously implying the Temple treasury or implying service to God!

Thus, if we are to force this text to imply second tithe as well as first tithe, we must also preach the doctrine of "first offering" and "second offering"!

This would be ridiculous, as I'm sure we can all see--and there is never any statement in the Bible to imply that the second tithe, or as I prefer to call it, festival tithe, is to be brought into GOD'S storehouse. Rather, we are to save it FOR OURSELVES!

I hope you will read thoroughly every word of the letter and familiarize yourself with it, since the brethren will be receiving it soon after you read this advance copy in the Bulletin.

Frankly, men, this letter is fantastically important to God's Work at this time! Our festival fund is very, very low, and the expenses incurred for the conduct of the Feast are increasing by leaps and bounds with runaway inflation!

I have not yet said anything concerning curtailing of a very reasonable ministerial expense from the festival fund to provide the wherewithal for you and your families to enjoy the Feast--but I would like to mention, once again, that I would hope that all of you in the ministry WILL save as much as you can toward the Feast as an example to your brethren, and for the personal enjoyment of you and your families!

I would like to delve into just a few of the questions which have arisen in past years over gifts for families out of the festival tithe.

Some of those who have left the Church very recently were very far "on the right" answering questions placed before them concerning use of the festival tithe in purchasing gifts for family members. One such individual reportedly said, when asked whether a suit of clothes or a watch would be an appropriate gift for a child, "If he can eat it, it is." Perhaps I shouldn't put this statement in quotations, since that type of thing has a way of being misinterpreted and becoming hearsay, but that was the intent of what was said.

I frankly believe nothing could be further from the truth! After all, God's people are not called into God's Church and to conduct His Work for the purpose of playing cute little games with Him.

Any individual who is seeking to find ways and means to get around his obligation before God and to find ways of spending all of the money he possibly can out of his festival tithe for suits, luggage, a new automobile, gifts of all types and descriptions which will last for many, many years, is simply kidding himself and missing the entire intent of God's command to observe the festivals and His

clearly-stated WAY by which we may observe them--that of saving a festival tithe!

But how many times do you give a child a watch? Maybe they can wear out a Mickey Mouse watch every other year--I don't know--but if so, then I see nothing wrong whatsoever with providing them with a new one at the festival time!

For a family to purchase a new outfit of clothing for a child just in advance of the Festival so he may look his very best in attending services and may enjoy the excitement of new clothing which could still be worn to school and for other activities such as local church meetings is completely within the spirit and intent of the observance of the Festival!

I cannot imagine that a family who would trade its flocks and produce for money, living hundreds of miles away from God's festival site in Jerusalem in ancient Israel, and who would then journey to Jerusalem to purchase "sheep, or oxen, or whatsoever their soul desired" would allow the stock owner, once they had purchased the cattle or the sheep, to retain the hide and all other products derived from the animal which might be useful.

By way of modern analogy, you might deduce that the purchase of several head of cattle or sheep could result in a great deal of useful material which could be made into anything from shoes to clothing in addition to clothing made from vegetable fiber, and I have no reason to doubt that those in ancient Israel availed themselves of this by-product which could, in fact, last throughout several years.

All of us ministers and the brethren should be taught to encourage our children by gifts, including perhaps a new suit of clothing and even an item such as a watch or other more permanent gift, which would make the festival season something to be anticipated with enjoyment and excitement. This would, in fact, help to pale the worldly observances of Christmas and Easter into insignificance in the minds of our youth.

You can use wisdom and judgment in answering questions which may come to you concerning individual items a person may worry over--but I know in my heart that for a person to make heavy repairs on their automobile, if it is truly necessary to observe the Festival, such as purchasing a new set of tires, a new battery, etc., is completely within the principle of the saving of the festival tithe, and it is not OUR responsibility to be "spiritual policemen" to circumspectly investigate every individual activity of a local church member to make sure he does not go overboard in this or that area! We ARE, as I reiterate so often, "helpers of their joy" and not "policemen over their faith"!

One vitally important point: I do need YOUR HELP in backing up this letter from the pulpit by way of announcements at Bible Studies and Sabbath services, gently reminding people that they should send in their "tithe of a tithe" as soon as they possibly

can. Actually, any who would even be saving a partial festival tithe could easily have ten percent of the proposed total available in their private bank account by now! I don't have to tell you how important this is to the festival fund and to the overall bank statement of the Work as a whole. Even though we no longer count the festival fund as income, and it cannot be used for other purposes, nevertheless it does help us by protecting our lines of credit with the banks and in maintaining sufficient cash deposits so as to shield us from difficulties in obtaining necessary loans and conducting the Work.

Additionally, there are week-by-week major expenses incurred by the Festival Department which need to be paid long prior to the fall season!

To let you in on the inside info concerning festival sites: I have given the full go-ahead to the Business Office to investigate the possibility of the sale of the sites at the Poconos, the Dells, and the Ozarks. We are not on any crash or emergency program, in desperation, or in urgent need to sell these sites--and we are not going to be willing to accept a price dramatically below that of appraised value. However, as we can and through right and normal channels, we are pursuing the possible sale of these festival sites. Number one on the priority list is the disposal of the Poconos property, since it is the least popular, weatherwise, of all of our festival sites in the United States, and has proved to be the one most people wish to transfer out of more than any other.

This is not meant for "gossip" to pass on to the brethren to make them assume we are on some crash or emergency program to "dump" these expensive properties. However, we need to realize that upwards of one-third of a million dollars in maintenance costs are necessary RIGHT NOW to repair parking lots, driveways, walkways, leaky roofs, sewage and water systems, to do painting, etc., etc., which you can well imagine would amount to this great sum of money for such large properties.

It is to avoid these tremendous maintenance costs and to divest ourselves of the liability of these large sites and the necessity to pay salaries for their maintenance throughout the year that we have decided to proceed with the sale of these festival sites in a decent and orderly manner, exercising caution and hoping to obtain the maximum price possible.

I'll keep you informed of any significant developments.

That's about it for now. Let me ask you once again to back me up by encouraging your brethren to send in their "tithe of the tithe" as soon as they possibly can!

Warmest personal regards and love to you all! Thanks ever so much for the continuous stream of encouraging cards and letters coming from so many of you in the ministry. We do think about you and pray for you continually, and I am constantly telling those here at

Headquarters how vitally essential all of you fellows are as a part of the team, holding up our hands and doing the Work together with us!

I never enter my office without, it seems, another letter or memo from one in the ministry awaiting me to tell of his support and loyalty and the enthusiasm he has for God's Work! And you should see the tremendous STACKS of letters on the desk resulting from my December 24 member and co-worker letter!

Richard Rice tells me that letter received the most enthusiastic response of any in recent history by far!

I am looking forward to spending next Sabbath with our brethren in combined services in the Edmonton-Alberta area, then preaching in the afternoon of the same day to our combined services in Vancouver, B.C., and attending the Ambassador College-Frasier University basketball game later that evening.

Thanks again for all your help and encouragement!

Your brother in Christ,

Barnes Ted Armstrong

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

Herbert W. Armstrong
President and Pastor

Garner Ted Armstrong
Executive Vice-President

February 8, 1976

Dear Brethren of God's Church:

GREETINGS, in Jesus' name! I'm back at Headquarters following my recent trip to Egypt and am awaiting word as to whether President Sadat will be available for the interviews I had requested in the first week of March.

Even though it is yet very early in the year, I wanted to write to you concerning the upcoming FEAST OF TABERNACLES, and especially concerning the saving of "second tithe." (I MUCH prefer to call it a festival tithe, though NEITHER name is mentioned directly in scripture.)

There is NO question whatever concerning the fact that ancient Israel was commanded to "bind up in their hand" their tithe to journey to the Feasts. Notice the wording in Moffatt's translation: "Every year you must take a tenth of all the produce from your property, and, in presence of the Eternal your God, at the sacred spot which he chooses for his presence, you must eat the tithe of your corn, your wine, your oil, and the firstlings of your herd and flock, that you may learn always to revere the Eternal your God. If the road is too long, so that you cannot carry your tithe, if the sacred spot which the Eternal your God chooses for his presence is too far away, then, when the Eternal your God has prospered you, you must turn your tithe into money and carry it in your hand to the sacred spot chosen by the Eternal your God, where you may spend your money on whatever your heart desires, oxen, sheep, wine, or liquor--anything you have a craving for; there you must eat before the Eternal your God, you and your household, rejoicing; nor must you neglect the Levite belonging to your household, for he owns no property or possession in your land" (Deut. 14:22-27).

In this modern day, when MOST of God's people are not involved in agriculture, only a very few actually change their produce into money. Most are paid in currency for labor, or earn money from conducting their own business. God's Church in this age has traditionally obeyed and practiced this living principle of God--knowing it is THE WAY God Himself provided for His people to observe the FEAST, a great time of REJOICING and spiritual rejuvenation.

Sometimes, because of the MISnomer of "second tithe," some wildly irresponsible journalists have sought to accuse God's Church of "extorting" this "SECOND tithe," as if this were money coming TO THE CHURCH! This is now, and has always been, utter nonsense. The brethren of God's Church have saved a tithe of their income for THEMSELVES, for their OWN personal use and enjoyment--following this principle of God revealed in scripture--and, by the thousands, they have been blessed for so doing!

But what of some of those whose incomes are so low as to be on the verge of poverty level? Should THEY save the festival tithe? Due to stifling tax laws, as in the case of our brethren in Australia and other countries, this has become all but impossible. In those cases, the Church has made clear that it will pursue every possible accommodation to help the brethren continue to attend the Festivals. This has been done by decentralization; by conducting Feast of Tabernacles services in more local areas where this is required as a financial necessity; by explaining that some should perhaps plan on coming to the Feast only every other year; or that only the head of the household need come in times of financial stress. What we have administered in Australia is as follows:

1) The principle of saving the festival tithe is definitely the Bible example. It is the method God set for observing His required annual Feast Days!

2) IF, in times and circumstances of financial hardship, one cannot save a full tenth of one's income in order to attend the Festival, then such a one should save as much as possible and hope to attend the Feast anyhow.

3) If such savings are insufficient to attend the Feast, then extra festival-fund assistance can be given (hopefully), provided by a fund created by those whose full festival tithe is MORE than their own needs.

4) IF festival-fund assistance is just not possible, then such an individual simply remains home, and through tapes, letters, sermon notes and contact with other brethren, gleans as much as possible from the Feast though not in personal attendance.

Because of some confusion in the minds of some few, I wanted to write to all of you to clarify the Church policy on festival tithe.

1) YOU SHOULD SAVE A FULL FESTIVAL TITHE if you are able! That statement needs no lengthy explanation. Each individual knows his own financial capabilities--knows whether or not he can save a full ten percent of adjusted gross income.

2) IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE, in good conscience (and God knows our circumstances, our hearts, and our needs), to save a full

festival tithe, then save as much as you can--it still may be enough to attend the Feast nearest you!

3) If you must request extra festival-tithe assistance, then do so through your local church pastor or designated festival elder.

4) You should definitely send in your "tithe of the tithe" (roughly ten percent of your festival tithe) to the Festival Department for the heavy expenditures incurred through rentals and lease agreements for festival sites; maintenance and operation of church-owned festival sites; provision for a festival fund to assist brethren in need.

The PRINCIPLE, brethren, is clear. God Almighty calls His Feasts "commanded assemblies," "holy CONVOCATIONS," "feasts of the Eternal," and He REQUIRES our attendance "ACCORDING TO THE BLESSING OF THE ETERNAL" and AS YOU ARE ABLE.

It is most definitely NOT A SIN when one's financial condition makes it impossible to save a full festival tithe! There need be NO guilt feelings, or feelings of spiritual inferiority or inadequacy with such a common problem during these times of runaway inflation, business recession, and the welfare policies of socialistic governments which take individuals' own personal financial integrity away from them.

But saving the full festival tithe is the biblical example. It is the mind of God--HIS plan and purpose in human lives, of which you read in Deuteronomy 14. God's Church has recognized this way of life, and we strive to follow it!

Unfortunately, some in the past have tended to create stringent burdens connected with festival attendance and observance because of overly zealous interpretations placed on how the festival tithe may be used.

Some have felt it is wrong to purchase any presents for their children or family members "unless you can eat it," and some few --in the past--have so advised. But this is ridiculous! Think for a moment about the animal products of ancient Israel. When one purchased an ox or a sheep, did he only eat of the flesh and throw away the hide and any other useful products from the animal? In today's society, we STILL wrap our feet in cow's hide; hold up our trousers with animal skins (including skins of anything from alligators to water moccasins); wear wool clothing, sheepskin jackets, etc., etc.

We live in a modern society and have modern needs and requirements. It is RIGHT, brethren, to bestow gifts upon our children and loved ones during the Festival. The festival tithe is YOUR money--AS SUCH IT IS NEVER CLAIMED BY GOD! NEVER is there any

statement in the Bible that you have "robbed God" by not saving a full festival tithe! You MAY be "robbing yourself" of extra blessings, of fellowship, or excitement and fun during this spiritual highlight of the year by failing to provide the wherewithal to attend--but you are most definitely NOT "robbing God."

Therefore, the festival tithe is a PERSONAL obligation--one which nets YOU all the rewards and blessings, and which also nets OTHERS a great blessing. It falls in the category of going the EXTRA mile, of doing even MORE than that which is required, of being ZEALOUS for your God and the truth He has given you--NOT in the category of a great SIN if your financial condition makes you unable to save it.

I fully realize an over-zealous interpretation could be placed on the saving of the festival tithe--if for no other reason, simply based on the statement "whatsoever is not of faith is SIN"! Perhaps it would be easy to assume that if a person did not save a full festival tithe (because of financial hardship), he is "STEALING" money which is to be set aside for a specific purpose! But how can one STEAL FROM ONESELF? This letter, then, represents official clarification of existing church policy.

We have had to make spiritual judgments (and God gives the power to "bind and loose" to His Church) when brethren in other countries encountered severe financial hardship. For many years we have been able to clearly show, statistically, that many brethren were simply not saving a full festival tithe, or, even if saving diligently, had sometimes yielded to the temptation to "borrow" from their own festival savings for other purposes. Hence, some fell into very poor attitudes resulting from wearing a guilt complex, feeling condemned and sinful.

Festival tithe is pictured, in the passages already quoted, as being saved from the BLESSINGS God is pouring out. NOWHERE in the Bible does God challenge us concerning the festival tithe, saying IF we save a full ten percent, then He will bless us, etc. Rather, it is implied that we ARE ABLE to save a full ten percent BECAUSE HE HAS ALREADY BLESSED US!

Clearly God wants us to save a full festival tithe. He shows it is the way by which we may attend His COMMANDED, HOLY CONVOCATIONS--and the way by which we can REJOICE with our families and brethren. Remember, brethren, the Feast of Tabernacles pictures the KINGDOM OF GOD on earth; the MILLENNIUM, a time of PEACE and a time of bounteous PLENTY for the WHOLE WORLD! I have preached in past years against OVERDOING the Feast. I recall one sermon I entitled, "Are You Having a FEAST, or an ORGY?" Some have felt that they may be overdoing the food and drink during the Feast--but this is no reason to AVOID the Feast, nor to AVOID saving the festival tithe, but merely one more test of character in HOW TO OBSERVE the Feast!

I sincerely hope this letter will put to rest, once and for all, any remaining doubts or confusion over the principle of "second tithe," as it has been called--the festival tithe God tells us to SAVE FOR OURSELVES! YOU SHOULD SAVE A FULL TEN PERCENT "ACCORDING AS GOD HAS BLESSED YOU." If you simply CANNOT, then save AS MUCH AS YOU CAN for yourself and your family, and so you can have extra festival tithe to give to your brethren in need! IF YOU CANNOT save ANY festival tithe because of severe financial hardship, then you may have to rely on the generosity of your brethren who have more and who are able to give to help those who are financially unable.

ABOUT THE 1976 FEAST: Once again, my father and I are planning to attend ALL U.S. festival sites this coming autumn! I want to announce now that this year we have reduced the number of festival sites by three, while adding one NEW site.

We will not be returning to Niagara Falls, Salt Lake City, or Roanoke, Virginia, in 1976 according to current plans, but we have added a beautiful NEW site, Hampton, Virginia, on the Atlantic seaboard--a fabulous vacation and recreation area--for this fall. Also, because of the deep desire of so many of you who want to see the Headquarters campus and the new Auditorium, I have authorized the designation of Pasadena as a festival site and am allowing those who wish to do so, and who are financially able, to ask for assignment here.

ABOUT TRANSFERS: I had to reconsider my earlier thoughts concerning transfers when, following a "Personal" in the Worldwide News, I received a large number of letters from those who mentioned so many points concerning families; new grandchildren; a desire to change climate; that the FEAST is their only annual vacation; their desire to see Headquarters, etc., etc. Thus, we WILL ALLOW transfers with only one restriction, which is that we cannot accept a transfer to Pasadena, Jekyll Island, or St. Petersburg for TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS.

This does NOT mean you cannot transfer two years consecutively to any other feast site, but these three sites have proved to be the MOST popular, and the many thousands of you who wish to transfer (HOW WELL I can understand some of you frost-bitten Northeasterners and Midwesterners wanting to get down there and bask in the Florida sunshine!) to these sites make it mandatory that we limit the transfers to one year at a time.

By the way, it's time to PLAN RIGHT NOW, and write to the Festival Office--using the envelopes you will receive when the next festival mailing reaches you--if you wish to transfer, or even if you want to make your reservations early.

ABOUT MOTEL COMMISSIONS: This year we are NOT collecting the ten percent motel commission. We are going to rely on YOU, brethren,

to "step out on FAITH" with God, and we are abandoning the ten percent motel commission plan which provided badly needed funds for defraying large festival expenses. I have had to STEP OUT ON FAITH in contracting for DOZENS of new radio and television stations! We have been SORELY in need--with our income taking a downward trend--making it appear we will end the fiscal year with several percentage points MINUS! But I HAVE NOT YET CANCELLED A SINGLE STATION! The THOUSANDS of letters coming back from you brethren, and from our co-workers and donors, have been very enthusiastic over this great step forward for the Work, and have encouraged me over and over again about stepping out ON FAITH--depending entirely on God to supply our need! So, we're also going to HAVE FAITH that enough of you brethren will send in your "tithe of the tithe" (another misnomer, perhaps), or ten percent of YOUR FESTIVAL FUND, to help pay for the expenses of leases, rentals, festival site payments, maintenance, local hall rentals for the spring festivals, member assistance for festival travel, the Y.O.U. festival activities, etc., etc.

ABOUT THE "TITHE OF THE TITHE": Remember, the "Feast of Booths," as it was called (tabernacles MEANS "booths"), is to be observed by God's people "dwelling in booths" or temporary dwelling places. This has spiritual significance--showing our "sojourn" in this life, picturing a people who are "strangers and pilgrims" and who have "no certain dwelling place" but who look forward to the KINGDOM OF GOD arriving on this earth! Even as we save of our own incomes to provide for our own private, temporary dwelling place, so we should realize that the BIG "tabernacle" (today, usually an enclosed arena, sports palace, auditorium, etc.) must also be provided. Many years ago, when we met in a TENT in Big Sandy, in Jekyll Island, up in Penticton, and in a partially enclosed building with a canvas back wall in Squaw Valley, this analogy was even more obvious. We have known that the expenses for our own enjoyment in attending the SPIRITUAL feast during the festivals should NOT be paid out of FIRST tithe--which should go for the conduct of the WORK! Hence, we asked, many years ago, that brethren recognize the need for rentals, leases, and payments for the large meeting places and send in a "tithe" of the festival fund to meet that need.

One major area of concern recently has been the dramatic decline in the number of brethren who are sending in their "tithe of the tithe" (for lack of a better term) to meet these serious needs. I must call on you, brethren, to respond--to send in your "tithe of the tithe" as soon as you are able so we can meet the very serious needs in preparing for the Feast this year.

Another important point: Even though we cannot count this fund as income in any sense of the word, it DOES, for those months of the year it is in our accounts, very greatly HELP our overall financial statement with our banks, and thus boosts God's Work in a significant way.

I know it takes FAITH sometimes--especially in managing our own personal financial affairs--but it takes a great deal of FAITH, brethren, to manage the affairs of GOD'S GREAT WORK on this earth, too! It is a WORK OF FAITH, after all--and a Work of THOSE WHO ARE BEING FAITHFUL with God!

Additionally, remember that ANY TITHE OF THE TITHE, or any EXCESS festival tithe, you may send in now or contribute at the Feast is deductible from your income tax. Naturally, the festival tithe you yourself consume is not.

That's about it for now, brethren. By the way, I tried something new this past Sabbath here in Pasadena. I asked our television crew to set up our video pod outside the Auditorium, and we televised the regular Sabbath services and my sermon, "What is Truth?" I hope we can make a "special" out of it by reducing it down, or perhaps two separate one-half-hour programs. At the very least, as an experiment, it may be a way I can preach sermons for thousands of you brethren in overseas areas--so perhaps I can reach you with a SERMON during the Feast, even though I'm not physically able to be there. I'll let you know how it all comes out.

Finally, I want to say THANK YOU, VERY MUCH, from the bottom of my heart, for the tremendous SUPPORT you have shown in these recent weeks and months! I have received card after card (some of them feet wide, with the WHOLE CONGREGATION signing them!) and THOUSANDS of letters telling how you brethren are praying for my father and me, for the Work, and for each other! Obviously, I can't answer them all personally, but I DO READ A GREAT NUMBER of them! The reaction to my member and co-worker letter of December 24th has been one of the most warming and encouraging of all time!

Until next time--probably in the "Personal" in the WN--

With much love, in Christ,

Barney Ted Armstrong

Herbert W. Armstrong UPDATE

On February 3 Mr. Armstrong will be speaking in Jerusalem — a long-awaited opportunity for him to speak before a distinguished group of Israelis who have been invited by Minister of Tourism, Moshe Kol, to hear the man that Minister Kol first recognized as a "builder of bridges between peoples and nations everywhere."

Last year, in November, Mr. Armstrong was to speak at a Testimonial Dinner in his honor in Tel-Aviv, but he was suddenly stricken with a touch of vertigo and, unfortunately, was not able to appear. You may recall that I was asked to speak in his place.

Immediately after Jerusalem, Mr. Armstrong is scheduled to fly to Cairo where he will give a similar address before a distinguished group of Egyptian nationals and members of the Foreign Diplomatic Corps who have been invited by our very dear friend, the Ambassador from Ethiopia to Cairo, Ambassador Mekasha, who you may recall was formerly posted to India. We have not seen the Ambassador for some time because during the interval, you will recall, the government of Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia was overthrown and all of the Ambassadors recalled to Addis Ababa. For some time we did not know the fate of our dear friend, although we had taken steps to insure the safety of his wife and children in the event that he was unable to take care of them himself. We were very concerned for quite a few days after the execution by the revolutionary government of so many highly placed Ethiopian nationals, but fortunately the Ambassador was not one of those reportedly killed. It is interesting to note that another of our good friends from the government of Haile Selassie was the President of the Haile Selassie University, and he has now been named Minister of Culture.

We had returned to Pasadena for only a very few days, after a quick visit to Europe and a four-day preparatory visit to Nassau. In Paris, I was able to meet with the Minister of Culture, Mr. Michel Guy, and the Secretary General of his Ministry, to discuss future AICF projects in France. I was also able to meet with Mr. Brown and our English solicitor to discuss various organizational problems for the AICF in England as well as to

discuss Ambassador College United Kingdom, Ltd., and the Worldwide Church of God in light of the recent events in that area.

We arrived in Nassau on Thursday, and Friday morning we met with the Minister of Education and Culture for an hour, as well as with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry. He and his fellow Bahamians are looking forward to our efforts in that area through the AICF, and he has promised us his complete cooperation for such efforts, as well as for Mr. Armstrong's campaign scheduled for February 20, 21 and 22. Mr. Armstrong and I were interviewed for 45 minutes on the government owned radio station, and the tape of that interview is available for the brethren in the United States, should any of the ministers request a copy. Mr. Armstrong conducted Sabbath Services before about 150 members attending, with Mr. Bass present as well. On both Friday and Saturday evenings Professor Gotoh, Mr. Bass and I were able to do quite a bit of advance work for the campaign later this month — Friday before a committee of some 50 people who would be directly assisting in the campaign, and Saturday evening before some 425 people who were invited to see the 16 mm film "Herbert W. Armstrong, Ambassador for World Peace." I was able to speak for some 30 minutes before each of the groups to encourage their participation and cooperation and to explain more fully the Work.

Mr. Armstrong will be speaking to the Church in England on Friday evening, the 13th, and Saturday, the 14th, and then he will fly directly to Nassau for one week — culminating in the appearances on the 20th, 21st, and the 22nd before upwards of 2500 people.

— Stanley R. Rader

MAIL PROCESSING

(Continued from page 50)

Radio & Television	222,488	8.4%
Plain Truth	147,244	5.5%
Good News	31,448	1.2%
Advertising & Booklets	28,109	1.0%
Literature Cards	40,560	1.5%
Direct Mail	844,864	31.8%
Member & Co-worker Mail	673,993	25.4%
Correspondence Course	26,808	1.1%
Miscellaneous	74,303	2.8%
Total Mail	2,089,817	78.7%
WATS Registries	565,319	21.3%
TOTAL	2,655,136	100.0%

Although the above figures reflect a decrease in mail when compared to the previous year, it is still very gratifying to realize that these numbers rep-

resent literally millions of people we have been able to help. They are people whose lives have been given a new sense of direction and meaning and who have perhaps experienced for the first time a new dimension of faith in God, being able to understand His purpose, and to share in the goals of this Work to publish this understanding to all we can. Incidentally, a bright fact to note is that the total registries for the WATS area is a whopping 127% increase over 1974 — and that's great growth! How truly gratifying to know that we all are participating in a work that is helping mankind.

That's all for this time.

— Richard Rice

LETTER COMMENTS

"THERE WILL ALWAYS BE AN ENGLAND" — TAPED SERMON

The following comments are indicative of about five dozen that were received in response to Mr. GTA's taped sermon.

"We just recently heard the tape of your sermon regarding the Bricket Wood affair. It was truly one of the strongest and most inspiring sermons that I've ever heard. It's a shame that such unpleasant problems defer you and your father from doing your God-given jobs. But if that kind of sermon is a result, maybe it's a situation that God has turned to be useful. That kind of sermon inspires me, and reinforces my belief that you and your father are truly God's servants, and that this is the true Church, and that we all are part of God's Work."

— Mrs. Dwight Blevins
Banner, WY

"It was good to hear your taped sermon on the 'truth' of what has happened in England.

"I enjoy listening to you on the Sabbath. You are positive, edifying and encouraging.

"Freeing the Church from anxieties is good at anytime (John 8:32)."

— Matt Ferriso,
Ft. Washington, NY

"I was talking to Mr. Mocarow on the phone Monday, January 5, and told him that your tape of January 3 was so powerful that my son Creig, 18, said, 'that brings tears to your eyes.' As I finished saying this to Mr. Mocarow I even choked up and had to ask him if I could hang up that I couldn't talk any more and he replied, 'write it to Mr. Armstrong.' Hence this letter.

"What an impact you have with the taped sermon! December 24 letter, the editorial in the

Worldwide News, the January issue of the *Good News*, 'What is true Liberty?' and your television programs. How do you do it? Each seems 'best yet.' Have been taking the *Plain Truth* since 1939 and paying tithes continuously since '39. Five children have attended Ambassador College. Never missed a word you or your father have written, and hope I never will in the future."

— Francis Spencer Houghtaling,
Danville, OH

"Just finished hearing your tape at services. Afterwards, our minister asked what we thought about it. I wish you could have been here to hear the applause. I can say the Church at Jackson is behind you — all the way!"

— Paul Maddox, Jr.,
Jackson, MS

"Concerning the recent trouble that arose in Bricket Wood, England, I heard the taped sermons that you gave concerning this trouble.

"I just want to thank you Mr. GTA and your father for the firm stand you made on the issues brought to question.

"I agree with you 100%, that there is no grounds for discussion about whether to keep God's law or not, for God's law is the foundation upon which all of the truth stands. It is the very basis for all which we believe in."

— Marion Shores,
Cartersville, VA

"After hearing your taped sermon last Sabbath, we can only hope all will take to heart the job we are to be doing. We have found in the past year that when things seem at their worst, that patience and continued faith in God's power to intervene are great assets to living in this age."

— Mr. & Mrs. R. Lyle Davis,
Brewster, WA

"I just wanted to express my appreciation, joy and enthusiasm over Mr. Ted Armstrong's taped sermon about England. It truly must have been inspired because his words were exactly the ones needed for that situation — clearly showing that the Sabbath and the law of God still stand, despite all the attempts and false literature to destroy them."

— George R. McGraw,
Huntsville, AL

REACTION TO SECOND GTA DECEMBER MEMBER LETTER

Membership reaction to Mr. G. T. A.'s second letter dated December 24, 1975, has been pouring

into Mail Processing Center in the last few weeks and without a doubt, they are the most enthusiastic, full of loyalty and the most inspiring letters that could be hoped for. They state that they are behind the Messrs. Armstrong and the Church to the limit and are confident that the act of "stepping out in faith" would not fail, because God is faithful. Spoken of again and again was their gratitude for the dedication and faithfulness of the Armstrongs, father and son, toward God and the Work they had been called to do, and their conversion as a result of this ministry.

The comments we have received in response to this letter are so numerous it is impossible to include them all in this report, therefore, we settled for the following excerpts:

"Please do not become discouraged in any way — God will do His Work. Remember, we pray for you that you will be equipped with every spiritual and physical need to do God's Work."

"Thank you for the hard work and sacrifice you give because He calls you to it. May our sacrifices be equal to your efforts and be what is needed to 'walk the Work' through the doors that are opening."

"Don't worry, God will provide. I know God has to be sustaining you to keep this Work going. This Work is too much for an ordinary person."

"I love you both with all my heart and I pray for you both. I ask God to give you both the courage, the energy and the health that you need to continue to announce the good news of God's Kingdom."

"Things became as clear to me as a Rocky Mountain stream — my heart was not wrapped up and totally absorbed in this Work. Only until I woke up to the horrors of my lethargic ways could I really desire wholeheartedly to try to awaken the people of this world from their lethargy by supporting this Work more intensively."

"We realize the job you have and the job your father has are certainly not easy. We can really feel for you, realizing there are doors to walk through and not enough money to go through them. We are behind you and are constantly thinking of the work you are doing! God's Work!"

"We of the Body enjoy hearing the voice do its work. If the voice can keep the heart growing, the Body will grow strong, stay strong and finish the work. Please keep up the fantastic work. I think

the whole membership is heart and will keep pumping!!!"

"I know how trying these times must be for you and your family and I just want to let you know that you are constantly in our prayers. We are with you all the way."

"Things are so much worse in this world than they were just a *little* while ago. The GOOD NEWS of the Kingdom of God has simply got to go out to all people. Hang in there."

"Yes, we are behind you and your father in whatever way we can help. Prayer for you and your father is constant in my heart."

"Your letter inspired me plum down to my knees in earnest prayer. I'm positive that God will come through, as always, Mr. Armstrong. Keep the 'ole chin up' and hang in there. We love you and are behind you 100%."

"The Bible states that the trying of our faith works patience. One of the main characteristics of the Philadelphia Church is *patience*. How *can* we have patience if our faith isn't *tested*? There must be some reason Jesus said His Church *keeps* the Word of His patience. This drop in income must be the test of that faith before the result."

"This family is faithfully supporting this Work with its tithes, offerings and prayers. Keep up the good work."

"God bless you Garner Ted, you are precious to God's people and to the God who made us all."

"We know you are doing your part and we will strive to do ours. Please don't feel you must apologize for telling it like it is. We have to know so we can respond. God said He could raise up rocks, if need be, and with the increasing popularity of the 'Pet Rocks,' people just might be inclined to listen to them. Please keep going, we are almost finished!! We love you."

"I can't completely understand how heavy the burden you are carrying is but your letter gave a good indication. I just want you to know that the people of God's Church *do care* that the Work gets done. We are behind you and are praying that it will be finished. You cried out for our prayers, we're crying to you to stand up under the heavy load and *continue on!!* Keep up the good Work!"

"I am very pleased by your decision to open up many more radio and television stations, in an act of faith in God. I believe as a Church we should trust in God more for our very existence, for He

has promised us that He will never leave us or forsake us and He will be with us always even to the end of the world. We are behind you and rejoicing with you."

"This commission of getting the message out, isn't an easy one. All we can do is put our shoulders to the wheel, never say die, and never let any obstacle, whether material or in the form of attitudes beset us and keep us from our goal. If all fall away, it wouldn't relieve me of my personal obligation toward God, this Work and the world. So, no matter what the obstacles, Garner Ted, keep on with everything — because you have more people behind you than you know!"

"We can't do anything without God and His Holy Spirit, Mr. Armstrong. But we can, must and will keep going, even if it means our lives. I guess what I'm trying to say is that we are behind you even if it comes to that!"

"I'm back of the fine job you are doing. Regretfully, I have done little real sacrificing up to this point. I believe it is a key to total commitment. May God help us to appreciate the knowledge and purpose we each have and to share it with others."

"We know you are trying your best to determine, where and how, God would have us (as a Church) go, and we will try to support your decisions as our own. Families sometimes disagree at the breakfast table but they're still at the supper table *together*. So may we be too!"

"'United we stand — divided we fall.' So, work together and we shall win together!"

"We all realize what a great responsibility you have and how overwhelmed you must feel at times like this, but when you consider the fantastic progress and gains made in the past thirty years — our mission is more important than ever. Our great God will not permit this Work to wane at its most crucial point. You have to go on faith, as you do. Thank you for stirring us up."

"It's so easy to get our minds off the world's problems and back to ourselves. But we want you to know we're behind you 100%. Don't give up!"

"Keep up the great Work and remember, here's two more of God's people willing to give whatever we have."

"We fully support you from the 'bottom of our hearts.' You have our full support in any moves you make to try to further the main objectives of this Work — whatever is needed."

"When the time comes for real sacrifice, we will be only too glad to sell or relinquish what we have to support the Work. We love you and your father and pray for your health and wisdom."

"I'm behind you and the Work *all the way* and realize the urgency and need to reach everyone before it's too late. My hope is that you'll get so MANY letters, you never even have a chance to read this letter!"

"Thank you for your letter. I needed to be reminded of what is the *only* important thing in the world these days. It is too easy to let the desires of this world creep in. I have asked God to forgive me. I see now that nothing is as important as holding up your hands as the Work goes on to finish the job."

"All of us have got to sacrifice more, work harder and pray more often than ever before. May God help us in doing so."

"Your father and you are really doing a fantastic job in God's great Work, and we know that no other two humans in the world could run this Work like you have — so hang in there, because we all know that Almighty God is with you."

"It was through your voice and talent that God called us to His Church and we certainly wouldn't want anyone to miss their chance of being called because there wasn't enough money for broadcasts."

"I read your letter twice. At first I excluded myself, then I saw just how *much* it included me also. I'm sorry! It's too bad that you and Mr. H. W. Armstrong have to constantly look over your shoulder to see if we are behind you. I honestly hope no more."

"We love and respect you both and are with you until this Work is done!"

"I started to tell you I'm behind you and this Work but what's so much more important is that God is behind His Work too and that's the real source of strength. Though we thank God, we sometimes forget to thank you for sticking it out with us; so thanks Garner Ted!"

"Keep up the great Work and don't get discouraged, *we're behind you all the way!*"

"Oh, Garner Ted, don't let up on the urgent warning message that must reach all the confused masses of humanity out there. It's a task that is humanly impossible to accomplish. But, God

Almighty will strengthen you. God's Work is all that matters *now*, while man rules over himself! The world tomorrow God will rule! There is very little time left. Garner Ted, lead us to finish this Worldwide Work no matter what the cost. We will continue to hold up your hands."

"Take care — work hard — follow God. You are our voice, we are part of the Body. With our elder brother the head, how can we lose!?"

"I am behind you for all the effort you are putting into the Work. I'm thankful someone is 'telling it like it is.' Don't get discouraged!"

"This is the time for all of us to stick together and help each other! It is of ultimate importance that we all support God's Work wholeheartedly and *never* lose sight of our goal."

"I agree with you 100% — things are bad and it's as if people can't see the forest for all the trees around them. We've got to hit our nation with the seriousness of the situation now, while we still have peace in our country. I can appreciate how you feel and it must be just plain frustrating. I'm behind you all the way. Give it to 'em, Mr. Armstrong!"

"Yes, Garner Ted, I am back of this Work and you. May our God protect every move you make in getting this Gospel to the nations of the world."

"I realize the job that you have been given is not an easy one. You have my promise that I will pray constantly that God will give you the strength, inspiration and the courage to stand fast — to continue to preach the Gospel without apology or compromise. You have the prayers of many and to borrow a quotation from God's Word, 'Be of good courage.'"

"I want you to know that I pray for this Work and I'm behind it with all my heart. You are doing a terrific job, keep up the good Work."

"Please keep your letters coming. I expect to be hearing from you more often as God uses us to wrap up this phase of God's great Work. Meanwhile, you can depend on me to back you up to the hilt. What else is more important in the whole universe?"

"Keep on walking through those open doors. We'd be better off going bankrupt doing God's Work than waiting for security that may never come. We're behind you all the way."

"We know that God expects us to walk through the doors He opens, so we are *glad* you went ahead

and committed us to these new radio stations. We're behind you *all the way* and very pleased that you had the faith and courage to walk through those opened doors!"

"God keep you filled with His Holy Spirit and give you both strength to continue against all odds. Please *know* this!! We are with you completely, without reservations, for as long as necessary to finish the job God has given you to lead us in."

"How good it is to know that you and your father are on the firing line, reaching out to more multiple thousands daily with a sincere, yielded willingness to serve mankind and give of yourselves to others. We realize more and more how you need prevailing, fervent prayers for that Gospel message to be effective in changing the lives of those who hear."

"I really appreciate your allowing God to use you and for the time you have spent on doing *His desires* rather than *your own*. I know the Great Father we share will bless you in the future. Thank you, thank you Sir, for your service of the past and present."

"I know that if the Church of God can be united in our purpose, praying fervently for the Work, and for one another, that God can and will provide this Work with all its needs. We must never give up or let Satan deceive us into thinking we can't complete this Work. Of course, we can do *nothing* without God's help."

"I'm going to get my priorities right for the greatest boost and push this Work can get in this end time. With all praying for strength, I feel there will be no canceling of these stations."

"I just feel we all need to get back of this Work with fasting and prayers and be less concerned for self!"

"The job you have is a tough one but you are doing just fine. Keep on stepping through those open doors on faith and everything will turn out 4-0. Keep the faith, be tough-minded and remember we all are with you. When the going gets rough, we'll all be there to support you!"

"The return to stepping out in faith in going on more radio stations is very inspiring. I have been spurred to more of this right approach in my own personal life as a direct result of Headquarters' example. I was beginning to go more and more on my own strength. Thank you."

The Bulletin

of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

MET
PASTORAL
SUPPLEMENT

Volume 4, Number 2

Pages 68A-68H

February 10, 1976

Ministerial Education & Training

THE IMPORTANT WORK-LEISURE BALANCE

Through the years, the average worker in the Western world has been able to increase his standard of living and enjoy a better life while expending fewer hours on the job to earn his livelihood.

Much is said, pro and con, about the increased leisure time people have. Some would blame too much leisure time for being partially responsible for the rise in many of our social ills.

To many people, work is a virtue and leisure a root cause of decadence. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop" goes the old saying. And, many equate "idle hands" (not engaged in "productive work") with an "idle mind."

Is there a *definable* balance to be sought between work and leisure? Can social good and progress come from an increase in leisure time? And, more to the point, are our ministers overworked . . . ?

Are our ministers overworked or do they have too much leisure? The answer to that question is vitally important because the work-leisure balance has a profound effect on the quality of ministerial work.

This, in turn, has a large impact on the churches and the growth of the membership — both numerically and spiritually.

It is quite an art to strike the correct work-

leisure balance. However, it is an art worth mastering if we are to be fresh while at work and not strung up with vocational tensions while we are trying to relax. So let's take a look at the concepts and attitudes that have weighted this balance from time to time and discover some foundational principles that will help us to strike the right work-leisure balance in our lives.

Origins and Perspectives

To gain a good perspective in this area, we should go back historically to find out where many of our work attitudes and concepts have come from. We also need to examine those concepts and see if they are balanced or extreme.

As we look back into recent history, it is evident that many of our work concepts and attitudes have sprung from Puritan and Protestant roots.

The Puritans placed a high regard on hard work. Protestantism named it one of the most important virtues, and this came to be known as the Protestant work ethic. The economic opportunities available in a democratic society also added their profound impact to work attitudes. The longer a man worked, the more money he could make. So, the powerful combination of these religious and economic forces placed a tremendous emphasis on work.

The question is: Was this emphasis too extreme?

At first glance it doesn't seem so. Welfare rolls and unemployment offices are full of people. Of course many, if not most of these people, are honestly looking for work, but there are some who don't want to work, but only go on drawing benefits. This is because the welfare and taxation systems have bent the economic opportunity concept to exclude work. You can get money from the government without working and without paying tax on it — so why work?

Of course, large sections of the society do not subscribe to this attitude and are still controlled by the previous work attitudes we mentioned — the Protestant work ethic combined with economic opportunity work attitudes.

So, we still have to answer the questions. Did this powerful combination of religious and economic forces place an extreme emphasis on work attitudes and concepts?

Perhaps we might be better able to answer this by looking at the other side of the coin. What were the prevailing attitudes towards leisure?

Negative Leisure Attitudes

In the face of extreme emphasis on work — not normal emphasis, but extreme emphasis — leisure and its use and purpose become slighted.

Here is how this extreme attitude works.

According to the Protestant work ethic, you should work hard, and the more you work, the more money you make. So anyone who is not continually working might not be too ethical, and if he is not continually working, he is not making as much money as he should so he's probably lazy. Action, clatter, motion, and work all become associated with virtue while recreation, leisure, and rest come to be regarded as a waste of valuable money making time — a nuisance and probably an excuse for laziness and lack of character.

This is a basic work attitude that contains no balancing leisure concepts — indeed it deliberately slights and excludes leisure as it sees no value in it.

Pride In His Work

Usually, together with this attitude come puffs of pride. Here's how it works. The person who is controlled by this work attitude sees that he is working much harder than other people. This gradually and subtly makes him feel a little superior and gains personal attention for him. He usually begins to talk about how hard and long he works. This attitude is very common in student years. One student will brag about staying up studying all night. This makes him really feel like somebody and must confirm, of course, that he has character and is a hard worker. If he grows out of it — fine, but what happens if this extreme work attitude carries on into later years?

What if a person continues to need this work attitude like an actor needs the applause of his audience? What if subconsciously he is using it as a compensatory mechanism to make up for lacks in other areas of life and can't see it? What happens then? Well, first of all, since it is such a fixed habit with him, he has to be in a continual state of

clatter and motion and activity. He might not be accomplishing too many results but as long as there is action and movement and activity, he feels *reassured*.

If this pace should slow down and he finds himself with time on his hands, he is stricken with guilt feelings and looks around to see if anyone has noticed. He feels uneasy, restless, bored and guilty. He needs work to make him feel better for the same reason that the alcoholic needs the bottle. He has in fact, become a work-a-holic or maybe an activity-a-holic or perhaps just a clatter and motion man. Whatever name you give, he needs it. The extreme work attitude that sees no virtue in leisure has driven him into an addiction. As with most addicts, while others can see the addiction quite plainly — sticking out like a sore thumb — the addict himself can't see it, and thinks he is basically normal and not controlled by any compulsion to work.

Soon his body starts to wear out like any machine run to excess. Perhaps it's ulcers, indigestion or heart trouble that begin knocking at the door with their fateful messages. As impossible as it seems, in some cases the messages are misread and taken as congratulatory telegrams — a confirmation of the grand old attitude he is still working hard and, more importantly, perhaps harder than most other people.

Of course, this is an extreme example but many people are subject to this extreme attitude in varying degrees for various reasons — it's a product of this world's society and tradition.

The Uses Of Leisure

So it seems time to bring leisure out of the corner and find ways of recapturing any lost capacity for using it in our lives. We've heard all about work so let's now look into some of the uses of leisure.

One of the basic uses of leisure, whatever kind of leisure is involved, is usually for the purpose of refreshment after periods of work. This is the most common concept of leisure. It is usually a time of fun, diversion, and change with excitement and pleasure in many forms. It takes its form according to the needs of the individual. It can be anything from a game of golf to a family outing, or anniversary dinner to a cup of coffee — whatever your tastes or needs.

However, one of the invalid uses of leisure is as a total substitute for fulfillment at work. This is an extreme use, as a compensation for thwarted needs in other areas, just like the work-a-holic uses his work.

Of course, everyone needs "to get away from it all" now and again, or have refreshing escapes periodically. However, if we try to totally substitute leisure or pleasure for fulfillment in life, we will discover it is a poor substitute that doesn't really work. This is one of the invalid uses of leisure with progressively diminishing returns. In life, there really is no substitute for fulfillment. It is a basic necessity like food and water and air.

Leisure And Thought

Since we are all familiar with the basic forms of leisure for the purpose of recreation, let's now look into some of its other uses.

Some things are better done in a climate of work and activity; other things in a climate of leisure and inactivity. Certain compartments of the mind work well in an atmosphere of activity and hustle. Busy meetings, conferences, question sessions, all call for quick mental movements in an atmosphere of activity. There are, however, compartments of the mind that work best in a climate of quietness and inactivity, in an atmosphere of leisure. To form its deeper combinations, the mind needs periods of leisure time. A mind can be quickly stuffed with facts and put into gear to churn out a quick sermon. However, if the same mind had the leisure time to digest the information — to think it through deliberately and carefully to perceive principles and relationships and to formulate the facts into interesting and moving themes and combinations, it would be a better sermon.

We could call this process meditation. However, unfortunately, down through the centuries, this term has been so connected with self-righteous, impractical pseudo-spirituality that it has been rendered useless as a conveyer of its true meaning.

We will just call it deep and deliberate thinking. This is best done in a climate of inactivity. It is one of the most productive uses of leisure.

It can't be done rigidly and artificially in a troglodyte Fred Flintstone manner, as in "I am going to sit down on this wooden chair in the corner of the room and meditate for 15 minutes so do not disturb me."

Most people weave it pleasantly and naturally into their leisure time — that is, if they value leisure enough to make sure they have some leisure time.

Different people have their own favorite methods. Some think best in the warm inactivity of a bath.

Others do their deepest thinking hanging weightlessly in the underwater silence with an

aqualung strapped to their back combining think-time with a swimming hobby.

Perhaps it's sitting in a comfortable chair by the fire, or on a stone by a camp fire, or fishing from a bank, or on a country walk.

Whatever the pleasant inactivity is, this is when the mind is able to produce.

Stress And Leisure

Apart from the recreational activities needed by the average job holder, those who are called upon to bear the burden of great responsibilities need a leisure safety valve to prevent them from, in a sense, blowing up. The ministry is such a job where the cases and the needs of the congregation can weigh heavily on the mind.

Many people have lain in bed thinking: "How do I shut off this mind and get some sleep?" The harder they try to shut off the mind, the more vividly it seems to continue sifting and stirring up and delving through the problems. Willpower seems to have no effect. Once the mind has latched on to the problem, it holds on tightly, continuing to weigh and measure and think.

If this is repeated all day and into the night continually, it can become a serious source of stress, leading to ill-health and nervous breakdowns.

We need to find a way for the mind to release its grip on the problem and get some rest. To try and switch it off doesn't seem to work. It doesn't work because you can't switch off the mind like a machine. It doesn't work like a machine — it doesn't rest by being switched off.

The approach that works is to interest the mind in something else. Then it begins to relax and release its grip on the problems as it turns its attention onto the new activity. This should be, of course, a lighter leisure activity.

It's the ability to get the mind to release its grip and have a refreshing rest in an interesting leisure activity that enables people to handle heavy responsibilities without being burned out by them.

Of course it must be something your mind is genuinely interested in. There is no use taking up golf or painting if you don't like golf and couldn't care less about painting. The secret is to find out what you really enjoy doing and use this as an anti-stress recreational tool.

Many people do this intuitively without thinking about it very much. They say they don't have any hobbies. If you check carefully, you will probably find they have several — they just don't think of them as "hobbies." They probably devour novels or catch fish or collect gems or go back-

packing or rock collecting or raise vegetables or repair cars or go scuba diving, but they don't have any "hobbies" — of course.

The key is to have one, or several, that you enjoy and make them important enough distractions to attract the mind away from its heavier responsibilities and get a refreshing rest.

Change is the key to prevent the mind from working itself out. It can't be switched off but it can be renewed and refreshed by relaxing and interesting change.

This is the great anti-stress use of leisure.

So there's the delicate balance that's so important — much work and the slighting of leisure makes a worn out, ineffective person. Too much leisure and not enough work produces a lack of fulfillment and turns a person into a frustrated and jaded escapist.

Work and leisure are both necessary elements of life and combined in the right balance, they produce accomplishment and fulfillment, recreation and good thought and provide a buffer against dangerous stress.

We hope this discussion of some of the basic principles involved will help you to strike the right work-leisure balance in your life and your ministry.

— James Young & Ivan Sell

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE FOR U.S. MINISTRY

Church Buses

We are presently exploring the possibility of using the institutional advantage we have in group rate purchasing to see if it might be feasible to supply insurance for local church buses at little or no cost to the local church.

If it is possible, by applying our fleet policy to the buses in a blanket fashion, it could mean considerable savings on premiums to a number of local congregations.

We plan to send a survey to those pastors whose churches have buses, but in order to do so, we need to know who you are. If your church has a bus, please drop a memo to Mike Blackwell (or call on the WATS line and just leave the message) letting him know so he can send a survey form to you.

Spokesman Club Manuals

In case you're wondering why you haven't received any Spokesman Club Manuals you may have ordered, we are temporarily out of stock.

We'll put a notice in the *Bulletin* when the revision of the manual is complete and they can be ordered again.

Third Tithe Widows' Moves

Over the years we have had a problem with women on third tithe who move from one area to another unnecessarily. Sometimes they did not seek proper counsel before moving and sometimes they moved without sufficient reason or even for wrong reasons. This has resulted in an unnecessary drain on third tithe, as well as personal and financial problems for many of the women who have been involved.

The increased costs to third tithe result directly from the costs for furniture moving expenses, travel expenses, loss of rent or rental deposits and fees, etc. Also, if a woman moves from an area in which she is established she may lose a job, welfare benefits or close access to relatives and friends who have been helping her. This can mean that a woman may need *more* third tithe support in a new area than she did in her old area. All these factors make it very expensive for us to move third tithe recipients.

This is especially the case when a woman moves to Headquarters. Housing, utility and general living costs are higher in the Los Angeles area than in most areas in the country. This situation becomes more acute when a woman moves from a rural area or from the Southern United States where living costs are nearly always much less than in Los Angeles. And besides, Southern California is not the best area to live because of the high crime rate, air pollution, high unemployment, etc.

All of you can help us in dealing with the problems just discussed by 1) cautioning all the third tithe recipients in your area not to move without seeking your counsel; 2) having anyone who wants to move analyze her situation fully; and 3) not advising anyone to move unless there are compelling reasons for it.

Moving just to get away from problems she may have created for herself or just for a change of scenery aren't good reasons simply because similar problems could be created again. By moving she may be only avoiding the problems and not dealing with them. Moving to be closer to a man who may be interested in marrying her, or to find a man, are tenuous reasons for many women. Valid reasons for moving would be to go to an area where better job opportunities exist or where relatives are living who could help support her.

Passover Supplies

It's necessary again to remind everyone to send all vital information promptly into Headquarters. Any changes in your home and P.O. box mailing addresses and phone numbers are needed as soon as they occur. This also applies to Church addresses and meeting times. Since the institution of the WATS line service, this information is very necessary for us to have as soon as it becomes available.

Also, in relation to this a survey was sent out concerning Passover supplies. As of today, we have received a two thirds response. Passover supplies *have been* ordered. Those who responded to the survey will have first priority. If you need Passover supplies for this year and have not yet responded to the survey, please do so immediately. If an additional order is necessary, it would have to be sent immediately and there is no guarantee the extra supplies will arrive in time.

Labeling Memos

Since Headquarters is made up of many different departments and is spread out over a large area, information is just not *automatically* shared between departments or individuals. If you send in any messages or information to Headquarters that needs to go to specific individuals or departments (e.g. Accounting, C.A.D., etc.), please put that department's or person's name on it. If more than one individual or group needs to be aware of an item, it is necessary for you to make that clear. This will ensure that it reaches the proper place.

Accidents

We have had a few cases of severe sicknesses and accidents where relatives or friends have called the minister first before getting medical help, thinking that is *always* the first priority. In cases such as severe bleeding or in a life and death situation, medical help should be obtained first. In some cases a few minutes delay in taking appropriate action can mean death for someone. A severed artery can cause a person to bleed to death in one minute! Many cities have Paramedic teams available through the Fire Department. This service is free of charge. Please discuss this matter with your congregations so that proper action can be taken when severe accidents occur.

PERSONAL NEWS

Mr. Richard Kilbury, former pastor of the Milwaukee congregations was terminated from full-

time employment in the ministry on January 2, 1976. Approximately three weeks later, on January 26, 1976, he disassociated himself from the Church.

Since Mr. Kilbury is openly espousing doctrine contrary to the teaching of the Church of God we have asked the pastors in areas in which he formerly served to publicly announce his termination and disfellowship. However, we do not feel it is necessary for the majority of you to take that action. We feel it would be better to handle the situation and any resulting questions on a one-to-one basis.



Q. The Pastor's Report requests two pieces of information in the prospective member section that are puzzling to me. Exactly what do you mean "No. of CVL's received" and "No. of PM's contacted"?

A. The "No. of CVL's received" should indicate the number of letters specifically requesting a visit that Headquarters has sent you during the month. The "No. of PM's contacted" could have been better worded "No. of totally new individuals contacted." These may have been referred to you from a variety of sources such as HQ CVL's, friend or relative contacts, or even "accidental" meetings. The figure desired is the total number of new (first contact) individuals you have visited during the month who are interested in the Work or Church.

Q. Should a minister of the Worldwide Church of God accept payment for conducting a funeral service or a wedding ceremony?

A. The general policy of the church through the years has been that the minister should not accept any kind of payment for these services. Exceptions may have been in cases where a non member of the church would be offended if the minister did not accept the money (this would have been, in nearly every case, in regard to a funeral service since it would have been extremely rare to perform

a wedding for someone not in the church) or if the payment came directly from the funeral home itself.

In the case of the check (or cash) being paid by the funeral home, many ministers have chosen to return or refund the money to the next of kin of the deceased if it caused no offense, or to donate the money to the church, either at Pasadena or locally.

We see no reason to alter what has been the general practice of our ministers in this regard. However, to avoid any misunderstanding, we would like to reiterate the following principles.

- 1) It would be considered unethical for a minister of the Worldwide Church of God to request, directly or indirectly, a fee for conducting a funeral or wedding ceremony.
- 2) When offense would occur by refusing a fee, or when payment of a fee is automatic (such as through a funeral home) it would not be considered unethical for a minister to accept it as personal remuneration.

It should be noted that if a minister should accept a fee or donation as personal remuneration, IRS regulations require that it be reported as income, on his income tax return.

We hope this brief statement of principles is sufficient to alleviate any uncertainty or misunderstanding on this subject.

BOOKSHELF

Evidence That Demands a Verdict by Josh McDowell. Campus Crusade for Christ, Inc. (1972), 377 pages, \$4.95 paperback.

Josh McDowell is a member of the Campus Crusade for Christ and has spoken to more than 2,000,000 students and faculty in over 400 universities in 42 countries. This book, a summary of his lecture notes, deals with the reliability of the Bible as well as a detailed study of Jesus Christ as a historical personage. It is not the kind of book you sit down and read from page one to the end, rather it is written in formal outline style which makes it more of a reference book.

Evidence That Demands a Verdict has been praised as the best anthology of Christian apologetics in this generation. It just might live up to that extravagant claim! Anyone facing university students and faculty to earn his daily bread has to be able to "prove all things." *Evidence* gets to the heart of the matter. Jesus, McDowell maintains, was either the Lord, a lunatic, or a liar. "Jesus

claimed to be God. He did not leave any other options. If He knew that He was not God, then He was lying. He would also be a fool because it was His claims to being God that led to His crucifixion" (page 109).

How does McDowell prove Jesus was God?

Mainly through the resurrection. He deals with it in the largest chapter in the book and builds up a devastating case for the affirmative. McDowell assembles an impressive army of quotes and statements, again in outline form, which agnostics need to confront:

"No one could now issue a biography of Queen Victoria full of untrue anecdotes. They would be contradicted at once." So Matthew, Mark, and Luke's gospels wouldn't have survived the first century if they could have been easily torn apart.

"Soldiers cold-blooded enough to gamble over a dying victim's cloak are not the kind of men to be hoodwinked by timid Galileans or to jeopardize their Roman necks by sleeping on their post." A good refutation of the idea that the disciples stole Christ's body.

Why didn't the Jews produce the corpse of Christ? "The silence of the Jews speaks louder than the testimony of the Christians."

The impressive thing about these and other points is that they have been gathered by 11 researchers after 5,000 man-hours of digging through the writings of scholars such as Gleason Archer of Harvard, F. F. Bruce of Manchester, John Stott, and many others. McDowell's researchers combed the "apologetic" writings of the last century to distill the cream of the crop. There is some excellent documentation on the canon ("A great advantage of a multitude of manuscripts is that it is easier to reconstruct the original"); the evidence from archaeology (Allbright: "There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament"); and a remarkable analysis of how Jesus' life fulfilled prophecy not by *coincidence* but by *design* ("We find that the *chance* that any man *might* have lived and fulfilled these prophecies is 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000" — Peter Stoner).

Evidence that Demands a Verdict is not light reading and is definitely aimed at the hip college set ("If Jesus were not God then He deserved an oscar"), but these are small disadvantages compared to its range of historical and scientific documentation. You might find it a valuable tool for future reference.

— Neil Earle
Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Within two weeks all ministers employed fulltime by the Church will receive a packet of information concerning the upcoming ministerial conference.

Since we are receiving numerous inquiries about conference details, we wanted to make a brief announcement at this time regarding those who are to attend. After considerable discussion and examination of the budgetary aspects, we have decided that only those men classified as Church *pastors* as of February 5, 1976 are to attend the conference.

Other questions — such as mode of travel, time, vacations, wives attending, etc. — will be addressed in the packet you receive. However, we do want to instruct everyone at this time that there should be *no local fund raising or donations* to finance anyone's attendance at the conference.

We realize that this decision will be unpleasant news for some, but do ask that you look at the problems from our perspective. For those who do not attend, every effort will be expended to see that you are fully informed about all aspects of the conference. We certainly will appreciate your caring for the congregations during the absence of the pastors.