

PASTOR'S REPORT

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CONFERENCE UPDATE Registration: By now all of you who are attending the conference should have returned your registration forms to Ministerial Services. If for some reason you have not yet returned your form, please do so immediately. It is imperative that we register all participants at one time. Late registrations or unregistered participants can cause considerable confusion and overcrowding in lecture and seminar sessions.

Travel to the Conference: We have been notified by our travel agent that flights originating in Chicago destined for Los Angeles have been overbooked at the time of the conference. The airlines have advised that you check in two hours in advance of your departure time. The last tickets were due to be mailed Friday, December 9. By the time you have received this Pastor's Report, you should have received your airline tickets. If not, give Ministerial Services a call to avoid any further delay.

Cash for Travel: The checks for those of you who have requested money in lieu of tickets will have been mailed Monday or Tuesday, December 12 or 13. If these checks do not arrive by the time you receive your December 15 paycheck, please let us know.

Driving to the Conference: We want to caution you against planning to spend long hours behind the wheel in a "California or Bust" trip to Pasadena. Driver fatigue is a frequent cause of serious highway accidents!

Big Band Concert: The Les Brown show is planned for Saturday night, January 7 immediately following the ministerial dinner hosted by the student body. Bill Weimhoff who is helping arrange the evening was asked that all those who are interested in attending the show please notify Ministerial Services via the WATS line so that a count can be taken. If very many spaces are open Bill will want to arrange advertising and sell some tickets to ensure a full house.

Conference Basketball Tournament: We will be holding our first invitational basketball tournament on January 3 and 4. The teams we will be hosting are: University of Alaska, Fairbanks; Simon Fraser University, British Columbia; and Pomona-Pitzer, Claremont, CA. Since the ministerial conference will be in progress January 4, we would like to provide complimentary tickets for the ministers who would like to attend that evening. The games start at 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Please contact Jim Petty now if you would like to reserve tickets.

--Ted Herlofson, Ministerial Services

MORE FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES Ordination Changes: John Robinson of the Worldwide News will be receiving routine mailings and notices from Ministerial Services so he can inform the readership of news regarding the field churches, the pastors and their activities.

Once the pastors in the field have been notified of approved ordinations and dates, John Robinson's office will also have been notified; therefore, Church pastors will be responsible to notify him directly of any changes in plans.

WATS Calls to Ministerial Services: We now have a direct line into Ministerial Services' office (not Pastoral Administration). Now you may ask directly for the personnel in our office with whom you would like to speak, instead of leaving a "call back" request that delays your business as you wait at your telephone for a return call.

CO-WORKER NEWSLETTER BRINGS GOOD RESPONSE The "Co-Worker Newsletter" is progressively increasing the involvement of our donors with the Work. The Subscriber Development section of MPC reports that results of the first four months of this fiscal year show that the percentage of donors responding monetarily has risen 64% compared to last year! In four months over 20,000 donors contributed through the Newsletter, whereas a year ago only 15,000 had contributed, even though there were 23% more donors on the mailing list at that time.

The increase in donor response is very encouraging. As the mailing list grows (and people are subsequently led to become donors), we hope to see a corresponding increase in co-worker potential.

Mail Count: Through December 9 we have received 1,783,264 letters and 478,341 WATS calls for the year.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing

FESTIVAL OFFICE UPDATE **Opinion Survey:** Thank you for the enthusiastic participation in Mr. Ted Armstrong's opinion survey evaluating the speakers at the Feast of Tabernacles. To date, we have received about a 50% response which has provided a fairly comprehensive overview. However, we would like to hear from the rest of you. Please excuse the omission of a deadline date in the questionnaire. To enable us to prepare a report for Mr. Armstrong before the conference, please return your survey form by December 26th. So, if you have not yet made your impressions known, "may we have your opinion . . .?"

Jekyll Island Festival Site Dropped: Due to a combination of factors beyond our control, Jekyll Island will have to be dropped as a festival site for 1978. Considering the seating limitations in the auditorium (especially in the light of increasing requests from northern cities to transfer to a southern site) and the recent closure of major hotel/motel facilities, we are forced to look elsewhere for an acceptable alternate site. Two major on-island hotels closed prior to the festival this year and the Sand Dollar Hotel declared bankruptcy October 3, 1977. Together these facilities housed approximately 1,250 members on the island. So, in spite of the continued popularity of Jekyll, these conditions necessitate our move to another area. Negotiations are now under way with another seacoast resort, and we should be able to make an announcement soon.

Festival Seminar: For those pastors seeking a keener insight into Feast of Tabernacles planning, they should include one of the fourteen scheduled Festival seminars in their plans while at the conference. Among the subjects you'll be interested in learning about are:
1) The new ministerial policy on Festival tithe, including transfers.
2) How you can participate in future festival site selection. 3) The

qualities to look for in choosing a festival advisor. . 4) How to handle own-arrangement tendencies. These and other subjects of importance will be covered during the upcoming conference. Be sure to make your reservations for one of the 18 sessions of the Festival seminar.

--Buddie Marino, Festival Office

STUDENTS INVITE MINISTERS TO CONDUCT BIBLE STUDIES The student body of Ambassador College is anxiously awaiting the arrival of the ministers and their wives at the conference. Since it's been two years since the previous conference and this is the first year there has been only one Ambassador College campus, there is an air of expectancy and excitement. Most of the church pastors have been directly responsible for any number of these young people being in Ambassador College, and so the students are most anxious to see those of you who are and have been pastors in their home area.

In order to spend a more relaxed period of time with you and in order for you to have opportunity to get acquainted with a number of students, the student body would like to invite two or three ministers and their wives to each of the campus lounge areas for Bible study on Friday evening, January 6. This will afford many ministers an opportunity to really see what Ambassador College students are like, what's on their minds, receive questions and ask questions of them. We'll keep each group to around 40 or 50 students. During the opening days of the conference we'll have a sign-up list for you, and we'll help make arrangements for those of you who are interested in helping conduct these student study groups.

We've been doing this from time to time with some of the sabbatical ministers and other college staff members. These Bible studies have proved to be tremendously successful, and we know many of you will look forward to spending such an evening with the students. Just thought we'd let you know in advance in the Pastor's Report that we're thinking about you and how anxious the student body is to see you all arrive and to spend as much time as possible with you.

--Ronald Kelly, Student Affairs

EXCERPTS OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S LETTER TO GTA Following are excerpts of a recent letter to Mr. GTA from Elbert Atlas. It was thought that Mr. Atlas' evaluation and impressions of the recent concert in New York City's Lincoln Center would be of special interest to the ministry.

Mr. Atlas mentioned that several proposals were made by attending dignitaries that could further advance the goals and purposes of AICF. He also said the whole activity with the participation of the local brethren working on the program was a real "morale booster." The brethren were excited about the chance to help in a direct way and felt "a greater sense of personal worth because they can see quickly the result of their labors."

Mr. Atlas noted that perhaps the greatest effect of the concert was the way it impressed the local community. "When we first started working with people in the local community here, there was doubt and skepticism. There was the repeated question of 'What's in it for you?' It was not until a few weeks before the concert that the 'scales of skepticism' were stripped away Many were astounded

by the people of the Worldwide Church of God Our brethren really exemplified what we teach about giving--people helping people. Our brethren, through personal contact, showed a small, influential segment of the New York City community, the way of giving

"To me, activities of this type are an additional way of saying we have something to give. And, of course, the greatest thing we can give to the world is the knowledge of a better way of life. You and your father have been stating that on the airwaves for many, many years. Activities in local communities give us the means of demonstrating, visually, what we have been stating by means of radio, TV and the printed word. Community activities of this type can provide tangible, easy to understand back-up to the verbal and printed preaching of the gospel. When we give, people understand we are 'for real.' They see a group of people who really believe, and are trying to earnestly practice what they are preaching."

NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY CHURCHES RISE TO THE OCCASION As mentioned in the last Pastor's Report, AICF sponsored a concert this month in New York City. With less than two months in which to care for the myriad of details, church pastors recommended leading persons from their congregations who, in turn, were invited to participate in the project. Many fine talents and strengths were found in the churches--brethren with excellent managerial skills, outstanding public relations types, caterers and commercial artists were discovered. Also found were many youngsters and oldsters willing to do alot of leg work (ticket distribution, etc.). Members had opportunity to meet leaders of the city and state. They were working right along with members of the New York City School Board. It was a learning situation for all. Under the leadership of Mr. Charles F. Nickle, Jr. (who gained a great deal of experience working with AICF on the Wilkes-Barre, PA concert early this year), the brethren involved rose to the occasion and helped make the concert a success.

Not only did individual members benefit from the opportunity to "try their wings" and talents at a worthwhile and unique activity, but they brought to God's Church many fine and glowing reports from outsiders who were involved with the concert including leaders of the I.C.C.Y. (International Cultural Center for Youth). The members' dedication, drive and determination greatly impressed them all. AICF had opened exciting new opportunities to members in that area, besides bringing acclaim to God's Church.

--Keith Thomas