

PASTOR'S REPORT

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FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from rainy Pasadena! Even though the sun is gone, I am enjoying our "English weather" as it still brings us plenty of fresh air.

My wife and I just returned from a most enjoyable and profitable visit to the San Francisco area. It was good to be there again, speak to the church, attend a church social, and have a fine dinner and long visit with Messrs. Carlton Smith and Dennis Adams and their wives. They are doing a fine job, but I hope to see them and all of you occasionally to renew or deepen our acquaintances and our capacity to know, to understand, to love, and to be able to work together more effectively.

Things are quieting down around headquarters the past few days, and we hope and pray that the receivership will be lifted soon. Our P.A.D. "team" is beginning to function well -- although some are still in the process of moving out here -- and we have all been under a certain strain because of the traumatic problems of last month as well as the recent budget cuts that had to be made.

I want to publicly thank Messrs. Sherwin McMichael, Jim Thornhill and Ted Herlofson and their respective staffs for the fine work they did in helping us trim our overall division budget. I certainly do appreciate their cooperation, yet hope that we can always retain all the necessary core elements of each of these vital programs.

Perhaps it would be helpful for all of you in the ministry around the world to realize that Mr. Raymond McNair, Mr. Dennis Luker and I -- and others on our team -- have regular phone conversations and/or meetings with Mr. Herbert Armstrong. Some ill-conceived rumors are still circulating implying that we are in some way "cut off" from the chief -- which is simply not so! I, personally, regularly call Mr. Armstrong at least two to four times a week for extended conversations about the field ministry, the Work in general, and the state of the universe! To a lesser extent, perhaps, Messrs. McNair, Luker, and others do the same. And we will be flying over to Tucson to see Mr. Armstrong personally every month or two as well.

Our team of dedicated senior ministers are trying, prayerfully and with God's help, to restore the doctrines, the way of life and the approach to the Bible that Mr. Herbert Armstrong wants throughout this entire Church, worldwide. As most of you realize, a sizeable minority of God's ministers were affected by the liberalism that began to be rampant in our theological approaches and in our approach to

administration during the past few years. However, only a small number have been deeply affected and "bitten" by these wrong approaches, and we are trying to work with these men in deciding their futures in the most fair and equitable way we possibly can. We do care for and want to help these men. But we also MUST have great concern for the entire flock of God and for the "sheep" Christ has put under our charge. So for those who in their hearts do NOT truly believe in and follow the approach and the way of life that Mr. Armstrong has taught for so many years, the best and most honest course may be choosing the path of resignation or going non-career. We are trying to assist in this and our only motive and approach in this vital matter is the absolute necessity of recapturing the purity and unity of doctrine and approach we used to enjoy so much.

We have spent countless hours with some of these men in helping them work out these problems. In a couple of cases, most of an entire day was spent by me and one or two others in counseling and encouraging some of our senior men involved in traumas of this sort. They are in my thoughts and prayers constantly.

On the other hand, a few are spreading "sour grapes" stories about how we don't "like" them or are not being "fair" with them and this type of thing. Fellows, this misses the entire point of Mr. Armstrong's direct instruction to me and the P.A.D. team to get God's Church unified again in doctrine, approach and administration. And it certainly misses the deep concern I say before God we have for these men -- most of whom I have personally taught, worked with, and regarded as friends and brothers in Christ for many, many years.

For the most part, however, the above situation has worked out pleasantly and well, and some of the men came to us without any prompting whatsoever and suggested that they would like to go non-career. In this capacity they will still be able to help out from time to time and may yet be used full-time in the future as their own desires and the needs of God's Work dictate.

Among those volunteering to go non-career are Mr. Jack Pyle, who, after setting up an appointment, simply walked into my living room after the Tucson conference and said to Mr. McMichael and me: "Mr. Meredith, my wife and I came in this morning to talk about going non-career." After discussing this matter with them for about an hour or more, we all agreed that this was the best course and tried to work out the details in the most equitable manner possible. Another who volunteered to go non-career is Mr. Wayne Freeman -- who did this in an extended conversation with Mr. Dennis Luker. Other men now going non-career include Mr. George Panteleef, Mr. Elliott Hurwitt, Mr. Dave Odar, Mr. Ivan Sell and Mr. Charles Dickerson. Although he has assured me there is no hurry, Mr. Reg Platt plans to go non-career later this spring as also does Mr. Bruce Anderson. Mr. Dave Robinson will either come in on sabbatical or go non-career, and I expect to hear from him within a few days on this matter. Messrs. Herbert Magoon and Bob Hoops have simply quit the ministry. Mr. Ledru Woodbury had to be terminated. Larry Smith was terminated under the previous administration. This represents the entire list of those changing their ministerial status thus far. We are in the process of working with a half dozen or so others in similar circumstances

and, again, hope that it may be done as fairly and equitably as possible at this time. There are definitely not "dozens" on some kind of "hit list" which has been rumored about among those who like to feed upon these types of stories.

We are having our problems, fellows, but they are nowhere near as traumatic in regard to losing ministers or members as the problems we faced in 1974. So let me repeat from last time -- the overwhelming majority of God's ministers and people remain strong and committed to helping fulfill the Great Commission God has revealed to Mr. Armstrong.

In an entirely different vein from the above, I want to announce that the area coordinators will occasionally be rotated or brought in for a sabbatical before going back to the field in the same or a similar function. In keeping with this, Mr. Dennis Pyle will be coming in this summer to begin a sabbatical and will be replaced as area coordinator for the Kansas City area by Mr. Ray Wooten. I hope all of you will give Mr. Wooten your full cooperation and support.

By some changing and rotating of assignments, we hope to give more of you the opportunity for new challenges, advancement and growth. So all of you fellows be alert and ready to respond to the opportunities for growth and perfection put before each of you by the Living Christ through His Church.

Let's all catch the vision of striving for excellence in doctrine, our ministry and our personal character. As ministers of the Living God, we need to begin to study the Bible on our knees as never before, to pray our hearts out to our Rock and our Redeemer, and to yield ourselves to the one who gives us life and breath as perhaps we have never done before! In this way, and this way only, we will be able to finish the Work Christ has given us with the POWER of His Spirit -- the only power truly capable of doing the job.

So please do this, fellows! And pray fervently for Mr. Armstrong, for all of us here on the headquarter's team, and for one another in God's Work and Church scattered all around this world. We do need one another's love, encouragement, and prayers. So remember us, let us hear from you, and keep up the good work the vast majority of you are doing.

With Christian love,



Roderick C. Meredith

P.S. Mr. Bob Morton just called in from New Zealand. He reports a 33 1/3% increase in this January's income over last January, and that growth continues there in all phases of the Work. How's that for progress?!

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Conference Tapes

Ministerial Conference tapes are now available to any Local Church Elders who were not able to attend the conference. Please tell your elders to send their requests to Radio Production Department, 64 West Valley, Pasadena, Ca. 91105. Any pastors whose wives were not able to attend may wish to ask for a set also.

Newspaper Articles About the Work

Mr. Rader's office has requested that the ministry send in any local articles about the Church and current crisis which have appeared in your respective areas. Although many articles in your area may originate from the major wire services (and therefore vary little from ones we already have) some may be original and very useful to the Work. Please send them directly to Mr. Rader's office, stating the complete name of the paper, the city, and date of publication.

Cancellation of Equipment Purchases

We are sorry to inform you that we will not be able to supply the requested office equipment as we had planned. The present crisis and resulting budgetary restrictions have forced us to cancel these purchases. We will hold your request and reactivate it when the budgetary restraints are lifted. We appreciate your understanding and patience in the matter.

Hitching Post

For those of you who've been badgering John Anderson for years to give up his blissful bachelorhood, we are very happy to announce that Miss Suzanne Glasgow presented an interesting enough picture to cause John to tie up to the hitching post on February 14, 1979.

--Ted Herlofson

MAIL IS DOWN SOMEWHAT

Mail flow is down substantially from last year at this time. The reason, of course, is because of the present crisis in the Work -- we are not sending our usual promotional letters to subscribers and contributors. As of February 14, we have received 57,303 letters for the month of February -- about 30% below last year.

Our Booklets Have Impact

On the bright side, however, as an example of how the literature we are mailing out is helping others, we've included the following letter from a school teacher who uses our booklets in her classes:

Here I am again with my semi-annual request for a bulk order of The Dilemma of Drugs. At the end of last semester the fifty-two students who completed course evaluations rated the book highest of the many resources we used. Thirty-seven of them

rated it "exceptionally helpful" and the rest "very helpful." All students recommended its inclusion again this semester as one of the required readings for the course.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Last week was a very busy week, one of the reasons being that we've had a member of our printer's technical staff from Kentucky working with us here in Pasadena. This man (Bob England) is actually paid by the printer but his job is to look after our interests in Kentucky. We had meetings and discussions with our production staff and he toured the facilities. He went away completely amazed and very impressed at the attitude of our people and the wonderful facilities we have. He said he was impressed that we had never tried to get him to join our church or donate to our cause. Apparently this has happened with other church groups he worked with in the past.

For financial reasons we have been re-evaluating our total publishing programs and have made some recommendations which have yet to be approved. As I mentioned last time, we were going to try to do the same job with less money. During this financially difficult time, I'm asking that all your PT newsstand coordinators not spend any money locally for supplies and equipment, etc. if you expect us in Pasadena to reimburse you -- we just want to keep expenses down to a minimum for a few months. If you can raise money locally for your needs like some of you have done before, that's fine, of course.

--Roger Lippross

EDITORIAL UPDATE

Recent budget cuts have now made it necessary to cut back drastically on the amount of color used in th PT. We have been able to save a considerable amount of money by cutting back on the use of color photos. This not only saves in the cost of the photos themselves, but also in color separation costs. Additional cuts in travel, services and personnel have enabled the Editorial Services area to meet the requested budget reductions for 1979.

We do not anticipate any reduction in the quality of the content of the PT-- and, after all, this is the main thing. It is the message, not the vehicle that carries it, that is most important.

The May PT has been tentatively paginated and copy will be sent to Tucson for Mr. Armstrong's approval this week. Layouts will follow.

We are still unable, as far as I know, to print the new healing booklet or any of the current booklets now in need of reprinting. Hopefully this will all change when the receivership is lifted.

-- Brian Knowles, Editorial Services

PRESS RELEASE

(Editor's Note: The following press release by Mr. Rader was distributed to news media representatives -- TV, radio, newspapers -- in his office on Friday morning, February 16.)

Last week I disclosed the discovery of a reporter's transcript of an improper hearing granted by Judge Pacht in his chambers on January 2, 1979. Present at the improper hearing were the Deputy Attorney General, Mr. Tapper, the would-be receiver, Mr. Weisman, and two attorneys representing the plaintiffs, Mr. Chodos and Mr. Gibson.

This hearing violated judicial procedure and ethics because it was held before any complaint had been filed and before Judge Pacht had any jurisdiction or right to discuss the matter with anyone.

Consequently the matter has been brought to the attention of the Commission on Judicial Performance as well as other appropriate authorities.

However, notwithstanding the aforesaid, I have been advised by my counsel that Judge Pacht is not the real villain of this sorrowful episode. Rather, they urge, that Judge Pacht was as much a victim as was the Church, the brethren of the Church, and the officials of the Church -- because it was Mr. Chodos and Mr. Tapper, along with Judge Weisman, who deceived, deluded, and duped Judge Pacht -- who otherwise, in the opinion of my counsel, would not have acted as he did.

I trust that my counsel are, indeed, correct because I would prefer to understand that the corruption in government, that Watergate revealed so very much recently to all of us, does not exist in the judicial system of California and in the Los Angeles Superior Court system in particular.

--Stanley R. Rader

ON THE WORLD SCENE

A TALE OF TWO GERMANYS Perhaps nothing would be more earth-shaking, geopolitically, than the reunification of the German nation, perhaps within the framework of a massive realignment of borders in Europe as a whole.

Far out (or far off)? Maybe. But it could be a lot closer than most people, especially in America, think. Consider the facts.

West Germany's economy continues to boom along. True, the availability of Iranian oil is a problem, but still Bonn seems to bounce along from success to success. The rising value of the deutsche mark has not slowed exports. West Germany during 1978 set two records: 1) It surpassed the United States as the world's number one exporter, and 2) Bonn's trade surplus for 1978, when measured in dollars, was the country's greatest on record (DM 40.7 billion or \$20.3, compared with America's approximately \$30 billion deficit).

Contrast these figures with the situation in the neighboring German Democratic Republic, or East Germany. The outlook there is

grim. East Germany had its own "economic miracle" during the 1960s. But the bubble burst with the oil crisis in 1973-4. Things have been flat ever since.

If it weren't for direct and indirect economic payments from West Germany, the GDR would be in sad shape. Still, it has run up a \$2.6 billion deficit in trade with Bonn since 1975. Trade with its big partner in the opposite direction -- the Soviet Union -- is just as bad with a yearly deficit of \$1 billion.

Despite the various built-in advantages accruing to the GDR in "intra-German" trade, the gap in living standards between the two parts of Germany continues to widen. In 1961 -- the year in which the infamous Berlin Wall was constructed -- real wages in East Germany were 76% of those in West Germany. Now they are 50%. Productivity has also slumped to about half the West German level.

Worst of all, especially for the politicians and technocrats who run the eastern regime, is the fact that everyone in East Germany knows how much worse off he or she is than the average citizen of the West. Every evening, over ninety percent of the people of East Germany watch West German television. Each year about eight million West Germans visit their relations in the East, bearing personal information about life beyond the barbed-wire fence.

East Germany's rulers have tried various methods to skirt the limitations of their own economic system, without corrupting it completely, in order to satisfy pent-up consumer demands. East German citizens have been permitted to obtain Western currencies and to buy Western goods in a network of so-called "Intershops," places usually run in the Communist world for foreigners. As a result the coveted West German mark has become virtually the second currency inside the country. Many craftsmen and those doing "moonlight" work ask for payment in deutsche marks.

Reunification Talk Surfacing

The growing disparity between the two Germanys is causing some people to question some of the long-held assumptions about the "German Problem."

The division of the German nation into two separate states -- the one allied with the U.S.-led West and the other incorporated into the Soviet-led Eastern Bloc -- has come to be taken for granted by most of the world. Nevertheless, this division -- and in fact, the division of Europe as a whole -- is artificial and unnatural and, by its very nature, inherently unstable.

The reunification of Germany is not immediately around the corner, but the certainty of its occurrence is drawing closer all the time.

Dramatic shifts on the world scene -- especially the opening to the West of Communist China, and the paranoia this trend produces in Moscow -- will have a great bearing on the German situation. Note this report from the "International Outlook" section of the January 8, 1979 issue of Business Week:

"Is Moscow flirting with the idea of allowing more normal relations between the two Germanys in exchange for a loosening of Bonn's ties with the Western alliance? In short, are the Soviets about to play their German card? The standard diplomatic answer, from Bonn to Washington, is that both the Russians and West Germans are locked into positions held for 30 years -- the Russians fear a reunited Germany and the West Germans depend for protection on the U.S. nuclear shield.

"Yet shifting alliances are the order of the day. The current tacit entente of the U.S., Japan, and China against the Soviet Union would have been unthinkable even three years ago. So it is not unthinkable that the cornerstone of post-World War II Europe, the division of Germany into two states, one allied with the U.S., the other with the Soviet Union, could be eroding -- and faster than generally recognized...."

The London Times editorialized in its October 31, 1978 edition:

"It is possible that one day there will be a Soviet leadership which comes to regard eastern Europe as more of a liability than an asset (which objectively it already is) but the prospect is still too distant to have any influence on contemporary policy. Therefore any Soviet hints in this direction must be purely tactical.

"The new situation is, however, interesting as a reminder of how little can be taken for granted as permanent, how easily questioned are some of the basic assumptions on which the present arrangements in Europe rest."

It is with the future impact upon Germany and Europe that we must view other events such as: 1) The Chiense incursion into Vietnam. This only confirms, in Soviet eyes, China's "imperialism" as basic untrustworthiness, and 2) the SALT talks between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The Europeans as a whole are fearful that a SALT agreement, as it now stands, would leave the monstrous SS-20 missiles still positioned against West European cities.

In the future we will likely see a flurry of proposals and counter-proposals for the reunification of Germany (and perhaps a freeing of some other east bloc states) in return for the neutralization of the new Europe, and its jettisoning of NATO; and in conjunction with this, the signing of a grand East-West non-aggression pact.

What part will a Polish Pope play in all this? What happens to the biggest "loser" of all -- the U.S.? Interesting questions.

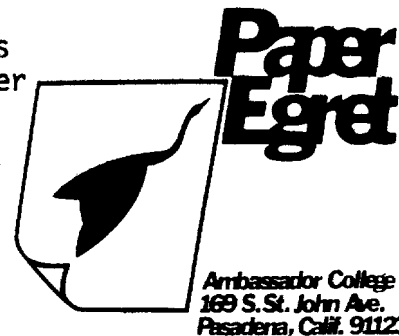
--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau

Dear Pastor,

Hello from the Paper Egret! Since the conference was moved this year and you missed our sale, we would like to offer a special book sale through our mail order department.

We will be selling the following books at a 15% discount (Bibles at 20%) during the month of March only. Also during this period you may order books from our mail order catalog at a 15% discount (this will be mailed soon).

Please use the order form below and add \$1.00 for postage and handling (Calif. residents add 6% sales tax). Make check or money order payable to the Paper Egret.



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