

PASTOR'S REPORT

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FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Pasadena! We are all fine here, and appreciate the many encouraging calls and letters that continue to come in from so many of you and also your brethren out in the field. Now that the receiver has been gone for some time, things seem more normal here at headquarters, and we are able to concentrate more than ever on doing the Work!

We had a fine meeting with the Area Coordinators here last week. On Wednesday, we flew over to see Mr. Armstrong in Tucson and all of us spent several hours with him. It was truly inspiring, once again, to have his direction and inspiration in so many areas of the Work and Christian living. Also, we covered a lot of ground in organizational matters and manpower planning in our meetings here.

We were all encouraged by Mr. Armstrong's approval to ordain Larry Salyer as a pastor-rank minister! It was actually somewhat of an oversight that he had not been ordained to this rank before, but certainly most necessary now because of his tremendous growth and the new responsibility as Area Coordinator that he has been given. So again, congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Larry Salyer!

Because of the very tight financial situation we will be in for the next few months, we want to start immediately to implement a fine idea Mr. Richard Rice has submitted. It involves church fund raising projects. We will send you a complete packet on this within a few days, but I would like to ask all of you personally to start NOW to begin planning and perhaps even preliminary organization of fund raising projects in your area as a special emergency crusade to raise monies to be sent to Tucson at the earliest possible date. Get your leading members together, and begin to organize different groups to engage in painting houses, cleaning houses, ironing, mending, etc., washing cars, selling farm produce, artwork, babysitting, conducting paper drives, yard and garage sales, bake sales, quilting bees, collecting scrap iron, delivering sales papers or advertisements for local firms, etc.

This is one way the members can directly have "a piece of the action" in SERVING God's Work at this time, and yet it will involve very little of their own personal money -- merely time, effort and elbow grease. So please try to catch the vision, fellows, and get your churches enthusiastically involved in these projects as soon as possible. As I said, we will try to send you a packet of ideas within a few days with further details, but I would hope some of you would start on some of the obvious things you could do almost immediately.

God willing, a number of us will be flying out from headquarters to visit many of your areas during the Passover season! We have already

talked this over with most of those involved, but here are some of our preliminary plans. I will be going to Cincinnati for the Passover and then to New York for the last part of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Denny Luker will be going to Seattle-Tacoma for the Passover and then to Portland for the last half. Burk McNair will be going to Washington, D.C. for the Passover and then to Charlotte and later Richmond for the last part of the Feast. Gerald Waterhouse will be going to St. Louis for the Passover and then to Nashville for the last half. And Sherwin McMichael will be going to Minneapolis for Passover and then to Kansas City for the last half of the Feast. Plans are being made for a few others -- as expenses permit -- and we hope any of you will send in requests if you have need of a special visitor at this time.

Also, preliminary planning is already under way to cover at least seven cities with evangelistic campaigns this spring and summer! We will be checking the exact cities and our campaign format with Mr. Herbert Armstrong in a few days and will try to let you know by next week the specific cities we have in mind -- as well as telling you about others that will be added along the way. So this should really stimulate some of the local areas, encourage the brethren, and produce growth in the Church of God!

In closing, I would like once again to say "thank you" to the vast majority who have been solid and loyal in what is without a doubt the worst crisis in the history of God's Work. It has not been easy for some of you, I know, but Mr. Armstrong and all of us appreciate the fact that so many of you have been able to see through the subtle web of lies, the power plays, and the obvious rebellion against the government of God and His Church that is confusing so many of our brethren (and even some of our ministers) at this time. Hang in there, fellows! When Christ comes back to this earth, I am sure one of the main things He is going to be interested in is the degree of loyalty to His government and His viable, active Church and the willingness to humble oneself and wait on HIM to straighten out any real or imagined sins or mistakes in the very Work of which Jesus Christ is the active, Living Head.

Your Brother in Christ,


Roderick C. Meredith

HIGHLIGHTS OF EMPLOYEE MEETING, MARCH 21

"We are under no court order at all now," Mr. Stanley Rader told employees of the Church and College Wednesday morning, as he updated everyone on recent events in our constitutional battle with the state of California. "Our case is in the appellate process so there is nothing to be concerned about as far as being in contempt of court is concerned."

Mr. Rader assured everyone that "we have really, for all practical purposes, won the major battles. The battle lines have been stabilized. We're now in a position that we've wanted to be in for several months." In Mr. Rader's opinion, now it is just a question of "mopping up." But he hastened to add that this process may take two or three years.

"Now that we are in the appellate process," continued Mr. Rader, "there is no longer outside interference with our daily operations. We now have to do all we can to recapture the normalcy we had. Our income and credit has suffered, but things are looking up in the long run. Hopefully we can weather this cash-flow problem with the least amount of confusion and inconvenience to the fewest number of people. But it is still going to be a financial battle until we get through the summer."

"Case Of The Century"

Mr. Rader said we have been "catapulted right to the forefront of what is really the most important church-state issue in 200 years! A day doesn't go by without receiving phone calls from around the country. Radio and television interview offers -- everyone is interested. Now even evangelists in the country are very much concerned along with the major denominations.

"Maybe the whole thing grew out of the Jim Jones thing, but from the education I've been getting, even that isn't true. The state of California began to push its nose into church affairs two years ago! So maybe Jim Jones, in their opinion, made it easier for the state to increase the level of their activities. There are a few fanatics up there in Sacramento who believe that anything other than a major denomination is suspect."

Mr. Rader pointed out that our whole case would have been a disaster if we did not have the intelligence, the will and the help of God to fight this battle. He praised local Church volunteers who helped immensely by putting in long hours in many different capacities. Otherwise it would simply have been impossible!

Must Capitalize on the Publicity

During the meeting Mr. Rader fielded many diverse questions. In commenting about the travesty of justice during the last two and one half months, he emphasized that "we must take advantage of this whole experience. It is a truly remarkable thing that has happened. But it did and it really is going to be -- both in the short and long run -- a great blessing and opportunity. This is the time to capitalize on the attention and publicity we have been getting. While our name is a household word in some parts of the country, we should use this to help our message register with more impact."

Our TV documentary on the crisis should be ready very soon. We're going to have full-page ads around the country like we have had here in the Los Angeles Times. Other churches have asked for permission to print the first ad in their local papers. The group in Milwaukee headed by Tom Grede wants to print it there, and another in Calgary. Mr. Meredith is already making plans for campaigns in these cities where the ad will have run.

New TV Format Being Tried

The employees learned that last Sunday Mr. Armstrong taped a program utilizing a question and answer format for the first time. Art Gilmore asks the questions spontaneously, and Mr. Armstrong answers them. Mr. Rader thinks the show "really bounces all around and you really get to

know Mr. Armstrong." One hundred forty-five minutes are on tape which, after editing, can be packaged with other visual aids and narrative of one kind or another. It is hoped that the new format could be very effective as a supplement and complement to the regular TV program.

Big Sandy Sale May Be On Again

In response to a question about resuming efforts to sell the Big Sandy property, Mr. Rader said the original buyers still evince a desire to acquire the property and are now trying to go forward as before. If we can work out the details in reasonably short order, the sale will ease our whole cash-flow situation.

Income is up but, cautioned Mr. Rader, because of the heavy cash drain caused by the state's invasion and our resultant inability to draw upon normal cash-flow credit lines at this time of year, we will have to hold expenditures to an absolute minimum in all departments of the Work for the next few months. He felt the situation should begin to correct itself as soon as the Spring holy day offerings are in. Meanwhile, we are actively pursuing a number of alternative lines of credit, but find that lending institutions are nervous about extending credit because of the state's involvement, and the inevitable negative publicity.

CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT RULES ON CHURCH'S PETITION

The Legal Office reports that on Thursday, March 22, the California Supreme Court denied the Church's petition for a hearing. The Church was asking that the high court immediately consider whether it is constitutional for a receivership to be imposed on a church. Ordinarily the question would not reach the Supreme Court until lengthy appeal processes had been exhausted.

The narrow margin of the decision (4-3) indicates the issue created considerable interest among members of the State Supreme Court. However, it is the standard procedure for that court to not grant hearings by "extraordinary writ" (as this would have been by leapfrogging over lower legal processes) unless there is "compelling urgency" to hear the matter. Since the receivership is now stayed and a bond is posted, the immediate crisis is past. So they have opted to let the appellate courts deal with the matter first. Meanwhile, Church leadership is in control and has full discretion of the Church's operations.

MEMBERS ARE REALLY PITCHING IN

As you will recall, in January Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong asked for contributions to help pay for the legal defense of the Work against the unfounded legal attack by the State of California in concert with a few dissidents. Over \$400,000 has already been contributed for that special "war chest."

Meanwhile, the special offering for a money bond, if needed, has been growing and is now around \$550,000! This offering is still accruing from member's contributions arriving from around the world. If the surety bond remains acceptable to the court (as it now appears that it will be), then these funds will be used directly in doing the Work at this time of sagging income just prior to the spring holy days. Incidentally, the amount of the surety pledges from all over the state of California has swelled to over \$3,800,000.

Worldwide Church case 'chilling' to Methodist pastor

Dr. J. Gordon Melton

EVENTUALLY, it may be that we will decide that we should be grateful to the attorney general of the State of California.

We take so many things for granted, we Americans. We have been so blessed because our walls are so high and so strong that it is easy for us not to feel threatened, for us to forget that the barbarians are always waiting just outside the gates.

Perhaps it is good for us to be frightened some, once in a while and just a little, and perhaps, eventually, we will thank the attorney general for frightening us.

Not yet, though. Not while we still feel the chill.

Is that melodramatic? I do not mean it to be so. I am frightened. I am chilled by the attorney general of the State of California, by what he is attempting to do to the Worldwide Church of God and, by extension, to all of us who believe we have a constitutional right to practice religion as we see fit and without government interference. And I think the thing that frightens me the most is his apparent confidence that the courts are going to agree with his position, a position that seems to me to be totally indefensible.

A quick review of the case: in January, six former members of the Worldwide Church of God visited a private attorney to complain that they believed the church's money was being misused by the leaders of the church. That attorney took the complaint to the attorney general's office.

The attorney general "deputized" that private attorney to act as a kind of quasi-deputy attorney general in conjunction with a real deputy attorney general.

They then, without notice to church officials, which their questionable evaluation of

California law seems clearly to demand, obtained the cooperation of a judge who issued an order establishing a receiver to take control of the church's administration, finances and records, to completely take over the church.

The receiver and representatives of the attorney general's office then, still without warning or notice, raided the church's offices and announced they were taking possession of all church property and money and that, furthermore, Herbert W. Armstrong, founder of the church and for 46 years its spiritual head, and Stanley R. Rader, the church's chief administrator, were fired. They told stunned and protesting church members that this was being done for their own good.

Their grounds for this outrageous action was the opinion of the deputy attorney general and his deputized private partner that California law makes the assets of religious organizations public money and establishes the attorney general as guardian of that money.

They arrived at that conclusion by defining a church as a "charitable trust" and arguing that California law says that the attorney general has the right and duty to make sure that a charitable trust, being a tax exempt organization, is using its money for charitable purposes, specifically the charitable purposes spelled out in its bylaws.

To which I reply: nonsense.

What we have here instead is a very publicizable case which promises to generate some very large legal fees, and already has. The deputized private attorney general already has asked that the church he is attacking be made to pay that fee.

The original court-appointed

receiver, now being succeeded by a second receiver after six weeks of work, has asked that the church be ordered to pay additional fees totaling \$250,000 to him and his attorneys.

Things become curiously and curiously, as someone once said in Wonderland. It could even be seen as funny, if it were not so serious.

It is serious, however. Unchallenged, this action by the State of California will extend government's authority into the private life of every church and religious organization, with blatant disregard for the Constitution, and will say that a government lawyer has the right to decide how a church can extend its mission, spread its message, obtain and spend its money. How far is it from there, one wonders, to a government lawyer's assumption that he has the right and duty to determine what a church's message should be, or should not be?

Does that sound too hard to believe? I said earlier that we Americans take too many things for granted. Perhaps we have heard so many times that this is a free country that we have forgotten that freedom's price is, indeed, eternal vigilance.

And at the same time, we want to sound modern, sophisticated. Certainly we do not want to sound like religious fanatics or, God forbid, extremists who would say embarrassing things about preferring death to the loss of liberty.

Even in whispers, we would not say the word "conspiracy," and if we wonder deep in our hearts whether the Catholics or the Methodists or the Lutherans might be next, we do not say so.

That could not happen, the "real" religious groups could not be attacked. This is America, after all; no one is attacking religion, only some California

Other voices

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 1979

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cult. Nothing we need to worry about.

But I am worried. Not about the Worldwide Church of God and its 100,000 members. I am director of the Institute for the Study of American Religion but I also am a pastor with the United Methodist Church, and I could never be a member of the Worldwide Church of God.

I do not believe in that church's system of government which places all authority in one man, as I do not accept Papal infallibility.

The doctrine of the Worldwide Church of God denies major Protestant perspectives on the Trinity, grace and salvation, which I accept and believe in. It sees itself as the one true Voice of God in today's world, and that I could never believe.

None of that matters. What matters, and what worries me, is that the state is attacking one of the freedoms we take most for granted, and is not only demanding that we accept that attack, but is almost contemptuously casual in its assumption that we will.

As a pastor, I am not accountable to the state. As a citizen, I am bound not to commit crimes, but as a pastor I am accountable for the administration of my church affairs only to my church's present members, to the bishop placed in authority over me, to my bishop's duly appointed representatives, and to the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church.

That all seems clear to me, even unarguable. It seems to me that separation of church and state mean exactly that, separation; and that the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States means exactly what it says, that no law shall be made "respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Therefore, I consider the actions of the attorney general of the State of California, and I ask myself, why?

And I ask myself, if we do not resist this, what then?

Finally, I wonder if I do not hear, faintly yet, but distinctly, the rattling of swords just outside our gates.

And I say to myself, I must resist this, and I must do what I can to get others to join me.

That is why I write here, to call upon all who are committed to preserving our freedoms to join forces. Speak out, write to legislators, to newspapers, television stations, magazines. Say that we will not stand for this.

Let them know that we are aware, that we see what is being done, and that we will not permit it. Tell them that we remember, with Montesquieu, that, "A nation may lose its liberties in a day, and not miss them in a century."

And we will not let it happen.

Dr. Melton is director of the Institute for the Study of American Religion in Evanston, Ill

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In response to the recent request sent to all employees of God's Work (including the ministry) asking if they could help the cash-flow situation over the next four paydays by foregoing part of their pay in the form of an automatic contribution from each paycheck, our Accounting Office has already received pledges amounting to nearly \$50,000 per payday! This was in addition to all the other ways employees cheerfully sacrificed right along with other members around the world. On top of all this it should be noted that many local employees gave even further in terms of volunteer time on special projects during the last few months of seige.

--Treasurer's Office

NEWS HOTLINE TAPES

With the sudden appearance of the receiver on the Ambassador College campus last January 3rd and the resulting confusion, it became vital for the Church to create a swift and authoritative method of communication. Thus, the "Telephone Network" for the Worldwide Church of God was born. Now, in hours a message can be given to the entire church which before would have taken days.

As an adjunct to the Telephone Network, it was decided to begin using the WATS line in the Mail Processing Center to air "News Hotline Tapes." Through this means ministers throughout the United States could call the WATS number and hear the latest news of the Work given on cassette tape by Mr. Meredith or a recognized leader of the Church.

As of this writing, over six News Hotline Tapes have been heard by the ministry. Below is a summary of their usage.

| | | |
|---------|-----|---------|
| Tape #1 | 123 | callers |
| Tape #2 | 323 | " |
| Tape #3 | 247 | " |
| Tape #4 | 233 | " |
| Tape #5 | 220 | " |
| Tape #6 | 235 | " |

NOTE: These figures are less than the actual number of churches because often a minister will call in once, but share the information with two or three churches on his circuit. We believe virtually every U.S. congregation is covered in this program.

Because of its capability for swift communication throughout the Church, we anticipate this WATS line message service will continue in the future -- even after the current crisis has passed. Through the WATS lines, Mr. Armstrong can get a message to the brethren in hours -- and the cost is virtually nil, since we are already paying for the WATS equipment anyway.

Mail Count As reported last time, mail is continuing to increase. The mail count for this week is up even over last week. At present, the mail for March stands at 104,645.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

NEW SERIES OF TV PROGRAMS

On Sunday, March 18, 1979, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong began a new series of TV programs dealing with various aspects of the Work, including the

current confrontation between the Worldwide Church of God and the State of California. Mr. Art Gilmore, longtime friend of Mr. Armstrong and announcer for our radio and television programs for almost 40 years, interviewed Mr. Armstrong concerning the attempted State takeover and events leading up to January 3.

Questions dealing with religious freedom, state accountability, and the Guyana mentality were among the many topics covered during the hour and 45 minutes of interview.

Dick Quincer and Larry Omasta feel we will be able to extract three half-hour programs from the material which was videotaped at Mr. Armstrong's home. It is their feeling that these programs will be very effective in acquiring response from our viewing audience. The home atmosphere and intimacy of the interview situation between Mr. Gilmore and Mr. Armstrong will give the programs appeal and therefore even greater effectiveness. The technical quality of the production was greatly enhanced by our ability to more effectively control the lighting in that setting.

Since last June, 39 new H.W.A. half-hour TV programs have been edited. We have one sermon-type program left to edit, as well as the three interview-type programs recorded on March 18, for a total of 43.

--John Lundberg, Media Division

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Good managers are hard to find. And when you find one, particularly one with previous experience in printing and publishing, you try not to lose him. Such a person is Steve Etherton who has been managing the production and prepress end of our publications in our old press building. Steve left us last week to further his career in publishing and is now employed by a company here in Southern California. I want to thank Steve for his many years of extremely hard, dedicated work and wish him success in his new job.

Steve's leaving has meant some reorganization and new opportunities for others, including myself. At the moment I'm trying to handle my job and Steve's old job at the same time. Fortunately we have a great team of supervisors who are now carrying additional loads. In the meantime we are redistributing the various responsibilities here in publishing. We are gong to try to absorb Steve's job without re-employing.

The first edition of the new 16-page newsstand promotional Plain Truth has just been printed in Glasgow, Kentucky and is now being distributed. Although it was produced at rather short notice, we are all pleased with it. Since we'll have more time to prepare the next issue, we will be able to use shorter articles so as to appeal to a potentially wider readership. By the way, we are not planning to combine any issues of the newsstand magazine this year because of the generally lower response and difficulties in distributing the same magazine for two months. Instead we will produce a separate newsstand issue in those months when the subscription edition is combined. It will use existing art and articles to reduce costs.

--Roger Lippross

NOTE OF THANKS FROM Y.O.U.

We want to ask that you thank those members of your congregation who have recently submitted Y.E.S. materials to us, as well as in the past. Materials have been received from many Church areas within the U.S. as well as overseas. We really appreciate the very fine quality and creative effort reflected in the material. As we get into production, we will be drawing on the material sent in.

--Ron Dick

ON THE WORLD SCENE

AFRICA AFLAME The next few weeks could be critical ones for the entire future orientation of southern Africa.

On April 20th, the first completely biracial election is scheduled for war-weary Rhodesia. On that day 100,000 white and 2.8 million black voters go to the polls to select the rulers of the new Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.

The U.N. has declared the election illegal, mainly because the Communist-backed Patriotic Front guerrillas, knowing they can't win at the polls, refuse to test their strength at the polls. Instead, the P.F. will do everything in its power to disrupt the election, from intimidation to attempted attacks on polling booths.

Rhodesia's Prime Minister Ian Smith has asked for international observers to come and witness the impartiality of the elections. Few will come. Britain and the U.S., fearful of offending the U.N. Afro-Asian block, have declined the offer. Smith's enemies falsely claim the new constitution, by reserving certain time-limited powers for the Europeans, preserves "white privilege." Actually, it is intended to keep whites in the country for at least ten years, hopefully longer, to ensure a smooth transition. Such guarantees were granted to Europeans upon the independence of Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, but this fact is deliberately overlooked.

Smith knows the western powers simply have no will to stand up to the side backed by Moscow. He said recently that Rhodesia had been "dragged down in the Morass of Britain's decadence and decline," and that London was, in effect, seeking to "sell us out to the Communists who operate from Russia and Cuba."

In South West Africa, or Namibia, a similar sell-out is taking place. The early-autumn timetable for the independence of the territory is being jeopardized by the intransigence of SWAPO, the Moscow-dictated party which operates hit-and-run terrorist attacks from sanctuaries across the borders in Angola and Zambia.

Months ago the United Nations, led by the so-called Western Big Five powers -- the U.S., Britain, France, Canada and West Germany -- put forth a plan for U.N. supervised elections (backed up by a sizeable on-site U.N. force) running up to independence. South Africa said it agreed to the plan. So did SWAPO, but its true intentions were otherwise. Fearing he can't win against the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma has been throwing one monkey wrench after another into the machinery -- a typical Communist tactic.

SWAPO's overall plan is to keep making new demands, pressuring the weak-willed West to agree to them -- and then to force South Africa to finally put its foot down, hoping that Pretoria will call off the whole deal, placing itself in the bad boy's corner, and bringing down upon itself international sanctions, oil boycotts and every other bitter device.

Says Willie le Roux of the Institute for Africa Studies at the University of Potchefstroom /South Africa/: "The present crisis in SWA stems from SWAPO's refusal to take part in the democratic process. It will prevent elections for as long as it possibly can, and for this reason makes impossible demands on South Africa in order to make South Africa out to be the culprit...Nujoma is regularly advised from Moscow and this latest demand is part of the strategy of continually showing up Western inability to take a firm stand."

The latest SWAPO tactic is so incredible as to be almost ludicrous. It has insisted that during a ceasefire between its guerrillas and the South African Defense forces, it be permitted to establish at least two military bases inside Namibia itself. (If permitted, why not let the DTA have its own bases and forces?)

This outrageous demand, which the "Big Five" are apparently knuckling under to, could be the straw that breaks the back of peace. Reports the editor, John Poorter, in the magazine, To The Point, in its March 1979 issue:

"Within the U.N.'s complex organization, but especially in the Secretariat, there appears to be a built-in determination to accede to SWAPO's wishes, and to do everything possible to advance its claims in the territory... The apparent inability of the Western powers to impose their expressed convictions on the peace plan is exposed, and their weakness is confirmed
....

"Whatever their faults -- of which their present internal squabbles are a ludicrous example /referring to the current scandal wracking the South African government/ -- the South Africans see the issue of SWA's future more clearly than others. For them it means the difference between having a peaceable neighbour and a totally hostile one. For if SWA were by some disaster to fall under the control of SWAPO and its backers, we would have all the warnings of full-scale war sounding in our ears. None of us must be so obtuse as to think that the battle over SWA would begin and end there. A look at the map suggests the probabilities of a spreading conflict that must have a final objective in mind: the conquest of the powerful and mineral-rich south, the control of the Cape, sea route, and the denial of strategic materials to the Western world....

"Are the Western powers capable of enough anger and conviction to bestir themselves to action? Or too complacent even to be afraid? I wish I knew, but this is a gnawing doubt."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau