

PASTOR'S REPORT

PUBLISHED BY THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. 3, NO. 11

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 2, 1979

FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from Pasadena! Once again, it is good to hear from so many of you and feel the continuing trend toward unity and stability after our upsets of recent months. Also, I am very encouraged by the continuing growth in our overseas Work. Mr. Colin Adair sent in a report a few days ago that income in the Philippines, year-to-date, has grown to a 14½% increase. Things are going along almost equally well in most of the international areas.

As many of you know, Mr. Armstrong has asked us to send out a "team" from headquarters in the G-II for the last three weeks running. These are all men who are able to explain the real truth regarding the recent legal attacks on God's Church and are able to answer any and all questions from the brethren about these matters -- in addition to giving a sermon. The response from most areas has been very fine, and the vast majority of the brethren have been enthusiastically appreciative of the opportunity to hear directly from Pasadena headquarters about these matters and have some of their doubts and questions laid to rest. So we will be continuing these trips from time to time, and feel this is a fine use for the airplane and a real strengthening and unifying exercise for God's Church.

Decisions will be made this week on most of the sabbatical assignments, field transfers for sabbatical ministers, and related issues for the U.S. ministers. Some few assignments may have to be delayed, and we will be in contact with the area coordinators -- as we have already been -- and with the overseas directors as is needed.

We have made arrangements to have a class this next school year especially for the sabbatical wives. The exact format and teachers have not yet been decided, but we will be getting more information to all of you as soon as plans are complete.

We are also working on a questionnaire to send to all wives in the field. In order to better serve you, we need more information about all of you. Several here at headquarters are working on this questionnaire, so when complete, it will give a very good overall view of wives of the ministry.

All of you wives, worldwide, please be thinking of ways we here at headquarters could better serve, support and help you in your job of assisting your husbands in the work of the ministry.

Continuing progress has been made in planning our Evangelistic Campaigns! Halls in the following cities have already been selected for the upcoming campaigns and these cities have been approved by Mr. Herbert Armstrong: San Antonio, Denver, Pasadena, Seattle, Shreveport, Phoenix,

Dallas. So be sure to tell your people about these upcoming campaigns and ask them to pray fervently for their success!

Finally, fellows, let's all be sure to sincerely examine ourselves before this Passover season. Even we in the ministry need to get much closer to God. We need to recognize, again, that we are all called to be part of the very Government of God on this earth in a few years. We and our brethren are training to be kings and priests -- to give orders and take orders in a right and positive spirit under a definite government structure. So we must learn to be loyal and supportive of God's government through his Church NOW. We must learn to look beyond ourselves -- beyond all men -- and recognize that the living Jesus Christ is the overall director and orchestrator and leader of the major events, doctrines, decisions and actions within the very Church which is His body. We need to have renewed and deepened faith in his shed blood to blot out our spiritual sins -- including even sins of attitude as well as action. Likewise, we need to have a deepened faith and realization that He really is our Healer -- and that His broken body which we portray with the broken bread at Passover time pictures the healing which God has made possible for us today. Then we need to build an "atmosphere of faith" in each and every local congregation of God's Church, worldwide, regarding Christ as our Savior, our Healer, our living, active Head and High Priest at God's right hand.

Please pray for Mr. Herbert Armstrong and for all of us in leadership positions in God's Work. We need his special love, wisdom, guidance and strength. And pray for one another and all of God's people, especially at this Passover season.

Our best wishes and sincere prayers will be with all of you.

With Christian love,



Roderick C. Meredith

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Y.E.S. Hall Rental It has recently come to our attention that some clarification is needed concerning hall rental for Y.E.S. programs. No money has been included in the 1979 budget for additional Sabbath hall rent for Y.E.S. programs. The only money in the budget is for existing Sabbath hall rent with a certain amount for expected increases in hall rental rates due to inflation.

Those who may be planning Y.E.S. programs need to keep this constraint in mind. Any additional hall rental incurred for Y.E.S. programs will have to be paid for from local activity funds until money can be provided in the Church Division Budget.

--Ted Herlofson

STATE OF CALIFORNIA CHALLENGES INDIVIDUAL SURETIES

In its efforts to set a precedent in the courts through its actions against the Worldwide Church of God, the California Attorney General's office has

decided to challenge the individual sureties presented to the court on March 16th and accepted by Judge Title. In ordering a second receiver to be put over the Church, Title said that a \$1 million money bond would stay (neutralize) the receivership pending appeal. When the membership in California unexpectedly came up with more than double the needed bond in the form of sureties (\$2,374,307 worth of sureties were presented to the court), the Attorney General said his office was "stymied." However, at the last moment the state exercised its option to contest the individual pledges, which now total in excess of \$3,800,000.

The Church's attorneys welcome this opportunity to have the member's heard from in court to verify the value of their signed pledges. In the ensuing hearings (which could take weeks), many members may be called upon to show proof of personal wealth pledged on their signed declarations. It is expected that this forum will give members opportunity to express themselves about how they feel concerning the actions of state officials who actually said that "church members don't matter"! (As we go to press we have learned that hearings on this matter will begin tomorrow, Tuesday the 3rd.)

--Pastor's Report Staff

TAXPAYER'S LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST THE STATE

A taxpayer's lawsuit has been filed in the state of California contesting the use of taxpayer's money to persecute the Church of God. In the suit several California members are asking the courts to prohibit the Attorney General from using tax monies to interfere in church affairs contrary to constitutional mandate which guarantees separation of church and state.

The suit also questions the application of a section of the California Corporations Code to churches. The Attorney General is trying to say the Church of God is a "charitable trust" on a par with any secular organization such as the March of Dimes. The Church is a legal entity in the state of California organized as a "non-profit corporation." It is not a charitable trust (which solicits money from the public) and has never been viewed as such in the past. However, as an excuse to exercise excessive controls over a church, the Attorney General contends that a church can be examined and regulated to the same extent and in the same manner as any other charitable organization.

--Pastor's Report Staff

SECOND FULL-PAGE AD APPEARS IN L.A. TIMES

On the opposite page is the second full-page advertisement to appear in one of the Western United States' most prominent and largest circulation newspapers. This particular ad was paid for by the Emergency Committee for the Defense of Religious Freedom which is composed of members of God's Church.

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Our new typesetting system, that we use to set all five languages of the PT, is now beginning to pay off. Complete typeset pages are now coming off our new equipment. This is proving to be a big time saver in our paste-up and film assembly areas.

Just this week a problem has re-occurred in our PT newsstand distribution system. Some areas are not sticking to the official policy for newsstand distribution. This was referred to in my statement in the Pastor's

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

The Worldwide Church of God Has Nothing to Hide— But Much to Protect!

ONE OF THE more absurd, false allegations made by the Attorney General in his efforts to destroy the Worldwide Church of God has been the alleged failure of the Church, Ambassador College and the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation to render an accounting.

ALL FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS REPORTED

This accusation is particularly surprising, in that each corporation has filed with the State of California an annual accounting on forms prescribed by the State and in the detail required by those forms.

Specifically, Ambassador International Cultural Foundation files with the Attorney General's office an annual, detailed report (Form CT-2) listing, among other things: the total compensation of each officer, director, and key employees; every transaction with each officer or director including any extensions of credit or sales of properties; each transaction involving the purchase or sale of a security or investment including the cost, fair market value, and any gain or loss on the transaction; all distributions to other charities or other recipients; and a balance sheet and income statement, as well as other financial disclosures. This report, although not required to be audited, is audited by independent certified public accountants, and their report, together with the Foundation's report, are public documents available for public inspection. Moreover, the Foundation also files an annual statement with the State of California Department of Justice showing each California financial institution (and account number) with which it does business and authorizes disclosure to the Attorney General of any and all financial records pertaining to the Foundation held by such financial institutions.

Ambassador College files a similarly detailed accounting each year with the State of California Franchise Tax Board. Its latest audited report was a 52-page document that required over 250 hours to prepare and which listed each transaction with each officer and director, as well as other pertinent information such as description of each piece of real or personal property sold during the year along with the buyer's name and relationship, the historical cost, fair market value, expenses of sale, and gross sales price.

CHURCH FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

Both the Foundation and the College file identical disclosures with the federal government and all of these documents are available for public inspection. The Worldwide Church of God also files an annual information return with the Franchise Tax Board, although the State has chosen to require fewer disclosures of religious institutions.

In each case, the level of detail required to be presented in these accountings is dictated by the State and in every instance we have complied fully with such requests for accountings. These accountings are available to all contributors and potential contributors. They are available to the news media. They are most certainly available to the Attorney General.

CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY EVIDENT

Therefore, it is clearly a malicious abuse of the legal process for the Attorney General to state falsely that no accounting has ever been made or that financial disclosures have been incomplete. Because the Attorney General knew these allegations were false, both before a complaint was filed as well as throughout the court proceedings, we can only conclude that such false charges are further evidence of the criminal conspiracy to deprive us of our rights, under almighty God.

WHY FIGHT?

Thus we have never had anything to

hide. We still have nothing to hide. At no time did the Church, College or Foundation fail directly or indirectly to cooperate with any requests made by the State of California through the Attorney General's office or any other agency of the State Government to examine the activities of the various entities. But, the Attorney General did not ask for the examination! He invaded, threatening to confiscate. And we had no choice but to defend a lawsuit containing outrageous, false and defamatory allegations about the Church and its leadership.

As long as the State of California remains a plaintiff, and a self-appointed and self-designated enemy and adversary of the Worldwide Church of God and its brethren, the Church and its brethren have no reasonable alternative but to defend vigorously, resourcefully and diligently all of its rights, constitutional and statutory.

WHY, THEN, DO WE FIGHT SO HARD?

The answer is clear and simple: We fight because the State's actions strike at the very core of the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution; indeed, the very freedoms that this country's founders were denied in their homelands and sought to enjoy in the New World.

OUR IMPERILED FREEDOMS

What are these freedoms that the Church is trying so hard to protect, and how do the State's actions imperil them?

(1) The right to worship God and carry out His Work in one's own way, free from governmental interference. This necessarily includes the right of the Church and its leaders to control how God's money—tithes and other offerings—should be used. The State's position, on the other hand, is that it, through a court appointed receiver, should be the final arbiter of how Church funds should be expended.

(2) The right to worship and contribute in freedom and in privacy. The State, however, contrary to longstanding principles of constitutional law, insists that it has the right to learn who

Church members are and how much they contribute.

(3) The right to freely communicate with Church leaders. The State, however, has recalled mailings from the Pastor General of the Church to Church members.

(4) The right to have Church documents dealing with ecclesiastical matters, membership lists, ministry lists, communications between clergymen and Church members, and communications between the Church and its attorneys, remain inviolate. The State, however, demands that it be given all of these documents without any objection or safeguards.

(5) The right to maintain the Church as a hierarchical entity. The State, in essence, has sought to make the Church congregational in governance.

WITCH-HUNT

We are not Don Quixotes fancifully tilting at windmills. The danger is clear and present. The intrusion of the State is massive and ominous. The so-called "accounting" is in fact a witch-hunt. No religious organization is safe, we all, therefore, must work to halt the rising tide which, if left unchecked, will erode the cornerstone of religious freedom.

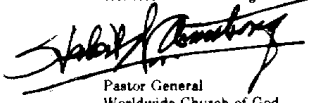
All Americans must be committed to the preservation of the integrity of our religious institutions and the freedom to exercise our religious rights.

How can you help—what can you as an individual do?

Let everyone know that you as an American will not stand by and allow our freedoms to be so callously subverted. Contact your church pastor, write your congressman, write your senator, contact the media and let your views be known!

For more information on how you can be more involved in your own community complete the coupon below and return to: Worldwide Church of God, Box 111, Pasadena, CA 91123.

Herbert W. Armstrong



Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

CLIP THIS COUPON AND MAIL TO:
Worldwide Church of God, Box 111, Pasadena, CA 91123

Please send me more information on how I can let my views on religious freedom be known in my community.

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Report dated February 5, 1979. I mentioned then that the only distribution system approved by Mr. Armstrong is the regular newsstand program. Some areas are resorting to many different ideas, none of which have been checked out with us in Pasadena. Once again, we MUST NOT put PT's in people's mail boxes -- this is against U.S. Post Office regulations and is offensive to the potential reader. We do not want to force ourselves or our message on anybody.

Please be sure that your Plain Truth coordinators are aware of this.

--Roger G. Lippross, Director of Publishing

PLANS FOR S.E.P. 1979 ARE GO!

Plans for the 1979 S.E.P. are now in full swing. Due to the events of the last several months, we are behind on our processing. Consequently, we'd like to encourage all of you to actively promote S.E.P., 1979.

Here are the vital statistics:

DATES: Session I -- June 19 - July 9
Session II - July 12 - August 1

DEADLINE: All applications must be received by May 15

COSTS: \$300.00 -- This includes food, lodging, some clothing, and all equipment used at S.E.P.

Additional facts about the program will be mailed to all church pastors, along with 10 S.E.P. application forms. Applications can also be obtained by writing or calling the Y.O.U. office. The Worldwide News will also be printing an application in their next issue.

We are now in the final stages of staffing, and plan to notify all staff applicants by the end of April.

As always, we appreciate your support of the program and thank you in advance for your help in making S.E.P. a continued success.

--Jim Thornhill, Y.O.U.

ON THE WORLD SCENE

BRITISH GOVERNMENT FALLS; NEW ELECTIONS SET Last Wednesday, British Prime Minister James Callaghan's minority Labor government was toppled from power by one vote in the House of Commons. The vote -- 311 to 310 on a censure motion brought by the opposition Conservatives under the leadership of Margaret Thatcher -- placed Callaghan in the embarrassing position of being the first prime minister to be ousted on a confidence vote since Ramsay MacDonald was ejected from office some 55 years ago.

Callaghan has set May 3 as the date for the national election, which could bring Britain its first woman prime minister ever (see Isaiah 3:12 for a possible election forecast).

The no-confidence vote comes as no surprise in light of the events of recent months. Crippling strikes of public-service and other workers led to widespread disorder inside Britain this past winter, reminiscent

of those of the winter of 1973-74, which forced the country onto a three-day work week and ultimately led to the fall of Edward Heath's Conservative government. As a result of this winter's turmoil, Labor's principal appeal to the electorate -- that it could handle the powerful unions better than the Conservatives could -- has been severely damaged. The months of strikes and threats of other walkouts have dramatically cut into the Labor's popularity. Latest polls give the Tory party a 13% lead over Labor.

Whether, and how, to curb the power of the unions has now become the main issue of British politics. Expected labor-management confrontations, with the possibility of still more paralyzing strikes to come, could yet produce a national upheaval far worse than any seen in Britain to date. Public patience with the unions appears near the breaking point, as evidenced in a recent Gallup poll in which 84 percent of the British public expressed the feeling that the power of the trade unions is inordinate. Nor surprisingly, Tory leader Thatcher has been pushing hard to capitalize on the national mood of disenchantment over union extremism.

In the few weeks remaining before election day, both parties will be busily maneuvering for votes. The Labor government will be making fresh efforts to patch up some sort of last-minute agreement with the unions to bolster its standings in the polls. The Tories will most probably seek to maintain their current lead by holding out the prospect of a new beginning under their leadership.

The only nationwide third party is the small Liberal party, led by David Steel (its former leader, Jeremy Thorpe, is under indictment for conspiracy to murder). Though customarily drawing only five to six percent of the popular vote, the Liberals hope for enough seats to hold the balance of power between the two major parties after the election.

The election results will be known in less than a month. The big question is whether any government will be able to successfully stem the steady tide of national erosion and stave off the almost certain economic ruin which faces Britain today. For even in the non-stop electioneering currently underway, few voices of any party are to be heard addressing the fundamental root causes of Britain's half-century of decline from world-power status. Politicians continue to search for the easy way out, for solutions which will be palatable to the voters. Until Britons come to realize there is no easy way out, prospects remain bleak indeed.

--Gene H. Hogberg and Keith Stump, News Bureau

NEWS SUMMARY

WORLDWIDE EDITION

SEVEN CITIES ALREADY SELECTED FOR UPCOMING CAMPAIGNS

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MEMBERS ARE REALLY PITCHING IN

The following statement from the Treasurer's Office was published in the Pastor's Report dated March 27: "As you will recall, in January Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong asked for contributions to help pay for the legal defense of the Work against the unfounded legal attack by the State of California in concert with a few dissidents. Over \$400,000 has already been contributed for that special 'war chest.'

"Meanwhile, the special offering for a money bond, if needed, has been growing and is now over \$600,000. This offering is still accruing from members' contributions arriving from around the world. If the surety bond remains acceptable to the court, then these funds will be used directly in doing the Work at this time of sagging income just prior to the spring holy days. Incidentally, the amount of the surety pledges from all over the state of California has swelled to over \$3,800,000.

"In response to the recent request sent to all employees of God's Work (including the ministry) asking if they could help the cash-flow situation over the next four paydays by foregoing part of their pay in the form of an automatic contribution from each paycheck, our Accounting Office has already received pledges amounting to nearly \$50,000 per payday! This was in addition to all the other ways employees cheerfully sacrificed right along with other members around the world. On top of all this it should be noted that many local employees gave even further in terms of volunteer time on special projects during the last few months of seige."

MEMBERSHIP CAN HAVE A GREATER "PIECE OF THE ACTION"

In the Pastor's Report of March 27, the Pastoral Administration Department asked the ministry to begin encouraging members who want to be of further help during this very tight financial situation the Work will be in for the next few months.

Mr. Meredith said, "We want to start immediately to implement ... church fund raising projects." The ministry will be receiving packets containing information on how to organize such projects "as a special emergency crusade to raise monies to be sent to Tucson at the earliest possible date."

Some of the suggested activities are painting houses, cleaning houses, washing cars, selling farm produce, conducting paper drives, collecting scrap iron, delivering sales papers or advertisements for local firms, etc. Many of these would involve very little of members' personal money -- "merely time, effort and elbow grease." Here is something many can do to have a greater "piece of the action" in serving God's Work at this critical time of financial need.

A NOTE OF THANKS

The Y.O.U. staff wants to thank those members who have recently submitted Y.E.S. materials, as well as in the past. Materials have been received from many Church areas within the U.S. as well as overseas. The staff really appreciates the very fine quality and creative effort reflected in the material. As they go into production of Y.E.S. teaching programs, they will be drawing on the material sent in.