

PASTOR'S REPORT

PUBLISHED BY THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 9, 1979

FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from gorgeous Pasadena! We are having another sparkling clear day with the mountains visible, "clear as a bell" from my office window and a breeze blowing outside. We are all fine here and some of our team is already on the way for their respective trips during this Passover season. I won't be leaving until Wednesday morning so that I have a maximum amount of time here to handle the constant deluge of problems, calls, paperwork, etc.

Messrs. Sherwin McMichael, Burk McNair and I flew over to see Mr. Herbert Armstrong last Thursday and had a very profitable visit with him. We were able to go over and gain his approval on all of the ordinations to be conducted during the Passover season. Also, we talked over in detail with him all of our plans and the entire format for the three-night Evangelistic Campaigns coming up within a few weeks. He continues to be in good shape and good spirits and gave us some very helpful ideas about the campaigns.

For those of you who might be concerned, we want to let you know that things have been so terribly busy that we will not be able to complete making our summer assignments until after the Days of Unleavened Bread. So if you are in any way involved in some of these changes, please be patient.

In this regard, I am sorry to report that Bobby Boyce sent Mr. Luker a note last week expressing his desire to go non-career. He may have had many reasons for this, but I know he was disappointed that we felt it imperative to assign someone else to the Longview, Texas church at this time, which he had asked for. However, none of us in P.A.D. had in any way encouraged him to go non-career and it was a sincere surprise to us, as we had planned to give him another assignment in the general area. However, we wish him well and all of you fellows who choose the non-career route -- though I hope that some day in the not too distant future, the Work will move forward with such obvious power and inspiration, and prophecies will start happening so rapidly that all of you -- along with many others -- will again want to literally GIVE YOURSELVES full-time to the service of the Work of God.

Another matter I feel should be discussed openly at this time is our decision to make a change in the Oklahoma City pastorate some time this spring or summer. This was done after visits to the area by Messrs. Waterhouse, Neff, and McMichael -- all from our headquarters team. However, because of a truly saddening situation regarding the fact that young Joe Pyle has very recently been found to have cancer and has only been given one to three months to live, we have decided to postpone any final decision and action on this matter until summer. It turns out -- which I did NOT know earlier -- that Joe is right there in Oklahoma City staying

with Ray Pyle, his older brother. And we certainly do not want to add unnecessary further burdens to the Pyle family at this time, and so have modified our previous plans because of this unusual situation which has struck a family so many of us have known and loved so long. Please PRAY for Joe Pyle! Ask our Creator and our Healer to intervene supernaturally and raise him up SOON -- as He is able. We know this will work out for good, and we are deeply sorry that all of these situations had to hit at such an inopportune time -- and ANY time is "inopportune" to be struck with cancer. So remember Joe in your fervent prayers!

Fellows, as we preach to others during this Unleavened Bread season, let's be sure we also put out ALL the sin we possibly can from our lives and from God's ministry! Let's be sure that we avoid the "leaven of the Pharisees" which is hypocrisy. Let's be sure that each one of us sincerely in our hearts supports God's Work and God's apostle, Mr. Herbert Armstrong, during the difficult days of this present crisis. Let's be sure that in our hearts we try to get back to the WAY OF LIFE and true doctrine which God has set in his Church through Mr. Armstrong in our age. And let's all realize that many of us have not been as totally loyal, yielded and humble before our God -- looking for HIS guidance and direction in the Work and in our lives as we ought to have done. Realizing the above, let us fervently renew our commitment to Christ and His leadership and His Church at this time and grow toward an even deeper commitment than we have ever had before.

Fellows, please put your whole hearts and fervent prayers into preparing your sermons for this spring festival season! Let's all try to give God's people the encouragement, the lift and the inspiration they need so much. And in this time of special need, please encourage the brethren enthusiastically to give generously for the final holy day offering of the Days of Unleavened Bread. I am sure you realize this is a critical need at this time, so let's all "rally" to the cause in our prayers, our encouragements, and our personal offerings to Christ and his Work at this time.

Have a good Feast, and our prayers are with you all.

With Christian love,


Roderick C. Meredith

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Reporting Central Clearing House Expenses I was surprised and somewhat disturbed after reviewing March's Central Clearing Account Exception Report. The report shows that 153 ministers have not reported Central Clearing Account expenses totaling \$98,700!

Not only is the unreported amount disturbing, but also the fact that the figure has been growing by several thousand dollars per month. The average dollar amount outstanding each month last year was \$50,000.

It was thought a serious matter when the \$50,000 level was reached in 1976, and through effort and expense, a new system was devised to replace the Emergency Fund Checkbook system.

The new checkbook system, the Central Clearing Account, was designed to reduce your paperwork load by utilizing NCR Copies right in the checkbook. At first the system was very effective and unreported expense dropped to less than \$16,000 per month. However, our success was short-lived. Ironically, unreported expenses have climbed steadily ever since.

The cause of the problem is most likely simple inattention to one of the ministerial responsibilities. However, the situation must be reversed. Those of you having the problem need to determine to get the simple paperwork done and mailed to Pasadena weekly, unless there is serious interference with your time.

Please do what you can to correct what is a serious problem and strive to keep the problem corrected during the coming months. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

--Ted Herlofson

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Things are really getting back to normal now in the Publishing area. We have over 200 printing jobs going through the production area at the moment and have 10-15 new jobs coming in each day from the various areas here in Pasadena. Our people are fully stretched trying to keep up with the flow of work. We are all looking forward to some physical and spiritual rejuvenation over the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread.

The teamsters trucking strike obviously affects us dramatically here in Publishing because of the movement of paper and the distribution of our publications around the United States. We understand that many of the independent trucking lines are not on strike as yet and we are not sure how The Plain Truth newsstand distribution program will be affected. We know, at the very least, there's going to be some considerable lengthening in delivery time. Many of you will be receiving magazines much later than normal, so be prepared for that. We are doing our best here in Publishing to work around this problem and are trying to find alternative trucking routes and companies. So please have patience with us in this.

--Roger Lippross

EDITORIAL SERVICES UPDATE

A number of you have been asking about several booklet projects that have been "hanging fire" for some time. I did have the opportunity to discuss them all with Mr. Armstrong today. In addition, we have some news on the Healing booklet.

The Wonderful World Tomorrow booklet will be reprinted shortly. Any revisions or changes that were to be made have been completed. The new Healing booklet has been printed and copies will be mailed to church members shortly. A few design and copy changes will be made on Herbert W. Armstrong, Ambassador For World Peace and it will be ready for reprinting this week -- as budget permits.

Mr. Armstrong is currently reviewing the copy of The Mark of the Beast (advertised in the August '78 semi-annual letter) and This is the World-wide Church of God. As soon as he approves copy, we'll get those to the press.

And finally, The United States and Britain series that has been running in the PT is near completion and it remains to be decided what is to be done with that in terms of a full-sized book. Mr. Armstrong will be discussing that project with Mr. Rader and we'll let you know as soon as we know what is to be done.

--Brian Knowles

STOLEN DOCUMENT COVER-UP BY STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL DISCLOSED

The following news release was distributed at a press conference held by Mr. Stanley Rader at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, April 4th:

Attorneys for the Worldwide Church of God today charged that the Attorney General's office is in possession of stolen documents. The Church further charges that those documents, containing vital, pertinent information, on the Church's behalf, have been concealed to cover up the State's illegal actions.

The apparent cover-up, initiated to make the State's charges appear valid, only served to break down any possible negotiations between the Church and the State.

The Church is petitioning Governor Jerry Brown to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the actual motives behind the Attorney General's actions and for the return of all stolen documents.

Included with the press release was a copy of a telex message from Mr. Rader sent to Governor Brown on the same date. The complete text of that message follows:

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Sacramento, Calif.

Dear Governor Brown:

Serious events transpired today in the Los Angeles offices of the Attorney General that require your attention.

During the course of a deposition in the matter of The People of the State of California v. Worldwide Church of God, it was discovered that the Attorney General has in his files voluminous, stolen documents containing detailed accountings of all Church activities for the past 27 years. These documents were exculpatory, yet they had been suppressed by the Attorney General and not shown to the Los Angeles Superior Court in any of the proceedings. Moreover, it is now apparent that not only were each of the allegations in the complaint false, but the Attorney General knew them to be false.

Because the Attorney General's office has concealed this and is covering up the enormous wrong of continuing this action, we now feel compelled to ask that you appoint a special prosecutor to investigate this incident of official corruption.

(Letter to follow.)

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley R. Rader
Worldwide Church of God

During the taking of his deposition by the Attorney General on April 3rd, Mr. Rader and Church lawyers were shocked and outraged to learn that the Attorney General has been "covering up a theft of major proportions." During his examination at the Attorney General's offices, Mr. Rader was shown a 28-page document by the Attorney General which contained most detailed financial information covering 27 years of past operations of the Work of God.

Mr. Rader said that this document was prepared by the Church. "The irony is that this document disproves the very allegation that had been made by the Attorney General in this case from the beginning," Mr. Rader declared. "In addition, the information disclosing every single penny received and every single penny spent completely and conclusively demonstrates that there never has been any pilfering or siphoning of church assets by any defendant!"

But why was this document and others in the Attorney General's possession not disclosed earlier to the court or to Mr. Rader? Why were they not included in the court-ordered inventory of records originally taken by the first receivership?

"First, it was stolen," explained Mr. Rader. "This accounting -- confidential and protected by the first amendment from disclosure to the state -- was never produced by the Attorney General for examination. The Attorney General was embarrassed to admit that he even had possession of this stolen material. It came out inadvertently yesterday during my deposition. What is more outrageous is that the Attorney General now refuses to disclose the origin of these documents."

In addition, Mr. Rader felt that the purloined material in the possession of the Attorney General would politically embarrass that office since it disproves the grandiose and unsupported previous claims made to the press by the Attorney General. "Cover-up and create confusion, rather than admit the mistake," said Mr. Rader, "is the mentality of the Attorney General."

Dissident Ex-Members Avoiding Compliance

Our ability to further discover how this invasion of the Church was perpetrated has been frustrated at this point since two of the six dissident ex-members who are relators in this case have fled the state and the others are avoiding being served court papers so that their oral depositions /testimony of a witness taken under penalty of perjury, but not in court/ cannot be taken! Moreover, the Attorney General refuses to state that he even represents the dissident members and refuses to accept the burden of producing these people for examination. And so Mr. Rader has appeared for his deposition, but the ex-members who started the lawsuit in conjunction with the state have refused to do so.

Once having been confronted with the theft of Church documents, the Attorney General retaliated by advising Mr. Rader of his rights as in a

criminal proceeding instead of the civil proceeding that it is. "The absurdity of this tactic is patent!" he exclaimed, "since the deposition had already been in progress for more than one day without any such warnings by the Attorney General. Clearly it was an attempt to retaliate and intimidate me based upon a vindictive motive, having been caught concealing the stolen documents proving the innocence of everyone. This outrageous conduct resulted in my leaving the deposition during the second day of examination."

Special Investigation Needed

Since Mr. Rader did not believe that the Church could allow "This raw arrogance of power to continue," he expressed the need for a special investigative agent "to look into the Attorney General's office, and find out why this outrageous cover-up continues -- and what other improper and illegal exculpatory [clearing from blame or fault] evidence he still holds in his possession. A government office with unbridled power is a menace to the rights of every individual that resides in this state."

During the news conference Mr. Rader further revealed that the comprehensive 27-year financial report on the Church, College and even the Foundation since its inception, was prepared at his request in January 1977. It showed the Work's financial history since 1950 "in every conceivable manner so we could understand what the trends were and what we could predict for the future from what we may learn from the past. Originally only three copies were made -- for my eyes, Mr. Herbert Armstrong's eyes and Mr. Ted Armstrong's eyes."

The copies were labeled "confidential" and were corporate property, so whoever took them from the Church clearly had no right to do so. And the Attorney General should have known that he had no right to the documents either since they were so labeled. This information is highly confidential and therefore protected by the first amendment from disclosure to the state. Even Judge Johnson recognized that the nature of the report is something that the public doesn't have a right to have. At the request of Church lawyers, the judge issued an order prohibiting the Attorney General or the court reporter from disclosing any part of the document.

Meanwhile, our attorneys are deliberating as to whether the document should be released to the public anyway. It would definitely clear the Church of all allegations of "pilfering" or "siphoning of Church assets," but we must be certain that by releasing the information ourselves, we do not inadvertently waive all our privileges and immunities as a church! As for Mr. Rader's request that Governor Brown step into the case, "whether he will or not," he noted, "is, of course, something within his discretion. We cannot force him to do so. But we would hope, out of fairness and consideration for the Church's brethren, as well as the Church leadership, that he will appoint a special prosecutor to look into the affairs of the Attorney General both in Sacramento and Los Angeles."

Mr. Rader said he appealed to Governor Brown because "I feel it is impossible to get to the bottom of this affair without the governor appointing, under his executive powers, a special prosecutor to investigate the activities of the Attorney General who otherwise, I am confident you understand, would be unwilling to investigate himself."

CALIFORNIA BRETHREN READY TO PROVE SURETIES

In Los Angeles Superior Court, April 5th, over a dozen members accompanied Church attorneys to begin what they thought would be the first day of surety verification -- a process which was expected to take many days, perhaps even weeks, of courtroom testimony to accomplish. However, Judge Eagleson decided not to waste precious court time and space in this manner. Instead, he ordered that the Attorney General's office first specify which suretyships he wishes to challenge. This is to be done by April 26. The Church then has until May 3 to contact the members involved and produce the documents necessary to verify the value of the questioned sureties. On May 8 attorneys for both sides are to be back in court to hear Judge Eagleson's decision on the exceptions and the Church's responses. Should the judge rule in favor of the Attorney General's exceptions, the Church will have more time in which to further respond, including the substitution of new sureties if necessary.

Mr. Rader told members of the press outside the courtroom that he felt the suretyships "show their the brethren's love and devotion to the Church of the Living God. Because of the court's denial of rights of the church members, the Attorney General, in my opinion, has in essence inadvertently given by questioning the sureties the church members the opportunity to demonstrate just what it means for them to be members of the Worldwide Church of God -- members of that spiritual body."

Members were anxious to verify in court that they are acting in good faith and that the integrity of the sureties are above reproach. It is especially repugnant to California brethren that the Attorney General is trying to throw out most, if not all, of the sureties as "questionable" -- as if to imply, perhaps, that church leaders falsified sureties by taking names off tombstones, or obtaining them by some other spurious means. Or, rather, that brethren themselves, as members of the Church the Attorney General has falsely accused, are not to be trusted!

700 MILLION DOLLAR SUIT REFILED

Some have wondered about the status of the 700 million dollar suit the Church filed against the state of California. It was denied by Judge Firth in Federal District Court a few weeks ago, so the Church has refiled it in amended form. This revised suit has been expanded to include others whom the Church has proof are involved. Judge Firth has taken the amended suit under advisement.

EX-MINISTER BUCKLES UNDER CROSS-EXAMINATION

A major blow to the Attorney General's office and dissident ex-members was struck late today, April 9. Benjamin Chapman, disfellowshipped ex-minister of the Worldwide Church of God and a major link in the conspiracy and planned take over of the Church, buckled under cross-examination by church attorneys.

In a deposition being taken today, Benjamin Chapman (considered by the Church as one of the conspirators) under close questioning by one of the Church's attorneys, Marshall Morgan, panicked and said he now needed a lawyer to represent him. Mr. Chapman had earlier stated that he didn't have a lawyer present, and had no need to have a lawyer present. Mr. Chapman was reminded that he was already in contempt of the subpoena and subsequent judge's order to appear, but he was allowed to leave upon agreement to come back April 23.

Mr. Rader stated that during the deposition it became very apparent Mr. Chapman was a very much involved person in the conspiracy to deprive the Church, its leadership and its members of their constitutional rights.

Also during the deposition, recouced Mr. Rader, Deputy Attorney General Lauren Brainard took exception to Mr. Rader having to remind him that (a) he did not represent Mr. Chapman, (b) that he had admitted he did not represent Mr. Chapman, (c) he, therefore, should not be advising Mr. Chapman, (d) our lawyers were getting tired of reminding him of what the law was, and playing "continuing education of the bar," whereupon, he threatened Mr. Rader with physical, bodily harm by his manner and by his statement, which was an epithet. Mr. Rader said that we are considering bringing an action of assault as well as an action to recuse him /challenge him as prejudiced, or otherwise incompetent to act/.

Mr. Rader commented that "our lawyers have been trying from the beginning to get the State to tell us who they represent, and who they don't represent. A month or so ago we learned that the state orchestrated a concerted effort to keep all of the witnesses that we had subpoenaed for depositions from appearing. And now we felt that Mr. Brainard, although he admitted he did not represent Chapman, was acting as though he did. We don't care if he does," continued Mr. Rader, "we feel it would be a break if he did. We even invited Brainard to represent Chapman, but the point was, he didn't represent Mr. Chapman; therefore, he should not have been constantly advising him."

NEWS SUMMARY

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