


The **Bulletin**



of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

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JULY 15, 1975

Church Administration

Special greetings to everyone!

Since the "Gone Fishing" sign is still hanging on Mr. Cole's door, I thought I would take this opportunity to jot down some thoughts concerning our interpersonal relationship with one another as fellow workers and ministers.

We all have our days when things don't go just right or we feel a little down. We have all experienced a little agitation with our "border brothers" or with a far removed brother. It seems all too easy for little shadowy feelings to crop up between one another. Though these are usually small, they can and do affect what could be a close, rewarding relationship. I'm sure we all have certain special or close friends among the ministry because of being in college together or living near each other or whatever. And, you know how happy those friends can make you feel.

Wouldn't it be great if we all cultivated that same relationship as much as possible with all our fellow ministers? Of course, it is not possible to be in close contact with everyone because of distance, size, etc. But, when opportunity presents itself at conferences, campaigns, meetings, during vacations, weekends, etc., we could all make special effort to begin or re-establish or further cement long-lived relationships.

Don't be afraid to be the aggressor in showing friendship and concern or just plain "LUV"! You'd be surprised (no you probably wouldn't be because you already know) just how much response a little "How's it going, Joe?", can bring from a man you haven't paid much attention to. A phone call, a memo, there are many things one can do to build

comradeship among "company employers and employees" or in our case, within God's ministry.

Don't be afraid to encourage a friend. If he has had some rough going, be a good friend. If a man has just moved into your vicinity, make contact with him when you can. You know how traumatic a move can be. Or, if you've moved into an area and don't know some of your neighboring ministers (and haven't heard from them either) you call or write them as you're able. I hope and pray that one day we can all really receive each other with open arms and concern rather than with doubts and suspicions. As we grow in size, there is a tendency to lose the personal family touch. This makes it even more necessary to be a brother to each other as Christ is to us. If there is a little problem between you and another man, be willing to bring it up and discuss it so it doesn't stand in the way of a close friendship.

Some of this may sound a little elementary, and it is. But, how easy it is to forget basics. I think if we all strive to be a little more accommodating and tolerant, a little more willing to go an extra mile, a little more desirous to share "self" (a good way to get rid of "self" is to give it away) with one another, a little quicker to be first to speak, we'll have more of that openness we're striving for and a far more effective group of men and women serving God and His people.

It has been said that the world is full of wooden people who are always doing their best to whittle others down. Certainly this is all too true in the world, but hopefully not in the Work of God. The point is everyone becomes the loser in that type of environment.

Galatians 5:15 wasn't out of date when Paul wrote: "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not *consumed* one of another."

Please keep in touch, and remember that one of the biggest steps we can take is when we meet the other fellow halfway.

— Paul Flatt

BIRTHS

Bruce and Locketta Anderson (Columbus, Ohio): We are very happy to announce the birth of our third child and second boy, *Vaughn Burton*. He was born on June 24th and weighed in at 9 lbs., 2 ozs., measuring 22 inches in length. Everyone doing just fine.

Russell and Phyllis Duke (Topeka, Kan.) Sabbath, July 21st, is a day we'll never forget, for it was anything but a "rest" day. Our daughter, *Tracy Jo*, was born at 1:57 a.m. She's a healthy rascal, weighing in at 8½ pounds and 20 inches in length. It is fantastic having your wife give birth to a child in your own kitchen. Now with a son and a daughter, we feel that our family is complete!!

Mail Processing

The month of June has become our *second best month* for mail so far this year, ending with a good hefty letter count of 236,928 letters which is a 66% increase over the May statistics. Compared with June of a year ago our letter count is *up by 16%* — so all in all June 1975 has been a very good month for us!

The primary reason for this abundant increase was the tremendous response to the direct mail letters announcing *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*. During June we counted over 102,000 requests for the U.S. booklet from direct mail alone.

Below is a general summary showing the comparative percentages of our various mail sources and their performance for June:

Radio & Television	16,751	7.0%
Plain Truth	20,152	8.5%
Good News	1,383	0.6%
Advertising & Booklets	2,314	1.0%
Booklet Cards	3,584	1.5%
Direct Mail	124,383	52.5%
Member & Co-Worker mail	60,879	25.7%
Correspondence Course	2,170	0.9%
Miscellaneous	5,307	2.3%
Total	236,928	100.0%

New Literature Index

Enclosed with this issue is our latest Index of currently available booklets and reprint articles.

The Bulletin

of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

EDITOR IN CHIEF

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

EDITOR

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

C. WAYNE COLE

SENIOR EDITORS

DAVID JON HILL, HERMAN L. HOEH,
ROBERT L. KUHN

MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD H. SEDLIACIK

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

CHARLES V. DOROTHY, BRIAN KNOWLES

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Immediately following this column our special box gives details about this new Index, but we felt a brief comment on several booklet revisions would be helpful to you when recommending reading material to prospective members. These booklets have been revised as follows:

- *Lazarus and the Rich Man* is now Part II in the booklet, *Is There A Real Hell Fire?*
- Our former article, "Twelve Rules To Bible Study" is now incorporated into the booklet, *How To Study The Bible*.
- Parts of *A True History of the True Church* and *Why So Many Denominations?* have been incorporated in sections of the booklet, *Where Is God's True Church Today?*
- "What Is Real Repentance?" and "Should You Be Baptized?" have been incorporated in the booklet, *What Is A Real Christian?*

A number of booklets and articles have been discontinued. Please check the Index concerning these. Each discontinued piece of literature is marked by an asterisk.

That does it for this time. Hope we can have a good letter count and mail report to give you again next issue.

— Richard Rice

(Continued on page 376)

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
GARNER TED ARMSTRONG
Vice President

July 14, 1975

To all ministers and key personnel:

Greetings in Jesus' name!

So many things are happening here at Headquarters so quickly that it is difficult to "get a handle on it all" -- but I'll try to bring you up to date.

The new TITHING booklet is ready to go -- and will be sent directly to each member individually and even to co-workers! It is very well researched; carefully and systematically written. I have sent a cover letter along with special emphasis on the subject to the brethren and to the co-workers! This booklet is in a sense unique, in that it represents not only a new and up-to-the-moment booklet on the subject of tithing we can send to the general public and advertise freely in the Plain Truth as well as over radio and television, but it also represents official Church doctrine on the subject.

I just went over the entire report on budgetary projections for the fiscal year of 1975-76. I wish I could report we were somewhere near a 30 percent increase, but I can only report we are budgeting for barely short of a ONE PERCENT increase!

That means we are projecting forward sufficient increases in some of the key areas where the need is critical (media and church administration) to allow for significant expansion, yet live WITHIN a budget very close to that of the fiscal year of 1974-75.

IF (and all of us here expect it will be so) we are "surprised," we would far rather have the surprises in the positive, meaning a substantial INCREASE over the projected budget, than in the negative, meaning a decrease!

The last report I had (July 9) showed that general contributions for the year-to-date in comparison with 1974 had fallen -0.5 percent and that the declines over the last year and a half or so in third tithe, excess second tithe, and the tithe of the tithe all combined to bring the total income picture to a -1.5 percent for the year-to-date from January 1 through July 9.

However, one of the most significant indicators of income, the "running quarter," comparing the periods of April 10 through July 9 for each year, showed a significant increase in general contributions of 7.4 percent, with the total percentage of change up 3.4 percent for that particular period.

So taking a "running quarter" and comparing the current income trend, rather than submerging the current upswing into the total ANNUAL picture, shows an encouraging positive trend!

I hope you are all as enthusiastic as the rest of us that the Plain Truth has soared to 3,480,170 circulation with the last issue -- and that we have met our goals and objectives in expanding circulation, yet cutting costs and living within our means!

In a letter sent to all the brethren in advance of the upcoming Holy Day season, containing their Holy Day envelopes, I quoted from an article appearing in a leading western newspaper, written by George W. Cornell, Associated Press religion writer, who told of the dissolution of the monthly magazine, United Methodists Today, the major official organ going to a ten-million member denomination, the second largest among all Protestant churches!

According to the article, this left the huge body without a general church magazine for the first time in 150 years!

The article said, in part: "Church publications, which have gone through some jolting and sometimes fatal shake-ups in recent years, are trying new approaches to keep going.

"Some of them are making headway and gaining wider circulation [possibly a reference to the Plain Truth?]. But the pressures still are on, and another major publication has been added to the total of casualties."

Then came the announcement of the termination of United Methodists Today, and the writer went on to say: "The magazine was ordered terminated on grounds that in a time of economic recession and world starvation it was not responsible to 'keep spending so much to reach so few,' says John Proctor, head of the church's publishing house.

"Costs and deficits had mounted and circulation fallen."

Frankly, while I have no reason to "gloat over" a publication of that scope in a denomination of that giant size collapsing, it is nevertheless of tremendous significance that the very bold and drastic steps which we took concerning the cancellation of the slick paper and very expensive Plain Truth and reverting to a tabloid newsprint format for the time being were done IN ADVANCE of a catastrophe of the proportions which is striking many other publications!

Instead, the Plain Truth continues to grow larger and larger, and we are now planning toward the possibility, perhaps by the beginning of next year, of returning to a full-color cover and magazine format, yet maintaining the style and article approaches of the current PT.

I hope quite a number of you were able to see the TV summer specials. While they are not generally being shown in most of the larger cities, they will reach quite a significant number of cities in the below-100,000 range!

I also mentioned in the letter to the brethren my enthusiasm over the open Bible Studies and the stable and solid growth this indicates for the Church.

I was pleasantly surprised to see the statistics from the Festival Department that we are expecting to have over 89,500 observing the Feast in 14 Festival sites this coming autumn!

That is a whopping increase!

Changing the subject, I have written a very, very lengthy letter answering in virtually a point-by-point fashion some of the allegations brought up by Mr. Royer and his son-in-law and son in their letters they circulated among brethren in the central and northern California areas.

In addition, I have asked Rod Meredith, newly arrived back in the United States, to temporarily be detached on a special assignment to visit with these men who have withdrawn and to call on many of the members who have defected or those who are still in the Church and who have been affected by the actions of these men.

I hope all of you will join hands with us here at Headquarters in helping all of God's people realize our obligations to really PREPARE for the upcoming Festival season and pay attention to the admonitions from Paul to Timothy of "preach the word; be instant in season, out of season" and continue to FEED the flock of God! Our brethren, as never before, need to be solidly grounded in basic doctrine -- and need to be able to prove and re-prove the important doctrines of God's Church! In reading through the second chapter of II Timothy the other day, I was struck with the fact of the similarity between the times in which Paul had to write to Timothy (whom he may have suspected as being a little bit affected by some dissidents in his area at that time) and the times in which we live right now!

Continually the Apostle Paul warned Timothy about striving about words, genealogies and strange ideas, "doctrines of demons," and urged him to "rightly divide the word of truth," to hold fast that which he knew and to preach and to teach steadily and insistently the SOUND DOCTRINE that the people of God so badly need!

I doubt very much if that advice is any the less worthy for its age!

Until next time,

Your brother in Christ,



A NOTE OF THANKS!

On behalf of Mr. Armstrong, we'd like to take a little space in this current *Bulletin* to thank all of you for your fine support of AICF and *HUMAN POTENTIAL* magazine.

Judging by the hundreds of enthusiastic responses received from church brethren and co-workers, we can only conclude that your enthusiasm was contagious — and that the church membership as a whole is well-informed and very supportive of this whole new aspect of God's Work. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP! Communications — of the *right kind* — in a Work this size is no easy task.

ALSO...it's time to give a well-deserved "THANK YOU" to our Headquarters staff who have worked so diligently — hundreds of extra man-hours — to put together a very effective publishing package: Fred Peace, circulation and direct mail; Richard Rice and staff, mail processing; Ben Chapman, data processing; Roger Lippross, magazine production; and a special THANK YOU to one of the finest art directors anywhere, Allen Merager, and his staff, who had the very difficult job of taking all the pieces — ideas, pictures, articles and concepts — and designing one of the finest magazines printed. One with tremendous potential for helping Mr. Armstrong, the field ministry, and all of us here at HQ to collectively be more effective in God's Work.

Please continue to keep the congregations abreast of "what's happening" in AICF. We'll continue to do our best to keep you informed.

We hope that all who can afford the \$15.00 or \$25.00 for AICF will want to receive *HUMAN POTENTIAL* and have a part in supporting this new, powerful arm of the Work. Just to have the magazine read, discussed and displayed in church members' homes around the country will have a positive effect on their friends and relatives, and will also be a wonderful public relations vehicle for the Work as a whole!

We have a big job to do here — working to insure that the *quality* (graphically and editorially) is maintained issue after issue. Your continuing prayers and support will be very much appreciated.

— Art Ferdig / Robert Kuhn

Financial Affairs

Let me first of all express my apologies for missing the last two issues of the *Bulletin*. We have been busy with the 1975/76 fiscal year budget and any comments I would have made would have been premature, so I decided to wait until the budget was complete before bringing you up to date.

Now that fiscal 1974/75 is complete, I can tell you that the income came in as anticipated — that is, 2.2% *lower* than the previous year. Since this was anticipated, it came as no great surprise! However, the bright spot was that we had *under-spent* our budget by a little under one million dollars which brought us to the year end in a fairly comfortable position. Comfortable, that is, compared with where we were last September and October!

A Balanced Budget!

Another bright spot is that I am now happy to tell you that we *do* have a balanced budget for the next fiscal year! This happy circumstance was arrived at by a combination of reducing our income expectations to a much more conservative level than ever before, and in further reducing fringe area expenditures. For the purposes of planning, we have decided to go with a 6% *decrease* in cash receipts and a like reduction in expenditures. This represents only a 0.6% decrease in income from tithes and offerings, the difference being made up by eliminating certain bank borrowings and sales of assets. This, of course, has resulted in a basically "no growth" budget which Mr. Ted Armstrong feels is the wisest course to adopt at this stage. However, with the national economic picture beginning to improve and the Church itself growing numerically, we may be able to revise our expectations upward before the end of this calendar year.

Naturally, in today's economic climate no orga-

nization can expect to stay in a "no growth" mode — inflation alone will bring about a reduction in activity. We are anticipating *some* increase in income above what we have planned for, but at least at this stage we are not committed to spend it! Should we find ourselves receiving more income than planned, we have a contingency for its distribution. Our first requirement is to increase our working reserves to better support our overall financial demands such as seasonal decreases, plus the added flexibility to pick up any necessary projects without impacting our working capital. After this requirement has been satisfied, any increased income would go for media, Church Administration Department, and direct mail in that order. Again let me reiterate that we are not *planning* for an increased income, but should it come, Mr. Ted Armstrong has already made a determination for its distribution.

I mentioned in one of my previous columns that we are now adopting certain scientific forecasting techniques used in industry in order to better plan financially for the coming year. You might be interested to know that our latest budget revision, about six months ago, was based on a forecast using these techniques and we missed our expectations by less than one half of one percent! Now that we have given the acid test to some of these techniques I can feel a little more confident in using them for more indepth planning. However, please let me emphasize that planning does not mean "decisionmaking in advance"! Good financial planning simply lays down certain guidelines which must be flexible enough to be changed when particular prerequisite criteria are not met. I receive a weekly — sometimes more often — update on our financial situation which is compared very closely with our plan, and should there be any major deviation immediate action can be taken. Some of these new techniques enable us to stay right on top of our internal financial needs and give us a flexibility for action that was never previously available. Consequently, Mr. Ted Armstrong is able to make decisions using much more reliable data than was available to him in the past.

I might also mention a comment made to me recently by a Church member who said, "I can't see what is so difficult about living within our income!" His comment was obviously directed toward the fact that we seem to be constantly under financial pressure in order to meet what may be regarded as an over-ambitious budget.

In case others may have the same basic feeling, let me say that in every year that I have been involved with putting together a budget (and that

has been for at least the last six) we have never *planned* to go deficit! (With the exception of one certain abnormal circumstance) What generally has happened in the past has been that our income expectation was *too high* and that had not become evident until perhaps one third of the way through the budget year, and then we had to go through what some have cynically referred to as our "annual budget cut"!

Let me repeat, we do not *plan* an annual budget cut, but as in any other business, circumstances often will make it necessary. Let me also say that we have not yet, as far as I can determine, been materially hurt by a budget cut! On the contrary, many departments have often *improved* in efficiency as a result. Of course, because of our rapid growth for about six years beginning in the middle 60's, we had tended to put on a lot of surplus "weight" which was relatively easy to trim off in a time of need. Now, however, we are almost down to "skin and bones" and it is almost impossible to trim back any further without some negative impact on the Work. Thus, we cannot afford to make any more budget cuts of the type we have made in the past, i.e., reducing the *size* of a department. In the future our budget cuts may require vertical reduction which means a complete elimination of certain programs in order to conserve funds. It is possible, of course, to do this but it could conceivably cause damage to the overall commission of the Church.

One other requirement Mr. Ted Armstrong made this year was that each area of expenditure had to be very closely geared to its income. By this I mean that we could not spend any more Second Tithe than we received. The same being true for Third Tithe and Emergency Fund. The reverse would also be true should we have *surpluses* in any of those accounts. In other words, income from regular tithes and offerings will go for First Account activity with no utilization of other funds for support.

One other point I should make is that were it not for the excellent cooperation from *all* of the Division Heads and their assistants we could not have gotten into this balanced position. Only by working as a team could this have been accomplished, and I would like to publicly thank everyone who was responsible for making it possible.

Our Financial Staff

I also would like to make a few comments about our own financial staff here at Headquarters since many of them are anonymous to those of you away from here. Basically, I work with four men

on a daily basis from whom I receive financial data and with whom I work in the formulation and discussion of various plans. They are Ray Wright, Jack Bicket, Dennis Stauffer, and Glenn Parker. Perhaps I should take a little space to tell you about each one of them.

Ray Wright first joined our staff here in Pasadena in 1972 after working with Mr. Hunting in Bricket Wood for about three years. Ray is an American but was working for Texas Instruments in Britain and Europe when he first came into contact with God's Church. He was one of TI's brighter young men at that time and was heading up their British operations and slated to later take over all their European activity. Ray has an unusual ability for cost cutting and can spot wasted effort and wasted expense from a great distance! Much of the recent budget cutting that we have experienced over the last year to a year and a half has been directly attributed to his efforts. Mr. Wright works as my direct assistant and has responsibility in the day-to-day running of the Financial Division.

Mr. Jack Bicket joined the staff about two years ago from our Big Sandy campus where he had been supervising the Accounting Department for about nine years. Jack is now working for his M.B.A. and is presently heading up the Accounting Department here where he is doing a very outstanding job. It has been mainly through Jack's efforts that we have been able to do some imaginative financial planning and forecasting based on accurate and reliable data. He also has a gift for producing clear and cogent reports which have proved very useful to Mr. Armstrong in decision-making. We are now beginning to see the results of much hard work that has gone into our accounting system over the last several years.

Dennis Stauffer has probably been on the current staff longer than anyone else in the Business Office other than myself or Gene Michel. He came to Ambassador College in 1965 with a degree in chemical engineering, which technical training and background has really developed into a gift for financial analysis. He is in charge of the investment of any capital surplus to our banking requirements and proved himself to be a very shrewd and competent advisor in this field. While most corporations were taking a severe beating in their investments in the last year and a half, Dennis actually turned a cash profit for the Work by staying close to developments in the investment field, especially in the money market. Dennis is also responsible for handling our insurance and our health program.

Glenn Parker attended the University of Texas and graduated from Texas Tech with a degree in finance and banking before coming to Ambassador College in 1967. Glenn is our Budget Director and is responsible for the day-by-day overview of both our income and expenditure budgets. He works very closely with the Division Heads and their budget directors on the intimate details of their spending and planning. He has been very successful in putting together a budget system that is clear, comprehensible, and accurate down to the last penny! The kind of report that Mr. Parker produces is very useful in planning and decision-making in the financial area.

These men are the ones who are basically responsible for our financial planning and they, of course, work with their own people in the day-by-day activity of the Financial Division. We are also very privileged to have regular input from Henry Cornwall and Jack Kessler, two very qualified C.P.A.'s, who are available for both technical and overall advice in the financial area. Ralph Helge, head of the Legal Department, is also closely involved in any legal matters.

I thought I would share with you at least the names and a little bit of the background of these men who I feel are the very key to the financial integrity and health of God's Work. Let me hasten to say that each one of us here in the Financial Division is very conscious that God is the true Power and Provider for His Work and none of us feel that whatever contribution we make to the Work could ever be useful apart from that understanding. As I have mentioned in other letters, we are simply those instruments that God is using to put numbers on paper, to read the financial indicators, and to do whatever planning we can within our own limited human understanding. The outcome of whatever we plan must eventually depend on God's Blessing and our yielding to His Direction.

This letter has been a little longer than I would normally make it, but I felt you should be brought up to date on the budget and underlying philosophy for 1975/76 with a little bit of insight as to how we arrived there and who helped to do it! I hope it is of value and interest to all of you, and I plan on sharing more items with you as the year progresses.

— Frank Brown

International Division

SPANISH WORK UPDATE

Saludos Amigos de la obra España! The Spanish Department and ministry welcome you to a brief update of our burgeoning work and the news of latest happenings in this branch of God's Work.

Bogotá, Colombia

You will remember in the last report, Bogotá, Colombia had completely overwhelmed us with a final count of 927 requests for visits. A study of our computer listings revealed that 327 were taking the C.C., and the balance of 600 were P.V. regulars. The return coupon carried a listing for their telephone number, so we decided to call and visit personally the C.C. subscribers.

Running from February to May we invited 150 of the regulars to a public Bible study in each of these four months. These studies produced an additional 187 people who requested further personal visits from our ministers.

In addition to this activity, 197 of the C.C. subscribers have been visited in their homes and the number of members in Bogotá has increased from three to thirty one! The Sabbath meetings now have a regular attendance of fifty to fifty five. Steady, healthy progress is being maintained.

Spanish Speaking Church

You no doubt read about the raising up of a Spanish speaking Church at Headquarters. It meets at 10:30 a.m. Sabbath in the Recital Hall. When the opportunity presents itself you are more than welcome to attend. These services are a valuable tool in enabling us to have a full-scale training program for ministerial assistants. It aids in the excitement, future potential and relationships with the college student body. Also, and most importantly, it represents the first time our local Spanish speaking members have their very own Spanish language church. Attendance began with 132 and has held regularly between 86 and 105. Over 60% of those attending church are Spanish speaking *only*. Currently, we are visiting 6 new prospective member families and may soon circularize our Los Angeles *La Pura Verdad* list to develop more prospectives.

Feast Plans

Again this year the Feast of Tabernacles will be held in Chile, Argentina, Oaxtepec, Mexico, and possibly Bogotá, Colombia. The churches have all produced growth this year both in members and income, which is very encouraging. The overall Spanish Work has experienced a growth of 36% in income and 21% in membership since our last update. And prospects for the months immediately ahead look even more promising.

Spanish Ministry

It is truly amazing how God allows the efforts of only three ministers to be stretched over the vast areas the Spanish Work serves. At the Spring Feast Mr. Robert Flores, who pastors the headquarters church, crisscrossed South America on his way to Bahia Blanca, Argentina and Santiago, Chile, visiting 104 people and baptizing fourteen. He had many exciting experiences and stories to relate when he returned after 46 days. We gratefully acknowledge the help and assistance received from Mr. John Bald, Delfino Sandoval and Bob Petit who visit the whole of north eastern Mexico on a bi-monthly rotation basis from San Antonio. They will be conducting a baptizing tour encompassing most of the area, beginning July 20 and going until July 27th, which should add to the eighteen members who currently make up the Monterrey Bible study.

On his trips from Puerto Rico to Bogotá, Colombia, Mr. Pablo Gonzales regularly visits Caracas, Barquisimeto and other towns in Venezuela as well as Baranquilla in Colombia.

The supervisor of the Personal Correspondence Department, Mr. Fernando Barriga, has visited northeastern Mexico, Central America and last summer toured 19 out of the 27 states in Mexico, visiting 93 prospectives and baptizing seven.

This summer we are considering sending Mr. Barriga to Spain to visit there as well as throughout the Mediterranean in the English speaking areas. Because his son is employed by American Airlines, he can fly round trip for the tax — just \$90.

However, all this work would largely fail in producing the increases spoken of earlier if the local churches were not developing men like Alfredo Mercado in Guadalajara, Mexico, Herbert Cisnero in El Salvador, Luis Chavez in Bahia Blanca, Argentina and Filidor Illesca in Santiago, Chile who care for the needs of the Church and keep us informed by letters and regular reports.

Future Growth

La Pura Verdad circulation still continues to climb at an average rate of 3,000 per month, with total subscribers now standing at 152,000. We will be offering insert cards and ads to encourage new friendship memberships, as well as additions to the religious supplement grouping which now stands at 64,000. The 28,652 subscribers taking the C.C. will be offered personal visits when they graduate next year and we expect that at least 10% will accept. So the potential for development is increasing as is the need for a top notch ministry. Your personal interest and prayers will help determine the scope and completeness of whatever Christ provides to fulfill our Father's plans for the fiery, dynamic, friendly, lovable world of the Spanish and Latin peoples.

— Walter M. Dickinson

MAIL PROCESSING

(Continued from page 368)

LITERATURE INDEX

Enclosed with this *Bulletin* you will find the latest Literature Index. It is a list of all the currently available booklets and reprint articles for your personal use. May we, therefore, ask that you *not* loan your list to Church members or allow it to be duplicated. This could cause considerable expense to the Work.

We are always happy to provide members with any reading material they need or request. However, when long lists are sent in requesting dozens and sometimes hundreds of pieces of literature, our postage and processing costs increase considerably.

In our efforts to reduce the size of our inventory, we have discontinued several of our booklets and articles which were not heavily requested. You will notice that we have placed asterisks by certain pieces of literature which have been discontinued.

Thanks always for your help and cooperation. Any recommendations for improvements in the Index will be appreciated.

— MPC

LETTER COMMENTS

AICF COMMENTS

Even though several reports have been generated already concerning the AICF and *HUMAN POTENTIAL*, we felt it would not be overdoing it to include further comments for this issue. This new activity seems to have caught the imagination of many members and we have noted a special enthusiasm and freshness of attitude.

"Mr. Armstrong, I'm a newly baptized member of God's Church and I must say that it is something to be able to see a door open up in the Church. I'm referring to the AICF and *HUMAN POTENTIAL* magazine. It is truly wonderful to be a part of God's plan. To be able to witness the miraculous events taking place in the Church and around the world. I feel so privileged to be a part of God's plan."

— Mr. Lorn L. Ferguson
Tucson, AZ

"You should have heard the 'oh's' and 'ah's' at Church when our pastor, Mr. Watson, held up the dummy copy of *HUMAN POTENTIAL*. Mr. C. Wayne Cole's letter really did permeate us all with his enthusiasm for the new publication."

— Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Smith
California, MO

"We were all very excited to hear about the new magazine coming out entitled *HUMAN POTENTIAL*. That was an excellent and inspired idea, also the Ambassador Cultural Foundation."

— Mr. Jamale Nassif,
Sioux City, IA

"Thank you and our Father in Heaven for the opportunity to participate in this great and most important work. We are very excited about the new magazine, *HUMAN POTENTIAL*. I am sure as you have said that this will be very helpful to this Work and will be the vehicle you need to get through those open doors. We love you, and are behind you 100%!"

— Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Gorman,
Prescott, KS

"I think the new magazine *HUMAN POTENTIAL* will be a big help in getting the message to more people."

— Mrs. Irma M. Jones,
Omaha, NE

"I was thrilled to hear of your success in Kenya. The new Ambassador College International Cultural Foundation is a terrific calling card with prestige and credit. This new foundation is going to make the Work of God noticed and known by the greats and near-greats of the world over."

— Mr. Earl Krout, Jr.,
Palmyra, PA

"How greatly blessed we are that Mr. Herbert Armstrong was allowed to carry God's message to

(Continued on page 385)

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 and department managers. 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.

REACHING OUT TO ALL MEN

This city's newspaper reported recently the situation which exists in many areas of New York City where roving gangs of youth and women make constant attacks on the elderly. Apparently, they follow the elderly home after they've cashed their social security cheques and attack and rob them right in their own homes — often killing the older people in the process. Reading this, I couldn't help but wonder how we all react when we hear of such horrible and saddening events?

How do we react when we think of the down-and-out drunks down on our local skid-row which, sadly, almost every city, town, or village has? What do we feel when we think of men, women, and children locked into a system of repeated criminal activity just for the sheer joy of it or in order to support other habits such as drugs or alcoholism? How do we react when we consider people right around us, living next door or above and below us locked into a system — Satan's system — which guarantees them heartache, mental turmoil, and problems in every area of their lives simply because they are living contrary to God's way of life which we know guarantees the opposite benefits of our best possible happiness and well-being?

I hope it tears us up a bit inside and makes us really want to reach out to these people and help them to know what we know. I hope these thoughts make us want to reach these people and help them anyway we can to know the tremen-

dous truths and promises we know. And I hope that we do not forget one tremendous avenue of service which any and all of us as ministers and members of God's Church can perform — that of praying for *everyone* around us.

If we look at what Paul wrote to Timothy in I Timothy 2:1, we find his exhortation to pray for *all* men. Obviously, God wants this of us since we know His desire is that *all* men might be saved and come to the knowledge of His Truth (v. 4). Is this not our desire, too? We find Christ's prayer for everyone in His last recorded prayer before He was crucified. In John 17:20 He prayed for *all* who would eventually believe on Him through the words of His disciples. As we know, all eventually will have such opportunity to believe on Christ since God's plan involves opportunity for everyone eventually to come to salvation. And don't we want as many as possible to have this opportunity *now* rather than later after suffering all the horrors of the upcoming times of turmoil? By looking at such verses as Ezekiel 18:23, 32, it seems apparent that God would just as soon everyone repented before having to suffer greatly, or at least any more than necessary!

We all know that God's way of life is a way of sharing. We don't want to just hold truth to ourselves, but must want to share it with all men and to help *all* enjoy the tremendous benefits of God's way of life which we know.

At this time in the Church's history when we're trying to reach out to others even more than ever before — even to the point of inviting people to come to the Feast as Mr. Ted Armstrong mentioned in the recent tape on "Gossip and Negativism" — I hope our hearts really go out to those people around us who simply cannot be living as full lives as they could be. And I hope that we never neglect the one and possibly most important facet of this reaching out and praying for *all* men... "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:3-4).

— Dennis Lawrence

Ministerial Trainee

Prince George, B.C., Canada

BEING A BENEFIT TO THOSE AROUND US

We live in a neighborhood where there are six or seven other Church families either across the

street from us or just down the block. A few months ago my wife was working outside and noticed a neighbor, who is not in the Church, going from door to door but avoiding those houses where there were Church members. My wife became curious as to what this lady had that involved *everyone but Church people*. So my wife went out of her way to ask.

She found the lady was a March of Dimes representative. She'd been in the neighborhood long enough to know who the Church members were and that "we don't give to charities." So we donated several dollars and really surprised her!

In a recent Continuing Education seminar at Pasadena Dr. Kuhn mentioned that a Christian should be a *benefit* to those who are around him. That's food for thought. "Get-Well" cards, a help in an emergency, proper respect and interest for our neighbors would do worlds of good. Our "light" would shine all the more. The founding of A.I.C.F. will help us as an organization to benefit those that are around us. The future and spinoffs from the Foundation should be truly exciting. Let's all support the Foundation and be a benefit to those around us.

— Kendall Graham
Computer Operations Supervisor
Pasadena

TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER

Today a serious problem *nationally* and *internationally* centers around the fact that people don't understand people. Nationalities don't understand other nationalities. And usually the real problem is that a person, a group, or a nation *doesn't really try* to understand the other!

This has happened again and again in the church and *in the ministry*. We have often failed to understand the other person — and frankly have neither tried nor wanted to! Therefore, it's sometimes hard to grasp why someone is different from oneself.

Here are suggestions I feel will help everyone better understand his neighbor and love him as himself.

Walk a Mile in My Boots

Unless you're willing to walk a mile (or maybe two) in my boots, you'll never understand me. And unless I do the same, I'll never understand you!

In Paul Tournier's book, *To Understand Each Other*, he said, "We must be reminded that the first condition for mutual understanding is the desire for, the seeking after, and the willing of that understanding" (page 8). Proverbs 2:1-5 gives the same principle concerning understanding. If you

will "incline your ear," "apply your heart," "cry after," "lift up your voice," "seek her as silver," and "search for her as for hid treasures" — then will you understand.

If we all really tried to love our neighbors as ourselves, there would be far fewer misunderstandings.

Courage to Lay Your Cards on the Table Face Up

From time to time members of your congregation will attend Sabbath services in another area. After their return to home base they will either say to you (or more likely to others), "the minister in . . . says . . .," etc. In such cases I have found it best to call my fellow minister and brother and seek a true understanding of the matter. To get the true facts from the "horse's mouth."

You Must Have "20/20 Vision"

To illustrate this point, let me give a *hypothetical* example: In a sermon I pointed out the evils of gluttony and drunkenness. The next day a couple of plump ladies in the congregation just happen to be downtown on a very hot and bright summer day. Lo and behold they see me come out of a bar, stumble and fall on the concrete, bruising my head and eye, stagger to the car, fumble for the keys and barely make it into the automobile. Their conclusion is that I was drunk, and for sure the whole congregation knows about it by next Sabbath. The truth of the matter was this: The manager of the bar requested a visit. We discussed many things over a period of three hours. After staying in a darker place for a few hours, my eyes were blinded momentarily as I stepped outside. Thus I didn't see the raised place in the sidewalk and stumbled.

Because these ladies didn't have "20/20 vision," a wrong opinion was reached. Without 20/20 vision we'll never understand and continue to understand one another.

One's Present Deeply Rooted in the Past

In Kentucky it is said, "You must understand his raisin!" People are different. Personalities are different. Likes and dislikes differ. There must be a proper amount of tolerance of one another until we all knock off the rough edges and gain the perfect balance of Jesus Christ!

Is Your Bag His Bag?

When Headquarters says this is exactly the way to "skin the cat," then that's the way. But if only basic guidelines are given, then the job can be accomplished a number of ways, yet the job is done.

There are admittedly natural differences in how people do things. Therefore realize that in carrying

out overall policies from Headquarters, no two are going to do things *to the letter* exactly the same. Realizing this helps us understand in the proper perspective why one in another area may do something slightly different — *yet is preaching the same gospel!*

Develop a Real Outgoing Concern for Each Other

"It is quite clear that between love and understanding there is a very close link. It is so close that we never know where the one ends and the other begins, nor which of the two is the cause or the effect. He who loves understands, and he who understands loves. One who feels understood feels loved, and one who feels loved feels sure of being understood (*To Understand Each Other*, page 28).

The author continues, "It takes courage to face up to all the problems created by a complete adaptation of two personalities. People are very different one from another..." (*ibid.*, page 35).

We're a big family with a wonderful job to do! We're all different — yet with a right perspective and understanding of each other, we can properly adapt and be *completely unified* in getting the job accomplished.

Some vital points to remember: True love is expressed when we can and do work together as a team, pulling together in unity — even though different in personalities. We have different physical likes and dislikes, but *we have one goal*. Let's work together to achieve it!!!

— Kelly Barfield
Lexington, Kentucky

ABOUT A LETTER SENT TO A MEMBER

Recently, one of the members of the Salem, Oregon church gave me a letter that she had received from someone she didn't know. The letter was a form letter printed up by one of the ministers who recently left. Basically, the letter was a justification for the man leaving and seeking to establish his own way. However, several points seemed to hit me that I thought might be of interest to others.

First, there was the contention that somehow God's Church had cast out all truth (my phrasing). As I read the letter it seemed to say that this man represented the truth and now the Worldwide Church of God believes nothing. For example, we changed on Pentecost, therefore we don't believe in keeping it. D&R was modified, therefore life-long marriage is done away. According to this man, God's Church surely believes nothing.

But what is the case? I still believe in keeping the Holy Days (including Pentecost), in life-long marriage, in salvation, law and grace, the Sabbath, love, etc. The Worldwide Church of God described in his letter and the one I belong to are two different things. And I surely don't feel that I have compromised my beliefs when I accept a sound Biblical truth such as divorce done in unconversion can be forgiven just as a murder done in the same state can be forgiven.

Second is the concept that we as a church at one time in history had the faith once delivered. Before that and after that time (probably around 1968 A.D.) we didn't. Somehow it seems that at that time we were miraculously labeled "perfect." Yet I find in my Bible that we are to contend for the faith once delivered, grow in grace and knowledge, and to come into the fulness of the stature of Christ. All this tells me that we don't know everything yet and probably won't until Christ comes, and that from time to time we will learn new things as we contend (an active effort) for the faith once delivered.

It is interesting to note that some in Paul's time had the above concept when it came to circumcision and that when a clarification came in the Church's teaching some would not go along. As a result, Paul was hounded, attacked, ridiculed, and maligned by those who had the "truth" on circumcision, and who rebelled against the rule of Christ.

Finally, the letter seemed to be saying that to change at all is wrong. If one repents (changes) of former misconceptions and errors, that is the equivalent of spiritual suicide. But I submit that we signed on to repent and change, and it is not a one time thing. Change for change's sake is wrong, but change to become more like Christ is good. Even God Himself, while not changing His character, God-ness, integrity, etc., has made changes as conditions dictated (i.e. circumcision and swearing).

We must be careful about refusing to change else we get into positions that others have acquired. For instance, some groups don't allow cars, etc., because change is bad. Thus they have a problem. I wonder what some would do if suddenly all the pants factories closed and robes for men were the fashion. I dare say some would continue to make and wear their own pants, and as we all know, the soldiers cast lots for Christ's pants!

Well, enough chest pounding. I suppose that the man whose letter I'm referring to will say I misrepresented him — could be, but I doubt it. And others will say I'm liberal — actually I'm con-

servative (if labels apply). But I just wanted to voice my opinion which can be summarized by saying: Christ is the Head of this church and if one doesn't follow Him, well . . .

— J. Richard Parker
Salem, Oregon

THE MARK OF A GREAT MIND

One of my favorite pastimes is reading about the lives of the great men in history. It's very inspiring to study their life patterns and thoughts, and to see what made them stand heads and shoulders above the average.

One such example is the life of Abraham Lincoln. Considering the fact that he apparently didn't have God's Spirit, Abraham Lincoln displayed a large measure of human character and greatness. He seemed to be impelled by an overwhelming love for fellowman, while at the same time displaying an unusual degree of strength and patience needed to bear the stinging insults of his most bitter enemies.

According to a recent Reader's Digest article, "Few public figures have ever attained Abraham Lincoln's magnanimous spirit, although he was vilified as no other American President. Edwin Stanton, for one, had publicly denounced him as a 'low, cunning clown' and called him 'the original gorilla.' But Lincoln appointed him Secretary of War because he saw Stanton as the best man for the place.

"When a friend reported to Lincoln that, even as a cabinet member, Stanton called the President a fool, Lincoln calmly replied: 'Did he call me that? Well, I reckon it must be true, then, for Stanton is generally right.' No wonder that a repentant Stanton, sobbing at Lincoln's bedside after the President's assassination declared, 'There lies the greatest ruler of men the world has ever seen'" (*Reader's Digest*, May 1975, "The Noblest of Human Graces," page 138).

Abraham Lincoln truly was an outstanding example of magnanimity in many different ways, and his patient longsuffering toward his invidious foes is something we can all learn from. As Col. A. K. MacClure, of the *American Editor*, says concerning Abraham Lincoln: "Another very marked feature of Mr. Lincoln's character was his patient and generous forbearance of all who were unfriendly to him. I never heard Mr. Lincoln utter a single sentence of resentment against anyone and I never met a person who claimed to have heard him speak vindictively against his bitterest foes. The beautiful sentence of his inaugural — 'with malice toward none, with charity for all' —

was a perfect reflex of the heart of Abraham Lincoln." (Taken from the *System Bible Study*, page 753.)

Humanly speaking, Abraham Lincoln was one of the greatest men the world has ever known. Yet Jesus Christ gave us an even grander model to follow in the way He expressed love toward his enemies and reacted to persecution. Being motivated by a true, concerned and compassionate love for mankind, He displayed an even greater attitude of *kind forbearance* than Lincoln did: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, *leaving us an example*, that you should follow His steps: Who did not sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: Who, when He was reviled, *reviled not again*; when He suffered, He *threatened not*; but committed himself to Him that judgeth righteously" (I Pet. 2:21-23).

I believe as ministers we are given a unique responsibility before God's flock in setting a pattern of life in all things for them to see and follow. It's a calling that requires us to walk with dignity, honor and stature, realizing we are representatives of God. In fact, the Bible commands us to internalize *all* the virtues of Jesus Christ: "Speaking the truth in Him . . . *grow up* into Him in *ALL THINGS*, which is the head, even Christ" (Eph. 4:15).

It's a quality of good character and a forgiving heart to "stand tall" under criticism by exercising self-control and patience through God's Spirit in us — rather than overreacting to the little "brush fires" of personal indignities occasionally hurled our way. Emphasizing the need for forbearance, Paul wrote, "Let all bitterness and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice, and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you!" (Eph. 4:31-32.)

Probably all of us have been insulted from time to time. We may have been threatened, falsely accused, or openly slandered by outside friends and relatives. Possibly even some members in our own respective congregations have expressed dislike toward us due to personality differences.

Regardless of its source, the best way to counter friction and to win the good favor of men is to do as Christ did and commanded: "... love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matt. 5:44). Or, to follow the approach as Abraham Lincoln expressed it: "malice toward none, charity toward all."

Of course, there is a place for anger. Christ, himself, expressed anger from time to time. Even so, this was not His constant approach toward people, but simply the expression of righteous indignation which the blatant infringement of God's Law provoked. His anger was aroused more poignantly toward men who harmed others, than when they inflicted pain on Him personally.

In like manner, I believe we as ministers manifest greater stature among men when we maintain a calm, steady, self-controlled attitude toward personal vindictiveness, than if we strike back with heated emotion.

To allow the minor infractions of courtesy, ridicule, or even persecution to absorb our thoughts, can take our minds off our work and away from the attitude of dignity, honor, and peace that is required of a minister. This principle applies to all situations in life, whether at work, at home, or anywhere we may be.

Abraham Lincoln was criticized and maligned as few men ever were, yet he learned to express mercy, kindness, and peaceful forbearance to fellowman.

The time is coming when great persecution will come on the Church. Not only will we be exposed to public ridicule, but in some cases we may be bodily beaten and martyred. When these events happen, a greater example than Abraham Lincoln's will be expected of us.

— Richard Rice
MPC Manager
Pasadena

NEEDED — A VITAL SENSE OF HUMOR

It is my firm belief that the pressures, tensions, conflicts, struggles and battles of this age are having a withering effect on many.

Work pressures, health problems, family difficulties, financial binds, church problems, and an omnipresent awareness of "the bomb" and of a future nuclear nightmare, are all taking their toll!

What appears to be needed badly in this age of strife and tension is a good sense of humor.

Years ago, it seemed to me that when I attended the annual Ministerial Conference in Pasadena, I was always able to take back to England a whole raft of good jokes. But in more recent years it appears that it is getting more difficult to run across good clean humor in this country.

All too often the jokes one hears (this is especially true of the TV humor) are either risqué or sick — or they are racially-offensive jokes.

Why do people have to resort to vulgar, sick or racially-oriented jokes — humor which is neither

wholesome nor edifying? And make no mistake about it, some — especially minorities — are offended by "race" jokes. I like some of the race jokes, but have dropped them from my repertoire of jokes — lest I offend any.

Why resort to this type of humor when there is so much good humor to be had — if we will only seek it.

Why is there so little really good humor readily available to the average person today? I am convinced that the very abnormal pressures of the all-life-could-be-destroyed-at-any-minute nuclear age in which we live has a lot to do with it.

Also, the modern pressures of sitting while we travel to work, and sitting while we work — instead of exerting ourselves, and thereby burning up our frustrations and irritations — is undoubtedly the cause of much of the problem.

I am convinced that we ministers, department heads, in fact all of us, need to begin actively cultivating a sense of humor — by first realizing its importance and by keeping our antennas up in order to receive any good, wholesome humor which may come along.

Then all of us need to try to inculcate more real wit and humor into our lives, our jobs, our family situations, our social occasions — into as many situations as is fitting. I have found it possible to work good humor into a sermon or Bible study without too much difficulty. (Of course, in the time of serious illness, death or calamity, one does not go around joking, quipping or dispensing humor.)

If we will develop a good sense of humor, and use this gift judiciously, then I am certain that all of us can thereby become more effective servants of the Almighty.

It is generally recognized today that the way we think definitely affects the way we feel. A sick mind, with twisted emotions, can in time, bequeath a sick body on its possessor. Psychosomatics is an important branch of science.

Three thousand years ago, wise old King Solomon knew the importance of having a sense of humor, the value of being able to see the funny side of life, the benefit of being able to be merry and laugh at the right time. He said there is "a time to every purpose" (Ecc. 3:1), and then he added that there is "a time to laugh" (v. 4).

Furthermore, Solomon was inspired to write: "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken" (Prov. 15:13). And he said that "he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast" (v. 15). Later, he added: "A merry heart doeth good like a medi-

cine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Prov. 17:22).

The problem is not whether or not a good sense of humor is good, but how to acquire this gift. How can ministers, teachers, supervisors, in fact, all of us, develop a balanced sense of humor? (And let me add that I am not advocating that we try to become comedians, buffoons or court jesters. Neither am I suggesting that we always make some witty or clever retort to every comment or situation. Such incessant humor can become monotonous, boring, irksome.)

We need to remember that in this matter of humor, as in all things, we need balance. Jokes, witticism, humor should be like the "icing on the cake." One does not enjoy a cake if it is made entirely out of icing, and neither does one enjoy the incessant chatter of a light-hearted, light-headed individual, who forever jokes about everything, and never seems to take anything seriously.

But the right amount of wit and humor can be like the lubricant in the machine. It can make things run much more smoothly.

How can we all begin to acquire a better sense of humor? What can we do to become more balanced in this area of our personalities?

Firstly, we need to realize the need to develop a good, balanced sense of humor. Then we must set about cultivating this attribute.

But how?

Let me give you a few pointers which may be helpful.

Over the years I have tried to keep my ears attuned to any good humor which I might hear. When I hear it, I try to impress the humor in my permanent memory — for future use.

One way I have been able to do this is through establishing a special heading in my filing system entitled "Humor." In this file I keep any jokes, anecdotes or humor which I feel is worth preserving.

Additionally, I have always been an avid observer of the humor which the *Reader's Digest* dishes up monthly. There are nearly always some really funny quips, jokes, etc., in this magazine.

In fact, the May 1975 issue of *Reader's Digest* ran an interesting article entitled: "Solve That Problem — With Humor."

It mentioned an instance where an employee, who had a problem with tardiness, was again late. He had been told that he would be fired if this bad habit persisted.

Arriving late at the office, he feared losing his job. What could he do to keep from being fired? Walking up to his supervisor, he smiled broadly

and shoved out his hand saying: "How do you do? I'm Sam Maynard. I'm applying for a job I understand became available just 35 minutes ago. Does the early bird get the worm?"

Of course, the supervisor and all in the office at the time were moved to laughter. Sam kept his job. And if Sam truly reforms, and if he keeps his sense of humor, he'll remain an employee with the company for a long time to come.

Another situation! An English hostess had the table set elegantly with crystal, silverware and linen. Her guests were now seated at the table.

When the turkey was ready, the hostess's son, trying to be helpful, volunteered to bring the turkey in — through the swinging door.

He made it (turkey and all) through the swinging door, but as the door swung back it "deplattered the bird onto the dining room floor" — to the consternation of everybody!

Fortunately this hostess had a sense of humor and was able to quickly put her son at ease: "No harm, Daniel, just pick him up and take him back to the kitchen and bring in the other one." Everyone heaved a sigh of relief.

Over the years I have acquired a number of books on humor. Here are some which, if you can obtain them, you'll find worthwhile: *Leo Rosten's Treasury of Jewish Quotations*, *The Modern Handbook of Humor*, by Ralph L. Woods, and (the best of all) *THE Reader's Digest TREASURY OF AMERICAN HUMOUR!*

This latter book is just filled with all sorts of wit and humor. Here are a few examples:

"Annoyed wife to husband: 'Can't you just say we've been married 24 years instead of almost a quarter of a century?'"

"Wife to husband: 'I don't mind your little half-truths, Bob, but you keep telling me the wrong half.'"

"'For 20 years,' mused the man at the bar, 'my wife and I were ecstatically happy.' 'Then what happened?' asked the bartender. 'We met.'"

"A marriage counsellor began to ask a woman some questions concerning her disposition: 'Did you wake up grumpy this morning?' 'No,' she replied, 'I let him sleep.'"

"Harried mother of a large family: 'What gets me is why the nations of the world want to live together like one big family.'"

And I conclude with a few "Deft Definitions" as mentioned in this same book: "Secret: Something you tell one person at a time. Nonchalance: The ability to look like an owl when you have acted like a jackass. Punctuality: The art of arriving for an appointment just in time to be indignant at the

tardiness of the other party. Diet: A short period of starvation preceding a gain of five pounds. Bargain: Something you cannot use at a price you cannot resist. Junk: Something you keep ten years and then throw away two weeks before you need it. Woman Driver: A person who, when obeying every rule, is blamed for slowing down some man who isn't. Traffic Light: A trick to get pedestrians halfway across the street safely. Pedestrian: Man who thought there were still a couple of gallons of gas left in the tank. Overweight: Just desserts. Mummies are Egyptians that were pressed for time."

One good example of a man who seemed to possess a great deal of wit and humor — and learned to use this gift effectively — was Sir Winston Churchill. I would like to give you a few choice quips from him, but I must not impose on the patience of the readership of the *Bulletin*. So I'll terminate this already lengthy contribution and hope to be able to give a few more pointers and examples of wit and humor in a future issue.

— Raymond F. McNair
Senior Editor
Pasadena

BOOK REVIEWS

The Save Your Life Diet by David Reuben, M.D., Random House, \$7.95

Having exhausted most of the remaining possibilities in the already saturated sex-book market, Dr. David Reuben has now turned his attention to another part of the human anatomy — the digestive tract.

Dr. Reuben's fourth book is likely to prove a greater contribution to the well-being of modern man than his first three combined.

Proper digestion is everybody's business. Yet, according to Reuben, almost everyone in the Western world is guilty of crimes against the digestive tract. The principle offense is insufficient roughage.

Our typical low-roughage diet is responsible for the high incidence of cancer of the colon, heart disease, appendicitis and even obesity, claims Dr. Reuben. He presents convincing evidence to substantiate his thesis.

By way of solution the book offers recipes and other tips on increasing the roughage content of the daily diet. The cost of providing the needed ingredients is minimal — about two cents a day. The results could be beyond price.

If you are interested in providing yourself with low-cost insurance against some of the chief killers

of modern man read Dr. Reuben's book. As a bonus, it even tells you how a high-roughage diet can help you lose weight!

— Brian Knowles
GN/Booklets Managing Editor
Pasadena

COMPETENT MINISTRY, A Guide to Effective Continuing Education by Mark A. Rouch (Abingdon Press, \$3.75 in paperback)

"If you are not finding time to continue your education, something is wrong — in your understanding of professional ministry, in your central faith commitments, or in the healthy functioning of your personality. If that sounds judgmental, it is." That is just one of the many blockbusters in Mark Rouch's *Competent Ministry*, the book on continuing education for ministers that Art Moka-row mentioned on the Career Stages MET tape.

Of very recent vintage (published in 1974), this book brings home the conclusions of a man who has been working exclusively in the field of ministerial education for the past eight years. To me it seems he has a lot of good things to say that are particularly applicable and relevant to where many of us stand in the ministry. He makes a strong and convincing case for continuing education as the key to competence in this demanding profession.

After defining his terms in the first two chapters about continuing education and lifelong learning, he deals with the critical matter of competence — the ability to do the work of the ministry well. Writes Rouch:

"One value in thinking of the minister or other church leader as a professional is that the professional's learning is for the sake of competent practice. That is, by definition, part of what it means to be a professional. The professional person engages in learning for the sake of others. He or she learns in order to be competent, in order to serve."

Many factors can hit singly or in combination to make a crisis in competence in a minister's career including change, identity, authority, meaning and purpose, and the neglect of the standard competencies required of the ministry. Rouch sees continuing career education as the perfect antidote for many of these crises. Without it, he suggests, a man may very well not survive the crisis thus ending the effectiveness of his ministry.

Rouch doesn't limit his view of continuing education to the textbook and classroom variety, though it is important to note that he does not

exclude it either. He correctly sees learning occurring in many settings formal and informal, structured and unstructured, planned and spontaneous. In all of this, he emphasises "the ability to function freely and fully *as a person*."

Says Rouch, "I believe (and this is one of my strongest personal convictions) that only to the degree that we achieve personhood can we achieve authentic proficiency or competence in any particular function of life. Thus, I place competence as a person first among those required for ministry."

Isn't the author's deep conviction borne out by much of our own experience — that true competence cannot be conferred from without, but must be nurtured and developed from within the individual?

I appreciated Rouch's thorough discussion of resources for continuing education which he breaks down in three groups: 1) those which can be utilized at home such as books and tape cassette programs, 2) short term programs away from home such as workshops and seminars or local college or university classes, and 3) long-term study leaves or sabbaticals.

Frankly, to me the second group has perhaps the greatest untapped potential for most of us at this time and has many advantages. We're using the first, and the chance for the third doesn't come up very often in our career paths, but couldn't we all get a lot of good out of a more ambitious effort in the second category? Workshops and seminars offer the advantage of a colleague or fellow student group, a planned curriculum or study program, and enough depth to be profitable if well planned and selected. Plus they don't have to take us away from our work for long periods of time. I think that his treatment of resources will broaden your horizons and stimulate your interest.

Career development and stages is the section that was discussed at Big Sandy and appeared on the tape, but since most of the lecture was on the early stages and its trials, you will find it profitable, no doubt, to read and reflect on the middle and later stages as well. Each has its particular difficulties, and each can be anticipated, understood, and dealt with effectively with the aid of career guidance and education.

Chapters on the colleague group and the "clergy and laity" (ministers and members in WCG parlance) round out the book.

I've contended in the *Bulletin* before that the benefits of the colleague group is what many of us need more of in the field ministry — the mutual support and encouragement of men of the same work and perspectives or "peer pressure." Rouch underscores the same point. Geography alone can

make this a difficult if not almost impossible dream for some of our far-flung ministers and their wives. Age and rank differences have also often posed barriers to mutual support. Still, in spite of these problems, some recognize the inestimable worth of colleague support and make a way to enlist its benefits in their career enrichment and development. I see this as one of the big pluses of the "mini-conferences." They're a great opportunity to get together, to stimulate and put a prod on one another. Maybe there are other even more productive ways of making this important force work for us.

Competent Ministry will set your wheels spinning on the vital topic of ministerial education. Chances are it will also help each of us to become what the title implies — a more competent minister.

— Dave Albert
Eugene, Oregon

MISCELLANEOUS

Recently a lady handed me a poem which fit right into a sermon on the subject of humility. It might also be illustrative even in sermons on other subjects. I thought others might enjoy it or at least get a chuckle from it.

— R. Fuessel
Detroit East, Mich.

A MORAL TO THINK ABOUT

Sometime when you're feeling important,
Sometime when your ego's in bloom,
Sometime when you take it for granted
You're the best qualified in the room,
Sometime when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow these simple instructions
And see how they *humble* your soul,

Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it up to the wrist,
Pull it out, and the hole that's remaining
Is a measure of how you'll be missed,

You can splash all you want when you enter,
You may stir up the water galore,
But stop, and you find that in no time
It looks quite the same as before.

The moral in this quaint example,
Is to do just the best that you can,
Be proud of yourself, but remember
There's no indispensable man.

(Author Unknown)

LETTER COMMENTS

(Continued from page 376)

Kenya, and now starting the new magazine, *HUMAN POTENTIAL!* Surely, no one can question this being God's Work, as no way could he enter into these countries and proclaim this truth except God make it possible!"

— Mrs. Cynthia Cook
Corrigan, TX

RESPONSES TO HWA MAY 26 MEMBER/CO-WORKER LETTER

Excited about the forward thrust of God's Work, inspired by the campaign in Africa and feeling the urgency of the need to go through the doors as they open, Members and Co-Workers continue to comment on Mr. H. W. Armstrong's latest letter. Here is a sampling of what some said.

"Thank you for your recent letter of May 26. It is really exciting to hear of the new doors that are opening up!!

"Thank you for the detailed information you give us about the campaigns and future plans to reach other countries. This gives us rich source material for prayer. It really helps to know these things so we can pray for you more effectively.

"The main reason I'm writing this letter is to let you know we are 'still there,' as one man put it, and to tell you that we are with you all the way — 100%. Please keep up the good work. We realize that you must get tired at times with all the traveling and speaking and writing that you do. But God will give you strength to continue at this tremendous pace.

"We are also praying for Mr. Garner Ted and the other campaigns.

"We may not always be able to send in extra money, but we are always praying for you that God will grant you strength and wisdom and energy to carry out the job He has given you.

"So, please don't be discouraged. Many, many people are praying for you. We are totally with you — all the way! Keep up the good work!"

— Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Thomas
Grand Junction, MI

"The Co-Worker letter of May 26, 1975 brought fantastic news that I, and I know so many others, have been praying and waiting for — news of more breakthroughs in getting the Gospel message to all nations.

"As you said it must speed up. Getting the mes-

sage to all nations must be the primary, overriding priority of this Work into which maximum effort must be channeled.

"We are totally behind you, Mr. Armstrong, and as God miraculously opens more doors before you we can know the coming of the Kingdom is that much closer."

— William L. Golson
Montgomery, AL

"Your letter explaining the new doors being opened in Africa and Europe was most exciting and uplifting.

"In a world that has stopped moving forward it is encouraging to see God's Work continuing to march on. You know, Mr. Armstrong, we really don't have to look beyond our own community to see misery — sick marriages, unhappy children, frustrated men, thwarted goals, etc. — and a need for God's Kingdom here and now.

"We will continue to support God's Work with prayers and offerings — nothing else matters, Mr. Armstrong, nothing else has real meaning in 1975."

— Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Herzberg
Toledo, OH

"I recently received a current Co-Worker letter from Herbert Armstrong informing us all that he plans on campaigns for Africa, and that just about all of the continent has opened up for Mr. Armstrong to go as an ambassador for world peace — and as an appointed watchman. It was especially thrilling news to hear communist countries have actually offered Mr. Armstrong invitations.

NOTICE

As you all noticed while trying to find *continued* material in the last *Bulletin*, all the running heads with page numbers were missing! Several of the running heads were to be omitted for this issue, but the stripper at our outside printer (not W. A. Krueger) misunderstood his instructions and opaqued all of them out. Penciling in the page numbers (which most of you probably did already) simply takes care of the problem.

— Managing Editor

"I would like to thank you for your inspirational and quite timely Co-Worker letters.

"I can feel it in my bones the time is short."

— Albert Legg
Warren, NJ

"I write very few letters of any kind, but I did want at this time to express my gratitude to you for your monthly letters.

"I know I shouldn't feel the necessity of constantly having to be encouraged, but so many times when I feel discouraged or feel my enthusiasm waning, I receive the monthly letters and it feels like a personal pat on the back that really spurs me on!

"I think of the tremendous amount of work that you do and pray for you constantly. I'm very thankful for the knowledge I've received and the privilege of being in God's Church."

— Mrs. Jonnie Yeagler
Clearwater, FL

"After being in the Church for nearly five years, this is the first time I have sat down to write you a letter. I felt moved to write you after reading your Co-Worker letter dated May 26, 1975.

"Sometimes it is very easy to get sidetracked on our good efforts toward this Church and the great important task that we have to do; there seems to be such competition for one's time in this day and age. But when I read your letters, I get perked up again, and my thoughts are realigned once again.

"Mr. Armstrong, I am behind you all the way. You are doing a fantastic job, more important than any President or leader in this great world of ours. I am praying that God continues to bless you in your total being. You are certainly a great example for us to follow!

"About eight weeks ago in the Toledo Spokesman Club, I was handed the impromptu speech title, 'Tell Us Who You Respect and Admire the Most.' Well, your name popped into my head after my mind quickly shuffled by 5 or 6 'great' men of the past and present. In my mind you just top everybody."

— Duane Brodbeck
Toledo, OH

"Thank you for your recent Co-Worker-member letter. I feel privileged to receive this information from you. I study all your letters and think about and pray about what you say. I must have read this last one 10 times — now you may think that's because I'm not very smart and it takes me 10 times to get it, but I get it the first time and each time better. You have a responsibility to let me know what you need and the needs of the Work.

"I think of you a lot during the day and ask God to supply your needs.

"I pray some day you'll be on satellite television and then the whole world can see you and hear the good news of the world tomorrow, just like we saw Neil Armstrong put his foot on the moon.

"Just think, someone is praying for you and the Work 24 hours a day. As the sun rises around the world people get up and pray. And probably they pray often during the day.

"I read about Kenya in the *Book of Knowledge* so I'd know where you're proclaiming the Gospel. I'm there in spirit and anxious to hear how things went. Take care."

— Lianne McCord
Houston, TX

"I happily received your Co-Worker letter yesterday, and was real glad to know that God's Work is growing and progressing, and that you had a successful visit in India. Your recent installment in the *Plain Truth* about man's incredible potential was great and very inspiring. I enjoyed reading it very much, and am looking forward eagerly to reading future installments. I thank God every day for inspiring you to write such good articles for us.

"My prayers, support and backing go out earnestly to you, Garner Ted, and God's Work. You are both doing a great job; keep up the good work. It is so good of God to hold things back, to allow us enough time for you to get the Gospel and warning to the world."

— Mrs. Pennie Koskela
Green Bay, WI

"Thank you for the May 26 Co-Worker letter. It was really moving to realize that we are the only ones on earth behind you. We are all one; in purpose, in spirit, in love and in faith.

"I know, Mr. Armstrong, that in many of our daily lives we have little to look forward to but your letters and news of the Work, the literature and the coming Kingdom of God. It is just heart-rending to see all the loneliness, disease, ignorance and squalor in this world, as well as experience some of it ourselves. You can count everything I have as property of the Church just whenever you want to call for it. It doesn't really belong to me, anyway. God doesn't want 75% or 85% or even 95% Christians. He wants only those who will go all the way with His Work and His servant. I am thankful and I am proud to have a part with you and with His Work. Please count on my daily most sincere prayers for you, for Garner Ted and for the Work."

— David F. Crothers
Tahlequah, OK

"We are truly grateful for the way you are yielding yourself to the living God in allowing Him to continue to use you to deliver His message to other parts of this world. How desperately we need God's Government on this earth and we know that it will not come until this Gospel has been preached as a witness. But we know as these doors open up and you walk through those doors we are just that much closer to the completion of this phase of the Work.

"Rest assured that we are all 100% behind you."

— James Jackson
Big Sandy, TX

"I'm so thankful that God is now opening so many doors for us to get His message to many more people in Europe and all the other countries that you've been able to visit! My prayers are for you and Garner Ted that God will give you both the strength and power you need."

— Carol Bennett
Big Sandy, TX

"I have just finished reading your May 26 letter. I was very inspired by your Nairobi campaign plans.

"You said that the campaigns are very important in God's eyes; I know they are in your eyes as well. You also asked for us to pray, and to be there in spirit ourselves.

"Mr. Armstrong, I'm writing to assure you that my family and I are behind you 100%! On this very Sabbath, I'm fasting and praying diligently towards this end. We want you to know our prayers and thoughts are with you every single day. We are also very proud and happy, and love you very much, for the great Work God is working with and through you.

"Thank you and may God bless you."

— Ralph Rodriguez
Detroit, MI

"I received your letter today stating you'd be going to Nairobi for a campaign and that all of Black Africa is opening up to you. I am thrilled to hear this and thank you very much for taking the time to write to us. We feel so much closer to you when you do this; like you are in our living room talking to us.

"A person can't help but see and feel this is God's love and power working through you both."

— Mrs. Haldor Erickson
Pulaski, WI

"I appreciate your zeal, enthusiasm and clear vision for the sure future. Your attitude toward God's Work is very encouraging and inspiring to

all of us, and I pray our attitudes will encourage you. May God continue to give you the physical strength and His Spirit to complete the task we have set out to do."

— Mrs. Norma Wunderwald
Palisade, CO

"Please rest assured that I am with you 100% in this great Work. I am trying to do all I can and am happy doing so. You are such an inspiration to me."

— Adeline Filachione
Youngstown, OH

"I read your letter dated May 26, 1975 — the one you wrote while you were seven miles high over the Sahara Desert flying to Nairobi.

"As I read the letter, I had to say to myself, 'Why are you here sitting at the kitchen table reading a letter from an 80-year-old man seven miles above the Sahara Desert?'

"In 1967 God began to call me to be a part of His great end-time witness to this world. Through God's tremendous blessings and mercy, my wife and I were baptized into the Church of God in 1970. The path of life for us has not been roses and riches since that time, nor can I say that I look back on every moment since that day we were baptized and know that we were happy and our lives filled with joy. I do know that if God hadn't called us and if we had not responded — we would not be together now!

"Mr. Armstrong, don't ever quit writing to us about what you are doing, please. Tell us about what's going on in this world and what you are doing. We need this vital information. As I write this letter, you are probably right in the midst of the Nairobi campaign.

"I know it is hard on you, Mr. Armstrong. I hope this letter can be of some encouragement and help to give you the courage, the vitality, energy and power of God's Spirit to carry on dynamically.

"From my innermost being I say I appreciate what you are doing. No one else is doing the job you are doing and I'm not sure that anyone else can.

"You are three and a half times as old as I am, but Mr. Armstrong, you are young at heart. You have a sincere commitment to get this done before it's too late — you exemplify this constantly through articles in the *Plain Truth*, letters to Co-Workers and brethren, and through sermons you give to the Churches.

"Someday I hope to get to know you personally, but right now that time has not arrived yet — there is too much work to be done. My wife and I are behind this Church and Work and you 100%. A lot of God's people feel this way but never put it in

words on paper. Our prayers are with you as we look forward to God's Kingdom being established on earth."

— Doyle V. McAlister
Lewisville, TX

"Just a little note to give you my thanks for your prayers for us that you mentioned in your last Co-Worker letter. I sure would like to say how much inspiration that was to me, to know that you are praying for us. Thanks again.

"I hope you are in the best of health and spirits and that you are having success in your Work. I am happy to pray for you and your son, and I know that God will answer everyone of my prayers for you. You are doing a great job and I just simply thank you for it, and for all those patient years that you have served Christ and the world. My prayers are that God will continually bless and protect you."

— Ross Larkin
Saint John, New Brunswick
CANADA

"I have received and read your latest letter about the campaign in Nairobi, Kenya. It was very inspiring to me to see you keeping on with the Work God has given you to do — and you have done it so well for so many years.

"Somewhere in the Bible I have read where God said (in effect) bring words and speak my praise and I will give you help. Can't remember the exact words or why He wanted it but I do remember the phrase — 'bring words.' I tried to find it so I could quote it — maybe I dreamed it (?) Anyway this phrase sticks with me when I have a great need to pray and draw close to God. I bring my words to God in prayer.

"Mr. Armstrong, in my inadequate way, I'm trying to bring words to you to let you know I'm back of you and realize I have a part to do in this Work as well as the highest ranking ministers. I do pray for your health and strength, that you will not become weary in well-doing.

"There's no one else who can inspire obedience and faith in us like you can and your son, Garner Ted.

"Please believe that we are back of you 100% — all the way — as God furnishes us with His Spirit to be. This letter hasn't said it very well. The words I bring are so far short of what I'd like them to be. It all is said in this phrase: 'I am back of you — 100%.'

"May God help His Church do His Work while we still can."

— Mrs. Harley Brown
Oklahoma City, OK

"Thank you for your letter outlining the Nairobi, Kenya campaign. Please continue to keep us up to date on the preaching of the true Gospel to all nations . . . making ready for the end of human government on God's earth. And the beginning of His Kingdom ruling this world's people.

"Our Father in heaven surely will watch out for you, and the safety of your team. But you can help by eating well, and getting enough rest at night.

"Yes, this sinner is behind you and Ted. Keep smiling!"

— Raymond A. Lequin
Northampton, MA

"Thank you for your letter of May 26. Please be assured that here is one more person praying for you and the success of the Nairobi campaign! Keep up the courage and trust in God through all!"

— Mrs. R. H. Nelson, Jr.
Milwaukie, OR

"I just received your letter in the mail about your campaign in Nairobi. I'm not very good with words, but want you to know I am 100% behind you and Garner Ted, praying for you daily — for your health, safety, inspiration and to be able to give those without hope some of the hope that we have."

— Mrs. M. McNesby
San Carlos, CA

"Thank you for taking the time to write and let us know your plans for the next few weeks.

"I hope the Nairobi campaign turns out well.

"I will be praying for your health and safety as I do everyday. And be assured the Church is behind you and prays for God to lead you. We are nothing without you; we received all our knowledge and hope through you.

"God be with you."

— Betty Johnson
Mason City, IA

"I am a member of the Tampa, Florida Church. I just finished reading your last letter of May 26. I want you personally to know that this Christian is 100% behind you! I personally will be with you in spirit at your Nairobi campaign! We all are praying for your constant success throughout your campaigns! I also have the faith God will hold world events back to allow time for you to get the message as far as He wants! We all love you in the Tampa Church."

— John S. Freel, Jr.
Tampa, FL

"Just having read and reread your monthly letter to Brethren and Co-Workers, I would just like to write a few words of support.

"I am continually amazed at all you are able to accomplish, being in your 80s. I just want you to know I do pray for you and your son and all of God's ministers. I think sometimes we all tend to focus on our own little communities, the Church functions, etc., more than we should, sometimes forgetting that you are the one who is paving the way worldwide, going ahead, with tremendous responsibilities facing world leaders. Please know that I do think of you, pray for you and that I'm back of you. Don't become disheartened by those who have 'dropped out.' Remember, only God is faithful. Only He can be trusted completely.

"May God, our Father, take care of you."

— Mrs. Frances Calkins
Williams, AZ

"I have just received your latest letter, written while you were flying to Nairobi, and it touched me deeply. I have prayed fervently for you and Garner Ted. For you especially that you may reach these countries before the communists overpower them. I pray for your continued good health, the vitality and energy to do this. I know God is working through you or you could not have the strength to do all the traveling.

"I just want you to know I am with you all the way — behind you and Garner Ted 100%.

"I don't have much money to give to the Work as my only income now is Social Security, but I give as much as I can and pray that those who can will give generously to make up for us widows who have limited incomes. I feel very confident that God will supply the means for His work to go on until Jesus Christ comes back to this earth again. I am looking forward and praying for that day. How wonderful it will be. No more wars, no more crimes or evil, everyone happy with no problems or worries.

"Keep up the great work and keep us informed. I, and I'm sure all the other brethren, love you both dearly and thank you from the heart for being there."

— Pearl Stanton
Kalamazoo, MI

"What a powerful Co-Worker letter your May 26 one was! It really drove home how short time is and the urgency of getting done this tremendous job. And I'm fully confident it will be done — just as God directs.

"We'll be praying wholeheartedly for you and the campaign in Kenya, and that we'll yet be in Bangkok, and Bombay, and that God will hold

back current trends enough for even more such campaigns, dinners and other speaking engagements to occur.

"We are behind you 100%; and if ever you feel we are 'slipping,' tell us. This Work is too important for you to spare our feelings!"

— Karen Kinder
Claremore, OK

"I just received your May 26 letter and was glad to hear that God is opening doors for the Work. I am sorry to hear that there are some people who seek you and your son's life, but I am sure God will bless and protect you as I have prayed that He would do. I truly believe in this Work and try to help as much as I can and believe that this is God's Work. I will back you all I can.

"Thanks for keeping us informed about the Work."

— William Oliver Harper
Dallas, TX

"My prayers are with you. Yes, I am 100% behind you. It is so wonderful to be able to understand what God's true Work is and be a part of it. The knowledge of God's truth, told through radio, television and the written word and through God's ministers, really helps and inspires me in this troubled world."

— Helen Dimick
Gary, MN

"I am so grateful for your thoughtfulness of taking time from your busy schedule to unite and inform us all of your Work. It helps so much to be able to pray for you and the Work when we know where you are and the strides you are making in getting the Gospel to the nations. Thank you so much for your love and dedication to our great Creator and His Work. I thank Him for calling me now and allowing me to be a part of it and I want you to know I am with you all the way."

— Mrs. Henry Mitchell
Bartow, FL

"Thank you so very much for that wonderful letter you sent to us on May 26, 1975, telling us of the wonderful news of the public appearances now opening up in Africa and Europe.

"I can just see God's hand working in this, and I pray daily that He will allow you to hold those appearances there before the governments fall or war breaks out. May God grant you the vigorous health and strength that you will need for this Work. I would like for 'you to know that I am praying daily for you, your son and this great Work.'"

— Clara V. Smith
Silver Spring, MD

"I have just received your letter. I know that the Work that you are doing is a big job and a great responsibility. And it is my constant and earnest prayer that God will give you the courage to keep moving forward.

"You ask the question, 'Are these campaigns important to me?' The answer is, 'Yes, very important to me.' So I just thought I would let you know that I am behind you 100% with my prayers and offerings. May God greatly bless you in this great Work."

— Larry Lisanby
Evansville, IN

"In these days of catastrophic news it's so uplifting to receive your letters, and read of the good news you are working so hard at bringing to the world.

"Oh, if only their eyes could see, ears hear and their hearts obey, so that they wouldn't have to suffer so much.

"Enclosed is a special offering. Small as it is, may it help to give you the courage, vitality, and inherent power to do what has to be done to make way for the return of Jesus Christ. May it also help you to know we are there holding up your arms — 100% behind you. Thank you for your sacrifices.

"We know the power of God goes with you, because it would be humanly impossible to accomplish what you do without it."

— Mr. & Mrs. Burl Allen
Capitola, CA

"I just received your letter as you head for the Nairobi campaign and I must assure you that these campaigns *are* important to me! I am behind you 100% as you carry the only really meaningful and good news in the world to these people.

"God could have divinely caused this message to get to all the world at once, even physically, by the world's publications, etc., but has instead called you, Mr. Armstrong, and all of us who support you, to take it personally and individually to the leaders of each nation where He is leading you. We are getting to the top of these nations, and God surely is leading you from one nation or city to the next in the order and at the time that is best.

"I am with you, Mr. Armstrong, as you travel to each of these places, and I am praying for God to continually give you the spirit and power to drive forward in the remainder of the Work to be done. I urge you to continue with the drive you've always shown. And I want to encourage you by letting you know that this Church, which God has called to support you, is solidly behind you — even ones

such as I who have not previously written to you personally.

"Even though you can't take time to read all the mail, I pray that you will somehow know that we are behind you, urging you on. I'm sure this campaign, as all, will be the success God wants because He is always in charge of His Work and will hear and answer our prayers."

— Jeffrey Charles
Cleveland, OH

"We as brothers and sisters in Christ feel deeply as if it were us out there in all those countries. Please be reassured that we are backing you up in God's Work. As imperfect humans striving to change and become as God would have us, we need your prayers also — just as we all need each other's prayers. God's Holy Spirit is working in and through us, to get His Work finished. With God helping us as we help ourselves, surely there is none other greater or more powerful than He is as our living God.

"Your letters keep us informed on last minute happenings, as well as inspiring and helping us to build faith. The time it takes for you to write us a letter is like a rock thrown into the middle of a pond — the waves from the splash growing bigger and wider, just as our knowledge grows bigger and wider and therefore so does our faith.

"Thank you for your dedication and tenacity in working for God — it inspires us all."

— Evelyn Carter
Augusta, KS

"I just received your letter and sure feel very excited about the thrust of God's Work.

"Please just continue forward — don't pull back or hesitate. If you need additional help beyond what we are doing, please tell us. We can't know how great is the need (financially or spiritually) unless you tell us. You have a lot of brethren who would sell everything if you feel the need is there.

"It's a great miracle and a blessing to be a part of God's Work.

"You are in my prayers each day."

— Bob Thomas
Salem, OR

"Just a note Mr. Herbert W. and Garner Ted Armstrong to let you know how much your efforts are appreciated. Each program, letter and piece of literature makes me more and more appreciative of the Work and effort by so many. Thanks again from a 100% backer."

— Robert P. Harrell
Irving, TX