

The Bulletin



of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 8

PAGES 359-390

JULY 30, 1974

News Briefs

Highlights of news from division reports in this issue

ACADEMIC (page 374)

The "Statement of Purpose" for the college at Pasadena has been finalized by the task force on campus mission and is reproduced in this issue for the interest of our readers. Mr. Dart reports that a very active summer school program continues at Big Sandy, and takes space to clarify some misunderstandings regarding the hiring of new faculty, as well as clearing away misconceptions about our "planes" at Big Sandy.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION (page 366)

Included this time is a plea for more communications from the field ministry; a proposed program for scheduling and circulating work-oriented slide shows throughout the U. S. Churches; upgrading of the reimbursement rate for non-fleet mileage driven; the final decision regarding plans to publish the *Ministerial Journal*; and more guidelines for local Boy Scouts programs and other church activities.

DATA PROCESSING (page 368)

In his first report on the activities of the Data Processing Division, Mr. Ben Chapman outlines interesting facts about the history of DPC, as well as relating information on recent cutbacks in this area and current efforts toward reorganization of the division.

MAIL PROCESSING (page 360)

A rather indepth update on the response to Mr. Armstrong's PT Gift Subscription letter is given

this time, along with a special announcement to be read at Sabbath services. The letter comments focus in on some very encouraging and inspiring member comments regarding the recent cutbacks and possible sale of the G-2 and Falcon.

MEDIA (page 371)

John Lundberg describes the recently completed GTA TV Audition Tape; John Amos gives an update on Radio and TV promotion; Dan Ricker relates more details about proposed slide show scheduling (including an area map); and Frank Inglema tells about the transfer of "Educational Service for the Blind" to the Radio Production Department.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES (page 373)

Mr. McMichael gives a great big thanks to all who have helped with the personal appearance campaigns. Also, did you know a great deal of free promotion and publicity is extended in campaign cities?

PUBLISHING (page 369)

Plain Truth managing editor, Art Ferdig, submitted for this issue the bulk of a letter he recently wrote to all editorial personnel. It concerns *Plain Truth* editorial policy, changes in format, and the "How to" of writing PT articles.

NOTICE

Important trips, extremely busy schedules and late copy were some of the factors preventing us from having reports from Financial Affairs, International Division and Bricket Wood.

Mail Processing

MINISTERIAL update

Response to PT Subscription Letter

Mr. Armstrong's PT gift subscription letter continues to bring in a positive response. As of July 25, we have received 24,153 letters. Of these letters 75% contain contributions for someone else's subscription. This is a noteworthy increase over our last *Bulletin* report. The accumulated donations from this mailing now total an estimated \$139,100 or \$7.71 per letter.

Personal Correspondence


PC has been keeping a close tabulation on cancellations of the PT following the voluntary gift subscription letter. About 25% of the total response to the letter is coming to PC for processing, which as of July 24 amounts to 6,120 letters. The actual cancellation rate, however, is running about 15.6%. The rest are people who misunderstood and need a letter to explain policy, or they are regular questions and literature requests sent in the same envelope. As our returns continue to come in we will keep you posted. Thus far, the low rate of cancellations is very encouraging — and even the few requests for cancellation we receive have the positive effect of leaving us with a more responsive, interested group of subscribers.

We Need Your Help!

Our Co-Worker Section would like to ask the cooperation of the field ministry to resolve an accounting problem with member donations: the *proper labelling of donations* to insure they are credited to the right account.

We rely on our donors, Co-Workers and members to tell us how they wish their funds allocated. For example, how much of a check should be credited to the "first tithe and offering" account vs. "building fund." For our accounting to be accurate it is essential that members let us know how they wish the money allocated *every time* a donation is sent! Otherwise, when the quarterly receipts come out, amounts may be found to be allocated differently than they wished. (Of course, all the funds are used in the Work of God. We simply want to allocate the funds as accurately as possible — as our members specify.)

Here are some of the problems we encounter with donations. Probably the most prevalent is



The
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failure to tell us how a donation is to be broken down.

1. Many times members will mention their tithes and building fund offerings are enclosed without specifying the amounts. They don't realize it is necessary for them to give us a breakdown on their check *every time* they send it. As an example, one lady didn't understand why we didn't automatically deduct from her tithe check the amount she had "pledged" and credit it to the building fund. She assumed that once she had filled out the card (in 1972) that was all that was needed — we would do the rest from that point on. Of course, unless she specified the proper breakdown, the amount she intended for the building fund would be placed in the general fund account.
2. Some members just forget to give the building fund breakdown; or when they have someone else (a wife or secretary) make out their tithe check, they fail to specify an amount for the building fund. Such was the case discovered recently when a member asked to have his record checked

(Continued on page 386)

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
GARNER TED ARMSTRONG
Vice President

To all ministers and key supervisory personnel worldwide:

GREETINGS in Christ's name and in His Work!

I am in the process of finally getting off for my ten-day trip to Europe, and hopefully I will fulfill the goal of fourteen radio programs, three television programs and film segments for additional programs.

I delayed my trip for one week, following long-distance conversations with Frank Brown from England and two of our key men in the Business Office in Pasadena and the immediate need for wide-scale discussions at all levels concerning the current financial situation.

My meetings here at Headquarters following that telephone call with Frank Brown in England were the direct result of soaring inflation in Britain -- the "sick man of Europe," which I am now calling the "beggar of Europe." Skyrocketing costs have meant an additional \$600,000 budgetary deficit in Britain! Shocking, but true -- our Business Office in England would have had to cease the operation of the college unless we could not only have sent the originally budgeted \$1,000,000 allocation, but raised it by \$600,000. I began to wonder just how we can combat such soaring costs -- and rushed right back to Headquarters to talk about the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles and how we can all unitedly and collectively call upon the brethren to really HELP by preparing a special offering -- the largest in all our history for the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles.

In our wide-ranging meetings which more than thirty of us attended (and all collectively felt were very constructive and helpful in every way), it obviously came up as a future consideration whether or not we can, in the years ahead, continue the format of large-scale festivals in ten or twelve or fourteen or twenty places. However, it was the collective judgment of all concerned (and it WAS unanimous!) that we can hold the Feast of Tabernacles as it is for AT LEAST this year and hopefully next year, and, depending upon the growth in numbers and the availability of festival sites, perhaps for even one more year beyond that. All of this, of course, barring some unforeseen or completely unpredictable economic catastrophe in the country as a whole which would preclude massive movement of tens of thousands

of people at the Feast time.

An obvious alternative remains open: simply reverting to the same configuration as our spring festivals and Pentecost meetings. All of us were unitedly in favor of placing the subject of the Feast of Tabernacles -- i.e., the technicalities and logistics of its observance, the multiplicity of festival sites, etc. -- as one item to be discussed both in workshops and in plenary session in next year's Ministerial Conference. Any of you who have thoughts on the subject might remember to jot down some notes to refresh your memory in a folder you could send in to HQ and/or put aside for preparation of the next conference.

As you know, we originally drafted up (in the haste of the moment following the other crises of that time) a 1974 January-to-December-31 deficit budget, clearly informing all department heads we knew this budget would not be the final one for the year.

I believe most of you are totally informed about the recent financial conditions in the Work. As of this moment, however, our year-to-date increase stands only barely above one percent.

All of us unitedly feel the income is going to come up significantly above that figure -- and everyone involved is struggling with all his might to effect every conceivable economy, cutback, savings (would you believe we have even discussed such seemingly "trivial" items as conserving on memo pads, paper clips, ball-point pens, making do with used furniture, etc.??) -- but fellows, let's all face it honestly and squarely together, those in key positions over Data Processing, Television and Radio, Buildings and Grounds, the Press, Subscriber Services, etc. can only deal with holding down the outgo by effecting whatever meaningful economies within their own spheres they can. They have nothing DIRECTLY to do with producing the INCOME absolutely necessary to do God's Work.

But YOU DO!

I just had a very inspiring telephone call with Mr. Smith (actually there were several of us in the office, and Norman's voice was being broadcast on a speakerphone while he was in Texas). He told me that he talked with several of you fellows in his swing through Illinois and down through Texas and back out to Pasadena. Norman has been able to visit his elderly family, and he has also talked with dozens of brethren concerning the radio and television programs and their personal feelings about the Work in general.

He is very much concerned that we continue our policy of placing the daily radio program within easy hearing reach of all of our local churches, and so am I! Yesterday, for example, I literally waded through the seventh chapter of Hosea concerning Ephraim's sickness and the "gray hairs" here and there upon him, and how strangers "eat away at his strength and he knows it not"!

I did this in the light of the recent announcement of an additional 1.2 billion dollar loan Britain has begged from the Iranian government, added to the nearly eight billions Britain has already borrowed from West German and other European banks!

The daily programs are beginning to have real muscle and strength to them! I have already read the first flurry of letters coming in expressing real enthusiasm for the up-to-the-minute broadcasts, dealing with relevant day-to-day issues rather than the outdated, sometimes months old, sound tracks of television tapes!

Norman Smith is absolutely convinced our brethren have their WHOLE HEARTS in this Work! He is positively sure that the brethren are inspired when they see a dynamic warning MESSAGE going out, and the fulfillment of our one great commission is the one major rallying point behind which our brethren really can get stirred up! We have all known this -- those of us who have been in this Work of God for more than twenty years -- and it is still true today, actually truer than ever before!

As you can tell from my father's liberal use of capitals, italics, and exclamation points in his last TWO letters in the Bulletin, he feels very DEEPLY the tremendous task before him in reaching heads of state and leaders high in government all around the world; literally telling them about the Creator God who is the divine RULER and His Law, and that His Son Jesus Christ is coming as a King to RULE on this earth -- Mr. Armstrong is getting right to the heart and core of the Gospel.

Obviously, the real need in God's Work right now is to RAISE INCOME, as well as to very rigidly restrict outgo. I have already written an extensive "Personal" for the Worldwide News, and I won't repeat all of those things here.

Norman Smith's statement to me once more buttressed my firm convictions that we MUST increase (and certainly not cut back) in radio and television coverage! (Obviously, the broad spectrum of selection in stations, size of area, frequency, availability, broadcasting times should be all understood in that previous statement.)

Even though there is, fellows, tremendous PRESSURE from the mere dollar signs on the day-to-day income figures for the Work as a whole -- and even though there is the TEMPTATION to come closer to a balanced budget by cutting deeply into our proposed expansion in radio and television, all of us here feel we simply MUST NOT do it!

Fellows, God's Work needs YOUR HELP! All of us have got to think ECONOMY wherever possible -- but the biggest input is in our own personal prayers and in our deep, moving, inspiring SERMONS we preach to the people in our care.

If God's people are collectively INSPIRED with a powerful

new punch throughout all of God's Work -- in Mr. Armstrong's campaigns (an exciting film concerning the Manila campaign will be available by Feast of Tabernacles time), the impact of summer specials in dozens of cities all around the country, and all of the very exciting things happening as we really accelerate in getting our job done, then they will RESPOND! But it takes an excited, enthused minister to excite and enthuse his people. It takes powerful, dynamic sermons to really move and inspire people!

I believe it is time to really BEAR DOWN on current conditions and PROPHECY, keeping our people really aware of the unbelievable games of "musical chairs" being played in top governments all over the world, the fact that we ARE living in a time of "wars and rumors of wars," and that we are edging closer and closer to the beginning of the GREAT TRIBULATION! This I intend to do on the radio broadcast!

As I have always said, the radio broadcast is NOT FOR THE CHURCH -- meaning that it is not directed toward already converted Church brethren as a means to help them grow spiritually and in the knowledge of the Bible! That is YOUR job! But, even though the radio program is not directed TOWARD the members, it should be viewed as the collective voice OF the members, as ALL OF US collectively and unitedly peal out the warning and the witness message to the world! It is why God called us now rather than later; it is the reason for being for all of us for this time -- the preaching of the Gospel as both a witness and a warning before the Great Tribulation, whether over television and radio or in personal campaigns, or in the magazines, or through other means, it is our very reason for being!

I know the brethren are going to be more and more excited about the radio broadcast as they hear stronger, more controversial, and more up-to-the-minute programs, including some very exciting ones upcoming from on-location in Europe.

I hope all of you will hold up my father's hands and my hands in keeping the brethren really aware and interested in what is happening in the main thrust of the Work.

That's it until next time.

Your brother in Christ,

Barney Ted Armstrong

Doctrinal Research

DOCTRINAL MEETING ON PROPHECY

The regular meeting of the steering committee on doctrine was held as scheduled Wednesday, July 17. Mr. Wayne Cole chaired a very lively and animated discussion on prophecy. Many points of view were presented in a report summarizing the main questions of concern raised in the Conference Workshop on Prophecy. The meeting was frank, open and constructive.

Many topics were raised and discussed including the meaning and purpose of biblical prophecy, proofs of the end time, the identity of nations in prophecy (including the identity and proofs of Israel), the 6000 year plan, the 100 year period, the Olivet prophecy, questions in Daniel and Revelation and the history of the true Church.

Messrs. Hoeh, McNair, Kuhn and Knowles were assigned to collaborate in preparing a report on the principles and priorities in prophetic teaching and exegesis. Other members of the committee were assigned various projects based on the above list of topics.

In addition, the need for more thorough education in prophetic exegesis at the undergraduate level was discussed. It was generally recognized that many of our field ministers are somewhat lacking in formal training in the area of prophecy.

Subject to approval by Messrs. Herbert W. and Garner Ted Armstrong, it is hoped that a number of white papers can later be produced for the field ministry to help bridge the information gap that exists in this area. In addition, more articles and booklets on prophecy will be forthcoming, pending further research.

Since prophecy is such a *massive* subject it will take some time to "get a handle" on all the areas which need research and consideration. As always, your prayers and input will be much appreciated!

DOCTRINAL MEETING ON TITHING

On July 24th we had another regular doctrinal meeting — this time on the subject of *tithing*. Dr. Herman L. Hoeh and Mr. Frank Brown have been working on this subject for many weeks, and it was they who made the presentation.

Dr. Hoeh distributed to members of the doctrinal team packets of papers on the subject of tithing — papers which were written by various ones

(some on and some not on the Doctrinal Committee). Dr. Hoeh suggested that all on the Committee read these papers and do as much independent, meaningful personal study and research as possible on this very important subject of tithing — especially as it relates to N. T. teaching.

One point made during this meeting concerned the importance of being in a right attitude as we study into any doctrine.

Important questions to answer: How did tithing originate? How was tithing practiced in Levitical times? What is the meaning of the 7th chapter of Hebrews relative to tithing? Is the 3rd chapter of Malachi a prophecy for our day? How was tithing practiced in New Testament times — by Jesus Christ, by the Apostles and Jewish converts and by the Gentiles?

Another important principle mentioned during our recent meeting was that neither ministers nor members should assume that the Worldwide Church of God has *abandoned* (or even questioned) the validity of any particular doctrine simply because it is under discussion by the doctrinal team here at Headquarters.

You may be interested to know who it is that attends these general doctrinal meetings. Those who attended the July 24th meeting were: Wayne Cole, Raymond McNair, Herman Hoeh, Frank Brown, David Antion, Dennis Pyle, Lawson Briggs, Wilbur Berg, Lester Grabbe, Benjamin Chapman, Gunar Freibergs, Burk McNair and Brian Knowles.

Wayne Cole continues to chair these doctrinal discussions and has maintained an open, frank, serious-minded yet friendly atmosphere during these important doctrinal meetings. Dr. Charles Dorothy is away and will therefore not be able to attend our plenary sessions scheduled for July 31 and August 14. Remember, these doctrinal meetings are not being held for the purpose of the doctrinal committee setting church doctrine. Rather, we attempt to discuss important aspects of a particular doctrine both from the Biblical and historical points of view. Then the doctrinal team seeks to make meaningful recommendations for the consideration of Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong and then finally for Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Recognizing God's form of government from a biblical point of view, it is only proper that God's servant, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, make the final decision which will then be communicated to the entirety of God's Church.

We wish to thank all of you for your input (both written and oral) in these doctrinal meetings. Please continue to pray that God will guide his servants here at Headquarters in these important doctrinal discussions and decisions!

Church Administration

Greetings again! I hope all of you are regularly reminding the members in your area to be praying fervently for the Work of God at this time. Mr. Brown and his staff are still "wrestling" with the budget, trying to bring it into balance.

Please be positive in your comments to the Church. Show the many fine moves forward that have recently taken place in the Work — Mr. Armstrong's continued success in walking through doors opened before him — paving the way for preaching God's message to mass audiences throughout the world. The radio broadcast is bearing down on the vital, timely issues in the world today and hitting hard with God's Word. We are now *regularly* conducting doctrinal meetings — each issue of the Bulletin contains a report of another session. This Bulletin itself is a fine step forward as a means of vital communication to you.

Speaking of communications, fellows, I would dearly love to hear from many more of you with your comments, criticisms, suggestions, etc. This CAD column is not meant to be a one-way street of "orders," instruction, etc. At any time you have a comment about what you read which would be helpful to us, please drop me a note — hand written if you wish. I really will be grateful.

Slide Tape Shows

Reception of the slide/tape shows has been very good and has brought to our attention the need to organize distribution. Continuing to send the shows on a random request basis would very shortly cause a confusing and difficult scheduling problem. To counter this a plan has been worked out for the distribution of slide shows to all churches.

After seeing several of the shows at the May 6th conference, you are already aware of the effectiveness of this form of communication. We're quite enthusiastic about them here at Headquarters. They enable the brethren to see, as well as hear, the scope of this Work, and the sophistication necessary in a multi-faceted work like this. From all reports we've heard thus far, the slide shows have sparked enthusiasm in the members wherever they have been shown. They provide an opportunity for our members to identify with the job being done and more clearly see their part in God's Work.

What we intend to do so as to alleviate any scheduling difficulties for both you and us, is to initiate a distribution program that is designed to circulate seven shows (five slide shows and two 16MM movies) through all churches within 49 weeks. I wanted to explain this plan to you and *ask all of you to let us know your reaction to it along with any suggestions or criticisms* before it is implemented. Please take the time to do this immediately — any lack of response will be interpreted to be in agreement to the plan as stated.

To implement the plan we intend to divide the 170 church circuits into 24 areas. Each area will have approximately seven churches. We will then ask one pastor in each area to be responsible for scheduling in his area.

In order for the churches to participate in the slide show program it will be necessary to rent or purchase projection equipment. It is not logical to expect each church to want to buy the equipment since it is expensive. Renting would cost about \$30 per presentation.

If a group of churches cooperatively purchased the equipment (slide equipment only, sound projectors are even more expensive), then each church would have to spend less, and at the same time would jointly own a projection set-up.

On the surface this seems the most logical way to go. It would work well also with the idea of 24 mini-distribution circuits.

The cluster of churches sharing the equipment would rotate the shows around their circuit. Each church would then show a 25-30 minute program every seven weeks. The shows could be presented at Sabbath services in place of the sermonette.

This seems to be the most logical way to go in view of the potential confusion in a distribution program of this size. Also, it will allow *all* of the churches to enjoy the programs on a regularly scheduled basis.

That's it men. As soon as we hear from you, and the plan (with any modifications) is ready for implementation, you will receive a letter from your coordinator giving specific details.

Dan Ricker of Media Services has been placed in charge of the distribution program. Dan has a few more things to mention regarding the program in the Media column.

Fleet Mileage Reimbursement Change

A change that many of you will welcome is an upgrading in the reimbursement rate for non-fleet mileage driven. The reimbursement rate at present is 12¢ per mile for the first 1000 miles, 8¢ per mile for the second 1000 miles and 5¢ per mile thereafter on a monthly basis. The new reimburse-

ment rate will be 14¢ per mile for the first 1000 miles and 10¢ per mile thereafter on a monthly basis. This should bring some relief to those of you who have to use your personal car for visiting. This new rate will be effective for all mileage driven beginning with July 1st. That means that mileage driven in June and before will be reimbursed on the old rate, and mileage driven since then will be at the 14¢ and 10¢ rate.

This new reimbursement policy is based on a recent U.S. Department of Transportation study which determined that the average cost of operating a standard-sized automobile in a suburban-based operation is 15.9¢ per mile. Of this, 2¢ is for garage, parking, and tolls bringing the cost to less than 14¢ per mile. For those of you having a need to be reimbursed for garage, parking and tolls, you can include it on your Monthly Expense Report. Overall, this should put our reimbursement nearer the actual cost of operation.

Ministerial Journal

After extensive consideration we have decided to discontinue plans to publish a ministerial journal. The revised Bulletin you're holding in your hands is proving to be a very effective tool for communications. It seems natural to think of using this already available publication rather than going to the additional and sometimes duplicate effort involved in producing another publication. The extra cost is another factor. And besides, all of the kind of material that was going to be published in the Journal is already appearing regularly in *The Bulletin*. Such items as doctrinal research, special feature articles, in-depth communication from all facets of the Work, etc. *The Bulletin* is also a much more easy going, informal type communications vehicle. Another advantage of *The Bulletin* is the frequency of publication: once every *other week* as opposed to once every *three months* for the Journal.

Boy Scouts

Several have asked about the advisability of having Boy Scout programs in the local congregations. From an official standpoint, it is fine to organize such programs in your church area if you so desire, or participate in those in the local community.

As you might recall in the June 4, *Bulletin*, the Boy Scouts of America and their programs were discussed in the Activities Workshop during the conference. You might go back and review some of your fellow ministers' comments about the program in order to be aware of some of the difficulties involved.

Some pastors have experienced great success with the programs and others have been disappointed with the results. Some in rural areas found that it took too much time, travel, money, etc. Much of the success depended on the enthusiasm of the parents, participants and the leaders of the Scouts.

While on the subject of church activities, I would like to pass on some general guidelines in this regard. We recently asked Mr. Ted Armstrong whether he felt it was wise to have large basketball tournaments such as the ones held in Big Sandy and Chicago. While these were very enjoyable, he felt because of the costs, time, logistics, etc. involved that we should forego large activities of this nature. Most activities should be restricted to neighboring church circuits and not extended out to encompass multiple circuits, sometimes in different states. If you feel there is a specific need for some large multiple circuit activity we would appreciate you checking it with your area coordinator.

Thanks to several of you who have written personal letters to me expressing your appreciation for my being actively associated with you in the ministry. I really do appreciate the warm and inviting way I have been received into CAD and am looking forward to a continuing friendship and brotherhood, and for close teamwork with all of you fellows.

— C. Wayne Cole

BIRTHS

Fred and Delores Coulter (Pasadena, California): *AT LAST!* After three boys we have been blessed with a beautiful, sweet girl — *Rachelle Ann*, which means beloved and well-favored — and she will be. She was born May 19, 9:30 p.m.

Chuck and Terri Dickerson (Abilene-Midland, Texas): We wish to announce the birth of our son, *Christopher Wayne*, born May 22, at 2:30 a.m., weighing 8 lbs. We are thankful that he waited until after the conference and for the fact that he is a boy — the *only* boy out of seven children born to the Dickerson brothers. My wife Teresa, our daughter JoLynn, and our new son are doing fine, but it is hard for dad to sleep at night.

Curtis and Jannie May (Newport News): We would like to announce the birth of our son, *Bradley Curtis*, on March 20. Bradley came on the scene at 12:10 a.m., weighing in at 9 lbs. even. Mother and son are fine, father is trying to overcome a vanity problem.

Data Processing

It doesn't seem possible that a full year has passed since my family and I transferred from Big Sandy to headquarters! The computer center is now entering its *eighth* year of operations, still a relatively young department in the 40-plus years of this Work. I want to take the opportunity in the next several issues of *The Bulletin* to acquaint you with some of our history and function and to explain the dollars and cents of our operations.

The organization of the division has remained basically static for the last few years, but of necessity our objectives have changed somewhat as the Work has taken new directions. Organization is a tool of management that must be kept sharp to be really effective and to do the job most efficiently. Because of severe budget limitations, recent changes in direction, and changing priorities on our projects, it has become necessary to revamp the present DP organization. Now seems the most logical time to do this since the former Marketing and Subscriber Services Division has been likewise reorganized into the two *new* divisions of Mail Processing and Data Processing. But before I acquaint you with our new organization and why the changes were necessary, let me lead up to it with some recent history.

The primary purpose for the department's birth was to develop a computerized subscription fulfillment system which subsequently was named ACTS (Ambassador College Terminal System). Development began in June 1965 and ACTS was installed on our first IBM 360 Computer — a Model 30, in March 1967. A *Good News* article of several years back pointed out how the necessary hardware and expertise became available about the same time that some form of automation of large size mailing lists was desperately needed (was this merely coincidence??).

Ambassador College was able to design a system literally years ahead of its time. I am told by our operations people that only in the last few years have other large scale mailing operations begun to adopt terminalized computer systems, the only technique which permits one week change of addresses instead of the normal six weeks. ACTS also makes it possible to mail literature in response to thousands of letters efficiently and less expensively through bulk mailing rates. We have continually tried to stay on the "leading edge" of computer technology in order to be as cost effective as possible. We are considered by many as a

"showcase" installation, as attested to by dozens of visiting VIPs who have returned letters showing appreciation and admiration for our accomplishments.

Since many ask the question "Why ACTS?", I will answer this in detail in the next article, explaining many of the different functions this system does.

A large staff and quite a bit of hardware were used to implement this major system, still our "bread-and-butter" application on the IBM 370/158 Computer, accounting for some 70% of our total budget. But this is not to say that growth *continued* after the system was implemented. On the contrary our hardware budget has gone steadily *down* over the past three years while our workload — as measured by volume of mail processed — has gone steadily *up*:

| Year | Computer Hardware Budget | Mail Processed |
|------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1972 | \$907,000 | 2.29 million |
| 1973 | 852,000 | 3.58 million |
| 1974 | 739,000 (est.) | 4.00 million (est.) |

That's a 19% decrease in our hardware budget over three years over and above the normal inflationary cost increases.

There is a constant program of self-evaluation and voluntary equipment cuts whenever possible. Since DP is a *very expensive operation* we have tried to be very conscientious to use only what is necessary. Our operations staff has gained much experience over the years in "fine-tuning" techniques that allow the most "bang for the buck."

Likewise, the *DP operations* staff has been drastically cut. Some were let go last fall, others last month, for a total staff reduction of 27% in just *one year*. The *systems services department* (programmers, systems analysts) has reduced its staff by 37% in the last two and one half years.

But to give you a better idea of our "pruning and tuning" procedures, let me list specific net hardware cuts that have been made over the past few years:

| | | |
|----------|--|--------------|
| July '72 | Remove drum memory | \$7400/month |
| July '72 | Remove 2250 terminal display | \$1750/month |
| Sept '72 | Remove 2701 control unit | \$1500/month |
| Sept '72 | Replace 2540 Card Reader with a cheaper model 1442 | \$ 450/month |
| Jan. '73 | Lease disk Drive | \$1150/month |
| Apr '73 | Lease Tape Drives | \$ 770/month |
| June '73 | Drop nine 3270 terminals | \$ 930/month |
| Sept '73 | Drop eight 3270 terminals | \$ 800/month |
| Jan '74 | Drop two 3270 terminals | \$ 260/month |

| | | |
|----------|---|--------------|
| Mar '74 | Purchase IBM 370/158 CPU (Central Processing Unit) | \$6000/month |
| July '74 | Drop two tape units & 1 tape controller | \$1700/month |

The IBM 370/158 CPU purchase is saving \$6000/month and was done after three months of in-depth study on whether we could transfer our present operation to a smaller IBM 370/145 CPU, and after a study of the feasibility of purchasing the 158 instead of continuing to pay rent. The decision to purchase was approved by Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong last spring, and was financed by a leasing company for nothing down, 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ % simple interest (prime interest went to 10% *shortly* after and is now 12%), and less a portion of rental accruals we had already paid to IBM (many thanks to Dennis Stauffer and his staff for arranging this savings for God's Work!). Actually, amazing as it seems our *savings* on purchasing the 370/158 is very close to the *entire hardware costs* of the Big Sandy Data Processing Center! (Perhaps I'm prejudiced, but I feel that the computer dollars being spent at Big Sandy are some of our best spent computer \$\$\$!). But let's contrast Pasadena's workload and computer capacity with Big Sandy's. Overall, the 370/158 is equivalent to *twenty-two* Model 30s in power (but at only ten times the cost). A model 30 is what we started with and what Big Sandy now has. Our present workload is *fifteen* times a Model 30 and the next step below a 370/158 is the 370/145, which is equivalent to only *nine* Model 30s! True, we have plenty of growing room and excess computer power now, but last week Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong approved our investigating the legal and financial ramifications of *renting* this surplus to outside users.

Our M.O. for the present must be to perform mandatory maintenance projects to our present systems, finish a few other nearly completed projects on the books and to work on *income producing* programs in the direct mail area. Because of the recent manpower cuts, we'll be able to do little else — and then only after the reorganization we're now going through.

Overall, our DP budget has been cut 17% for the rest of this annual year, based on estimated expenditure for January-June 1974. This includes cuts made in Information Services and Print Advertising as well — the two other departments in our division.

In the next issue the ACTS system will be covered!

— Benjamin R. Chapman

Publishing

PLAIN TRUTH UPDATE

(Editor's note: The following material is from a letter written to all editorial personnel by Mr. Arthur Ferdig, managing editor of the *Plain Truth*. It should be of interest to our Bulletin readers and church members.)

Editorial Policy

Regarding overall *Plain Truth* editorial policy, there are no dramatic changes in the offing — only modifications. The *how* to write as explained by Mr. Herbert Armstrong three or four years ago has changed very little (more about that later). The *when* and *what* to write has taken on a new dimension.

During the past two or three years the magazine content was designed and intended to be of universal but *timeless* interest, with little emphasis toward capitalizing on late-breaking local or world news. In other words, an article planned for a May issue could just as well be run in December (in most cases). This will now be an exception rather than the rule.

Mr. Ted Armstrong has requested a more *timely*, news-oriented approach to articles and other magazine content. This new direction entails firming up and shortening "turn around" time in all areas of production — from researching, reporting, writing and editing, through layout, pre-press, printing and mailing.

We at Pasadena are excited about the prospects of going to press with articles, news clips, issues and answers while these issues are still hot in the minds of the reading public. We're excited about the creation of a shirt-sleeve work environment that fosters a sense of urgency — electricity — in the air. We'll do a better job, and reader *interest* and *involvement* should pick up considerably.

Changes In Format

Immediate plans call for a few modifications in the September issue — the introduction of a regular feature by Mr. Ted Armstrong (possibly a stimulating question/answer rap session approach), a return to a more complete radio and television log, and the dropping of *Advanced News* and *What YOU can Do*.

In the combined October/November issue we hope to introduce a news analysis/reporting section of 3 to 4 pages, probably with the title *WORLD-*

WATCH. This section will be a composite of short, interesting and important news clips from around the globe — gleaned from regular reports from our Regional Editors, as well as wire service data. These reports will also be available to Mr. Ted Armstrong for daily radio. (The Regional Editors will be receiving details via a forthcoming letter.) This section will be edited within hours of press time.

I hope you can see what we are aiming at, and understand the reasons why. This is a concerted effort to really capture reader interest, and get our job done much more effectively.

We intend to fill the pages of the *Plain Truth* with urgency and up-to-the-minute interest! Most articles will be short, fast-moving, hard-hitting and often controversial. Each issue will still contain one or two longer, in-depth, sufficiently documented articles, but, in the main, articles and reports will be shorter and with more punch.

The rule of thumb is to use only enough space to get the job done well.

Whereas in the past a complete issue of 32 pages might contain information on only six or seven different subjects, with the reader interested in only one or two topics, future issues will contain a gamut of subject matter designed to catch and hold reader interest. More sauce and pickles, but with a generous portion of meat.

We all know it takes *work* to produce an interesting, challenging, readable and respected magazine. *It takes thought, effort and skill to capture the mind of another human being through the printed page.*

How to Write

This leads me to some comments regarding the question of how to write, as mentioned earlier.

Our job simply stated is this: To present God's truth to the world in non-religious language. We can't allow the reader to classify us as traditional "churchianity" along with all the rest of this world's churches. This world's religions — especially to an "educated" mind — smack of superstition, sentimentality, irrelevance and ignorance. Religious phraseology is a turn-off. Wielding religion as a club and talking down to the reader is a *no-no*. It only serves to repel — not attract — the reader.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong has repeatedly insisted that "*we aren't witnessing to a person if he isn't getting the message.*" And how will he get the message if we don't write in a style that he will read? There is no way we can pound it into his head. It's our responsibility to put God's truth in

an acceptable package — to do the best we can through article content and graphic appearance to promote readership.

Use of Scripture

Now I'd like to clear up another point where there might be misunderstanding in the minds of some. There is no hard and fast rule about quoting scripture in your articles — nor has there ever been. How you present your material is the critical point. Keep your approach to the Bible above that of traditional Christianity. Don't treat the Bible apologetically — it's an up-to-the-minute reference work on world conditions, human behavior, morals, personal and business ethics, family relations, politics, history, etc., etc. It's a handbook by our Creator God on how to live, with vivid examples of human choice well documented, and future consequences predicted.

If there is no reason to quote the Bible — in other words, if the article stands alone without biblical support — don't struggle to find a tricky way to introduce scripture into your article. It isn't necessary.

You can ruin good material by tacking on a Bible ending (called "pinning the tail on the article"), or by apologizing for what you are about to say next ("backing into the Bible") by saying that you refuse to apologize for it. We often try to tell a *Plain Truth* reader that he will be surprised to know that the Bible has something to say about such and such, when in actual fact, he is so conditioned after 2 or 3 issues to this phraseology that he is usually more surprised (and probably relieved) to find it missing, if indeed he has read that far.

There is no rule against being innovative and creative. We certainly ought to be capable of discovering new and interesting approaches — new angles — for shop-worn, yet vital subjects.

Getting the Job Done

On the one hand, we've been hit hard by budget cuts and loss of personnel. On the other hand, we have a yet bigger and more challenging job ahead, and with more opportunities. The success of the *Plain Truth* depends now — more than ever before — on a collective worldwide team effort.

I've asked Roger Lippross to help me put together a packet of material that will be sent to you shortly. Included will be forms for article suggestions, schedules, xeroxed examples to illustrate the how-to-write policy, and other pertinent information.

The channels of communication are wide open.

Every question or article suggestion will receive a prompt personal reply, with definite assignments, comments and suggestions. We need and value your ideas, criticisms and comments, and hope to have more candid input and contributions to the magazine from all of you. (*Editor's Note: Any and all comments or ideas from the ministry and lay members alike will be appreciated.*)

Before signing off I'd like to remind everyone that Mr. Armstrong is presenting the *Plain Truth* to kings and heads of state as a "magazine for world peace." That, in itself, should give us a pretty big clue as to subject matter and approach. We need to hold up his hands — make his job a little easier. And we can do it by making the *Plain Truth* a more effective and timely tool.

Are we all up for the task? I think we are. If you're not sure, just remember the words of Ben Franklin: "If we don't hang together, we'll hang you separately" (slightly paraphrased).

Please keep in touch.

— Art Ferdig

Media

TV AUDITION TAPE

This week the audition tape that will be used to promote the television program to station managers and representatives was completed. Mr. Armstrong, seated in the Television Studio master control room, opened with a brief statement of the program goals. This was followed by a sequence which briefly shows the worldwide scope and the type of organization backing Mr. Armstrong. Various excerpts from the 1973-74 season, including the Jew-Arab war, occult, oil crisis, death, and the Seattle campaign, were then shown.

Mr. Armstrong wrapped up the audition tape with a brief closing which conveyed to the station personnel that although categorized as "paid religion" by the industry, our program differs greatly. He made it emphatically clear that we are not the type of program that could be neatly tied into a package entitled "religion." We have none of the usual elements of paid religion, such as requests for money, sale of literature, altar calls, proselyting, public prayers, "religious" music, "healings," and our audience is never requested to join anything. However, if that particular station desires to use our program to fulfill their FCC

"public service" requirements, they may certainly do so. And, although the program is sponsored by the Worldwide Church of God, it is done in the public interest, with the main thrust of the program directed toward education.

Mr. Armstrong quickly referred to the various topics that we will be covering this year — including the crisis of moral character, the need of leadership, problems in city life, inflation, etc. The tape is about 22 minutes in length but is very fast moving and should make a good impression on station personnel. We hope this new tool will enable the Agency to obtain not only better times, but break into markets not previously available to us.

Production is now under way on an audio tape that will promote the radio program.

— John Lundberg

PROMOTION UPDATE

Station personnel and representatives of new target markets are presently being contacted for availabilities for once-a-week TV programming. We hope to obtain time slots on Saturday or Sunday adjacent to public affairs, news or sports programming.

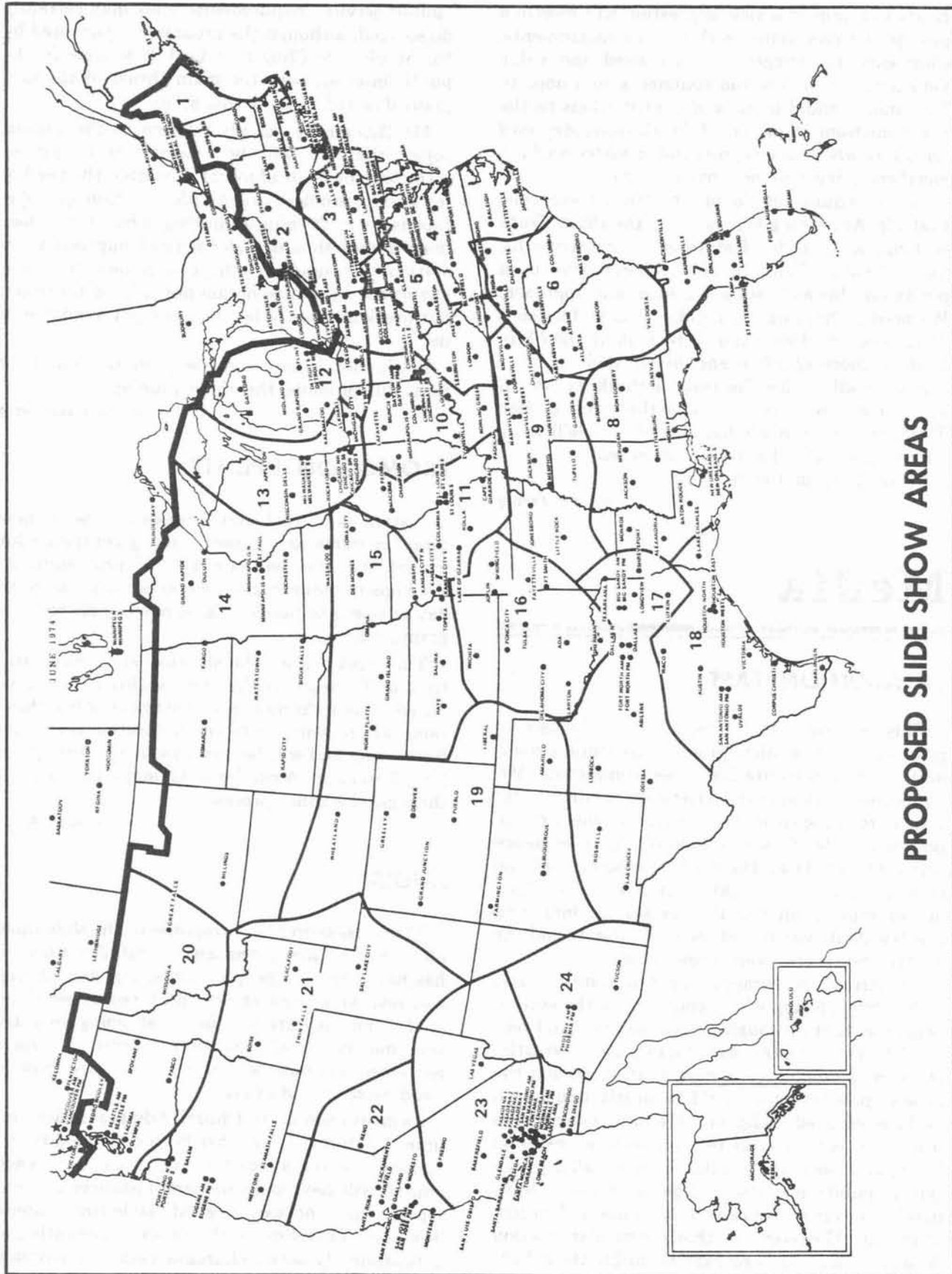
This week we will be showing key representatives of TV stations the video audition tape produced by our Promotion Department. Also, these tapes will be sent out to various station personnel for viewing and will be accompanied by new press kit information. A similar radio audio tape will go through the same process.

— John Amos

MEDIA

There has been heavy response to the slide show offerings and many requests to fill. Joe Clayton has had a crew of people numbering, assembling, and reviewing these shows and tapes to get them ready, and they are now in the shipping area. By the time you read this some of you who have requested programs will have at least one show in hand ready for showing.

As mentioned in the Church Administration column, a nationwide plan has been developed for all churches to see all shows. We realize that each church will have different circumstances impacting on when and why a certain slide show should be shown. Therefore, in the 24 areas, consisting of approximately seven churches each, we envision



PROPOSED SLIDE SHOW AREAS

one man in each area who would act as the *Slide Show Representative*. (Please see the accompanying map which shows the 24 church areas.) He would work with the group of seven churches, coordinate requests, and determine the routing of shows through the seven-church circuit. All of your communications regarding slide and film show scheduling would be with that local representative. The representative would in turn forward schedules and requests to Media Services at HQ.

If the program is instituted as developed, the option on whether or not to present these slide programs will be up to each man to decide — there is no obligation. The decision on whether to buy or rent equipment should be worked out locally with your slide show representative. He will have specifics on models, numbers, purchasing, and rental prices. He will answer questions on how to buy, repairs, maintenance of equipment and the like. It is planned that these programs would be shown on the Sabbath in lieu of a sermonette. You can see then that darkening the hall will be a definite consideration in many cases. Your slide show representative will have suggestions and recommendations covering many of these points.

It is going to take a little while to get an approved plan operational. For this reason, as I said earlier we are sending out some shows now — on a ONE TIME will basis, to fill these initial requests received.

These slide show programs will also need to be coordinated with the Ambassador College Slide Show Program, currently being circulated by Dr. Germano. We will try not to have shows sent in overlapping schedules.

The FARM show and the PRESS show are the two programs now ready for shipping. In progress is a TV show which will bring you behind the scenes showing how the GTA program is put together from inception of idea to finished tape. Also in the works is a GENERAL CAMPUS TOUR slide show. It will follow generally the same tour that is given to people visiting the college.

— Dan Ricker

BLIND DEPARTMENT

The Educational Service for the Blind, better known to us as the Blind Department, has recently been transferred to the Radio Production Department.

This is in no way a far out change since the

Blind Department's origin was in the Radio Department.

Mr. Hugh Mauck who has headed that Department for the last six years is still in charge of the recording of the master tapes, the duplicating, and the shipping of taped copies.

Besides handling the production of cassette tapes for the blind, Hugh Mauck's section will duplicate and ship lectures made in college classrooms to the field ministers. This will be done on a routine basis as special lectures are made available. Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong covered this in the last Bulletin. We will start sending you these cassette-taped lectures as soon as possible after the start of college classes this fall.

Regarding the announcement concerning Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's radio version of the Manila Campaign, if a nominal number of people in your church missed the first of that series which was played (on most U.S. stations) on July 21, and you would want to play it during a Bible study or Sabbath service, please let me know and we will send you a cassette copy of that first program.

— Frank Inglima

Personal Appearances

Greetings from Personal Appearances!

Lack of appreciation — or perhaps, thoughtlessness in not expressing appreciation — is one of the most common faults between people. In the campaign department, we deal with ministers and members from one end of the country to the other. And we don't want to be guilty of that fault.

Let me say, right here, THANK YOU for the help, *encouragement* and suggestions that we have received from so many of you during the past year. It would be absolutely impossible to do any of the campaigns without you. There are so many names we could mention, it would be futile to even try to develop a list. Each of us in the Personal Appearances Department can readily remember numerous ministers, deacons, and lay members who have especially helped us in performing our responsibilities from city to city.

So, where we have made *oversights*, please accept our apologies!

A telephone call with a local minister over the weekend prompted me to say something about this matter. He was concerned over what he felt was the lack of *communication* with his area and

lack of *appreciation* for the work he had done in preparing for a future campaign. (And it is no small contribution!)

I hope no one else is having to endure this same circumstance. If so, please do us a favor and give us a call. If there is *some way* that those of us in Personal Appearances can better serve you and your area, then by all means let us know!

We all believe that the most important individual to the ultimate success of the campaign for months before, during, and months after the program, is the local minister. If there is anything relative to a program which is going to *directly affect* the future and the eternity of individuals who will attend in your city, we're ready to listen.

So again, let me say, *thank you* for your help and continued support. We'll try to further improve the communication from here on out.

Meanwhile, we're continuing to schedule an entire program for 1975. Mr. Ted Armstrong is planning to take from seven to twelve campaigns during this next year, depending upon his schedule. We are also in the process of lining up auditorium contracts for the other speakers.

We could certainly use your help in initiating interest in booking a city. If there are any of you with whom we have not been in contact about a campaign for 1975, and you feel that we definitely should be planning a program for your area in the near future, *please call* or send a memo to that effect.

There is still time left in the scheduling for 1975, so we'll hope to hear from a number of you who have not as yet begun to plan for a campaign this next year.

In our effort to develop *free promotion* and publicity, we have found an almost unlimited source in local radio and television. Preceding the last several campaigns, the speakers have been appearing on a variety of radio and television programs which are geared for the local metropolitan area. The type of program we have found open to us ranges from the call-in talk show to the straight news-interview.

The purpose of the radio/television interviews is not just to bring people to that particular campaign, but to inform each of these cities concerning the Work of God: the broadcast, telecast, the *Plain Truth* magazine, the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College. As a result of these interviews, thousands and thousands of new people are introduced to Mr. Ted Armstrong and the Work.

Though most people listening to or watching these interviews do not generally attend the local

campaign, they are becoming more familiar with the work that we are doing and recognizing Mr. Ted Armstrong as a commentator on today's vital issues! And at *no cost* to us! The series of interviews that were conducted for the recent Cleveland campaign were worth approximately \$7,000 — if that time had been purchased to publicize the campaign and the Work.

The following is an excerpt from a radio personality in Cleveland, Ohio, representing his station:

"I was very pleased to have had you as my guest on the Tom Lippitt program on WERE Cleveland Radio. Your appearance created quite a bit of controversy and I am still receiving telephone calls and letters both pro and con.

"As you probably know, WERE is one of the few successful all-talk stations in the country.... WERE has a tremendous listening audience in the most influential age range and is at the top in popularity of all the other local stations.... I hope Mr. Armstrong will seriously consider returning the World Tomorrow as a regular daily program to WERE....

"I have asked my audience to let me know if they want Garner Ted Armstrong back on WERE and the response by mail and phone has been enormous!... P.S. — anytime that Garner Ted is in this area, he is welcome to appear on the Tom Lippitt program."

We thought you might be interested in the kind of response we are getting from some of these radio/TV interviews. The WN is preparing a major article on the campaigns, campaign preparation including radio/TV interviews, etc. So in a couple of weeks we hope to get quite a bit more information to you on some of the new developments in the Personal Appearance Program.

— Sherwin McMichael

Academic

PASADENA

The "accreditation edition" of the college catalog is to go to the press this week. The catalog I sent to you was the proof copy. There were a number of minor changes and errors that had to be corrected. The new edition should be available about the third week of August. Since the Pasadena campus will be accepting students for January, we hope you will encourage prospective students to obtain a new catalog and seriously consider applying.

ing a new airplane. Things being the way they are, I thought I should fill you in a little more on what we are doing. Over the years that we had it, the King Air was a tremendous blessing to the college. We owned the airplane for four years, flew it 1700 hours, and sold it at a price only 10 percent less than its original purchase price! As a result, we were able to pay cash for a light Cessna Twin 414 (at a fraction of the original cost of the King Air) which will still enable us to pick up the university presidents, the members of Parliament, secretaries of the Bundestag, and all the miscellaneous dignitaries that are sent to Big Sandy as part of our PR program.

A lot of you will also be picked up and flown to the Big Sandy campus by the new airplane — which incidentally is not new. The aircraft is a 1970 model and we feel we bought it at a very good price. It was in the paint shop, stripped of all its paint for a new paint job which the owner is throwing in as a part of the deal. Also, he is paying for half of a whole new interior in the plane. Operating costs for the Cessna are quite low and only run a little bit ahead of a Cessna 310. We feel this will be just as good an investment as the King Air. We had the choice of putting all of the money from the sale of the King Air into a savings account as a reserve and drawing interest on it, or putting part of the money into a much less expensive airplane and drawing use on it. After carefully considering our operation and need, and after consultation with Mr. Ted Armstrong, we opted for the latter course. The airplane can be sold in a matter of days at any time and the money used in the work if necessary. (We sold the King Air in three days.) Meanwhile, we have a very useful tool for the work.

As I explained in the Big Sandy church, selling the King Air was no sacrifice for me personally. Now, instead of grinding around the country in a noisy turbo-prop, I can sit back high in the sky with stereophones in my ears, while the stewardess is serving me a drink. This is a sacrifice? What was really sacrificed by the sale of the airplane was time. For example, on my recent trip to Winnipeg, I missed three working days at Big Sandy because we didn't have the King Air. I don't know how much three days of my time is worth to the college, but it seems to be worth something.

While I'm explaining airplanes, most of you realize that we have two small light planes on the campus — a Cessna QU 172 and a Cessna 150. We have, it seems, an inordinate number of private

and student pilots here on campus. Sometime ago there were all manner of plans and schemes for individuals to purchase ancient, rickety, old airplanes in order to fulfill a desire to fly — I am sure some of you understand what I mean. We sat down with pencil and paper and did a little figuring, and began to realize that there was no reason why we should have employees or students flying around in inadequate machinery when the college — at no cost to itself — could supply such aircraft. Therefore, on the condition that the aircraft paid for themselves, we purchased the two we now have. Both of them are in good shape, late models, and well maintained, therefore much safer. We charge a reasonable rental to employees and students who want to use them, and up until this point they are paying for themselves.

The Flight Training Program has actually been making money for the college. The ground school section which was taught by Mr. Frank Scherich, brought in tuition at the rate of \$30 per student per semester. It cost us nothing, as Mr. Scherich was already on salary. The 172 is at least breaking even, and the 150 is making money. Frankly, we just didn't see any point in selling them, and I'm disappointed that no one who has been critical of the airplanes has seen fit to come directly to me and ask about them — all the criticism I have heard has been third hand. If I may borrow a phrase from one of Bob Dylan's songs: "Don't criticize what you don't understand."

We now have made application to the federal government for permission to have foreign students attend college in Big Sandy. This is extremely important, as Big Sandy may be the only hope for a lot of the foreign students now that Bricket Wood is not available to them. The reason this is true is that Pasadena has no comparable work-study scholarship program like the one we have in Big Sandy. What we are hoping for is that the foreign offices who wish to recommend a student to come to the U. S. may be able to provide the necessary guarantees for the student to come here to study. By that I mean if the student has money for his transportation, and if the foreign office will vouch for him to the extent of the \$500 which we normally require, then the student can come here with very little money. We have the papers in the works, and will be letting you know what happens later.

So long for now.

— Ronald L. Dart

Did Peter Waldo Keep God's Sabbath?

Just a short introductory comment to this interesting paper by Mr. Lawson Briggs.

Some have felt it essential to claim the names of persons or groups in their church histories and to impute the exact doctrinal details of their own modern understanding to them, in order to fully "legitimize" themselves to themselves.

All this is an exercise in *futility*! The church today is authenticated by its own faith, doctrine and practice, not by who it claims descent from. Furthermore, *most* of what is available historically about our spiritual ancestors was written by *ENEMIES* of such people and therefore is sketchy, questionable, etc.

Some have placed great weight on whether or not Peter Waldo kept the Sabbath. The whole point is a total *ASIDE* to the Sabbath question — though perhaps historically "interesting" — and irrelevant one way or the other, either as to whether or not Waldo and his people were called and accepted by God, and therefore *in* God's Church, or as to whether we today should keep the Sabbath.

—Garner Ted Armstrong

by Lawson C. Briggs

A GREAT deal of confusion has existed in times past — especially among Sabbath keeping people — about our Christian predecessors, their doctrine and practice. Our knowledge of Waldo and the Waldenses is a prime example.

Peter Valdés (Waldo in English) first appeared in the public eye in southern France during the last half of the 12th century. Only sketches relating certain incidents of his life are known.

This much, however, we do know. The name "Waldenses" was coined and branded upon all those who from that time onward came forth *out of* paganized "Christianity."

Waldo and the Waldenses

Valdés was a leader in seeking a return to a purer form of "Apostolic" Christianity. But the work he started and led was divided very early into several separate groups. It was divided not

only by geography (because transportation and communication was slow,) but also by doctrinal points.

For instance, the Italian group, who in later times chiefly become known as "the Waldenses" whose descendants still exist today as a Protestant church, finally ejected Valdés from the position of leadership. His later work was in Germany and Bohemia.

In part, this doctrinal diversity stemmed from earlier groupings. There had been Petrobrusians, Henricians, Arnoldists, Speronists, etc. — to name just a few of the most significant parties. According to modern scholars and historians, and according to the popes and inquisitors of those times, the survivors of those earlier parties made common cause with Valdés and his earliest followers, the Poor Men of Lyons. Yet traces of their disparate origin did not disappear. Instead they became very

evident only slightly later among the Waldenses.

The sparse and sketchy accounts of Waldensian teachings and history do not always make it clear which group, or whether all, believed in a certain tenet or alleged "heresy." Apparently all of them, in marked and total contrast to the Catholic practice of taking the mass, kept, instead, the Passover — *annually*. They believed that God's law must be kept. They knew and practiced adult baptism following real repentance. The name of "Rebaptizers" appeared, therefore, *not* centuries later with the post-Reformation Ana-baptists, but with the earlier Waldenses.

Did they also keep God's Sabbath on the biblical seventh day of the week? Seventh Day Baptists, Seventh Day Adventists and others — especially in earlier decades — have affirmed that they did.

But what is the evidence?

It is sketchy! In the same place, geographically, and at the same time that the earliest Waldenses existed in Northwestern Italy (where Valdés moved from Lyons), there were people called Passagi or Passagini. These did keep the true Sabbath. They also kept *all* of God's annual Holy Days.

Were the Passagi a part of the Waldenses? It cannot be definitely proven that they were. On the other hand, neither has it ever been proven that they were not.

What other "evidence" has been brought forward?

Zapatati and Inzabbati

The earliest mentions of Waldenses — all, incidentally, written by enemies — agree that these "heretics" unanimously profaned and taught against the Catholic Church's festivals and special days. Yet they were most zealous in personal observance of the requirements of true Christianity. So some have assumed that they necessarily negated the Catholic Sunday while exalting and marking the Sabbath. Perhaps that is true. But actual *proof* is not easy to find.

It has often been assumed that Waldenses were Sabbath keepers because some of them were called Sabatati or Zapatati. (Another group were called the Inzabbati.) As early as 1194 Alphonse, king of Aragon, Barcelona and Provence, decreed severe penalties against these "Waldenses, Zapatati or Inzabbati" if they were found in his territory.

But these names should not be construed to indicate those people kept the Sabbath. If any

such meaning had been involved, it should be clear that IN-Zabbati would have meant "NOT Sabbath-keepers." But in actual fact, the terms had reference to the kind of sandal or shoe (French *sabot*, Spanish *zapato*, late Latin *sabbatum*) which they wore.

Some of the Waldenses wore shoes (sabots), but other groups went about with bare or exposed feet to exemplify the "apostolic poverty" which was widely regarded in that day as the true example of Jesus Himself. As a matter of fact, it was simply the normal, logical thing in that day to go about the hot, dusty roads of Judaea and Galilee in sandals or barefoot.

Later, when some of the Waldenses made peace with the pope and were accepted by him as officially organized groups within the Catholic Church in the years 1208 and 1210, they perpetuated the shoeless tradition. "We have elected to wear the modest religious garb to which we are accustomed," the 1208 groups told the pope, "*the shoes being cut away at the top and shaped in a special and distinct style, so that we will openly and clearly be recognized as separated in body as in heart from the Poor of Lyons [Valdés' original followers].*"

But in spite of their supposed change of heart and reconciliation to the Roman church, barely six months later the pope was accusing them of only making the first (Valdés') error worse.

"They allege," he wrote them, "that you have in no way at all changed the garb denoting that superstition which formerly caused scandal among Catholics. Furthermore, on account of your doctrinal instruction, which you deliver to your brethren and friends in your schools, many have been drawn away from the Church . . . take care to still the scandal which grows more serious because of the former garb which you still keep . . . in the future not to bind themselves to the custom of wearing *sandals open at the top* nor to wear such footgear . . ."

Another source account tells us: "But the lord pope accused them of certain unsound practices in their way of life, to wit, that they cut away the tops of their shoes and so walked about as if barefooted . . . But in their stead, the lord did authorize certain other who were becoming known under the name of 'the Lesser Poor' [the 1210 group]. These rejected the unsound and scandalous practices described above, but traveled completely barefoot both summer and winter . . ." (Wakefield and Evans, *Heresies of the High Middle Ages, Selected Sources Translated*

and Annotated, 1969, pages 226-229. Most of the previous basic information in this article may be found in this work).

But does this mean there is no evidence that Waldenses ever kept God's Sabbath? Not quite. But it involves Waldenses of somewhat later date.

The Sketchy Evidence

Modern Waldenses, those whose church and ancestors have long been settled in the so-called Waldensian valleys of the Cottian Alps in Lombardy, Italy, are today observers of Sunday. And they disclaim any suggestion that their ancestors ever kept the seventh day. It may be so. At any rate, their denial is not especially significant since there were others not in those valleys.

A papal bull of 1267 was addressed to the ruler of upper Burgundy "to arouse his zeal against 'the defenders of Waldensian heresy and certain adepts to Judaism, very numerous in his domains.' These adepts were called Judaizing Christians [not proselytes to Judaism] because they . . . wished to sanctify the Seventh Day in memory of the Mosaic Sabbath. . . . It was especially in the Jura and the mountains of Doubs that these Judaizers were to be found during the thirteenth century" (Newman, *Jewish Influence on Christian Reform Movements*, p. 403).

An inquisitorial record of 1391 states of the Waldenses in Poland that they "prayed on the seventh day" (Gordon Leff, *Heresy in the Later Middle Ages*, vol. 2, p. 464). Obviously this was a special observance of the day, for there would have been no reason for recording the fact of simple ordinary prayer.

Surely it was not without reason that Bossuet, the Catholic bishop of Meaux, wrote about 1700: "I conceive that the old Waldenses, who rejected all the festivals of the [Catholic] church, and went back to the original Sabbath, were much more consistent with themselves, than these gentlemen, the modern Protestants who, though they discard all the others, still retain the Dominical day" (quoted in Tamar Davis, *Sabbatarian Churches*, emphasis ours).

During the 15th century, a Waldensian ordination was involved in beginning the organization in Bohemia properly known as the Unity of the Brethren, and slanderously as Picards. Says the *Seventh-Day Adventist Bible Students Source Book*, item 1469, "They (the Picards, or Waldensian Brethren) do not celebrate the feasts of the divine Virgin Mary and of the Apostles;" says an old Latin record, 'some (observe) only the Lord's

day. Some indeed celebrate the Sabbath with the Jews.'"

Another report speaks of Sabbathkeepers burned at Toulouse in 1492. And one other Waldensian influence seems logical. After Luther nailed his challenge to Rome to the church door, there were Sabbathkeepers among the "Anabaptists" who then also dared take a stand.

God's Responsibility and the Christian's

So what shall we say? Just this: It is God's responsibility to bring His Sabbath to the attention of those whom He calls. And it is possible for a person to be totally sincere and dedicated to the service of God and never yet have had the Sabbath truth made plain to him or her! If God, for reasons of His own — much more valid than any human reasoning we might have about it — has chosen never in a person's lifetime to reveal it, that is His business. We cannot justifiably say that a person was not of God simply because he did not know which day belonged to God — especially if his or her life strongly indicates the contrary.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong has understood and acted on this principle for many years. Mr. Armstrong has even baptized — on simply being convinced of a person's genuine repentance and willingness to obey whatever was later shown to be God's command — before the knowledge of the true Sabbath was given.

One person I know of was a member of my own family who, after baptism, did exactly as Mr. Armstrong expected. A simple hint was given, as Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong departed, to write for the booklet *Which Day Is the Sabbath of the New Testament?* As a result the Sabbath was studied, proven — and then kept.

But knowledge is one thing; acting on such knowledge is another. Let's not allow ANYONE to have excuse for asking for baptism, knowledgeably, but with secret or subconscious intent to continue with a "Sunday" organization.

God can call to repentance and even grant His Holy Spirit placing one in His spiritual church before He reveals His Sabbath. The significant factor is the person's willingness to step out and keep it when He does reveal it.

Sabbath breaking is a sin, like murder, stealing, adultery, etc. In the Old Testament it was punishable by death for those Israelites who disobeyed the commandment. It *must* be repented of as soon as realized and discovered. □

OPEN FORUM

CLARIFICATION OF POLICY: As previously stated, the need for this section of *The Bulletin* became very apparent after the May conference. OPEN FORUM was created to *continue* the same give-and-take discussions conducted during the doctrinal forums and communication workshops.

In OPEN FORUM you can present ideas and suggestions on any topic — whether exhortation, ideas for sermons, new ways of expounding the Bible, methods for improving various aspects of the conduct of your ministry, hints on successful management practices, etc., etc., etc. OPEN FORUM was never intended to be a “gripe column” or anything of that nature, although we do want people to *feel free* to express constructive criticism and philosophical points of view, even though they might be construed by some as “controversial.”

This is *your* OPEN FORUM. This is *your* opportunity to share some of your experiences, study, and observations with others. By expressing yourself in OPEN FORUM you are giving hundreds of fellow ministers and managers the benefit of your knowledge and experience — like iron sharpening iron. We want OPEN FORUM to be stimulating, thought-provoking — a vehicle through which *constructive* ideas can be born.

Over 900 people are currently receiving *The Bulletin*. *Everyone* has something to contribute. We're asking you to literally inundate us with material!

You don't have to think up some “new idea.” Rather, tell us what you've thought and preached about for years. By the way, some of us have humorously remarked that there is a missing dimension in OPEN FORUM — the Bible! Seriously, please share with others *your* fresh approaches to *foundational* doctrine, exhortational sermons, etc.

We've hardly even begun to explore the potential of OPEN FORUM. So please send us your contribution. Feel free to contribute as much and as many times as you like. We know you're all busy, but think how many will profit from the comparatively short amount of time you'll spend putting something together. Looking forward to hearing from all of you soon.

— Richard H. Sedliacik

THANKFUL TO BE GOD'S MINISTER

Because of the nature of my job, it has been years since I last sat down to discuss the truth with a brand new “prospective.” This morning Joe Tkach and I had an appointment to do just that, but my hopes were dim as the time for the interview neared for two or three ministers in the Los Angeles basin have recently told me about the high percentage of weirdos and weakies in their first time visits.

In spite of my forebodings the PM was warm, honest and candid. There was no sparring on her part — only eager openness. She launched immediately into frank discussion of her pressing problems. Not just to gab and expose, she wanted to find real, practical, scriptural answers. She was willing to receive instruction. Here was a woman eager to learn just what God wants her to do.

Only a short time ago she was about to give up on all religion. She had been distressingly confused. She had studied all kinds of religions from strictest protestantism to such things as Science of Mind. No one had been able to give her the real answer to life. Their insufficiencies left her bewildered and near despair — ready to quit it all. Then the Truth came winging into her life via *The World Tomorrow*. The scales began to drop from her eyes, her ears could hear, her mind began to understand. God had turned on her mind and she has been gobbling up the Truth as fast as possible ever since. She reads and studies the literature — she has mounds of it. She has been changing dramatically and consistently. She wanted, needed personal ministerial contact.

Her husband, with no religious orientation, thinks her latest and newest “fling” is very odd. But she learned early from us that she should not

press him. She's been *doing* — just letting her light shine. He only tolerates her, but her child willingly goes along. They have given up Christmas and Hallowe'en. The explanation makes sense even to an eight-year-old. Their lives are changing and becoming full as they cram all sorts of "new" information into their living. Bible study enthalls her. She recognizes and submits to the goodness of God's law. From ham to Sabbath it is all just simply great!

The enthusiasm of this woman caused my mind to flash back to the time when God's Truth was flooding into my mind. When I began to turn right side up. When the great, painfully aching void in my life began to fill with the solidness of spiritual reality. It was, and remains, a supremely wonderful experience. Now — this morning — I was having my part in doing what Ken Swisher, Raymond Cole, Carlton Smith and others did for me nearly twenty years ago.

I'm a minister of the Living God. Called to deal with little lambs hungrily approaching the milk of the Word. What a satisfying and fulfilling occupation. Thank God!

— Clint C. Zimmerman
Pasadena

THE IMPACT OF MR. ARMSTRONG'S WORLD TRIPS

Recently, while my wife and I were discussing the subject of "faith," a scripture came to mind which I thought you might find interesting in connection with Mr. Armstrong's visits to nations and heads of state around the world.

The scripture is Matthew 17:20 — "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

We all recognize that the great lesson Christ was pointing out in this verse is that when we have even a *little* faith, nothing is impossible — not even moving massive mountains or surmounting impossible tasks. In quoting this verse, Christ, no doubt, was referring to a literal mountain. But, as we know, in Bible symbolism a mountain can represent a kingdom, government, or nation.

With this thought in mind, it seems that today this verse is being fulfilled in a symbolic sense — *mountains are being moved*. Through faith and prevailing prayer on the part of Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Ted Armstrong, all the ministers, and the entire Church, vast doors are being opened to reach the governments ("mountains") of the world.

The word "move" can mean "to impel, rouse, excite, influence."

In Mr. Armstrong's meetings with heads of state and world leaders, nations and governments are being influenced and moved. This is being accomplished by God in answer to our prayers and associated faith.

If we apply the principle of this verse to contacting world leaders, then faith, indeed, as a grain of mustard seed, is moving mountains.

If a *little* faith can accomplish such wonders, what far reaching works we can expect in the future when the Church has grown and matured in greater faith?

I am not drawing conclusions in any of this, or trying to force an unnatural meaning out of a scripture — just sharing a thought you might find interesting.

— Richard Rice
MPC Manager, Pasadena

IMPORTANT TIPS FOR INTERESTING BIBLE STUDIES

I believe there is a way God's ministers can become much more effective in Bible studies, sermons, article writing, etc.

Recent comments from both ministers and laymen indicate that the average Bible study is not as interesting as it could be.

Obviously, the Bible studies should primarily be just that — studies centered around the *Bible*. Church members can read their Bibles at home. They go to the Bible studies hoping the Minister will be able to give them a deeper insight into a book, chapter, verse, doctrine etc. The Minister, as a professional man, should have more time to study the Scriptures technically, and should be able to weave various scriptures together in a harmonious, relevant and meaningful way — which will make the Bible more meaningful.

Sparking up Bible Studies: Why are Bible studies sometimes not as interesting as they ought to be? One reason is that many ministers have not learned how to wisely spend their "spare time" in reading valuable material to keep up with the latest interesting news items and current events. A minister can use this stimulating material to spark up the Bible study.

Personally, it has been seldom that I have ever experienced a dearth of material to spark up my Bible studies. (I may not always have used that information as effectively as possible — though various one remarked that time whizzed by quickly during my recent Bible studies here at HQ. I hope this indicated interesting Bible studies.)

The average layman does *not* have as much time to devote to reading current news magazines and other material as his minister. The congregation will therefore appreciate any assistance the minister can give in keeping them updated on world news, its significance to Bible prophecy, doctrinal and other biblical matters.

We must help God's Church "watch" world conditions and help them keep abreast of the "signs of the times." But how can this best be done?

A Simple Filing System: Here is one suggestion which may help you. Over the years I have developed a *filing system* which is quite *simple*, yet *comprehensive* enough for just about everyone — ministers, writers, teachers.

My personal filing system is divided into two parts: 1) Firstly, I have a simple index entitled "Nations & Organizations." This includes *major nations* like Russia, Japan, W. Germany, etc. which I feel I might like to have a file on, and it also includes *major organizations* like the Common Market (now more properly filed under "Economic Community"), NATO, etc. I include certain areas under one title such as "Mideast" or "Africa — General". This latter title indicates that I have a *general* file on Africa, though I also have separate files on such African nations as Egypt and the Republic of South Africa, etc.

2) The *second* part of my file is a "General File" or a "General Index" — for subjects such as Alcoholism, Evolution, Humour, Medicine, Occultism, Religion, Science, Smoking, War & Weaponry — to mention a few.

When I have an interesting article or newspaper clipping which I have saved, I always write in capital letters the basic title or subject under which I wish to file this article. This makes it easy for filing and also for retrieving from the file for use in a Bible study, sermon, article, class, etc.

The initials "N.F." after a title means that there is *NO FILE* under that particular heading.

If you don't already have a good filing system, you may wish to adapt my filing system (which follows) to your own particular needs. Hopefully many of you will find it helpful.

Wise Reading and Marking: As a minister I think you can become much more effective if you will subscribe to at least *two news magazines* (like *U.S. News*, *Time*, *Newsweek*) and a good daily *newspaper*. You will also be able to pick up interesting issues of other magazines from time to time.

Then you need to learn to *read fairly rapidly*. (Nearly everyone can learn to read more rapidly and more effectively if they are willing. I recently increased my reading speed — with good compre-

hension — from about 270 w.p.m. to over 400 — in just one speed-improvement lesson!) Also, you need to learn to read the types of articles and books which will be of real value to you — articles which are edifying or will build up your fund of usable knowledge. Many squander a lot of valuable time reading material which is of little worth — and is in many instances almost a total waste of time. We can only read so many articles, books etc. in any given time span, so we must choose our reading material wisely.

One additional hint. Learn how to *intelligently mark* any article or book which you read. You can then pick out the main points at a quick glance.

Then if you will write your own title of the article in block capital letters at the top of the page (e.g. "CRIME") this will make it easy to know where to file each article.

Additionally, I put big capital letters S-F (which I encircle) at the top of any article that may have *special value* in a future sermon, Bible study or article — which I hope to write. Then I file these "S-F" articles in a "Special File" for quick, easy access.

Summary: In conclusion here are the main points which I would like to leave with you: 1) If you don't have a good *filing system* for articles, then set one up immediately. You may wish to adapt the filing system in this Bulletin for your own personal needs.

2) Subscribe to at least *two good weekly news magazines*, and find a way to squeeze in enough time to read those articles which have real value — articles which will give you stimulating ideas for Bible studies, sermons, writing articles, etc.

3) Learn to *read more rapidly* and also learn to quickly *mark* the articles which you read so you can readily file them for future use.

Included in this Bulletin is a reproduction of the "filing system" or "filing index" which I have developed over the years. I hope many of you will find it of help.

You should also develop an effective way to mark articles for instant use in a Bible study or sermon, but whatever system you use must be one *you* can use effectively — a system which will enable you to grab the main ideas of the article at a quick glance.

Remember, you need never have a dull, *rigor-mortis* Bible study if you keep your mind active — if you constantly read and mark a number of interesting, timely articles which you can use to drive home a point with force and color, using a more dramatic approach than the usual boring,

hum-drum way in which all too many of us have conducted studies in the past.

You, too, can have more *interesting* Bible studies — if you are willing to really work at it!

GENERAL FILES

AGRICULTURE, ALCOHOLISM, ANIMALS, ANTI-SEMITISM (See also JUDAISM), ARTS, ARTICLES — Important, ARTICLES — Suggestions for, ASSEMBLIES & FORUMS, AVIATION *N.F. (See SPACE), BIOGRAPHIES N.F. (See PEOPLE)

CHARACTER, CITIES, COMMUNICATIONS (See also TV & RADIO), COMMUNISM (See also SOCIALISM), CRIME, VICE & DELINQUENCY

DEATH, DEMONISM N.F., (See OCCULTISM), DISASTERS — Natural, DISASTERS — Man-made, DRUGS N.F. (See Medicine)

ECONOMICS & FINANCE (See also TAXES), EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & JOBS, ENTERTAINMENT (See also SPORT), EVOLUTION

FAMILY RELATIONS, FAMINE, FASHION & CUSTOM, FEMINISM N.F. (See WOMEN'S LIB), FILING SYSTEM, FOOD & DIET GOVERNMENT (See also TAXES)

HISTORY — American, HISTORY — British, HISTORY — General, HUMANISM N.F. (See LIBERALISM), HUMAN NATURE N.F. (See PSYCHOLOGY), HUMAN RELATIONS N.F. (See PSYCHOLOGY), HUMOUR

INDEXES, INDUSTRY

LABOUR RELATIONS & UNIONS, LANGUAGE & GRAMMAR, LAW, LEADERSHIP & SUCCESS, LIBERALISM & HUMANISM, LOST TRIBES — Identity of

MEDICINE: Abortions, Dentistry, Doctors, Drugs — medical, Health & Hygiene, History, Miscellaneous, Obstetrics, Psychology, Radiation & X-rays, Sickness & Disease — Mental, Sickness & Disease — Physical, Surgery, Transfusions, Vaccines, MISCELLANEOUS — General, MONARCHY, MUSIC

NAZISM & FASCISM, NEWS — General OCCULTISM & DEMONISM

PEACE (See also WAR), PEOPLE — Important, PEOPLE — Others, PERSECUTION N.F. (See RELIGION & PRESS), PHILOSOPHY N.F. (See MEDICINE — Psychology), POLLUTION — Air, Food, Water, POPULATION GROWTH & CONTROL, POLITICS, PRESIDENCY, PRESS (See also RELIGION — Persecution), PSYCHOLOGY N.F. (See MEDICINE), PUBLIC SPEAKING

RACE, RELIGION: Atheism & Agnosticism, Bible Criticism, Bible — General, Catholicism — General, Clergy N.F. (See Ministers), Doctrines, Judaism (See also ANTI-SEMITISM), Ministers, Priests, Rabbis, Other Christian Denominations, Non-Christian Religions, Persecution (See also PRESS), Protestantism — General, Misc.,

SCIENCE: Anthropology N.F. (See Paleontology), Archaeology, Astrology N.F. (See OCCULT-

ACTUALLY OVERHEARD

Here is a new feature for your entertainment and perhaps your enlightenment! This is your chance to participate ala "They'll Do It Everytime" by Jimmy Hatlo. We've all overheard statements that are comical. Sometimes they are sad or acidic commentaries. The cartoon to the right is an example.

If you have overheard — or perhaps made — comical statements by various people with whom you have come in contact, please submit it to "Actually Overheard." We'll give you credit. (Unless you prefer to remain anonymous!)

Sometimes we can learn by laughing at ourselves.



"Is he finished yet, Dad?"

"Yes, son, he just hasn't stopped yet"

— Thanx to Mr. Wayne Cole!

ISM), Astronomy, Biology, Geology, Meteorology — Weather, Miscellaneous, Paleontology & Anthropology, SEX & MORALS (See also CRIME), SOCIALISM (See also COMMUNISM), SMOKING, SPACE & AVIATION, SPECIAL FILE, SPORT (See also ENTERTAINMENT) TAXES (See also GOVERNMENT), TELEVISION (TV), TRANSPORTATION WAR & WEAPONRY, WOMEN'S LIB, WRITING

*N.F. = No File

NATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

AFRICA — General (See also REP. of S.A.), AMERICA *N.F. (See U.S.), ARABS — General (See MIDEAST), ASIA — General, AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
BRITAIN, BRITISH COMMONWEALTH (See COMMONWEALTH) N.F.
CANADA, CENTRAL AMERICA, CHINA, COMMON MARKET N.F. (See Economic Community), COMMONWEALTH, ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, EGYPT (U.A.R.), EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION (EFTA), EUROPE — East(ern), EUROPE — General
FRANCE
GERMANY, GREECE
INDIA & PAKISTAN, INDOCHINA, INDONESIA & MALAYSIA, ISRAEL, ITALY
JAPAN
MALAYSIA N.F. (See INDONESIA), MIDDLE EAST — General (See ARABS), MISCELLANEOUS
NATO N.F. (See TREATIES)
PERSIAN GULF (IRAN, KUWAIT, IRAQ etc.)
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA, RUSSIA
SCANDINAVIA, SEATO N.F. (See TREATIES), SOUTH AMERICA — General, SOVIET UNION N.F. (See RUSSIA), SPAIN & PORTUGAL, SPECIAL FILE
TREATIES (NATO, SEATO etc.), TURKEY
UNITED NATIONS (UNO), U.S. (USA), UNITED STATES OF EUROPE (See also COMMON MARKET), USSR N.F. (See RUSSIA)
VATICAN

— Raymond F. McNair
PT Senior Editor, Pasadena

THE FINE LINE BETWEEN TRUTH AND ERROR

True or False? Human nature is man's worst enemy. The auto is America's greatest problem. Man misuses his tongue more than anything else.

Never before have there been so many divorces. Crime is at an all-time high.

If you think any of these statements are true -- totally true -- you're mistaken. Though all are basically false without further clarification, it would be difficult to prove absolutely that any of the above statements are categorically false. Yet daily we all tend to inject such unprovable, over-generalized, dogmatic comments into our speech and writing.

Generally, people are the most dogmatic about things they know and understand the least. (Even the preceding statement may be an over-generalization.) Many tend to conclude their oversimplified, categorical statements with phrases such as: "clearly evident," "undoubtedly," "without question," "beyond the shadow of a doubt," "so simple a child could understand it," "crystal clear," etc.

Sometimes we may think: "Intellectuals, especially Ph.D's, theologians, and psychologists, are wishy-washy and never speak with real authority. They are always writing about 'probablys,' 'Maybes,' and using such cowardly verbs as 'seems,' 'appears,' 'might be,' 'tends,' etc. I'm going to be different. Whatever I say or write will exude self-assuredness, certainty, authority, etc." Unfortunately, this dogmatic approach can make you look foolish in the eyes of discerning listeners and readers if you're not exceedingly careful. As Richard Altick says in *Preface to Critical Reading*, "Dogmatism... has no place in genuinely intelligent discussion. The dogmatic writer or speaker is using devices of style to forestall doubt" (p. 316).

In fact a healthy skepticism and a determination to grasp the real meaning and intent of a person's statements are marks of a discerning, educated listener or reader. This type of individual will constantly be thinking about the meaning of the words of others. When reading or listening, he will ask such questions as: "Says who? Does he really know what he's discussing? What is his motive for saying that? Is he even qualified to have an opinion concerning this?"

However, a person shouldn't jump on the bandwagon with hardened cynics and agnostics either, declaring such things as: "You can't really prove anything, religion is all a muddle; history is merely prejudicial interpretations of perverted scholars; and you can't believe a thing the government ever says."

The Bible has some sound advice for those who tend to disbelieve everything and reject any new suggestion, idea, or truth and also for those who swallow everything they hear or read from certain

individuals. It says to prove all things and hold tightly to whatever is proved worthy of retaining. It points out that a person who is truly open-minded will check all the facts. Concerning theological matters, it records how the Bereans searched the scriptures daily to see whether the strange new religious pronouncements they were hearing were really accurate and provable. Their attitude was not one of ridiculing, condemning, and belittling, but was one of searching, questioning, seeking, evidence, testing, and obtaining all the facts openmindedly.

There is a fine line between truth and exaggeration, between an accurate statement and a grossly distorted statement. Often a little word or phrase such as "one of," "tends," "many of," or "generally" can be the difference between truth and error. Refer to the statements in the first paragraph. The first two statements could be entirely justified if the words "one of" were inserted (i.e., human nature is one of man's worst enemies). The statement about divorce needs additional clarification. The writer, upon checking his facts, might accurately claim: "Since 1941 when California authorities began recording the total number of reported divorces and marriages in the state each year, there was never in California a higher ratio of divorces to marriages as there was in 1973."

I would like to suggest that we all begin to walk the line between truth and error with better balance and discretion. Let's begin to be aware of our human tendency to overgeneralize, exaggerate and leave out qualifying words. Let's strive to be totally truthful and technically accurate in all that we speak or write.

— Jim E. Leo
Copy Editor, Plain Truth
Pasadena

WHAT'S WRONG WITH "AMBASSADOR COLLEGE QUALITY"?

Recently, I had a "meaningful" experience. I was in search of a simple barbell for home use. I didn't want to pay costly shipping charges by ordering it through the mail so I decided to go directly to the West Coast offices of the manufacturer and purchase it there.

The world of weight training has produced two rather fairly large Barbell companies — York and Weider. Each is a fairly old company, steeped in esoteric philosophy and tradition. Each has its unique sales pitch and each has essentially the same products to offer — exercise equipment, food supplements and courses. But that's where the similarity ends!

My wife and I went out to the Woodland Hills industrial park where the Weider organization has its headquarters. We were dazzled by the glittering quality we found. Weider had purchased a large, modern building with a large glassed in reception area. Inside, we found full-length, high-quality oil paintings of current physique contest winners. Trophies glistened from within fine display cases strategically located in the main foyer. We even saw some bronze statues of the president, Joe Weider, standing atop high quality wood stands. Everything glistened with quality. The products were beautifully displayed and attractively packaged and presented. Unfortunately, they did not have what we were looking for due to an iron shortage.

So we were obliged to go to the West Coast Headquarters of the rival organization, York Barbell Company. They were located in one of the less desirable sections of downtown Los Angeles. A dilapidated sign on the side of a run down, rather ancient looking building announced that we had found our destination. As I drove into the parking lot I had to avoid the broken glass and the chuckholes. We peered through the murky glass of the front door and saw a few shadowy figures moving around inside. We suspected life.

As we entered the rather barren "Show room," a tragically small display of dusty cans of hi-protein greeted us from behind the cashier's desk. A small, seemingly frail, young man greeted us and asked if he might help us. I thought to myself, "You look like you could use some help yourself, fella!" Fortunately, they still had some barbells in stock. The shortage had not yet hit them as it had the Weider organization. Perhaps that is because they sold so very little due to their obviously inferior presentation and public image.

I was really disappointed, and a little depressed that an organization as old as York could not do better when it came to selecting a location for their West Coast representative — and that they had not selected representatives who represented what their company stood for — robust good health and vibrant muscularity.

Needless to say, the contrast between the two organizations was dramatic. I was *far* more impressed with the Weider facilities than with those of York.

I couldn't help but think about our own organization. I thought of the three Ambassador College campuses with their soaring architecture, the carefully manicured lawns and grounds, the art objects, and the excellent facilities with which we have been blessed — and I thought to myself,

"that's GREAT!" That's the way it *should* be! I like our buildings. I appreciate "Ambassador College quality" — I believe it reflects the character of God Himself.

Now, if I can only get my own character and Christianity to match the quality of the buildings....

— Brian Knowles
GN Managing Editor
Pasadena

MINISTERIAL Update

(Continued from page 360)

for a missing check. It was noticed that he was contributing a certain amount per check to the building fund, but there were six to eight times when the entire amount was recorded as first tithe — over \$100 that should have been credited as building fund. He mentioned that his secretary sends his tithe check for him and had apparently failed to give a breakdown of amounts at those times.

3. Some members send money for both the building fund and the House for God, thinking they are separate funds. We've had several occasions when three separate breakdowns have been given on one check — building fund, pledge, and House for God. They are all really the same account.
4. A few have sent their "tithes" requesting that all or part of it be used for the building fund, not realizing that the first tithe goes into a separate fund. In such a case we must credit the entire amount to "first tithe and offering."

No doubt the mention of these problems to the members will bring an enthusiastic willingness on their part to iron them out. They are not major, but the little bit of extra help each member can give us when he sends in a donation will help us maintain their donation records more accurately. We appreciate very much the loyalty and tremendous support our members give to God's Work!!

— Richard Rice

LETTER COMMENTS

The letter comments for this issue concern membership reaction to the cutbacks in the Work. Several special offerings have been sent and it is obvious from the many letters that a number of the members are making extra sacrifices at this

time. Many seem saddened that we are making the cuts, but those who are writing *are behind* the Work and the Armstrongs.

There is one area concerning the cutbacks that many disagree with and have begged us to reconsider. That involves the proposed sale of the G-II. Comments such as, "Save the airplanes," and "Please not the planes" were common. Also, at least five persons sent special offerings toward saving the planes. Following are some of the letters we've received.

REACTION TO RECENT CUTBACKS

Sacrifices to Help the Work

"Please accept the enclosed check. *I figure the Work needs the money more than I need a motorcycle. This offering is to be used wherever needed."

— Douglas Schrader
Benkelman, Nebraska

*A check for \$650 was sent for the Work.

Sorry About Cutbacks

"I have felt very badly that there have had to be some cutbacks made recently in the Work. I realize this doesn't mean the Gospel will not continue as usual, but I hope this gift* will help out somewhere in the Work during this difficult time. My prayers are with you all who do God's Work."

— Mrs. H. R. Eady
Birmingham, Alabama

*A \$200 donation was enclosed.

Returns Thanks

"I am in total agreement with you. Your letter really brought home to me the importance of sacrificing for the Work. I did exactly what you asked us to do — getting down on our knees and praying to God for His mighty help. I am confident that this Work (God's Work) will grow even more strong and powerful!

"You thanked us for our hope, our faith, our loyalty, and our own 'spirit of sacrifice for the sake of God's Work!' Well, please let me add the following — Thank YOU (and all those at headquarters), for YOUR hope; YOUR faith; YOUR loyalty, and YOUR own spirit of sacrifice for the sake of God's Work! The AWESOME responsibility that you and others directly involved in God's Work must carry is a great one, indeed.

"My only regret is that I am unable to send in more. Thank you for your letter. It has filled me with much increased enthusiasm and zeal for the Work. Keep up the good work!

— Ricardo Magdaleno
Merced, California

Tightens Her Own Belt

"Thank you for telling us about the 'belt tightening' in the Work. Even though we knew it must come, it was a shock to learn how quickly these things are coming upon us.

"I did as you asked and here is my sacrifice to the Work — my own belt tightening — and I am most grateful to our great God for giving me this blessing; that I am able to give. If everyone gives with a pure heart I know God will be pleased with His children, and nothing can stop us from doing His Work."

Mrs. Sophia T. Karr
Bronx, New York

Couple Also Has to Cut Back

"We have just read the latest letter, in which you announce the moves that need to be made in order to cope with inflation. We have made similar moves to cut back, cut out, to limit our expenses as best we can. All that is left now is to ask God to help us all to do our best for His Work."

— Mr. & Mrs. Eric Anderson
Evergreen Park, Illinois

For a More Resolute Battle

"This \$200 check is in response to your current letters, which demonstrated to us the urgency in this last brief gun lap of the Work — and our individual need to wage a more resolute battle to demonstrate our position to a lukewarm, vacillating world."

— Mr. & Mrs. Ward Hartzell
Mountlake Terrace, Washington

Overjoyed That Work Has Grown Spiritually

"At Sabbath services yesterday, I heard a tape that you recently made concerning the budgeting of the Work and on sacrificing for it. While certain changes or cutbacks may be made, I am overjoyed at how the Work has grown in spiritual knowledge and that the revised budget will be used with even greater effectiveness to reach people worldwide as a witness, as well as in providing spiritual meat for those who are and are being called by God.

"I count it a joy to be used by God, and after listening to your taped sermon, it makes me want to sacrifice to a greater degree — and to pray daily that God would give you and your father added strength and protection to carry out the immense physical duties that both of you shoulder."

— Mr. Gary Fox
Baltimore, Maryland

All Are Affected

"This is the very first time that I am writing to you. I always write to your father, but always send the very best wishes for you and your family; but this time I thought I would write to you, just to say thank you for your letter because it does really make all of us part of the Work. When there is growth and joy all of us rejoice, and when there is trouble, we all are troubled, because being part of the Work means whatever affects God's Work it affects each and everyone of us.

"It is regrettable to hear the planes have to be sold, which helps the Work and the ministry so much; but God until now He has provided means for His Work, we also pray that He will continue providing.

"Mr. Armstrong, I don't want to take any of your time which is needed for the Work, but I had to say thank you. I hope our prayers will be heard by God and at least one of the planes will be kept, because I shiver to think of Mr. Armstrong traveling in commercial planes around the world.

"It was very encouraging to hear the tape of the Manila campaign, and to read later that at least one thousand will attend Bible study there. Thank God for having in the Work such a man as your father. We are behind the Work all the way. May God protect and watch all His servants all around the world."

— Mrs. Burl Taylor
Kennard, Texas

Glad To Sacrifice

"Kindly accept this \$10 as an offering for the Work, to help meet the commitments we have after reading my letter from Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong of the cutbacks. I'm only too glad to sacrifice this money for the Work, even though at this very moment I'm unemployed.

"Many are losing their jobs. But I know God will direct me to another one. Therefore, continue getting God's truth of the Kingdom to come to the people, for the spiritual is more important and nourishing than the physical food. And the people are fed up with the false promises of the government and the Churches. They are really hungering for a new way and life and it's up to us to show them where it's at."

— Mrs. Virginia Starkes
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Hopes Her "Widow's Mite" Will Help

"I have received the newsletter from Garner Ted Armstrong in which he outlined the seriousness of conditions caused by inflation, and the need to cut

afforded much protection from hijackers and/or saboteurs.

"Isn't there some way you could figure out to keep it? What if you had to go some place quickly in December? You might have to wait at least a week before you could get reservations on a commercial flight. I pray God will help you find a way."

— Mrs. Cheryl Rath
Phoenix, Arizona

Deeply Shocked

"I was deeply shocked to once again hear that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong might have to fly commercial airlines in his Gospel preaching commission to this world. I just cannot see Mr. Herbert W. waiting in airports for a ride to anywhere in the world where the Gospel might be preached. I should say I do not want to see it come to that."

— David M. Cheslin
Huntington Beach, California

Maybe we Can Sacrifice More

"Here is a special \$25 sacrifice offering. It's not a large amount — but, I pray others will contribute amounts, too — small and large. Maybe if others feel as I do (and I'm sure they do from everyone I've talked to) just maybe we can pitch in even more so Mr. Armstrong won't have to sell the G-2. We realize God can take care of him, however, wherever he goes. But it's so handy for him not to have to rely on the commercial planes that get high-jacked once in a while (of course God's protection is with him and we pray for it all the time, and for Garner Ted, too). Keep letting us know how things are and when you feel we should dispose of some property for the Work's sake and things like that. You keep informing us and we'll keep trying harder and prayer more."

— Mrs. Francine Forney
Brush Prairie, Washington

Don't Sell Plane!

"I have been extremely upset about world conditions and our U.S.A. in particular. But now that it is affecting God's Church, we brethren feel a very deep concern.

"Since hearing the tape at our church last Sabbath, by Garner Ted, I'm more than a little concerned. The closing of Imperial schools is too bad, but I'm sure the parents and children affected by it will take it in stride and readjust to the new way of schooling, and even to the threat of drug abuse and all the other things that go on in the worldly schools. The dismissals and reassignments will

adversely affect many lives, but they too, with God's help, will I'm sure come through this crisis with flying colors.

"We in this area have adjusted to having Church every other week and to the great distance we have to travel to get there. I go 340 miles round trip, and am so thankful to have a church to attend.

"But it is unthinkable that you, Mr. Armstrong should have to ride a commercial airline to get your messages to people all over the world. Certainly you merit the convenience and luxury of a private plane with the facilities to do your work en route and to avoid the harassment you would encounter at times on a commercial plane, and maybe even danger.

"If there's just anything we brethren can do to prevent this from happening (I'm sure the rest feel as I do), we would be only too happy to help in any way we would be called on. I'm sure God with His all encompassing wisdom will not allow this to happen."

— Mrs. Clyde Merrill
Buffalo, Wyoming

Not "Commercial"

"There has been some talk of you selling the G-2 and also the Falcon. I have been praying about this and I don't think God would want to have you travel on commercial flights, or your son either. If it were necessary, we should set up a special fund for the upkeep and expense of these planes. But I don't think this should be necessary because your travel is such an important part of God's Work that we would all want to continue to support all of your Work financially from a common 1st tithe fund. It is really the big part of God's Work, so keep those two planes and keep on using them in this Great Work for Almighty God!"

— Willard E. Henry
Dennison, Ohio

"A Volunteer Group of 'Flyers' "?

"While I realize that due to inflation there has to be a certain amount of cutting the Work's budget, I do not like the aviation cut. I want our spiritual leader, Mr. Herbert Armstrong, to fly in his old accustomed manner and style. The best plane, pilots and crew, room for his advisors and any guests he chooses.

"How about a special group of 500 or 1000 members who will pledge enough monthly to restore the aviation expense? I did not have a chance to tithe specially to build the Auditorium, but I would like to join a group to see that Mr. Arm-

