



The Worldwide Church of God

OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

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Mr. Armstrong to open largest HQ conference

PASADENA — Conference planners were working feverishly to finalize last-minute conference details as of press time Jan. 1, two days before the opening of the largest ministerial conference ever convened by the Church, and one that is to mark Herbert W. Armstrong's first general appearance since he became ill 4½ months ago.

As of Dec. 30, 958 people were registered for the conference, with a crowd of more than 1,000 expected to be on hand for the 85-year-old pastor general's opening remarks Jan. 4. The total includes wives. All church pastors worldwide, their wives and some associate pastors and some International Division office staffers are to come at Church expense. Any other elders able to pay their own way are free to attend.

Writer and television personality

1977 REVIEWED

Another year has rolled around, and it's time again for our year-end wrap-up issue. You'll notice this special 24-page *WN* is really an issue within an issue. In the middle is a 16-page pullout section that wraps up the news of the Work in 1977 month by month.

Art Linkletter is slated to address the ministry during the plenary session Jan. 5. Ted Herlofson, conference coordinator, said Mr. Linkletter will speak on drug abuse by youths. He said Mr. Linkletter's presentation is in partial response to the interest expressed by ministers on the subjects of marriage, family and drugs.

Ministers began arriving several days before the conference; many wanted to be on hand for the annual Tournament of Roses Parade usually held Jan. 1 but delayed one day this year since the first of the year fell on a Sunday.

Forty-eight ministers, wives and some children, representing those from Australia and New Zealand, arrived Dec. 28, according to Dean Wilson, regional director of the Australian Work. Mr. Wilson said the party traveled together and had saved about 50 percent over regular economy airline rates by taking advantage of group discounts. He said ministers who had relatives living in the United States brought their children so they could couple familial considerations with the conference trip.

On Dec. 21 Garner Ted Armstrong met in his office with Ronald Dart, vice president for pastoral administration, Leslie McCullough, director of the International Division, and Mr. Herlofson to solidify plans.

Ministers will spend 24 hours in (See CONFERENCE, page 8)



CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES — Former Milwaukee Brewer professional baseball player Dan Thomas, left, addresses delegates to the second annual YOU international conference in Big Sandy, Tex. During the conference participants asked questions, right, of Garner Ted Armstrong. (Photos by Phil Edwards)

569 attend YOU conference

By Joe Pyle

BIG SANDY, Tex. — Five hundred sixty-nine delegates 12 to 19 years old gathered from 50 states and 14 foreign countries for the second YOU international conference, held on the former Ambassador College campus Dec. 23 to 28.

The young people, two from each congregation within an established YOU chapter, attended six days of meetings and other activities, including presentations by Garner Ted

Armstrong, Donald Most ("Ralph" in the television series *Happy Days*), professional baseball player and Church member Dan Thomas and musician, singer and writer Tom Sullivan.

Countries represented

The delegates had come from America, Australia, Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, England, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, the Philippines, Scotland, South Africa, Switzerland and West Germany.

All eight regional YOU coordinators from the United States attended and conducted regional workshops with the delegates from their areas.

Also 23 Ambassador College students had traveled by van from Pasadena to volunteer their services in helping lead the activities.

Most delegates arrived Friday,

Dec. 23, and attended a Bible study that night and brunch the next morning.

Sabbath services included a sermonette by the pastor of the Buffalo, N.Y., church, Dan Bierer, and a sermon by Garner Ted Armstrong on the problems youths have faced, past and present.

Sunday Mr. Armstrong conducted two rapid-fire question-and-answer sessions, fielding queries on topics ranging from prophecy to interracial dating.

Subjects covered during the six days of meetings, and the lecturers, included:

Ambassador College, David An-ton, director of college relations for AC; teen-adult relationships, George Geis, chairman of Ambassador's Theology Department; dating, Gil Goethals, a Tacoma, Wash., elder; youth leadership, Carl Gustafson,

(See YOU CONFERENCE, page 8)

Evangelists honored on 25th

PASADENA — Herman L. Hoeh and Roderick C. Meredith, two of the first evangelists ordained in the Church, were honored on the 25th anniversary of their ordination at a dinner held on the Ambassador College campus Dec. 20.

Garner Ted Armstrong presented each man with a silver plaque that read: "In recognition of faithful service as an ordained minister and commemorating the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the rank of evangelist in the Worldwide Church of God. In deep appreciation, [signed] Herbert W. Armstrong, Garner Ted Armstrong."

Mr. Armstrong, who made the presentation at a prime-rib dinner attended by 49 people in Ambassador Hall, one of the early campus buildings, said he wished his father could have made the presentation.

Dr. Hoeh and Dr. Meredith were ordained Dec. 20, 1952, along with Richard David Armstrong, Raymond C. Cole and C. Paul Meredith. Richard Armstrong, Garner Ted's elder brother, died in 1958 at age 29 from injuries received in an automobile accident, and C. Paul Meredith, first editor of the *Work's* Correspondence Course and uncle to Roderick, died in 1968. Mr. Cole has since disassociated himself from the Church.

Accept plaques

Dr. Hoeh, in accepting his plaque, honored the two evangelists who had died. "Both are deceased, and in a sense this [event] commemorates



EVANGELISTS HONORED — Evangelists Herman L. Hoeh, left, and Roderick C. Meredith, right, along with their wives, display plaques commemorating their 25 years as ordained ministers. [Photo by John Robinson]

what role they had in a much shorter life in this Work."

Dr. Meredith thanked those who attended for their warmth and encouragement. He recalled the 1952 ordination ceremony, saying Herbert Armstrong "laid hands on Dr. Hoeh as the very first one, which was fitting," since Dr. Hoeh "was the first male graduate [of Ambassador] and the first evangelist in God's Church in this era."

He said Dr. Hoeh and Mr. Armstrong then turned and ordained Raymond Cole. Dr. Meredith said, "We all wish Raymond could be here."

As each man was ordained, he joined in the next ordination. Following Mr. Cole were Richard Armstrong and C. Paul Meredith.

"Then last and least, which is fitting," Dr. Meredith chuckled, "they

(See EVANGELISTS, page 3)

New Feast site selected

Savannah gets nod

BIG SANDY, Tex. — Savannah, Ga., will be a site for the next Feast of Tabernacles, replacing Jekyll Island, Ga., the Festival Office announced Dec. 22.

As many as 7,000 Feastgoers from the Mid-Atlantic states will be assigned to the new Georgia site, about 80 miles up the coast from the old Jekyll Island location.

The Festival Office had announced Dec. 6 that the Jekyll site had been canceled because of limited convention and housing accommodations on the island.

Festival director Sherwin McMichael said Savannah "has long been one of America's unsung urban oases" and underwent "extensive renovation and historic preservation" beginning in the 1950s. Festival services will take place in an "ultramodern \$10 million civic center" only a few blocks from "the nation's largest registered urban historic district," the director said.

The city, with a metropolitan population of about 188,000, reportedly offers 1,100 historically significant

buildings dating to the 1700s, a scenic waterfront walkway, numerous restaurants and an ocean beach area 11 miles from downtown. Many of the housing facilities for Church members will be close to the civic center and downtown historic district. Mr. McMichael said.



A Personal Letter

from

Garner Ted Armstrong

(Continued from page 2)

maintaining only five minutes or so, he stayed for approximately an hour and a half and suggested expanding the program to feature some of our own Ambassador College talent.

Of course it will be too late by the time you read these lines for any of you who were not tuned to NBC for the preparate activities, but I understand several times during the program, and of course during Tom Brokaw's introduction, the campus of Ambassador College here in Pasadena, Calif., and the student body will be mentioned.

Ministers arriving

Nearly all of the overseas ministers have already arrived. I know it will be a special thrill for our visitors from around the world to sit in our own Ambassador College stands for a prime view of the parade and later to watch the Rose Bowl football game and other national bowl games on television.

On the following day or two the remainder of the United States and Canadian contingent of our ministry will be arriving on campus, or elsewhere in the Pasadena area, to stay in the homes of friends or relatives, or, as in the case of many couples, in nearby motels and hotels, before the beginning of the conference.

I plan to go over to Tucson to assist my father in returning to Pasadena for the first time since the serious illness that sidelined him back in August! When I visited him at his home in Tucson just the other day, stopping over on my return from the international YOU conference at Big Sandy, I noticed he seemed to be able to walk even better than I had seen him before. I am encouraged that, with help from some of the rest of us, he will be able to make it aboard the G-II, even if we have to assist him most of the way up the steps, and come to Pasadena for the board meeting on the afternoon of Jan. 3 and then his appearance before the assembled ministers in the Auditorium for the first general plenary session the next day.

Future course of Ambassador

As I have mentioned at least twice in these pages, we have been undergoing exhaustive studies concerning the future course of Ambassador College. I have been given one of the most definitive and informative studies ever compiled in the history of Ambassador College, and in meetings over the next weeks and months I am sure our future course will become clearer and clearer with regard to various tactics in the continual search for improvements in our educational arm of the Church, Ambassador College.

As I have repeatedly stressed to those involved in the studies, and to all of those close to me on the administrative level, I have had no intention whatsoever of abandoning Ambassador's quest for regional accreditation.

However, as I have expressed to you lay members, I have wanted to keep all options open, making no irrevocable decisions that would close any back doors in the event certain governmental and/or educational agencies ruled in a manner we do not expect.

I have explained to you, I believe, the current negotiations under way between our legal staff and HEW attorneys concerning the long-range use of the Vistadel Arroyo properties. Such negotiations are currently still under way, and it is too early to comment on them at this time.

You may be interested in excerpts from an article appearing on the front page of the Dec. 31 Pasadena Star-News, the local newspaper,

"I want to reconfirm my fullest commitment that Ambassador will continue to strive toward regional accreditation," said [Garner Ted] Armstrong.

"He noted as well his hope that the college will be able to reopen another branch campus . . .

"We cherished the family concept of a very close faculty-student relationship, and hoped to avoid the difficulties created by massive size. Ambassador College is a character-building institution, dedicated to the precept that the Word of God is the foundation of knowledge; that education should be a 24-hour-a-day process of development for the whole personality, as well as mere development of the intellect. Small-sized campuses are essential to that concept, even if it means some redundancy of programs," said Armstrong.

"The college has experienced some difficulty in assimilating 400 students from the Big Sandy campus after its closure last summer, Armstrong acknowledged.

"The Pasadena enrollment during the spring of 1977 was 830. By the autumn of 1977 there were 1,350 students."

New advertising agency

Finally I had a very exciting talk with our representative from Ed Libov Associates of California, Inc., our new advertising agency. He will be working very closely with me and with our business manager, Mr. Ray Wright, as we undergo a transitional period of 90 days during which Ed Libov Associates will deal with those radio and television stations whose contracts with Worldwide Advertising Agency will lapse, and/or all radio and television stations not heretofore under contract with Worldwide.

Our new representative is very excited about the possibilities opening before us and has been enthusiastically at work on obtaining some additional media outlets (as budget can provide). I am very hopeful that we will be able to announce additional media improvements.

Of course the primary objective behind my far-reaching studies involving the operation of the educational arm of the Church, Ambassador College, had as its primary purpose a complete reappraisal of our financial priorities relative to that proportion of the Church's financial

support which was assigned to media (primarily radio and television, but including printed media) as distinct from the maintenance of physical plant, fixed costs and all other cost centers.

This is nothing new, of course, for there has never been a single year, a board meeting or a budget meeting in which all of those in God's Work have not continually striven to reappraise various goals and objectives, trying to do a more effective job in fulfilling the first and most important portion of the great commission God has given to us.

Half-hour daily radio

As soon as I possibly can, I hope to begin once again a full half-hour daily radio program, and have as my fondest hope that we can perhaps put together a small network by direct telephone line so that I can be on several radio stations simultaneously. LIVE, right from our own studios adjacent to my office on the Ambassador College campus in Pasadena.

This will give me, at long last, the realization of the immediacy of world affairs and will provide a tremendous impetus to me personally, in knowing

that I can talk to an audience today about today's problems, and not be talking into a dead tape recorder for my remarks to be broadcast a week, two weeks or even six weeks later!

As you can well understand, in the fast-moving pace of world events, particularly recent developments in the Middle East that are leading toward major fulfillments of biblical prophecy, it becomes increasingly important in these latter days, if we are to perform as God's "watchman" in world events, that we have the immediacy of live, daily contact with the millions.

I hope all of you brethren will be praying that this can be possible, and especially that God will give me the additional strength and special inspiration to once again tackle the task of daily half-hour radio (which I began doing over 20 years ago!)

That's about it for now. Thank you for your continuing prayers on behalf of my father, who is making satisfactory, albeit slow, improvement. And most especially thank you for your prayers for the success of the current ministerial conference!

With love, in Jesus' name,
Garner Ted Armstrong

Evangelists honored on 25th anniversary

(Continued from page 1)

ordained me. . . According to Dr. Meredith, "five to seven weeks later" brothers Marion and Raymond McNair were also ordained. Raymond is now a senior pastor stationed at Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Marion is no longer a Church member.

(Ronald Dart, vice president for pastoral administration, said Dec. 23 Raymond McNair will be honored, probably during the ministerial conference, slated to begin Jan. 4.)

Telegrams sent

Steve Martin, Western Area coordinator, who organized the dinner, before the presentations read telegrams of congratulations to the two evangelists from Herbert Armstrong, Frank Brown, regional director of the Work in Britain, Bob Fahey, regional director of the Work in Africa, Harold Jackson, director of the black-African Work, and Dean Wilson, regional director of the Work in Australia.

Mr. Armstrong in concluding remarks expressed regret because of some former evangelists who were not at the dinner.

"It just makes me wish like everything," he said, "that some other people we know were here too . . ."

Mr. Armstrong thanked everyone for being there and added: "It is a great occasion. I hope you'll all remember it, cherish it and we can have other occasions like this for others of our number. And perhaps it can be the beginning of something that can grow into a greater feeling of unity and closeness in God's Holy Spirit in this Church."

Longtime servants

Dr. Hoeh, 49, a senior editor of *The Plain Truth* and pastor of one of the Pasadena churches, is married to the former Isabell Flora Kunkel of Perryton, Tex. The Hoehs, who have four children, live about 17 miles from Church headquarters, in Sunland, Calif.

Dr. Hoeh has been a co-worker for more than 30 years. He received his A.B. degree in foreign languages in 1951 and an M.A. in theology in 1952 and then was awarded a Th.D. and Ph.D. for his work with Vol. I and II of his *Compendium of World History*. All degrees are from Ambassador.

He has written dozens of *Plain Truth* and *Good News* articles over two decades and was *Plain Truth* managing editor 19 years. He also taught at Ambassador from 1951 to

1972 and served as dean of faculty for 17 years.

Dr. Meredith, 47, a senior pastor and pastor of the Glendale, Calif., church and senior editor of *The Plain Truth*, is the father of four children and lives in Pasadena. His wife of 20 years died in June, 1976, and this past

November he married Shyrel Ann Hensley of Bakersfield, Calif.

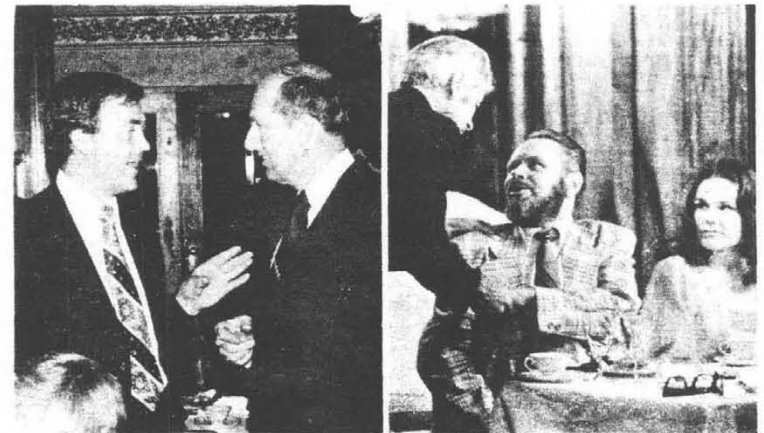
He has been a *Plain Truth* editor since 1953 and served as superintendent of the United States ministry from 1961 to 1972. That year he became deputy chancellor of Ambassador College, Pasadena. He served

in the same capacity at the then campus of Ambassador College, Bricket Wood, England, the next year before being reassigned to the United States in 1974.

He received his M.A. in theology in 1958 and his Th.D. in 1966, both from Ambassador.



ANNIVERSARY DINNER — Garner Ted Armstrong, above left, visits with Dr. and Mrs. Roderick C. Meredith at a dinner honoring Dr. Meredith and Herman Hoeh on their 25th anniversary as evangelists. Below left: Steve Martin, organizer of the dinner, congratulates Dr. Hoeh, while, below right, Mr. Armstrong greets longtime member Gary Seicak and his wife as they are seated at the dinner. (Photos by John Robinson)



Correspondence Course editor wants to teach all a lesson or 12

By Klaus Rothe

PASADENA — If Richard Sedliacik could pass one lesson on to a new or old student of the Bible, he would just as soon pass on 12 of them. The lessons would be called the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. They are produced by the Worldwide Church of God with Mr. Sedliacik serving as managing editor.

Working on the Correspondence Course has been a major part of Mr. Sedliacik's life since 1958. It's probably safe to estimate that more than 750,000 people have been reached by the lessons he has had a big hand in preparing over the years.

And, through it all, "I've been happy in my work," he says.

The basics

Longtime students of the Correspondence Course may recall the 58-lesson version. Students these days get a condensed, 12-course version. In between there were several revisions, but, when everything is said and done, the lessons contained "the basics of what Christianity is all about."

That's a quote from the man who personally put a lot of the lessons together from the published works of the Church, the Bible, of course, and his perceptions of what an interesting, even exciting, course should be.

A man with a craving for engineering, Richard Sedliacik was an unlikely candidate to get himself involved in editing and producing one of the Work's publications.

Interested in mechanical things ever since he was able to hold a hammer and screwdriver in his hands as a small boy, Mr. Sedliacik found himself enrolled in a composition class at Ambassador College in Pasadena in 1958.

The course's instructor, Herman Hoeh (one of the editors of *The Plain Truth*), gave an assignment to the students to write a Bible correspondence course on a religious subject of their choosing. The students were to model their courses on the then fledgling Correspondence Course produced under the direction of the late Dr. C. Paul Meredith.

Late assignment

The day the assignment was due, the now managing editor of the course recalls sheepishly he hadn't even begun his paper. The then 26-year-old married student and father of one was granted a one-week extension. He flinches as he recalls that week, when he "slaved away" to turn in his project.

Dr. Hoeh saw a talent for writing in his work and passed the paper on to the Correspondence Course Department with a recommendation that Mr. Sedliacik had a "natural *Plain Truth* writing style." Several months after Mr. Sedliacik turned in his late assignment, he was asked to come see and subsequently assist Dr. Meredith on a part-time basis with the course.

Mr. Sedliacik's class project went on to become an actual lesson of the course titled "Why Water Baptism?" He is quick to point out that the lesson has been revised six or seven times since.

With graduation from Ambassador College came an offer to continue working on the Work's editorial staff. While it wasn't exactly fulfilling his desire to build and design mechanical things, he saw many parallels in his job with the Correspondence Course to engineering in that they both developed a concept. On top of that was a strong conviction

that in an editorial position he would reach a great number of people with important information.

Dr. Meredith, an evangelist, guided the course until his death in 1969. Dr. Hoeh became interim director until 1970, when Mr. Sedliacik took over the reins. His 19 years of work on the course have included writing 18 lessons from scratch, composing many parts of the other lessons and editing almost all the lessons at least once. In one particularly good year some 8,000 to 10,000 people were being added to

a Sunday lunch. In 1954 Richard read some literature mailed to him by the Work — the Passover booklet — that "really made sense to me. Things started to click."

Soon he was on his way to attending a Sabbath service in Chicago, where he expected thousands of people. It turned out that he was one of 17 pioneer Sabbath keepers in the Chicago church. The then Chicago pastor, Raymond McNair, started "working on me to attend Ambassador College."

WNterview

the mailing list of the course. Today there are 55,000 students.

While Mr. Sedliacik is primarily interested in adding new students to the mailing list, he does encourage all past students to reenroll.

"There's a lot of good things in those lessons," he says. "Members are spending less and less time reading the Bible. We take it for granted we know it all."

13 and he knew

Mr. Sedliacik, 43, was born in Chicago, the son of Czechoslovak immigrants who came to the United States in 1910. He is the youngest of six children who were spoken to in Slovak at home in Chicago's northwest side.

When he was 13 he knew what he wanted to be. His life revolved around crystal radio sets, tube radios, televisions and a penchant for designing and assembling radio and TV test equipment.

A member of his high school's engineering club, he couldn't wait to graduate and work for the Motorola Corp., despite the encouragement of his high-school counselor to enroll in college.

After being at Motorola for four years, working at designing and building two-way radio-production test equipment in the test-equipment laboratory, to this day he plugs Motorola products almost as much as the Correspondence Course. "I can't help it; they have a superior product."

In the early '50s the Sedliaciks would listen to Herbert W. Armstrong on the radio as they sat around

It worked. Mr. Sedliacik came to Pasadena and Ambassador College in 1956, where he met and one year later married Elva Emily Russell, a 1955 graduate of Ambassador.

In original chorus

Mrs. Sedliacik had been one of three women in her class of six Ambassador students in 1951. She was also a member of the original college chorale that appeared on television with Mr. Armstrong's telecast.

The couple lives in Pasadena with three sons: Richard, 18, Roderick, 15, and Joseph, 13. The house is shared by a gregarious talking parakeet that sometimes roosts on Mr. Sedliacik's glasses.

Mr. Sedliacik reveals that his wife has always been a help, especially during the earlier years of his writing career.

She claims "everything he writes is good." She also notes that her husband is good at doing his job "the way Mr. Armstrong would have it done."

Mr. Sedliacik confesses his work has been rewarding in more ways than one. In 1968 he and his wife were given a trip to Europe and the Middle East as a token of the Work's appreciation. The journey included an excursion into his ancestral home of Czechoslovakia only three weeks after it was invaded by the Soviets. He remembers every part of the trip down to the last detail and calls it "the highlight of our lives."

An article on Czechoslovakia appeared in *The Plain Truth*, one of approximately two dozen *PT* and *Good News* articles written by him.



EDITOR — Richard Sedliacik holds lesson 1 of the Correspondence Course, a publication he has worked with for 19 years. (Photo by Klaus Rothe)

There is one other contribution he has made to the Work. What came to him as an "aching desire to do something for the Work along engineering lines" resulted in a two-foot-diameter revolving globe of the world with flashing lights representing some of the main stations that broadcast Garner Ted Armstrong's radio program. To this day, when broadcasts are being made by Mr. Armstrong, the globe rotates, with hundreds of lights blinking in an impressive spectacle.

Technically the globe is the product of two satisfying years of what Mr. Sedliacik terms "the apex of my electrical and mechanical experience." Once the globe, which consumed 1,580 spare-time hours, was completed, "I was able to concentrate on editing matters. I got it out of my system."

Something to dream

If Mr. Sedliacik ever has the time

and money, he has a plan to make a display not unlike the globe in the form of a large Mercator-projection map that would feature colored lights for television and radio coverage as it was occurring every minute on every station carrying Mr. Armstrong. Complicated electronic wizardry has always attracted him, but this project would be, he confesses, difficult because of its complexities. Something to dream about.

In the meantime he feels there's plenty to keep him busy. For the past seven years he has been functioning as the managing editor of several publications, including at one time the old *Good News* magazine. His most recent responsibility is to send out weekly the new *Pastor's Report*, now that *The Bulletin* (of which he was the managing editor) has been discontinued.

The latest revision of the 12-lesson Correspondence Course isn't quite finished, nor is the 100-question test that is to be sent out upon request after a Bible student has completed the set.

Possibly also in the offing are short capsule courses. He proposes five to seven lessons on the Holy Days and Sabbath, three on Christian stewardship (on finances) and on subjects such as the seven laws of success and prophecy.

The current 12-lesson course may also get a preface lesson or two to give students a complete overall view of the Bible. There is also talk of reinstating testing and grading similar to the way they were conducted on the old 58-lesson course.

Personal interest

"I've taken a personal interest in watching everything grow," says Mr. Sedliacik about the headquarters church and the college he has been working with for the past 22 years. "No one thought it would get this big. Our vision was limited; we couldn't grasp where it was going."

Mr. Sedliacik decided to keep a record by taking before and after photographs of the grounds as he saw every building go up. Looking at what is here today, he concludes it "wildly exceeded our imagination."



SEDLIACIK FAMILY — Richard Sedliacik lives in Pasadena with his wife, Elva, and three sons, Richard, center, Roderick and Joseph, kneeling. Right: Mr. Sedliacik inspects the globe he constructed for the Work. (Photos by Klaus Rothe)



PASADENA CHAMPS — The Pasadena players in the Youth Opportunities United national girls' volleyball tournament, which took place in Overland Park, Kan., play one of the teams they beat on the road to their 1977 championship. The Pasadenans (in vertical stripes), representing the headquarters Auditorium A.M. church, beat out the Big Sandy, Tex., girls in the final tournament game. (Photos by Ron Dick)



Conference

(Continued from page 1)

plenary (fully attended) meetings: eight three-hour sessions. Morning sessions are set for Jan. 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11, and afternoon sessions Jan. 9 and 10.

There will also be 14 hours available for attending seminars and lecture sessions, plus an open house the morning of Jan. 9 for ministers to tour Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College facilities.

A spokesman for the Ministerial Services Department said all but 73 ministers are to be housed by local Church members. The 73 are booked in area motels and hotels.

Mr. Herlofson estimated the Church will save \$80,000 to \$90,000, thanks to the members housing visiting ministers and their wives.

"We hardly expected to house as many ministers as we did," Mr. Herlofson said. "Had the members not responded the way they did, it would have been impossible to arrange the conference."

Pasadena takes volleyball title

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — A team from Pasadena edged out the Big Sandy, Tex., girls for the national Youth Opportunities United volleyball tournament Dec. 19.

Eight teams that had won regional YOU volleyball competition gathered for YOU's annual national

girls' finals, held this year at Johnson County Community College Dec. 18 and 19.

The Pasadena team, representing the Auditorium A.M. congregation, managed to edge out Big Sandy by winning the championship match in two straight games, 15-9 and 15-5.

Besides Pasadena and Big Sandy, the other six teams in the competition were, in alphabetical order: Chicago, Ill. (Hinsdale); Eugene, Ore.; Lakeland, Fla.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; Wichita, Kan.; and Youngstown, Ohio.

Youngstown placed third in the contest, right behind Big Sandy.

Eight players were named to the all-tournament team: Amy Allen and Donna Schmidt, Big Sandy; Danielle Glover, Eugene; Karen Ellis, Hinsdale; Connie Schuetz, Pasadena; Edith Gloe, Sioux Falls; and March Roberts, Youngstown.

The most valuable player for the 1977 YOU girls' volleyball tournament: Pam Hampton of the national-champion Pasadena team.

Heart problem prompts flight to Texas hospital

By Martha Scott

HOUSTON, Tex. — A trip to the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston brings mixed emotions. Seeing children from infants to teenagers waiting and expecting healing or death can be a sobering experience. Our trip there was to visit Mr. and Mrs. Walter Baumgaertel, who had flown from West Germany Oct. 9 with their 1-year-old daughter, Rebecca, who came here because of a serious heart defect.

All they could

Walter and Brigitte Baumgaertel, members of the Stuttgart church, wanted to do all they could for their little daughter. They had had her anointed, but the child became weaker and was unable to eat but a bite or two at a time. What at first had been only a heart murmur was now extremely serious. About three months ago while out for a walk, Rebecca turned blue, prompting the Baumgaertels' eventual trip to America in search of the best medical care they could find for Rebecca.

Mr. Baumgaertel had talked to friends in Germany who had told him about Dr. Denton Cooley and the Texas Children's hospital.

The Baumgaertels sought help from the German Red Cross, which provided Rebecca and her parents, along with her doctor, a special flight from Germany to Texas.

The flight, including two stops, took 18 hours. Rebecca was on oxygen and used the plane's whole supply before the flight ended.

Walter and Brigitte had been warned their daughter might not survive the trip, but they believed God would take care of the child He had



HEART PATIENT — One-year-old Rebecca Baumgaertel was flown from Germany to Texas for heart surgery.

given them.

Doctors at the hospital ran tests on the girl that revealed mitral stenosis genetical, a narrowing of a valve of the heart, and Dr. Cooley scheduled an operation for Dec. 16, warning the Baumgaertels of the gravity of the situation.

Recovering faster

The operation started at 9:30 a.m.; by 11:30 Rebecca was out of surgery and doing well. In two days she was in her own room, recovering faster than expected.

Mr. and Mrs. Baumgaertel say they can't adequately express their appreciation for the response from a prayer request for Rebecca they had placed in *The Worldwide News* of Nov. 7.

The Baumgaertels' address: Wolfsweg 48, 7071 Alldorf-Adelstetten, West Germany.

'PT' makes inroads at airports

PASADENA — *The Plain Truth* has been "approved for display" in airport newsstands in 14 more U.S. cities, announced Gordon Muir, a representative of *Quest* magazine who also is involved in *Plain Truth* distribution.

This doesn't mean the *PT* will go on display immediately at the airports, because, said Dr. Muir, "we are moving ahead slowly with these opportunities in order to stay within the constraints of the newsstand budget."

Thus, of the 17 airports that became available last August and were reported in *The Worldwide News* of Aug. 15, "we have only so far become established in two. We hope to be picking up all our remaining airports a few at a time, beginning with the February issue."

Dr. Muir said that, when the latest 17 units become operational, *The Plain Truth* will be on display at "nearly 45" American airports.

The negotiation for the latest group of displays was made by local elder Bill Starling of Tampa, Fla.

"Bill has been acting as a part-time *Quest* representative for some time in his area," Dr. Muir said, "and it was in this capacity — as well as being a *PT* rep — that he was able to negotiate on behalf of the *PT*. This is just one more example of the direct benefits derived by the *PT* from the existence of *Quest* magazine."

The negotiations with the latest airport-newsstand chain, Aero Enterprises, Inc., of Miami, Fla., started several months ago in the *Quest* office in New York City.

"There we asked the *Quest* newsstand consultant to line up a future meeting on behalf of the *PT* with the owner of the Aero newsstand group," Dr. Muir said. "This was done by telephone. A formal written proposal followed from the *Quest*

Circulation Department, and then a final face-to-face meeting was conducted by Bill Starling to clinch the deal and hammer out the details."

The airports are in Canton, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Mich.; Fairbanks, Alaska; Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Green Bay, Wis.; Greensboro, N.C.; Kansas City, Mo.; Miami, Fla.; Nashville, Tenn.; Orlando, Fla.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Washington, D.C.; and Waterloo, Iowa.

YOU conference

(Continued from page 1)

pastor of the Chicago (Ill.) Southeast and West churches; alcoholism and drugs, Dale Hampton, an associate pastor of one of the Pasadena churches; believing in yourself, Donald Most; career services, Robert Oberlander, director of career services at Ambassador; making strengths of your weaknesses, Tom Sullivan; and sports and Christianity, Dan Thomas.

Three groups

The delegates were divided into three groups and attended workshops presented by international YOU director Jim Thornhill and Randy Dick, an assistant to Mr. Armstrong, on the YOU code of conduct; YOU associate director Mark Ashland on local chapters; and ministers Dan

Bierer and Gil Goethals on attitudes in sports.

Other activities: a get-acquainted dance Saturday night, a games-and-movie night and a semi-formal dance to the music of Mr. Armstrong and other musicians.

Mr. Thornhill summed up the conference by saying its theme encouraged young people to "strive for excellence" and "be proud to be different."

He encouraged the delegates to convey the ideas and hopes they received at the meetings to their friends and fellow YOU members back home.

Mr. Thornhill concluded the conference by asking the YOU members to "remember each other's problems and pray for them."

The Worldwide News

THE YEAR IN REVIEW
THE WORK IN 1977 • AS SEEN BY THE 'WN'

77

300 youths attend conference

Members riding out record cold wave

'Quest/77' in the mail

Mr. Armstrong leaves Rumania in nick of time

Herbert W. Armstrong marries

Texas campus to merge with Pasadena

Accreditation denied Ambassador

Pastor general sidelined

Worldwide family observes the Feast

GTA tours Pacific

Everyone sees the news a little bit differently. The highlight of an issue to one reader may escape unnoticed by another. But any way you look at it the year was an active one, filled with milestones and momentous occasions.

THE WORLDWIDE NEWS
presents its look at 1977 in this special issue.

NEWSMAKERS



1. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong shortly after their wedding in April. 2. Mr. and Mrs. Garner Ted Armstrong in Australia during a visit to churches in New Zealand, Australia and the Philippines.

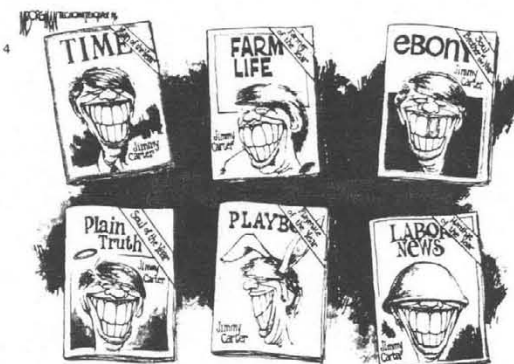
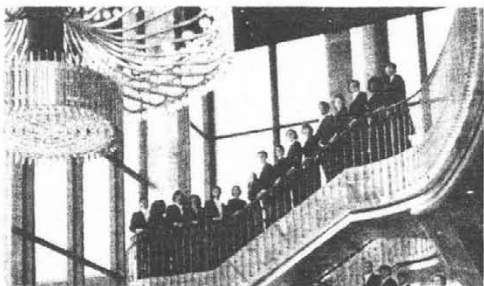
3. Sylvester Washington of the champion Little Rock Rockets, named most valuable player of the YOU national basketball tournament. 4. Stan Bass, regional director for the Caribbean, who saw continued media growth in his area. 5. Church member Dan Thomas, who chose to keep the Sabbath even though he played professional baseball for the Milwaukee Brewers. 6. James Stark, named business manager of Ambassador College.

7. Trinidadian lawyer Lennox Deyalsingh, who, in the absence of a minister, conducts biweekly Sabbath services on Trinidad.

8. Robert Ellsworth, the AICF employee who was shot when he walked on a holdup in progress in Pasadena. 9. Getachew Mekasha, the former Ethiopian ambassador to Egypt who joined the faculty of Ambassador College to teach international relations.

**FOR MORE NEWSMAKERS,
SEE TWO BACK PAGES**

NEWSMAKERS



Reprinted by permission from the Cincinnati Ohio Enquirer. Dec. 29 1978



1. The Ambassador College Chorale assembling in the Auditorium before its tour of the American West. 2. Australian regional director Dean Wilson, here on the plane with Garner Ted Armstrong during Mr. Armstrong's tour of Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

3. *Plain Truth* news editor Gene Hogberg, who in 1977 began writing columns for the *WN*. 4. Artist's concept showing how various magazines might spotlight the new President. 5. Carl McNair, who along with other area coordinators came to Pasadena for meetings with Ronald Dart, vice president for pastoral administration.

6. Robert Taylor, 17, who won a four-year scholarship to AC for winning the YOU national talent contest. 7. Major the beagle, who, according to an account in the *WN*, visited Ambassador College. 8. Cam Catherwood, the new director of French-speaking churches outside North America, who moved from Canada to Belgium.

9. Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Dart in the plane that took them to visit church pastors across parts of America. 10. Former Israeli foreign minister Abba Eban, who spoke in the Auditorium. 11. International YOU director Jim Thornhill displaying the official T-shirt.

NEWSMAKERS



1. Weight lifter Dave Shaw, a member of one of the Pasadena churches, pressing on toward the Olympics. 2. Stanley Rader, who was awarded Japan's Fourth Class Order of the Sacred Treasure for aiding U.S.-Japanese cultural exchanges. 3. Cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, who performed in AICF concerts in Milwaukee, Wis., and Pasadena.

4. Evangelist Leslie McCullough, who traveled to Trinidad in October on one of his many stops in his duties as International Division director. 5. Ron and Norva Kelly being honored at a going-away party in Texas, just before transferring from Big Sandy to a new home and responsibility at AC, Pasadena. 6. Yong Chin Gee, after becoming the first Chinese to be ordained a minister. 7. Toluta'u Ha'angana, the first Tongan, and the first South Pacific Polynesian, to become a part of the ministry.

8. Entertainer Gene Kelly taping a network-television special in the Auditorium in December. 9. Bing and Kathryn Crosby during the March taping of Bing's 50th-anniversary Auditorium special.

10. Roderick Meredith, who took a wife and observed his 25th anniversary as an evangelist in 1977. 11. Home-run king Hank Aaron telling listeners in the Auditorium to "set your sights just a little high." 12. Five-star Gen. Omar Bradley addressing Ambassador students. 13. Former CIA chief William Colby, who lectured in the Auditorium.

Mr. Armstrong plans trip for mid-January

U.S. coordinators meet during YOU activities

A Personal Letter

300-plus youths attend conference

Director in Europe, Caribbean

A Personal Letter

AC accepts new editor

2,000 hear GTA in Charlotte

Updates: who's who

40 local elders at HQ 'seminar schools'

Mr. Armstrong to head overseas via Milwaukee

Mr. Dart meets with 30 in U.S. field ministry

A Personal Letter

Members riding out record cold wave

JANUARY

The Jan. 3 issue kicked off our 1977 publication year. That first issue was a special produced by the staff, 24 pages in all: eight pages of the regular issue wrapped around a 16-page year-end special. The issue, liberally sprinkled with pictures, summarized articles from all 25 of the 1976 editions.

In our regular editions for January we reported on Herbert W. Armstrong's planned trip to Milwaukee, Wis., to attend an Ambassador International Cultural Foundation concert. Mr. Armstrong also paid a surprise visit to the Tucson, Ariz., church the Sabbath of Jan. 15. He spoke to 279 members there that Sabbath, after his hotel room had been burgled the preceding evening. Fortunately Mr. Armstrong was out of the room when the burglary occurred.

Cold weather was also in the news in January, and the *WN* spotlighted members who were shivering through one of the coldest winters in the United States' history for residents of the Northeast. During the worst of the winter some church services and socials were canceled, general church attendance was down, and some unemployment resulted. The weather in Charlotte, N.C., was cold on Jan. 15, but not too cold for Garner Ted Armstrong to speak at a special Sabbath

service for more than 2,000 brethren from five states.

Members in the western part of the United States, on the other hand, had an unusually mild winter and a dramatic absence of snow that contributed to drought conditions later in the year.

Youth Opportunities United (YOU) gained front-page headlines as more than 300 delegates, 12 to 19 years of age, traveled to the then Texas campus of Ambassador College. Youths came from 49 U.S. states and six foreign countries for what was billed as the first international youth conference of YOU. The YOU members represented their chapters back home and participated in a six-day conference that included four days of workshops and seminars and listening to a list of speakers headed by Garner Ted Armstrong, Olympic gymnast and television sports commentator Cathy Rigby, Olympic decathlon champion Bill Toomey, Olympic triple-jump silver medalist James Butts, juvenile-court judge Joe Sorrentino, drug- and alcohol-abuse expert Scott Marshall and Chicago, Ill., minister Carl Gustafson.

A few days earlier a Tacoma, Wash., girls' team had taken first place in the second annual YOU girls' volleyball tournament, also

at Big Sandy.

The *Worldwide News* also devoted a two-page spread to "the who of YOU." The feature, which ran Jan. 31, spotlighted all full-time and part-time staff members of YOU.

During the YOU conference two meetings of area coordinators for the U.S. field ministry were held, also at Big Sandy. Nine of 11 coordinators attended the meetings, conducted by Garner Ted Armstrong and Ronald Dart, vice president for pastoral administration.

Mr. Dart also made a transcontinental trip on which he visited six area coordinators in the United States field ministry, spoke to three churches and met with 30 ministers and many of their wives.

And from Dec. 26, 1976, to Jan. 5 of this year a conference for 40 local elders not on the Work's payroll and their wives took place in Pasadena.

In International Division news, Dean Wilson, the then newly appointed regional director of the Australian Work, left Jan. 15 for his new assignment. Ray Kosanke, former regional director for *The Plain Truth* stationed in Brussels, Belgium, and more recently employed by the International Division, moved from Brussels to Pasadena to become an assistant to Leslie L. McCullough, director of the division.



RAY KOSANKE



JACK MARTIN



ELBERT ATLAS



JIM THORNHILL



FROZEN BIRDS — Students on the then-open Texas campus of Ambassador College, above, eye a swan sculpture covered with icicles. The four faces at left made news in January. Clockwise from top left: Ray Kosanke of the International Division moved from Brussels to Pasadena to become an assistant to division director Leslie McCullough; *Quest* magazine's operations director, Jack Martin, announced subscribers to the new publication would receive their first copies in February; YOU director Jim Thornhill told of plans for the annual Summer Educational Program; Elbert Atlas, area coordinator for the U.S. Northeast, was ordained to the ministerial rank of pastor.



GTA'S MEETINGS — Garner Ted Armstrong met with ministers and youths, the *WN* reported in January. He talks with U.S. area coordinators in Pasadena, above, and, along with YOU director Jim Thornhill, right, addresses delegates to a youth conference in Big Sandy, Tex.



FEBRUARY

Herbert W. Armstrong flew to Milwaukee, Wis., where he spoke to a combined church group of 2,000 on the Sabbath of Feb. 5, and stayed for the Mstislav Rostropovich concert on Feb. 8, sponsored by the Milwaukee chapter of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation.

Mr. Armstrong praised the success of the Soviet-born cellist's concert and complimented the efforts of the local AICF chapter, which sponsored the performance, saying its efforts "made a tremendous impression" on the community.

Mr. Armstrong returned briefly to Pasadena before leaving Feb. 12 for a trip to Europe and Africa but ended up interrupting his schedule for an "enforced rest" at a clinic in Bucharest, Rumania. His "Personal" in the Feb. 28 issue of the *WN* began by saying he was spending "two or three weeks at the Otopeni Clinic, famous all over Europe, recharging tired batteries."

As Mr. Armstrong was headed for Europe, his son was conducting a campaign in Toronto, Ont., Feb. 12 and 13, speaking to campaign

crowds of 2,518 and 2,458. While there he opened a three-day conference of Canadian ministers before heading back to Pasadena.

Later in the month he headed east again for a church-area visit, this time in the snow-covered, rolling hills of eastern Pennsylvania to meet with brethren in the Lancaster and Harrisburg areas.

And from down under, Australian Work director Dean Wilson reported the *Garner Ted Armstrong* telecast could be seen in all Australian capital cities 52 weeks a year. Starting Feb. 6 the half-hour telecast became a regular feature on Sunday programming on Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Hobart stations.

In other southern-hemisphere action, we reported on summer youth programs in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

February also saw the mailing of Vol. I, No. 1, of *Quest/77*, the bimonthly magazine published by the AICF.

Some 30,000 students from grades one



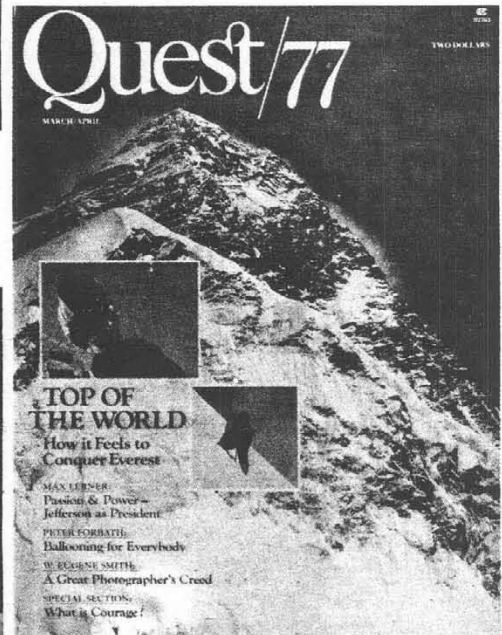
through eight from Los Angeles-area public and private schools saw the play *Heidi* in twice-daily performances Jan. 19 to Feb. 4. The production was sponsored by Ambassador College and took place in the Ambassador Auditorium.

The *WN* devoted two full pages to letters

from members in England, Australia, Canada and America who gave vivid accounts of the blessings they had received from tithing. The letters had been solicited by the *WN* in late 1976 for use in *The Worldwide News* as well as potential use in *The Plain Truth* for future articles on tithing in that publication.



MR. ARMSTRONG IN MILWAUKEE — Herbert W. Armstrong traveled to Milwaukee, Wis., in February for a concert by cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, sponsored by the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation. Mr. Armstrong, above, meets the musician at a postconcert reception. At right the pastor general speaks to Church members in Milwaukee. Below left: Buffalo, N.Y., Church member Rollin Perryman digs out after record snowstorms that hit Buffalo and other parts of the Northeast.



"QUEST" IN THE MAIL — Almost two years after Herbert W. Armstrong's announcement that a magazine would be produced by the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, the first copies of bimonthly *Quest/77*, above, were in the mail in February. Left: Gordon Muir, then assistant circulation manager for *The Plain Truth* magazine, conducts a meeting for coordinators of a program to distribute the publication by newsstand in the United States.



MARCH

Herbert W. Armstrong, who had been "re-charging tired batteries" at a clinic in Rumania, left there earlier than planned and less than two days before a massive earthquake shook Bucharest. He had planned to remain in Rumania until March 9 but instead flew to London March 3 to speak at the Bricket Wood church the Sabbath of March 5, thereby totally escaping the quake.

From England Mr. Armstrong resumed his original schedule, arriving March 10 in Johan-

nesburg to begin a 4½-week, jam-packed schedule in southern Africa. The trip was the third time in less than a year Mr. Armstrong had traveled to southern Africa. Included in his trip was an address to the Turnhalle, the constitutional conference of Namibia (South-West Africa), in Windhoek, the capital city. And a week later he spoke before the parliament of the newly independent Transkei in Umtata, the capital city.

As Mr. Armstrong was arriving in South

Africa, his son was speaking to 2,220 people March 10 in Seattle, Wash. The group, which represented 10 church areas, heard Mr. Armstrong speak on the "importance of family togetherness," a sermon that was taped and sent to all church congregations worldwide. In the sermon Mr. Armstrong called on members to establish a "family night" in their weekly schedules as "a spiritual obligation."

In the Ambassador Auditorium, entertainer Bing Crosby taped a 90-minute television-network special March 3, but the event was overshadowed by near tragedy as the crooner fell into the orchestra pit at the conclusion of the taping. Mr. Crosby had just made his closing remarks at the end of the three-hour videotaping session of the program that commemorated his 50th anniversary in show business when he turned to walk off the stage and accidentally stepped into the lowered pit. He eventually recovered completely from the fall.

Area coordinators of the United States field ministry met Feb. 28 to March 3 with Ronald Dart in a series of "shirt-sleeve, working sessions" to determine ministerial manpower needs.

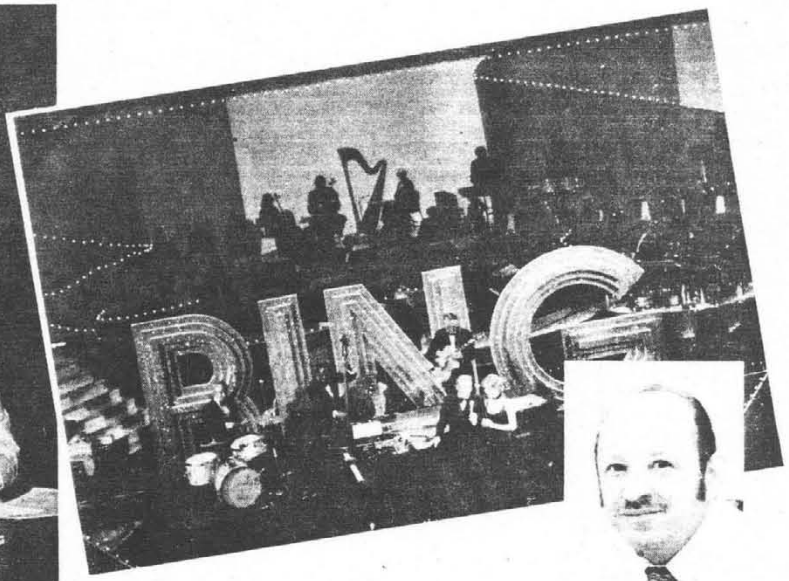
And later in the month ministers and their wives from across Australia participated in four

days of ministerial meetings at Burleigh Heads. Seventy-seven men and their wives were on hand for meetings conducted by Leslie McCullough, director of the International Division.

In Ambassador College news, an evaluation team from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) of San Francisco, Calif., visited Ambassador College, Pasadena, March 21 to 23 to review the school's progress toward accreditation.

The March 14 issue inaugurated a column by Gene Hogberg, news editor for *The Plain Truth*. The *WN* asked Mr. Hogberg to prepare regular, informal articles for the paper, reflecting his insights into world conditions from his vantage point as a veteran news analyst and member of the Church. The column was later dubbed "Newswatch" and is now a regular feature.

Two Church members on Fiji, Epele and Sofi Kanaimawi, had the unusual opportunity to help prepare their area for a visit from Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, escorting them throughout their visit. Just before the Queen departed, she took Mr. Kanaimawi aside and bestowed upon him the medal of the Royal Victorian Order in appreciation for the unusual effort that had gone into organizing that part of her tour.



SIGNS BOOKLET — Herbert W. Armstrong, above left, autographs *The Plain Truth About Christmas* for the mayor of Pretoria, South Africa, during Mr. Armstrong's March trip to southern Africa. Above: Mr. and Mrs. Bing Crosby sing during the entertainer's TV special taped in the Auditorium March 3. In the inset picture is Gene Hogberg, director of the *Work's News Bureau*, who March 14 wrote his first of a continuing series of articles for the *WN*.

QUEEN HONORS MEMBER — Britain's Queen Elizabeth, right, receives a bouquet from Alisi, the daughter of members Epele and Sofi Kanaimawi, on the island of Fiji. The Queen honored Mr. Kanaimawi, a commissioner for the Northern Division of Fiji, for preparing his area for the visit by the royal couple. Behind the Queen are Mr. Kanaimawi, Prince Philip and Mrs. Kanaimawi. Above: Ronald Dart, vice president for pastoral administration, meets with U.S. area coordinators to plan for manpower needs of the ministry.



APRIL

Topping the news in April was the marriage of Herbert W. Armstrong to Ramona Martin. The pastor general and his bride were wed in Tucson, Ariz., April 17 in a ceremony performed by Mr. Armstrong's son, Garner Ted.

The new Mrs. Herbert Armstrong was first employed by the Work in 1962, a short time after she was baptized, and held various responsibilities in Pasadena over the years.

She had served as a member of Mr. Armstrong's traveling team since his campaign in 1974 in the Philippines. During his travels Mr. Armstrong "gradually got to know her," he said, "and discovered a woman of talents and abilities far superior to what I had realized."

The ceremony ended 10 years of widowhood for Mr. Armstrong. His first wife, Loma, had died almost exactly 10 years before, in April, 1967.

News of the wedding dominated the April 25 *WN*; the coverage included a two-page photographic layout and a "Personal" from the bridegroom to *WN* readers.

Also prominent in the two April issues was Mr. Armstrong's latest trip to southern Africa, on which he met with government leaders in Swaziland and the Transkei, including King Sobhuza II of Swaziland. In South Africa Mr.

Armstrong met and talked with civic officials and delivered speeches before service clubs.

In April the *WN* reported on Church members who were protected from floods that hit eastern Kentucky and tornadoes in Birmingham, Ala.

In Big Sandy, Tex., on what was then an Ambassador campus, a basketball team from Little Rock, Ark., and a cheerleading squad from Big Sandy captured first places in national Youth Opportunities United competition.

The paper's new policy of not printing addresses in pen-pal requests and other personals (unless requested specifically to do so) began with the April 25 issue. The procedure was billed as a "policy to minimize surprise mail." (The Circulation Department reports the remaining procedure is apparently working well to reduce the amount of unwanted mail patrons of the personals section were receiving.)

Church members, like about everybody else, are constantly on the move, it seems, and God's ministers are no exception. In April the *WN* told of 62 ministers who were soon to pull up roots and move from one church area to another, or to or from the certificate-of-the-ministry (sabbatical) program at Pasadena.

And Garner Ted Armstrong, in his "Personals," told of his visits to Detroit, Mich., Cin-

The Worldwide News

A Personal Letter

from *Garner Ted*

Members protected

Festival applications coming

Diary records meeting with Swazi leaders



The Worldwide News

Herbert W. Armstrong marries

Tucson wedding



A Personal Letter

from *Garner Ted*

Mr. Armstrong recounts journey

Mr. Armstrong recounts journey

"Stiring experience" recorded by minister

"Stiring experience" recorded by minister

cinnati, Ohio, and Lakeland, Fla., to speak to, and with, the brethren in those areas. In Cincinnati he kept the Night to Be Much Remembered with the brethren there, after having observed the Passover in Detroit. He was in Lakeland for the last day of Unleavened Bread.

Between the Detroit and Lakeland visits Mr. Armstrong was in Washington, D.C., at the invitation of the Egyptian embassy for a dinner held by Egyptian President and Mrs. Anwar Sadat. The invitation had come as a result of Mr. Armstrong's interviews with Mr. Sadat for

the *Garner Ted Armstrong* telecast.

At the same function Mr. Armstrong also met U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Sen. Hubert Humphrey and other government officials.

Readers learned April 25 about a Church member and his family who fled Idi Amin's terror-stricken Uganda, making it successfully into Kenya to take up a new life. The member, Eldad Opio, sent *The Worldwide News* the account and a photograph of his family after his escape.

MR. ARMSTRONG MARRIES—Herbert W. Armstrong wed the former Ramona Martin April 17. At right, Garner Ted Armstrong congratulates his father and his bride after the ceremony in Tucson, Ariz. Below right: The Armstrongs cut their wedding cake.



MEETS SWAZI LEADERS—Herbert W. Armstrong, below, speaks at a banquet in Swaziland to honor King Sobhuza II. Above left: Sylvester Washington of the Little Rock, Ark., team goes up for a rebound in the championship game against Cleveland, Ohio. Little Rock won the game and the 1977 YOU basketball championship.



The Worldwide News
 Why the Work will skyrocket from now

A Personal Letter
 from *Garner Ted Armstrong*

Area coordinators meet to discuss ordinations

Day of fasting and prayer set for Church worldwide

CTA speaks to 3,000 at Lake of the Church

The Worldwide News
 Texas campus to merge with Pasadena

Mr. Armstrong says thanks

Budget almost balanced; jet to sell; AICF trimmed

Pasadena prepares for influx from Big Sandy

212 graduate from Ambassador



The May issues of *The Worldwide News* reported the merger of the two Ambassador College campuses, budget studies affecting areas of the Work and a day of prayer and fasting for members of God's Church around the world.

The two stories were not unrelated. The Work had been having budget difficulties, and

the decision to merge the campuses was made because of "financial considerations," said Garner Ted Armstrong; the same number of students could be educated on one campus less expensively than on two.

About the fast day, Mr. Armstrong wrote in a letter to members quoted in the *WN*, that, because of the "seriousness of this current

[financial] situation, I am going to call upon all of you, worldwide, to join with my father and me and all of Christ's ministry in a day of worldwide fasting and prayer for the sake of God's Work, for the sake of His Church, for the sake of all of our individual families, and for our own sakes."

He also called on members for a "large special offering" to be taken up, which turned out to be just that. The *WN* reported that as of May 20 donations as a result of the announcement had almost reached the \$1.3 million mark.

Related articles in May told of plans to accommodate the influx of Texas students expected to arrive in Pasadena before the school year in the fall and emphasized Mr. Armstrong's desire for a merger of the student bodies, "and not a cancellation" of the Texas campus.

The May 23 issue contained a two-page history of the Big Sandy campus.

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote two articles in May, with both appearing May 9. One was a "Personal" in which he commented on his gratitude to the Church brethren who had del-

uded him with cards and letters of congratulations after his April marriage; the other was a "quick, condensed summary of prophesied events, showing where we are right now and what is immediately ahead."

In May Garner Ted Armstrong traveled to Osage Beach, Mo., for a two-day meeting of U.S. area coordinators to review ordination requests, "some of which have been pending for months," as Ronald Dart, vice president for pastoral administration, said at the time.

On the same trip Mr. Armstrong attended a social for church areas in 10 states at Osage Beach, at which 3,000 people showed up.

Also in May, the *WN* reported 212 students graduated from Ambassador College, the last graduation involving both campuses. Both Armstrongs attended both commencement ceremonies, in California and Texas, and Garner Ted Armstrong spoke at each service.

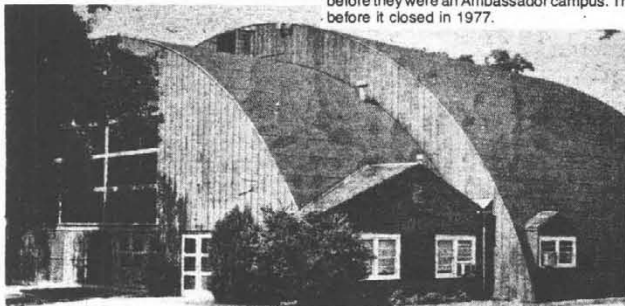
In another report, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat called Garner Ted Armstrong's television analysis of the Middle East situation "objective and truthful" in a letter the president sent Mr. Armstrong.



AC GRADUATION — Herbert W. Armstrong, above, talks with senior students at a dinner after the last graduation exercises at Ambassador College, Big Sandy, Tex. Left: Garner Ted Armstrong congratulates a new graduate at Big Sandy. Right: A Pasadena graduate holds her new diploma.



BEFORE AND AFTER — The two left photos show the Church grounds at Big Sandy in 1964, before they were an Ambassador campus. The pictures on the right depict the campus shortly before it closed in 1977.



JUNE

The June issues reported that Herbert W. Armstrong traveled to England and spoke to 1,000 of the brethren at Bricklet Wood; Ambassador, Pasadena, was gearing up for a record 1,100 enrollment (which turned out to be a conservative estimate, the number later rose to 1,330); the Church's Summer Educational program at Orr, Minn., began its 15th year.

In other developments, Ambassador College awarded 37 certificates of the ministry to as many men, the first to complete the program. Theology Department Chairman George Geis described the course as a "graduate-level, or fifth-year, program designed to meet the professional needs of the Worldwide Church of God ministry. It is the first step toward a master's degree and will be applicable to what is normally a three-year program."

In June came coverage of a trip made by Ronald Dart, vice president for pastoral administration, to visit field ministers on their home ground. He flew, piloting the Work's Cessna 182 propeller aircraft, to Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Arkansas, visiting ministers and their families.

An Ambassador International Cultural

Foundation chapter made the news when AICF members in Pikeville, Ky., and the local young people from Youth Opportunities United teamed up with the Red Cross and local citizens to sponsor a "radiothon" and concert to benefit victims of floods that had hit eastern Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia in April. Members of the Church and YOU manned telephones, and listeners to a radio station broadcasting the proceedings called in to pledge donations that eventually topped \$54,000.

On the international scene, Leslie McCullough, director of the International Division, named a new regional director for French-speaking churches outside of North America. Cam Catherwood assumed his new responsibilities after moving from Montreal, Que., Canada, to Belgium.

In Australia 48 members of YOU groups in that country completed a bicycle marathon to point out the problem of drug abuse. Money raised by the 11-day, 1,100-kilometer project went to agencies dealing with the drug problem.

In the June 6 issue appeared a 2½-page layout that would prove to be one of the paper's



strongest mail pullers to date. The story was told by John Halford, area coordinator for Southeast Asia, who, from his home base at Burleigh Heads, Australia, described a six-week tour of Southeast Asia on which he visited people in Malaysia, Singapore, Burma, Thailand, Borneo and Brunei. On the 15,000-mile tour, which Mr. Halford made with Sydney deacon Brian Hose, 25 people were baptized

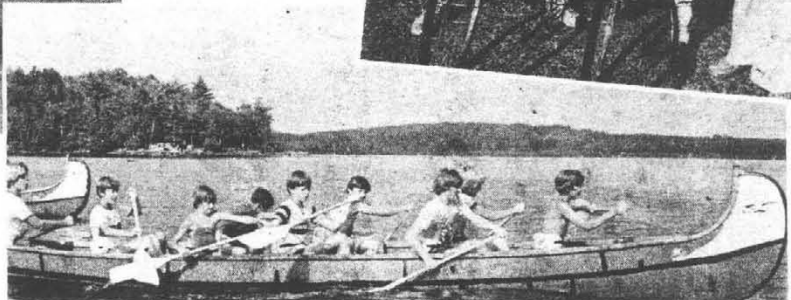
into God's Church. And the Supreme Court of the United States, in a landmark ruling in the case of Church member Larry Hardison, ruled that companies are not required to give employees certain days off because of religious beliefs when such an action would conflict with a union seniority system or result in preferential treatment for the employee.



THE ARMSTRONGS IN ENGLAND—Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong, above left, attend church services in Bricklet Wood, England. Above right: Minister John Halford stands with Malaysians just before he baptizes them. Right: Mark Cardona, left, organizer of a bicycle marathon to fight drug abuse in Australia, stands with the mayor of the Gold Coast, center, and Australian YOU director David Noller.



HEADING OUT — Vice President and Mrs. Ronald Dart, above, stand by the Cessna 182 they flew to see church pastors in five states. Right: Campers learn canoeing at SEP, Orr, Minn.



The Worldwide News

Just what is our mission?

Ministers confer in Britain

Accreditation denied Ambassador; candidacy continued for two years

Canada YOU begins activities

Mr. Darr visits with ministers

The Worldwide News

New business manager named to aid in AC accreditation bid

Pasadena added as Fourth site

All-Africa conference held in Johannesburg

Northeast No. 1 by 1 in YOU meet

JULY

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote two articles for the WN in July, "Just What Is Our Mission?", in which he explained to readers the real story of man and why "the Work," now a worldwide operation, exists; and "Why Many Don't Understand Pentecost," which included the background essential to full understanding of Pentecost and all the festivals.

Meanwhile, writing in early July from the Summer Educational Program in Orr, Minn.,

Garner Ted Armstrong was disappointed that the Western Association of Schools and Colleges denied Ambassador's bid for accreditation, but he went on to report the changes being implemented as recommended by the accreditation committee. One of the changes was the appointment of Dr. James Stark as business manager for Ambassador College in a move to separate the college accounting procedures from those of the Church.

July was a busy month for YOU activities. We reported on six days of basketball for 63 YOU boys during a Youth Opportunities United-sponsored basketball camp conducted in Big Sandy, Tex., by Bill Sharman, general manager of the Los Angeles Lakers pro basketball team. Mr. Sharman traveled on to Orr, Minn., to hold a second basketball camp July 10 to 15 on the SEP grounds. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 7-foot-2-inch superstar of the Lakers, assisted Mr. Sharman at the camp in Orr.

At the same time the Northeast Region took first place in the national YOU track-and-field meet at Big Sandy by 1 point July 12 and 13. About 200 young athletes representing the eight YOU regions of the United States, plus a team of 10 from Canada, competed in the two-day meet.

Also we reported in July on the conference for ministers and other key personnel from Britain, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and Scandinavia directed by evangelists Leslie McCullough and Frank Brown.

Mr. McCullough, director of the International Division, flew from London to Johannesburg, South Africa, to conduct a three-day conference for ministers involved in the Work

in Africa. Virtually all the men serving Africa attended, about 45 ministers, and their wives.

Mr. McCullough spent July 7 to 10 in Rhodesia, his first visit to the country, and spoke on the Sabbath to 125 people.

Other ministers on the go were Ronald Dart, vice president for pastoral administration, who took a flying 12-day trip to visit field ministers in the eastern United States, and evangelist Dibar Aparian, who held five French-language campaigns on three islands in the French West Indies.

Ronald Kelly, former vice president and provost of Ambassador College, Big Sandy, was honored at a cocktail party there July 14 by employees of the college. Mr. Kelly, now vice president for student affairs for Ambassador, Pasadena, after the merger of the two institutions, transferred to Pasadena around Aug. 1.

The 1977-78 concert series for the Ambassador Auditorium was announced in the WN by the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation in July. Included were appearances by tenor Luciano Pavarotti, cellist Mstislav Rostropovich and lutenist Julian Bream. The series began in October and will run through May.



JULY SPORTS — Lakers general manager Bill Sharman, left in above-left photo, watches a YOU game in Big Sandy with AC athletic director Jim Petty. Above and far left: YOU members take part in the annual track-and-field finals at Big Sandy. Below: Dr. James Stark was named business manager of Ambassador College.



CONFERENCE — Ministers, office staffers and spouses of the African Work; above, meet in Johannesburg for an all-Africa conference. Right: African Work director Robert Fahey addresses conference delegates.

AUGUST

Headlining the news in August, if not for the whole year, was Herbert W. Armstrong's illness. The congestive heart failure that sidelined the 85-year-old pastor general was the first major illness he had ever suffered.

Garner Ted Armstrong immediately canceled his entire schedule and rushed to his father's Tucson, Ariz., home, remaining in Tucson until his condition stabilized.

The younger Armstrong, dictating his "Personal" from his father's study, noted that his father had been able to take small amounts of solid food for the first time in a week. "Over the last two to three days [Aug. 26 to 28] his condition has remarkably stabilized. . . His pulse now seems to be regular and strong."

Mr. Armstrong had just returned Aug. 8 from an around-the-world trip that included stops in Japan, Hong Kong and Israel and a two-night evangelistic campaign in Liberia. Garner Ted Armstrong said his father had "really driven himself" during the trip, typing for much of the 11 1/2-hour return flight to the United States from West Africa, even though suffering from what seemed to be intestinal flu, which he had contacted in Abidjan, Ivory

Coast. Mr. Armstrong's condition was diagnosed by two Tucson physicians as congestive heart failure.

"That shows what kind of man my father is," Mr. Armstrong said. "He arrived back here with several manuscripts which he'd typed on the trip. I couldn't sit and type for that length of time. My back couldn't stand it."

After the announcement of Mr. Armstrong's illness to the Church, hundreds of telephone calls, cards and letters poured into headquarters. The Work's Wide Area Telephone Service (WATS) toll-free telephone lines were kept busy as at least 100 calls a day were received from people concerned about Mr. Armstrong's illness.

Garner Ted Armstrong spent much of his time in Tucson during the latter part of the month near his father. He mentioned in his "Personal" the sale of the Falcon during August, his forthcoming trip to Australia and the completion of "Operation Shoehorn," the wholesale transfer of Big Sandy students to the Pasadena campus.

The merger of the two campuses became a reality Aug. 22 as the combined student body

crowded onto the Pasadena grounds for the first day of classes Aug. 22. By Aug. 24 the total enrollment stood at 1,330, with some still registering.

On the international scene Robert Fahey, regional director of the Work in Africa, and Peter Nathan, operations manager for Africa, left Aug. 3 for a two-to-three-week tour of East and West Africa. The trip included a follow-up campaign in Nairobi, Kenya, Aug. 6 and 7 given by Mr. Fahey.

Other news in August included outdoor ministerial meetings conducted by Ronald Dart, vice president for pastoral administration; SEP sessions coming to a close; the Television Production Department's new season; and how the floods in Pennsylvania and the blackout in New York City affected brethren in those areas.

Also in August Garner Ted Armstrong announced that the editorial and production offices of the *WN* would transfer to Pasadena. By mid-August the *WN*'s offices were relocated in the Office Facilities Building, owned by the Work and located two blocks east of the campus in Pasadena.



MINISTERS MEET — U.S. pastors from the Midwest, above, meet on an island in Big Pine Lake in Ontario with Ronald Dart, above left, vice president for pastoral administration. Left: Students crowd the Hall of Administration in Pasadena during orientation week as AC begins its 31st year. Below center: YOU members camp at SEP, Orr, Minn. Below right: Church member Patricia Miller and her husband, Ray, stand in front of their flood-destroyed house in New Florence, Pa.



The Worldwide News
OF THE WORKS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A Personal Letter
from *Garner Ted Armstrong*

Floods, blackout hit in East; disasters affect area brethren

WN' moving offices

Ministers meet in the outdoors

The Worldwide News
OF THE WORKS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Mr. Armstrong returns from latest around-the-world trip

Newsworld network takes to air

SEP campers head back home

AC to resume classes Aug. 22

The Worldwide News
OF THE WORKS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Mr. Armstrong's condition is stable

Ambassador College merger produces record enrollment

Telecast crew prepares new production season

Mr. Armstrong improving, but Feast circuit doubtful

Asians see Australian director

GTA and San Diego mark 25th



Bricket Wood festival marks city centennial



W. Armstrong's health was steadily improving he would not be able to deliver a sermon at the Feast. Mr. Armstrong had not missed speaking at a Feast of Tabernacles since God revealed the truth of the Holy Days to him and his wife.

Sherwin McMichael, Festival director, flew from his home at Big Sandy, Tex., Sept. 4 to Tucson to rearrange the speaking schedule to cover for the expected absence of the pastor general.

Meanwhile, Garner Ted Armstrong spoke to 566 members Sept. 3 in San Diego, Calif., and that evening performed at a dinner-dance for 445 to mark the 25th anniversary of the church there. After dinner James Friddle, pastor, presented a rosewood scroll to Mr. Armstrong that bore the signature of each member of the congregation.

Later, on Sept. 8, Mr. Armstrong met briefly with former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban after Mr. Eban had addressed a full house in the Ambassador Auditorium on the Middle Eastern situation. Mr. Armstrong described Mr. Eban's speech as "one of the most mean-

ingful, significant and eloquent speeches delivered in the Auditorium."

Mr. Armstrong, encouraged at his father's steady improvement, was able to honor the commitment he had made some months previously to speak at a combined special Sabbath service in Concord, N.H. He immediately upon his return planned to do at least two more television and five or 10 more five-minute radio programs to take him through the Feast and at least a week or two after.

Church members along the coast near Corpus Christi, Tex., breathed sighs of relief as Anita, the Gulf of Mexico's first hurricane of the 1977 season, changed its path to hit a thinly populated area in northern Mexico. Services on the Sabbath came off as usual, and a picnic for the Victoria church took place the next day.

In Wilkes-Barre, Pa., tenor Jan Peerce sang in a performance that raised \$5,000 for the American Cancer Society. The concert, sponsored by the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, was attended by Wilkes-Barre Mayor Walter W. Lisman, who declared the day of the performance AICF Day in his city.

The Worldwide Church of God in Bricket Wood, England, went all out to help nearby St. Albans celebrate its centennial as a city, the 100th anniversary of the granting of St. Albans' city charter. Frank Brown, director of the British Work, reported the occasion was to be one of "fun and funds," and by the end of the festivities 3,000 pounds — about \$5,200 — had been raised to aid the various causes. The fete was held on the former campus of Ambassador College in England.

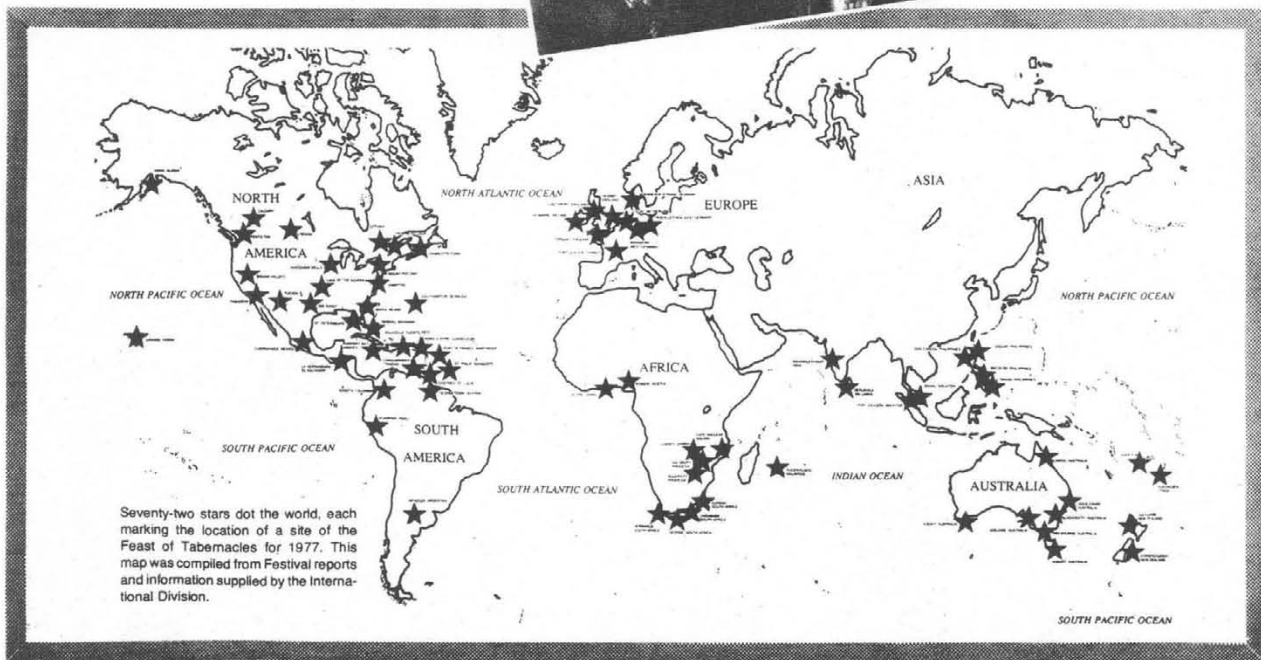
In the Sept. 23 issue we also reported on Australian and Asian regional director Dean Wilson's and his wife's first visit to Southeast Asia since going to Australia. The Wilsons were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. John Halford.

Carl McNair, coordinator for the U.S. Upper Midwest Area, was host of a retreat on an island in Big Pine Lake in Ontario for the area's 13 pastors. Ronald Dart, vice president for pastoral administration, held five two-hour meetings for the men. We featured the ministerial retreat in a pictorial essay.

Because of the Feast of Tabernacles, we published only one issue in September, on the 12th. The forthcoming Festival was becoming of predominant interest, with an estimated 77,000 expected to attend in the United States. We featured a reproduction of the 1977 Festival brochure, *Festival '77*, on the front page. It was speculated that even though Herbert



ABBA EBAN — Garner Ted Armstrong and former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban, left photo, meet after the Israeli spoke in the Ambassador Auditorium on the Middle East situation. Far left: Evangelist Roderick Meredith and two longtime members of the San Diego church prepare to cut the cake at a celebration of the San Diego church's 25th anniversary. Below: Members observed the 1977 Feast of Tabernacles at 72 sites.



OCTOBER

With the Feast of Tabernacles still in progress, reports from around the world began streaming into *The Worldwide News*' offices, enabling the *WN* to report, as far as could be determined, on every Festival site around the world.

Our tabulation showed the Feast of Tabernacles had been held at 72 sites in 38 countries and territories.

Adding to the individual reports, 81 pictures illustrated the largest Church gathering of the year, which in 1977 took on a family theme. A banner headline read "Worldwide Family Observes the Feast," and Garner Ted Armstrong noted a trend of God's people being more aware than before of their need to draw closer together as a family.

Herbert W. Armstrong, who missed the first Feast of Tabernacles, because of his heart condition, since he had begun observing it, had proceedings at the Tucson, Ariz., site piped into his home via a telephone hookup.

Despite a good deal of weight loss, Mr. Armstrong's color and general appearance were improving, relayed his son in his *WN* "Personal." He also said his father was being

consulted on every major decision of the Work.

The Feast proved to be the most rigorous schedule in the younger Armstrong's experience. After 11 sermons and five family-night shows in eight days, he came down with a sore throat, stuffed sinuses and a dizzy head two days after the Feast. Mr. Armstrong returned rested to Pasadena after his annual hunting excursion in Colorado with fellow ministers and other friends.

As usual, October brought a bumper crop of ordinations to the ministry. In the United States 24 men were ordained as local elders, while nine men took on added responsibilities in Australia.

In other news of growth in the Work, we reported the director in Australia, Dean Wilson, as saying there are "very few areas in Australia where someone would be unable to hear Garner Ted Armstrong weekly if he wanted to."

In an effort to blanket Australia with Mr. Armstrong's TV and radio broadcasts, the Australian office projected it would soon spend 50 percent of its budget on media.

In a continuing story, we updated our readers on progress toward the accreditation of Amba-



sador College. Implementation based on the recommendations from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges was well under way, pointing toward a fall, 1978, visit by the association.

In other news, an AICF employee, Bob Ellsworth, was shot in the chest in Pasadena by a gunman who was robbing an establishment. The .32-caliber slug did not enter the chest

cavity, however, and Mr. Ellsworth left the hospital the day after he was shot.

Worldwide News readers' response to a request for family-night ideas resulted in two pages full of suggestions and personal documentation of fathers, mothers, sons and daughters in the larger family of the Worldwide Church of God making a sincere effort to keep the family together.



THE FEAST — Members squeeze into Blyth Arena at Squaw Valley, Calif., top left, to hear Garner Ted Armstrong the first night of the Feast. Top right: Mr. Armstrong (in center), with Mike Hale (left) and Jim Thornhill, puts on a family-night show at the Tucson site. Above: Feastgoers sing at Castries, St. Lucia. Right: Ronald Dart, vice president for pastoral administration, speaks at the Tucson Festival location. Insets above: These two faces represent Festivalgoers in Lahaina, Hawaii, and Bonndorf, West Germany.



NOVEMBER

November was another full month for Garner Ted Armstrong. His schedule included a three-day meeting with U.S. and Canadian area coordinators, a speech before 800 educators and sermons with brethren in Idaho before heading overseas on a trip to Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia and the Philippines. Stanley Rader also faced a full slate of ac-

tivities, notably a meeting with Japan's Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda. Mr. Rader was in Japan to fill in for Herbert W. Armstrong and maintain the Work's contacts in that part of the world. His agenda included meeting officials high in the Japanese government and an address before 30 members of the Diet. One outcome of the trip was the announce-

ment of a three-day AICF-sponsored political symposium to take place in Japan in late 1978. Plans were also being laid for Herbert W. Armstrong to resume his travels with a trip to Japan in the late spring of 1978, should his health permit it.

Garner Ted Armstrong's meeting with area coordinators in early November was designed among other things to prepare for the January, 1978, conference in Pasadena for pastors worldwide. One decision to come out of the meetings was to discontinue *The Bulletin*, a publication sent to ministers and other key personnel for seven years. On recommendation of the area coordinators, a new publication produced almost overnight called *Pastor's Report* began to be sent out in an effort to speedily provide pastors of churches with top-level information.

Mr. Armstrong was especially pleased to report of his address before 800 educators of the Idaho school system in Boise. His talk on education was received with a standing ovation.

Two days later Mr. Armstrong spoke before

743 Church members from Idaho and surrounding states in Boise on the Sabbath.

The next Sabbath he spoke to Hawaiian brethren in Honolulu, the first stop of his long-awaited trip to Australasia.

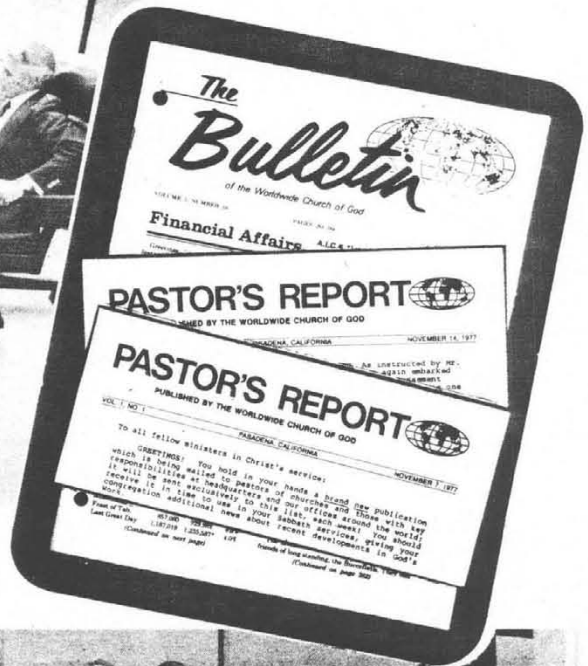
The WN also reported on the AICF, which held a cocktail party in honor of Britain's Prince Charles, who was visiting Los Angeles on a tour of the United States.

In other news the legal firm that serves as general counsel for the Church contacted several local and national publications, putting them on notice that false and unlawful information was being spread about the Church and college. The notification came in the wake of newspaper articles that contained broad, sweeping allegations.

One of our two November issues also contained a feature story on how 33 ministers uprooted their families to relocate in Pasadena for a sabbatical year of studies. The men are part of a ministerial-education program aimed at better equipping the ministry to serve their congregations.



COORDINATORS MEET — Garner Ted Armstrong, above, addresses area coordinators and other personnel in Pasadena. Right: *Pastor's Report*, a weekly newsletter, replaced *The Bulletin*, a monthly ministerial magazine.



VISIT TO TRINIDAD — International Division director Leslie McCullough meets members in Trinidad. Right: Ministers enrolled in the certificate-of-the-ministry program at Ambassador assembles on the steps of the student center.



DECEMBER

Garner Ted Armstrong returned to Pasadena in December after a trip to New Zealand, Australia and the Philippines. His activities included speaking before 6,000 people.

In New Zealand, a country Mr. Armstrong had not visited before, he was presented with a ceremonial greenstone *mere*, a clublike Maori weapon and symbol of leadership. The gesture was meant to convey symbolically the feeling the members have toward Mr. Armstrong and his father as they lead God's people.

Mr. Armstrong devoted much of his "Personal" column to the trip, reflecting on the warmth and hospitality extended his party.

He had been back from his nearly three-week trip only a week when he once again took to the skies, this time for an appearance at special Sabbath services in Kansas City, Kan. More than 2,300 people attended the services. Later Mr. Armstrong, backed up by musicians, sang at a Kansas City church social.

In December many brethren received Mr. Armstrong's just-published book, *The Real Jesus*. Each Church-member family that re-

quested the book would be mailed a copy free of charge. The 280-page work, which portrays a Jesus dramatically different from the Jesus depicted by most Christian religions, was also scheduled to go on sale in bookstores across America.

Meanwhile the latest news from Tucson was that Herbert W. Armstrong "was steadily holding his own" and was being encouraged to increase the length of his walks to build up his strength gradually. The younger Mr. Armstrong announced his father planned to travel from his Tucson home to Pasadena in January, 1978, to conduct a meeting of the board of trustees of the Church and conduct at least a portion of the opening session of the January ministerial conference.

In other developments as the year drew to a close was the okay by the U.S. government's Department of Health, Education and Welfare for Ambassador to take possession of the Vista del Arroyo Hotel property, a 24-building complex on 12½ acres one block west of the college. Some technicalities remained in the acquisition, however, and are yet to be resolved.



From Japan came the news that Stanley Rader was awarded the Fourth Class Order of the Sacred Treasure by the Japanese government in a ceremony in Tokyo.

In other December happenings was an announcement by the Festival Office in Big Sandy that the Jekyll Island, Ga., Feast site, which had been used since 1963, was not to be a site in '78.

We also announced this year's winner of the annual YOU talent contest, Robert Taylor, a 17-year-old from Glendora, Calif., won a four-year scholarship to AC for his performance on the guitar.

Our final issue in December also contained a story of actor, singer and dancer Gene Kelly's TV taping in the Auditorium.



GTA ON PACIFIC TOUR — In December Garner Ted Armstrong returned to headquarters in Pasadena after a long-awaited trip to New Zealand, Australia and the Philippines. He is greeted on arrival in Australia by Dean Wilson, left, director of the Work in Australia. Mr. Armstrong is presented with a *mere*, above, a symbol of leadership, by the New Zealand brethren during the trip.



MONTH OF MEDIA — Singer, dancer and film star Gene Kelly, above, tapes a TV special in the Ambassador Auditorium in December. Garner Ted Armstrong's new book, *The Real Jesus*, right, made news in December as it was scheduled to hit bookstores nationwide. YOU also made the news when Robert Taylor, left, won the national talent contest, held in Pasadena.

