

PASTOR'S REPORT



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CHRIST'S APOSTLE TO THE MINISTRY:

"WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS!"

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Fellow Ministers, Satan tried again -- God's Church has been through troublous times these past few months -- but the Head of God's Church, Jesus Christ, was interceding for us -- and thanks largely to you ministers, the Church has come through stronger than ever!

I simply cannot find words to adequately express my THANKS and GRATITUDE and LOVE for the LOYALTY of you ministers standing staunchly and unitedly behind me, behind the living Christ, and behind the GREAT MAJESTIC GOD OUR FATHER!

We have just had a splendid and successful meeting of the area coordinators. Reports from them show that God's Church -- His one and only Church -- has weathered this latest storm and now presses on with renewed vigor to finish the GREAT COMMISSION.

All indication confirms this. The Work's income holds steadily with a slight increase. The mail response confirms it. The atmosphere at Headquarters has taken on a "NEW LOOK" -- it seems everyone is smiling -- there is TOGETHERNESS, peace and harmony. Sometimes the barber shop is a reflector of campus atmosphere. The campus barber told me that he, too, notices the happy change -- all seem to be looking forward to a leap ahead in God's Work.

Let me give you just a few brief excerpts from State-of-the-Work reports from scattered areas.

From the populous New York area Mr. Elbert Atlas reports: "There are no indications that the difficulties we have been experiencing during the last few months have adversely affected Church attendance. Attendance figures for the area" /New York state, New England states, Delaware, New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania/ "are either holding steady or are slightly up. The brethren then...are remaining steadfast and stable. The fine manner in which the ministry in this area has responded to your leadership has resulted in the high degree of stability and unity. I feel the men have been doing an excellent job in shepherding their flocks during these traumatic and troublesome times.

"To the best of my knowledge only three members have left the Church...that is three out of 5,600. One lives in the New York City area, and the others -- a man and his wife -- live in New Jersey.

Press releases to 5 or 6 newspapers announced the time and place of a meeting...in Clark, New Jersey, two Sabbaths ago. Letters were also sent to members whose addresses he had, encouraging them to attend...a grand total of 6 or 8 people showed up. Only one was a member...not yet identified.

"Mr. Armstrong, because you are the head of this Work under Christ, the ministry looks to you for direction, guidance and correction. But you are also our 'Father in Christ,'...I can say as your representative in this area, the ministers are doing highly commendable jobs in shepherding the flocks over which Christ through you made them overseers."

From the West Coast Sacramento area, Mr. Norman Smith reports: "The ministry and the people are committed to keeping the body of Jesus Christ working together as one unit. There have been a few families that have departed in the past few months, but generally speaking, it has been only about one family per church or less. The ministry believes in the Government of God and is remaining loyal to the offices God has established."

From the Cleveland area: Mr. Guy Englebart reports: "Mr. Armstrong, the churches here are basically very stable. The ministers and brethren are behind you 100% as Christ leads you in accomplishing the Work of God in these last days. I know of no one here who has left God's Church and is following Mr. Ted Armstrong. Even though the churches are basically stable,...some...understood you to say in your letter that we should not pray for Garner Ted Armstrong's repentance and return to God's Work. Many are confused as to why you said this."

Let me interrupt Mr. Englebart's report here to say that I'm sure I never said that! I myself pray for him and his restoration daily. What I did write was that I had been praying earnestly for him, and a real repentance, ever since 1971. In the letter to the membership I did add a quotation from Hebrews 6:4-6 -- that some refuse to repent, but I'm sure I indicated how I hoped desperately that he would. I still do, and ask all to do the same. Mr. Englebart continues, "Let me assure you, Mr. Armstrong, that the ministers here are solidly behind you and fully loyal to you as you accomplish God's Work. The attitude and the feeling of the ministry and brethren is to forget the past and let's get on with accomplishing the Great Commission....The most encouraging thing for the brethren right now would be for them to continue to see God's Work forging ahead and dynamically accomplishing the commission Christ has given to the Church."

The report from Mr. Dennis Pyle, Kansas area: "Mr. Armstrong, all of us in the ministry are behind you. We are supportive and loyal to you and the Work of God. We want to preach the truth of God as you instruct us based on God's Word. I want you to know that the ministry daily and zealously supports you and God's Church. They earnestly need your trust, your confidence, your support, and your leadership."

Fellow ministers, you certainly have my confidence, trust and support -- and as I said above, I cannot find words to properly express

my GRATITUDE, and LOVE for you in your loyalty and faithfulness, especially during the recent few traumatic months. And I am now working some 14 or more hours daily to try to give you the leadership under Christ that you need. Your diligence, loyalty and faithfulness, coupled with the leadership that the living Christ enables me to give you -- THAT IS THE TEAMWORK AND UNITY, under Christ's guidance, inspiration and power, that has continued to pull God's Church through all attacks by Satan. I do not blame humans for the trauma from which Christ has delivered us. I attribute it to Satan, "for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness /wicked spirits/ in high places" (Eph. 6:12).

I pray for you daily and I still pray for my son daily whom I love deeply. Christ, our Head, is daily interceding for us on God's throne, and will in His way bring us all in the UNITY OF THE FAITH. I remember that my mother's favorite Bible passage was, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalms 133:1).

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A POLICY STATEMENT

by Herbert W. Armstrong

A statement in a recent issue of The GOOD NEWS was emphatically not intended to reflect distrust of the ministry.

I want ministers and lay brethren alike to know that no longer are communications to me shut off and forbidden to reach me. The office of executive vice-president had demoted or shanghaied to other fields ministers close to the top and they were threatened with being fired if they communicated with me in any way.

When one is forcibly restrained from communicating or reaching anyone higher than any certain office, he is shut off from Christ and from God.

What I had in mind was a case example which occurred many years ago; a member stirring up controversy about praying to "Our Father, which art in heaven," -- that is, God the Father. He insisted it was "taking it over Christ's head," and we had no right to go to any higher than Christ. I explained how Jesus' sample prayer was a prayer to God the Father, in Jesus' name. I explained how Jesus said that if we ask the Father anything in his name, the Father will do it. I showed him Acts 4:23-31, how the early Church prayed to God the Father, saying, "Lord, thou art God...for of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed,...and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus." I showed this man how miraculously God answered that prayer. Yet he persisted in saying we cannot contact anyone higher than Jesus -- we were forbidden to reach the Father.

I wanted to make plain that no one is forbidden to reach me, as no one is forbidden to go to Jesus Christ or to God the Father.

However, I want to straighten out two points that were not understood -- or perhaps I did not make them plain:

1) In ordinary cases of a member having or feeling any criticism against his pastor, he should, first, obey Matthew 18:15 and take it to his local pastor in private. In this regard I am reminded of a case history in my ministry. A member whom I had made a deacon insisted on being ordained an elder. When I did not comply, he became offended. I went to him about it, my wife accompanying me. Later he accused me of not obeying Matthew 18:15. When, in astonishment, I reminded him of how I had come to him privately, he got technical and said, "Yes, but Jesus said go to him alone, and you did not come alone -- your wife was with you." Anyway, I explained that he was alone and therefore I had gone to him alone -- and not to others -- but one whose feelings are hurt will not admit it if he is wrong.

Now 2) if anyone brings to me any accusation about a minister -- or if anyone brings a complaint against anyone higher than he in authority, I have always, through the years, adhered to one policy. I uphold the accused in the higher position, and the burden of proof is upon the complainant. The minister, or the accused in the higher office is always innocent in my eyes until proved otherwise.

But as all are free to go to God the Father direct, so on the human level I want our people to understand no one is shut off from me by someone under me who might (as was done) forbid him to contact me. That is all I meant and this will be published also in The GOOD NEWS.

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CLEARING THE AIR ON HEALING

by Herbert W. Armstrong

There has been some confusion on the subject of healing due to STP teaching, with a tendency to place DOUBT regarding GOD'S WORD and His PROMISES -- as well as MISUNDERSTANDING what I have taught and written.

First let me say that, as I write these lines September 10, you have not yet read Part 5 of my series of articles on healing in The GOOD NEWS, and there will follow Part 6 after that. And God says through Solomon, "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly to him" (Proverbs 18:13).

This series of articles in The GOOD NEWS will be published as a booklet -- the official teaching of The Worldwide Church of God.

Let me here comment more briefly on a letter from one of our field ministers whom I know wants to follow and teach God's TRUTH as revealed in the Bible -- but has not understood clearly what I have taught -- or, more properly appears to have a misunderstanding about what I have taught, or intended to teach. What he has written may be typical of what some others have misunderstood.

First let me say that I have often wondered why God called and used a man such as myself in committing to him Christ's GREAT COMMISSION when I have known scores -- perhaps hundreds of men of greater ability, perhaps far better minds, superior personality, appearance and other qualifications than I. Of course I had been driven by ambition -- had diligently studied and applied myself and been successful in business -- but at conversion I realized I was no better than a worthless "hunk of junk," unfit even to be cast on the junk pile. But I did BELIEVE GOD -- that is, I believed what He says in His Word -- and I have never compromised with His precious TRUTH and will not water it down. Perhaps that is a reason, although even that was given to me by God, and not to my credit. The fact remains, regardless of my unworthiness, God chose none of these others who were far my superiors -- He did choose me, and He has used me, and has borne rich fruit through me -- which has been HIS doing.

But I do mean to BELIEVE GOD, and not to use human reason to water down His TRUTH. And it is, after all, through God's using me that you, directly or indirectly, have been brought into this TRUTH, and the high calling of His ministry.

Now to try to clear the air at least partially, prior to your receiving the two installments yet to be published in The GOOD NEWS.

This minister's letter states: "From your articles on healing, every member that I talked with got the impression that we were not to use doctors -- that the medical profession was condemned, of Satan. That doctors, medicine and drugs were condemned of God."

If I wrote that and you can show it to me, I will correct it. I'm quite sure that I wrote what THE WORD OF GOD SAYS, and if that is wrong in human eyes for human reasoning, I'm sorry -- but I shall keep on teaching what God SAYS and believing Him!

I did not say our members must never use doctors. The medical profession, in my mind, is not condemned. In the two remaining installments in The GOOD NEWS, this I hope will be made clear. For it will become the official Worldwide Church of God teaching on the subject.

I have sensed a tendency by some members who have come into the Church since it became a Worldwide Church, and since it has grown into a well-organized worldwide organism, to appear to look upon God's Church as just another of this world's organized activities.

But we are God's "called-OUT ones" -- called out of the world, to be separate -- to be DIFFERENT -- God's own spiritual organism (although organized according to God's pattern) -- a "peculiar people," not of this world.

Some have forgotten how the present era of God's Church was started, and how it developed. God had put me through a most unusual experience. I had been forced to see and believe what I did not want to believe. God had swept my mind clean of all previous concepts, assumptions and beliefs. He had proved to me His own existence. He had proved to me the INFALLIBLE AUTHORITY of the Bible as His inspired Word. I had

craved UNDERSTANDING, and after God took me to a beating, being CONQUERED by Him, He revealed a good UNDERSTANDING of His revealed Word.

This era of God's Church was raised up by a six-week's, six-nights-a-week series of meetings in a country school house eight miles west of Eugene, Oregon. It started, like a grain of mustard seed, with nineteen members.

Those nineteen believed what the living Christ taught them through me. As God added to His Church continually, all members came into the TEACHINGS Christ had given through me, His chosen apostle. As each new member has since come into the Church, there was no understanding or agreement that he was to have a part in changing the truth that Christ had given the Church through His apostle. Until some two or more years ago, all teachings in this Church had been given by Christ through HIS chosen apostle.

Then, a few years back, somehow a "doctrinal committee" had gotten into the Church, composed of the more "scholarly" at Headquarters. Before we realized it, more study was being devoted to finding out whether the doctrines received through Christ's apostle were, after all, correct. On two different questions -- counting Pentecost and "D & R" -- I did perceive a correction should be made -- and I made each, on PROOF which GOD REVEALED. And not from the "scholarly arguments."

In the case of Pentecost I had researched that thoroughly and in-depth some 45 or more years ago. It was a simple matter of counting 50 days. Every translation then extant, translated the Hebrew to instruct us to count 50 days from a Sunday. Forty-five years ago a woman raised a controversy in the Church (then in Oregon) insisting on a Sunday Pentecost. But for the wrong reasons! As long as every Hebrew scholar of every translation said count from Sunday, I did not attempt to use what knowledge of Hebrew I possessed to translate the term differently than the many Hebrew scholars had done. I remained firm on a Monday Pentecost -- and I would have, in spite of all arguments (all of which had been in error) had not I finally found PROOF through two of the official translators of the RSV, and through a Jewish woman in Israel who is a teacher of Hebrew, and also well versed in English. The Hebrew word properly, I finally had proved, should be translated not "from" but "on" or "beginning on" a Sunday. From them I received an explanation of why all preceding translators had used the word "from." On evidence, I made the change immediately.

My mind, fellows, IS open -- on proof! But I will not compromise or "water down."

In the D & R question, I stood firm against some of the "scholars" on the doctrinal committee -- as did some others of the committee, as long as their reasons were in error and consequently their conclusions were in error!

How, then, did the change come to be made official by me? I think many of you have never heard the details of the real reason. My son had come to me asking, "If two totally illiterate aborigines, who never heard of God or Christianity marry, is such marriage bound

by God?" I answered "Yes." Then Dr. Herman Hoeh said, "Mr. Armstrong, you have said that most errors are based on a false PREMISE which appears so correct it is never questioned, but is assumed. And when the premise is proved false, the arguments or reasons based on it topple with it. Now suppose the General Motors Corporation makes a legal contract with United States Steel Corporation. Is GOD concerned? Does God bind that contract?"

I answered "NO, because this world is CUT OFF from God." "Then," pursued Dr. Hoeh, "are not the Aborigines also cut off from God?" He was right.

Next step. My son came to me one day saying, "I find there was more divorce and remarriage going on in the area in which the apostle Paul worked than there is today. Yet the D & R question never seems to be mentioned as a problem in the Church in Paul's writings and today it is our biggest problem. WHY?"

At least the three of us, and perhaps more, began studying to find the answer. I remember going back for perhaps the 57th time over I Corinthians 7. Now I saw something that somehow had escaped us before.

Paul first gave instruction regarding the unmarried single persons, and then regarding the marital state. Then, verse 8, "I say therefore to the UNMARRIED..." and in verse 10, "And unto the married I command" Then, verse 12, "but to the REST speak I...." Who were "the rest"? Paul had just spoken of the unmarried, and then of the married. The context now became for the first time clear: "If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away." Then the same applied to the woman member with a non-believing husband. Then, verse 15, "If the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister /Church members/ is not under bondage in such cases." And those I was counseling with on the doctrinal committee agreed that such member is not bound -- that is, the marriage is no longer binding. God has not called us to strife and contention, but to peace. And often the unconverted mate insists on strife and contention because of his mate's belief. Later, I believe it was, Dr. Hoeh came up with the fact that the leaving or putting away here was not an "annulment" but a "divorce" -- unbinding the innocent member -- free to marry within the Church.

You will find my mind open, on PROOF. If I am proved wrong, I shall change. But I shall HOLD FAST uncompromisingly with proved proof!

In what I have outlined above, God's Church continues precisely as it was in the first generation of the Church of God.

Jesus had personally instructed the apostles. After His ascension to heaven, the only function of a prophet, as one through whom God reveals, seems to be to convey a message from God to the apostle. However, the word "prophet," from the time of the King James translation, more often meant one who preaches, usually not casual teaching but inspired preaching with conviction and power.

But in the days of the Church, starting 31 A.D., the Church received all its beliefs and teachings through the apostles. There was no "doctrinal committee" and there no longer is today. In the sense of prophets through whom God communicates to the apostle, there are none in God's Church today. So we have, apostle, evangelist, pastor, and teachers who are elders -- both preaching and non-preaching.

Now back to the comment on clearing the air on healing.

I did not say our members must never use doctors. The medical profession is (as later installments in The GOOD NEWS will make clear -- as the official booklet and teaching of God's Church) the commonly accepted (in the world) leading, if not the best means of coping with sickness, diseases, etc., that human man, cut off from God, has produced. But, of course, completely outside the bounds of God's revealed knowledge.

I do not say it is condemned by God. When God, as a result of Adam's choice, cut humanity off from Him (except such as He has specially called for a special purpose, including His Church) God does not hold the medical profession guilty of sin -- because, since GOD cut humanity off, the responsibility is God's. And He will see to it -- in the great white throne judgment -- post-millennial.

Meanwhile, God has said, in effect, to Adam applying to the world that sprang from Adam, "Though, since you have REJECTED ME as your God, your Ruler, your Revealer of Truth, and go and devise your religions, your own governments, your own fund of knowledge and means of its dissemination -- your own CIVILIZATION." But God retained the prerogative of calling to His service such as He chose in preparation for the coming KINGDOM OF GOD. He has called His Church to "come out from among them, and be ye separate."

But God has not said to those of us He has called to come out of the world and BE SEPARATE, that we should place our faith in, and rely on, this world's devices. Especially when HE has said, "I am the God that healeth thee" -- Yahveh-Rapha, our HEALING God."

God does not condemn this world's medical profession -- neither does HIS CHURCH. Nor do we command the members not to use such services. Rather, we teach our members "A MORE EXCELLENT WAY" and God does want us to learn to RELY ON HIM.

As you will read in the forthcoming article, for God's people, healing is included -- one of the benefits God has made available to His people, which He tells us not to forget (Ps. 103:2). It is there stated as GOD'S WILL along with eternal salvation to immortal life. If I can't believe the one I can't believe the other.

No, I have always taught that we have a need for doctors -- but I have not taught that drugs and medicines heal -- which emphatically they cannot -- yet I have cited cases like delivery of babies, including instruction on diet and other care etc., during pregnancy. I have used the example of setting a broken arm or leg -- and GOD will cause it to heal.

I have written of similar case histories. One of a small girl whose thumb was torn off all but one piece of skin by which it was hanging loose. I directed the parents to drive us immediately to a doctor, asking him to put the end of the thumb back in place, properly binding and bandaging it up. The doctor wanted to amputate. I insisted, saying "GOD WILL HEAL!" Reluctantly the doctor said, "Oh well, I'll do as you say -- and when it does not heal we can amputate later." But it did heal, because I prayed over the girl and anointed her and called on God's PROMISE to heal -- and He did -- without a scar!

I think one trouble with all this misunderstanding about healing is the fact that so many have never experienced it -- and it seems difficult to put one's trust in a God one can't see, and does not really KNOW by personal experience. I KNOW God heals because I have experienced it many, many times.

This minister writes further: "Perhaps we totally misunderstood the articles you wrote on healing." Yes, perhaps, and perhaps I did not write clearly enough -- though I have been told by many that I do make what I say so plain and clear that even a child may understand. If I am deficient in this I'm sorry -- but I do try.

I definitely remember discussing with my son -- prior to last January's ministerial conference -- the fact that some doctrinal matters had been discussed the preceding year at the ministers' conference, and I said that if he intended bringing up any doctrinal questions, then definitely I was going to remain personally for the entire conference. He assured me no doctrinal questions would be brought up. On that assurance, I left after opening the conference on the opening morning. But of course the very fact I was there for that opening session rendered credence to the false claim that I had approved the "STP" -- when in fact I knew nothing of it. It was just one more of several things done without authority, behind my back, and keeping it from me.

I could get affirmed affidavits from several ministers who had served in top or near-top capacities who were demoted, or shanghaied away from Headquarters and forbidden to contact me in any way on pain of being fired.

One last question brought up by this minister. He said "What about the many of our dead we have buried -- Mrs. Loma Armstrong, your own son Dick, Dr. Rea, Mrs. Hunting, Mrs. Meredith? Does it show that the ministry lacks faith?"

You will find that point fully covered in the coming articles in The GOOD NEWS. God made to Abraham, and repromised to Isaac and Jacob the PROMISES upon which your eternity and mine depend. Jesus came to "confirm the PROMISES made to the fathers." Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all died IN FAITH, not having received the PROMISES. Yet, those promises remain ABSOLUTELY SECURE! I learned that lesson when my father died in 1933. I had faith -- I anointed and prayed for him -- he had faith -- I continued praying over him all night, yet at 9:40 a.m. he died. He, like Abraham, like my wife Loma, like my son Dick and others died IN FAITH not having received the PROMISES -- YET! God says through Paul, "If in this life only we have hope in

Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first-fruits of them that slept."

When one loses consciousness in death, in the next fraction of a second, in his consciousness, he is ALIVE, in God's Kingdom. I am going to see my father, my wife, my son Dick healed -- and in the next second of their consciousness.

Fellows, we are inclined to be a "NOW" people. The world lives just for NOW. How often have I heard "Pentecostal people" shout to God over one they want to have healed, "Right NOW! Lord, right NOW!" Yet I never saw God jump to the crack of their whip!

Our lives are preparation for GOD'S KINGDOM! We should point our brethren TOWARD GOD'S KINGDOM -- and TOWARD FAITH! The great commission to which we are called is to proclaim the GOOD NEWS of the soon-coming KINGDOM OF GOD. That glorious kingdom will appear in less than a second from the time my father, my elder son, my wife-of-my-youth, Mrs. Hunting, and Mrs. Meredith lost consciousness -- so far as they are concerned! God's PROMISE of healing has not gone by default. That PROMISE WAS A PROMISE AND IT REMAINS INVIOLETE! There is yet much more to come in the healing articles. Please bear with me.

* * * * *

Greetings fellow ministers:

Things continue to move along at a rapid pace. On August 31 a board meeting was conducted on the campus at Bricket Wood. For any official board action it is necessary that three members of the board from the United States be present in the meeting. (Les McCullough, Raymond McNair and I were there for this meeting.)

The principle purpose was, of course, to pass a resolution for the sale of the campus. I won't go into detail concerning the pending sale as I feel it would be presumptuous on my part. It would be better if Mr. Brown would write this up for you as events develop -- and it does look like a sale will be finalized soon.

At this time let it suffice to say that it appears the campus will be sold for a relatively good price. If this is God's will -- and we believe it is -- then we trust He will give His continued blessing to the pending transaction.

Mr. McCullough returned to Canada before the weekend following the meeting and, I believe, met with some of the ministers in the Toronto area.

Raymond McNair and I stayed over the weekend so we could speak in church services -- Mr. McNair spoke to the London church and I spoke to the Bricket Wood congregation.

On Sunday, September 3rd, we had a meeting with the ministry attending from every area of Britain and some from the continent. Mr. and Mrs. Bram Debree, recently moving from Montreal-Quebec to

take up the duties of directing the Work in the Netherlands, were present. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bode, recently having moved to Germany from South Africa, were also present. Mr. Bode is now the office and business manager in the Bonn office. George Kovanis from Greece was there as well. It was my first opportunity to meet Mr. Kovanis, a graduate from Ambassador College who now lives in Athens, Greece. Mr. Kovanis came to the conference so Mr. Brown and I could further acquaint ourselves with the potential for any future work in Greece. At the present time a small group of 8 or 10 members meets every Sabbath in Athens and listens to tapes sent to them either from Pasadena (Mr. Armstrong's tapes) or from Bricket Wood.

The conference we held on September 3 was an update session. Mr. McNair and I were able to comment on the many questions that came up both of an administrative and doctrinal nature. According to comments heard later, the ministers and wives present appreciated this opportunity to communicate face to face with a couple of people from Headquarters.

We hope to do more of this type of work in meeting the leaders and representatives of the Work around the world as time permits and as we see the need.

This past week -- September 5th through 8th -- we had an Area Coordinators' conference here in Pasadena. Whenever this group gets together there is no end to the conversations and discussions that take place. We could talk for weeks about subjects of common interest.

The main purpose of this conference was to discuss future manpower considerations and then to discuss the state of the ministry and the Church and share ideas about how to do our jobs more effectively in the wake of all that has happened.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong spoke to the Area Coordinators plus a small number of additional Headquarters personnel on Friday. He emphasized the need for us all to work effectively in building the faith of God's people, trusting God and Christ more in every trial and need.

One other event I want to mention is a buffet-cocktail hour and dance held in honor of the ministers and wives in on Sabbatical this year. This event was conducted in the Grove Terrace lounge and seemed to be enjoyed by all present.

Our fellow ministers who spend a few months with us while here on Sabbatical are deeply appreciated and welcome. Perhaps more can be done throughout their stay to make them feel like part of the local scene.

Every minister (unless there is an extraordinary exception) who is here on Sabbatical is an experienced "veteran" and capable minister. He has been actively on the job in the ministry for anywhere from seven to fifteen or more years. A man doesn't come in on Sabbatical until he has spent a good number of years "on the job."

These men should be shown the honor, the recognition and the esteem they rightly have earned. They may be here in classes now,

but this brief respite is only an interlude between very active, meaningful and fruitful roles in God's Work in scattered places throughout the world.

This current group of ministers on Sabbatical here in Pasadena will, in a few months' time, literally go to the "four corners of the earth" to occupy significant positions in God's Work. I wonder if we have thought much about that. It certainly is true!

Well, that does it for this time. God be with you.

Your Servant in Christ,



C. Wayne Cole

NEW AREA COORDINATOR NAMED Congratulations are in order for Mr. Dean Blackwell who has been named as the Area Coordinator to replace Mr. Sherwin McMichael in the Big Sandy region. This assignment becomes effective immediately, so all of you ministers in that area should begin to look to Mr. Blackwell as your Coordinator.

Mr. and Mrs. McMichael will be moving to Pasadena following the Feast of Tabernacles. The Festival Department is to be relocated in Pasadena at the Church Headquarters and Mr. McMichael will continue to direct it. He will not only be engaged in Feast activity, but will also be a part of the Headquarters team of ministers offering counsel and advice concerning varying aspects of Pastoral Administration.

Mr. Blackwell is, as most of you realize, one of our senior ministers in the Church today. He was ordained in the mid 1950's and has served in varying capacities as a Church Pastor, as a District Superintendent, an instructor on the Big Sandy faculty and now as an Area Coordinator. He is a dedicated and loyal minister of God's Church, fully acquainted with its doctrines and has always been very energetic in fulfilling whatever responsibilities he has been given. He is also my very close personal friend. I know he will be very effective with all you ministers in his area in giving you direction and encouragement in the fulfillment of your ministries.

Again, our congratulations to both Mr. Blackwell on his appointment, and to Mr. McMichael on his move to Pasadena to be a part of the Headquarters team.

--C. Wayne Cole

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES As is usual at this time of the year, the Accounting Dept. is making plans for their workload around the Festival break. As a result, they have notified us that if they don't receive invoices for payment by September 29, it is very doubtful if they will be able to get them paid. If you have hall rentals, expense reimbursements, etc. that need to be paid before the Feast, please send them in so they will arrive here no later than September 29.

MR. ARMSTRONG'S OPENING REMARKS TO THE AREA COORDINATORS (Editor's Note: Mr. Armstrong has asked that his opening remarks to the Area Coordinators last Friday, September 8, be published for all the ministry.)

I want to read to you one statement that I made in a memorandum to the Plain Truth staff. I said that I did not especially want to start QUEST/77, and QUEST/78, but reasons were presented to me why it could be a means of indirectly helping in the Great Commission and building for us a certain credibility in the publishing world. This latter has been accomplished. It is becoming recognized as the number one magazine of excellence. So far as the high class field of excellence is concerned it is rated number one now. And I might say to you, if you don't already know, (and this is rather confidential by the way, but I think I can say it to you here) that both ABC and CBS are now competing where they would like to buy it. They're going into the publishing business, publishing magazines, as well as other products. Now magazines are branching out. For instance, Time, the Time-Life people, are bringing Life back again, I understand. They also publish the magazine People. And let me see, I think there is one on the west coast that is being printed by either ABC or CBS -- the Los Angeles magazine. Well, both companies want to make QUEST their flagship, the top magazine of the line -- the one of excellence, of quality.

Now I have always believed in quality first and quantity second. Of course, quantity is good, too, provided you have the quality first. And QUEST/78 is quality. Its appeal is not to the rank and file of the world or the majority. Whether to dispose of it now hangs in the balance because of financial considerations beyond the current fiscal period. But at least it is the best and so recognized in the publishing industry.

Now I tell you I look at a copy of QUEST, and I see my name. Most magazines now put the publisher and offices down at the bottom of the masthead list, but I am at the top of that group as the founder and chairman, and I am glad that if my name is there, it's there on a high class, quality product.

I have always believed in quality. God believes in quality. Jesus Christ believes in quality. I have believed in quality and Christ has built through me and with me a quality institution here. We have twice been awarded an award for the finest, most beautiful, best landscaped and best maintained college campus in the United States. Now I am not ashamed of it. My son didn't like it. That's just too bad. I regret all of that. But I still have to say that I go along with God and I think most of you or all of you do too. And that's the way we have to go.

I just wanted to say that QUEST/78, now, is already recognized in the publishing industry as the number one quality magazine. And the very fact of our identification with it, you have to remember, does give us a certain prestige when you consider all the publicity that has happened to us, and you go back over all the unpleasant publicity that we have had.

QUEST/78 AND EVEREST HOUSE Mr. Armstrong's comments made last Friday before the Area Coordinators should answer a number of questions concerning the future of QUEST/78. I do believe, however, that a little history of Everest House would be helpful at this time.

Last fall, Robert Kuhn and I engaged the services of an outstanding editor in the trade publication field. We knew that eventually it would be in the best interest of the Work that Mr. Armstrong's books be published and receive wide distribution amongst the reading public -- a public that has been increasing each and every year in the religious field. We also felt that a trade publication house would be a valuable adjunct to QUEST/78 and would permit us to penetrate even more deeply into a reading audience that otherwise would be unreachable by us with our regular publications.

Unfortunately, in January 1978 Mr. Gillenson, the editor of Everest House, came to Pasadena in the company of a number of employees from the business side of QUEST/78. They came to Pasadena at the invitation of Robert Kuhn for the purpose of meeting Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong who, again unfortunately, was introduced to Mr. Gillenson and others as the chief operating officer of the Church, the College and the Foundation. I was not invited to the meetings that were held in Pasadena and express instructions were given to the personnel in attendance, including Mr. Gillenson, that information was not to be made available to me in the future.

At the meetings and in subsequent correspondence between Mr. Gillenson and Headquarters, Mr. Gillenson received express authority for each and every project that he planned for both the spring and fall lists of Everest House. In a letter written to me on June 27, 1978, Mr. Gillenson stated: "In January I went to Pasadena for the express purpose of presenting the list of books that we had put together. I asked to see anybody in authority and was told to talk to the following people: Garner Ted Armstrong, Ray Wright, Wayne Cole, Brian Knowles, and perhaps one or two other people in addition to Jack Martin, Glenn Parker and Robert Kuhn. At the meeting I described every one of the books and invited comment. All seemed to agree that none of the titles would create problems.

"During the visit, I was asked to inspect the pre-publication facilities and was urged to use them. The meetings with Garner Ted Armstrong and the pre-publication meetings were arranged by Jack Martin, with Robert Kuhn's assent. I subsequently sent reports through Jack Martin to the west coast which I assumed went to the proper executives of the Foundation. In those reports I described the books in detail, inviting any criticism. None was made.

"It therefore came as a surprise to hear some books were being held up in shipment and production because there was something offensive about them."

This letter from Mr. Gillenson sent to me in June was a result of my telephone conversations and letters to him expressing great dissapointment at the selection of some of the books on both the fall and spring lists. However, it was only in May that any of this came to my attention and I am thankful for the efforts of Mr. Lippross and

others in his department to bring the matter to my attention. Unfortunately, by the time I learned of the more or less undesirable books it was impossible to delay their publication. I have, however, cautioned Mr. Gillenson that in the future all publications or intended publications must be approved by me (and I, of course, will approve none without Mr. Armstrong's approval) lest there be anything in any project that would appear not to meet the criteria that we have established for the books to be published by Everest House.

Mr. Armstrong and I both feel that Everest House will be a vehicle that will dramatically enhance the successful marketing of his books -- two of which are already in the hands of the printers and two more expected to follow very quickly. Mr. Cole and others have written very strong memoranda to Mr. Armstrong in total support of both QUEST/78 and Everest House, as valuable vehicles for fulfilling the Great Commission.

A special audio-visual presentation is being prepared for all the Feast sites. It will be introduced at the various sites by Mr. Cole, Mr. McMichael, and Mr. Robert Fahey. We are confident that the entirety of the membership will better appreciate what the Foundation, QUEST/78 and Everest House has, can, and will accomplish for the benefit of the Work.

--Stanley R. Rader

EMPLOYEES RECEIVE CANDID ANSWERS TO THEIR QUESTIONS Today, I was reminded of just how important internal communication really is to our organization. The occasion that reaffirmed this to me was a meeting held this Monday afternoon, September 11. I called a meeting of all employees which report to Facility Management (this is a conglomerate of service departments which operate on campus to serve the Church, College and Foundation). This was the first such employee meeting since the new configuration took shape in May.

Since there are usually questions of general interest concerning the state of the Work, I invited Mr. Rader to join us. He happily consented to attend the meeting and address the employees. Once all the meeting arrangements were made, however, requests began to trickle in from other departments as to whether they might be included. Of course, we extended invitations to anyone expressing interest. The result was an audience of about 500 employees.

Following my and Mr. Rader's brief presentations, the meeting was opened up to general questions directed to Mr. Rader. The resultant questions were excellent and of general interest. Mr. Rader fielded a vast array of questions from the audience concerning all aspects of the Work and its activities. He dispelled rumors about QUEST magazine by indicating that Mr. Armstrong would review the status of the magazine early next year, since as of December 31, 1978, it would not require further funding. He mentioned that several publishing organizations have expressed interest in purchasing QUEST and making it their "flagship" publication.

He addressed questions concerning the Everest House and Imperial House publishing arms of the Church. The former will publish secular books

and the latter, religious material. In fact, Imperial will publish Mr. Armstrong's first book, The Incredible Human Potential.

A question was raised as to the resumption of Mr. Armstrong's overseas activities in the near future. Mr. Rader indicated that current plans are for three trips overseas within the following year, the first one being at the end of November and beginning of December. None will be no more than 10 days duration. These trips are scheduled for the Middle East, Far East, and Europe.

Concern was expressed for Mr. Armstrong and his long, strenuous work days. It was mentioned that he was counseled to slow down, but unsuccessfully. He continues to write, make television broadcasts and perform his responsibilities for 14 to 16 hours daily.

Other subjects of interest discussed were The PLAIN TRUTH, the status of the Church budget, Ambassador College, the Bricket Wood facility, etc.

Many were not aware that all foreign language broadcasts were inactive with the exception of the French work. Mr. Rader stated that he would definitely inquire as to the eventual reinstatement of these broadcasts as a means of furthering our worldwide commission.

Mr. Rader noted that his line responsibilities involve his duties as Treasurer only in the financial area. Further, he commented that all of Mr. Armstrong's managers report directly to Mr. Armstrong. They each are responsible for their operations which include budgeting, hiring, firing, pay raises, promotions, etc. Mr. Rader said he is happy to interface and offer counsel to all managers, but they do not report to him.

By way of interest, each department is currently reviewing its operations to make budgetary adjustments to conform to projected income. The income is steady, but departmental requests have exceeded our projections for the 1978-79 fiscal year.

Since the comments and questions were of such general interest and were received so favorably, the content of the meeting will be reproduced in the next issue of the GOOD NEWS. I think you will see the tremendous benefit of this type of communication within the organization.

--Ellis LaRavia, Facility Manager

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE This update on Ambassador College is intended to show: 1) where A.C. had drifted, 2) what Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has done -- and is doing -- to put the College back on track, and 3) the future direction of the College -- where we go from here.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has frequently written and spoken of what had happened to Ambassador College -- just where it had drifted.

The following statements from the Founder and Chancellor of Ambassador College (Good News, July 3, 1978) reveal Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's alarm at seeing the massive drift which A.C. had taken -- before he began setting it "back on the track as God's College."

"The leaven of secularism and materialism was subtly injected into the college that had been built as God's College -- as a college different from any other. It was a college UNIQUE in, but not part of, Satan's world."

"But," says Mr. Armstrong, "in the last 10 years the aggressive urge of some to obtain accreditation -- to get this world of Satan's ENDORSEMENT, opened the door for this leaven of intellectualism, which pervades this world's higher education, to gain an entering wedge."

Mr. Armstrong continued, "It was not realized by those -- and there were a number -- who wanted accreditation, that Satan had gotten his foot in the door. But those who had known it, during its growing years as GOD'S COLLEGE, were aghast when they came to the Pasadena campus after years of absence... They now found it as if it had turned from day into night, from the light of GOD'S WAY into the darkness of this world's higher education."

What had happened to cause Ambassador College to become so much like other colleges of this world? Mr. Armstrong came to see that Ambassador's drive for accreditation by the world was one of the main things -- if not the main factor -- which caused so much secularism and outright worldliness to be implanted into the very midst of Ambassador College.

Some have wrongly implied -- if not openly charged -- that Mr. Armstrong had fully endorsed the idea that Ambassador College should actively seek accreditation. But those who really knew Mr. Armstrong always knew that he only reluctantly permitted Ambassador to seek accreditation. Mr. Armstrong has plainly stated, "I never wanted accreditation personally, but I did allow others to pursue it on their sincere but misled assurance that they could obtain accreditation and still retain it as God's college."

During those early discussions as to whether or not Ambassador should seek accreditation, I personally heard Mr. Armstrong say on more than one occasion that he would allow the officials of the college to apply for accreditation, but that he himself was not fully convinced that Ambassador could retain its high ideals and yet receive accreditation from this world. In other words, Mr. Armstrong was never himself really convinced that Ambassador College could receive accreditation, without letting the bars down and inviting into the College the ways of this world -- which could prove the undoing of the College in the end.

More recently, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "Secularism and the leaven of modern 'intellectualism' and 'PhDism' had turned Ambassador College into just another of this world's colleges. To set it back on the track I have had to start all over again, as in 1947, with one single undergraduate freshman class. I have put back in charge those who were taught God's REVEALED KNOWLEDGE under me in the earlier years. I hope that my personal, very frequent taking of the forums will, within the year, set Ambassador College back on the track as GOD'S COLLEGE."

From the early years of the College, when it was small, with just a few hundred students, Ambassador College had grown until during the 1977-78 college year the total enrollment was over 1100. And the College budget for that year had mushroomed into many millions of dollars -- thereby siphoning away finances which were needed in the publishing of the gospel.

Furthermore, the size of the faculty had grown from a mere handful during the early years of the college -- to over one hundred full-time faculty members, plus about seventy part-time members.

And courses at Ambassador had proliferated from a few dozen or so during the early years of the college until the total numbered about 285 during the last semester of the college.

But things are now quite different at Ambassador -- as a direct result of Mr. Armstrong's determination to put Ambassador College back on the track -- back on God's way. During the present semester, there are only approximately two dozen classes being taught at A.C., and those classes are being taught by only thirteen dedicated, full-time faculty members. Mr. Armstrong has insisted that the basic core Bible classes be taught by men whom he has known for years -- men whom he has himself taught -- men whom he can rely upon to make sure that God's way is taught and exemplified in the classes, forums, Ambassador Clubs -- and in every other facet of College life at Ambassador.

Already there is a different spirit on the Ambassador College campus. With a greatly reduced student body (presently about 300), it is much easier to have a family-like atmosphere. Furthermore, it is also easier to make sure that God's way is taught and exemplified by the faculty and students of Ambassador. Many now notice that, as during the earlier days of Ambassador College, students and faculty look happier. There is a high resolve by both faculty and students to see that God's way is really taught -- and practiced -- here at the College in Pasadena! And reports and letters from the field ministry reveal that already many parents -- members of the Worldwide Church of God -- are very happy to see that Ambassador is truly being put back on the right foundation as God's College.

There are forty new students taking the Diploma course at Ambassador right now, plus about ninety-nine returning students who are also taking the Diploma course. Thirty-seven students are taking the Certificate of the Ministry course, and nineteen are enrolled in the Master of Arts program. About thirty sabbatical ministers are now enrolled at Ambassador.

In addition, about fifty-eight students are still completing their B.A. degrees, and there are forty-six special students -- students such as ministers' wives -- who are taking a few classes, but are not taking the twelve units required to qualify as full-time students.

The Chancellor of Ambassador College, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, has given clear directives concerning the future of the College. Ambassador -- in order to survive and thrive -- must be put back on

the right course. God's way, His attitude, and His approach must permeate everything at Ambassador. We are no longer seeking accreditation by this world. And the college is no longer yoking itself in athletic competition with the world. Mr. Armstrong has clearly stated, "We have been called out from them (the world) -- and yet one who was taking to himself authority never vested in him, was encouraging our ministers to go back into them -- be like them -- participate with them -- become the ENEMY OF GOD! This takeover of unauthorized authority had put intercollegiate competition in the basketball courts of God's College....

"Once again, Christ through me, has put that competition with the world out of Ambassador College....

"There has been a TURN-AROUND in God's College!"

Where do we go from here? Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has indicated (in a faculty meeting at his home in Tucson and during the first College forum) that he is thinking seriously about again making Ambassador College into a four-year College -- with strong emphasis on the Bible in every facet of College life. To put Ambassador College back on the right track as God's College (and we on the faculty and administration of the College believe this is being done right now), Mr. Armstrong may decide that the College is to again become a four-year College -- in order to give the students time for sufficient contact with the faculty so they can become rooted and grounded in a thorough understanding of the Bible, and in God's way of life, as taught and exemplified by the faculty of Ambassador College.

We, the faculty and administration of the College, ask the prayers of the ministers and lay members so that God will continue to bless, guide, and direct the course of His College. It is our firm belief that if the administration, faculty, and student body of the College please God -- if we really get things solidly back on the right foundation -- He will grant that Ambassador College may continue to teach the young people of God's Church the right way.

There is simply no other college in the entire world where God's way is taught. There is no other institution of higher learning where the true Word of God is being faithfully communicated. The world surely needs Ambassador College.

God is already smiling upon the dedicated efforts of the faculty and administration of Ambassador. Already we see the same "Ambassador spirit" prevailing on the campus which once was the real hallmark of Ambassador. Students and faculty are again happy and are beginning to "recapture the true values." Once more the College is a light to the city of Pasadena, a light to the world, and a light to the people of God. Once again, God's way of law and order, of faith and courage, of give and service; His way of joy and happiness, of peace and unity is being taught and exemplified here at Ambassador. And we, the faculty and administrators of the College, are happy to stand by Mr. Armstrong's side in staunchly maintaining God's way against all the onslaughts of Satan.

We are greatly encouraged to know that the ministers and brethren of God's Church are also happy to see the way of God being taught and

exemplified once again in the lives of the faculty and students of Ambassador College.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

EDITORIAL SERVICES -- RECENT DEVELOPMENTS Last Thursday, I had a very instructive meeting with Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader concerning The Plain Truth magazine. You've already read Mr. Armstrong's comments in last week's Pastor's Report, so I won't take space to reiterate that material.

Present plans call for a completely redesigned PT beginning with the February number -- which, incidentally, will be the 45th anniversary issue of that publication. Mr. Armstrong plans to write a special Personal for that issue.

Essentially, the PT will get back to what it once was in earlier years. There will be much more biblical content and biblical analysis of world trends. The fulfillment of prophecy will be a central theme, as well as articles on "the home, family, the job, school, the human body, the wallet. Articles on marriage, children and family relations..." will proclaim God's teaching on these subjects as it is outlined in the Bible. Other articles will also deal with personal health, finances, and current social conditions. These are Mr. Armstrong's specific instructions for the content of the PT. And they will be faithfully carried out.

Mr. Armstrong also pointed out that "THE GREAT COMMISSION is our UNIQUENESS, our WONDERFUL CALLING that must pervade clearly every issue of The PLAIN TRUTH."

Mr. Armstrong wants the PT to become the "world's best" magazine. We on the PT editorial staff certainly share that wish, and we will do everything possible to cooperate and follow through on his directive. We would appreciate your prayers and support.

Mr. Armstrong has also stated that he does not now wish to see Garner Ted Armstrong's booklets reprinted as planned (see the last Pastor's Report). He wishes to personally rewrite most of them himself. So there will be some necessary delay in getting those subjects covered in our literature.

Mr. Armstrong has been working terribly hard, often putting in 10 to 15-hour days at the typewriter. If you've ever written an article, you'll know what kind of concentration that requires.

Well, that's it for this time. Please feel free to comment directly to me on the needs in the literature area or on the content and appearance of the PT. I may be able to discuss some article possibilities with Mr. Armstrong as a result.

--Brian Knowles, Editorial Services

NEWSSTAND UPDATE Plans put together in May of this year call for the newsstand circulation of approximately one million to be maintained as funds allow. Any growth in this circulation figure will only be possible if God supplies an increase in our budget. Meanwhile, it

would be appreciated if ministers would explain to their newsstand representatives that at the moment they should plan for a gradual increase to the January 1979 allotments, and to stay at that level until further notice.

We have had a series of meetings here in Pasadena over the past week with Mr. Rader and others that may enable us to free up more funds for PLAIN TRUTH newsstand use. We have no budget for an increase, but nevertheless hope that expansion may be possible.

--Roger Lippross, Publishing Services

CO-WORKER NEWSLETTER PULLS WELL After nearly three months without an issue of the "Co-Worker Newsletter," co-workers and donors are responding with enthusiasm to the June-July issue. (During the recent administrative changes, publication of the "Newsletter" was temporarily suspended until Mr. Herbert Armstrong could give us new guidelines.)

This June-July issue offered one of the Work's newer booklets, Tale of Two Prophets, and has thus far produced a response rate 26% above average! Although it is not one of our "record breakers," we are glad to see this positive response from our supporters.

Mail is up in most categories. For the last couple of weeks Mr. Armstrong's "semi-annual" letter to PLAIN TRUTH subscribers has contributed significantly to our mail volume. During the week ending September 1, response to Mr. Armstrong's letter actually amounted to 20% of the total mail for the week!

Renewals are also bringing in a good quantity of mail. And, the PLAIN TRUTH flyer which we are sending to people who respond to the Modern Romans TV spot commercials is also bringing a good response.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

MR. RADER ADDRESSES PASADENA CONGREGATION (Editor's Note: Once again we are sharing with you some comments Mr. Rader made before the Pasadena congregation following a taped sermon for TV by Mr. Herbert Armstrong. Comments are from Sabbath services on September 9.)

Greetings, everyone. For years I've always said it's very difficult to follow Mr. Armstrong in a speaking opportunity. Not only is he the most powerful speaker that I know, but surely he's also the most inspiring.

Because we work so closely together and spend so many hours of every day together, we naturally discuss many, many things. And then when he comes into Pasadena, as he has this week, and he plans on speaking both Friday night at the Bible study and then on Saturday, he has planned what he's going to say. And when he invites me to speak, I plan what I'm going to say.

So once again, I had planned on talking today about the world tomorrow. I guess you're all lucky because he pretty much covered that today in talking about the Kingdom of God...but I did have some 16 pages prepared. But you might wonder why I had planned on speaking about that subject. Well, there are a variety of reasons. First

of all, it was something that was very much on Mr. Armstrong's mind all week and on my own, as a consequence of our talking about such things as faith and healing. It's impossible to think about faith without ultimately thinking about the world tomorrow.

In my hours that I spend here in Pasadena, primarily, and occasionally elsewhere, fellow brethren will ask me what Mr. Armstrong thinks about this or what Mr. Armstrong thinks about that. Sometimes they ask me to help them interpret Mr. Armstrong's most recent article as it might appear in The GOOD NEWS, The PLAIN TRUTH, or even, on occasion, in the PASTOR'S REPORT. As a consequence I too am forced to think again and again and to reflect more and more on just what Mr. Armstrong, as Christ's Apostle, does mean and what he intends for us to understand.

Having been trained to think in a rational manner and in an orderly fashion, I have often found it helpful to clear one's mind by putting down on paper what one is thinking about so that one can then see what it looks like when it's put in a more concrete and definitive form rather than just kind of floating around somewhere inside your mind. And that's what I did during the week. But Mr. Armstrong has covered it very well today and it would be presumptuous of me even to try to add one word to it.

Yesterday I was privileged to hear him speak for two and a half hours to the area coordinators and a few other persons who were invited to their meeting. I'm really not considered by most people to be an emotional person -- though I am known by those who know me well to be sentimental, but not often moved to tears. But I can tell you that yesterday, hearing Mr. Armstrong speak for two and a half hours on the subject of faith and healing, I was moved to tears. And we're very fortunate that we taped those comments because I'm going to urge Mr. Armstrong to permit us to at least transcribe them so they can be shared with the entirety of the Church.

Those two and a half hours had a very important effect upon me. Mr. Armstrong's comments made me think again just how important an effect on my life my having met Mr. Armstrong more than 20 years has had. I tend to think a great deal about what that effect has been generally on Saturday morning, because wherever I have been during the last ten years travelling with Mr. Armstrong, he and I have almost always attended church some place together or we have had a private Bible study some place together. As a result, just kind of like habit, on Saturday morning I find myself thinking about why am I here?; How did it all come about?; and on what a difference it has all made in my life.

Sometimes I also like to speculate on what my life might have been, but for the fact that more than 20 years ago I met Mr. Armstrong. And it's a good exercise. It really is. Because I know myself that but for this Work of the Living God I think I would be like most of the unfortunate in the world who, when they would have to think back over what has happened in the last 20 years, they would have very little to think about. All the days would kind of merge one into the other. I think as they live their lives year by year, I would say any given day in October would seem to them to be much different from any given day the following July and any given day in the following October. But

I think as the years would roll by, all those days would become pretty much alike. They might have some vague recollections about important moments in their lives -- the birth of a child, the death of a loved one, graduation, a birthday, a promotion, a termination. But basically, it would be one day after another merging with every other day.

But for me, and I would hope most of you, we can look back and we can see how much has been accomplished in the Work of God -- how much of the Great Commission has been, and is being, fulfilled every day. And then, of course, we have something to look forward to as well. It will be in the Kingdom of God that there will be an end to all pain, all suffering, and all death. There will be abundance for all and the eternal peace and the reconciliation that we're all looking for. So I know it has made a substantial difference in my life. It naturally has affected my wife. My children have turned out differently, I'm certain. As I said, these are the things I generally think about on Saturday. And much of what I would have said about the world tomorrow and what it means to me and my understanding of faith and hope, perhaps one day will be relevant enough to share with you....

I am certain that all of you have been inspired of recent time by Mr. Armstrong's total rededication to all of the true values that we had learned over the past 20 years. I for one cannot believe what he has accomplished in the last 120 days. And to see him working 14, 15, and 16 hours a day is just absolutely beyond one's comprehension, because most men would not be able to work, particularly to create, as he has so much for so many hours, for so many days. And although he will kid and say he's really 38 or 39, he knows that isn't true and he has recovered from a very major illness. So I know he needs your prayers. He needs your support. I know he has both.

ON THE WORLD SCENE

AROUND THE WORLD: RIOTS AND INSURRECTIONS Years ago the opening of a popular U.S. folk song began: "They're rioting in Africa, there's strife in Iran." I don't recall if the lyrics mentioned Nicaragua, but nevertheless, the song was most prophetic of today's headlines.

In Africa, Rhodesia's situation becomes more desperate by the day. About a month ago, Prime Minister Ian Smith held a secret meeting in Zambia with Joshua Nkomo, one of the two guerrilla leaders attempting to wrest control of Rhodesia (or Zimbabwe as it will be called in the future) away from the new black-white interim government.

The Smith-Nkomo talks broke down, however, and shortly afterward Nkomo's guerrillas, using a Communist made ground-to-air heat-seeking missile, shot down a civilian Air Rhodesia airliner over guerrilla-infested territory. Thirty eight people perished. Another ten survivors of the crash were massacred by guerrillas on the ground, who mowed them down point blank with Russian AK-47 automatic rifles.

Prime Minister Smith, in an emotional television address to his nation, has vowed to intensify the anti-guerrilla struggle. He has again warned neighboring Zambia and Mozambique about harboring the guerrilla "freedom fighters." The U.N., the U.S. and Britain have urged Rhodesia to "show restraint" in raids on guerrilla bases in the two countries.

Of course, whenever Rhodesia counter-attacks, it is condemned in the United Nations.

Smith put a lot of blame on the leaders of the neighboring "front-line" states for blowing the cover on his secret talks with Nkomo. These leaders do not want a peaceful solution, are backing the guerillas full-tilt, and are abundantly opposed to Rhodesia's whites having any role whatsoever in a future black-majority government.

Smith said that Tanzania's President Julius Nyrere -- admired in many circles as almost a god-figure among Africa's leaders -- is largely to blame for the latest sad turn of events. Nyrere helped torpedo his talks with Nkomo, Smith said, because of his "implacable hatred of the white man." Meanwhile, because of the intensifying warfare, the exodus of whites out of Rhodesia grows greater every month.

Space does not permit a detailed description of the turmoil gripping Nicaragua -- except to say that the effort to topple President Anastacio Somoza is now being led by urban leftist guerrillas of the so-called Sandinista National Liberation Front. True to form in case after case in other revolutions, the better organized Marxists have stepped in to lead the fight which originally began as a broad-based discontent uniting many factions from businessmen to students. Many now fear that Nicaragua will become another Cuba.

Turning to Iran, this pivotal oil-rich nation is experiencing its worst riots ever in the 37-year reign of its current Shah, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi. After nearly a year of sporadic protests, demonstrations and isolated terrorist attacks, full-scale street battles have erupted in the wake of the imposing of martial law in Teheran and 11 other cities in an attempt to restore order. It is clear now that the Shah is locked in a desperate struggle to hold his throne. The big question is whether Iran's armed forces will stay loyal to the Shah -- or take power into their own hands.

The Shah is opposed by a loose union of anti-government factions. On the one hand are the Shah's leftist and liberal opponents who want to see rapid political change in the country. This faction includes numerous leftist underground terrorist groups with possible Soviet backing.

On the other hand are arch-conservative Moslem leaders of the traditional Shiite sect -- backed by hundreds of thousands of followers -- who demand the Shah's overthrow in the name of religion and a return to government by Islamic law. They oppose the Shah's ongoing social liberalization programs aimed at loosening the Moslem clergy's traditionally firm grip on the country. Such reforms include a plan to redistribute church lands to farmers and give more social and political rights to women. (Rapid material growth fueled by Iran's \$23 billion-a-year oil revenues has eroded old traditions and promoted modernization and Westernization in the country.)

Iran's chief Moslem leader, exiled Ayatollah Khomeini -- whom many Moslems would like to see in charge of the nation instead of the Shah -- proclaimed recently from his headquarters in Iraq: "There will be

no monarchy, but the rule of Islamic law. The clergy will sit in council and rule by virtue of its wisdom."

Some of the leftist groups loosely allied with the Moslem zealots in their opposition to the Shah are worried that the ascendancy of the Islamic movement might eventually dwarf their objectives of restoration of basic liberties in the country, resulting in a virtual church dictatorship. But for the moment, the anti-Shah groups remain united in their opposition to the monarchy.

The Shah has charged that an "international conspiracy" is trying to destroy Iran as a bastion of the West and guardian of its oil supplies. Iran is a major supplier of petroleum to many Western nations. In addition, she supplies some 30% of Japan's oil needs and virtually all those of Israel. The fall of the pro-Western Shah could have dire consequences for these and other countries including the Shah's main foreign supporter, the United States. It is a situation to watch closely.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau