

# The Bulletin



of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

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DECEMBER 16, 1975

## Church Administration

Greetings fellow ministers!

Mr. McCullough commented in the last *Bulletin* that the skies of L. A. were filled with smoke and ashes and the city was shrouded with a huge gray pall of "pompeii-like" darkness. What a beautiful contrast this last week! We've enjoyed some fabulous Southern California days — temperatures in the eighties and visibility "forever." The kind of days which could be sold if they could be bottled.

I wanted to take the time in this *Bulletin* to express our appreciation as an institution for the fine support the Church has received from all our local church elders and deacons. If we were to draw an analogy of the body, they, along with other leaders in the congregation have in a sense been the strong skeletal structure that supports the body.

The world, the nation and all individuals in it (including each of us as members or ministers of the Worldwide Church of God) have lived through two or three stressful years. I have remarked before and will repeat that these years have been characterized as "the age of discontinuity." It's been a time when traditional values have been questioned, examined, accepted, rejected, modified, codified, pillorized, etc., etc. For God's Church to have maintained the stability that it has through those years is of itself encouraging.

Stability is good. Stability with growth is better! We in the Church Administration department are analyzing a number of areas where we feel we can help contribute to the strengthening of the Church. We feel that one of the most important areas is that of the *leadership* of the congrega-

tions. If we are going to have stable and growing churches throughout the world we must have stable, growing leadership.

Recently we responded to numerous requests from pastors and created the "pastoral instruction insert" for the *Bulletin*. We felt we were taking a step in the direction of stabilization and development of leadership. We felt we were providing an essential communication link with a vital segment of the Church leadership — the pastor. By doing so, we certainly did not intend in any way to slight our Local Church Elders. Apparently some took the changes in the format of the *Bulletin* in this way.

I want all of you who do not receive the "pastoral instruction insert" to know that we feel it is essential that we maintain a form of private (though not restricted) communication with the *pastors*. On the other hand, we realize the need that Local Church elders have for most of the information in the Ministerial Training column. We are going to continue to send such material to you, but it will be done in the form of an experimental quarterly packet.

Beginning this month we will select articles which have appeared in the MET column and send them to all Local Church elders. Along with the columns, specific material prepared for elders will be included. We feel, in this manner, we can fulfill critical needs of communication which we have with these areas of Church leadership. We hope all of you find it beneficial and helpful.

Another project which we are working on is that

### REMINDER

The *deadline* for submitting an abstract to the Symposium, "Frontiers of Knowledge and Implications for Theology," is January 1, 1976.

of *job descriptions* for the ministry. We are planning to complete a series of descriptions within the next few weeks and distribute them to all involved in the ministry. Here in the United States we have functioned with the following basic categories:

- 1) Ministerial Trainee
- 2) Local Church Elder
- 3) Assistant Pastor
- 4) Associate Pastor
- 5) Church Pastor

I feel when these descriptions of individual jobs are clearly designated we will create more stability throughout the ministry. As well, it will help to eliminate the frustration that some might feel and answer the question, "What is my job anyway?" With the parameters of one's job description clearly defined, one can have more freedom and peace.

I hope all, within the ministry and Church, will continue to work together with even greater unity than we have had in the past. We are exhorted in Ephesians to "ENDEAVOR TO MAINTAIN UNITY." To me, this verse tells us that we have to strive, work, and *pursue* unity — it is not something that automatically *happens*. We want to do what we can from CAD to create the climate for unity. We appreciate your help, concern and effort in this important direction.

Until next time.

— C. Wayne Cole

## BIRTHS

**Paul and Jan Linehan** (Thunder Bay, Ontario): Our first child, *Conrad Elliot*, made his debut on October 29th and tipped the scales at 7 lbs., 5 ozs. All are tired but well!

**Peter and Karen Nathan** (Johannesburg, S. Africa): MOHAMMED ALI BEWARE! Another Heavyweight challenger weighed in on Tuesday, 21st October at 7:10 a.m. with the following profile: Height: 480 mms; Reach: 230 mms; Mass: 4600 gms. An interesting aspect of the challenger's strategy are his two right-hand gloves (donated by family friends). Accordingly, his Promoters/Managers have named him *Benjamin* (Son of my right hand) *Lee Nathan*. Training is progressing now with much sleeping and drinking. His trainer — Karen Nathan — is feeling well and Manager Peter has recovered from any initial shock!

**Steve and Melania (French) Nutzman** (Palo Alto, Ca.): This year's Thanksgiving festivities began with the birth of our first child, *Jennifer Lynn*, at

*The*  
**Bulletin**

of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

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7:30 Thanksgiving morning! Delivery was normal, weight was 7 pounds, length was 18½ inches. We appreciated Jenny's timing as, later in the day, the families were able to gather around the dinner table to celebrate a very miraculous and joyous event.

**Norm and Kay Strayer** (Burnaby, B.C.): Kay had jokingly promised me that our first child would be born at a decent hour. But there we were at 3:03 a.m. November 29th after only 5 hours of labor (on the Sabbath to boot) experiencing the joy of seeing and holding our little daughter.

*Brandy Kay* weighed 6 lbs., 10 ozs, or 3000 kg. for those of you in Canada and around the world; sounds heavy, huh! They say I named her after my two loves in life — my wife and liquor, ha! (Our son will probably be named John Collins!) Needless to say we are thrilled and everyone is home now healthy and happy!

**Ken and Nancy Williams** (Kalamazoo, Mi.): I'd like to announce the birth of the second prettiest girl in the world — *Heather Anne* (Nancy is the prettiest). Heather weighed 7 lbs., 7½ ozs. at birth and was 20 inches long. She was born Saturday, October 25th at 10:07 p.m. Nancy, David and I are tickled pink with her and intend to keep her that way.

# WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

Herbert W. Armstrong  
President and Pastor

Garner Ted Armstrong  
Executive Vice-President

December 12, 1975

To all ministers and key supervisory personnel in God's Work:

GREETINGS in Jesus' name!

I have a number of rather unrelated subjects to discuss with you in this letter--so I'll plunge right in and try to itemize each subject separately.

UPCOMING TRIP TO EGYPT: I had a discussion yesterday with Mr. Adli Muhtadi, who had arrived back on campus following a preliminary trip to Egypt to set up the television interviews I had hoped for within the next few months.

Mr. Muhtadi was able to meet with the Minister of Information and Culture, the Chairman of the State Information Service, a former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Industry, the head of the Department of Political Science and Professor of International Law in Cairo University, the Editor-in-Chief of the leading newspaper al-Ahram (a close personal friend of Adli), President of the Syndicate of Journalists, and Minister Councillor of the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, D.C. He met quite a number of others, including the first lady of the screen of the Arab world and wife of Omar Sharif, Mrs. Faten Hamama, and the Minister of Housing and Reconstruction.

I have decided to go to Egypt in about the third week of January, and will do on-the-spot radio programs plus audio interviews on that trip, but will utilize the trip primarily, at Mr. Muhtadi's urging, as a preliminary trip to become acquainted and to satisfy various demands of protocol, such as introductions to individuals in high-level positions, preparatory to our full-scale television interviews which will take place in the last week of February and the first week of March.

I think, in the backdrop of President Sadat's visit to Washington following the interim peace agreement with Israel and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from two strategic passes in the Abu Rudeis oil fields--and most specifically President Sadat's burning of his bridges so far as his relationship with the Soviet Union is concerned, plus all the other inputs of the current situation in the Middle East with civil war tearing Lebanon apart, the UN censure of Zionism as a form of racism, and the extreme difficulties in the Arab world resulting from Anwar Sadat's signature on the interim peace agreement--that it is a very propitious time to do a full-scale color-



television special on the subject of Egypt and Sadat as a leader of this key Arab state.

While I'm discussing television: even though we have received a letter from time to time from a member who may be somewhat disturbed because of seeing an older repeat, I want to pass on to you the actual statistics from our Television Productions Department concerning the use of some of these repeats. First, however, remember that we reduced from a 26-week schedule of new programming to a 13-week schedule of new programming in order to bring our production costs lower, our dubbing and editing costs much lower, and to bring our cost-per-new-response average down. Even though members may become concerned over seeing several of the repeats, such as some of the nature series on evolution, crime, or famine, take a look at the difference in the cost-per-new-response average! During September and October 1975 when we were showing the repeats, our cost-per-new-response was four dollars--where it was \$14 in January of 1975 with new programs being aired; and the WATS telephone lines were ringing busily and we were getting a large number of responses. The new season of television begins this coming mid-week here in Los Angeles at 10:30 on Wednesday evening over Channel 9 with a location program I did at the nuclear reactor down at San Onofre. So far we have done quite a number of location programs utilizing our video pod--and the fellows in Television Productions are very enthusiastic over the difference in impact of the location programs over the studio ones.

I'm sure you have kept abreast, both through the pages of the Bulletin and the Worldwide News, of the new radio and television acquisitions--and I am due for another meeting with Henry Cornwall the first of this next week for the selection of yet an additional group of radio and television.

MEMBER, CO-WORKER, AND REGULAR LETTER: As I am sure most of you know, we mailed out a letter I wrote designed for the regular subscribers to the Plain Truth, which was mailed to members, co-workers and donors a few weeks ago, and which will hit the mails in a MASSIVE mailing to our more than THREE MILLION subscribers to the Plain Truth in about mid-January. Initial response to the letter has been VERY encouraging, even though somewhat below the response to the "emergency" letter I sent out one year ago, the difference being that in this case we offered a new booklet, so that the broad majority (a very large number) writing in is requesting the booklet--whereas there was no booklet offered in the emergency letter of last year.

However, those in Mail Processing are very encouraged over the response to the letter, and it remains to be seen what the effect will be when it is received by the millions of regulars who are subscribers to the Plain Truth, but who have, as yet, never contributed to the Work.

I know I mentioned in the letter, which had a special paragraph NOT included in the "regulars" letter, to our members and co-workers that it is very vitally important that they put their PRAYERS behind



this letter, that it will somehow reach into the hearts and minds of the literally millions of individuals who will receive it--and that they would share in the burden of this Work by specifically praying for this particular letter, that it would bring the response God's Work so seriously needs.

I hope you will take a few moments in a Bible Study to comment on the letter and its future impact on God's Work and to encourage its success.

Along that line, let me give you the true gist of the financial picture as it presently stands from the point of view of our members' support.

Even though we have experienced a serious decline in income, believe it or not, the MEMBERSHIP has been giving MORE! The decline has been in the "donor" category primarily. That simply means that through our direct mail program we finally were reaching a "saturation point" with those who were perhaps only marginally interested in God's Work, and who, though they may have for conscience sake felt it necessary to send in two or five or ten dollars over the course of a year or so, were not sufficiently interested to become full-time co-workers. Obviously, if we were declining in our number of radio stations, retrenching in our Television Productions Department with a 13-week instead of a 26-week schedule, then we were not reaching the massive numbers of prospective NEW donors which were needed. All that has now changed. The Plain Truth subscription list has gone booming upward to hover in the vicinity of four million! We have launched a new program of stepping out on faith to acquire dozens of new radio and television outlets, even though not budgeted. Now, with this letter going out in mid-January, not unlike the "semi-annual letters" my father used to mail out to the regulars on the Plain Truth list in years past, it is our hope and prayer that additional tens of thousands of individuals will be moved to become "once-in-a-while" donors to God's Work, and that more and more of these individuals can be placed on the Good News subscription list!

So, even though I can tell you that the income is still showing a slight minus for the year to date, I want to impress upon you that all the brethren are DOING A MAGNIFICENT JOB, and the actual statistics show that the brethren of God's Church are giving MORE proportionately than ever before. The major reason for the decline in income is a lack of new donors and new co-workers!

THE GOOD NEWS: I hope you all have noticed the continuing improvement in the Good News; the powerful doctrinal and spiritual articles appearing, and I hope you all carefully read the upcoming article on tithing which will be in the next issue! I have been doing radio programs wherein I wade through whole articles in the Good News, announcing the GN repeatedly over the radio. And though I announced it on only one telecast in our last season, we added 3000 new subscribers to the GN list as a result of that program! We have also been hitting the GN in ads in the Plain Truth, and all of

us here agree that it is the Good News which will be the major magazine to satisfy the genuine hunger and thirst for biblical and scripturally-oriented articles for those who are more specifically interested in Bible topics and in Christian-living articles than in the general world news that appears in the Plain Truth.

Along that line, I hope all of you remember that quite a number of years ago I was urging each of our local brethren to be a promoter of God's Work--to insure that his own household is a type of display center for the Good News, the Plain Truth and our other publications; for workmen to perhaps take a copy of the Good News along with them on their construction site or driving or factory job, where they might read it from time to time during the lunch break in the hopes that perhaps some few might become interested and want to write for their own copies; and that instead of "hiding our light," each individual member could feel a responsibility to promote and encourage the subscription growth of the magazines and booklets. After all, we are actively encouraging many individuals in our local church areas to become promoters for HUMAN POTENTIAL. This is excellent--as I have stressed for years this same need for our individual brethren to help us by word-of-mouth promotion in encouraging the growth and expansion of both the Plain Truth and Good News lists! I wish you would remind your brethren of this, and perhaps we can all unitedly insure that the Good News becomes one of our most rapidly growing magazines--for in its growth is a major key to the FUTURE health and stability of God's Work!

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE: The dates for the upcoming ministerial conference are now firm. All sessions will be general or plenary sessions in the Auditorium with vital and major topics well-prepared in advance, including the formulation of papers on such subjects as would be required.

Who will attend? All pastors of churches will be brought to Headquarters at church expense by April 26 for the first meeting at 2:30 in the afternoon. Meetings will continue with two on Tuesday, two on Wednesday, and two meetings on Thursday, at which time the conference will conclude, allowing all pastors of churches to be back in their own pulpits by the following Sabbath. Any other minister, local elder or local elder not in our employ is MORE than welcome to attend the conference, and wives of any and all of you men are equally welcome! However, for the sake of finances, it had to be decided that we can afford to defray the expenses of pastors of churches ONLY, making it clear that any of you fellows who want your wives to come along and wish to pay their way, are not only welcome to do so, but ENCOURAGED to do so.

I hope all of you pastors of churches will make it very clear that we feel it is a tremendous encouragement and blessing to local elders not in our employ, and who perhaps have never been to Headquarters nor seen the campus and the Auditorium, to come to Headquarters for the conference. Our decision is purely a financial and procedural necessity and has nothing whatsoever to do with any

"preferred" list of men we want to invite to the conference. It is our hope that as many as possible of God's ministers from around the entirety of the world could be assembled together for those few days in April!

At any rate, I wanted to announce it now so all plans, such as visits with relatives or any early vacations, could be coordinated so as to give you as much advance notice as possible. Regarding any inputs any of you have in the way of specific topics you want to be discussed, I would encourage you to send them in as soon as possible so we may begin to compile, together with a voluminous amount of material we have already compiled, a meaningful agenda which will prove inspirational and educational to all.

Incidentally, there will be a number of concerts through that week--Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights--and, of course, any of you fellows (and wives) who are coming in are more than welcome to attend as many as you like.

I'm sure all of you have heard of Mrs. Floyd Lochner's death. Dr. Lochner called me in Texas and asked me to conduct the ceremony --and I thought it over for a day or two and finally called him back and asked for his understanding of the emotional difficulties in doing so. I simply knew that my 20 years of very close personal acquaintance with the Lochners would be a little bit too much for me, as I saw Dr. Lochner, Otto, Peggy, and their spouses and children all assembled for a graveside service. I was right--it was a very deep emotional experience, and I was very thankful Dr. Lochner concurred and agreed to ask Dr. Herman Hoeh to conduct the graveside service, which he did. Dr. Hoeh did a very fine and thoughtful job at the funeral--for which I am very thankful. My father had called Dr. Lochner upon learning of the death of his wife, and asked him to leave immediately following the service to join him on this present trip, which I feel was a very kind and thoughtful gesture. That way, Floyd won't need to be alone in that big house in these days immediately following the trauma of his wife's death and burial, but can get completely away for a couple of weeks on an extensive trip. I'm sure all of you will remember Dr. Lochner in your prayers, and perhaps mention it to your congregations. I had asked John Robinson to do a thorough research job for a special feature article about Mrs. Lochner in an upcoming issue of the Worldwide News, since I feel she is a pioneer figure in God's Work, and certainly in the history of the development of Imperial Schools and the Summer Education Program.

My father is currently overseas; I just spoke to Stan Rader who was in Tokyo yesterday and was meeting my father today (December 12) in Hong Kong. His present trip will then take him to Teheran and on into Europe before he returns here on December 23. Prior to my conversation with Mr. Rader, my father was spending a good part of the day in Bangkok with the king of Thailand, and I am hopeful this present trip will prove fruitful in my father's meeting with the Shah of Iran. Of course, you will be kept completely informed as we receive information back from Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader either in the Bulletin or in the pages of the Worldwide News. I'm



sure you all enjoyed reading about the Jamaican campaign--and the brethren of course get all of this information about the same time you do when it appears in the Worldwide News.

I would now like to mention that Mr. Lester Grabbe officially received his Ph.D. from Claremont and has given me a bound copy of his dissertation: "Comparative Philology and the Text of Job--A Study in Methodology" along with a nice note of appreciation. I know all of you realize that many of our faculty members have been upgrading their education by taking highly-specialized courses in very respected colleges and universities in many parts of the country--any number are obtaining their doctorates and higher degrees from such universities as USC, UCLA, Claremont, and others. All of this is helping enormously toward more highly professionalizing our academic skills in the colleges and, of course, is important for accreditation.

Lester's dissertation is 308 pages, and is a sophisticated linguistic analysis of the Hebrew text of Job. As Lester told me, his present study was an attempt to test out James Barr's "Comparative Philology and the Text of the Old Testament," which was the first full investigation and critique of the method involved in comparative philology. Lester tests out suggestions and conclusions on a limited corpus of literature and intends to generally interact with the implications of Barr's book in developing a positive methodology of Old Testament comparative philology. Chapter 1 constitutes an introduction to the problem; to the various lexical and textual aids to be used; Chapter 2 contains a detailed investigation of 50 Hebrew passages in Job, selected for their use in illustrating the various considerations involved in comparative work; Chapter 3 is a synthesis of the results of detailed study; Chapter 4 summarizes the study by outlining the positive steps to be taken in doing comparative philology. A very extensive appendix surveys recent major literature which supports the authenticity and the antiquity of the Masoretic text (including pointing and accentuation)--which of course validates the inspiration of the Bible.

I would like to include a few brief comments from Lester's personal note to me:

"Dear Mr. Armstrong, I am presenting a copy of my thesis to you as a token of the gratitude I feel toward Ambassador College and you personally for your help and inspiration in my higher education. I use the term 'token' because of course there is no way I can repay the debt I owe.

"The subject of the thesis is a rather specialized one and not likely to be of immediate interest to too many! But it has ramifications for a better understanding of the Hebrew text of the Old Testament through using the resources of other Semitic languages. The attached abstract gives more details.

"Now that my degree work is finished, I should be able to devote more time to the College and Church. (Just being added to the faculty in 1971 was the fulfillment of a lifelong dream--from the time I was

in the primary grades....) I hope to be able to use the skills gained in graduate studies for the benefit of both the Church and the College. Thanks again for all you and others have done for me. Les."

That's about it for now. I appreciate, once again, the many notes and letters which constantly come to my desk, and even though I don't seem to get around to answering ALL of them personally, I DO read them all (yours too, George!). Thanks ever so much for your support, love, and continued loyalty to God's Work. It is deeply appreciated!

Your brother and servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Garner Lee Armstrong". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name. It features a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

## Publishing

### GN - BOOKLETS UPDATE

We are beginning to get a clear picture of "readership feedback" on the November GN and the results are very encouraging. The number of comments has increased dramatically over previous issues. Most of them are positive. Garner Ted Armstrong's article on the trinity has drawn the greatest reader response so far — most of it favorable.

Every article in the November GN drew a greater than average reader response! This is very encouraging to those of us on the editorial staff because we have been trying to publish articles that will "touch a nerve" in our readership.

In addition, the GN has been undergoing a limited renewal program. This is being done in an effort to eliminate some of the "dead wood" on the mailing list. We would rather have a smaller number of active, responsive, *involved* subscribers than a large number of inactive ones. We are striving to develop a *quality* readership for the GN since these people represent potential future members of the Church.

The total number of English GN's printed in October was 330,775. We expect that number to drop somewhat with the ensuing months due to the renewal, then rebuild again. A very encouraging note is that we were able to add 10,733 brand new subscribers to the GN list in October!

We have two new booklets, one of which is printed and the other we are expecting from the Press any day now: *Principles of Healthful Living* (available) and *The Pale Horse — Pestilence* (coming near the first of the year).

We are coming out *immediately* with a new reprint article called "*How to Reckon the Day of Pentecost.*" This should be ready in a couple of weeks. We decided not to wait until next summer to print this as many wish this information now. It will be run in the GN next summer if everything goes according to plan, however. *Please announce* the availability of this reprint to your congregations right away.

Also available soon is a new reprint on "*Baptism for the Dead*" by Lester Grabbe.

— Brian Knowles  
GN-BOOKLETS Managing Editor  
Pasadena

## Mail Processing

The mail count for November ended on Wednesday the 26th, with a count of 155,193 letters which amounts to a decrease compared to November 1974.

A look at the Mail Processing tabulation for *media mail* for November, with a year-to-date summary, appears as follows:

Description of Mail	November Mail	Year to Date
Radio & TV	12,426	206,271
Plain Truth	15,332	126,570
Good News	897	12,076
Advertising	1,614	26,345
Booklet Cards	<u>3,450</u>	<u>49,520</u>
	33,719	420,782

This count does not present a complete tabulation of all categories of mail but shows a sampling of mail performance for the month. In addition, the WATS Section has received over 46,000 registries for November.

December is starting off in a bright manner. The week of the 5th was one of the better weeks for mail this year! One important factor in our good showing of mail was Mr. Ted Armstrong's recent letter to donors, co-workers and members. Through December 9th we have received 30,468 responses, of which 21,325 letters have been processed and \$479,998 gratefully received.

As of December 8 our mail count for the month is 85,072 letters which is 8.5% above this time a year ago! Our total mail received for the year thus far stands at 1,957,528 pieces.

### Hats Off to Landscape

The following letter was sent in by an alert prospective member and I thought it would be worthwhile to quote it here. It helps to emphasize how the beautiful grounds of Ambassador College do work to bring a proper type of recognition to the Work of God:

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I want to congratulate you and your landscape staff for winning the 1974 Professional Grounds Maintenance Award.

I read an article on the campus grounds in the October 1975 issue of Grounds Maintenance, which is a trade magazine on landscaping. The campus is beautiful, especially in front of Ambassador Hall. I am glad you received recognition for your staff's hard work.

Though not baptized, I have been associated with the Worldwide Church of God for several years. I took a summer job at a golf course as assistant



grounds-keeper which is where I read of your award. I know how much hard work goes into keeping grounds pretty so please congratulate your staff for me.

Your friend,  
Karen Warsing

With this happy and encouraging note, we'll end until next time.

— Richard Rice

## LETTER COMMENTS

### Lives Changed By the Work

Mail Processing Center regularly receives letters showing the results of God's Work — lives changed by the broadcast, telecast, literature or just the example of members and ministers. It is gratifying to see how God's Spirit has moved in these people's lives and the way they have been completely turned around. The first letter is anonymous, but it is so moving, we thought it was a good one to start with.

"Your organization has turned me from an atheist, sick-minded, depressed and unachieving (and nearly alcoholic), dehumanized soul into a religious, happy person with an incredibly bright future ahead of me. I'm not signing this because I don't want any thanks. My knowing that God knows what I have done is enough."

— Anonymous,  
Cleveland, OH

"I have been reading and listening to you and your father since about 1961 and you have really done a job on me. I, at the time, was the most sinful creature that ever lived. Quite lost, hateful, mean, a brawler, liar, hypocrite — you name it. Anything evil, that was me. I have only an eighth grade education and I can read, but don't understand big words. I keep looking up in the dictionary to see what you are talking about. I wouldn't be reading the Bible except Mr. Armstrong explains it so easy. A guy even like me can understand it. If I can stand before God and be accepted, it's because of Herbert and Garner Ted Armstrong. Thank you."

— Russel Klug,  
Salinas, CA

"I bless the day I discovered you on television three years ago. I had no idea what or who Ambassador College was. Your subject was 'A Theory for the Birds.' I thought it was a wildlife magazine. I sent for it and then found out what *Plain Truth* really was. I sent for the Bible study course and many of the booklets on different sub-

jects. Though somewhat late in my life, I have at last found a church that gives me all I have been searching for.

"I am happy to tell you recently Mr. Vance baptized me. Thanks to you, as an ambassador of God."

— Pauline Grugel  
Wayne, MI

"I have been in touch with God's Work since, I believe, the late 1950's. I received my first *Plain Truth* in December, 1963. I have since received almost every piece of literature from you that I have heard about.

"Recently I sent a little card to you which resulted in a telephone call from your minister of the Cincinnati East Church. With my invitation he visited with my family and myself in my home. This was a man that I really enjoyed meeting. He was so friendly, sincere, and helpful that I hated to see him terminate the visit. He invited us to attend Sabbath services the next Sabbath, which we did.

"Talk about meeting nice people, wow! As we were waiting in the hall, my fourteen-year-old son turned to me and said, 'I've never seen so many friendly people before in my life.' Later when my wife and ten-year-old daughter joined us, my daughter said, 'Daddy, these sure are a friendly bunch of people.' I must say my wife and I received the same impression.

"If all your ministers are of this caliber and even a small percentage of the people are as happy, radiant, and cheerful as the ones we have met, I feel you are doing a lot of good. We are looking forward to spending a lot more Sabbaths with God's people.

"Thanks a lot for allowing me to have a small part in this Work."

— John R. Abbott,  
Morrow, OH

"This past Sabbath I was privileged to attend my first service in God's Church. It was really a remarkable and wonderful experience, truly different and above that of any other church I've ever gone to. The people of the Church were so very friendly and nice and they all seemed radiantly happy. How unlike the funeral-type services of most other religions! I'd been studying your literature for many years and always longed to go, but there is no church in my city. I tried to content myself with a Methodist church, but finally I could no longer stand their vain repetitions of various creeds and empty sermons, and I called Pasadena to find the minister nearest me. The

minister drove a long way to visit me and was extremely nice and very helpful. The following day another member of the Church called me and not only invited me to services the coming Sabbath, but also arranged a ride for the long trip for me. Really, how many people would make such an effort for a stranger? and the service was all I expected and much, much more. It was really fantastic! Never in all the churches I've ever attended have I heard the Bible taught so deeply.

"In a lifetime of attending various mainstream churches, I never learned 1/8 as much as I've learned since becoming involved in the Work. I thank God for that day I turned on the television and saw GTA for the first time. It was a day that changed my life. I will always be grateful that God opened my mind to receive His beautiful truths, when so much of the world is so deceived."

— Rebekah Druce,  
Bryan, TX

"I'm only sixteen years old but I know that if it hadn't have been for 'Greetings friends around the world,' I never would have known true life.

"My parents used to quarrel and bicker constantly before we came in contact with God's Church. There have been many nights that I would lay awake wishing that I could run away — somewhere away from them. Don't misunderstand me. I love my parents and always have. They've also always loved me. But it's hard on a 5-, 6-, and 7-year-old child listening to constant fighting.

"God's Church and your voice changed all that! We are in our fourth year in God's Church and I can honestly say that they have been the best years of my short life and I shall never forget them."

— Sarah Jacks,  
Star City, AR

"At long last I have found what I've always been looking for. My spirits are lifted. I feel like a new person. And I am going to be baptized in two weeks. I can't wait for the day when I can become a true member of the Worldwide Church of God. What a wonderful feeling you get, so full of the true Words of God. The meanings are so plain. Just to think after all these years of emptiness I have gotten the chance to know my Saviour, Jesus Christ, as I want to know Him. I am being put down but instead of feeling bad, somehow I feel good. At long last I feel I have found myself and my God. Blessed be Garner Ted Armstrong because that is where it first began — on television one day last year. I turned it on and there he was. Since then I knew it was for me. Before I was

always heartbroken and sad, always sick and didn't care for life. What a difference this has made!"

— Mrs. Myrtle Brunelle  
Williston, VT

"My life has been changed by this Work which you are doing. I have changed my attitude. You have changed my way of life, the way I think, the way I live and things I say. I want to thank you again for the opportunity to be a part of this family of God and the invitation to come into God's true Church. I am supporting you with prayers. When I think on this great Work and what it really means to you and how an ever-loving Almighty God has mercy on us, it brings tears to my eyes — salty tears of joy, peace and happiness.

"Thank you for your help and love. You have helped me find a reason for living. God has given me His way."

— Douglas Eiland,  
Opp, Al

"I can't begin to tell you the changes that have taken place in my life since I have received the knowledge of the truth of God. At 26, I feel my life is just beginning! I became aware of all these things in my late teens, and made a feeble attempt at living God's way, but soon fell back into the old rut of human nature. Two months ago, for no apparent reason (I'm sure it was God's intention), I started going through the literature and Bible Correspondence Course lessons I'd kept all those years, and before I knew it, I had started all over again, only this time with an end in sight, no doubts and, I was happy to find, no restraints from my husband and very little criticism from his family. My mother is a member of the Sacramento Church and when I feel that I'm fully prepared and have the transportation to travel the 50 miles there, I'm going to spend Sabbaths there too. I just wanted to thank you again for the wonderful work you're doing and to let you know one more has finally been reached. God bless you in your efforts to reach others and to keep those you have already gathered together in Christ's name."

— Mrs. Julie Henness,  
Garden Valley, CA

"If I had received a million dollars through the mail, I would not have been happier as when I got the wonderful booklets you sent to me. Because of you, I understand the Word of God for the first time.

"I have more peace and health than I've had for years.

"I wish all the people in this world would have the good fortune as I have in knowing about your wonderful Work for God.

"I thank you and God you have made me one of the receivers.

"It has made the difference of heaven and hell to me.

"All the money in the world could never pay for what you all have given to me. A door opens up to something I've never known or could never have known without your good works.

"I want to learn all there is to know. I have lost so much time. I am hungry for understanding the precious Word of God. You are the only way I know to get that understanding."

— Martha Manley,  
Jewett, TX

"To greet you as such has long been my desire. Three weeks ago after Sabbath services, at long last, Mr. Shuta of the Rochester, Minnesota Church baptized me. So now after being without an earthly father for 40 years, I have gained one who can never just go away. And who could ask for a more special family relationship than with Jesus, the strong brother to lean on and look up to? It is a special thing to know there are so many people working on the published pieces that opened and led my mind to this step. For about 15 years I have heard the radio broadcasts over KXEL and they helped. When Mr. G. T. Armstrong spoke in Minnesota, my sister and I attended all sessions. All the background is full of dedicated people who want the Work to go on so I'm privileged to become a member."

— Vienna Frideres,  
Algona, IA

"After Church this past Sabbath I was baptized. I haven't the words to say how I feel. The first time I attended God's Church in August 1973, I could not think that by now I would be a baptized member.

"If I had walked into a building full of God's angels, I would have had the same feeling. I thought each person there was surely a saint. I have now made many friends. These people are human but so very nice.

"I know there are horrible problems in the world, but I feel so happy. I feel like I'm just going to explode. How can things be better. I've waited all my life for this. From the time I must have been ten or so and said looking at a calendar, 'The seventh day of the week is not Sunday,' I have looked for the truth since. I never found anyone saying what the Bible said, until I first heard Mr.

Herbert W. Armstrong on WPIT Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. And here I am today, the happiest girl in the whole USA.

"It is raining today, but I feel like the sun is shining. I am so happy, so thrilled God has also picked nothing me!"

— Mrs. John Henry, Jr.,  
Mill Run, PA

"Your *Plain Truth* magazine sure tells it like it is. I have learned a lot about the Bible, and life in general from your write-ups. I am beginning to understand God in an entirely different perspective than what I had been taught from childhood. The fantastic and weird stories I had been told about the terrible, eternal tortures of hell fire that awaited me at death, if I dared step out of line and wandered away from God's laws of life. I was taught that false pagan doctrine, the immortality of the soul, that at death only my body died but my soul lived on in a conscious state with memory and feeling, and went to heaven or hell, to know bliss, or terrible painful torture, either saved or lost, even before the Great White Throne Judgment. As a young child who didn't then know or understand the true ways of God, I was frightened, not daring to question the Bible, and not knowing I was being deceived, I looked upon God with dread and great fear, and I withdrew from Him as I would a rattlesnake, or a black widow spider. Torture of any living creature I just couldn't accept. I just couldn't understand a God of love and mercy, whose whole personality could suddenly change to a cruel God of terrible wrath and vengeance, who would torture His creatures in fire through all eternity, with no chance of escape. I felt something was wrong with this whole concept, but until I got the plain truth about the Bible and its true meaning, my life was a continuous nightmare, I was truly groping my way in the dark, I was really lost. Dreading and fearing each passing day, my life had no goal or purpose, but thanks to the Church of God, I now see the light. I now have a goal, and believe me I will pass that light on to other poor souls walking in darkness, fear and frustration, wondering why they were ever born. I now understand that great God of love and mercy, who said, if you love me keep my commandments, for this is the way to eternal life, but if you reject my laws, this is the way to eternal death, come unto me and live. God bless your great ministry. No other church, that I know of, teaches the real Bible truth like you do. God bless you."

— Clifford Pratt,  
Dover-Foxcroft, ME



"I was to the point where I was hating everyone — mostly myself — these books are really helping me but I still have a long way to go. Before I started getting interested in Garner Ted Armstrong's television specials, I was in a terrible emotional state where I thought my hubby and boys would be better off without me, but now I'm really trying to clean my mind through these booklets. Thank you."

— Jean Shaw,  
Gaston, NC

### LETTING THEIR LIGHTS SHINE

"I am very interested in the Wide World Church of God. Will you please send me the *Plain Truth* and any other literature that I may have.

"A dear and precious lady that I met here in Parkview Hospital has been discussing the Church and I am convinced that this is the church for me. Mrs. Mary Harre is her name and she has been a member since 1973. She has had such an impact on me that as soon as possible, please send me the literature. She has asked me to prove all things for myself and not just take her word for it. So that is what I want to do."

— Millie Maxine Wise,  
Pueblo, CO

"We are friends of some of your Church members in Indianapolis. Through them we began reading some of your pamphlets and watching Ted Armstrong's television show. We would like to take this opportunity to tell you that we have never seen or read anything like what your Church prints and televises.

"What this Church is doing is almost unbelievable to us. It is really hard to explain how stunned we are about what we read and what we see your Church doing, at no cost to millions of people!! We have just begun attending the congregation in Arlington Heights, Illinois, and we are very impressed with Mr. George Meeker and the congregation in general. If God has only one true Church, as you explained in your pamphlet, most certainly the way in which your Church gets the Gospel to the people is the way He would want it done! You do things like no other Church in the world! (That we know of.) Also, the actions of your members shine a light before men, that we see their good works, and they do glorify our Father who is in heaven.

"Thank you for all the knowledge we have gained from the relatively small amount of information which we have been exposed to, and we look forward to reading any and all materials

which you print. Excuse this somewhat over-exclamatory letter, but you have no idea how astonished we are over many things!"

— Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Regan,  
Wilmette, IL

"I'm new to the Church, and am not baptized. I was introduced to it only a couple of weeks ago, but in that time I've become sure this is the Church.

"The people I have met in this local Church are the most wonderful I've ever known. Since I've been studying, I feel more at ease, and my mind feels more at rest, even now out of work and broke."

— Michael L. Gass,  
Parkersburg, WV

"I attended my first service at St. Petersburg three weeks ago. I was amazed how everyone was so friendly, from the time I parked the car — even the parking attendant was friendly. I met so many people that I don't remember all their names. It was so different from any Church I ever attended. I am sure I will continue to attend."

— Mrs. Ruth Simpson,  
Largo, FL

"I would like to say that my first two visits to the Wide World Church of God were beautiful. Everyone was so kind and welcomed me with open arms. It is such a wonderful feeling to be where God is — to feel Him to be so close. No wonder the members worship so enthusiastically! I want to spend every Sabbath in God's Church."

— Rhonda Hofley,  
St. Charles, MO

"I am one of your baptized members of God's Church, but my husband isn't. He's not hostile though — is usually understanding about most things. Recently one of your trained ministers (or rather assistant ministers) came here and spent at least 6 hours of valuable time with my husband. Now, I felt that this was a very generous thing to do in view of the fact that my husband has not shown any interest at all in the Church. I felt that Mr. Tom Steinback was taking up time with Curt when he could have been with a prospective elsewhere — not that my husband isn't because I pray each day for God to call him. But I wanted you to know how much I appreciated one of your fine ministers. They are all true examples of what God's Holy Spirit is all about. You know, Mr. Steinback got out in our garden and plowed our mule with Curt. He had never plowed before either! Curt was really touched by all of his since-

rity and eager-beaver attitude about things. Just want you to know about one more of God's workers here on this earth — Mr. Tom Steinback!"

— Mrs. Curtis Hudson,  
Waynesboro, MS

"I have taken up an offer at the end of several of your books, which invites us to request a visit by one of your ministers into our homes. A response came several days ago in the form of a telephone call. A man named Jim Rosenthal called to ask if we had any questions or would like him to come over. I was quite enthusiastic about it, because I had a couple hundred questions to get answered since I had been poring over your booklets.

"I was certainly not disappointed. I found him to be a highly intelligent and unique individual

who seemed to know exactly what he was talking about. We conversed for a couple hours and decided that it would be a good idea for my sister and I to attend a service at your meeting place in Trumbull, Connecticut.

"You have no doubt heard this before, but it bears repeating. I do not dispense praise indiscriminately, but the work you are doing cannot be praised enough. The impact you have had on my life, I hope, is one that will soon turn my life-style around one-hundred-eighty degrees. Like everyone else, I need it desperately. As you can probably tell, I have a lot of work to do. When someone does me a favor like you have, I just have to tell him, 'Thanks.' Keep up the good work."

— Friedrich Boettger,  
North Haven, CT

# Ministerial Education & Training

## A LOVE OF LEARNING

Meaty sermons, wise counsel, and sound judgments are all good fruits of a well-stocked mind.

The mind might have to be endowed with material talents and perhaps an infusion of the Holy Spirit, but to produce those fruits it would also have to be able to draw on good and full stocks of knowledge.

To get better sermons, wiser counsels and happier congregations, we need to focus our educational attentions onto the mind of the counsellor or the sermon giver, and onto how well it is fueled with essential stocks of knowledge.

### Powerful Knowledge Attitudes

In many ways, the quality and volume of a person's knowledge is determined by the attitudes he holds towards the concept of knowledge itself — and what a variety of concepts and attitudes there are towards knowledge and its acquisition! Many of these attitudes are short sighted and negative and can reduce the inflow of knowledge, into the mind that holds them, down to a slight trickle or a few miserable drips.

Since speaking and counselling, and the knowledge that backs them, is such an important part of the ministry, we want to examine a few popular concepts and see their effects on ministerial thinking.

### The Genesis of Knowledge Attitudes

We have to take a long look back over our shoulder into our earlier years to find out where many of our attitudes towards knowledge and the process of knowledge acquisition came from.

Schools and colleges have, by virtue of their educational function, tended to put a fence around knowledge and laid legal claim to it as their own property. It belongs to "academea." If you want knowledge, you have to go to them to get it. This is the way society is set up and unless your family was very rich and you had a private tutor, you went to school — to the knowledge dispensary — to receive and obtain your supply. Along with the knowledge acquired at school, we also acquired our attitudes and concepts towards knowledge

*itself*. These attitudes and concepts have continued to powerfully influence our *knowledge* acquisition long after our school years were over.

What are some of those attitudes and how have they affected us in later life?

One of the main attitudes conveyed by the traditional knowledge purveyers is that knowledge comes only from academea. It is received only through teachers and comes only from books, and you get more of it after passing through more and more painful examinations. The process drags on and on for years and many times is administered by boring teachers on the paycheck treadmill utterly disinterested in their jobs.

The effect of this traditional, boring, educational march from kindergarten through high school creates in a person a feeling towards knowledge like he has for nasty medicine.

He thinks to himself, "This stuff is supposed to be good for me, and I need it for life so I am going to get just as much of the nasty stuff as I need and not a drop more."

What an educational tragedy! This attitude can remain for life — shutting off the flow of knowledge acquisition down to a slow trickle or a few essential drips.

In many people, because of their traditional educational experience, knowledge is subconsciously associated with boredom, unpleasantness and pain. And the association is very strong and exerts a powerful negative effect against knowledge acquisition throughout life.

So, one of the greatest treasures of life, one of the most useful tools for life, one of the greatest powers in life is thereby thrown away and regarded as unpleasant and unimportant.

### A Healthy Attitude Towards Knowledge

One of the first steps to a healthy attitude towards knowledge is to discover, or rediscover, its intrinsic personal worth and value and importance.

There are individuals and institutions with a deep regard and high respect for knowledge and the power it can give them. Both government and industry realize that knowledge is a vital power. Every year they back up this realization with multi-billion dollar research and development programs. The knowledge secrets harvested as a result are turned by industry into newer and better products. This gives them the edge over the competition and greater economic power in market places.

The governments usually turn the results of their knowledge investments into better bombs, missiles and military hardware. In a sense, the surrender of Japan in World War II was the direct result of a knowledge investment that came to full fruition at the University of Chicago in 1942.

Such investments give one government an edge over other governments and greater power in the political arena. These institutions don't regard knowledge as an inert, unimportant thing but as a vital and dynamic tool productive of useful and precious results.

In a sense this is the biblical view. For thousands of years, the Bible has proclaimed this view!

Get sense, get knowledge, at any cost, get knowledge — never leave her, and she will guard you, love her and she will take care of you, prize her and she will promote you, and bring you to honour, if you will embrace her, she will adorn you with charm and crown you with glory (Prov. 4:5-9 — *Mftt*).

Happy is the man who gathers wisdom, the man who gains knowledge: her *profits are richer than silver*, she brings in more than *gold*; she is more precious than rubies, no *treasure* can compare with her; long days lie in her right hand, wealth and honour in her left; her ways are ways of tranquil ease, and all her paths are bliss (Prov. 3:13-17 — *Mftt*).

Better get wisdom than gold, better choose knowledge than silver (Prov. 16:16 — *Mftt*).

The way governments and business go after it, and the way the Bible talks about knowledge, certainly doesn't make it sound like nasty medicine at all. It does not sound unimportant. Appreciation of knowledge and recognition of its potency are two of the first steps to a healthy attitude towards knowledge.

### Knowledge Disincentives

In spite of all the glowing commendations in praise of knowledge and its acquisition, there are many knowledge disincentives. One big disincentive is created by the narrow, bookish connotation given to knowledge by some educational custodians. This is done by isolating a little segment from the end of some broad field of knowledge and focusing everyone's attention onto that one piece, and proclaiming: "*This is knowledge!*" In actual fact, there are realms of exciting areas and methods outside these narrow pedantic confines. Most never discover them.

Textbooks written by academic authors and then muttered to pupils by dull teachers isn't the only method of knowledge acquisition. There lies a whole exciting world outside — off that dull treadmill concept.

### Methods of Acquisition

Knowledge can come in the form of a profound thought entering your mind as you walk through the woods or sit by a campfire at night. No books in sight — not a teacher for miles — yet a profound thought all the same, powerful enough to influence your life. No examination to pass, no degree to obtain — just attractive knowledge — knowledge whispering in your ear and into your mind.

It could be in the exciting depths of a spy novel or a western that a significant truth of human nature is made clear to you and confirms the subconscious conceptions that have tugged at your mind for years.

Perhaps it's with an aqualung strapped to your back and enough lead clipped to your belt, drifting weightlessly in underwater silence, that you realize the astounding power and mentality behind the creation. You're not dressed for the classroom but you have experienced a faith filled realization just the same.

It's strange that all those ways of learning have a pleasant and fun filled atmosphere about them — the campfire — the novel — the swim. This too is knowledge even though academea would not consider it "degreable" knowledge. Knowledge doesn't have to be unpleasant to be beneficial. Wise King Solomon knew long ago that knowledge should be "pleasant to your soul" (Prov. 2:10 — *RSV*).

### The Human Uses of Knowledge

There are reasons for gathering knowledge other than passing school exams and earning a living. There are valid, non-technical, non-material uses and applications.

Computer engineers understand this in principle. The more quality information they feed into their data base, all things being equal, the better quality print-out they receive.

Farmers understand this principle. The more they feed and nourish and cultivate the soil, the better the crop produced. They know that poor soil cannot produce beyond a certain quality and yield.

Just as soil nutrients can enrich a field, so good knowledge can enrich a mind. From this rich data base can spring good sermons, wiser counsels, sounder judgments and a broader understanding and conception of God Himself.

We should pray as David did, "teach me good judgment and knowledge" (Ps. 119:66 — *RSV*). It's this realization that produces a voracious knowledge appetite.



We can't have the abomination of pseudo-intellectuality. It must be a genuine and perpetual desire to obtain as much good knowledge as is possible. This impelling personal motivation far excels academic force-feeding and economic necessity. When people experience and taste the good fruits of their mental investments, the cycle is intensified. They now have an automatic healthy appetite for knowledge that must be fed regularly.

### A Love of Learning

The final step in a healthy knowledge relationship is the creation of an emotional feeling towards knowledge itself. This is called a *love* of learning. This is the biblical instruction, that when a person has learned to prize and value the good fruits of knowledge, he begins to fall in love with knowledge so to speak. This is what the Proverbs proclaim:

Say to wisdom, you are my darling, call knowledge your kinswoman (Prov. 18:14, RSV).

An intelligent mind acquires knowledge and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge (Prov. 18:15, RSV).

The mind of him who has understanding seeks knowledge (Prov. 15:14, RSV).

A mature attitude like this usually takes place later in life as a person sees through, or grows out of, his early, unpleasant knowledge attitudes.

The ministry is a profession that has to be continually feeding people knowledge. And, again the Proverb says, "the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel" (Prov. 20:15, RSV).

The establishment of healthy attitudes and a love of learning will assure you a continual and ample supply of knowledge.

— Jim Young  
MET STAFF

## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE FOR U.S. MINISTRY

### Fixed Assets

The replies to our fixed assets survey are almost all in now and we have a good picture of what your needs are. Thank you for your rapid response in returning the cards to us. These items will be budgeted for in the '76-'77 fiscal budget.

At the moment, we're building a program of standards for church operation in order to assess the actual costs involved in the operation of our local churches. The card survey was one step. Eventually we would like to see each man with a similar set of necessary equipment.

In the meantime we have to ask that no fixed assets be purchased without specific approval from Church Administration. At the beginning of the budget year, the divisions were not allowed to budget for fixed assets. In this tight budget year, the only leeway we were given was to take money from other areas if it was possible. That's the only avenue we have open to us to supply you with equipment. Right now, and probably to the end of this fiscal year little, if anything, will be available anywhere in our budget for fixed assets.

If we are able to squeeze out a few dollars we will contact those of you whose needs we know and supply items on a priority basis. Please *do not take it on yourself to decide* you need something "right now" and arbitrarily buy it out of the Emergency Fund. That's a direct violation of policy. Beginning with your receipt of this reminder, we will reject *any* unauthorized purchases and backcharge you personally for such items.

We don't intend to be unduly harsh, but just a very few violators can cause trouble for our budget. This is a tight budget year and it will take the combined efforts of all of us to help keep the Work in a sound financial position.

## PERSONAL

Dr. Lochner and family regretfully announce that Mrs. Vernice R. Lochner died early Friday, December 6. They want to extend their appreciation to the entire Church for its love, concern and prayers during Mrs. Lochner's long illness.

Graveside services were held Tuesday morning, December 9 at Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena with Dr. Herman Hoeh officiating.

\* \* \* \* \*

Here is a personal note CAD received recently from Arch Bradley:

"We're resettled in Montana finally and the new job is going fine. It has proved to be a good decision and so far I'm very glad I made it. My job consists of straight counselling, giving I.Q. tests, etc. Next step is to qualify to be a certified school psychologist — that will require about three more psych classes in college.

"If you ever want to see some beautiful country — you're always welcome. We've bought 22 acres and plan to put up a log house next summer."

## IDEAS

### LOCAL FUND RAISING

The primary purpose for congregations being engaged in fund-raising activities is to provide

(Continued on page 566F)

# OPEN FORUM

*OPEN FORUM was created to continue the same give-and-take discussions conducted during the workshops of the May, 1974 Ministerial Conference. OPEN FORUM affords you the opportunity to freely express your thoughts, ideas, opinions and suggestions regarding any area which you feel will contribute to the edification and stimulation of your fellow ministers. We want OPEN FORUM to be encouraging, thought-provoking — a vehicle through which constructive ideas can be born.*

*But please remember — and pardon our disclaimer — the views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the official policies or procedures of the Worldwide Church of God or Ambassador College. Neither do they necessarily represent the views of the editorial staff of the Bulletin. Nor do they necessarily reflect any absolute conclusions or dogma on the part of the individual contributor — just food for thought and discussion. Send your OPEN FORUM contributions to the Bulletin, 300 West Green Street, Pasadena, Calif. 91123. Be sure to double space your copy.*

## A POWERFUL LESSON IN HUMILITY

I was impressed by an example I saw recently at Sabbath services here in Pasadena. Mr. Herbert Armstrong was sitting in the Auditorium just before time for services to begin, and an innocent little four-year-old boy wandered up to him and asked, "Mr. Armstrong, are you going to give us the sermon today?"

The youngster was nobody special, just another child, but Mr. Armstrong put down his books and took quite a bit of time to talk with him. Even though he was just minutes away from the time for his sermon and may have even wanted to think about it more, he took time to converse with this little fellow.

And this is what impressed me. Here was a man who has met leading statesmen around this world, who has talked with kings, has dined with the great of the world's societies, but had the humility of attitude to spend a fair amount of time, even before giving an important sermon, talking with "a little child" in the church congregation.

Mr. Armstrong could have excused himself and turned to other matters of vital importance, but he didn't. Instead, he gave the child the same deference and respect that might have been given a king or head of state!

I feel that Mr. Armstrong's example in humility and honor is a powerful one for all of us to follow.

It's easy to get caught up in our work-a-day

routine and become so involved with our jobs that we forget that other people have feelings. In this state of mind, we are likely to come across as exuding vanity and self-importance — being proud of what we are — and express the attitude that "little" people don't mean much.

An example might be not answering a memo or letter, returning a phone call, or failing to exchange a warm greeting because, "well, the person doesn't measure up to my position," or the matter "probably isn't that important and I'm busy." Of course, because of our heavy schedules we can't attend to every detail simply due to the physical limitations of time, circumstances, and the fact that we're human and can't be omnipresent. But, the *attitude of caring* for each individual and wishing to serve each one in humility *can* and should be there.

Another area where we may unknowingly offend or discourage fellow workers or Church members is to ignore, look down on, reject, or to manifest an attitude of unwelcomeness toward them, if they haven't attained our level of achievement or have not been initiated into our close circle of friends.

I believe for us to build a winning team throughout the Church, we must apply this lesson of humility to anyone, regardless of his station in life. I Peter 2:16 says, "Honor *all* men." There is nothing which will turn people away from us more quickly than the "I am too important to be bothered by you" prideful attitude. People need acceptance and reassurance. They need to feel they are "worth something" and that their contributions to the Work are important and recognized. The spirit of our brethren can be crushed deeply if they are made to feel they are nobodies and are "an obnoxious bother" when they approach us about some matter.

Our calling in life as ministers demands the exercise of humility and loving care for those placed under our charge. And the simple little tool of just *taking time to talk* with others, giving them *encouragement* and *responding to their needs* can build bridges of friendship and love as can few other things. This principle of humility is very important to follow at all times with all people, and leaves no room for toadish self-importance.

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; *in honor preferring one another!*" (Romans 12:10.)

— Richard Rice  
MPC Division Head  
Pasadena

### Spokesmen Are Still "Spokes"

In this ever-turning "wheel" of the Worldwide Church of God — *and* one to which we strive to keep our shoulders — are many "spokes."

Many of those very effective spokes have become effective through the establishment and perpetuation of Spokesman Clubs all over the world. Probably every deacon, elder or sermonette man — with the exception of a very few — has had the blessing of being in a Spokesman or Ambassador Club. That is quite a testimony to the value of the clubs.

In the myriad other occupations which Church of God "breadwinners" engage, that Spokesman Club training has proved to be invaluable in contributing to better standards of living, to better social acceptance and, consequently, our being brighter lights in our respective communities.

Mr. Cole mentioned in the Church Administration column of the November 6, 1974 issue of the *Bulletin*, that we are not being wise if we make promises which we are not in positions to keep. In discussing potential ordinations Mr. Cole suggested that by telling a man he is to be ordained or elevated, based solely on our recommendation, we may "... have scored points with him, but if those responsible for final decisions reject your recommendation, they then may look like the big bad guys at H.Q."

Mr. Cole said, "It is well and good for you to encourage a man — to help him grow and to let him know you feel he is making good progress — ... but do be careful not to over-commit yourself."

Some years ago — at about the time the Leadership Training Classes began — there was a certain "over-commitment" which ran the Club members through the gamut of emotions, from elation and anticipation to disappointment and discouragement.

I don't know if that "over-commitment" was made generally wherever clubs were extant, but it was made in the club which I attended.

We were told that at the conclusion of the Spokesman Club and Leadership Training courses, that we would either be accepted immediately to Ambassador College or would be ordained as Local Elders. It was suggested that some "very few"

might need to take some short refresher course before being awarded with either.

Unfortunately, those making the promises were not in a position to back them up. Obviously!

Many graduates were consequently thrown into a sort of bland limbo of frustration. They had run the race, finished the course, fought the fight — and were now stuck with their bare faces hanging out.

"Where do we go from here?" was the cry.

Generally, the leading men in any congregation have been club members. When they lose that weekly masculine atmosphere — laced with formality and manners — the *feeling* of productivity tends to diminish, and with it the productivity itself can lessen. They have the certificate. Club is "over" for them. What can they do?

With the recent CAD re-evaluation of Spokesman Clubs under way, it might be good to compare suggestions on how that void may be filled in the lives of our leading men.

In the Fontana, California Club we have experimented with the following program: We still have five speakers each meeting, but *two* of the five are graduates. The non-grads remain totally within the configurations prescribed in the manual but the grad speakers are allowed up to twelve minutes and may speak on any subject of their choice, including sermonette types. They are then evaluated *only* by the director.

They are *not* in the running for the trophies.

That allows the grad speaker the opportunity to compete only with himself — and also allows the "novice" speaker a certain freedom from pressure regarding the "polished pro" winning the trophy. We benefit from the fine blend of youthful spontaneity and excitement with the more calculated maturity of the grads — and it results in a fine club.

Every fifth meeting is comprised of *five* graduate speakers, and on this occasion they *are* awarded trophies accordingly. The non-grads are able to sit in, without participating, and appreciate the maturity in the speeches.

It provides incentive for the newer men, but, primarily, it tends to fill the gap which was left by the abrupt termination of club activities by the older men.

There are twenty-six men in the club, and I can't recall ever seeing twenty-six more enthusiastic "spokes" in any wheel.

— Bob Smith  
Fontana/Glendora,  
Calif.



## IDEAS

*(Continued from page 566C)*

extra income for sponsoring local events approved by pastors.

In addition, however, we are aware that the Church must expand certain areas of service to brethren and the surrounding communities in order to be the light we want to be. We are presenting ideas and general guidelines in answer to requests for information about fund-raising activities which will prove profitable monetarily and spiritually, and improve the public image of the Church.

### Types of Fund-Raising Activities

Having conducted a spot survey of what pastors have already done in ways of raising money, here are some suggestions:

Teenagers washed airplanes in the Monterey, California area. Through contact of a church member who knew several owning planes, teens were able to hold two such activities, earning \$300 each time. Planes were washed at \$50 each and wax jobs brought from \$25 to \$50 each. Richard Gipe can be contacted for more details in this unique activity.

We also learned through Richard Gipe that teenagers recycled \$600 worth of miscellaneous products of Bell Industries in Santa Cruz, California. A continual contract was made with the company for future fund-raising activities. Again, contact was made through a local member working for Bell Industries at the time.

The above two activities show what can be done through church members offering fund-raising opportunities from community business. By alerting members who have similar contact in other local areas, it might prove successful for pastors to check into.

For more creative-minded teenage groups, dancethons can prove lucrative. Again, Richard Gipe informed us that the Santa Ana Y.O.U. conducted a 24-hour dancethon where enthusiastic teens contacted church members, friends and their teachers to sponsor them each to dance an hour. They normally asked their sponsors to pay \$10.00 per hour. One girl danced to the tune of \$140.

Rummage sales, swap meets and garage sales are other profitable ideas for fund-raising. Fred Davis from Phoenix, Arizona told how the local church made \$1,100 from a rummage sale held in a supermarket parking lot. The local Women's Club helped sponsor the activity with members chipping in by collecting and arranging the items. Two left over truckloads were given to the Salvation

Army. One can imagine the favorable image this left in the community.

Another unique fund-raising event was held by the Bakersfield congregation in California. Dan Orban told us about their Hawaiian Luau, called the "Hola Pu Ball." Participants dressed in Hawaiian attire with full-length evening gowns, etc. The ladies made their own clothes and had a Fashion Show Parade. The public was invited and all were served a Hawaiian menu prepared by members. Five hundred dollars was earned as a result. An added feature to this event was Dan Orban's "personal appearance" on a local T.V. station, announcing the Hawaiian Luau to the community on three separate occasions — all free.

How much can be earned at such fund-raising events? In addition to the amounts above, other local groups earned \$350 from bake sales; \$1,250 from a church-sponsored fair; \$600 at a combined carnival-campout and \$900 from charity games. And one congregation expects to sell grapefruit over a five-month period. How much do they expect to earn? A mere \$20,000! (More details will be presented in the future as we learn of their success.)

We realize that many pastors have had successful results in other types of fund raising in addition to those listed here. We urge such detailed accounts be sent to us so we can pass them on.

Many newspapers usually allow free ad space for charity events. Spot radio and TV time are offered free for such events as well.

### Areas of Caution

If any are contemplating activities where food or alcohol is sold (especially to the public) make sure proper licensing from city-county clerks and health authorities are obtained first. Fred Davis had to purchase a \$5 city license in order to hold a rummage sale on a chain store's parking lot, although the store gave free space to the Church.

Be sure insurance coverage is considered when transporting groups to and from any activity. Or, if homemade rides are provided at carnivals and fairs, that counsel is obtained regarding any liability risk.

Three areas of caution should always be properly investigated before attempting any fund-raising activity:

- (1) Check with local ordinances with respect to licenses and permits.
- (2) Contact local health officials involving regulations for sale of food and alcoholic beverages.
- (3) Counsel with insurance agencies as to accident-liability risks.

A fourth, and maybe more important than the rest in overview, is what result a particular activity will have in public relations with the community? Will the Church image be enhanced or tarnished? Any fund-raising activity should perform a meaningful service to the community.

Local funding can be a profitable exercise for pastor and congregation in every way. It is an opportunity for collective effort (even community); an occasion for social integration; a time for spiritual cohesion; and an event for financial profit.

## BOOK SHELF

**You and Youth**, by Lawrence O. Richards, Moody Press, Chicago, Ill., 1973, 128 pages, \$1.95, paperback

*You and Youth* is a relatively short, easy-to-read, yet dynamic and very valuable book. It deals with understanding teenagers and teaching them the Bible.

The author, Lawrence (Larry) Richards has much experience in youth education. Associated with Wheatland College in the Christian education department since 1956, Larry Richards is now working with Wheatland and as a free-lance writer. He brings three degrees, including a Ph.D. from Northwestern University, years of experience in Christian education, and over two thousand interviews with young people and teachers, to bear in writing the book.

The author uses the book to give the youth worker the "how-to" aspect of working with young people. He feels strongly the necessity of improving teacher-pupil relationships in this important age group. He divides the book into three general areas of concern: 1) See the Need, 2) Understanding Youth, and 3) Communicating the Word.

In the first chapter, the author goes through three sample teaching formats and then shows where each breaks down and becomes ineffective. He goes from the straight, dry, hurried — yet well prepared — lecture, to the wide open rap session.

In the next chapter, he examines young people today — examines what he calls the "push and pull of culture." He discusses, in depth, peer pressure and the desire to be popular — "one of the group." He discusses the teen years as a time in which really significant choices must be made, such as who they really are and what they want to do with their lives. He shows the need youths have to identify with others as they try to discover themselves as persons.

In the next two chapters, the author discusses the strain toward independence in our youth today. He shows we have to grant them sufficient freedom to become responsible individuals without granting them outright independence to "do their thing," whatever that may entail. Richards shows that youth look at authority differently than the older generation. Authority must be something that is earned. The youth will give the one claiming authority the opportunity to demonstrate his competence to exercise that authority through experience.

Richards shows that the youth of today are concerned about the "now." Their concern is focused in the present experience, and the present is of utmost importance. In teaching and working with youth, we need to capitalize on the now relationship and then connect that to the future.

In the remaining chapters, the third section of the book, the author discusses the actual teaching situation. He shows how to build a mutual respect with the youth. It is important to have control in the "class." Loss of control generally stems from the teacher's failure to understand the proper structure of the class and his failure to guide it effectively toward the learning goal. It is not normally related to a teacher's failure to be an authority or because he is too friendly with his students.

Richards sets up his format for structuring a class situation, and shows why it works effectively. He asserts that teaching must be relevant and must meet the needs of the youth involved, and illustrates general ways to discover what those needs are — with the best way by far being from the youth themselves. He shows we have to be open with the youth and prove ourselves worthy of their trust by listening carefully to their problems. He advises against a quick "know-it-all, shotgun blast" type solution to problems they have been agonizing over for days.

Richards then ends by explaining how we can help youth develop a proper attitude toward the Bible. We have to help them experience what the Bible teaches. He uses what he calls "discovery teaching," where, with the teacher's help, the youths are involved in digging out the meaning of a particular scripture for themselves.

Overall, I found the book excellent in all respects. As we begin to place more importance on our youth and working with them, we need to become much more aware of books like this. They can give us considerable help in working with this large segment of the Church.

— Mike Blackwell  
Assistant Coordinator of Y.O.U.