

PASTOR'S REPORT

PUBLISHED BY THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. 3, NO. 3

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 5, 1979

FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from Pasadena! The gorgeous weather continues here with the snow-capped mountains sparkling under the sun and absolutely clear weather throughout the basin. We are all well here, and things are beginning to settle back to normal--at least a little bit.

I was able to talk to Mr. Armstrong the other day, and he is doing well and is now completely over his cold and sore throat. The response to his recent letter has been excellent, and the money is beginning to roll in to Tucson almost in normal amounts. So we appreciate the response of all of you and the brethren to his letter! Christ is certainly seeing us through this unusual trial, and we will come out of it stronger and more committed than ever.

Reports in the news media are now beginning to be slanted more for us than against us. Even outsiders here in the southern California area are rallying to our side, and the local Chamber of Commerce and other groups have expressed their wish publicly that our work remain in this area as we have been fine neighbors, they say. I will try to see to it that we reproduce a recent clipping from the Star-News to this effect.

Many of you may have heard that a suit was introduced in Federal Court at Tyler, Texas by Tom Grede and 100 other Milwaukee brethren to block the transfer of the proceeds from the Big Sandy sale from coming to the receiver. The federal judge there ruled in our favor and is holding these funds in a special escrow-type account until it can be turned over "to the rightful owner." So we are grateful for that and again, THANKS to these Milwaukee brethren and all of our brethren across the country who have been rallying so magnificently during this present crisis!

Another bit of good news is that Mr. Larry Salyer has been appointed as Area Coordinator of the Charlotte area to replace Mr. Burk McNair who is now here on our headquarter's team. As most of you know, Larry was an outstanding leader of the student body at Big Sandy, Texas during his college years and has been an outstanding example in the field ministry ever since. So our heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Salyer and their family! And I sincerely hope, fellows, that all of us can be genuinely happy and encouraging toward one another when one in Christ's body is honored--realizing it comes from Him, and that there are plenty of other opportunities which are going to open up in Christ's work in the near future for everyone who is truly prepared.

The absolute FLOOD of phone calls and letters keeps pouring in upon us here on the headquarter's Pastoral Administration team. It has been too much for us to handle, and some of us are not only losing sleep but also getting cauliflower ears from talking on the phone all day. Yesterday, Sunday, I tried to stay home for the first time in a month in order to get a little bit of rest and time with my family. However, I had to handle between 20 and 30 phone calls from all over the world--sometimes asking the one party who called to wait a few minutes so I could finish with the previous conversation on the other college phone they installed and then simply shifting ears for a few minutes in order to talk to the second person. My wife and children feel they are being "deserted." But I was able to sneak in a long walk in the beautiful sunshine with my wife--and at least enjoy that, plus a big breakfast of hotcakes and eggs before the phone calls started rolling in.

So please, please, forgive us if Dennis, Raymond, Burk, or I do not get back to you on every phone call, memo or letter as we should. It has just been too much at times and the "phone memo" slips have piled up on my desk so that after awhile I just try to keep moving ahead with the immediate emergencies and pretend that they are not there.

To alleviate this problem, at least through the present crisis, I have received Mr. Herbert Armstrong's permission to take the following steps in managing this situation.

I am hereby appointing Mr. Dennis Luker, Mr. Burk McNair, and Mr. Raymond McNair as Acting Regional Advisers to handle all normal phone calls, reports and problems from their specific areas of the U.S.

As he did for some years in the recent past, Burk will be handling the areas of Mr. Elbert Atlas, Mr. Larry Salyer, Mr. Guy Englebart and Mr. Ed Smith. So all of you Area Coordinators and you fellows in those areas, please direct all of your phone calls, letters and so forth through Burk from now on, and he will communicate them to me and our headquarter's team. Because all of us meet together for at least an hour or two nearly every day, each of these men does know what is going on and will be able to give you answers to your problems--often on the spot. Burk will remain as Area Coordinator of the headquarter's area in addition to coordinating the information and activities in this northeastern area as well. Obviously, this may have to be modified if the Regional Adviser status becomes permanent.

Next, Mr. Raymond McNair will be in like manner coordinating all information and activities from the areas of Mr. Dennis Pyle, Mr. Tony Hammer, and Mr. Paul Flatt. So all of you coordinators and ministers in those areas, please write or call Raymond McNair from now on. Mr. McNair will continue as Deputy Chancellor of Ambassador College, but is now very ably assisted in this by Acting Dean, Leon Walker, who can hold the fort just fine until this crisis is over.

Next, the areas of Dean Blackwell, Carl McNair, Ron Kelly and Norman Smith should now report through Mr. Dennis Luker as outlined above. In addition, Mr. Luker will continue as my Senior Advisor

full-time in Pastoral Administration, and he will be coordinating the ministerial services area for the U.S. and the International areas as well.

Frankly, the above structuring is only a logical step in management and will help all of you, not just me, to facilitate the flow of information and to get your requests acted upon here at headquarters. Please give these men your total cooperation, your support and your prayers!

But does this leave me anything to do? Yes indeed! For I will now not only work with and through these three men in regard to the U.S. field ministry, but will continue to work directly with Mr. Les McCullough, Mr. Frank Brown, Mr. Dean Wilson, and all the other International Directors. In addition, I need time for planning for the worldwide ministry and all its aspects, for writing for this Pastor's Report, for The Worldwide News, The Good News, The Plain Truth and so on, etc. Also, I will need to interface with and have some input into Y.O.U., Y.E.S., and other such activities. In addition to that, I still plan to see my wife and children from time to time!

So we do need your prayers fellows! But overall, the "vibes" are good, and we are receiving a lot of enthusiastic support from ministers and brethren around the world.

So let's rally to the cause of Jesus Christ as never before, fellow ministers. As so many of us had to do in the early years of the Work, let's prepare and be willing to "tighten our belts" for a few months if need be in order to get the work done. If each of us does his part with faith and enthusiasm, God will see us through.

With Christian Love,



Roderick C. Meredith

WCG & AMBASSADOR "GOOD NEIGHBORS"

(Editor's Note: Following is the article Mr. Meredith referred to in his letter. It is being reproduced in its entirety by permission of the Pasadena Star-News.)

Directors to shun Ambassador woes

The Pasadena Board of City Directors agreed Tuesday that the city should not become involved in the legal affairs besetting the Worldwide Church of God which is based on the Ambassador College campus.

"We can, however, express a preference that they stay in Pasadena. They have been good neighbors," said Director Donald Yokaitis.

The question was raised whether the Pasadena Police Department should get involved in patrolling the grounds as part of the court action to protect the church records. It is a moot question, the directors agreed, since such action has not been requested.

City Manager Donald McIntyre said later that plain clothesmen were on the site as a safety measure.

(Pasadena Star-News, 1-31-79)

ONETIME OPTION TO RE-ENTER THE U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

Any ordained ministers who are U.S. citizens serving either inside or outside the U.S. who have previously filed a social security exemption form may elect to re-enter the social security system by revoking that exemption prior to April 16, 1979. We are not recommending such action, merely bringing the possibility to your attention. If you wish more information contact Ministerial Services.

--Ted Herlofson, Ministerial Services

STRONG MAIL RESPONSE IN JANUARY

In spite of the recent difficulties imposed on the Work, mail received during January was the highest we've gotten in two years! The following is a quick recap:

January 1977 -- 153,112 letters
Januray 1978 -- 154,915 letters
January 1979 -- 165,794 letters

The reason for this large influx of mail, of course, is mainly due to the fact that we initiated a lot of mailings to our subscribers in December and early January. A good portion of these responses were to PLAIN TRUTH renewal letters and a semi-annual letter from Mr. Armstrong. Because our mailings have been curtailed during January, however, we do not anticipate a high volume of mail during February.

Outpouring of Support for Mr. Armstrong Since about the middle of January, the vast majority of all member mail coming through MPC has mentioned the current legal situation. At this point, about 3,000 letters have been tabulated by our Comments Section -- and the number of letters continues to climb fast as more and more members write in. Virtually ALL letters are very supportive of Mr. Armstrong.

Most of the letters we have seen fall into one or more of the following comment summaries:

1. Praying for Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader.
2. Standing behind Mr. Armstrong 100%.
3. Encouragement to Mr. Armstrong to be strong. God will give the victory.
4. Use God's money to preach the gospel.
5. The writers know that Mr. Armstrong is God's Apostle.

Also, many letters are being received from regular subscribers inquiring about what is happening here in Pasadena. (Most have seen only sketchy news clippings in their local papers, etc. Most members are aware by now of what has happened).

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

IMPORTANT NEWSSTAND UPDATE

Something has come up recently that is worth mentioning to all of you ministers who are involved in The Plain Truth newsstand program. It would be helpful if this were also passed on to the people in your church area who help with the distribution of magazines.

Over the past month, more and more local ministers and their PT newsstand coordinators have started changing the original PT newsstand program. Some have come up with various ideas for extensions of the original concept. The original idea was simply to place Plain Truth magazines in an approved rack in a bookshop, store, or newsstand, and service the outlet by making sure that the manager of the store is happy and that the rack is kept stocked.

In some cases the ideas for distributing The Plain Truth were checked out with the newsstand department in Pasadena, in other cases they were not. It has come to my attention recently that some local areas are trying many different ways of getting The Plain Truth into the public's hands. Some of the ideas I've heard of are not good and are against the policies set down by Mr. Herbert Armstrong many years ago. The policy is simply this: we should make The Plain Truth readily available to those who want it, but in no way should we force or push the message to those who don't want or request it. The regular newsstand program is simply making the PT available to those who see it and want it. Any extension of the program that puts The Plain Truth into people's homes by a covert method (like placing it on their doorstep or sending it in with other free advertising literature from other sources) is definitely not approved.

The foregoing comments are not in any way meant to kill ideas or initiative from you fellows in the field. Some of your ideas are good. We must, however, insist that the only thing that has the approval of Mr. Herbert Armstrong is the regular newsstand program. Any proposed change to this program must be checked out with the Publishing Services Department in Pasadena.

--Roger Lippross, Publishing Services

EDITORIAL SERVICES UPDATE

The healing booklet is "on hold" at the printer due to lack of funds resulting from the current receivership situation. We do not know, at this point, just when funds will be available for its printing. It was originally scheduled to be printed January 29.

Mr. Armstrong has been reading the copy for all PTs and has now approved copy for the April edition and the layouts for March. The March cover features a picture of the Shah of Iran who may or may not

be permanently exiled from his country. Mr. Armstrong seemed pleased with the copy he is reviewing. "The PT is getting back more to what it used to be," he said.

That's all for this time.

--Brian Knowles, Editorial Services

ON THE WORLD SCENE

SHOWDOWN NEAR IN IRAN? Relative calm prevailed in Iran's cities over the weekend, with the government's granting of a three-day grace period allowing unimpeded political demonstrations, since extended indefinitely. How much longer bloodshed can be avoided remains a big question, however.

Moslem leader Ayatollah Khomeini, who returned to Iran last Thursday, reportedly has set up a secret revolutionary council to direct his activities on home soil. But he has postponed his earlier intention to name a full revolutionary government to directly challenge the regime of Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar.

The Ayatollah's caution will allow more time for political maneuvering and secret discussions between the two rival sides. Even more critical, it gives the military additional time to assess the relative strengths of the two leaders, Bakhtiar and Khomeini.

One thing is for certain. If the powerful military elects to continue supporting the Prime Minister while at the same time Khomeini decides to declare a Moslem Jihad (holy war) against the government and the exiled, but not yet overthrown Shah, there could be a bloody civil war of frightening proportions. Hell knows no fury, to use an old phrase, like millions of Moslems intent upon gaining their "eternal reward" through sacrifice in a Jihad.

In a civil war Iran would be ripped asunder, with enormous economic consequences to the Western world. With the recent glut of oil in the world, the impact of Iran's internal strife, including a two-month long general strike, has yet to be really felt. But the situation will be different in another three to four months, at the latest. U.S. officials have openly discussed a series of future options from a cutback in service stations hours to rationing.

Even if Khomeini wins out without a civil war that destroys Iran's economy, a future Iran of his design would be of little help to the industrialized West. A spokesman for the Ayatollah remarked on February 4 that Iran should cut back 60% on its oil production and encourage prices to rise still further. Massive oil revenues on the scale of recent years are simply not needed for the more austere budgets of a Khomeini-style "Islamic Republic." A 60% cutback would mean that oil production would fall from a pre-trouble level of 6 million barrels of crude oil a day to 2.4 million, with 750,000 barrels of this shrunken amount used for domestic needs. Long lines at our service stations in a few months seem more of a likelihood.

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau