

PASTOR'S REPORT

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FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from beautiful Pasadena! Once again, the air is clear and the mountains loom beautifully up over the city. We are all fine here, and the confidence and unity of the brethren and ministry is increasing almost weekly. Thanks so much for your many encouraging letters and comments!

Dennis Luker and I flew over to Tucson last Thursday to see Mr. Armstrong. We had a very encouraging and profitable visit. He is behind the field ministers 100% and appreciates the fine job most all of you are doing. And all of us here appreciate your zeal and loyalty during this time of crisis.

One of the most encouraging things during our visit was that Mr. Armstrong himself brought up the need that he and all of us have of getting really close to God and recapturing some of the personal spiritual fervency and sacrificial spirit we used to have in the earlier days of the Work. Though we have our parts to do, he emphasized how we have to rely on GOD, in the end, to ultimately win our battles. It was inspiring to see, once again, the depth and total commitment of this man we have all looked to as the human leader and apostle over God's Work. He certainly is not slacking in his spiritual zeal, fellows!

Last night, Sunday, my wife and I attended a "Southern Serenade" put on by the combined Ambassador clubs. There were two or three hundred in attendance. We had a fine banquet and excellent speeches by the top men and women speakers of the clubs here on campus. Then, I had the honor of presenting gift certificates to the best speakers for the ladies and men, respectively, and afterward a fine dance was held in the beautifully decorated Student Center. All in all, it was a warm and loving atmosphere which reminded me of former occasions in years gone by and one which I would have been very happy to bring to Mr. Armstrong. The students' speeches as a whole were excellent and showed the kind of potential that is coming along in God's Work. Hearing them speak and visiting at length with a number of the leading students was a very satisfying experience and helped show me that Ambassador is truly producing "good fruit" in our new program!

This morning, I had a fine telephone conversation with Mr. Tom Grede. As many of you know, Mr. Grede is an outstanding leader among our lay brethren in the Milwaukee church and a very successful businessman and industrialist. He is the chairman of "the Emergency Committee

for Defense of Religious Freedom." He is a very dedicated and converted man, and has spent up to 18 hours a day on a number of occasions recently donating of his time -- and his own money, incidentally -- to helping out in the effort this committee of the lay brethren are pursuing. As his personal minister, Mr. Carl McNair works very closely with Mr. Grede and knows him and his family intimately. Please give him every cooperation and support as he serves God's Work!

One interesting point Mr. Grede brought up in our lengthy telephone conversation, was that when the challenge was first presented to him of helping to organize this committee, he hired two separate teams of attorneys in Wisconsin and in Washington, D.C., respectively, to go over all the records and transcripts as well as newspaper clippings and other reports of the "receivership issue" -- as we might call it. He stated that both teams of attorneys -- working entirely separately -- arrived at the same conclusion. They both agreed that according to all normal legal procedure, the actions of the judges and the Deputy Attorney General should have brought about impeachment proceedings and proceedings to disbar said individuals.

I thought that was most interesting and helpful as it was done by a highly respected layman in God's Church entirely on his own. Sometimes, perhaps, many of us ministers are not as close to the details of the outrageous misuse of the legal machinery which has been perpetrated upon God's Church; and therefore do not feel the sincere and vehement INDIGNATION we should regarding this gross miscarriage of justice!

Now, fellows, I want to ask for your loyal and zealous cooperation in an absolutely VITAL matter. No one has asked or even hinted that I ought to take this action, but I want you to know where I stand and where I hope all of YOU stand. Many of our brethren are still somewhat confused and frustrated by the events of the last few months. That is understandable. But I trust that all of you -- as their spiritual shepherds -- now have had ample opportunity for the last two months to see that Mr. Herbert Armstrong is very much alive and in charge of this Work, and that the team he has appointed here in P.A.D. is carrying out his wishes and directions in helping get the churches back to the law of God and the way of God.

Therefore, I want to ask every one of you to give a sermon within the next couple of weeks encouraging the brethren to do their part in God's Work and to enthusiastically build their zeal toward paying God's tithes to his Work and toward generously and even sacrificially giving the generous offerings that are so needed at this time in the very Work of the Living Christ! I hope all of you will prepare thoroughly and pray fervently about this, and let the brethren know you really mean it!

Frankly, fellows, finances are VERY TIGHT, and we now perceive that one reason for this is the confusion in the minds of several thousand of our brethren over whether to continue to tithe at this time and where to send their tithes and offerings. It is absolutely IMPERATIVE that each of you does his enthusiastic part to CLEAR UP

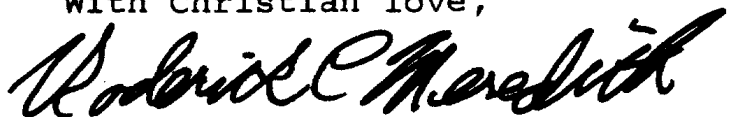
THAT CONFUSION. Do it in the above mentioned sermon! And do it each and every Sabbath through comments and announcements we all -- I am preaching this to myself here also -- need to make more regularly about God's Work and our deep commitment to it!

Also, let the brethren know emphatically that Mr. Armstrong has directed (and, for the record, I and all on our P.A.D. team emphatically agree!) that ALL U.S. tithes and offerings be sent to "Herbert W. Armstrong, P.O. Box 431, Tucson, Arizona 85702." And be sure and let them know that we are absolutely assured now that all such tithes and offerings will be tax deductible as of January 24 of this year and from now on!

Please DO THIS, fellows, soon and emphatically! And let us all as ministers of the Living God fast and pray REGULARLY like we used to back in the 50's for God to intervene, to deliver us from our enemies, to send the money so needed for His Work in this modern age, and to inspire and EMPOWER us to get the Work going as never before!

Thanks, in advance, for all your help.

With Christian love,



Roderick C. Meredith

A WORD OF CAUTION REGARDING PROPHETIC EVENTS

It has come to our attention that some brethren in various states and even students here at the college have been allowing their minds to run rampant by equating our receivership problems with specific fulfillment of end-time prophecy. Some feel that the great tribulation has already begun, while others have even started to sell their belongings and pack their bags in order to be ready to leave for a place of safety on March 8 of this year!

Using Mr. Armstrong's frequent references to the Church as the temple of God (Eph. 2:21-22), a few have jumped to the totally false conclusion that the receiver is the abomination of desolation. With this in mind, they have also wrongly interpreted the time periods of Daniel 12:11-12 by claiming that these days started at the beginning of the recent ministerial conference, and that they will end on the day of Trumpets in 1982. The March 8 date was obtained by counting back 3½ years from the 1982 Trumpets date.

Because of the possibility of confusion over such erroneous calculations, it needs to be explained to our brethren that if Mr. Armstrong felt the preceding interpretation to be true, he obviously would have given direction to the entire Church. It also needs to be shown that the great tribulation will be such a major traumatic end-time event that there will be no question of its being here. In the meantime, many other prophecies have yet to come to pass to set the stage for the time of the final great tribulation.

Another point to clarify is that both the 1290 and 1335 days of Daniel 12, and even the 1150 days of Daniel 8, begin when the sanctuary is overthrown and the continual burnt offering is taken away. These events have not yet occurred. Therefore, the counting of these days cannot yet be started.

Please make sure no one is confused by these "wild" and irresponsible ideas about prophecy that are being circulated about. It is almost amusing what some will believe, but it nevertheless needs to be clarified in several church areas.

-- Wilbur Berg, P.A.D.

UPDATE ON OUR CLASSIC CHURCH-STATE CONFRONTATION

As you will recall, Judge Julius Title stayed his order to lift the receivership until March 1. He directed the Attorney General and the attorneys for the Church to submit proposed orders which he would consider on that date in formulating and issuing an injunctive order. It was to be an order that would provide that the Attorney General could continue his examination of the Church at the State's expense.

As it turned out, the proposed order submitted by the Attorney General was largely the basis for the final court order. At the March 1 hearing before Judge Title, points were objected to by the Church's attorneys where excessive powers were requested by the Attorney General. Few changes were made to the Attorney General's proposed order by the judge prior to the hearing, and few changes were made during the hearing as a result of arguments by both sides. In actual fact, more than just a means of continuing a financial audit to investigate whether or not allegations against the defendants were true, this order differs very little from the receivership which we were under.

The Attorney General's order, which Judge Title seems to be accepting largely intact, is disruptive to the Church's operations and permits the Attorney General to have a computer terminal of his own with which to plug into all our computer files! (However, our lawyers successfully argued against allowing access to our membership lists. It permits a free-wheeling and unregulated search of all church records (even those not of a financial nature and therefore outside the scope of the lawsuit). This search would cover twenty years of records and would permit the Attorney General to have "first priority" over all our records irrespective of our ordinary business workload in data processing and accounting. He wants the right to examine and copy all documents of every kind including constitutionally and statutorily privileged and protected documents all of which would then become public records!

In a press conference held by Mr. Rader in his office Thursday afternoon, March 1st, he stated that "the Attorney General's proposed order is unprecedented, unlawful, and intolerable to the basic religious and constitutional rights of the Church and its members and incompatible with the continuity of Church operations...it would put yet further and exorbitant compliance costs on the Church.

"All of this is the more reprehensible because there has been absolutely no showing of urgency or need for the unprecedented powers

which the Attorney General would be given. Moreover, although the Receiver's auditors have been examining the Church's books and records for nearly eight weeks and expended thousands of dollars of Church funds in their review of Church records, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing or misappropriation of funds as fraudulently alleged in the complaint."

Still at the Procedural Stage

At the present time we are at the procedural stage of the lawsuit. In spite of the continuing frantic and slanderous charges leveled at us in the hearings by deputized attorney Chodos, there is no trial of the facts in this particular forum. The judge is not ruling in favor or opposition to those facts. Facts will be separated from accusations only when the trial begins (if indeed it does) at some point in the future.

Mr. Rader assured the press that at this point the Church will do everything it can via judicial means to protect its rights which have been violated in this heavy-handed and extraordinary action which began first through the receiver and then the court order.

A Classic Church-State Confrontation

It is clear that God's Church is engaged in a classic first amendment confrontation of church and state. We have been saying this from the beginning. Mr. Warren Abbott, Assistant Attorney General in charge of overseeing charitable trusts, was quoted in a Los Angeles Times article concerning our case. He said, "Let's find out what the law is. We'd like a decision on whether 9505 (the section of the state Corporation Code that empowers the attorney general to oversee charitable trusts) does apply to churches." This is an admission by the Attorney General's office that they want to see if the state does have the right to examine, supervise and control churches!

We have been receiving offers of help from other religious groups. This is because this very obvious threat to freedom of religion in California could set a serious precedent for future actions by the State Attorney General, Mr. Rader said. However, there is a time and a place for these people to make their stand. We already have one amicus curiae brief in the California Supreme Court. When we have a petition for a hearing granted by the Supreme Court, he indicated others may very well jump in at that time. But none want to argue this matter before Judge Title. Apparently he doesn't want to concern himself with the Constitution, as he plainly indicated again March 1 when he told our attorneys he "didn't want to talk about Constitutional rights." So we must first have a forum where there are people who are responsive to the arguments that are being made -- where the first amendment means something. It means something, generally speaking, when you go up above the lower courts.

According to Mr. Rader, twenty years from now we'll all look back and realize that this was much more important than a clash between individuals or business entities. This truly is a classic confrontation between a sovereign state and a church. And the issues,

rights and privileges at stake will affect each of us as individuals far more than many realize at this point. For this reason, Mr. Rader told the press on March 1, the Church will do its best to educate the public because we feel, and rightly so, that we have a duty to perform. He told them, "We feel God has placed us, for His purpose -- He works in mysterious ways -- in the vanguard fighting for religious freedom. We will be advertising nationally -- in the press, television and radio -- that church property has, in effect, been confiscated in California."

He went on to explain, "Over ninety percent of our members live outside the state of California. How would you feel if you were living in Ohio and sending several thousand dollars a year to the Worldwide Church of God and then you hear that the state claims it has control of that money and that that is a public trust belonging to the people of California. Well, this is stirring up our members and they are involving their neighbors. And their neighbors are involving their congressmen and their congressmen are involving their governors. And this will be made a national issue."

It was announced that we have hired the finest firm of civil rights lawyers in the country, in the opinion of Mr. Rader and others. These people will do everything they can to see to it that our civil rights are protected and to see that those who have conspired to deprive us of those civil rights are made to respond in damages.

The Church very plainly must keep all of its constitutional rights, privileges and immunities sacrosanct. This does not mean we would not allow an examination to take place. Mr. Rader assured the press that we have always, and will always, permit an examination to take place that is a legitimate one.

The Audit Could Go On

Although the Church has steadfastly denied that the Attorney General may conduct an examination under California Corporation Code, Section 9505, we have at all times expressed a willingness to permit a legitimate examination of the Church's non-religious, non-ecclesiastical affairs. A "legitimate examination" means the kind of examination which the Internal Revenue Service or any other governmental agency normally conducts, which includes a) a prior appointment with the entity, b) delineation of areas of inquiry, c) request to examine (without copying or removing) pertinent documents, and d) minimum interference with the conduct of the entity's normal affairs.

Our lawyers have argued that the scope of the audit should be limited to the scope of the complaint (lawsuit) and certainly not into every nook and cranny of our buildings and records which will violate the privacy of church matters we are entitled to maintain. This extraordinary attack on God's Church reflects a frantic effort by the Attorney General to engage in a "fishing expedition" in the hopes of detecting some evidence of wrongdoing to justify a claim for fees and expenses which the law does not permit in any event.

If the investigation had been initiated without fanfare and in an ordinary manner, none of the tremendous waste of time and money would have occurred (not to mention the blow dealt to the Church's reputation). If the Attorney General has merely over-reacted because he was misled and acted on the sincere belief that something was truly wrong, Mr. Rader said he should (especially after these eight weeks of intense auditing) quietly and without further fanfare leave our premises.

One final note as we go to press: The injunctive order was signed last week by Judge Title as expected. The attorneys for the Church filed an appeal on that order Friday, March 2 in Superior Court. This appeal causes the order to be "stayed" (a postponement or delay in legal action or proceeding). We are hoping this action will render the Church the proper relief we are seeking. And so the wheels of "justice" grind away.

--Pastor's Report Staff

MINISTERIAL TRANSFERS

The need for additional transfers to fill the vacancies created by those going into the non-career ministry has caused budgetary constraints on the funds available for transfers. Therefore, we need to find ways to make the necessary transfers as economically as possible. One action that could help considerably in this is to have as many men as can move themselves using U-haul vehicles. Often by going the U-haul route the men being transferred can save the Work one to two thousand dollars or more depending on the amount of household goods to be moved and the distance they are moving.

Since using a U-haul vehicle requires more work and a certain amount of sacrifice, we have in the past given a special bonus to those men who have chosen to do it. In essence we want to share part of the savings the Work experiences with those who have helped to make the savings possible. We plan to continue this policy and particularly want to encourage anyone who will be moving this year to seriously consider the possibility of moving themselves with a rental vehicle.

A Note of Thanks We want to express our appreciation to all of you who have been keeping our office up-to-date on the status of elders and deacons in your areas. Even though it is an unpleasant aspect of our job and yours, in time of change such as we have recently been experiencing, it is particularly helpful to receive prompt notification of the departure of any elders and deacons. Thanks for your help in this.

--Ted Herlofson, Ministerial Services

MAIL UP SLIGHTLY Mail for the week ending March 2 was low, but it was still slightly higher than the week before. As a comparison: an average week during 1978 brought around 35,000 letters to the Work; the week of March 2 gave us only 18,500 letters. It's obvious that the present church-state crisis is affecting our incoming mail. Most of our response-producing mailings had to be curtailed due to the receivership.

However, at this writing (3/5/79) the prospects for the future are looking better. The "Co-Worker Newsletter" is again being mailed out and a couple of new letters offering several booklets are going to PLAIN TRUTH subscribers. Also, the Circulation Department is resuming PLAIN TRUTH renewal mailings. Over the next three weeks, these mailings should help to improve the letter count.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

PUBLISHING SERVICES

Some positive news about the PLAIN TRUTH reader renewal! Fifty percent of all readers are now renewing their subscriptions, which is higher than some regular commercial magazines.

Publishing Services has a sizeable extra quantity of the original printing of Mr. Armstrong's book The Incredible Human Potential. We would like to make these available free to all ministers who request them. If you would like up to five free copies please send a request to Mail Processing.

--Roger Lippross, Production Director

Y.E.S. -- WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Where is Y.E.S. right now? What's happening? What have we done? What are we doing? What are our plans?

The concept for Y.E.S. programs first crystallized in the Fall of 1975. Since that time, some churches have developed excellent local programs. During the last three years, many valuable insights have been obtained from those programs which were begun.

What Is Y.E.S. Doing Today?

In the Fall of 1978, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong approved the youth educational service of the Church after an analysis of the underlying principles and other relevant materials that were presented to him. After receiving such approval, a full-time individual working exclusively with Y.E.S. has been added to the Y.O.U. staff. Since the Y.E.S. program has gotten under way starting in January of this year, much progress has been made.

In order to develop the best materials for Y.E.S. programs we first sent a Y.E.S. questionnaire to all Church Pastors.

Y.E.S. Master File

Since Y.E.S. began about three years ago, a lot of materials have reached our office. We have just completed a systematic master file of all Y.E.S. materials. The master file contains two basic divisions, one of which deals strictly with curriculum related materials. In this division we have developed a subject file based on the order of topics and events in both the Old and New Testaments. This means that any Y.E.S. materials received from the field can now be systematically classified immediately and will be at our finger tips when

our writers need material on a subject in the future. For example, if we were to receive an interesting and well-planned lesson on Moses, that material will go into a special section on 'Moses.' In it we would already typically have several lessons and contributions relating to Moses. (Some subject areas are more complete than others.)

The other division deals with Y.E.S. administration and organization. Some of the sections in this division include: curriculum design, lesson planning information, resources and aids, local Y.E.S. organization, Church format, program evaluation, teacher training and parental involvement. Again, these topical files will prove invaluable as we write articles for Y.E.S. teachers and staff in the future.

Y.E.S. Programs Manual

One of our immediate goals for Y.E.S. is to write a manual which will give all Church areas some guidelines in the organization of their Y.E.S. program. There has been a request for such a manual ever since the concept of Y.E.S. was first introduced. Another purpose for such a manual will be to promote greater overall unity and consistency in the structure and organization of Y.E.S. programs. Such a manual will also allow necessary flexibility for each program. We have now already produced a preliminary draft copy of the manual.

At present the manual is being evaluated by several individuals, including a number of local Y.E.S. teachers and sabbatical ministers. We have a class at College which is directly related to Y.O.U. and therefore also includes discussion on Y.E.S. As a result of this input, the manual will be revised and there will be some additional improvements incorporated into it. This second revision will be presented to P.A.D. for editing.

As soon as we are able, we then want to present the final form of the Y.E.S. programs manual to Mr. Armstrong, for his evaluation and approval. Once approved, the manual will then be made available on request for every Church area worldwide.

Our main goal, once the Y.E.S. manual is completed (by the way, included in the manual will be an approved curriculum), will be the production of a Y.E.S. Quarterly booklet. The booklet will include information in three areas;

- (1) For Teachers -- Each booklet will be filled with various lesson plan ideas and suggestions, including relevant seasonal material.
- (2) For Children -- The quarterly will include direct learning activities for children, which teachers will be able to mimeograph and use in their classes.
- (3) For Parents -- Each issue will contain many ideas for parental involvement with children in Y.E.S. related activities and learning during the week.

Other Goals

Additional goals include a teacher training program and occasional Y.E.S. related articles in the Worldwide News to keep readers more abreast of what Y.E.S. is doing. Other possibilities include books and cassette stories for children.

--Y.O.U. Staff

MONEY-SAVING DISCOUNTS

Here's some news you can use. The Purchasing Department receives exceptional discounts on tape recorder cassette items. These items can be offered on a continuing basis. Items and prices are as follows:

- 1) T.D.K. C-90 Tape cassettes (90 minutes total, 45 each side):
81¢ without cassette case and .91¢ with cassette case.
- 2) T.D.K. C-60 Tape cassettes (60 minutes total, 30 each side):
.58¢ without cassette case and .69¢ with cassette case.
- 3) Plastic Cassette Cases -- fit all cassettes: .11¢ each.
- 4) Avery Cassette Labels: .01¢ each.

On all purchases, please deal directly with the Purchasing Department. Contact either Shirley Gent or Tim Grauel.

--Purchasing Department

ON THE WORLD SCENE

U.S. SKID ACCELERATES Since our contribution to last week's Pastor's Report concerning the accelerating decline of American power and prestige, additional information on this topic has been flooding in. Underscoring the importance of this trend, Business Week, in its March 12, 1979 issue, devoted a 30-page special section to it. Rather than excerpt here the significant parts from the BW story and other leading sources, I felt it would be best to construct a more thorough "News Report" on the entire subject. We're working on it now, and hope to have it in your hands shortly, perhaps along with next week's Pastor's Report.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau