

PASTOR'S REPORT

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ABOUT THE ENCLOSED GTA TRANSCRIPT Enclosed with this Pastor's Report is a transcript of the Area Coordinators meeting on March 20th at which Mr. Ted Armstrong read a 12-page letter introducing a new program for church growth. Instead of sending the tape of the meeting along with the original letter as he had planned, Mr. GTA decided to send a transcript of both the letter and most of his extemporaneous comments as he read the letter.

CLARIFICATION OF FEDERAL AID TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS Some Church pastors read to their congregations portions of a recent letter from Mr. GTA concerning new directions for the College. As a result, certain misunderstandings have arisen concerning student aid programs which are sponsored by the federal government. The intent of the letter was not to cancel government-sponsored student aids. The student aid package will continue to operate in much the same way as it has in the past.

The program will, of necessity, have to be modified from time to time in order to meet institutional goals and purposes, as well as governmental regulations. There is no plan at this time to deny any qualified student at Ambassador College, or prospective student, access to government funds.

The intent of the memo from Mr. Armstrong had to do with the institution entering into government contracts in which the College would receive direct financial aid from the federal government and thus be subject to increased governmental regulations, when the direct aid exceeds a specified amount.

--Donald L. Ward, College Administration

SERMON SUMMARIES PULL GOOD RESPONSE For a few months now Subscriber Development has been offering "Sermon Summaries" to our donor and co-worker audience. These Summaries are brief, capsulizations of selected sermons given here in Pasadena -- and, in appearance, resemble small reprint articles. They are being used as a "feeding tool" by Subscriber Development -- to give additional spiritual teaching to our contributors and help motivate them toward even closer involvement with the Work, as God calls.

For eleven of the past twelve weeks, Sermon Summaries have ranked among the top 20 pieces of literature sent out by MPC. In fact, the Summaries have been among the top five pieces of literature requested by co-workers! 23,000 Summaries have been requested. This is a very good response, considering that the only place they are being advertised is in Worldwide Church of God monthly and weekly receipts to co-workers and donors. Monthly receipt responses have topped 40% and weekly receipts are averaging about 25%.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

PLAIN TRUTH UPDATE This past Thursday I had a very long and enjoyable conversation with Mr. Herbert Armstrong on the telephone. We discussed the PT in detail and I thanked him for his support concerning the controversial cover on the April issue. He said that the issue should do well on the newsstands and that we should cover the subject of sex in the PT every once-in-a-while. I suggested that he was the best person to write on that subject since he had written "the book" on it and had taught Principles of Living for so many years at the college. He agreed.

Mr. Armstrong then launched into a long explanation of some of the things he wants to get into the PT in future issues. He was very happy that we are continuing to use some of his past material and wants to go over some of it to update it. I'll be sending him some of the specific material he requested right away.

He asked for our prayers concerning the continual rebuilding of his health. He said that his blood pressure is vastly improved and his heart is doing well. He did mention that he needs to get up and walk around a lot more than he has been doing.

After checking with Mr. Ted Armstrong's office, we decided to go ahead with the regular cover of the PT on those 380,000 copies to be printed in England after all. The reason being that the cover signature had already been printed and it would have cost the Work around 130,000 dollars and much scheduling grief to scrap it at that point.

We are combining the June/July issues and the September/October issues this year due to continuing budget restraints. This time we will print a band across the cover showing that it is a combined issue so that people will not become confused thinking they have missed an issue. We hope that one of these years we'll be able to get back to the regular 12 issues per year since the 10-issue policy doesn't help our mailing list any.

Lesson 12 of the correspondence course should be all but complete by now and ready to go to press. Of course, it will take 4-6 weeks to get it in print once it reaches the pre-press area. But at last it is done!

That's it for this time.

--Brian Knowles, Editorial Services

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION TRANSFERS (Editor's Note: Due to an editorial oversight, the following from Mr. McCullough, which was scheduled for the last Pastor's Report, did not appear in that issue. Our apologies to Mr. McCullough and to our readers.)

Greetings once again from the "foreigners!" Time rushes by so fast that the need for one of these reports seems to be continually present. Most of the areas around the world have been sailing along without too much unusual activity to report. But for this issue, we do have some very exciting things to report to you.

I have just returned from a short, but long trip. It was short in terms of duration--only two weeks, but long in terms of distance--

25,000 miles. I visited five of the offices in that period of time carrying the proverbial "good news" and "bad news." As a result, there are a number of personnel changes to be announced. Let me hasten to say that the only connotation meant by the "bad news" is that it is always a little difficult to face moving from an area where you have spent several years of your life in serving the people. The "news" was actually happily received by all those involved.

There have been plans in the works for some time now to bring the Fahey family in for a sabbatical. Those plans have had to be postponed for a time, but will now take effect in July. Mr. Fahey -- that sounds to stilted, so I'll change it -- Bob will have been serving (and doing an excellent job of it) in the South African area for nine years by this coming July. Prior to that he was in Australia and prior to that in Great Britain. Actually, the Faheys haven't lived in the United States since they were married, so it will be a welcomed change.

He will be here at Pasadena for a year and then be reassigned. With all the opportunities and changes which occur during the course of a year in this Work, I haven't tried to determine a specific responsibility at this time. However, he will not be returning to Johannesburg.

The obvious question then is, "Who will replace Bob?" The answer is Dr. Roy McCarthy who is a South African citizen. Roy has been very ably directing the Work in Holland for the last three years. He has expanded his talents to include the speaking of the Dutch language so he can preach in that language to both the Dutch churches. He and his wife are very pleased to be returning to South Africa, and are looking forward to an even greater challenge than the one they have been enjoying.

Dr. McCarthy is being replaced by a new man as far as the full-time ministry is concerned. I visited Montreal in February to interview Mr. and Mrs. Bram de Bree. Mr. de Bree is a local elder in Montreal who has been earning his living as an architect for the past twenty-three years. Both he and his wife are Dutch citizens and will actually be returning home as they replace Dr. McCarthy.

Next to be moved will be Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schnee. The Schnees have made Germany their home for the past sixteen years. They went there to the tiny fledgling Work and have dedicated their lives to the Work in Germany since that time. Their zeal and drive in performing the Work in Germany is well known by the older church members here in the States, and very much appreciated by all of us here at Headquarters.

Frank will be at Pasadena for a year and then will be reassigned in a major responsibility following that. With the sabbatical program plans in mind, Frank will probably replace one of the Area Coordinators in Canada. However, those plans are, at best, tentative. With the many changes we experience, he could very well be considered for two or three different jobs before the actual assignment is made.

There is then the remaining question of who will replace Frank. Here again the name is one which is new to most of you. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bode from the office in Johannesburg will move to Germany to fill the

vacancy left by the Schnees. Martin graduated from the college in Pasadena and since that time has been working in the office in Jo' burg. He has an excellent background in business, as well as computer science, and has been working in these areas for some years now.

Of course, another extremely important factor is Martin's German background and language. He has grown up in a German-speaking family which has given him a good command of the language. It would be difficult for anyone to be assigned to the responsibility in Germany who didn't speak the language. So Martin's training and background have given him a great opportunity to serve the Work in another area of the world. Needless to say, he and his wife are extremely enthusiastic about the opportunity. It will be a real challenge and they are anxious to be about the new job.

I won't try to give you more background than this on the newer personalities, but will leave it to the able reporting of the World-wide News. (See the March 27th issue--Editor.) But I do want to encourage you to be behind all of these men, especially with your prayers, as they meet the new responsibilities and changes in their lives.

--Leslies L. McCullough, International Division

WORK RECEIVES COMMUNITY EXPOSURE IN NEW ZEALAND Mr. Bob Morton, Regional Director of the Work in New Zealand, had the opportunity to give God's Church and the Work in New Zealand good community exposure. A newspaper in Auckland, N.Z., the North Shore Times Advertiser (March 7, 1978), ran an objective and rather sizeable article in which many points of doctrine, Christian living and the scope of this worldwide Work were touched upon. Bob was also quoted extensively throughout the article. Since the article mentioned times and stations on which the World Tomorrow is broadcast, no doubt a good deal of public interest has been generated.

WCG MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON RADIO On March 21, Dan Kelenske of our Media Services Department was contacted by KDKA Radio, a 50,000-watt station in Pittsburgh. The John Cigna Show, which airs at 6:00 p.m., extended an invitation to discuss various topics stemming from the booklet, "The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday." And so on March 25, Fred Coulter, minister of the Monterey church, debated via phone from California with Mark Thompson, a Pittsburgh Church of Christ minister.

Response from the show was very high. Parts of the debate were re-played the following evenings after the initial broadcast, and the moderator was heard to say that what Mr. Coulter said had merit. Local minister Don Lawson feels the experience was a positive one and that the talk show host "sided" with Fred during the debate.

Fred Coulter has been on numerous radio talk shows in the past, and can be heard regularly on KIDD Radio, a local station in Monterey. He also felt the debate "went very well" and indicated he would be glad to do it again anytime.

According to a representative from the station, the debate ran two hours, instead of the usual one hour, because of the high interest generated by the timely topic. Many persons called in with questions

about Easter and related topics. "People are interested in religion," Fred says, "and they like to hear debates on radio."

When on a talk show and Mr. Coulter is asked how Garner Ted Armstrong feels about a certain subject, he replies: "If you want to know how Garner Ted feels, you'll have to ask him. We only discuss issues and answers -- we don't discuss personalities or organizations."

Two of the reasons for the success and the impact of the debate can be attributed to the powerful 50,000-watt clear channel signal of the station, and the popularity of John Cigna, the show's host, who has quite a local following.

--John Lundberg, Media Division

ON THE WORLD SCENE

DOLLAR PLUNGES, ISN'T THE PRESIDENT WORRIED? Last Friday's announcement of the worst monthly trade deficit in U.S. history -- 4.52 billion dollars for February -- took even the Commerce Department officials by surprise. They had expected the shortfall to be in the range of 3 billion dollars. There were some extenuating, short term circumstances involved in the whopping deficit, but these did nothing to calm fears of money managers overseas who unloaded greenbacks, sending the dollar down to 218 Japanese yen and fractionally under 2 German marks.

Japan's Prime Minister Fukuda has sent an urgent message to President Carter appealing for immediate U.S. intervention to stem the dollar's skid. Carter meanwhile has made only one oblique reference to the crisis, in response to a newsman's question during his visit to Lagos, Nigeria. The President said he felt the situation would right itself once Congress passed his energy legislation. That package has been stalled for a year, however. Mr. Carter has been urged from many quarters to slap an immediate surcharge on imported oil as a quick means to restore confidence in the value of the dollar. He has the authority to do so, but has not chosen this course of action. His hand may be forced this week, however, if the dollar continues to fall.

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau

LETTER COMMENTS

Changes in the College

"I felt like cheering during service today when our minister, Vernon Hargrove, read your letter to the ministers about your changes at Ambassador College. I guess I'm saying all this because I want to send my daughter to God's college next year. I hope she will find decent, fine young men there to begin dating with. She is no rebel, but very loyal to her family, her church, and her God.

"We also approve of your relinquishing the college duties to devote your time to media and more direct guidance of the ministry. We know the Living Christ is directing His Work, and making these decisions. We support them.

"When the economic situation gets bad, in the next year or two, Americans need a strong voice of hope to listen to for advice. We want your voice to be there for them to hear. We are backing you. We are praying, and we will include a special offering in our tithe check this week, as further evidence to God that we are backing His Work."

--Bill York (Indianapolis, IN)

"When our minister read from your letter to the ministers yesterday at Sabbath services, I was very pleased, to say the least! So pleased that I decided to sit down and write you this letter to assure you of our wholehearted approval and continued support in this wonderful work that God has called us to do.

"We completed our 'basic training' long ago and we have seen what can happen to those who let down their guard. Keep up the good work and be sure that we are with your father and you one hundred percent!"

--Phil Bailey (Huntsville, Ontario)

"On the Sabbath of March 18, 1978, our minister read your letter to us all.

"You are making quite a few changes in the future, which shows to me your true leadership.

"Keep up the good work and I will pray for you, your father and the Work. I thank you for giving so much to the Work."

--P. Beentjes (Barrie, Ontario)