

# PASTOR'S REPORT

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## FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Greetings Fellow Ministers:

We continue to have very beautiful weather here in Pasadena -- with plenty of sunshine and moderate smog. We hope those of you ministers living in the northern part of the U.S. have weathered the long, bitter winter. I am sure you look forward to God's beautiful springtime even more than we do here in sunny southern California.

Mr. Rod Meredith asked me to write you since he is now in New York visiting with ministers there, and he plans to speak to the churches in that area tomorrow, the last day of Unleavened Bread. He was in Cincinnati for the first part of the Feast.

I have spoken to Mr. Armstrong twice during the Feast via telephone, and he is well, filled with faith and energy. He continues banging out articles on his typewriter, a constant proof that God strengthens and inspires him.

At this point, I would like to clear up a misconception. Some brethren (and even a few ministers) have claimed that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong is cut off, isolated from the ministry, having little or no contact with them. This is simply not true. Each week Mr. Armstrong is in constant contact with numerous ministers.

Mr. Meredith usually contacts Mr. Armstrong at least two or three times a week. Mr. Ellis LaRavia, Mr. Rader, Dennis Luker, Sherwin McMichael, myself and others also have regular contact with him. Since arriving back in Pasadena in the spring of 1978, I have usually been in contact with Mr. Armstrong once or twice a week either via telephone or during personal visits in his home. Besides this, various area coordinators call Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong any time they feel there is a need to do so.

So it is just not true that Mr. Armstrong is isolated from God's ministry! In fact, he insists that we keep him constantly informed concerning what is going on in the ministry, the college etc.

The hand of the Receiver continues to be stayed -- pending a decision from the higher courts concerning our case. It looks as though we will be able to keep the Receiver from ever planting his boots back on God's property; remember, this is the property of the Eternal God. If we continue to do our part He will see to it that we win complete, ultimate victory! In the meantime, we must keep on our knees, continually praying and even fasting for God's Work -- that He will bless it more than ever before as we remove the "spiritual leaven" from God's Church.

Attendance and offerings during the first holy day were very good. The offerings on the first holy day were, reportedly, up to projected

levels -- in spite of the fact that the brethren had been asked to make certain financial sacrifices during the first part of this year in order to thwart the illegal and ungodly attempted takeover of the very Work of the Living God!

I would like to take this opportunity to say something which I feel is important to all of God's ministers worldwide. How many of you ministers have really understood what Satan is doing -- or trying to do -- in his attacks against this Work?

I am quite aware of the fact that the ministers of the WCG have, in the main, performed very well during the numerous crises which this Work has gone through. Most of you, like good soldiers of Jesus Christ, have stood there, rock solid, as God's Church and His Work have repeatedly been attacked. You have been unmovable.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and all of us ministers here at Pasadena have rejoiced to see the loyalty and steadfastness which the vast majority of you ministers have exhibited. Thanks to God for that dedicated support of loyalty to Him, to Jesus Christ, and to God's chosen apostle -- the one through whom Christ raised up, and continues to direct, this mighty Work.

But we all need to guard against the tendency to forget that God has called each and every one of us in his ministry to a very high calling. In fact, I know of no calling so high and so noble as that of being counted worthy of being put into Christ's ministry. Let us consider Paul's admonition to a young man, Timothy, whom he had ordained into the ministry of Jesus Christ:

"I charge thee...Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season... For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears....But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist (or that of a pastor, elder or deacon), MAKE FULL PROOF OF THY MINISTRY" (II Tim. 4:1-5).

All of us ministers need to keep our minds on the very high calling which God has granted us. We should never look back -- never seek to go back into the world.

Notice what Christ thinks of any man called into his ministry who begins to look back -- who tries to get out of fulfilling his high calling. "And He (Jesus) said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:59-62).

If a man comes to see that he is actually a "square peg in a round hole," then he can have God's blessing if he leaves the ministry. He should never have been in the ministry in the first place. But if God has truly called one into the ministry, then he should faithfully, diligently carry out that calling -- without ever looking back! Remember, how Jonah

tried to run away from the ministry to which God had called him.

Notice the apostle Peter's admonition: "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles (words) of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ ..." (I Pet. 4:10, 11).

Also, don't forget the words of this same apostle, as he exhorted the elders of God's church to, "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away" (I Pet. 5:2-4).

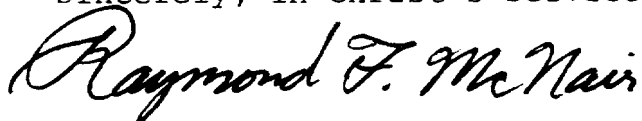
What should be the attitude of all of us ministers toward the very high calling God has given us by putting us into his ministry?

We ought to seek, both by example and by teaching, to fulfill that calling to the very best of our ability. Nothing should turn our heads away from that high calling -- neither money, persecution, nor anything else.

Once we have been highly favored of God by being called into His ministry, we ought to strain every muscle and every brain cell to make sure that we faithfully fulfill that ministry -- never looking back over our shoulders for any reason whatsoever.

May God enable each and every one of us to faithfully perform that ministry that he has committed unto our trust. Then we shall receive "a crown of glory" from the Chief Shepherd at His Second Coming!

Sincerely, in Christ's Service,



Raymond F. McNair

#### SECOND PASSOVER DATE

For those who will need to hold services for the second Passover in your local areas, the time for the observance this year is Thursday evening May 10th.

--Ministerial Services

#### DONATION CLARIFICATION

A number of questions have been asked concerning "Herbert W. Armstrong" and "Worldwide Church of God" donation and receipts. We would like to clarify the matter for everyone. You may want to share the following information with your congregations:

1. Checks made out to "Worldwide Church of God"

As you know, Mr. Armstrong has asked that all donations to the Work be made payable to "Herbert W. Armstrong" and sent to Tucson for processing. However, some are still making their checks out to "Worldwide Church of God" and sending them to Tucson. These "WCG" checks cannot be deposited in Tucson and are forwarded to Pasadena for processing. Any checks of this type will be acknowledged on "Worldwide Church of God" receipts.

2. Checks made out to "Herbert W. Armstrong"

All checks should be made payable to "Herbert W. Armstrong" and mailed to Tucson. However, in March when the critical need arose to raise \$1,000,000 for a bond to stay the receivership, all checks -- whether made to HWA or the WCG -- were kept in Pasadena. (Both HWA and WCG checks can be deposited in Pasadena, but only HWA checks can be deposited in Tucson). The "Special Offering" donation which appears on Worldwide Church of God receipts dated March 1979 refers to this offering for the Bond.

NOTE: Some local churches turned in one large check for the entire congregation. Receipts to individual contributors in these situations may be delayed until donations are clarified.

3. Separate Accounts

We must keep separate accountings for the WCG Pasadena and HWA Tucson contributions. Separate HWA Tucson receipts will be sent to everyone who sends money there. The "year-to-date" totals on HWA Tucson receipts will NOT list any contributions receipted by the WCG.

4. Delays In Receiving Receipts

Some members have expressed concern over not receiving receipts for tithes and offerings they have sent since earlier this year. All "Worldwide Church of God" checks have continued to be receipted on a monthly basis. However, because of the increased workload, many "Herbert W. Armstrong" checks sent to Tucson are merely late in being acknowledged. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding.

We hope the above points will help to clarify any misunderstandings that have arisen in the area of donations and receipts.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Some reports are beginning to come in that our new 16-page Newsstand Plain Truth is being picked up by the public. We are already getting requests for full subscriptions as a result of this much less expensive magazine. All this is very encouraging for us here in Publishing. We

have had the privilege of taking the concept from the first glimmer of an idea through proposal to Mr. Herbert Armstrong, then through design to the printed magazine, and on to the newsstands. We are now waiting for further results so we can evaluate our performance and any changes we may need to make.

--Roger Lippross, Director of Publishing

#### STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL AMENDS ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

The Attorney General has amended his charges against the Church, College and the Foundation and their officials. He has done this by filing an "amended complaint" in court. (A complaint is the vehicle by which the charges in a lawsuit are presented.)

Attorneys for the Church do not feel the Attorney General's amended complaint supercedes the original one because it was done without court permission. In any case, the amended complaint is essentially a rehash of the first one. Though some of the most outrageous charges are dropped, similarly repulsive charges are made in their stead.

Recently the Attorney General fought a motion Church attorneys made before the court asking that the state bring forth any documents to substantiate their wild allegations. The Church is convinced that the Attorney General went ahead and amended all counts in the complaint because he, in fact, has no evidence of wrongdoing upon which to base his case, and is merely "buying time" with which to harrass God's Church.

#### TAXPAYERS' LAWSUIT LOSES ROUND IN L.A. SUPERIOR COURT

On Tuesday, April 10, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Vernon Foster dealt a set back to the "taxpayers' lawsuit" filed by eleven taxpayers (all members of God's Church in California) several weeks ago. The suit contested the constitutionality of the Attorney General using tax monies to investigate and harrass the Worldwide Church of God under section 9505 of the California Corporations Code. The Attorney General relied on section 9505 as his sole authority for his lawsuit (State vs. Worldwide Church of God) which included the demand for a free-wheeling search of any and all records of God's Church.

Section 9505 applies to charitable trusts, but does not mention churches. The Attorney General contends that churches are "charitable trusts," but it is the contention of the taxpayers' lawsuit that IF 9505 is applied so as to include churches, the section is unconstitutional and in violation of the first amendment.

God's Church, as are many other churches in California, is incorporated as a "non-profit corporation" in order to carry on its business affairs and to enjoy the appropriate tax-exempt status of a church. It has always complied with the applicable non-profit corporation laws of California. The taxpayer's attorney pointed out to the court that profit-making corporations -- and churches that have never been incorporated -- do not experience such excessive scrutiny, and that there is no reason to assume that incorporated churches need more watching than other entities.

The attorney for the taxpayers called the court's attention to the U.S. Supreme Court decision regarding Lemon vs. Kurstman. In this 1971 case

a parochial school welcomed the prospect of state aid. The church-related school was willing to meet the state's condition for receiving the much needed funds which was a subject-to-audit rule. Even though the church school was willing, the Supreme Court said, "No, this arrangement will mean excessive entanglement between government and religion." The Supreme Court ruled that this was unconstitutional and that the state should not be examining the parochial school's financial records to determine which expenditures were religious and which were secular.

The judge asked if the members bringing this lawsuit were really trying to protect their Church. The attorney replied, "Yes, and themselves." Members have rights of privacy to protect. For example, there would be no privacy protection of their correspondence with the Church concerning spiritual matters if they were exposed to the state's examination and confiscation of anything they wanted.

Judge Foster denied the taxpayer's request for a preliminary injunction, indicating that he did not want to interfere in court proceedings of another department. He felt that the Church had not stressed this matter in its own proceedings thus far and indicated that is where he would like to see it addressed. It is yet to be determined by the taxpayer's attorney just what further action can and should be taken regarding their original suit.

#### ANOTHER CHURCH RAIDED IN CALIFORNIA

Another church in Southern California was raided by the Attorney General's office! Thursday morning, April 5th, a search warrant was served on Morningland Church of the Ascended Christ in Long Beach. State agents, accompanied by 14 uniformed Long Beach police officers, entered the church and began going through its financial records, seizing any and all that they chose. The original allegation by the State was that the Church had made an "illegal political contribution," and so they were looking for the evidence to support this claim.

Meanwhile, the same day across town, other state investigators literally ransacked the offices of the attorney who represented this church, as well as another church (Faith Center which operates channel 30). The Attorney General had been investigating Faith Center before he descended on The Worldwide Church, but had been thwarted by a "No, no, we won't show" resistance to his office's unconstitutional gestapo-type attempt to review their records.

In the raided attorney's offices were the private files of over one thousand clients. Because the attorney made a quick call and got camera and sound crews over to his offices, he has over seven hours worth of documented proof showing the Attorney General's men opening, and even in some cases taking, papers from the files of some of these clients whose cases are outside the stated purpose of the investigation. This clearly violated attorney-client confidentiality, as well as the rights to privacy of over 1000 heretofore uninvolved citizens of California -- and by the highest law officer of the state!

After the raids a spokesman for Attorney General George Deukmejian stated that the searches of the law offices were being conducted in the investigation of a church. "We're examining the financial records of Morningland /Morningland Church of the Ascended Christ/ and I've been told," he said, "we're a long way from filing charges." Obviously they were on a "fishing expedition" under the color of state authority.

Could it be that the Attorney General's office is now in so deep that they are going to continue raiding what some consider out-of-the-main-stream churches in the hopes they will find something somewhere to justify their outrageous actions?

## Church asks stay of receivership pending review

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Worldwide Church of God asked the California Supreme Court Thursday for an immediate stay of financial receivership proceedings until the U.S. Supreme Court acts on its request for a review of the matter.

The state tribunal on March 22 denied a request to overturn Los Angeles Superior Court orders on Jan. 19 appointing a receiver to manage the church's finances and on March 12 reimposing receivership without notice, hearing or evidence.

The Pasadena-based church

said it is going to the U.S. Supreme Court "to protect and establish First Amendment rights violated by the Jan. 19 and March 12 orders."

The church also claimed the lawsuit and receivership was causing continuing financial injury to the church in excess of \$5 million a year.

The Attorney General's office, acting on behalf of complaints that funds were allegedly being siphoned from the church, filed suit Jan. 2 asking for an accounting from church officials, replacement of directors, appoint-

ment of a receiver and an injunction against individual defendants.

The church said the first receiver asked for fees and costs of \$235,000 "every penny of which was incurred for 'services' inflicted on the church against its will and to its injury."

These "services," it alleged, included storming the premises Jan. 3, confiscating and removing thousands of documents without inventory and destroying the church's previously excellent financial standing.

(Editor's Note: The above AP news release appeared in the Pasadena Star-News on Friday, April 13.)