

PASTOR'S REPORT



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TO ALL PASTORS OF CHURCHES WORLDWIDE:

Greetings from headquarters!

Some exciting new developments are occurring of which you will all soon become fully informed and involved!

Following up my lengthy letter accompanying the last Pastor's Report, intended to be a kind of "goals and purposes" reassessment of priorities, I would like to discuss with you several major innovations currently being made which I feel will accomplish much toward getting the entire organization, church and college, back on that right course of which I spoke.

Of course you all know I am facing the burden of half hour live daily radio within the next very few weeks -- and adding that to the host of crushing executive responsibilities; writing at least two books per year, etc., etc., etc., I must face the facts concerning my involvement with the college.

In order to effect the most drastically needed improvements within the Work; i.e. my own far closer direct and personal involvement with the church and the entire ministry: my diligent attention to electronic and printed media and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom as a witness (the very reason why I was born), I must now delegate much of my mainline responsibility in the college, in order to turn my attention and energies into both the first phase of the commission and the second phase (or some might call it the "second commission") which means the growth of God's Church!

Therefore, I am effecting the following personnel change. I am appointing Dr. Donald L. Ward as Executive Vice President for Ambassador College. I will delegate to Dr. Ward the day-to-day administrative responsibilities of Ambassador College; interfacing directly with the other three individuals on the vice presidential level; the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Business Manager.

Dr. Ward was an exemplary example as Dean of the Faculty for Ambassador College, Big Sandy; has since been ordained and has had field experience as the pastor of the local church in Tyler, Texas. Dr. Ward was an individual who was highly respected by faculty and student body alike during his term of office in Big Sandy; possesses

the required degree (a Doctorate in Education) and can relieve me of a massive burden of day-to-day responsibilities in the college. Thus, I will retain the office of President, and will be dealing directly with Dr. Ward and he with those at the vice presidential level. (I will as well but only from time to time, as I can). I will devote myself almost entirely to my front-line responsibilities of dealing directly with the church, and doing radio, television and writing.

For many months now, it has become known, at least among many here at headquarters and perhaps most if not all of the area coordinators, that I hoped to find some method by which I could communicate evermore closely with area coordinators, senior pastors, and the pastors of local churches as well.

In our area coordinator meetings here at headquarters in the next few days, I will be presenting a broad outline of a whole new formula for church growth which I will tape, and send to all pastors of churches.

Directly relating to this, in meetings during the last few weeks with Mr. Dart and his team in Pastoral Administration, I have gone over the new job descriptions for area coordinators and senior pastors. Mr. Dart came into the Pastoral Administration Department at a time during which we were very much in need of additional organization, stabilization, and development. I feel he has contributed an enormous amount to the ministry; not the least of which was the concept of the more professional approach to the ministry concerning career and noncareer choices, the sabbatical program, and many other organizational innovations.

Working very closely with Mr. Dart has been a team here at headquarters consisting of Ted Herlofson for Ministerial Services, Ray Wright as Vice President of Financial Affairs, Art Mokarow as Coordinator for Ministerial Development, and Dr. Robert Kuhn on the Systematic Theology Project and doctrine, as well as the eleven area coordinators.

I feel that Mr. Dart has at last brought the Pastoral Administration Department to a point where we have such a smoothly functioning team that I can at last step in and begin to interface more closely with the team here at headquarters as well as our area coordinators and senior pastors in the field!

In lengthy personal talks with Mr. Dart, he and I both feel that since his entire background since coming into God's Church has been primarily in the academic area (he was a member of the faculty at Bricket Wood for seven years, five of which he served as Dean of Students; was Deputy Chancellor for the Big Sandy campus for three years) -- that he will now enter the doctoral program at the University of Southern California with the goal of obtaining a Ph.D. in speech communications. Mr. Dart had requested quite sometime ago that he be given a sabbatical at sometime in the future. In order that he may pursue the doctorate at USC as rapidly as possible, he is being granted a sabbatical commencing immediately.

He will continue to preach at headquarters and in Southern California churches or outlying churches as he can; and I have asked that as an adjunct to his ongoing studies, he not only continue to teach a very important course to the sabbatical ministers at the graduate level in speech, but as he can conduct seminars in connection with outlying church visits on that same subject so as to effectively work with many of you men in the field in improving your own speech techniques. This will become extremely important, especially in the light of the new program for church growth and development I will present to the area coordinators in the next few days!

In view of the tremendous new strides I hope to see us taking in the months and the years ahead (revolutionary changes in media, as well as a change in approach toward church growth), I feel the time has come for me to face the fact that I do not any further require the offices of a top evangelist in a box underneath me to function as an intermediary between myself and the ministry at large.

I have committed myself to at least one church visit per month, for example -- and this allows me to get together with somewhere between 10 or 20 ministers at each function. Further, I will be together with the entire ministry of the United States ("together" in the sense of seeing and being seen briefly) at the Feast of Tabernacles.

More importantly, I want to announce with this Pastor's Report that we will once again adopt our former policy of annual ministerial conferences! I feel it imperative in a church of our size to never fail to have one annual conference of some aggregate or another. For the next year, we will have a conference for area coordinators and senior pastors only, and the following year a wider conference including all pastors of churches and/or others. Wives will be invited as well.

I have much more to say that I will say verbally and you can all hear on tape --be looking for it.

With love, in Jesus' name,


Garner Ted Armstrong

GTA/ad

GTA TO ATTEND N.A.B. CONVENTION Preparations are now underway for the National Association of Broadcasters convention, to be held this year in Las Vegas, Nevada. Over the years the N.A.B. has evolved more into a radio managers and engineering exhibit, and the National Association of Television Program Executives involves mostly television programming. For this reason the Ed

Libov Agency has advised us that it would be best to concentrate on the radio stations during the N.A.B. conference.

The agency has reserved a suite in the MGM Grand Hotel where Garner Ted Armstrong will be meeting with various radio program managers and station executives. A press kit with recent photographs, biography and programming description is now being printed for distribution during that time. Special emphasis will be placed upon having Mr. Armstrong meet with as many of the 50,000 watt clear-channel radio station personnel as humanly possible during that period of time.

--John Lundberg, Media Division

CO-WORKER INVITATION PRODUCES GOOD RESULTS In a recent Pastor's Report we mentioned the new program of inviting co-workers to attend church services where Mr. Ted Armstrong will be preaching. The combined Southern California services at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium produced some interesting results we would like to share with you: One co-worker has begun tithing since the service. A San Diego radio station picked up the news of the special combined service and announced it in that area. Roughly 75% of those who attended the afternoon service also came to one of the evening social activities.

Mail summary: At the halfway point for March, we have received about 90,000 letters and 23,500 telephone registries. The phone calls show a good increase over February of last year, while the mail is slightly behind the same period.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

PLAIN TRUTH UPDATE Thought you'd like to know which articles in the PT pull the most mail. In January (U.S.) Gene Hogberg's article "Why America Is In Global Retreat" was the top puller. A close second was Carole Ritter's article on depression (The Grey Menace). The Personal and "What Does It Mean To Turn the Other Cheek?" were the next best mail pullers.

The first report on the February issue indicates that Mr. Herbert Armstrong's Personal and his feature article, along with Jon Hill's tithing article, were the top mail pullers for that month.

It is interesting to note that it is usually the articles which are most personal that pull the greatest mail. This is because such articles touch nerves, they reach people "where they live." Carole Ritter's articles have been by far the most effective in this respect. We very much appreciate the job she has been doing for the Plain Truth.

Just a note about the Your Marriage Can Be Happy booklet. Present stocks have now run out. We are not reprinting the old booklet since the new manuscript is now complete and is being edited by Garner Ted Armstrong. We hope to have the new replacement booklet on marriage in print within a couple of months. It will probably be retitled and introduced as a new booklet. In the meantime, Mr. Herbert Armstrong's booklet entitled Why Marriage--Soon Obsolete? can be sent out since it is still in print.

--Brian Knowles, Editorial Services