

The Bulletin



of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 9

PAGES 391-414

AUGUST 14, 1974

News Briefs

Highlights of news from division reports in this issue

ACADEMIC (page 404)

The ministerial training program at Big Sandy is an especially interesting feature of the summer program, according to Ronald Dart, deputy chancellor at the sister campus. As for the new college year, over 600 students are expected on the Big Sandy campus this year. Everyone is hoping that approval from Washington to have foreign students at Big Sandy will be forthcoming soon.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION (page 401)

Wayne Cole begins his report with encouraging news about the number of new members who were added to the Church during the first half of 1974. Following that, he relates some timeless advice Mr. Herbert Armstrong gave him many years ago. Other information covers the reprinting of Bible hymnals; plans for starting new churches; proposed ordinations; extra copies of *The Bulletin* for deacons and ministerial assistants to read; and several procedural updates.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS (page 403)

Frank Brown gives insight as to what the Work will be doing over the next fiscal year from the point of view of expenditures, and explains how we can operate a no-growth budget with low income growth under the pressures of inflation. He is optimistic that a new growth trend in the Work is in the offing.

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION (page 406)

Les McCullough and his assistant, Steve Martin, are currently on a tour of our offices in Australia, Southeast Asia and the Philippines. But we do

have a scheduled special report from Dennis Luker concerning the Work of God in Australia. This rather comprehensive report brings us up to date on activities "down under" and includes a map showing the location of all our churches, as well as a list of all ministers and the numbers of people they are serving.

MAIL PROCESSING (page 392)

The report from Richard Rice's area covers mail activity, the response to the PT gift subscription letter, and the WATS response from TV Summer Specials. A special report from WATS section head, Larry Nelson, was to be featured this time, but a last minute change in layout forced us to hold it until next time. The letter comments are a sampling of typical responses to the gift subscription letter.

PUBLISHING (page 405)

As a result of the Booklets Department's continuing efforts to streamline our literature program, a rather large number of booklets and reprint articles have been discontinued. Brian Knowles reproduces that list for the information of our readers.

NOTICE

Once again extremely heavy schedules and important business trips have prevented the preparation of reports from Bricket Wood, Data Processing, Media and Personal Appearances. We are looking forward to hearing from most, if not all, of these areas in the next Bulletin.

— Managing Editor

Mail Processing

Mail Activity

The amount of mail received for the month of July totals 185,983 letters. This is a slight decrease from June's figure, but our accumulated total for the year thus far is 1,924,214 — about the same amount as last year at this time. The single largest factor in July's mail was response to Mr. Armstrong's PT gift subscription letter to the Regulars.

Response to PT Subscription Letter

As reported in the last Bulletin, Mr. Armstrong's PT gift subscription letter is bringing in a favorable response. As of August 6, we have received 31,348 letters. Of these letters, 77% have contained contributions for someone else's subscription. The accumulated donations from this mailing now total an estimated \$194,100 or \$8.02 per letter.

WATS Response from TV Summer Specials

The telephones are continuing to ring as more and more people use them to phone in literature requests to us. During the month of July 31,260 calls were processed, in addition to 29,950 calls which could not be connected due to busy signals. Mr. Ted Armstrong's *Summer Specials* alone have brought in 14,000 calls thus far — plus about 1,000 letters.

— Richard Rice


LETTER COMMENTS

SUBSCRIPTION DONATION LETTER

The letter mailed to all regular subscribers announcing that they could donate \$5.00 toward another's subscription has drawn about 32,000 responses, representing 2.9% of the total mailed. Over three out of every four respondents sent donations averaging \$8.02 per donation letter.

We received many encouraging comments of support concerning this policy. Some wondered why we had not done this years ago and others felt \$5.00 was much too low.

Many of the over 800 who did not send donations because of their financial condition wrote apologetically, offering to cancel because of their



The
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inability to donate. Most were elderly folks who generally misunderstood the intent of the letter. Personal Correspondence sent each of these people a letter explaining that they did not have to cancel because they could not donate. Some have already written back thanking us for our generosity.

About 13% of the total response cancelled their subscription. Some of the reasons given were "no time to read," "not interested in the message," deceased, blind, moved, etc. This is pretty much in line with the regular cancellation picture.

The following comments are samples of the various reactions received as a result of the letter:

Thinks She's Been Selfish

"I have received the *Plain Truth* for over a year for free and have been sent many, many booklets free. I am not a Sabbath believer and in many things I don't agree with you. But I have learned so many things from you, when the letter came from you this morning I thought how selfish I have been. I guess I always looked at you as a rich organization and my puny little dollars won't help that much. I want you to know that the \$5 enclosed is a lot of money to my husband and I at this time. But when I wouldn't have missed the \$5,

(Continued on page 401)

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 in Christ's service:

GREETINGS! It would be totally inadequate for me to say we are living through momentous times! Anything I could say now concerning the transition in government would appear to be totally redundant, but I feel I MUST comment on the personal inspiration I experienced in listening to the statements of our new President in his address to the nation and to the Congress.

I have already made several comments on both radio and television concerning his inclusion of a Divine Power and his straightforward statements that only with the help of God can America remain strong! Maybe I am still enough of an emotional patriot to let a statement like this move me -- from a man who, for whatever reasons and through whatever processes, now occupies the highest responsibility on the face of this earth in human government -- but I was moved, and I know others were who shared the experience around the television set with me, on hearing the speech of President Gerald Ford which I know most of you saw and heard.

It is almost as if God is now going to see to it that the United States is somehow stabilized for at least a short period of time in order to give His Work a new boost and a new, if short, lease on life to accomplish the great job yet ahead of us! Whether or not inflation will really be brought under control, whether the huge and almost indescribable domestic and international problems are even partially settled remains to be seen, and of course not a one of us expects a complete change in the global trend heading this world toward the great tribulation, but I think we can take part and see in this change of government a period of respite for the United States! That means to me a period of growth and of respite from trauma and problems for the Work of God! I hope and pray that this is a right observation and a correct analogy -- but I know we can never expect to be totally free from problems!

This has been a time of real trial for many, I'm sure, whose jobs have eroded away because of the vitally important shedding of some of the support functions of the Work. I know it is terribly traumatic to so many on the Bricket Wood campus, from faculty and students to employees at the staff level alike. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has been very philosophic and understanding of these essential changes and has explained to me how he feels God was

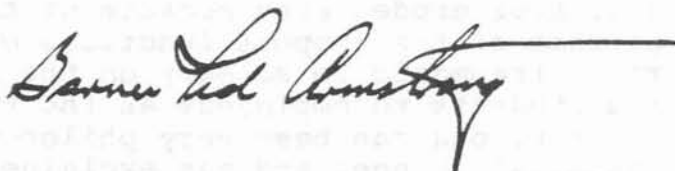
directly in the establishment and the conduct of Ambassador College in the United Kingdom, but as God has opened whole new doors and avenues before us to get the Work done in capitals around the world and before foreign dignitaries and heads of state, he now feels that the Bricket Wood campus has served its purpose for the many years it was maintained, and we are simply having to face the fact we enter new phases of God's Work as world conditions intensify and change. This to me means we are very likely beyond the time where this Work of God will be engaged in the building of institutions with properties, buildings, refurbishings and the like as one of our primary activities. But we are now girding ourselves for the really gigantic effort we have always preached and talked about on radio, television, in the printed word, and through personal evangelism, the most important of which is a growing number of really big-scale evangelistic efforts abroad.

By the way, Mr. Armstrong is presently conducting a number of his "Japanese sons" (leading members of the Japanese Diet or Parliament) through several stops in South America which no doubt will lead to the opening of additional meetings with leadership of predominantly Catholic governments in Central and South American countries. Because of the economic picture of today, there is NO ONE who can better introduce Mr. Armstrong to leaders high in government in that area of the world than top men from the Japanese Parliament! The Japanese are presently held in the very highest esteem in trading and governmental circles around the world and are recognized as a true superpower of today's space age! There is actually a great deal more "clout" in Mr. Armstrong's trip to South America accompanied by members of the Japanese Diet than if he had members from the United States State Department aboard his aircraft!

God does move in strange ways His purposes to fulfill -- and just as surely as some of God's prophets in the past were led into direct and personal relationships with kings (in Daniel's case, many of them!), so Mr. Armstrong is being led to close personal contact with leaders who can have an impact and an influence on the lives of hundreds of millions!

Until next time, then, I hope you will all be preaching powerful and inspired sermons to your congregations, and PLEASE, fellows, communicate -- tell those of us at HQ exactly what you feel and sense about any and every thing you feel is helpful and constructive to your ministry and the Church; communicate, cooperate, and keep slugging away in the greatest calling that could ever be given to any human being. We do love and appreciate you all -- and all of us here at Headquarters are very inspired at the way everything is going in the Work.

In Jesus' name,



Doctrinal Research

DOCTRINAL MEETINGS REPORT

Of the making of meetings there is no end — and much meeting is producing progress and understanding! The last week in July saw the occurrence of *three* major doctrinal meetings.

The first and third meetings were on tithing and were attended by the steering committee members. Messrs. Hoeh and Brown have been heading the task force on that subject.

Questions addressed and discussed were: What is the relevance of the Old Testament tithing laws to the New Testament Church? Can tithing be separated from the Levitical priesthood? What about tithing prior to Moses? Whose, ultimately, is the tithe? Does God have a claim on the tithe? Did He have a claim prior to the Levitical priesthood? Is the tithe in a sense "payment" or rent to God for the use of his Creation?

Lester Grabbe, a faculty member, gave an oral presentation on I Corinthians 9 and its relationship to the tithing question.

No one questioned the fact that the Church should be supported by its membership — the question is *how*? Does God enjoin tithing on modern Christians? Does the Church have the authority to command members to tithe if there is an absence of biblical revelation on New Testament practice in the Church? What would be the proof?

The second meeting on tithing considered the context and meaning of Hebrews 7. Gunar Freibergs, co-chairman of the Department of Theology, gave a presentation on the background and theme of the book of Hebrews. The superiority of Christ over that of the tribe of Levi is clearly demonstrated by the illustration of Abraham's tithing to Melchisedec. The question is, What does this illustration have to do with the question of whether Christians are bound to tithe? An animated discussion followed Mr. Freibergs' presentation in which various viewpoints were aired. Meetings during the first week of August have considered Malachi, the Genesis accounts of the Patriarchs and Matthew 23.

Herman Hoeh pointed out in the first meeting

on tithing that the purpose of these steering committee meetings is not to *decide* the answers — but to clarify the questions and help finalize material for consideration by Garner Ted Armstrong. Ted Armstrong would then determine which course to follow from then on — hold a plenary session, or present material to Herbert W. Armstrong.

The first plenary session on healing was attended by about 50 ministers and faculty members from the Headquarters area. In a very open, comprehensive and profitable presentation David Antion outlined our past (and present) teaching on healing. The knowledge of this teaching was gleaned from past booklets, *Good News* articles, ministerial conferences, and sermons on the subject.

Dave Antion then showed that some serious questions concerning healing have arisen as a result of new information and knowledge. Such questions as the nature of "physical sin," the meaning of the Greek word *pharmachaea* (translated "sorcery" in Revelation 21:8), the use of various types of medical help, "repair" surgery, internal vs. external surgery, is God always obligated to heal the Christian? etc. were discussed in an open session that followed.

No decisions were reached — nor was that the intent of the meeting. The session was intended to *inform* everyone present of the real issues at stake and to provide a basis for further discussion and future solutions.

It should be emphasized that these doctrinal meetings are not being conducted in a climate of pressure or artificial "urgency." Rather, they are systematic, properly methodical, and orderly meetings designed to *thoroughly* and *completely* examine the doctrinal issues which need to be addressed by the Church at this time. We are trying earnestly to avoid conflicts of personality, emotional polarizations and party spirit and stick simply with the issues and the facts. All are attempting to be completely *objective* (as much as lies within us!) when dealing with the information. Messrs. Cole, Hoeh and Antion have provided excellent examples of fair mindedness in being willing to hear all points of view on all issues. Consequently, the *climate* in which doctrine is being discussed is constantly improving.

We hope your prayers will be with us as we plunge ahead into some of the most important theological discussions in the modern history of God's Church. If you have any input on tithing please send it to Herman Hoeh as soon as possible. If you wish to contribute some questions or infor-

mation on healing, be sure to get in touch with David Antion. Thanks for your support and help!

HOW TO HANDLE DOCTRINAL PROBLEMS

We at H.Q. are continuing to conduct regular doctrinal meetings in order to scrutinize all those doctrines which, for whatever reasons, need to be re-examined and clarified. However, this does not necessarily mean we are abandoning our teaching on those doctrines. As Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong has repeatedly said: "If you can prove a doctrine once, you can prove it twice."

Your constant and fervent prayers are solicited for these important meetings — that God Almighty will guide His ministers here at Headquarters in studying, discussing and resolving all doctrinal questions. If we are realistic, we must realize that there will *always* be doctrinal questions concerning many subjects throughout the rest of this New Testament Church Age.

We on the Doctrinal Committee do believe, however, that if we approach the doctrinal questions and problems with zeal and fervor, and with God's guidance, many of the major doctrinal wrinkles will be ironed out in the not-too-distant future. We know that this will take much patience, deep study and much discussion, and much fervent prayer that God will lead in these meetings. Remember Christ's promise: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, *he will guide you into all truth*" (John 16:13).

We have continually urged all of you to submit as much input as possible into the on-going doctrinal research and discussions. Collectively, many thousands of man-hours were spent by all of you during the May 1974 Conference in presenting contributions in the form of doctrinal questions or comments. The channels are still open — so you can either *write* up or *phone* in your questions or comments relative to any doctrine which you may think ought to be looked into.

A Word of Caution: But some (hopefully, just a few) ministers have not understood the proper *attitude, method* and *approach* which all of us *unitedly* ought to have relative to any doctrinal questions or comments whether written or oral.

There is always a *right* and a *wrong* way to go about doing anything, and this certainly applies to our doctrinal research, discussions and conclusions.

Should we ministers (regardless of our age, number of years in the church or ministry) be a law unto ourselves? Should each one of us feel per-

fectly free to discuss openly or write and circulate among the brethren, *our own ideas* concerning any doctrine — without the input, checking, and thorough testing by those duly-authorized persons who are charged by Jesus Christ to see that we are in unity in doctrine?

Speaking the Same Thing: Is it the will of God that we have ministers standing up, each one teaching what "he" thinks is correct without any checking with, testing and coordination with those HQ ministers whom Jesus Christ has charged with the task of making sure that God's Church faithfully teaches his Word? What does God think of the ministry teaching a medley of doctrinal differences? "Now I beseech you, brethren by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Cor. 1:10).

The apostle Paul then goes on to mention that the Church of God at Corinth was filled with contentions ("There are contentions among you" — v. 11) and was a divided church.

Paul then asked, "Is Christ *divided*" (v. 13)?

Has Jesus Christ established proper church authority to insure that "ye all speak the same thing"? Has Christ established a way by which "contentions" and "divisions" can be eliminated — or better still, *prevented* in His Church?

He certainly has! But how?

We are all aware that there were a number of disputes arising in the Churches of God in the days of the apostles. For this reason Paul and Barnabas went up to Jerusalem to see the "*apostles* and *elders*" at Jerusalem about certain questions (primarily circumcision) then plaguing the Church (see Acts 15). After "much disputing," God inspired James, the brother of Christ, to enunciate *God's decision*. James did not give mere human opinion, but rendered a divine decision. The final conclusions and decisions were inspired by God: "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us..." said the apostles, to render the final doctrinal judgments as to what was right and wrong in the matter of *circumcision*, meats offered to idols, eating of blood, from things strangled, fornication, etc.

Without realizing it, and certainly without meaning to, even some very loyal ministers have erred in this matter of *not properly handling doctrinal questions in their church area(s)*!

Does Jesus Christ give each local minister the privilege and the *right* to decide *unilaterally* (or with only the limited counsel and input of those

ministers working with him in a local area) what the doctrines of the Church of God will be? Think about this deeply. Does Christ leave it up to us individually to decide these matters — apart from the counsel, input, guidance and final decision of those whom He has set in authority under Christ at his temporary earthly headquarters?

What would happen if each minister became a law unto himself — if each minister could decide unilaterally (and not in unison with HQ) what he would preach and teach in those churches under his charge? I think you know what would happen. Chaos, confusion, pandemonium, strife and *deep divisions* would inevitably result — just as surely as the sun rises and sets.

What to Do With "New Truth": What if a minister *should* discover some exciting new understanding of prophecy — should he feel free to teach this new "knowledge" without first getting the counsel, knowledge, combined input and *authoritative guidance* from those set in authority in Christ's Church? Or suppose a minister honestly came to believe the Church has been in error regarding various aspects of the doctrines of *healing* or *tithing* — should he begin teaching (either orally or by the *written* word) something quite different from what the Church is teaching? I think you know the answer to this.

None of us should begin, unilaterally, to teach *anyone* — ministerial assistants, deacons or church members — something different from what the Church of God has generally taught. To do so would be disloyal, and would only do Christ and his Church a great disservice!

Mr. Armstrong has repeatedly said (I quote roughly from memory): "If you believe the Church is in error on any point, then by all means communicate your sentiments to those whom Christ has made responsible for making the final decisions in such matters. If you are right, Christ will show us, and the entire Church will then be able unitedly to correct its error. But if you should be wrong, Christ will show us, and we will (*if the minister is in a right attitude*) be able to show you where you are in error."

That is precisely the way Jesus Christ would have us handle any new truth on any subject. There are proper channels through which new understanding or research can be communicated to those who are responsible for making and implementing any final decisions. It is then up to Christ to *guide* His servants in making the right decisions so that His Church can learn new truths

and correct any "doctrinal blemishes" which it might have.

Should a Minister Disseminate Unapproved Doctrinal Material?: Remember, fellow ministers, it is dead wrong for any of us to make *unilateral* doctrinal decisions and then teach those doctrines which we know are opposed to those which the Church of God unitedly teaches. It is wrong for us to go on a selling campaign to win converts to *our ideas* — by trying to win our ministerial assistants, fellow ministers, deacons or members.

And it is also equally wrong for us to disseminate "new doctrines" or "new truths" which others (in opposition to God's Church) come to hold. We definitely should not circulate letters, articles, booklets, tapes or any other material which we know teaches different doctrines from what God's Church holds in our areas. If you feel anyone has any *truth* which we do not have, then by all means communicate this to HQ immediately so we can look into it (guided by the Holy Spirit) to see if there is any merit in it.

"Much Counsel" — But Not Democracy: And let us also remember that God's form of Church government has never been "democracy." True, God does believe his leaders should get as much input and counsel as possible ("in the multitude of counsellors there is safety"). But the final decision will have to be left up to those individuals whom Christ has put directly into that responsible position of making the final decisions. In this case, we all recognize by the *fruits* that God has placed Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong in authority under Christ, in making any final decisions relative to the doctrines of His Church. We should all pray that the Living Christ will guide him into a decision which clearly reflects the will of God.

A Personal Example: I believe a personal example regarding Pentecost will show us how we should handle a doctrinal question or problem which might confront any one of us.

For about 20 years I had believed and taught that Pentecost was to be observed on a *Monday*. Then certain information was brought to my attention that I could *not answer* — information which *appeared* to indicate that we *might* be wrong. This information pointed to a *Sunday* Pentecost. What was I to do?

Could I hide my eyes to what appeared to be *facts* indicating that we might be wrong? No, for that would be rank *dishonesty* to Christ.

Should I diligently look into the matter of Pentecost on my own and do what *I thought best*,

feeling free to believe and teach what *I* thought was right — apart from and regardless of what the Worldwide Church of God believed and taught? I knew that approach would be wrong, divisive, detrimental to Christ's Church — totally *disloyal* to God.

It was clear to me that I should work with Messrs. Armstrong and the other ministers at HQ. We should look into this matter unitedly — and collectively arrive at the proper decision so far as what the *Church collectively* should do. And this is exactly what we did.

Firstly, I *hoped* that deep research into the Pentecost controversy would reveal that the teaching of the Worldwide Church of God was *not* in error. I *hoped* (at least humanly) that we would not have to go through the *trauma* of having to correct such an error. But I also knew that we must be totally open-minded, completely *objective* in our research. And I knew that we would have to do this through the proper channels — do it in the right way if we were to succeed and if we were to clear up this "controversy" without irreparable damage to God's Church?

I also firmly believed that there were indications that the Devil would use the Pentecost controversy to divide the Church, and that *many* thousands might be deceived into defecting from God's Church if this matter were not handled properly.

And I hoped I could be instrumental (along with many others) in keeping to a minimum any damage which Satan might do to God's Church.

So, along with others here at HQ, I began my own deep, intensive study into Pentecost. Should it be on *Monday* or *Sunday*? After rather intensive study, it still *appeared* that we might be wrong, and that Pentecost might, after all, really be on *Sunday*.

But I fully realized that my research and my tentative *conclusions* might be in error. I knew I *might* be wrong. It would be unwise for me to permit myself to come to a firm, totally committed, irrevocable *decision* — before the Evangelists and other ministers at HQ (appointed by Mr. Ted Armstrong to look into this matter in order to present it to his father) had been given an opportunity to weigh all the "arguments" (pro and con) for either a Monday or a Sunday Pentecost.

And even if all of the ministers (under the authority of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong) were *unanimous* in concluding that Pentecost should be kept on *Sunday* instead of Monday — I still did not dare let myself come to an *unshakable* deci-

sion — until God's faithful servant, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, was given the chance of testing and weighing the evidence in order to arrive at the truth of the matter. I felt Jesus Christ was powerful enough to lead His Church into the truth. I knew he could guide Mr. Armstrong in making the right decision.

So, though all the *Biblical* and *historical* evidence pointed to our being *wrong* — pointed to a Sunday rather than Monday Pentecost — I (and others on the doctrinal team) realized that Christ had set Mr. Herbert Armstrong in His Church, and had given him the responsibility, as the presiding spiritual elder (or Pastor General) of His Church, to make the final decision. *And Christ did lead him in making the RIGHT DECISION!*

Avoid Jumping to Conclusions: Another mistake which some ministers have made is that of jumping to the conclusion that simply because the doctrinal team at HQ is researching into and discussing a doctrine, this must mean that we will be led to *change* our teaching. This is not necessarily the case at all. It is necessary to re-examine the various "proof texts" to see if we may have inadvertently misapplied them or may have used a weak scripture when a better one could have been used.

We ought to be very careful during any research period into any topic that we don't jump to the conclusion we *are* going to change — then rush out hastily in private discussions, Bible studies and sermons concluding, and leading others to conclude, that the Worldwide Church of God no longer holds the doctrine which is merely under *discussion*.

One final point needs to be said relative to the dissemination (or "leaking") and use of doctrinal committee "*study papers*" from HQ into the field during an on-going discussion of a particular doctrine.

Remember, during any doctrinal discussion, different ones will submit papers giving forth various ideas, counsel and input — merely for the purpose of *consideration* by the doctrinal team. In many cases they themselves will alter tentative conclusions and papers after open discussion of all relevant facts and information.

In the case of the doctrinal discussions re *D & R*, some papers were disseminated in such a way as to jeopardize any final right conclusions. The result was that at one point during the many agonizing months of study into *D & R*, further input and discussions were brought to a complete halt! And

a conclusion was reached which undoubtedly would not have been reached, had this afore-mentioned "leaking" of a study paper re *D & R* not occurred.

Furthermore, is it really wise for us ministers to use the pulpits, Bible studies etc. to preach or teach firmly set personally held views, perhaps strongly polarized ideas, during the time when the "doctrinal team" which has been established by Messrs. HWA and GTA are thoroughly and prayerfully looking into that particular subject to see if we, the Worldwide Church of God, may possibly be teaching error? Is *this* right? Is it *godly*? Is it *helpful* — or is it obstructive?

Again, we on the doctrinal team want all the *input* (preferably written) from those of you in the field we can get. We need your *prayers*, your *counsel*, your *support*. But please don't jump to the conclusion that just because we are "examining" a certain doctrine, therefore this means that the Church of God has already completely abandoned its former teaching regarding it! Quite the contrary is true. The Worldwide Church of God (ministers and laymen alike) should continue to believe and teach our doctrines until they are *officially* changed or modified. (Of course, if any minister or layman has *deep doubts*, or has such a "crisis of conscience" that he can no longer teach a particular church doctrine, then he should *immediately* communicate this problem to his superior, and then it can be handled from there. (If the minister's *basic attitude* is fine, he need have no fears as to the outcome of the matter.)

Importance of Teamwork: Please, fellow ministers, let none of us ever again be guilty of *unilaterally deciding, teaching, preaching* and disseminating doctrines which we *know* are diametrically opposed to those of the Worldwide Church of God! We must work together as a close-knit harmonious team — in real teamwork.

Let us be loyal enough, and men enough, and Christ-like enough to handle all doctrinal questions in the *right way*.

If God's ministers will follow these guidelines, the Churches of God will *not* become hopelessly *confused* and *divided*, but we will remain *united*, all *speaking the same thing*; and we will retain that beautiful *harmony* which we experienced for so many years: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Ps. 133:1.)

— Raymond F. McNair
Asst. Co-Chairman,
Doctrinal Research Team
Pasadena

Q & A

Q. In what sense were the unconverted mates and children "sanctified" or unsanctified, "unclean" or "holy" in I Corinthians 7:13-14?

A. There has been some difference of opinion here about the meaning of the words "sanctified" and "unclean" as used by the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 7. We believe, however, that it is well on the way to being solved. In that the Apostle was himself a Jew and Christianity as a whole a religion pertaining to Jews (John 4:22), the word "unclean" was used in a Jewish sense. It is used in Acts 10:14, 28; 11:8 in this sense — that of ceremonial or ritualistic uncleanness — as applied to the Gentiles as viewed by the Jews. (In the Old Testament, Leviticus and Numbers particularly are full of this usage. See Leviticus 15:2-6, etc., especially 16-18 for instructive illustrations. For most insignificant things, a person could be rendered "unclean" and even after washing remained so — "until the evening," which shows the ceremonial aspect. Leviticus 11 is loaded with occurrences in regard to animals.)

Anything or anyone "unclean" was regarded by the Jews as unfit for any association with God, or with God's people. See excerpts from Edersheim in the following footnote for some illustration of the way Jews applied the concept in New Testament times. The Corinthian church, being followers of the churches of Judaea (cf. I Thess. 2:14) and believers in the Old Testament (little if any of the New Testament was yet written), accepted the Jewish concept.

To understand this in relation to I Corinthians 7:14, we have to see the context of the entire chapter. The Corinthians (or some among them) had gotten an idea that celibacy was the Christian and superior way of life. That is apparently the question they had written to Paul which he quoted back to them in verse 1, "It is good for a man not to touch a woman." And that is the problem to which he addressed himself in verses 2-5, 9-13. He was showing them that this leaning was not generally the best. Now realize that the

church member of verses 13-14 who might wish to separate for religion and for celibacy's sake had a special argument. He or she could say: I, who am now a child of God, should no longer be living with this unconverted Gentile because I am now a spiritual Israelite.

Paul wiped out that argument by the simple statement that being peaceably married and thus willingly connected to a converted person set that unconverted person apart ("sanctified" him or her) in God's sight, making him or her no longer "unclean." The "uncleanness" then constituted no basis for separation.

But just in case the person might not be content to just accept Paul's statement, he argues further that if said marital contact and connection did not sanctify the unconverted mate, then neither were the children sanctified. For the children too were unconverted, and they too would have been unclean. "But now are they holy." What mother, or father either, would have argued with that and have desired to separate from children?

It further follows, as Paul himself may have reasoned though he did not write it, that in cases where an unbeliever was not content to remain with the converted mate, or would not do it peacefully, no sanctification by God would occur and in such cases separation (not for celibacy but for "peace" — verse 15) was indeed the Christian way. In such cases, the Christian was not a slave.

Footnote:

To prevent Jews from inadvertently being led into idolatry and to avoid doing anything which might aid the heathen in their worship or even their normal pursuit of life. Rabbinic legislation kept certain definite requirements:

"To begin with, every Gentile child, so soon as born, was to be regarded as *unclean*. (Edersheim, Alfred, *Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, Vol. 1, page 90, emphasis ours.)

"No intercourse of any kind was to be had with such [the heathen]... since it was deemed, that he who had to do with heretics was in imminent peril of becoming one himself..." (op. cit., p. 91.)

"They [Gentiles] should, so far as possible, be altogether avoided except in cases of necessity or for the sake of business. They and theirs were *defiled*; their houses *unclean*, as containing idols or things dedicated to them; their feasts, their joyous occasions, their very contact, was *polluted* by idolatry; and there was no security, if a heathen were left alone in a room, that he might not, in wantonness or by carelessness, defile the wine or meat on the table, or the oil and wheat in the store. Under such circumstances, therefore, everything must be regarded as having been rendered *unclean*. . . . Jews were to avoid passing through a city where there was an idolatrous feast — nay, they were not even to sit down within the shadow of a tree dedicated to idol-worship. Its wood was *polluted*; if used in baking, the bread was *unclean*; if a shuttle had been made of it, not only was all cloth woven on it *forbidden*, but if such had been inadvertently mixed with other pieces of cloth, or a garment made from it placed with other garments, the whole became *unclean* (ibid., page 92).

Q. For some time now I've been receiving two copies of the Plain Truth and Good News magazines. Since I need only one copy of each magazine, would you please discontinue the second copy?

A. For the past several years we have maintained

the policy of sending two copies of our magazines to the field ministry. The first copy is a "preliminary" or "advance copy" and is sent by First Class mail. It comes "hot off the press" as a *service* to inform you as early as possible what is being currently printed, and for use in visiting, sermons, or counselling if you so wished. The "regular copy" is sent later, at the same time all of our subscribers receive their magazines. This regular issue is sent Second Class, at a very *inexpensive* postal rate. Although we felt that you could put an extra copy of each magazine to good use in your visiting or for filing purposes, if any of you should still desire that we discontinue mailing it, please let us know.

Q. I'm needing an increase in my Traveletter limit, but if Gelco Services are going to be used soon I won't worry about it. When will the new program go into effect?

A. The target date for the installation of Gelco Services will be the first of September. For the interim, any increases in Traveletter limits that would be affected by the installation of Gelco services will be "frozen." If, however, there is a need for a change that would be unaffected by Gelco services, feel free to let us know.

Q. Is it possible for a Local Elder not employed by the Church to have \$10 to \$20 a month expense money for gas money for visiting, etc.?

A. The best way to handle expenses for a Local Church Elder would be to have him fill out a Monthly Non-Fleet Expense Report for his mileage and we will send him a reimbursement check for his mileage driven.

Q. I noticed when reading Publication 521 "Tax Information on Moving Expenses" that the employer is supposed to include reimbursement or payment of moving expenses on our W-2 forms when they come out. Will my reimbursements be included on the W-2 form when it comes out in January?

A. Due to a lack of a computer system and programming to collect the data, the reimbursements or payments for moving expenses will probably not be reported on Form W-2, but we will furnish you Form 4782, "Employee Moving Expense Information." The information included on this form will be those expenses which are paid on our books during the calendar year of 1974.

This form is made out by your employer to provide you with the necessary information to assist you in the computation of your moving

expense deduction on Form 1040. Form 4782 will show the amount of any reimbursement made to you (except amounts paid to you on payroll checks for the Relocation Allowance), payments made to a third party for your benefit, and the value of services furnished to you for each move made for which reimbursement or payment or service is made for your benefit.

With the information provided on this form you will be able to properly calculate your moving expense deduction or excess reimbursement on I.R.S. forms 3903, "Moving expense Adjustment" and 1040, "Income Tax Return."

More detailed information will be provided later in the year or when form 4782 is mailed.

LETTER COMMENTS

(Continued from page 392)

I didn't send it, giving excuses to myself that I don't believe all that they teach anyway. But how in the world would I have known whether I agreed or disagreed if I hadn't been able to "rightly divide" by someone out there who paid for my booklet? For this reason now at a time when it hurts, I am sending \$5. But, I want you to know Lord willing I am going to send \$5 every month I can for another, for one year. Then 12 others can agree or disagree with some of your views. One thing I know if they dig and rightly divide they can learn much from your organization, for God has said His Word will not return void."

— Joyce Smith,
Little Rock, Arkansas

Happy to Contribute

"I am so happy you asked for a subscription contribution. I have wondered so long how you could afford to send out that wonderful book, the *Plain Truth*. I sometimes read it twice over as I enjoy every page."

— Mrs. M. E. Schreiber,
Barberton, Ohio

Pleasure to Contribute

"It is a great pleasure for me to contribute this little 'something.' I'm sorry it can't be more. I look forward eagerly to receiving your beautiful spiritually helpful and inspiring magazines. I hope someone else may have the privilege of joy which is mine. God bless you in your vast spiritual Work."

— Mrs. Stanley M. Walas,
Lawrence, Kansas

(Continued on page 410)

Church Administration

Greetings, fellows. We continue to hear from many of you both by letter and by telephone. The consensus of reports being received is that things are moving along very positively in the Church. It is very encouraging to see growth. During the troublesome, critical and sometimes stormy first half of 1974, 2300 have been baptized and *added* to the Church of God!

However, occasionally it seems we must hear the sad news of another member or deacon who has left the Church. I guess that will never cease — not in this age at least. To any who have an empathy for people, who have enjoyed deep friendships and sincerely love their fellowman, it is a painful thing to witness friends with whom many close and wonderful moments have been shared not become disturbed and walk out of the Church of God which, just a short time earlier, had been the very heart and core of their existence. I know. I've witnessed this several times.

Please don't interpret these comments to mean that we have recently had a rash of such desertions. We haven't. But now and then we do hear such a report about one or two. I guess this is on my mind since just this morning I had a call from a fellow-minister in Texas telling about one of his friends who had just left us.

Fellows, if we are serving as faithful ministers of Jesus Christ we are going to be sensitive, moved to compassion and emotionally involved with people. I believe, in the main, this is an attribute extant throughout the ministry. I hope none of us ever get so calloused in dealing with people-problems that we become curt and sharp — unfeeling and lacking in compassion toward others.

On the other hand Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong said something about this to me way back in 1954 on the eve of my departure from Pasadena for Corpus Christi, Texas and my first ministerial assignment. I would like to share that memorable session with you.

Two points were made which I will never forget. First, Mr. Armstrong said something like this to me: "Wayne, you like people and you like to be liked by people. You are sensitive to what people think of you and need them to think well of you. That is not bad at all, but anyone who ever is successful and accomplishes anything in life will

be criticized. You need to be aware of this and not let it discourage you, demoralize you and get you down to the point where you are ineffective in serving others. For you *will be criticized*." That was advice I needed and the memory of that conversation has helped me through several trying periods.

The second point Mr. Armstrong told me was that in the ministry you will meet all types of human needs, problems, traumas, emotional experiences, etc. You should be sensitive to these needs and give the comfort, the encouragement, strength and the help needed, but you must not take others' problems so *personally*, so *deeply*, that you get crushed by them. If you do this you will be so burdened by the ministry that you will be unable to effectively serve the needs of the whole Church. That also has been memorable advice to me. We must be the help and strength needed in *every particular* situation, but then be able to commit the matter to our God in heaven and go right on with our chins up serving the needs of others.

Recently I have heard comments on *two* separate occasions to the effect that the particular ministers involved were becoming weary with the aspect of the ministry that is somewhat like "baby-sitting." Weary with having to spend so much time listening to widows' problems, the "woes of the discouraged," or the sometimes seemingly trite remembrances of the elderly.

I know that this can become a test of our patience, but it is at times a very necessary duty in service to others. Perhaps some such visiting can be delegated to others. On other occasions you, the Pastor and shepherd of the congregation, are the only one who can really fulfill such needed service. The mere fact that *you* took time to be concerned makes all the difference. At times I have had someone ask me, "How can you be so patient with me?" My ready answer has always been — "because those dealing with me have always been patient toward me."

It seems to me one of the greatest rewards of being a minister of Jesus Christ is the personal satisfaction of knowing that you helped make someone else's life just a little more enjoyable, a little less burdened, a lot more meaningful. It isn't always the BIG act of ministerial service that accomplishes this, but so often it is the little, seemingly insignificant act of sincere love, concern or courtesy that makes the BIG difference in attitudes, growth, endurance and enjoyment for others in pursuing the Christian way of life.

I know this may not be a great "revelation," but

I hope these few comments might be helpful somewhere along the line.

Now to a few other things:

Hymnals

Although order requests are still coming in, we have placed the paper order for our hymnals. We're printing an adequate number which, we feel, should carry us through the next few years. Shipping will be delayed until the second week of September, due partly to late response and slower than expected paper delivery.

In reply to a number of requests regarding members purchasing hymnals, it is perfectly all right for them to do so if they were to regularly bring them to services — which I'm sure most would want to do anyway.

The purchase price of the hymnals will remain at \$3.00 per copy. Probably the best way for members to make payment would be to include the price in a regular tithe check and be sure to *note* what the money is for.

New Churches

We would appreciate hearing from those of you who desire to start any new churches between now and next summer. We need your input in order to plan for orderly church growth and to use our manpower in the most effective manner.

Rapid response is needed in this case, fellows, so that we can begin our preliminary planning.

Any comments or suggestions having to do with starting new churches or anything related, whether you're planning to start a new church or not, would be appreciated.

Ordinations

Those of you who have been inquiring about proposed ordinations will be happy to hear that Mr. Ted Armstrong has asked us to proceed with most, if not all, of the ordinations requested. All who have sent in recommendations will be contacted before the Feast of Tabernacles.

In addition, the doctrinal team will be studying the subject of ministerial "ranks" in the coming months. You will be kept up-to-date on any developments in this area.

Extra Copies of The Bulletin

In response to those of you who have asked if it would be possible for us to supply additional copies of the *Bulletin* for deacons to read, we will begin sending two extra copies to each church pastor in the United States. We appreciate the difficulty in trying to make your single copy avail-

able to each of the men interested in reading it. Mailing the extra copies 3rd class bulk rate will save a considerable amount of money, so we will be using that method. Third class mail is slower, however, so the extra copies won't arrive until sometime after you receive your copy. We hope this will help alleviate any difficulty in circulating the *Bulletin* among your deacons and ministerial assistants.

Procedural Updates

Because of recent financial cutbacks, the decision was made to no longer provide *personalized* stationery for the ministry, as well as other departmental employees. All stationery for the ministry will now simply carry the Worldwide Church of God letterhead. However, we will continue to provide you with personalized business or representative cards.

Summertime (when the living is easy?) is also vacation time for most of you. In order to streamline our record keeping here, please utilize the following procedure when requesting or reporting your vacation dates: Firstly, let us know by memo the dates you are planning to be on vacation; secondly, notify us at least two weeks in advance; and thirdly, let us know who will be responsible for Church services or functions while you are absent.

Normally, rather than a "yes" or "no" request in regard to your vacation time, it will be a matter of utilizing the above procedure. The reason for this is because occasionally someone might be planning a visit to your Church area and we might want you to be in the area at that particular time. If this happens to be the case we would then contact you regarding your vacation time and work out alternate dates. But, as I said, the normal procedure is for you to simply let us know in advance the dates you will be taking your vacation.

Now one final point in conclusion.

Please be sure to read Mr. Raymond McNair's comments (in the Doctrinal Research column) about the doctrinal research work going on here. Mr. McNair has outlined some excellent principles and I hope all of you will be careful to follow the points as outlined.

I would like all of you to realize that our purpose in conducting regular doctrinal study meetings is *NOT* to react to the writings of others. We are not going to *rush* through the study of any subject just to crank out information to counter the teachings of other ministers or churches.

We are going to be thorough in our studies. We are going to be open and honest in our research

and we are going to work through proper channels and under due auspices of management. And fellow-ministers, as Raymond pointed out, with the guidance into truth by God's Holy Spirit, we are going to produce study notes *approved by God*.

So, please realize that we will not be grinding out white papers hastily. However, if there are any specific questions you have regarding *any subject* which you need clarified, or which you feel need to be studied more thoroughly, then by all means send them to us.

Following the conference in May we asked for further information or questions about the present Divorce and remarriage teaching. We have received *very little* response from you. Perhaps this means there are no further questions. But, if there are specific aspects of this doctrine which you feel need further clarification, please let us know.

That does it for another Bulletin. All the best to you, fellows. Let's all continue to work together in fulfilling our service to our Great God and the people He has placed in our care.

— C. Wayne Cole

Financial Affairs

Greetings from the Financial Affairs Division. First of all, let me apologize for not giving you a report for the last two issues of the Bulletin, but between getting the budget together and a trip to Bricket Wood, it was next to impossible to give you anything concrete in terms of financial information. Now that the budget is finalized, I feel I can give you a little more insight as to what we will be doing over the next fiscal year — at least from the point of view of expenditures.

First of all, let me say that the year-to-date income stands at a 1.3% increase over last year and has been stuck around that level for the last couple of months. It seems that nothing can bring it up to where we can see a substantial growth in this area. Also, at the present time, the mail count seems to be dropping somewhat, but this may be due to a lack of direct mail stimulation. (By this I mean the program through which we make available certain pieces of literature to people on the mailing list.)

As far as our fiscal budget is concerned, we have pretty much wound down to a zero-percent growth budget through Fiscal Year 1974-75, the

only exceptions being in the area of radio and television time. Naturally, if these front-line areas produce the results we anticipate, we will have to once again gear up certain support functions in order to service the responses. The strategy of reducing support functions, of course, is only good when your main activity is in a low-growth mode. What we are planning is an investment in radio and TV time which will bring enough response to increase our contributing base for the Work, and then we can begin to grow once again in a much more balanced and controlled way.

Some are probably wondering right now as to how we can operate a no-growth budget with low-income growth under the pressures of inflation. Naturally, to accomplish this, we have had to increase our cash flow thru the sale of assets which comprise basically real estate, plus reduction of operating costs, including such things as the closure of ACUK, Imperial Schools, etc. We have also reduced our manpower by nearly 200 full-time employees since January 1 this year. All of these factors combine to produce a no-growth budget expenditure and still allow for increased costs of operation. In other words, we have simply conserved our budget dollars by implementing economies in each department, and selling surplus assets.

At the present time, we are not contemplating selling the Press. At one time we were fairly close to it, but it has been decided that we will wait for at least three to six months in order to see whether we can produce a timely magazine efficiently and economically. I am fairly convinced that we can do so, but we must, in order to remain flexible, keep all our options open in regard to the sale of the Press. Incidentally, when the printing industry became aware of the possibility of its sale, we received six to eight bona fide inquiries in about a three-day period. In other words, it is, at the present time, a very saleable item!

Overall, I think we can see the beginning of a new growth trend in the Work. I say this because data from our statistical research areas show that despite the widespread bad publicity and general trauma of the last six months, we have actually made a *net* gain of 300 members. We do not feel that it is too much to hope for because if we can continue to make gains during such a time of trauma, we should be able to make the same gains, at least, during the time when we are resolving many of our problems and reaching the world in a much more powerful way. This is the basis on which we are making our plans for the next 12-month period, and, hopefully, with continued

dedicated support of God's people, there is reason to believe that we can get back into a growth mode and pull out of the doldrums we have found ourselves in for the last 12 months. I believe the Feast this year will be a major indicator of the hearts of God's people in their support of His Work.

I hope you will be encouraging all the congregations to be dedicating themselves even more to the great service to which we have all been called — we at Headquarters are relying on you!

— Frank Brown

Academic

(Editor's Note: Because of preparations for the opening of the new college year here in Pasadena and the work in preparing the accreditation report, Dr. Germano was not able to give us a report this time.)

BIG SANDY

Greetings from Big Sandy! One of the most interesting things going on in Big Sandy since the last Bulletin has been the ministerial training sessions continuing here under the direction of Art Mokarow. We had all those ministers and their wives over to our home the other night along with all the local area ministers and their wives for a buffet and lawn party. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves immensely and I hope we haven't kept the men on the run too much. We had a Bar-B-Q for them one night down by the lakeside, and then a dinner dance along with the summer school students a few days later. The wives had an afternoon tea at the Blackwell's home, and I believe there was a luncheon for the ministers' wives over at the McDowell's house.

It certainly has been a jam-packed session for the ministers, and I hope they have enjoyed it. Big Sandy seems to lend itself very well to such activities since we have very economical accommodations (during the summer when the booths are unoccupied) and various recreational facilities are also available for the ministers. A lot of them have played golf, gone horseback riding or water-skiing, etc. All in all, it's been quite a *family* affair for them.

College is beginning early this year, as you probably heard. The freshmen are arriving August 11 and 12 for orientation and registration will be taking place a week later. The entire single student enrollment this autumn will exceed 600. We're expecting 325 returning students, 230 new

freshmen, and 40 to 45 transfers from Bricket Wood and Pasadena.

Big Sandy has now made firm application for approval to have foreign students on campus. At the moment we're waiting to hear from Washington. We feel that the work program here in Big Sandy will offer to foreign students a unique opportunity for an Ambassador College education. Costs are extremely high for them in Pasadena and not very many of them would be able to make it there without substantial financial aid. We'll try to do a better job of explaining our work program a little later, and will set forth a possible scholarship program for foreign students later in the year. You'll be hearing from us as soon as we have approval from Washington.

We would appreciate any suggestions or ideas from the overseas offices as to how we might better serve their youth.

— Ronald L. Dart

Publishing

GN, BOOKLETS UPDATE

DISCONTINUED LITERATURE

Over the years we have accumulated a rather large and costly literature inventory. The cost of producing, maintaining, advertising and mailing this literature is ever increasing as inflation soars out of sight.

In addition, much of the literature is now out of date. The world scene is changing rapidly, issues change, statistics vary and articles become obsolete. It is unreasonable to keep large inventories of various pieces of literature around that are rarely, if ever requested.

As a result of our continuing effort to streamline our literature program we are now discontinuing the following booklets and reprint articles.

Booklets

- 1) Who Will Rule Space (OS)
- 2) Women's Rights (WR)
- 3) To Kill a People (KP)
- 4) You Can Quit Smoking (SM) U.S.A. Inventory being shipped to Bricket Wood.
- 5) Predestination (P) (will *not* be reprinted).
- 6) True Womanhood (WO) Inventory being kept to answer questions; will *not* be reprinted.
- 7) Our Polluted Planet (PU)
- 8) Earthquakes (Q)

- 9) Should a Christian Smoke Marijuana? (MJ)
- 10) The Crucifixion Was Not on Friday (CX) OK to keep inventory to answer questions; will *not* be reprinted in its present form. (A brand new totally revised booklet or new material combined with a related subject may be printed in the future.)

Reprints

- 1) Escapism (762)
- 2) Crisis of Old Age (802)
- 3) The Worm and You (770)
- 4) The Great Depression (674)
- 5) Battle for Economic Survival (678)
- 6) Yankees of the Orient (662)
- 7) European Common Market (671)
- 8) Rock of Gibraltar (220)
- 9) The Coronation Stone (640) Material basically covered in *U. S. in Prophecy*
- 10) The Jesus Trip (324)
- 11) The Jesus Trip — One Way Ticket to Nowhere (325)
- 12) The Generation Gap (322)
- 13) Human Nature is Violent (140)
- 14) False Conversion — A Mortal Danger (132)
- 15) Controversy Continues Over Church Unity (107)
- 16) Should a Christian Dance? (170)
- 17) Poisons In Your Home (209)
- 18) The Day the Dinosaurs Died (222)
- 19) Volcanic Disaster (252)
- 20) Five Ways to Save Your Marriage (256)
- 21) The Best Age for Marriage (254) This is a chapter in *The Missing Dimension in Sex*
- 22) Is God Calling You? (382)
- 23) Middle East Oil (548)
- 24) The Plain Truth about the Viet Nam War (551)
- 25) The Beaver Has a Better Idea (726)
- 26) Seven Rules to Right Decisions (750)
- 27) The Sacrificial System in Ancient Israel (772)
- 28) Death Rides the High Road (840)
- 29) Lent (142)
- 30) Communism (158)
- 31) Truth About College Education (462)
- 32) Christians to be Martyred (620)
- 33) Birthdays (630)
- 34) Neglecting God's Sabbath (822)
- 35) Why Aren't your Children More Healthy (182)
- 36) Discouragement (622)
- 37) Galatians 4 (512)
- 38) Daniel Nine (190)
- 39) The 2300 Days (192)

- 40) What You Should Know About Tithing (104)
- 41) There is a Way of Escape (136)
- 42) Bread — the Broken Staff of Life (207)
- 43) Handwriting of Ordinances [Col. 2:16] (232)
Holy Day Bklt. covers
- 44) An Exciting Preview of Tomorrow's Cities (282)
- 45) Why Does God Hide Himself? (350)
- 46) Knowledge Has Doubled — So Have Troubles (464)
- 47) Is Obedience to God Required for Salvation? (500)
- 48) Evolution Gets the Horse Laugh (684)
- 49) Is Jesus Dead? (712)
- 50) Do Worms Never Die in Hell (789)
- 51) Christian Manhood (820)
- 52) Neglecting God's Sabbath (822)
- 53) The Truth About New Year's (830)
- 54) Should Women Preach? (148)
- 55) Should We Use the Old Testament? (156)
- 56) The Development of the Races (144)

As social issues arise we will try to cover them from God's viewpoint in the GN and PT magazines. New booklets will appear from time to time as the situation warrants. We are not cutting *any* of the critical, essential materials needed to back up the telecast, radio program. We hope to maintain all the *basic* literature needed to help new people come along to baptism. In many cases, articles have been replaced by booklets or added to existing booklets. Note: The above list of literature is *not* being killed because of any watering down of our teaching — it is truly for the reasons stated above.

— Brian Knowles

International Division

(Editor's Note: Mr. McCullough and his assistant, Steve Martin, are currently visiting our offices "down under" in Australia and New Zealand, after which they are scheduled to visit Hong Kong, Singapore and finally Manila. While in Australia, Mr. McCullough conducted a successful two-night campaign in Brisbane on the nights of August 3rd and 4th — details will be forthcoming in this column after their return. For this issue now, we are presenting a rather comprehensive report recently received from Mr. Dennis Luker which covers the activities of the Work of God in Australia.)

THE WORK OF GOD IN AUSTRALIA

Australia is a unique continent of three million square miles (fractionally smaller than continental U.S.A.) and thirteen million people. The vast majority of the population lives along the eastern seaboard — in fact forty percent of the population lives in Sydney and Melbourne alone.

As of July 1st, 1974, there are twenty-three churches and two outlying Bible studies (see map) served by twenty-two ministers and five ministerial trainees (see list). The twelve months to date have seen a seven percent increase in baptized members, giving us a grand total of 12,514. The total attendance in all the churches *averages* around 3,600, approximately nineteen percent over 1973. Maximum attendance (at annual holy days) would be about 3,900 nationwide. Attendance growth has well exceeded member growth due to new churches started in outlying areas for scattered members this past year. Now more people are able to attend services than ever before. We are striving to provide ministers and churches wherever possible for our scattered brethren.

Although the members in Australia are being hard-hit by inflation (running at about thirteen or fourteen percent), the Work's income for this year stands at a thirteen percent increase. This is excellent considering baptized members have increased by only seven percent. Members in Australia contribute over seventy-five percent of the income to God's Work here.

The headquarters' church in Australia is now located on the Gold Coast of Queensland about fifty miles south-east of Brisbane. Our office has been relocated there so that we might properly plan and supervise the construction of our new office/press complex on six beautiful acres located in a wooded, hilly area. Over one hundred members and employees attend services at a beautiful ocean-front location. When the press employees and their families make the move to our new location, church attendance will be about two hundred and fifty.

For the first time, this year we will be keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in five different locations in Australia. This will include every state in Australia except Victoria. Victorian members will journey to South Australia and keep the Feast in Adelaide. The increased number of Feast sites will mean less travelling for most members. A greater variety of climate and scenic choices will be available. Because the congregations are smaller, there should be more of a family atmosphere. More

Feast sites will also give a larger number of our ministers a chance to speak at the Feast of Tabernacles.

Two campaigns have been conducted in Australia — in Perth and Melbourne — just after the last Feast of Tabernacles. Both have proven very successful with increased attendance at Bible study and services afterwards. (In Melbourne, eleven attend Bible study, and fourteen attend Sabbath services five months after the campaign. In Perth, fifteen are attending services, and seven attend the Bible studies.) On August 3 and 4, Mr. Les McCullough will conduct a campaign in Brisbane (800,000 population) where there are seven thousand P.T. subscribers within one hundred miles of the city. We are expecting one thousand to fifteen hundred in attendance, counting church members. [An accomplished fact. Details coming later — *Editor*.]

In smaller towns, where campaigns may not be practical, we plan to conduct special Bible studies for our *Plain Truth* subscribers who are interested. There will be no pressure or high salesmanship, but we will be making ourselves openly known and available to co-workers and P.T. subscribers. Right now requests from new prospective members for ministerial visits are quite low. We feel that making ourselves available for personal counselling to those who read the P.T. will help stimulate those who are really interested in finding out more about Ambassador College and the Worldwide Church of God. We are very eager to reach people with the end-time warning message from God before it is too late. We also want to give them the good news about the solution to this world's problems by the return of Jesus Christ to this earth to set up the Government of God.

Relocation to Burleigh Heads

The first phase of the relocation of the Australian office to temporary quarters at Burleigh was completed in March. The movement of staff, families, furniture, etc. took 3 months and caused only a few minor inconveniences. In all, 14 families and 20 single people have been re-settled and housed in the Burleigh area.

A comparison of office rentals is interesting. The first 6 months at Burleigh has cost us \$6,240 as opposed to \$15,180 for our old North Sydney location. This saving alone is almost equal to the entire cost of moving our office and personnel!

The printing facilities will not be moved from Sydney until our new buildings are completed early next year. The press forms the major part of the Australian operation as we print the *Plain*

Truth for Australia, New Zealand, South East Asia and the Pacific region — some 250,000 copies per month.

The new buildings will have a rustic Australian flavour, utilizing clinker bricks and exposed natural woodwork. George Adams, our Sydney architect, has designed the building complex to harmonize with the bushland environment, including native gardens to attract local wildlife. Our staff is very excited over the prospect of combining some unique industrial architecture with a natural, scenic environment. And all for *less* cost! The project should attract very favourable publicity.

Media and Advertising

To date our main media efforts have gone into radio and magazine advertising. "The World Tomorrow" half-hour radio program is currently broadcast in six Australian cities. Mr. Ted Armstrong can also be heard daily on 5-minute capsule commentaries, in which he analyses subjects of interest to the lives of all Australians. These short commentaries are featured by the Macquarie network on 27 stations, in every major city other than Perth.

Each month some 2,000 listeners respond to the capsules by accepting the offer of a booklet. These people also receive a sample *Plain Truth* with a return subscription card. Around 250 (12½%) of the initial 2,000 become subscribers through this method.

A recent full-page ad in the *TV Times* for "The Occult Explosion" gained 3,600 responses. Again a sample *Plain Truth* was sent with the booklet and 600 (17%) elected to become regular subscribers. Cost per new subscriber was U.S. \$3.50.

Railstands

During the last 6 months the New South Wales Government Railways Department has allowed us to place some *Plain Truth* stands in key Sydney stations. We distribute 15,000 free magazines via this channel each month, at a cost well under 1 cent per copy. Public interest has been high and 2½% to 3% of railstand magazine readers request their own personal subscription (i.e. 400 per month).

Promotions

Our file-stimulation projects have mostly involved *Plain Truth* insert cards and some direct mail. The most successful insert card (December P.T.) offered *Is This The End Time?* and *How To Understand Prophecy*. It brought a 10% response.



AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES AND MINISTERS

Churches	Ministers	Attendance (average)
Queensland		
Gold Coast (new Australian H.Q.)	Dennis Luker	(PA) 110
	Don Abraham	(LE)
	Gene Hughes	(LE) 250
	when press employees & families move up	
Brisbane	Trevor Higgins	(LE)
	Rod Matthews	(MA)
	Mark Cardona	(PE) 450
	Bruce Tyler	(LE)
Toowoomba	Rod King	(MA)
	Mark Cardona	(PE) 130
Rockhampton	Gavin Cullen	(LE)
	Colin Jackson	(PE) 45
Mackay	David Noller	(MA)
	Colin Jackson	(PE) 65
Townsville	David Noller	(MA)
	Colin Jackson	(PE) 40
Cairns	David Noller	(MA)
	Colin Jackson	(PE) 20
	David Noller	(MA)
New South Wales		
Sydney North	John Halford	(PE) 410
	Peter Whitting	(LE)
	Alan Dean	(MA)
Sydney South	John Halford	(PE) 275
	Bill Dixon	(LE)
	John Ferrier	(MA)
Temora	Brian Orchard	(LE) 49
Bathurst	Brian Orchard	(LE) 65
Newcastle	Rod Dean	(LE) 85
Grafton	Rod Dean	(LE) 60
Victoria		
Melbourne South	Reg Platt	(PA) 460
	Kevin Lulham	(LE)
	Len Quirk	(LL)
Melbourne North	Reg Platt	(PA) 340
	Jack Croucher	(LE)
	Bob Regazzoli	(MA)
Ballarat	Bob Mitchell	(PE) 145
Bendigo	Bob Mitchell	(PE) 65
Wodonga	Brian Orchard	(LE) 55
Tasmania		
Launceston	Kerry McGuinness	(PE) 65
	Rod Gowland	(LE)
Hobart	Kerry McGuinness	(PE) 70
	Rod Gowland	(LE)
Devonport	Kerry McGuinness	(PE) 60
	Rod Gowland	(LE)
South Australia		
Adelaide	Ted Tupper	(LE) 135
West Australia		
Perth	Leroy Cole	(PE) 320
	Ken Lewis	(LE)

All told these cards have led to 14,000 booklet requests. In the June-July issue of the *Plain Truth* we featured a card which offers the Correspondence Course.

Last December we mailed to all our subscribers a letter which explained the reasons for our high postal charges. We asked them to sign and return an enclosed card so that we could apply for a cheaper rate. From 61,000 letters we received 33,000 responses (54%) and U.S. \$24,000 in "sympathy money".

Letters offering the *Good News* were sent to coworkers, donors and C.C. students. Response was 46% and 2,800 new *Good News* subscribers resulted from this mailing.

We are now offering *The Occult Explosion* and *Did God Create a Devil?* to coworkers and donors. If the response is good, the same letter will go to all regular subscribers. Results of this project will be delayed considerably due to postal strikes. Other planned booklet promotions include *After Death — Then What?*, *Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* and *Read the Book*. We also intend to implement an automatic booklet promotion scheme similar to the "Z-card" system used in Bricket Wood.

Mail Department

Each month we receive some 14,000 letters from Australian *Plain Truth* readers. These include new subscription requests, changes of address, donations, requests for booklets or the correspondence course, as well as letters dealing with more personal questions.

Over 300,000 booklets and other articles, in addition to the *Plain Truth* magazine, are mailed out each year. Needless to say, this runs up a considerable postage bill. We are trying to reduce these costs by experimenting with different distribution methods. In a pilot program, a couple of private distributors have delivered several thousand *Plain Truth* magazines for us. We have also organized some teams of members (and their sons) in Sydney and Brisbane to distribute magazines in those areas. We can pay them reasonable rates and still effect considerable savings. It is hoped that this method may be extended to all major cities in Australia. (Through these methods we are paying 4 to 6½ cents per delivery instead of 11½ cents.)

Since January we have sent all literature for members and attending prospectives to their respective churches. Deacons set up the envelopes (already in alphabetic order) at the back of the hall after Services and/or Bible studies. We mail

P.T., G.N., C.C., booklets, member and coworker letters via this procedure.

Apart from the thousands of dollars saved each year, this method helps the members realize that we are trying to use our funds as wisely as possible. We have had fine co-operation from the deacons and other members.

New Computer Installed

Last year a feasibility study led to the decision to install an I.B.M. System/3 Computer. The rental price is U.S. \$54,000 per annum. (Contrasted with U.S. \$80,000 we would pay to do our work at a Brisbane bureau!) System/3 has proved to be I.B.M.'s most popular computer, with 20,000 installed to date. Apart from cost, it offers the following advantages:

No raised flooring needed.

Minimal air-conditioning.

Uses little floor-space.

Simple operating system.

Australia was able to borrow a systems analyst and a programmer from Bricket Wood, so that systems development and programming could begin in November. The computer was installed at the end of March, immediately after our relocation to Burleigh, and we were able to commence the new Mailing System in April. The latter is used to maintain the subscriber files (300,000 records), and also for printing labels for our magazines, processing of general literature requests, issuing and processing subscription renewals, as well as printing receipts for donations.

We are currently implementing the new Accounts System. This will include processing of invoices and cheques, payroll, and general financial and costing reports.

The project should be completed about the end of July — some 9 months for the complete development and implementation of the new machine and systems. As the systems staff consisted of 1 analyst and 2 programmers (1 programmer was already employed by the Australian office), the total development cost has been estimated at U.S. \$15 - 20,000. Part of this cost can be written off against new features such as computerized payroll and handling of general literature requests.

Continued Growth Expected

Although the Australian file stands at only 64,000 active *Plain Truth* subscribers, the growth rate has been increasing with 6,000 new subscribers added in the last 6 months. Mail income at the end of May was up 13% for the year to date. Very encouraging!

— Dennis G. Luker

LETTER COMMENTS

(Continued from page 401)

Limited Incomes

"We do enjoy the programs and magazine, but due to being on a disability pension all we can do is "our fair share."

— Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Wallace,
Warren, Michigan

Would Love to Send More

"Would love to send more, but as you said there are some people that are not able. I have enjoyed mine for a long time and I would love to see someone else get it because of me."

— Mrs. A. H. Booker,
Richmond, Virginia

Good Idea!

"I believe that this is a good idea for obtaining subscriptions in this way. One pays for another's subscription and still gets his free. So many people think of only themselves and not of others. This certainly will make them think of others."

— Elaine C. Martin,
Greenfield, Wisconsin

PT Magazine "God-wise"

"I am not able to send you anything as I am 73 years old and live only on Social Security. God bless you for the truth you send to everyone. You may cancel my subscription if you so choose, but I dearly love it. You are so "God-wise" and you know so well the "cause," and the "effect" of giving comes first. I do what I can."

— Mrs. Daisy May Ohman,
Chula Vista, California

Wish it Were More

"In answer to your letter I am enclosing \$5. I would like to give more but do not have it. I am almost 80 years of age and living on a very small allowance. I'm not able to work. I enjoy your *Plain Truth* magazine very much and read them over and over and pass them on to other families to read. May God bless you for your work."

— Mrs. A. F. Williams,
Fostoria, Ohio

This Is All We Can Afford

"Sorry! this is all we can afford. Please write something about the cat and dog food eating retirees. We are very close to using some of that food."

— Mr. and Mrs. Emil Johnson,
Clearwater, Florida

(Note: They go on like this by the hundreds. These few are just a sample to illustrate the point.)

(Continued on page 414)

OPEN FORUM

WHERE THE WORK IS

In a sermon in Ambassador Auditorium July 13, Mr. Herbert Armstrong highlighted what he has since written in three very profound letters. What he had to say awakened me to the realization of how little I had really been aware of one of the most significant happenings and fulfillments of prophecy of this time.

Mr. Armstrong stated that he has the most important job on earth. And he has! It is a responsibility of which each of us in the Church should be consummately aware. And I don't think we are. At least, I have to admit up until that sermon I hadn't been. I suspect that there are many, like me, who haven't been deeply aware of what is taking place around them.

That fact is frightening. It is possible to be so busy "doing the work" that an awareness of what the Work is doing *can be missed!*

Our lives can be so busy. There is so much available for us to do, and so much trivia to fill the empty spaces between our thoughts. There are so many more elements included in our modern day existence than there were just a decade ago. We have less time to think. Idle moments, time we used in past years for meditation and conversation are now filled with action-packed television programs, glamorous and time-consuming hobbies and games geared to leading us toward the "good life" envisioned so tantalizingly in magazine and billboard ads and television commercials. If the average person attempted to indulge in all the scintillating activities indicative of the "really alive" young desirables pictured so fetchingly in T.V. commercials, it would take two lifetimes of constant, sweat-soaked activity with never any time out to put two thoughts end to end.

There is so much happening in this world, so many events of major importance that it is very possible to be made dull by it all. World events have been so calamitous and continual that it takes violent overthrow of major governments to even get yawning recognition from the average person anymore. It is doubtful that the man on the street could name more than a few of the governments that have been overthrown in the past three years. I'm sure all this has served to strip many, if not most, of us of our sense of awe and mission.

Later that day as I thought about the sermon I realized how little is, and has been said by others about what God is doing through Mr. Armstrong. I had to think hard to remember very many conversations about it. There has been only slight mention of it in sermons. At least ones I have heard.

It strikes me that something has got to be wrong with us. Why aren't we shouting it from the rooftops? So many of us seem to be acting as if what is happening to him is an everyday occurrence. Mr. Armstrong is being catapulted from comparative obscurity into a position of prominence in the courts of the world. And he is preaching the gospel to world leaders.

If that isn't even vaguely beginning to fulfill an incredible end-time prophecy, then I must have gotten some of my ideas from Grimm's Fairy tales. One is no more difficult to believe than the other.

The realization of the situation makes me just a little numb. Suppose God has taken His work — which all of us had been fully participating in until we got so wound up in the physical details that we spun off to the side into tight, busy little circles — and has gone quietly on with it, until some of us wake up to the fact that we weren't doing much more than stirring up a lot of busy dust; and all that outside the perimeter of where it was really happening.

It would be awfully disappointing to wake up and realize that had happened.

— Ted Herlofson

Ministerial Services Manager
Pasadena

OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OBEY

I would like to add my 2¢ worth to Mr. Lawson Briggs' remarks concerning "God's responsibility and the Christian's" which he made in his article in the previous Bulletin.

God's responsibility is to judge. He saves or condemns, whichever *our* actions require Him to do.

Our responsibility as a Christian *is our actions*, i.e. our OBEDIENCE. Perhaps we should ask ourselves, "What is God looking for in our obedience to Him?"

"A Good Attitude, or right Knowledge?"

Let's examine a couple of extremes.

Suppose Joe Blow has a wonderful attitude, but

has little knowledge of the commandments. He could conceivably break the Sabbath, or he could break someone's neck, and still be on the road to salvation as long as he had a good attitude — if ATTITUDE were the *only* thing God looks at.

On the other hand, Phrank Pharisee could obey the law in its entirety, having a knowledge of every detail, and do so with a wretched, lousy attitude and be on the same road to salvation — if KNOWLEDGE is what God demands in our obedience to Him.

I think we can see that neither of these will cut the mustard by themselves. A person *must* have a right attitude whether he has a great deal of spiritual knowledge or just a little, to be in God's Kingdom. Certainly he must have some knowledge or he won't be there in the first place. No one will be in God's Kingdom with ALL knowledge, neither will one be there without any knowledge at all.

God wants more than obedience with a rotten attitude, which really isn't obedience. He also wants more than just "willingness" to obey.

God simply wants OBEDIENCE, and obedience is made of right knowledge AND the right attitude.

It DO take both!

— Terry Johnson
International Division
Pasadena

A WORD OF CAUTION

This is a short note to encourage a word of caution in how we approach our congregations regarding doctrinal change.

The word "change" is in the air and we are rapidly "blowing out the cob webs." This is all well and good and I know we all are hoping and praying we don't go too far in "righting all wrongs" doctrinally, lest we "wrong some rights."

The purpose of my writing is to add some caution to an approach I can see us making regarding explaining some of our recent changes. I have noticed, or at least gotten the feeling of a certain, "Where did all those *old* doctrinal ideas come from?" approach. For instance, I walked off the stage one day after giving a sermon in 1973 in which I mentioned some of God's people had "gained the impression" that 1972 was going to be *The End*. One elderly gentleman walked up to me and said, "Say, you said some of us in the congregation had gained the impression that 1972 was going to be the end of the Work. We didn't gain the impression — we were taught it!"

I feel we should lay the blame of past "concepts" at the door wherever it belongs.

If we say we don't have any idea where you people got all these silly old ideas that "birthdays are a sin," "make-up shouldn't be worn at all under any conditions by a Christian," "you should never have an operation" — we make a tragic mistake.

In the movie, *Judgment at Nuremberg*, Richard Widmark played the part of an American prosecutor. He couldn't charge a single German in spite of all his efforts with war crimes. One night, while gulping down beer in a bar, he muttered, "I know how the Jews died in Germany. The damned Eskimos did it. They sneaked over here and murdered all the Jewish people in Germany."

Changes are coming fast and furious for all of God's people. We are almost presenting them with a scenario from *Future Shock*.

If we in the ministry don't take some "blame" for certain "doctrinal approaches" we have borne, we place a twofold load of adjustment on the shoulders of God's people. Concepts regarding birthdays, doctors, pharmacists, druggists, hospitals, D/R and Pentecost all originated and were zealously taught by the Ministry in general and dedicatedly followed by the congregations of God.

So, in all of our presentations of our sermons, let's place the blame where it belongs, not on the "Eskimos."

— Jack Pyle
Memphis, Tennessee

A GOOD PIECE OF ADVICE

Like so many people I seem to attract advice. I've found that really good advice is a rarity. Poor advice is commonplace. Recently I had the pleasure of receiving a piece of simple, yet priceless advice.

My adviser said without embellishment, "Let Christ fight your battles for you."

Now that piece of advice is deceptively simple. Putting it into practice is something else again! It's all predicated on the *reality* of Christ in a person's life. God says in His Word, "... he that cometh to God must *believe* that he *is* ..." (Heb. 11:6).

Christ has to be far more than a "big name" to you. He has to be a very *real* part of your life. You have to have a very personal relationship with Him. It must be a *conscious* relationship — one of which you are constantly and keenly aware. Christ is the older brother to which we can turn when we're in trouble or when we have a need.

I guess if we have any kind of a conscience at all, we have a tendency to *crusade* for what we believe

is right. But there are times when it just doesn't pay to crusade. To others it's often just a one-man argument about a non-issue. We'd all like to see changes. But as God says, "Can the leopard change his spots?" Most of us ministers have given sermons on husband/wife relations in which we vigorously preached that "You *can't* change your wife or your husband!" Why then should we think we can change *each other* that easily?

Many of us would like to see changes — sometimes moderate and sometimes drastic — in doctrine, philosophy, attitudes, traditions, teachings, approaches, personalities, etc., etc. But how do you change the conditioning of years and years? How do you suddenly undo iron-clad convictions and beliefs? How do you change in others the habits of decades, deeply ingrained in the personality of individuals? Remember the old cliché — a man convinced against his will . . . Haven't we all been taught to tenaciously *hang on* to the beliefs we hold — even in the face of violent persecution? Sure we have.

The point is, *you and I can't change anybody!* All the force of the reason in the world is often insufficient to alter the thinking of a person who is set in a belief. It takes far more than reason. It takes much more than mere logic. It takes more than emotional appeals and loaded language.

It takes Jesus Christ!

Think about it. A change is a conversion. And conversion — in the spiritual sphere — is a *gift of God*. Only God can make the leopard change its spots. You can't. I can't.

It's been my experience, and that of countless others, that one-man crusades often end in obliv-

ion. As the saying goes, "You can't fight City Hall." But Christ can — thankfully! He can fight and He can prevail. *All power* in heaven and in earth has been given to Him!

That's a profoundly comforting thought.

If there's one thing I've learned through this past traumatic, incredible year, it's that my confidence must not be in men. It *must* be in Christ. Only Jesus Christ — with all of His power and all of His wisdom — is capable of changing the heart and mind of fallible men.

Oh, I can reason. And perhaps I can even arrive at the Truth (led by the Spirit of God). I might even be able to figure out what needs to be done — and how. *But I can't make it happen*. Only Christ can. Only our great elder Brother and High Priest can crack through the stoney barriers of human opinion, conditioning, prejudice, mind-set, illogic and obstinance. Only our Lord and Master can make people "see" what they don't really *want* to see.

Maybe you've got some things in mind that you'd like to see changed. (Maybe one of them is me!) Fine. Call on Jesus Christ in earnest, heartfelt, *believing* prayer. State your case to the Captain of our salvation and ask Him to bring about the change.

Who knows — maybe he'll even *use* you or me to help bring that change about!

— Brian Knowles
GN Managing Editor
Pasadena



KEEPING THE DOOR OPEN

On two occasions recently Messrs. Ted Armstrong and Wayne Cole made announcements in the Bulletin about individuals who had left the Work but who were not turning against us. I personally felt both these announcements were beautiful examples of consideration, tact, and *Christian love*.

Some of those who have left us have unfortunately taken the tack of attacking us. A natural reaction is to want to somehow strike back at them. When they were a part of the Work, their faults were quietly overlooked. Now there are a few comments about them such as, "I always wondered about old so-and-so" or "You know, he had a poor relationship with his wife and his kids were brats." Worse still, speculations about morals, character, private life and personal conduct rear their hideous heads.

I feel such has no place in God's Church.

We have said the door is always open any time

former members and associates repent toward God and want to come back. But have some of us lowered the draw bridge and swung open the gates only to slam down the portcullis in their faces? It is human nature to want to make those who hurt us grovel. Of course that's exactly the attitude taken toward the "prodigal son" by his brother. Has that parable a special lesson for some of us?

I sincerely feel that with time many people who left will return. I only hope that we haven't made it all but humanly impossible for some of them to do so.

Some of the people who left had given a good many years of profitable service. We shouldn't be quick to forget it. For those who are simply confused and withdraw their membership quietly to go their own way, we should not brand them with a great stigma. Frankly, for many the designation "Disfellowshipped" is a misnomer simply because of the nuances associated with it. Couldn't we even use some other designation in our Church records, such as "membership withdrawn" or "membership resigned"? Even some small consideration like this could go a long way toward preparing them for eventual reunion with the Church.

— Lester L. Grabbe
Theology Dept.
Pasadena

→ AFTERTHOUGHTS ABOUT PENTECOST

Some ministers and members have been in a quandary with the "problem" that the Church seems to have been keeping the wrong day as Pentecost for forty years. At first glance it would seem to be in opposition to the way we know God works. However, *did* the Church keep the *wrong* day all these years? I would like to give my opinion on the matter as food for thought.

There is something different about Pentecost as compared with the other Holy Days. Every other holy day of God's calendar is clearly marked by a fixed date. "The 15th day of the first month..." "The first day of the seventh month..." etc. There is absolutely no way a mistake could be made here. There is no difficulty in knowing on which day to keep Trumpets or the first day of Tabernacles. But in the case of Pentecost God tells us to *count* to this day — He does *not* give us a fixed date. So in effect God told Israel of old and Israel of today (the Church) to do a little arithmetic. He in effect tells us to figure our *own* Pentecost. True, he gives us the information as to when to start counting, but He still leaves it up to us to

do the counting. Surely then, we see a situation where church government comes into play — a case of "whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven." If His people make a mistake in their counting, due to bad mathematics or, (as was the case) unclear translations, will God condemn them or not sanctify the day? Or will He sanctify the day we come up with and leave it to us to eventually discover our mistake? I personally feel God has over the years made holy the day the Church chose, that is Monday. So that in effect we have *not* been keeping the *wrong* day at all! God was in it, and the way the Church grew and was blessed all these years surely is additional evidence. Also, if it was really the wrong day, would God have let us continue missing His annual sabbath and keeping an unholy day holy? I just don't see God allowing that.

Now that we have discovered our error and have changed to a Sunday Pentecost, God sanctifies *this* day. Remember, God told the church to calculate it, leaving it to us to come up with the day. I repeat, surely a clear case of church government!

One last thought to leave with you. What if the harvest was late any year in Palestine and there was no grain and hence no wave sheaf to offer during the days of unleavened bread? It could mean Pentecost being late by weeks at a time, couldn't it? In short, Pentecost is flexible! The way I see it we have kept the right day for forty years, and now we will continue to keep the right day for another forty years (if we have that much time left)!

— Colin Adair
Philippine Office Manager
Manila

LETTER COMMENTS

(Continued from page 410)

Nun Would Be Sorry if PT Stopped

"In answer to your request for donations towards your program to make more people enjoy your magazine, I am sorry to say that my monthly budget is so small that if you knew the amount you would understand why I cannot contribute. I am a nun and as such have taken the vow of poverty which leaves me with very little money. I don't mean to complain, for I am very happy in my chosen vocation without money.

"If you discontinue to send the *Plain Truth* to me, I will understand, though I will be sorry because I believe your magazine is well named *Plain TRUTH!*"

— M. Tharsilla,
Cohasset, Massachusetts