

# PASTOR'S REPORT

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## FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings in Jesus' name! The weather is beautiful here again today--although some smog is starting to creep back in now that our cold and rainy weather is about over. But I can still see the television antennas on Mt. Wilson and it has been beautiful so far this morning.

The unifying effect of the recent trial continues among most of our brethren. Church attendance has been up in many, many areas as people are now more excited and concerned and drawn together by recent events. Many of the brethren have had to commit themselves to God's Work more than ever, and it has been good for them.

Frank Brown called from England a few minutes ago, and in our conversation he reported that the January income for the entire U.K. was up 22% from that month a year before! He said the fiscal year-to-date mail income registers a 13% increase. So things are humming along in Britain and in God's Work in many parts of the world.

There was a fine feature article on us starting on the front page of yesterday's Los Angeles Times. Although some negative things are stated, it was one of the most thorough and balanced articles that has appeared and indicates that the press is waking up to the real issues involved in this current trial. The Worldwide News is requesting permission of the Times to reprint this article later this week, so hopefully you will be able to read it early next week when you receive the paper.

With increased publicity throughout the area of southern California--and perhaps in other areas across the country as well--we are already beginning to plan a few evangelistic campaigns to take advantage of this publicity! As Mr. Armstrong has often said: "We will turn the lemons into lemonade!" So if your area is getting a lot of coverage of our recent trial, please let us know and analyze your feelings and advice regarding the possibility of holding an evangelistic campaign in your area to take advantage of the publicity and turn the notoriety into an advantage for God's Church.

If any of you are in an area where this publicity has had some impact, please let me know right away personally!

We are now in the process of making big budget cuts throughout the Work--about 17% for our area. Several of us at the top are going to take salary cuts, but we are hoping not to have any general cuts for you ministers in the field, although that could become necessary if the crisis worsens. In addition, rather than hiring new ministers at this time to replace those who are having to leave us, we will try

to have many of you pastor two churches rather than one and utilize our manpower better in this and other ways. I know that many of you fellows have not felt as challenged as you would like to be and will be glad to have the opportunity to serve more and still be in the Work full-time. And I know your hearts will be in it and you will come through if you know we are behind you and that we are in a genuine crusade to revive God's Church as never before!

So keep up the good work that I know the vast majority of you are doing, keep in contact with us here at HQ, and we will truly turn this thing around with God's help and "make lemonade with all of the lemons that have been thrown."

With Christian love,

  
Roderick C. Meredith

#### FORM LETTER TO FCC

It has come to our attention that the form letter addressed to the FCC (reproduced in the January 30, 1979 Pastor's Report) is not based on a legitimate threat to religious broadcasting at this time.

Although it is harmless in the sense that it will simply go to the mailroom of the FCC and join thousands of other letters being held for a limited time (nearly four million have been received!), nevertheless we regret being taken in by this spurious letter which, as it turns out, has been circulating for several years. The full story behind the letter had not been available to me before that Pastor's Report was printed and mailed.

--R.C.M.

#### PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Because of the State of California receivership, we are in a time of financial crisis right now in Publishing and, as with our personal life in time of financial crises, we need to save money or not spend as much as we normally do.

Our task then is to re-evaluate our goals in publishing and to see if there are any areas where we can become more cost-effective. One of our primary goals is to give the people the gospel message through The Plain Truth, Good News, and other publications. One of the ways in which we are doing this is via our Plain Truth newsstand program. We must at times like this remember that the primary purpose of this program is to get people to send in a card and subscribe to the magazine. By this method we can send a PT every month into their homes through the mail. This is the first vital step of a carefully planned program of further exposure to our message leading to a follow-up series of special mailings of booklets, etc. from the Mail Processing Center's Subscriber Development Program.

Our job in a time of crisis, then, is to increase or at least do the same amount of publishing with less money. We here in Pasadena are working on ways in which we can keep those new PT responses coming in from the public even with a reduced number of PT magazines out on the newsstand racks.

This is where we need your help (both in your prayers and suggestions) on how to do a more cost effective job. Please write or call if your PT newsstand coordinators have any suggestions on two we can improve the existing program as it is now, using the present method of distribution from the printer. You fellows have come up with ideas in the past. We need ideas now. Please start evaluating each of your outlets, not on how many magazines it will take per month, but on its ability to get us new PT subscribers.

--Roger Lippross, Publishing Services

#### EDITORIAL SERVICES UPDATE

Nothing special to report about the PT at this point except that we are looking into ways of saving printing costs at this time of financial difficulty. Although decisions have not been made at this point, we are not planning to reduce the size of the PT or combine it with the GN.

I would like to take this opportunity to quell a rumor. I have heard from several sources that it is rumored that "half the PT staff quit." Actually only one person quit -- and that was in order to take another position outside of the Work. I was obliged to lay off several of our writers and researchers, however. George and Carole Ritter, Paul Craunke, and Scott Rockhold were all terminated.

We are again planning an "introductory" copy of the PT for new subscribers. We have been working closely with Boyd Leeson and Roger Lippross on this and the issue will be produced on a test basis very soon (pending Mr. Armstrong's full approval of copy and layouts, of course).

--Brian Knowles, Editorial Services

#### THE STRUGGLE TO PRESERVE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The Worldwide Church of God, both directly and through the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, has made continuous efforts to strengthen the spiritual bonds between peoples everywhere and to build better understanding among men and women of different faiths.

This country was founded by men and women who were dedicated or came to be dedicated to two propositions: first, a strong religious conviction, and secondly a recognition that this conviction could flourish only under a system of freedom.

I think it is appropriate that we pay tribute to this great constitutional principle which is enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution: the principle of religious independence, of religious liberty, of religious freedom. And I think it is also important that we pay tribute and acknowledge another great principle, and that is the principle of religious conviction. Religious freedom has no

significance unless it is accompanied by conviction. And therefore the Puritans and the Pilgrims, the Quakers of Pennsylvania, the Catholics of Maryland, the Presbyterians of North Carolina, the Methodists and Baptists who came later, all shared these two great traditions which, like silver threads, have run through the warp and the woof of American history.

While they came from a wide variety of religious backgrounds and held a wide variety of religious beliefs, each of our Presidents in his own way has placed a special trust in God. Those who were honest intellectually were also strongest spiritually.

Today we as the Worldwide Church of God, and our nation, are passing through another time of trial. In many ways, our dangers and our problems are far greater--and certainly infinitely more complex. We will need to draw upon the best that we have and draw upon it physically and intellectually and materialistically.

We need also to call upon our great reservoir of spiritual resources. We must recognize that human collaboration is not enough, that in times such as these we must look beyond ourselves if we are to have ultimate courage and infinite wisdom.

It is an ironic fact that in this nuclear age, when the horizon of human knowledge and human experience has passed far beyond that any prior age has known, that mankind must turn back at this time to the oldest source of wisdom and strength--to the words of the prophets and the apostles who tell us that faith is power and doubt is weakness; that hope is more potent than despair, and that only through the love that is sometimes called charity can we conquer those forces within ourselves and throughout the world that threaten the very existence of mankind.

The whole basis of our present struggle with the State of California is involved in the following concept: We believe that the blessings which come to us come not from the generosity of the State but from the hand of God--and we are unalterably opposed to the idea that the State is the master and the people are servants of the State.

This is really the essence of the issue. We cannot have religious freedom without political freedom.

Religious freedom and religious conviction are the two hallmarks of American society, and therefore as a strong believer in both, I want to save it and deem it an honor to share this evidence of our common belief in these two great principles. And it is a great privilege to match that faith by demonstrating with our lives, whatever our responsibility may be, that we as a church and as individuals care deeply.

--Stanley R. Rader