

Ministerial

Bulletin

of the Worldwide Church of God



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General News and Comments

MAIL SUMMARIES

HEADQUARTERS

November 27, 1972

Through November we have run four ads in *Reader's Digest* for the U.S. Edition with well over 44,000 responses received to date.

The main response to the September-October issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* has now been received with responses to the November issue just beginning to come in. The articles on Smoking, Pregnancy and Prisons were the most popular and drew about equal amounts of mail. As might be expected the article on Smoking drew more unfavorable comments than any other article. However, this issue as a whole drew very few critical letters.

Due to the heavy demand for the booklet *The Real Jesus*, the first printing of 25,000 copies which was received October 5 was exhausted by October 19. By the time the second printing came off the press, November 12, we had accumulated 17,882 additional requests for the booklet.

LONDON, ENGLAND

November 8, 1972

British/European Section

The response to the two articles on pregnancy and smoking in the September/October *PLAIN TRUTH* continues to be good. Our younger readers, especially have been impressed and stimulated to write in.

Foreign Language Correspondence Courses

The first few lessons of the Correspondence Course have, in recent months, been translated into German, Dutch and Danish. A card insert in the October edition of *KLAR UND WAHR* has brought 1,100 additional requests for the German Correspondence Course. This brings the total of German-speaking students to 8,200. The Dutch Correspondence Course was advertised in the final four issues of the Dutch *TOMORROW'S WORLD*. There are now 1,020 people studying the Dutch Correspondence Course. The Danish Correspondence Course was offered to our 12,600 subscribers in Scandinavia, by a card insert in the September/October English *PLAIN TRUTH*. To date we have received 646 cards requesting the first lesson.

African Section

During this past week we received 1,212 letters. 705 new subscribers were added to the mailing list.

Our readers have continued to write in about serious personal problems. Some of the questions they face include what to do if married to someone they aren't compatible with, and whether it is all right to have more than one wife. Others mention contact with demons and witches. One of the trials our new members in Nigeria have had to go through has been the Sabbath problem, since most activities in this country are based on a six-day work week. However, recently the government allowed all bank employees to work a five-day week, thus making it possible for more to keep the Sabbath. Hopefully those in other professions will soon be enabled to keep the Sabbath holy as well. Here is an extract from a letter written by a Nigerian who is trying to obey God's laws.

"I read in one of your magazines that Christians

Personal NOTES

BABY NEWS

Cecil and Ruth Green (Chicago): My wife and I are very happy to announce the birth of our son, *Kevin Jonathan*, born on November 2, 1972, weighing 7½ lbs. Everyone doing fine.

Dick and Judy Shuta (Sioux Falls, S.D.): If anyone wants to know the "positive, sure, foolproof, proven method" of having girls, we might be able to help you. Our second bundle of joy, a girl, was given to us on Tuesday, October 31, 1972 at 11:35 a.m. She weighed in at a healthy 7 lbs., 6 oz. and was 19 inches long. If anyone has a "sure method" of selecting boys, we are receptive to suggestions. By the way, we named her *Mara Elizabeth*.

should observe seven Feast days annually. Please kindly let me know the dates of each of these Feast days, in our present-day calendar. How can we, who have not got any Church around us here, celebrate these Feasts in their seasons?

"Our department has finally allowed us to have Saturday off, as a result of a Government decree to all banks in Nigeria. Thanks be to God, who has performed this miracle. Should Christians here in Nigeria continue to worship in their respective rooms until Christ returns? If not, then when can we hope to have the opportunity to meet together as brethren every Sabbath?" (Mr. E. I., Atsa, Nigeria, October, 1972)

Indian Section

A box of 600 letters forwarded from our Bombay postal address arrived this week. A large number of responses to Radio Ceylon were included, raising the total received so far by 50%, to 340. We have only had 3 responses from Ceylon itself. This is due to the World Tomorrow being broadcast only on the external "beam," and not for the local Ceylonese audience.

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA November 2, 1972

Total income for the year now stands at 6.5% above last year. The Holy Day Offerings for 1972

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Book Reviews

The Story of Weight Watchers by Jean Nidetch, New American Library, \$1.25.

Jean Nidetch, a formerly fat Brooklyn housewife, is now president of a multi-million dollar corporation called Weight Watchers, International. Besides the millions of dollars, her greatest joy is the millions of people in her club who have lost tens of millions of pounds in the last five years. This book is the amazing story of that organization: how it works, why it works, and who works it.

Nearly a decade ago, after trying every diet under the sun — and then some — Jean lost 72 pounds relatively easily through a combination of a nutritionally sound *program* (not "diet," but program) and an encouraging group therapy environment of other fat people. In this way, she applied the successful concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous and Synanon drug clinics into the previously untapped social problem of obesity. After meeting in various homes around New York City for a few months, they "accidentally fell into a corporation" and took off like a firecracker in a uniquely successful business bonanza based on fat!

This relatively short but readable book gives you that story, plus the basic outline of the Weight Watchers *program*, a sample of their meetings, principles on losing weight, and answers to all excuses ("big bones," "baby fat," "I wear it well," "I'm athletic"). Many case histories are truly heartwarming. One recent incident, not in the book, is the story of an 800-pound man, one of

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Church Administration

DAVID L. ANTION

It's a beautiful day in Pasadena on this November 20th as I dictate my column to you. We're going to press with the Bulletin a little earlier this time because of the long Thanksgiving weekend.

We had a very profitable day of fasting and prayer here last Sabbath. The people really seemed inspired and uplifted as a result of it. I think all of us realize the general letdown that has occurred over the last few years with regard to prayer and fasting.

The sermons were aimed at reminding all of us of our great need to be in closer contact with God Almighty, our heavenly Father! The subject of fasting was analyzed and there were exhortations to continue in total submission and humility toward God. All were impressed with our desperate need to rely on God for help, salvation and strength.

I know that we all personally could do more intensive praying and more regular fasting. The Apostle Paul said that he was in "fastings often." Perhaps we would not have had the current crisis in the Work if everyone had been doing it more regularly.

A Potpourri of News

Mr. Armstrong should be returning from England tonight. He spent the fast day in Bricket Wood after having gone to Italy and Germany. He had to make some decisions with regard to the new auditorium and the selection of onyx stone for the walls of the lobby.

The income is right at 11% for the year to date. The business office feels that if it does go up to 12% we will not have to dig into our reserves much at all. Mr. Herbert Armstrong plans to send out a letter to Members, Co-Workers and Donors in the month of December. He will announce a special anniversary issue offer coming in the February PLAIN TRUTH. He will be offering a new booklet probably entitled "Sex and Your Children." This is being done in conjunction with a television series on sex.

I received a report from one of our district superintendents, Mr. Edward Smith. He says, "News flash! We (the Work) ran two one-hour specials from the Calgary campaign on Windsor CKLW

Channel 9, on November 1st and 2nd at the prime time of 8:00 p.m. Doug Smith's phone number and my phone number were given at the sign-off time. It was a very short exposure, but nevertheless given.

"The last I talked with Doug he had had two or three phone calls, none of which were very good. I have had ten! I had three on Wednesday night (good ones), one on Thursday night (no good), but three good ones on Friday, and three good ones on Sunday!

"I have visited three already and they should all come along. I am to see three more tomorrow which sound good. I thought you might like to know."

Ministerial Conference

The date of the ministerial conference this year should be about January 15th to 25th. This is a tentative date at this time and hopefully it can be secured firmly before too long. But I would like all of you who will be attending to be here during the mid-semester break.

It was decided, because of the financial crisis in the Work, that we would have just the district superintendents come in for this year's ministerial conference. That is the way it looks at the present time. We hope that this will cut down on expenses and provide the climate for a working conference. Mr. Armstrong approved having just the superintendents come in for the conference, but he also said that the district conferences should be bigger and better than they have been. He even mentioned that he would like to go to some of those conferences himself.

General Instructions

In the past, CAD has sent out pencils, ball-point pens, clips, tabs, etc. We are looking at the ministerial supply form with a jaundiced eye in hopes of cutting our expenses. From now on, we will not send out pencils, pens, clips, etc. It costs us more to ship them to you than we save in purchasing them. Most of you can buy pens, pencils, etc. in your own locale as cheaply or probably even cheaper than we can buy them here and then ship them to you. So, from now on you will supply those things for yourselves.

The business office recently sent a memo to all division and department heads. It concerned expense accounts and eating out on expense. The business office is making every effort to cut down on the overuse in these areas. So from now on, all "expense" meals will have to be justified and proven to be expense meals.

There is one thing that will apply to some of you holding credit cards from the Work. The business office said that with the new accounting system which has been instituted, *no one* is to use the credit cards for *personal use* — EVEN IF YOU REPAY THE WORK FOR YOUR PERSONAL EXPENSE. This causes problems in the accounting department when they try to sort out that purchase. So, if any of you have credit cards that belong to the Work, please do not use them for personal purchases.

One of the superintendents has asked about the policy with regard to expenses. The policy has been that you may eat meals on expense only when your duties required you to be out over night, or under some other extreme circumstance.

I feel that with our new budget breakdown of all the churches, each one of you will have a certain amount of expense allocated into your church area budget. We certainly do not wish to restrict you in doing your work. We merely want to give you guidelines and let you use your wisdom and judgment in applying these guidelines.

If you feel that your duties in the Work require that you be out away from your home sufficiently far and long enough to warrant eating out on expense, and *if your budget can handle it* — it certainly will be all right.

I would like to caution all of us, however, with regard to our health. I know that eating out in restaurants is somewhat detrimental to good health. There are many preservatives, coloring agents, margarines and food additives put into our food behind the scenes. We are not aware of just how much of these chemical agents we take into our bodies by eating in restaurants. I feel that those who do eat in restaurants excessively are going to pay a price with their own health sooner or later. So for your own health's sake, try not to over-do eating in restaurants. (In conjunction with this subject please be sure to read the "Book Reviews" section.)

So, when you can come home in the same evening and eat — unless it is very late — you should do so, and not eat out on expense. However, you will have to make your judgment according to these guidelines.

Reorganization of Districts

I have recently contacted all of the district superintendents in the United States to inform them of a major reorganization in the field ministry. After talking to Mr. Armstrong about the structure of the districts, it was concluded that we need *fewer* districts. Mr. Armstrong suggested that we

try to reconstruct the U.S. field ministry into seven regions. We can, and so it has been done.

The next step is to select the seven regional directors. Mr. Armstrong felt that it would be good to assess the ability and talents of our men in order to make the proper selection and appointments to these positions. One region may have as many as forty-two churches!

These will be *major* administrative jobs. And after talking to the district superintendents about it, I am encouraged that most of them saw the need for reorganization in the field.

In order to select the regional directors, we will have some aptitude and personality tests to determine administrative and managerial abilities. One superintendent told me, "I would rather know my abilities and know that I fit in this particular job, than to take a job where my abilities were not suited for it and *fail*."

We don't want anyone to fail. We want everyone to be a success!

We hope that by the end of January we can make this reorganization complete. Hopefully, at this time we will be able to announce the seven regional directors.

This new structure should provide much opportunity for growth for many. As each region grows, there will have to be competent pastors who will take an increasingly larger share of responsibility within that region. Hopefully, some will have the responsibility over five to seven churches. He may have associate and assistant pastors working with him over this major pastorate.

This is perhaps the biggest change that has occurred in the field in eleven years. But everyone that I have talked to feels that it will be a very fine and progressive step forward. It will also afford better span of control for us here at Headquarters. Mr. Armstrong commented, "With seven regions, perhaps I will be able to get out to all the regional conferences personally."

It is certain that with more and more ministers in the field, a smaller percentage of them will be able to come to Pasadena for the January conferences. We must find some other means of providing encouragement, instruction and exhortation for the field men. That other means should be the regional conferences.

We at Headquarters ask for your prayers that God will give us wisdom and guidance in effecting a smooth and efficient changeover from our present sixteen districts to seven regions. We also ask you to pray for God's guidance in the selection of the seven regional directors. Thank you for your

support and prayers for these new programs for the field.

Inspirational News

From time to time we receive accounts of personal healing or of other outstanding miracles that God has performed for His people. I'd like to share an account with you that was sent in by Mr. Robert Dick, of the Birmingham Church. It reads thus:

"Sabbath the 14th of October we had the blessing of little children. Prior to the ceremony we explained the protection God affords our children, little realizing we would have a spectacular example of that protection a few weeks later.

"On Sunday October 29, two of our members were clearing land to build a road. Mr. Rufus King was pushing trees over with a bulldozer and Mr. Murray Bishop was cutting them up for fire wood. While the two were working, Mr. Bishop's five-year-old son, Allen, was playing nearby.

"Unknown to Mr. Bishop his son began playing beside the bottom of the pushed-up oak he was cutting. On the last cut, as the saw severed the trunk the butt of the tree slipped upright burying Allen under the roots. The upright stump was about five feet tall and two-and-one-half feet in diameter at the last cut, and the base (including the roots and compacted dirt) was over five feet in diameter — large enough to completely hide the buried boy under more than *half a ton* of tree and dirt!

"Mr. Bishop, noticing Allen was not around, began calling him. A large shepherd dog had been around, and his first impression was that Allen might have been hurt by the dog. He ran down the road searching without success, came back, and went out looking again. When he returned, Rufus stopped the bulldozer and both began to look. Both came to the conclusion that the only place left to look was under the roots of the last oak. Rufus started the bulldozer which was about 100 feet from the stump, pulled up beside it and gently lifted it. There was Allen. The stump had snapped back so fast that it had knocked Allen face down, eyes open. He had been under the stump over eight minutes. His eyes were rolled back and set, and his skin was turning black.

"The circumstances that followed were very disorganized, but to condense it, the men had been praying feverishly all during the ordeal. Mr. King administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and Allen began to breathe. They called for an anointing and soon after they called, Allen began to regain normal color. His nose, which had been

smashed to one side, began to straighten. Allen complained of internal pain, but by the next morning, after being anointed the evening before, *Allen was perfectly normal with no complaints!*

"We passed the account to the Birmingham Church last Sabbath and it has served as a real inspiration to all of the way God does care for us and our children."

I'm sure all of us are gratefully moved and inspired by the power, concern and love of God when we hear of such miraculous examples!

Because of the rush to get this Bulletin to press before the long Thanksgiving weekend, I will skip the section I always entitle "The Ministry and You."

However, I would like all of you to feel free to send in your comments, writeups and experiences that you feel will be a help to others in the ministry. If you have some exhortations that you would like to share with your fellow ministers, please do so. I will be glad to reprint any that are of general interest in this column under the section, "The Ministry and You."

That's it for now. Keep plugging away in Christ's service. And I hope all of you and your families had a very happy Thanksgiving Day! □

BOOK REVIEWS

(Continued from page 154)

the ten heaviest men in the nation, who could not even stand up, much less attend meetings. The local Weight Watchers chapter (Selma Rifkin, here in Los Angeles) worked with his program at home, and he has now lost over 500 pounds on Weight Watchers, where all other diets had failed.

This book is not for all ministers, only the elite: the elite who eat... and eat... and eat. About 90% of Weight Watchers members are women, but for a multitude of reasons the weight problem in God's Church is just as serious among men. It is becoming especially acute for those of you who must be on your derriere for hours each day in your car, those who must eat out often, and those under psychological pressure. We believe this program has the best answer for the specific problems of those of you who are overweight. It makes restaurant ordering possible, since a wide divergence of meals are "legal." Be sure, however, NOT to compromise with the program after you take it up. Don't skip the prescribed meals, don't make substitutions. And leave the booze alone! Treat the program for your body as respectfully as you treat the program for your spiritual life, or else you won't lose weight.

Many at Headquarters have taken up this program. Various women have lost 50, 70, even 100 pounds on it. A small group of men, headed by Mr. Jon Hill, are losing dozens of pounds on the program now. Be sure that you *also* have some kind of human companionship in the program, or it becomes a battle of strict character, rather than enjoyment. Perhaps your wife, perhaps some overweight men in your area, or perhaps the Weight Watchers meetings themselves (if possible) will give you that aid.

It is becoming a serious problem in God's Church as time seems to "open up" before us. The ten bits you spend on this book will return a hundredfold to you in saved food and fat expense, plus the satisfaction of setting the right example for your congregation and family. □

MAIL SUMMARIES

(Continued from page 154)

showed an increase of 62% over 1971. This accounts for most of the 6.5% increase in total income for this year.

A total of 1,890 responses have been received from the Newsstand distribution of the PLAIN TRUTH. A breakdown shows the August issue had 1,209 or an 8% response. The September-October issue had 681 responses which is a 4.5% response.

LETTER COMMENTS

CAMPAIGN RESPONSE

Garner Ted Armstrong in person at Bayfront, St. Petersburg. He made me laugh, he made me cry, he made me think, he gives us hope.

— Ed H.,
St. Petersburg, Florida

I really enjoyed the St. Petersburg crusade. I hope you keep up the good work. My wife has been very negative about Mr. Armstrong for the three years that I've been listening and reading, but she did go to the last two days of the crusade, and I can detect a definite change in her attitude.

— Daniel C.,
Tampa, Florida

RESPONSE TO THE SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER PLAIN TRUTH

Just finished reading my fourth issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* (Sept.-Oct.) and "Can Prisons Succeed When Society Has Failed?" is an excellent article which gets to the real heart of the problem. I

know, I've spent 10 years in confinement and I'm not long out and in poor health and know it is because of sinning, as you state. The whole thing of rehabilitation hinges on the individual desiring to change, do better, and that's where God enters. Unless we include God our efforts won't be of lasting value.

— Alexander M.,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

I have just finished reading the article "Can Prisons Succeed When Society Has Failed?" and the feelings of guilt have been brought back to me again. When my son was imprisoned almost five years ago, I thought about the times I left him in the care of another to go out to work to have money to buy food, pay rent and all the other necessities of living. Every day the thought that I helped put him there is making it so much harder for me to go on. At the end of the article is an offer of a free booklet "What Is Faith?" and the reprint article entitled "What Is Real Repentance?" If you think they could help me, may I please have copies of them. Possibly you have another booklet that may be what I need. Anything will be most helpful if it will ease my mind, even a little.

— Mrs. Howard W.,
Orland, Maryland

I have your September-October 1972 issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine and your story on page 37, "Can Prisons Succeed When Society Has Failed?" I find this story very interesting. I am in prison right now and have been in and out of prison most of my life. There is a lot of *truth* in this story because I have been through it all from top to bottom and I am very much sick of this kind of life. I don't know when I'll be getting out of this mess. I am happy that I read your story and that you can help me because prison is not the answer — believe me!

— W. C.,
San Luis Obispo, California

Tithing

Perhaps more than you realize, I deeply regret the trifling amount of cash I am contributing herein. However, due to the wretchedness of my financial condition, I am capable of no more. I even had to break into my super-secret penny bank to make up the second dollar. It may be entirely coincidental, of course, but soon after I sent in my

last tithe with a silent resolution that it *would indeed* be the last, I lost my job!

Now I am over one hundred dollars in debt and my bank account has expired. It's almost enough to ruin my sunny disposition. So, I figured that before going out tomorrow to search for another job, I'd risk my last two bucks. It worked last time.

— John C.,
Whitestone, New York

Thanks

Thank you for the work that you and all the others at Headquarters and around the world are doing. We greatly appreciate the information on the Foreign Work because knowing more of what is happening in these areas strengthens our love for all our brethren. We also are able to pray more definitely for the Work.

— Mr. & Mrs. Truman F.,
Birmingham, Alabama

Broadcast is Getting Through

Mr. Armstrong is the most remarkable preacher I have ever heard. I am a Catholic, but my faith has been strengthened more since I've been listening to him than any priest I've ever heard.

— Eleanore M.,
Corona, New York

Telecast Too

For quite some time I have listened to you on the radio and now find that you have broadcast time on the Buffalo, New York station on Channel 2 at 6:30 a.m. each morning. Believe it or not (I find it hard to believe myself!) I find myself getting up one half hour early to listen to you... helps to start my day in the right direction. Though I have listened to you for all this time, I have never written for any of your material. I would now like to receive the two books that you have been mentioning on recent programs *Why Were You Born?* and *Ambassador College*.

WMCA, New York

Here is a little news I want to pass on to you. WMCA is my favorite radio station. Mr. Ted Armstrong comes on at one o'clock in the morning. Now Long John Nebel comes on at 12 o'clock but goes off at one, so Mr. Ted can have his program. Then Long John stays on till 5:30 in the morning.

Now Long John has many famous people in the theater, stage, etc., at times on his program. Per-

haps you have heard of Stiller and Meare. Well, one night Long John said they were going to be on his program and Meare said that they would get to WMCA before one o'clock "because they did not want to miss hearing Garner Ted speak." Also a Mr. Roy Fox who takes over a program on WMCA at times when one of the regulars are off a few days had this to say. "If anyone is planning a trip to California, don't miss seeing Ambassador College at Pasadena, as it is the most beautiful, magnificent place he has seen."

— Alice P.,
New York, New York

LETTER EXCERPTS FROM NEW ZEALAND

I wish you to discontinue sending copies of your magazine to me. I have been disappointed in your articles which are consistently shallow and invariably offering unrealistic solutions. The article written by Paul Kroll entitled "What Will We Do? I'm Pregnant" is what finally led me to write this letter as it angered me greatly. The reason this article managed to anger me so much is because I am myself a member of your "unwed-mother syndrome". The decision to have sex with my boyfriend was made with him not as you suggest because of him. There was no male aggressor playing on my weak points. It was a responsible decision. We were well aware of the possibility of pregnancy. The reason I am pregnant is because of faulty contraceptive methods, not because "biological impulse could triumph over reason and responsibility". So could you please discontinue sending me your magazine. It's succeeded only in angering me, not in bringing me any better understanding.

— Miss G. M.,
Auckland, New Zealand

I have had numerous sexual relationships, having indulged in premarital intercourse and many impersonal relationships with women that were really no more than strangers. I was not interested in contraception or any preventative of pregnancy, and the love I had for my girlfriends I realize now was nothing more than uncontrollable lust. I have just read your article "What Will We Do? I'm Pregnant" and realize now the falseness of my convictions. Your article helped me become aware of the consequences of premarital sex, and I realize now that the prevention of natural desires through abstinence is the only sure contraceptive.

— Mr. A. W.,
Auckland

