

The Bulletin



of the Worldwide Church of God

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SEPTEMBER 2, 1977

Media

FILMS AVAILABLE TO MINISTRY FALL TV SCHEDULE

We have had a number of requests and questions concerning films available for use by the ministry. At the end of this article you will find a complete list and description of presently available films. Of special interest is the transfer to film of Garner Ted Armstrong's newest television program, "Is Man Alone?", a program showing the awesomeness of the universe and man's desire to communicate with extraterrestrial life—through the Viking project, Pioneer X, and Voyager space probes. Mr. Armstrong discusses the overlooked fact that intelligent life from outer space *has* communicated with mankind and this communication can be found in the pages of the Bible.

Ten films of the new program ("Is Man Alone?") will be purchased. Six of the films were purchased by the International Division for shipment to international Feast sites and will be distributed as follows: two to United Kingdom, one to Norway (which will be shipped to the Netherlands for the second half of the Feast), one to New Zealand, one to South Africa, and one to the Philippines. We are also shipping 3/4" 525-line video cassette copies of each new program to Frank Brown in England for use in the church areas there. A special 3/4" cassette machine that can play either 525-line or 625-line standards will be located in England.

As of this date Mr. Armstrong has completed all the Four Horsemen series of programs, and we hope to have nine new programs taped and edited before the Feast. The best of the Four Horsemen programs is slated for transfer to film and will be

available sometime in November.

If television is available in your area, I would encourage all concerned to inform the members that the first of the new programs will be aired September 11 or 18, depending upon which end of the shipping cycle you are on. A very few areas will not begin seeing the new series until September 25. The sequence of programs will be as follows:

- Sun., Sept. 4 & 11 — "Youth Crime—Can We Prevent it?" (repeat) Can we prevent juvenile crime? Garner Ted Armstrong shows an exciting project working now to prevent youthful crime.
- Sun., Sept. 11 & 18 — "Is Man Alone?" (new) GTA examines scientific efforts to locate life in outer space. Film from Viking lander and interviews with leading researchers.
- Sun., Sept. 18 & 25 — "The New Soviet Threat" (new) GTA analyzes Soviet arms buildup. Extensive film of newest weaponry. The arms race in Biblical prophecy is discussed.
- Sun., Sept. 25 & Oct. 2 — "The White Horse" (new) First of four-part series on Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. GTA examines false religions and biblical confusion as the white horse.
- Sun., Oct. 2 & 9 — "The Red Horse" (new) Second of four-part series on Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. GTA interprets red horse as a symbol of future wars. Includes film of modern arms.
- Sun., Oct. 9 & 16 — "The Black Horse" (new) Third in Four Horsemen of Apocalypse series. GTA explains the famine symbolized by the black horse. Film shows global food shortages.

Sun., Oct. 16 & 23 — "The Pale Horse" (new) Last in Four Horsemen of Apocalypse series. GTA examines worldwide fight with disease and pestilence, symbolized by the pale horse.

Since Mr. Armstrong's latest programs were all taped in the studio, we were able to rent out the video pod for an extended taping in New York of an NBC drama entitled, "A Piece of Cake," produced especially for teenage audiences. It will be aired on October 11, late afternoon. This is the first in a series of programs that NBC is specially producing for the youth of the country. The video pod was flown from Los Angeles to New York and was on location Monday through Friday for two weeks of taping. The producer, Lee Polk, was very pleased with the equipment and the technical competence of Lee Pettijohn and Lynn Busby. According to Lee, the shoot was routine with the exception of the roads, which he states were considerably worse than those in Egypt!

16mm Film Library for Our Ministers

Ambassador Television has several 16mm films available on a loan basis to ministers of the Worldwide Church of God. The majority of these titles are videotape transfers of television programs aired by Garner Ted Armstrong Productions, Inc., and were chosen for distribution because of their exceptional content. Some are tremendously stirring, while others are especially informative or entertaining.

Suggested uses include augmenting a Bible study, Sabbath school, or public lecture, and to supplement Y.O.U. functions or various school and civic activities. In addition, when work load permits, Ambassador film personnel will be happy to assist, upon request, the minister in locating outside footage on any subject needed for such activities. Projection and film preservation information is also available. For requesting a film or to answer any questions, write or phone:

Ambassador Television Film
300 West Green Street
Pasadena, CA 91123
(Attention: Jon Hicks)
Phone: 1/213/577-5399
Telex: 675439

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

1. Lecture Promo (1975)

Designed to assist United States ministers where the public has been invited. Taken from

The Bulletin



of the Worldwide Church of God

EDITOR IN CHIEF

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

EDITOR

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

RONALD L. DART

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

ROBERT L. KUHN

MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD H. SEDLIACIK

SENIOR EDITORS

C. WAYNE COLE, CHARLES V. DOROTHY,
HERMAN L. HOEH, BRIAN KNOWLES

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Winston Churchill's book *The Gathering Storm*, and deals with the problems engulfing Britain and the United States. Nonbiblical. Poses the question "Will we survive?"

2. HWA: Ambassador for World Peace (1974)

There are two versions of this film, as follows:
S-114 (Time: 31:53; 1148 ft.)

S-114 covers Mr. Herbert Armstrong's campaign held in Manila, as well as meetings with world leaders. This version is to be used within the Church *only*.

S-113 (Time: 23:52; 859 ft.)

S-113 is an edited version of S-114 and can be used for P.T. lectures and other viewings where the public has been invited.

3. Ambassador Auditorium (1974) (Time: 28:48; 1037 ft.)

This film shows excerpts from the Vienna Symphony Orchestra at the Inaugural Concert, conducted by Carlo Maria Giulini. It goes into detail regarding the construction and financing of the Auditorium, with film footage covering the groundbreaking ceremony and on through the various stages of construction to completion. (Not to be aired on TV.)

(Continued on page 255)

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
President and Pastor

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG
Executive Vice-President

August 30, 1977

To all ministers and key personnel in God's Work:

Greetings from Tucson. My wife and I have been staying very close to my father's side for the last ten days to two weeks; I am presently dictating this letter to you from my father's study. I have just come from his bedroom where he was sitting in his lounging chair, having just finished a light breakfast of poached egg and toast and a glass of apple juice. While if any of you would suddenly walk into his bedroom and see him, with the memories of his robust and dynamic condition in your minds, you might be shocked to see him so very weak and with obvious loss of weight; believe me, it is very encouraging to those of us here to see the marked improvement over the past few days.

The last EKG, taken only a few days ago, was said by the doctor to be "the best since he had first examined him" approximately ten days earlier. So, all the vital signs seem to be quite stable, and, as of this moment, I can report he is making steady progress.

I hope all of you will thank your congregations for their deep concern and for the many hundreds of telephone calls, get well cards and letters which have come pouring into headquarters. Please assure them that their continued prevailing prayers are still very urgently needed--unless God performs a great miracle in raising Mr. Armstrong up and giving him an unusual outpouring of strength and vigor, then this is going to be a very long process of slow recovery, and without God's Divine and special intervention, I would not be terribly optimistic about Mr. Armstrong being able to take up the same grueling pace he has maintained during these past several years.

Frankly, as of this moment, unless God does perform a really great miracle, I sincerely doubt that Mr. Armstrong will be able to speak at the Feast of Tabernacles.

During two meetings in my office with most key personnel at headquarters, I outlined my father's condition to them, soliciting their prayers and continued support and cooperation; and most especially have tried to inform everyone that we will rededicate ourselves to the task God has set before us; that there will be no changes in my father's policies--that we will continue striving to do God's Work as we have been taught, following his leadership and his example which he has set before us throughout his life.

Speaking of the Feast of Tabernacles--I wanted to write a special letter to all our festival speakers, but will use this BULLETIN letter for that purpose instead.

I know all of us look forward to the Feast of Tabernacles as the real spiritual "high point" of the year; and reflecting back on my own feelings during the many festivals I have attended, I know I am always especially keyed up and aware of the need for the deepest, the most thoughtful and the most inspiring sermons possible during the festival. Obviously, with vast audiences numbering up into the many thousands at nine or ten festival sites, it is an awesome responsibility to give your utmost to God's people in preaching the most

constructive, edifying, corrective and inspirational sermons possible; trying to pack the very utmost into every precious moment you're able to spend with these people.

I call upon everyone of you who have been privileged to speak during this Feast of Tabernacles to join with me and the rest of us in giving it your all.

For those who have sermonettes, I hope you will pay close attention to what I will now outline:

First, I have noticed over the years that many of our sermonette speakers at the Feast of Tabernacles tend to preach a shortened "sermon," picking vast subjects such as the overall meaning of the Feast and the Kingdom of God, salvation, repentance, huge topics having to do with Christian living and/or other philosophical/spiritual subjects which could better be handled in an hour and a half to two hours. I am sure this is partly the result of choosing from among your numbers those who have not given a sermonette for several years! I have always felt it is far more difficult to give a really interesting, thoughtful and inspirational sermonette than it is a full sermon. This year, I want all of you to strive as never before to keep your sermonettes to an absolute maximum of twelve to fourteen minutes! It is not at all fair to the main speakers during the Feast of Tabernacles for the sermonette man to take twenty to twenty-five or even thirty-five minutes or longer--which I have personally seen in past years!

So here are some guidelines to follow:

- 1) Go back and think about the techniques you learned in college concerning the careful organization of a sermonette. Remember how you were taught that you need to grab interest, create suspense, outline your subject very thoughtfully, and then give an inspirational "move to action" conclusion!
- 2) Pick a central theme; better using an analogy, simile, story or some thought-provoking incident around which you build your entire sermonette.
- 3) Some of the most obscure verses in the Bible--those which people read over year after year and rarely understand such as, "Where the body is, there will the eagles be gathered" and others of this type--make excellent sermonette material.
- 4) Carefully type out or write out your notes in advance, and run over the sermonette in your mind, perhaps even trying it out on your wife or some close personal friend, and get input from others--especially with regard to timeliness, thought content, and the amount of retention you can expect your audience to experience. If all of you will do this, not only in sermonettes, but even in the main sermons, I know that the whole quality of the Feast of Tabernacles will be very greatly improved!

Having read through dozens of letters and a full report given my father on the Feast of Tabernacles last year, I know that basically our brethren tend to feel every year that this was "the greatest Feast ever," and of course most especially all the new people that come are greatly inspired. However, there were a few negative comments last year which came to my father that in many cases the theme chosen was one of horror camps, World War II atrocities, doomsday situations and the like which tended to be negative, rather than uplifting. Producing hope, joy, and real anticipation for the Kingdom of God, should be the central theme of all messages during the Feast of Tabernacles.

I am reminded of a sermonette that I heard clear back in the early 1950s, using the simple analogy of a stop light, with its green, orange and red colors as applied to certain

aspects of our day-to-day Christian living. When using an analogy or example of this type, you can be assured that the sermon to come along later will not totally bury from the thoughts of your audience everything you have said.

No sermonette should ever be in competition with the sermon, or vice-versa, but they should very greatly enhance and support one another. It is not "cheating" if you seek out the person who is going to be delivering the sermon that afternoon and collaborate with him on touching upon some aspect or other of a subject he may be planning on which will help your sermonette blend very well with the message he expects to bring.

For all of you men who will be preaching the main sermons in both the opening and closing portions of the Feast, especially those who will be taking up the offerings, I want to reiterate what I said to you last year.

I have never felt that God's Church should look upon the offerings during the Feasts as "routine;" an almost embarrassing and unwanted portion of the service which takes away time from the sermon and is sandwiched somewhere in between a too-lengthy sermonette, lengthy announcements, lengthy special music, and is doing nothing but taking up time from the main message.

So in order to help streamline and make more efficient our entire service structure during the Feast of Tabernacles, all of you who are Festival Coordinators please notify all song leaders that we will abandon the practice of dragging through three separate congregational hymns at the beginning of each service!

Actually I started that practice on an occasion many, many years ago in the old Shakespeare Club in Pasadena when, particularly inspired by the fine sound the congregation was making, I felt it was too early to quit, and so called upon them for yet a third song. I may have done this two or three times, and it seemed to catch on, until finally it became accepted routine. However, many years since, I have thought on many occasions that when we have a leading speaker the people are really anxious to hear; when it is absolutely essential to get certain announcements across to the whole group during the Feast of Tabernacles; where a sermonette is scheduled, and yet it is time to take up the annual Holy Day offering; it seems like an unnecessary waste of time to sing three songs. So please, even in your local Sabbath services and especially during the Feast of Tabernacles, let's keep the introductory congregational singing to a maximum of two songs.

I hope song leaders will be very much to the point, not given to wordiness and expansive statements and commentary; but will try to be a bright and cheerful inspiration in their whole manner, especially their prompt attention to timeliness.

Those of you who will be taking up the Holy Day offerings should devote a good deal of time to the offering—and please join with me in urging the people to really think about the great needs of God's Work, most specifically the need to expand in MEDIA; the wherewithal we must have to buy the additional radio and television time we need to push God's Work well on up into a bracket far above its present status.

Because of our severe budget crises the last year and a half or two; the critical cash flow crisis of the late winter months this year and the need for the large special Sabbath day offering, we have not been able to obtain additional radio and television stations—and no one knows this any more poignantly than you local pastors who continually send in your letters begging for additional radio and television in your own area! I would hope that all of us would lock arms and really bear down on this point, and hopefully we will see some new records set in the Holy Day offerings this year!

As you all know, following the Feast of Tabernacles last year, income for the Work took a rather dramatic slump downward--and that slump following the Feast of Tabernacles was DIRECTLY the cause of the severe cash flow crisis that hit some few months later, and which caused not only the special request for an unusual Sabbath day offering, but also brought about the various emergency budgetary readjustments, including the sale of the Falcon.

As a comment toward helping you understand the dynamics of the finances in the Work, let me point out that inflationary pressures on our income keep pushing our fixed and fixed variable costs (debt retirement on buildings, insurance, utilities, salaries, etc.) upward and upward, so that as the years go by a larger and larger percentage of the total income is committed to fixed and fixed variables, rather than that portion of the income which is committed to the first commission activities of the Work.

If we are going along at a slowly increasing rate of three or five or seven percent, but inflation is going along at an eleven or fourteen percent rate (as it surely is in some areas, such as the soaring costs of paper, ink, postage, fuel, etc.), then even though we may be experiencing a significant increase we are actually losing ground year by year.

Therefore, within the Work, a gradual commitment of a higher and higher percentage of the Work's income into fixed costs rather than in first commission requirements hurts the Work.

As you know, our business office budgets for an expected Feast of Tabernacles offering on the basis of past records, which may include even a slight increase over the year before!

If we fall even a tiny bit below this target, it means we have fallen below projected budgeted income, and therefore we are once again in a cash flow squeeze.

So, I know all of you will really take this to heart, and give it your best during the Feast of Tabernacles! I have felt in the past few years that it is far better to preach a very inspiring sermon about the Work and our individual part in it and commitment to it, and take up the offering near the conclusion or in the middle of such a sermon, rather than making it a routine thing to be done between the sermonette and sermon--but will leave this to the discretion of the individuals assigned the responsibility at each festival site.

God willing, I will follow the exact schedule already made out which has me beginning the Feast on the first evening in Squaw Valley, and then going to Pasadena, then working my way from the Southwest through the South, back up the Atlantic seacoast, up into Canada, and then down to the Ozarks by the end of the Feast, reaching all of the U.S. sites and one Canadian site.

I am hoping and praying for a really great miracle from God which will allow my father to fulfill his commitments during the Feast of Tabernacles--and would like to repeat to you here what I did to many of our key personnel in a brief memo I sent out just the other day as an update on my father's condition. It is found in Psalm 71, verses 12 through 21 (New American Standard Bible):

"O God, do not be far from me; O my God, hasten to my help! Let those who are adversaries of my soul be ashamed and consumed; Let them be covered with reproach and dishonor, who seek to injure me. But as for me, I will hope continually, and will praise Thee yet more and more.

"My mouth shall tell of Thy righteousness, and of Thy salvation all day long; For I do not know the sum of them. I will come with the mighty deeds of the Lord God; I will make mention of Thy righteousness, Thine alone.

"O God, Thou hast taught me from my youth; and I still declare Thy wondrous deeds. And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Thy strength to this generation, Thy power to all who are to come. For Thy righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens, Thou who has done great things; O God, who is like Thee?

"Thou, who has shown me many troubles and distresses, Wilt revive me again, And wilt bring me up again from the depths of the earth. Mayest Thou increase my greatness, and turn to comfort me."

In reading through this psalm several times of late, and making it a part of my own prayers on behalf of my father, I am struck by the direct similarity--of a person who is directly involved in God's Work: "My mouth shall tell of Thy righteousness, and of Thy salvation all day long" (verse 15); who is embattled by many adversaries and enemies (verse 13); who is "old and gray" (verse 18); and who is calling out to God to renew his strength "until I have shown thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to everyone that is to come" (verse 18, KJV).

I was able to show to my father just a few moments ago, before coming to his study, a beautiful scroll done by the student body in Pasadena and signed by the students wishing him a speedy recovery--and to make him aware of the fact that hundreds of calls have been flooding in to the WATS line and college switchboard, and that the whole church has gone to its knees in deep concern over his condition.

He speaks with a very high and almost inaudible voice as a result of being on oxygen much of the time, and having lost a good deal of weight during his total lack of food for the first week of his illness; but he is able to get into his chair two to three times a day for about 20 to 30 minutes at a time, and, while he must be assisted, this helps prevent soreness from lying in the bed for interminable periods of time. I am struck by the incredible difference between his condition at this moment and that of only two and a half weeks ago and would ask you to reread the letter he sent to all of you in the BULLETIN of August 12th in which he addressed you as "fellow servants, and, directly or indirectly, my sons in CHRIST." As Mr. Wayne Cole was able to tell my father in his visit during the first part of my father's illness, my father has always been like another human father to Wayne, as well as a father in the Gospel--and Wayne wanted to remind him of that; that everything he had ever learned out of the Bible about the Word of God--doctrines, policies and procedures--had come directly from Mr. Herbert Armstrong, and how grateful he was for the foundation that had been laid during the early years of Ambassador College back in the 1950s. I hope all of us will be more and more rededicated to that basic foundation, holding in the highest honor and esteem the human instrument God has used through all these years, to lay that foundation, and rededicate ourselves to the concept that such foundation will never be abandoned. My father concluded his last letter by saying, "Let's keep preaching the GOOD NEWS! The WORLD TOMORROW we are preparing God's people for is now JUST AROUND THE CORNER--soon the NEW world will fill this earth with happiness, joy, peace, contentment, exuberance, enthusiasm and abundance. Give your flocks GREAT HOPE and ASSURANCE--for it is SURE! With deep love, your Pastor-General in Jesus' name, Herbert W. Armstrong."

With those words in our ears as our guidepost for the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles, our daily lives, and our week-to-week ministry with God's people, let's carry on in doing the Work to which God has called us! I hope to see everyone of you at the Feast.

In Jesus' name,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sammie Lee Armstrong", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

GTA:le

Pastoral Administration

NOTICE

In the last ministerial *Bulletin* (August 12) we made mention of a Mr. McMannis who claimed to be from the San Francisco church in his conversation with Jim Lichtenstein, and who has been causing some difficulty for the ministry on the east coast. This individual is definitely not Mr. George McManus (different spelling from McMannis) who is a former member (not disfellowshipped) of the San Francisco church. If you have felt it necessary to announce Mr. McMannis' name from the pulpit, please clarify to your congregations that this man is not George McManus, the former member of the San Francisco church.

—Pastoral Administration

We are proceeding steadily with the task of developing a code of ethics for the ministry. Material is due this week from the area coordinators' committee on ethics, and we have a small but steady stream of material coming from the ministry in general. Quite a few have sent articles, other codes, ideas, or encouragement.

The task of developing such a code is not a simple one. I have a copy of the "Revised Ethical Standards of Psychologists" developed by the APA in which they say that this draft (number eleven) climaxed *nine years* of work by several task forces and a committee on scientific and professional ethics and conduct. Of course their code is essentially a self-imposed one and requires broad consensus before adoption. As a result, the committees have had to work with professionals from every area of psychological field and clinical work to determine whether or not psychologists in general were willing to accept such a code.

I doubt it will take us nine years, but it will take time. It would not take so long if we were to simply impose such a code upon the ministry from headquarters. Of course, certain standards not only can, but must be established by headquarters. But there are other standards that must be held by you, the field ministry—standards that go above and beyond what is *required* of you as ministers.

It seems clear to us that if you are to be committed to the maintenance of high ethical standards, then you must participate in the establishment of those standards. Our problem is

how we can obtain more field involvement in the discussion and development of ethical standards for themselves.

Ambassador College learned long ago in dealing with students that there are limits to the standards that can be imposed by the college administration. The college can, of course, establish rules and regulations and dismiss students for violating those rules. But if the student body as a whole is prepared to *tolerate* the violation of college rules, the administration finds itself at an enormous disadvantage. Those of you who have teenagers in school know how much power is involved in *peer pressure*. It is also an extremely potent force in college. When the student body of Ambassador College decided it would not tolerate certain problems, those problems disappeared almost immediately—and these were problems the administration had been trying for months to eradicate without success!

It took a little while before the students finally began to realize that one student passing bad checks around Big Sandy and Gladewater could seriously damage the reputation of them all. When the student body decided not to tolerate that kind of behavior, it ceased to be a problem.

The question now revolves around you. What do you demand of yourself? What do you expect of your fellow ministers? We all learned painfully how easy it is for a few to seriously damage the reputation of the ministry as a whole. It seems that the entire ministry has a stake in setting standards for ourselves and demanding that we *all* measure up to those standards.

The burning question of the hour is, how can we achieve more involvement from you in this field in the discussion and development of ethical standards for the ministry?

The ethical standards of psychologists referred to above serve as a useful model of how a set of standards might be arranged. It is comprised of a preamble and nine principles. The preamble makes a general statement of purpose and direction which is then amplified in each of the nine principles. Each principle has a title and one general paragraph stating the overall principle. It is then followed by more detailed statements of how it is applied in different relationships.

The principles listed by the APA are as follows: (1) Responsibility, (2) Competence, (3) Moral and Legal Standards, (4) Public Statements, (5) Confidentiality, (6) Welfare of the Consumer, (7) Professional Relationships, (8) Utilization of Assessment Techniques, (9) Pursuit of Research Activities.

We would like to request that each and every

minister do some individual work on ministerial ethics. We would like for you to write something for us (no matter whether you're a writer or not) on *one principle* of ministerial ethics. If you would prefer, you can do your work on a preamble. Then, after editing, we would like to publish some of the material in the *Bulletin* while we continue to work on a first draft of a code of ethics.

Please give the matter serious thought and prayer, as well as Bible study. In all cases, we want your contributions liberally laced with scripture.

That's about it for now. We'll be looking forward to seeing some of you at the Feast.

— Ronald L. Dart

P.S. Public Relations people tell us we should always make the P.S. some good, encouraging news. Well, how about this for some good news: There will be a general wage increase taking effect September 8th!

TO ALL PASTORS

I have received literally hundreds of cards and letters from brethren all over the world expressing their concern and love as a result of the recent death of my wife. Please thank your congregations for me as it will be impossible to answer all of those encouraging notes. Their prayers and concern have been a tremendous source of strength both to my wife before her death, and now to me.

— Les McCalm

MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT

Questions and Answers About Ministerial Development

Q. What is the objective of the Ministerial Development Program?

A. To help ministerial personnel isolate their abilities and to help them develop those talents so they can be used in greater responsibilities in the Work.

Q. Who in the field does it include?

A. All ministerial personnel as well as those in congregational Christian leadership responsibilities. Ministerial personnel includes ministerial candidates, elders (employed and non-employed), assistant and associate pastors, pastors, area coordinators and other ministerial positions.

Q. In what way are these goals to be achieved?

A. Since Ministerial Development is a relatively new function and one which must address changing needs of the Work, it will devise methods to

meet those changing needs and make alterations as is necessary. As we have stated in previous BULLETINS, Ministerial Development will gradually evolve over a long period of time since it is dealing with the lives of men and how they might be spending a good share of their lives. We would rather be cautious in implementing procedures to avoid causing traumatic experiences in the lives of those we serve.

At present, our services include the following:

1. Conduct as many ministerial seminars for all ministerial levels as possible.
2. Develop a professional ministerial ethical standard to foster greater service and personal growth among the ministry.
3. Develop pastoral field visits by headquarters representatives, as appointed by Mr. Dart, to inspire local congregations toward the Work and be a motivational contact for the local pastor with Pastoral Administration.
4. Institute ministerial candidate programs so future pastoral needs and Church Christian leadership needs can be filled.
5. Conduct meetings with elders, ministerial candidates and other Church leaders with Mr. Dart and myself when we are visiting in an area.
6. In a balanced evolutionary way, test various methods of how field personnel might best come to know their specialized God-given gifts and aptitudes.
7. At present, we are going to test our personal profile development with the men who have come in for sabbatical. With their input, suggestions, and volunteering to take specific interest surveys, aptitude surveys, etc., we hope to finally offer a balanced, effective system to the field ministry. We have decided to postpone offering it to the field until it is thoroughly tested and sound.
8. Assist, whenever possible, a ministerial candidate with his career needs in respect to local job opportunities.

This is as far as we have gone with our services. As new directions and needs are apparent, we will certainly keep you up to date.

Q. Is an individual made a ministerial candidate upon the pastor's recommendation to headquarters?

A. A ministerial candidate is officially designated by the director of Pastoral Administration after the recommendation has been approved by the area coordinator.

Q. Is a memo sufficient to recommend a candidate?

A. No. Application forms will be sent to each pastor shortly. The forms are generally more thorough in providing the basis for a broader analysis than you might be able to give with someone you've known for a short while.

Q. Will ministerial candidates receive any regular correspondence from headquarters other than the BULLETIN?

A. Yes. Plans are to direct information to the ministerial candidates three or four times a year. This information would be geared to the ministerial candidates' general development.

Q. Can ministerial candidates receive ongoing career guidance as they develop jobs in local church areas?

A. Yes, the office of Ministerial Development will be happy to work with any ministerial candidate who would like help with a developing career.

Q. The term *Christian leadership* has been used in the BULLETIN in discussing the ministerial development program. What responsibility does the term encompass and who does it refer to?

A. Congregational Christian leadership describes those functions necessary to the local church such as: choir directing, youth service, social activities direction, etc. Generally, those functions that are an adjunct to, but not a primary part of, the pastor's job.

Q. Are there any limits on the level of service the ministerial candidates can provide?

A. This, of course, depends upon the judgment of the pastor, the ministerial candidate's level of maturity, talents, abilities and available time. The idea is not how quickly any one individual can "climb the ladder," but that sufficient time be given to assure everyone of building a solid, mature base and discovering those special talents and abilities peculiar to each personality.

—Art Mocarow

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Holy Day Flowers

With the fall Holy Day season approaching, it's necessary to remind everyone of the policy prohibiting purchase of flowers from the Central Clearing Account.

Purchase of flowers, if you desire to have them, must be done through local accounts. The Church Division Budget would require an increase of \$60,000 to \$80,000 if all churches purchased flowers for the Holy Days through the C.C.A.

The same applies to towels, pans, etc. for Passover services.

Vacation Time

A recent personnel report carried a surprise for us in that it showed 69% of the field ministers as having not reported taking all available vacation time for the last year.

One hundred twenty-three men whose seniority date was in June have an average unreported 13.4 days each still on the books.

This leaves us with a real puzzle. Have those days actually been taken and not reported, or have the days just not been taken?

Legally it's a serious problem for us. Litigation resulting from Mike Weber's fatal accident three years ago is still with us due to lack of clearly recorded vacation dates.

On your side of the coin, perhaps we need to ask if there are needs that are not being met in helping you properly report vacation time or in the approach to vacation time itself.

We feel that the field ministry does enjoy a generous vacation program, receiving considerably more time than headquarters' employees. Yet, if you're not able to utilize the time fully, then it's not serving its intended purpose, and some change in approach may be necessary.

The policy requiring forfeiture of unused vacation time is general and necessary to insure that men do take regular opportunities for change of pace and to insure that no serious problems develop in maintaining regular church services for the brethren.

If vacation days were cumulative from year to year, then long vacation periods taken at one time would present problems in covering all churches with speakers on a regular basis.

However, we do allow carrying over of vacation days for someone unable to take time due to church emergencies or sickness, etc. We don't want the policy to be a burden.

It is the pastor's responsibility to approve vacation times for all ministers in his church area. He is responsible to see that vacations conform to guidelines and are properly reported.

The main point of this is the recognition of the stresses of your job and the need for a change of pace and a period of rejuvenation.

If a majority are not able to find time for this, perhaps you can discuss the situation with your pastor and/or area coordinator and drop us a line with some suggestions or comments.

Meals on Expense

In an increasing number of cases, the expense money being spent for meals is rising above the per meal limits—in some cases as much as double

what is allowed. We feel the per person limits: \$3.00 for breakfast, \$5.00 for lunch, and \$8.00 for dinner are reasonable. The amounts are predicated on providing an adequate meal in order to sustain you in your work.

The allotment does not allow for alcoholic beverages. If you wish to have a cocktail or after dinner drink, you must pay for that yourself. Also, the amounts listed are maximum figures. It may not be necessary to spend the maximum amount at each meal.

If an audit were to reveal significant abuse of the meal policy, it might be possible that the I.R.S. would require that taxes be paid on any excessive food charges on record.

Area Wage Adjustment

As a number of you will have noticed, your current paychecks reflect a change in the amount of the area wage adjustment (listed as "other earnings") that you receive. This is the result of our annual review and revision of the area wage adjustments based on ACCRA (American Chamber of Commerce Research Association) and U.S. Department of Labor reports.

The current round of changes have generally lowered the area wage adjustment for most of those concerned. If yours has been raised, you will probably have no questions. However, if your adjustment has been lowered, you may wonder why it has been lowered when your cost of living has been continually climbing. The primary answer is that the cost of living throughout the nation has been rising more rapidly in some areas than in others. This is true for the Los Angeles area. Since it is used as the base for comparison for all other areas, its rise, which has been more dramatic this past couple of years (in relation to the other cities of the U.S.), has tended to lower the area wage adjustment amounts for other parts of the country. But then, you always get your cost of living increase based on the L.A. area.

Also, for any of you who have been involved in a recent move, you will probably find some change in the amount you are receiving.

We're sorry that some of you will have to make adjustments due to the cost of living in the Los Angeles area rising so dramatically this past year. This is the main reason that a number of you will have had your adjustment amounts lowered. Your cost of living won't have decreased any, it costs you just as much to go shopping, but our cost of living has increased more rapidly than it has for you.

We realize downward changes in your paycheck always hurt. However, the only way we can make

the program equitable is to make these annual revisions as the cost of living continues to fluctuate from city to city. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to drop us a line.

— Ted Herlofson

Ambassador College

We are now well into the thirty-first academic year of Ambassador College. I am personally elated (and I share this feeling with most of my colleagues) with the cooperative spirit and good attitudes of students and faculty alike in the process of amalgamating two separate colleges.

With some 400 brand-new students and more than 400 transferring from Texas, we now have a total enrollment in excess of 1350 (the exact figure will not be determined until after this *Bulletin* goes to press). Pulling all of these young men and women together into one Ambassador College campus poses challenges to the faculty and administration, as well as the students.

However, Ambassador College of 1977 is every bit the pioneering institution it was when I was a student so many years ago. That same "pioneer spirit" is once again in evidence as we adjust to this latest big step in growth and development. Initial crowding, minor difficulties in registration and so forth, might have created insurmountable obstacles in many institutions. But not here. Our students are exhibiting a positive spirit of cooperation, consideration, maturity and, quite frankly, a whole lot of "horse sense." The faculty and administration show that same spirit and determination. This year will definitely go down as a landmark in Ambassador College history.

One very important group of college personnel which cannot be overlooked when discussing the hurdles of consolidation are the men and women in Physical Plant Operations. They were responsible for turning a campus serving 800 students into one that would accommodate 1350 virtually overnight. They have worked extremely hard through the summer, and have probably logged more overtime hours than ever before.

One of the greatest challenges these people faced was the task of converting several faculty homes into student residences. In fact, more than half of the college's homes located on South Orange Grove and Del Mar boulevards have been converted to accommodate students. The old Imperial School complexes have been turned into a Business and Economics Center and a Science

and Engineering Center. Most of the existing student residences also had to be remodeled to serve larger numbers of residents.

Appreciation must also be expressed to all of the other departments in meeting the herculean tasks of consolidation within one short summer. A great deal of effort was expended in every area, and the fruits are already evident.

Six months from now it will be hard to believe that a college could have consolidated and grow so rapidly. Standing firmly on its founding principles, Ambassador College is striving to serve the largest number of young people possible.

In the academic sphere, with which I am principally involved, we now offer seventeen major courses of study. These majors, as you know, are built around a solid core curriculum of theology and related subjects which focus upon the principles of successful living. Our goal is to continually improve our ability to live up to the adage we have used for so long: "We teach our students how to live as well as how to earn a living."

Structured upon this concept, Ambassador College is prepared to serve the Worldwide Church of God in two very important areas. First, we want to offer the very finest possible institution of higher learning where our youth can receive an education based on the values and teachings of the Church. Secondly, we want to produce increasing numbers of qualified men and women who can take their places in the business world, and as leaders in their local congregations, who are well-prepared to help meet the growing needs of God's Church.

—Michael P. Germano

Vice President for Academic Affairs

International Division

Greetings and salutations from the international areas! Classes have now begun and we have sixteen international men and their wives adjusting to a new life here in Pasadena.

We have been busy finalizing plans for the Feast of Tabernacles. Our number of feast sites once again has taken a substantial jump since many of the areas are having to designate more sites so the people won't have to travel long distances.

We are going to be having eight different areas observing the feast just in the West Indies! Stan Bass (the former Clarence Bass) has asked for help in handling these areas. And so four or five men

from the southeastern area of the U.S. are now going to various places in the West Indies for the Feast of Tabernacles. Anyone who would be interested in doing the same *next year* could get in touch with me and we'll keep your wishes in mind. I know that's a year away, but the way time evaporates it will soon be here again.

At various conferences, some of the ministers have asked about how to become involved in community-oriented projects, or if they have any value. In this regard I thought I'd quote part of a recent report from Mr. Bass.

"A special response to our media efforts and other community-oriented projects have come from the Royal Bermuda Police Force.

"Our minister in Bermuda, Roland Sampson, has been invited by the Bermuda Police Force to give oral evidence before the Royal Commission on Crime which holds public hearings on August 29. As we understand it, the evidence given on this occasion may have some effect on future Police Department policies and standards. Mr. Sampson says that he has been officially invited as a direct result of our booklets on crime and drugs, which he had previously presented to the Police Department.

"In another development, Mr. Sampson has been invited by the local TV station to give the opening prayer or inspirational comments on the daily program 'Good Morning, Bermuda.' Mr. Sampson will be the featured speaker on ten different mornings."

I don't think Roland and the local program he is appearing on are any threat to "Good Morning, America," but it is good to see this type of interest from the local community.

Dean Wilson just called. He has been on a tour through Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong. He held Bible Studies, baptized several people and made himself familiar with the areas in general.

He is now considering a once-a-month Bible Study in each of the areas which can be conducted on a circuit. For example, Saturday morning a study in Singapore, one in Kuala Lumpur in the afternoon and one on this Sunday in Hong Kong. This means there would be about nine additional studies per year. Up until now, these areas have had services only during the three festival seasons, and understandably the people are very excited about the prospect of a regular service. We would be dealing with 125-200 people each month. That is small compared to many churches in the U.S., but is very encouraging since we have had to cut back in PT service and other benefits to this part of the world in the past.

Regular monthly services will also help John Halford to be much more effective in working with the brethren in this part of the world, and allow him to cut down on the length of time he must be away from home when he leaves on a trip. Up until now the Feast trips have usually taken him away from home for four to six weeks at a time! I am sure he will appreciate the additional opportunity to be with his family.

The Work in Australia is continuing to grow, with a large number of new visit requests coming in. They are anticipating a projected visit by Mr. Ted Armstrong some time late in November. Hope the trip materializes.

We have more good news! The reports from Bricket Wood show an INCREASE for the new fiscal year. That is really encouraging. It has been such a long time since we've had a plus sign before our figures from there. I've been kidding Frank Brown that he won't know how to read the reports with this foreign (+) language included.

I am sure the people in Britain are pleased to see this progress as well. Hopefully it will continue so we can go about expanding the Work there again. It has been "a long dry spell" in respect to financial increases in Britain, but the members have steadfastly continued doing the job. Our sincere thanks to all of them.

We have now finalized festival plans here as most of you have. Have an excellent feast wherever you are, and we will report to you in October how it all went around the world.

—Leslie L. McCullough

Publishing

EDITORIAL SERVICES

Hello from the Office Facilities Building. We're still down here in our temporary dwelling place waiting to get moved across and down the hall. It will be nice to get all the various staff back together again!

Just received an advance copy of the new, edited and streamlined *10 Commandments* booklet hot off the press—and I do mean hot! Wait till you see that cover! It's really quite "mod," but I think it will be very effective on television. It's a bit of a departure from our usual "institutional," dignified cover, but it does have graphic impact. I'm not sure how well received it will be, but I'm sure we'll soon find out! This new edition will save us considerable money over the previous thick booklet. Yet it still conveys the same basic message.

We've been very encouraged by the mail generated by the July PT, which has been the highest in seven issues. We are expecting even higher mail on the August/September issue. It takes about three months before we really have an accurate picture of what kind of impact any given issue of the PT has had. Right now we're working on the *December* issue!

A completely new Lesson 10 of the Correspondence Course is now off the press, following closely on the heels of new Lesson 9. I suggest you look these lessons over carefully. I think you'll find that they are *very* strong and should be much more effective than any previous lessons in bringing new people along. Richard Sedliacik and John Schroeder have done an excellent job, in my opinion, of editing these four new lessons. The remaining two lessons will be in the mail just as soon as they are printed!

That's it for this time. If you have any comments, criticisms or suggestions for making our literature more effective, please feel free to drop me a line.

—Brian Knowles

Mail Processing

The low summer mail trend is continuing — but the mail count for August is slightly ahead of last year in spite of it! As of August 23, we have received 119,602 letters, which brings our cumulative count for the year to 1,285,467 letters.

Current renewals for the PLAIN TRUTH are coming in strong.

Subscriber Development

Progress continues to be made in a number of areas of Subscriber Development. The following are examples of two programs which are currently drawing favorable results.

1. Reprint Series

Three months have now passed since we started sending out the new reprint series on the subject of conversion. To date, we've received 19,137 requests, which represents an overall response of 28.7% from co-workers and donors. By the middle of September, 9783 people will have completed the four-month series.

2. Bookmark Response

Recently we had the Graphics Department design a colorful and attractive bookmark to be sent to our regular donors, co-workers and members, as a small token of our gratitude for their support and involvement.

Even though the bookmark was a simple, inexpensive gift, we received an unusually high number of letters expressing appreciation. The thought of giving something as an expression of thanks seemed to have a "warming" effect on these people and appears to have drawn many closer to the Work. Below are a few comments we received:

"Just about everyone is familiar with the saying that 'you can't out-give God.' More and more it seems that this saying can be applied very accurately to you and this Work also. . . . I was really moved when we received the bookmark with the picture of Ambassador College. Although it was a small token of your thanks, it was given freely and in love. . . ."

"Thank you for enclosing the two bookmarks in our latest contribution receipt. Somehow, receiving them makes the entire process seem much more personal. They will also serve as a reminder to keep praying and supporting this Work. Thank you all for everything."

"Thanks for the beautiful bookmarkers. Seems like I'm always in a hurry and don't take time to write and say thanks for all the wonderful things you all do for us scattered ones. God bless you all."

"Thank you for the bookmarks. Tell your father that the letter he sent was very much needed at the time. I needed to hear someone say, 'I love you!' That letter came at the right time and I thank God for him. I love him and you."

That's it for this issue.

—Richard Rice

Y.O.U. ACTIVITIES

We all made it back to Pasadena and are now gearing up for another full year. We have several items of encouraging news we would like to cover with you. Last year our budget was based on a projected income of \$250,000 from our youth. The final income report for the year showed that the youth went over that figure. They actually gave over \$260,000! This was *extremely* encouraging to everyone here in Pasadena. It proved that the youth of the Church really are supporting their own program.

In our budget planning for this year, we have budgeted a full set of coordinator meetings. These will be *completely* financed by Y.O.U. this year.

We also have budgeted a subsidy for the district tournaments similar to what we had last year on the regional basis. Y.O.U. will provide trophies and medals for the district activities. We will also pay costs for all officials and gym, or facility costs.

We realize you will still have to pay your own travel costs, but the subsidy should help anyway. Hopefully we will be able to do more on the district, and maybe even the local level, in the future. We feel this is definitely a step in the right direction.

We have budgeted for a boy *and* a girl from each Church *that has a local chapter* to attend the Youth Conference this December. (Any Church which doesn't have a local Y.O.U. Chapter may send a representative at their own expense.) We have also budgeted to subsidize twenty-five international representatives. We feel this will be a great boost to all the local areas. You might begin considering who should go from your area. We will be sending out information and requesting names shortly after the Feast of Tabernacles.

Fall Holy Day Reminder

The fall Holy Days are almost upon us. Again this year we are sending each of your pastors a supply of the special green Holy Day envelopes for use by all youth 19 and under. Please encourage all the youth to use the envelopes. Last year we received almost one third of our entire income from the fall Holy Days. We need another good round to get us on our way again this year.

Remember, Mr. Ted Armstrong has established this as the method for financing Y.O.U., rather than taking funds from the general income. If we don't meet our budget, the difference has to be made up from the general income. Any encouragement and "plugging" you can do during your offering announcements on the Holy Days will be really appreciated.

—Jim Thornhill

FILMS FOR MINISTRY

(Continued from 242)

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG Campaigns

1. The Portland Campaign (Time: 58:27; 2104 ft.) (1975)

In this film Mr. Ted Armstrong probes the urgent issues of our times and examines the keys to our national and individual survival. In dealing with the subject of individual salvation he covers

being saved physically from the coming trouble, as well as spiritual salvation.

2. Is This the End Time? (Time: 57:53; 2084 ft.) (1973)

A videotape transfer of the third night of the New Orleans campaign, dealing with prophecies for the end time. Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong uses a vivid description of the bombing of Hiroshima and relates it to Bible prophecy.

3. The Calgary Campaign (Time: 79:22; 2857 ft.—on 3 reels) (1972)

A videotape transfer of the third night of the Calgary campaign. This is the first campaign to be videotaped. It deals with cause and effect as can be seen in today's world, such as pollution. It explains that there is a "called-out group," whose commission is to preach the Gospel, and goes into the subject of Christ as the coming ruler.

Informative/Entertaining/Religious

1. Is Man Alone? (Time: 28:30) (1977)

Shows awesomeness of the universe and man's desire to communicate with extraterrestrial life (such as through the Viking project, Pioneer X, and Voyager space probes). Mr. Armstrong discusses the overlooked fact that intelligent life from outer space *has* communicated with mankind and this communication can be found in the pages of the Bible.

2. Welcome to Ambassador (Time: 29:00) (1977)

An in-depth look at the academic, social, and community life of Ambassador College, including faculty and students. Used as a television promotion for the College and hosted by Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong.

3. When Criminals Go Free (Time: 29:00) (1976)

A videotape transfer of one of the most popular Garner Ted Armstrong television programs on the subject of crime, primarily in America. Often requested for use by government leaders and civic groups.

4. Egypt Under Sadat (Time: 59:00) (1976)

Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong interviews Egypt's president, Anwar Sadat, on the problems, hopes, and dreams of Egypt. Much cover footage of modern Egypt.

5. What Is a Real Christian? (Time: 60:00) (1976)

Mr. Armstrong takes viewers on a search for a real Christian, using the Bible as a guide. The surprising result is that a Christian turns out to be a far different "creature" than many people imagine.

6. Here's to Your Last Drink (Time: 28:50) (1976)

What can you do if someone you love has a

drinking problem? Garner Ted Armstrong shows what's being done in alcoholism treatment.

7. Basketball Tournament (Time: 24:52, 895 ft.) (1975)

This film shows the playoffs of winning teams from local Church areas in the tournament held in Pasadena during the Days of Unleavened Bread, 1975. Also contains film footage of games played in local areas.

8. The Hunger Bomb (Time: 28:50; 1040 ft.) (1975)

Deals with world famine and was used as the 30-minute 1975 Spring TV Special which aired throughout the United States. Has a powerful impact.

9. The Real Jesus (Time: 30:00) (1972)

In one of Mr. Armstrong's most entertaining and animated television programs, he discusses the contrast between what people *think* Jesus said and what Jesus actually did teach.

10. Animal Oddities (Time: 28:48; 1034 ft.) (1971—timeless)

This is a videotape transfer of a television program dealing with odd animals of Australia. The program has been rerun several times over the past few years and continues to be one of the very best mail pullers. Highly recommended for family viewing. Enjoyed by children from ages two to ninety-two.

11. Our National Heritage (Time: 28:52; 1039 ft.) (1970)

This is a videotape transfer of a television program dealing with the blessings God has bestowed upon the United States and Canada. A great deal of the film footage shows the beauty of the United States and the abundance with which God has blessed us. Overall, the film is still up to date.

12. Quest into Antiquity (Time: 25:52; 931 ft.) (1969)

A film produced in 1969 covering the Jerusalem "dig," with various shots of students busily working their way through debris to the remains of Solomon's Temple. There are many shots of historical Jerusalem, such as Dome of the Rock. Narration explains some of Jerusalem's history. Informative and educational.

13. Our Dirty Air (Time: 28:45; 1035 ft.) (1968)

This is a videotape transfer of one of our television programs dealing with pollution. The material is somewhat dated, since it was produced over nine years ago. However, the symptoms and causes remain the same.

— John Lundberg

For Your Interest...

THE IDEAL PREACHER'S WIFE

Since reading the humorous description of a minister in the *Bulletin* a few issues back, I have come across a "Blueprint for the Ideal Preacher's Wife" and thought I'd send it on to the *Bulletin*. It's from the book, *The Unprivate Life of a Pastor's Wife*, by Frances Nordland (Moody Press, Chicago, \$2.50). I found it to be a very helpful book and would recommend it to other ministers' wives. Some of the chapter titles include:

- Be Realistic About Your Role
- Feelings of Inadequacy
- Conflicts Related to Time, Energy, & Children
- Reject Self-Pity
- Rejoice in Your Privileges
- Tensions and Fatigue
- Priorities
- "I Need Someone to Talk to and to Listen to Me"
- Husband-Wife Relationships
- Loneliness
- Jealousy
- Gifts
- Should a Pastor's Wife Seek Outside Employment?

Regarding the "Blueprint for the Ideal Preacher's Wife" mentioned at the beginning, a drawing of this composite creature showed her with four arms—to keep a neat, clean house at all times, to keep her family neat, clean and well dressed, to do all required church work, and to raise children to be intelligent and obedient. The hairdo on one side of her head differed in styling from the other side. The reason: "Hair—half in fashion of the day, other half in a motherly style." The front view of this woman showed only one eye in front—for playing the piano. A note indicated that she had one eye in back to see what her children were doing in the front pew. She had an ear with an automatic sifter to sort out information which could be repeated from that which was to be kept confidential. Her mouth was described as "always smiling, saying good things." Her feet: "Substantial—to work and work and work." Her figure: "Not too glamorous and not too matronly." Body: "Tireless." Clothing: "Always neat, not too new, not too old, not too fancy, not too plain."

What kind of mind was she expected to have? Several descriptions were given: "Radar mind—to know exactly where to reach husband at all times.

Automatic mind—to produce Sunday school lessons, youth lessons, assorted ladies' group devotions, parties, socials, and clever ideas to keep up husband's morale. File-cabinet mind, containing (1) miscellaneous file of all information that husband is apt to forget, (2) recipe file of 999 ways to prepare hamburger, (3) information on child psychology, marriage problems, and so on."

To top everything off, this composite woman had a safety valve on top of her head—to relieve tensions.

Finally, an asterisk refers the reader of this blueprint for the ideal preacher's wife to a note giving this information: "Available only with ideal preacher. We do not break a set!"

After reading *The Unprivate Life of a Pastor's Wife*, I feel that the wives of God's ministers have less problems than ministers' wives in the world, in spite of the extensive traveling, late nights, and long Sabbaths (due to two services) often involved in the work of God's ministry.

—Paulette Jameson
Walterboro, S.C.

THE GENERATION-TO-GENERATION CONCEPT OF CHILDREARING

Ask the average parent in God's Church to define his most important role in childrearing, and he will probably quote Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

No one should doubt the power, force and gravity of this scripture.

To bring up our children to fear and reverence God is the greatest responsibility we've been given as parents.

Yet, did you realize that our role reaches far beyond our immediate family—beyond the meaning and scope of the verse just quoted? There are other scriptures which teach us that we also are to be concerned with the development and education of future generations.

The reason is simple. God wants His Truth perpetuated for all times. And the way He has chosen to achieve this purpose is through the family system He has ordained and set in motion.

Therefore, it's incumbent on us, as parents, not only to "train up our children in the way they should go" (that is, to instill in them godly values and virtues, attitudes and habits, outlooks and insights), but also to be highly involved in the education of our grandchildren and even their posterity. Thus, if each succeeding generation would follow this divine and laudable precept,

God's glorious Truth would never vanish from the earth.

In reading through the Bible, I've been amazed to see how much emphasis God places on the generation-to-generation concept of childrearing. For example, notice how God praised Abraham for his determination to teach the true lasting values to his children and those after him: "For I know him, that he will command his *children* and his household *after him*, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do *justice and judgment*" (Gen. 18:19).

Notice further the command God gave through Moses: "Only take heed to yourself, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; but, *teach them your sons, and your son's sons*; specially the day that you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, *that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth*, and that *they may teach their children*" (Deut. 4:9-10).

In speaking of dire prophetic events which were to befall Israel, the prophet Joel commanded: "Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation" (Joel 1:3). Clearly, God has given His people the charge to hold inviolate His Truth down through the ages by teaching it to succeeding generations.

This profound duty cannot be fulfilled, however, through an occasional hit-or-miss, halfhearted effort. It must be done *diligently and consistently* with each passing day. "And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart: and *you shall teach them diligently* unto your children, and shall talk of them *when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up*" (Deut. 6:6-7).

It is only through consistent teaching of our children that the everlasting truths of God are engraved in their hearts and minds. His promise to us, then, is that "they will never depart from it." What follows as a natural consequence is that they will pass this knowledge on to their children. No doubt you've seen evidence of this principle working in your own life. The qualities which your parents drilled into your own mind you have inherently instilled into your children.

Besides preserving God's Truth, this approach to childrearing also highlights another great benefit. Just as the wrong teaching, improper habits and example of the older generation will bring

retribution, "even unto the third and fourth generation" (Ex. 20:5), so it is that *right* teaching will bring BLESSINGS *for generations to come!* "But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children. . ." (Ps. 103:17).

What values should we teach our children? I believe the place to begin is with the meaning and magnification of the two great commands—love to God and love to neighbor. The Apostle Paul says in Ephesians 6:4, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: *but bring them up* in the *nurture and admonition* of the Lord." There is no greater knowledge you can bequeath to your children than teaching them how to love and obey God. This means introducing God's Word, His law, and His Way in a *positive* manner so that they come to have a proper concept of what He really is like. It takes meditation, prayer and an active imagination to do this effectively. And, of course, we should never minimize the effectiveness of our own personal example.

Moreover, we should teach our children how to love neighbor as self by practicing the Golden Rule. I believe that one of the most vital laws of success is learning how to interact with others and expressing an heartfelt concern for their feelings and welfare. Our children should be taught that making friends and maintaining good human relations is largely a matter of "thinking of others first."

The standard values such as honesty, integrity, hard work, morality, mercy, patience, etc., will automatically follow when we have put love for God and neighbor first.

In our modern society we see an attitude that seems to care little about the state of future generations. The emphasis is on "me," not "we." Present day problems of world pollution, overpopulation, fiscal irresponsibility, a giant vortex of credit spending and attendant inflation, the creation of planet-destroying weapons and technology—are the result of past and present generations thinking mostly about themselves and their needs. Today, in political circles we still see the same preoccupation with self and an overt lack of concern for the long-term effect our actions will have on our children. "Let future generations worry about solving the messes we are making," seems to be the "ho-hum" approach many of our leaders are taking. In our mad rush to get for ourselves, the time-tested qualities of love and concern for neighbor are not only ignored—they are deliberately scoffed at and rebuffed.

When Christ returns to set up His Kingdom in

the world tomorrow, one of His primary goals will be to restore the generation-to-generation method of education and instruction to the family. Beginning with the first generation at His return, He will spread and perpetuate the knowledge of His Truth and quality lifestyle throughout the world until "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:9). It is this generation-to-generation system of teaching that will finally help mold the hearts and the minds of people throughout the millennium into a God-fearing, highly disciplined society of culture and achievement.

I believe that we as parents today have a grave and profound responsibility resting on our shoulders. Not only have we been called to help our leaders carry the Gospel to the world, but also to prepare a generation of God-fearing sons and daughters to physically assist Christ as human leaders in ushering in His Kingdom.

As Malachi 4:5-6 states, one of the functions of Elijah the Prophet is "to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers."

These verses summarize what we as God's Church should collectively be doing—returning to the type of family relationship God ordained from the beginning.

Are we doing our part to keep God's Truth "alive" through teaching it conscientiously to our children? Are we preparing a heritage of sons and daughters "to meet thy God" at Christ's coming?

—Richard Rice

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES . . .

Editor's Note: *The Tampa, Florida church gave a brief test to its Bible study class for five to eight year olds. The last question required a thoughtful response: "If you had the power of God, what would you do?" Here are some of their responses which Becky Encinosa and Anita Lindsay forwarded to us.*

"Help other people and have a whole supply of wishes."

"I would make a blue motorcycle."

"Stop a lion from killing people."

"I would bless the people who obeyed God. I would make more churches of God and I would fly all over the world. I would punish evil."

"Create, heal, protect, rule."

"Throw away all cigarettes, tobacco, cigars. Make snakes not bite people. Chain Satan up."

"Go up into the sky and talk to God."

"Make people love each other."

"I would create more people."

"Help people and stop pollution."

"I would help people like each other better. I would teach my friends God's way."

"If I had the power of God I would protect all the people. Also I would disappear."

"Rule over the earth, Kill Satan."

"Do the same thing God is doing now!"

BIRTHS

Joe and Pat Dobson (Lawton, OK): Our son Bret now has a new little brother—*Brad Joseph*. He was born July 20th and weighed 7 lbs., 9 ozs. Mom, Brad, Bret and Dad are all doing fine.

Arnold and Ann Hampton (Salisbury, MD): We are extremely happy to announce the birth of our second child and first son. *Mark Jerome* was born Wednesday, June 1, at 9:11 a.m. He weighed 7 lbs., 10 ozs., and was nearly 21 inches long. Needless to say, everyone is doing absolutely G-R-E-A-T!!!

John and Lynn Meakin (Bricket Wood, England): We are very happy to announce the birth of *Kathryn Ann Louise*, weight 6 lbs., at around 8:30 p.m. on Monday, 8th August. She was in a great rush to come; it was two hours from the first pain until the birth—she almost came in the car! Everyone is doing fine. We thought she was a month early, but the midwife said she was on time, so we must have figured the dates wrong.

Richard and Judith Shuta (Fairmont-Rochester, MN.): *Janna Lynn* was born June 7, 1977 at 8:45 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs., 12 ozs., and was 20 inches long! Janna is our fourth girl! Mother is doing fine, father is overwhelmed!

