

PASTOR'S REPORT



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GREETINGS from Headquarters! I am personally very "turned on" with everything that is happening in the Work right now; very thrilling to once again be doing what I feel I do best: the live, daily, half-hour radio programs, and knowing as I do them I can be heard by literally MILLIONS (if they were all to tune in at the same time) in San Diego, Los Angeles, and Tucson, plus other millions up and down the Pacific Coast within the same 24-hour period!

I will be administering the Passover in Big Sandy this year, then attending in Akron for the first day of Unleavened Bread; Montgomery, Alabama for the last day, and doing radio programs in between.

Personally, I am always very deeply sobered, made contemplative and introspective at this time of the year. I don't approach the Passover with a "professional" attitude only; as one who must perform a somber ceremony---but also in a deep, personal sense, looking to Jesus Christ our Lord as my personal Saviour, my personal High Priest to whom I can go in the deepest personal conversations, pouring out my deepest needs, heartfelt feelings, and asking His grace, mercy, and forgiveness! Being absorbed in the Gospels for so long; nearing completion on my second book about the daily life of Christ, I suppose I can't help but feel very deeply about this; about the time of the "Lord's Supper" that is approaching, recalling the moment-by-moment events of that night so many years ago.

I hope all of you, without exception, will be spending MUCH MORE TIME IN PRAYER this season; especially calling out to God to fire you up with ZEAL, with LOVE and COMPASSION on the people; asking God to give you the earnestness, the sincerity, and the fire in your sermons that will move, inspire, and thrill God's people! FEED those people during these coming days; LIFT them with your own personal example of love, service, and dedication!

Let's use this season as the "kick off" period for our new emphasis on church growth! Let's really concentrate on being a LIGHT; on emphasizing the role and mission of the church of God; of inspiring our people to realize their own individual potential to influence and inspire others to look into the same truths which made them the kind of warm, enthusiastic people they are! Let your people know they're welcome to invite their close friends and neighbors; their relatives who might be interested, or curious. Make your sermons so inspiring you feel they are the best you've ever done! Let's not just repeat the tired old statements as mere "routine" about "putting sin out of our lives"; let's really encourage our members to do God's Work; let's SHOUT that message, let's MEAN it; let's DO it!

I hope you, too, have a deeply moving and personally rewarding Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread---I give thanks to God for all of you,

my brothers in Christ---for all you do; for your work, your sacrifice, your talents and energies, your very lives! Please remember my father to all your congregations, and to God in your prayers. Our prayers are with you all, and with your families and congregations during this coming Holy season!

In Jesus' name,
GARNER TED ARMSTRONG

CHURCH COORDINATING TEAM UPDATE The team's meeting this morning (Monday, the 17th) addressed two areas: 1) Manpower as a result of some necessary changes stemming from the college move; 2) Church growth. The manpower needs were necessary and immediate, but the greater attention was focused on Church Growth.

Church Growth: An attempt was made to put the growth concept into perspective and identify the various parts of the subject. Just saying the phrase "church growth" sparks different concepts in people's minds.

The membership, of necessity, must play a very large role in developing church growth; hence our desire to follow up Mr. Ted Armstrong's comments at the coordinator's meeting of March 20th with more on the subject.

The Passover season seems the natural time to emphasize personal responsibility in regard to church growth, since it is a time when each of us focuses in on the meaning of Christ's sacrifice as it applies to us individually, and conversely, it is easy to recognize our responsibility to Him. We wanted to emphasize the area of our responsibility to Christ because this has directly to do with church growth.

The Church has always emphasized that members are supposed to be a light to the world. However, to some this came to mean that their only responsibility was to just quietly glow. The concept was that of a passive role. As a result, this passive role gradually becomes less interesting, less stimulating. We need to recognize that people grow to become true Christian "lights" through stimulation, challenge and doing!

The church members are an enormous resource. But before that resource can be fully utilized it is necessary to develop an understanding of just how that resource should be used.

To some people member involvement in church growth raises the negative image of a door-to-door, standing-on-a-street-corner type of proselyting through an aggressive, or even obnoxious witnessing. A comment was made regarding Mr. Ted Armstrong's transcript that it was hoped we were not now going to start "proselyting."

Really, it's a matter of semantics. The dictionary defines proselyting as converting someone from a religion or opinion to another. On the face of it, that's what we do. We just aren't obnoxious about it. But we will never force the truth down anyone's throat -- and therefore we will never "proselytize" in the traditional sense of the word.

Probably 90% of the members of God's Church today are "proselytes" in one way or another. Almost everyone on earth is of one or another

religion or opinion. In order to fulfill Matthew 28:19, we must continue to make and baptize disciples, and most of them come from some other religion!

In the past the local churches have not been directed to be consciously growth oriented. It would seem safe to say that growth orientation has to be a conscious way of thinking if it is to be successful. If your mind is not fully on a subject, development will have less chance of success. When someone's mind is full of a subject that is what he will be talking about. Mr. Ted Armstrong has expressed that he feels his personal ministry has benefited greatly since saturating his mind with the life of Jesus in the course of writing his books. Applying this concept is primary to any real development in Church growth. Those involved must be full of what they are doing!

It is good to bear in mind that God is growth oriented as indicated in Isaiah 9:6-7: "Of the increase of his government...there shall be no end." It is also clear from numerous scriptures that God expects each member of the body to grow, and through proper growth produce fruit.

Every member is expected to bear fruit and be a "light" to this world. And in so doing, some people in the world are going to be brought to a recognition of God's way of life and the truth of the Gospel. As a result, numbers of them will be converted.

We have no statistics to prove it, but there is a strong feeling that 30-40 percent of Church growth comes through the members. If that is true, you can see how important member involvement really is. Obviously, this doesn't mean that every willing member should be supplied with his own soapbox, but it does indicate the importance of the responsibility that rests on the members' shoulders.

Once we become members and recognize that responsibility, we are to begin a growth process that should result in bearing fruit. It is a major function of the ministry to help guide that growth process so that it becomes more productive.

Although the coordinating team will be proposing and developing specific growth programs, it remains clear that a prime resource through which to develop growth is the members themselves.

Sermon Outline Proposal: Rather than send a single sermon outline as was mentioned in the last Pastor's Report, Mr. Wayne Cole has selected material supplied by some of the sabbatical ministers and other men at headquarters containing ideas that should be helpful to you in developing a message for the upcoming Holy Days.

It was felt that an actual outline might be far too restrictive and even inhibiting, therefore the material is being presented to you to use as you feel most appropriate. The important thing is that you know what the thinking is here at HQ.

Manpower Decisions: Hopefully, by the time this Pastor's Report is mailed, the final manpower decisions will have been made and the agony of waiting for those who are affected will be over! Actually, the vast

majority of transfer decisions were made when the area coordinators were here in March. The few remaining decisions are the last-minute, unforeseen needs that arise in any planning program. Also, some changes may be occasioned by the College relocation.

The way transfers are worked out for outgoing sabbatical men is fairly simple but may be of interest to you, especially to those incoming men who will be going out next year. The sabbatical men supply us with six choices: the three most desired places and the three least desired places. A matrix is built from these lists which places each man as near the top of his preferred list as possible. It's not the perfect approach, but it seems to be sufficient until something better is thought of.

In-field transfers are developed in a less scientific manner but are sometimes more fun, especially when two area coordinators want the same man. Even though some moves may not seem to be perfect gems of wisdom to a man being transferred, we want to assure you that no transfer is recommended lightly. The final criteria is always, "What will be best for the Church?"

--Church Coordinating Team

CHURCH GROWTH SERMON SUGGESTIONS A very sincere "hello" to all you fellow ministers and your wives. It's exciting to be working again with you in our mutual service to the people of God in His Church, and our fellowman in reaching out with the beautiful message Christ brought -- the "pearl of great price" -- the hope of eternal life -- the Kingdom of God!

Mr. Ted Armstrong's transcript of the Area Coordinators Meeting of March 20th explaining the role of the local pastor, urging him to be deeply involved in fulfilling the GREAT COMMISSION in both the feeding of the flock as well as "planting the seed" which builds the flock, presents a very exciting challenge.

We have had meetings with Ted to discuss details following his mailing of the transcript to all Pastors of Churches. It is fully realized that you need to have specifics in order to fulfill this objective. Believe me, such instruction, devotion, and assistance will be given. With our combined efforts, prayers and devotion to God and His Work, we are confident we can do a powerful job even more effectively.

What better time could there be than now during this Passover season to preach some moving sermons about Jesus Christ, His Church, His message, our destiny, our hope -- messages about the need to "reap the harvest in human life" that may be awaiting our care in reaching out to them in our respective communities.

Rather than sending you one specific sermon outline, we are reproducing several papers submitted to us as suggestions for sermon topics. Hopefully, you can find very helpful and relevant ideas in these notes and build them into your own moving and powerful, deeply felt sermons.

The following sermon suggestions are being reproduced basically as we received them. If any of you have further suggestions or ideas which you think others may find helpful, please send them to us.

--C. Wayne Cole

BEARING FRUIT (by Al Kersha)

Introduction: The common denominator among all life that God has created on earth is GROWTH. When studying plant or animal life, whether they be very primitive single cell organisms or highly complex life forms, we notice that if it is alive it grows! Every blade of grass, every shrub and tree, if given the right circumstances, will begin its progressive development from seed to full maturity. The same is true in the animal kingdom. From birth each creature follows the natural process of maturing from a relatively small, weak and rather helpless offspring to a fully mature kind.

Yes, growth is the common denominator. And it should tell us something very profound about the God who made it all.

I. GOD IS GROWTH ORIENTED--IN FACT HE EXPECTS GROWTH!

- A. Physical creation gives insight to spiritual world (Romans 1:20)
- B. Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matt. 13:31-32)
- C. "Of the increase of his government...there shall be no end"
Isaiah 9:6,7

II. WHY DOES GOD WANT GROWTH?

- A. Luke 13:6-9 provides a very important parable and lesson. The parable wasn't spoken for the benefit of the farming community, for they know why they maintain fruit-tree orchards. The parable is for the Church of God -- for Christians. It's about people bearing fruit or being productive. It answers the question, why growth? -- To bear fruit!
- B. John 15:1-8, 16
Bearing fruit is a responsibility and expectation of every minister and member in the church.
- C. Growth for growth's sake is not the ultimate goal. Just as a giant apple or orange tree of and by itself is not the aim (the fig tree in Luke 13 might have been big), but rather it is the FRUIT which makes the tree a productive one. Growth should be viewed not as the desired end in itself, but certainly as a vital part of the process towards productivity.

III. BECOMING A PRODUCTIVE CHRISTIAN

*Since productivity is one of the biggest and most important expectations of God from the growth process, it becomes extremely important for the Christian to understand how productivity comes about.

A. Growth precedes productivity

A fruit tree, for example, must reach a certain level of development or maturity before it can be expected to bear fruit. This is true of most plants.

To some degree the same holds true for human beings. Thankfully, as Christians, we do not have to wait a year or two or three to reach some fruit-bearing, but we do need at least

some small increment of growth (of mind, personality and, most importantly, spiritual character) in order to be truly productive.

Example: Jesus Christ -- Luke 2:39, 40, 52

B. Being in Christ is the first real step

1. Spiritual begetting
Romans 8:9
John 15:4, 5
2. Active communion with Christ
Prayer, Bible study, attending church services
II Peter 3:18
Philippians 2:5

C. Let your light shine!

*Now we come to the heart of the subject. It's letting our LIGHT SHINE.

Matthew 5:16--GOOD WORKS (ACTIVELY DOING SOMETHING) PRODUCE THE LIGHT AND GLORIFY GOD
John 15:8--MUCH FRUIT GLORIFIES GOD

Apparently doing works and bearing fruit are synonymous.
This is much more than avoiding sin; it is reaching out by the power of a converted example and touching the lives of other human beings (Luke 1:79 -- John's commission and ours). *The good works are found in Matthew 25:31-46, in the story of the judgment of the sheep and goats. The sheep were being productive!

D. Be ready to sow!

1. The lesson of Luke 9:62 -- it portrays a Christian plowing. Here we usually focus on the lesson of not turning back, yet it is also saying a Christian is called to "plow" which is followed by sowing.
2. Have you thought of yourself as a sower -- not a preacher -- but a sower?

Matthew 13:3-8 -- parable of the sower and seeds is a well-known parable among us, but look at it in this context: you as participating in the sowing. It is not exclusive to Jesus Christ and His ordained ministry. *If you read the explanation of the parable, beginning in verse 19, it doesn't describe the source of the "word of the kingdom" because any converted human being can be a source. Anyone can be a light and a witness. It may be a very informal and private setting, but if we are asked to give an answer to any man that asks because of the hope that is in us, then we should readily "sow the seed." Some of it may fall on very fertile soil. The rest is between God and the individual. (Also: parable of talents; pounds)

IV. THE ULTIMATE GOAL

One final examination of the very interesting parable of Luke 13:6-9.

Examining the ultimate goal of the whole growth process in this parable takes us beyond bearing fruit. The ultimate goal is implied to be that the "certain man" (the owner) is able to pluck a fruit off the tree and use it for His personal pleasure.

Conclusion: The growth process is intrinsic in all life that God has created. It's a marvelous, inherent, living principle. Yet its greatest implications are found in the divine plan of God for all humanity.

The Church of God is commissioned with the responsibility of witnessing and being a light to the world, for a warning, and a hope. We are being called upon to grow and bear fruit to the glory and pleasure of God.

HOW GOD'S CHURCH WILL GROW FROM NOW ON (by Brian Knowles)

The Church of God has reached a significant turning point. We have "come out of the woodwork" so to speak. We are now going to become a visible church. We have come into a fuller and deeper understanding of the Great Commission given to us by God. We now realize that there are not "two commissions" to the church but one with two aspects: 1) To preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God as a Witness and 2) To feed the flock which God provides.

Jesus said "No man can come to me except the Father draw him" (John 6:44). But he also said, "The fields are white with the harvest...." If this was true in the first century it is certainly more profoundly applicable today! But where are the laborers to go out into the harvest and reap it for God's Kingdom?

We have been called to a Great Work. The Church now stands on the brink of what appears to be its greatest leap forward in history. We are about to implement programs which will bring about significant growth in the church membership and thus provide the base for a far more powerful Gospel witness to this generation.

Each congregation of the Church of God will have -- does have -- responsibility in this thrust forward as we become a visible church!

Matthew 5:14-16

The Church is "set upon a hill" -- we are the "light of the world." We cannot be "hid" any longer! As the Church carries out its collective commission it will become more and more visible in the local community.

Our commission is clearly stated in three places in the synoptic gospels.

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:44-49

You will notice that this commission involves "making disciples" and "baptizing." There is a "calling" involved in the church's commission. There is an appeal.

Based upon the wording of Matthew 24:14 we have long believed that the only purpose of preaching the Gospel was to provide a "witness" to a dying world. And indeed that is a significant part of why we are here. But it's not the whole story. Other passages should be viewed with equal emphasis -- such as the ones just quoted regarding the commission.

Each member of God's Church, each minister, every deacon and deaconess, every family and every individual share in that great commission to the Church. Each of us has a contribution to make. Each has an obligation.

God is not willing that any should perish (II Peter 3:9). We should be deeply concerned about a perishing mankind. We should truly care whether people respond to the calling of the Gospel or not. We should avoid the spirit of Jonah who seemed to resent the repentance of Nineveh. He would rather have seen them perish! That would have put him "one up" on them. But our job is not to be "one up" on the world, but to invite it into the fellowship of God's community. We should welcome those whom God calls with open arms into the "fellowship of the spirit."

Christ is the "only one way" to the Father -- into the Kingdom. It is only through that "one name under heaven" that men can be forgiven of sin, justified, sanctified, set apart for God's holy purposes.

Acts 4:12

We don't need to be embarrassed by the name of Jesus Christ. We don't have to shy away from using his name because of Protestants who misuse it. Jesus warned about being ashamed of him and his words -- of denying His Name.

Mark 8:38

Once we have an idea of the real Jesus in mind we don't have to worry about the effeminate image of professing Christainity. Jesus was a robust, tanned outdoorsman with rugged hands and a vigorous personality. He is the Christ who "emptied himself" and came down and died for us. He is the powerful Christ, our high priest and mediator, who sits even now at the right hand of God in heaven. Our Christ is the Christ of the Bible -- the Christ of whom we have no need to be ashamed or embarrassed!

The message of the Church concerns Christ and what he did for mankind and what he will do in the future as much as it concerns proclaiming the good news of the coming Kingdom of God. It definitely concerns what Christ will do now for any individual who will come to him through the preaching of the Gospel.

We must be "about our Father's business" and preaching that total Gospel which is not Protestant but biblical.

Jesus was often "moved with compassion" for a world that was without spiritual leadership. He was deeply concerned about the plight of mankind. And how much worse is that plight today!

Our message and approach to the world must not treat the world, including confused, ignorant, searching, seeking, deceived "little ones" like they were all conniving, murder-plotting Pharisees! We must adopt a Christlike attitude of personal caring toward those "without."

Matthew 9:35-38

This passage sums up the attitude God's people should have toward the outside world.

Each human being, male, female, black, brown, yellow or white, child and adult alike, bears the image of God. Each is a child of God by virtue of his or her humanity. Each must be treated with love and dignity. Each is a potential begotten child of God in the spiritual sense. Jesus Christ died for every last one of these little ones -- these "sinners." And each one of us already called to the truth can share in lighting their way to eternal life!

John 3:16

God so loved the world! How did God demonstrate this love for us? Paul answers: "But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8 RSV).

We, too, should love the world -- not its sins and ways that are contrary to God -- but its people who are God's potential heirs. We can and should love the world as God loves the world. We should be concerned enough about man's plight to want to do something about it. We should have a sense of urgency about reaching this dying world with God's message.

Mr. Ted Armstrong has announced that the time has come for the Church of God to mobilize itself and carry out its collective responsibility in the preaching of Christ's Gospel in a far more comprehensive way. Prophecy continues to march on to fulfilment. The return of Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom is "nearer now than when we believed" (Rom. 13:11). There is so much yet to do.

As Garner Ted Armstrong said recently, "We as a church can no longer assume that if people do not listen to our message we have been successful anyway." Paul said, "Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel!" He felt a great burden to bring Christ's message to his generation. He carried out his commission with a zeal and a dedication matched by none of his day and time. We too -- each one of us -- must feel that sense of "burden." We, too, must burn with zeal to reach as many people as we can with this life-saving message!

We have the unique job of "preparing a people for the Lord." We have a special responsibility to prepare people to receive the real Jesus instead of the false Messiah of a false Christianity.

God's Word, when preached with power, was intended to accomplish a result. It is not to return to him "void." Our lives can preach

a powerful example by going out and touching other lives -- where people are drawn to us and desire to know what energizes and motivates us.

Isaiah 55:10-11

The preaching of the Gospel, whether in the form of the telecast, the radio broadcast, the Plain Truth magazine, our whole church literature program including the Correspondence Course, or the personal witness of thousands of members and ministers worldwide, must bring a result! We must "bear fruit for the Kingdom."

Ezekiel said, "Turn ye, turn ye, for why will you die O Israel?" Our message is the same today. Even though the foreheads of many are "adamant as flint," we must still make every effort to reach people's minds and hearts with God's message.

We must "cry aloud and spare not" in showing the world its sins -- but we must also give them hope. We must make them realize that there is light at the end of the tunnel -- there is peace in God's valley. They don't have to die, there is a way out.

As the collective Body of Christ, each of us are the servants of God. We are involved in a life-saving Work! Those of us who are not gifted with the ability or the opportunity to preach the Gospel in a public way must realize that our responsibility to the Gospel is in no way diminished by that fact. We can all set an example. Our wholesome, friendly conduct, our happy way of life, our close families are all means of preaching the Gospel. People watch us -- we are under scrutiny every day of the week because we claim to be "God's people." And when we zealously live God's way others do take notice! Our light cannot be hid under a bushel. Our way of life must be open and exposed for all the world to see -- and, hopefully, many will ultimately be helped and called by God using each one of our lives as living sacrifices.

Brethren, big changes are underway in the Church of God. Momentous changes for the better. Changes that will bring the Work of the Church into sharp focus before a watching world. With the College undergraduate program moving to Big Sandy, the Church will become more and more prominent. Pasadena will become clearly visible as the Center of God's work on earth in this age. The Church's profile is being raised in every area. Now, as never before, we will go forth to proclaim Christ's message with power and with even greater conviction. And it is a collective responsibility. We have all been called to have a part in it and to share in that responsibility. It is not solely the duty of the Armstrong's to proclaim Christ's message -- it is that of the ENTIRE CHURCH!

God has placed each one of us in His Son's Body "as it has pleased him" (1 Cor. 12:18). We are here because God wanted us -- individually and collectively -- to have a part in the Work He is doing in this age.

BIBLICAL BACKGROUND (by Lester Grabbe)

Matthew 28:19 is given a misleading translation in KJV. The Greek word translated "teach" is mathēteuō and generally has the meaning

of going beyond simply teaching to making disciples. Acts 14:21: "When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples [Greek mathēteuō]" This is more than just "teaching" or "warning." It is the duty of the Church to "make disciples" and "baptize." To do otherwise -- to preach only as a warning -- is not fulfilling the total commission of Jesus himself.

It has often been said and written in the past, "The Church was prophesied to be a 'little flock.'" However, no such prophecy was ever quoted, only Luke 12:32 cited. But Luke 12:32 is not a prophecy of the future of the Church; it is a direct statement by Christ to His disciples even though it naturally applies in a general way to all Christians. The word translated "little flock" is poimnion and can mean a flock of any size, not just a little one. In the Greek version of the Old Testament the same word is used in Jeremiah 13:17 to apply to the entire congregation of Israel, hardly a "little flock." This does not mean that the Church of God would become the most popular religious denomination, but we hardly need to feel that God commands us to draw into our shells and feel very concerned lest we somehow violate Jesus' prophecy.

A bit of external history confirms the enormous growth of the church in the book of Acts. Several Roman writers mention the persecution of Christians by Nero (Tacitus, Annals 15.44); Suetonius, Nero 16). Nero could not have blamed the Christians for the destruction of Rome nor killed great numbers of them if they had not represented a considerable minority of the Roman population. To assume these were somehow all "false Christians" would also be a remarkable non sequitur.

Deuteronomy 4:5-8: God said that obedience to His laws would make the surrounding peoples marvel at what great laws Israel had. Do our neighbors and associates marvel at the greatness of God's laws in our lives? How can they if we hide them? How can they if we assume it is only the World Tomorrow message and not also our own personal lives which together form the preaching of the Gospel?

EXPRESSING THE GREAT COMMISSION (by Charles Scott)

Both Herbert W. and Garner Ted Armstrong have stated that we have just one Great Commission, and that it has two parts. They said the two parts were to preach the gospel and to feed the flock.

Our improved understanding will cause people to start asking: THEN JUST WHAT IS OUR "GREAT COMMISSION" now? "Tell me in 10 words or less." It can't be "merely preach the Gospel," nor "just feed the flock"; because they are just parts now (and rightly so).

Perhaps a doctrinal statement and work-a-day phrase to describe our overall mission and purpose could simply be stated this way: TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST. Or, another version could be: TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD (Matt. 6:10: "...thy Kingdom come...").

Not only does this phrase seem to be true and accurate, it also conveys BETTER AND MORE MAJESTICALLY than our earlier phraseology the full extent of the awesome, unique and honorable duty that we have and which (as far as I know) no other church even wishes to claim!! Further-

more, isn't it the SAME overall commission given by Christ to His Church throughout all its stages leading up to His return?

I would like to offer the following statements as ways in which we might officially express the Great Commission in our STP:

THE MISSION, PURPOSE OR "GREAT COMMISSION" OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD IS TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST TO THIS EARTH.

THIS "GREAT COMMISSION" IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED BY ACHIEVING TWO DISTINCT GOALS:

I. PREPARE THE WORLD AT LARGE BY DELIVERING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD AS A WITNESS TO PEOPLES, NATIONS AND LEADERS WITH GLOBAL IMPACT (Matt. 24:14).

II. PREPARE THE PEOPLE WHOM GOD CHOOSES, AS A RESULT OF THE WITNESS, TO RULE THE WORLD IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD (Matt. 28:19-20, Luke 1:17).

HUMAN POTENTIAL CENTER ACTIVITIES FURTHER CHURCH GROWTH Since Mr. GTA has written about the new thrust for the Human Potential Center in the Pastor's Report, I have wanted to furnish you men with more details of how our activities are furthering church growth.

For years a good percentage of outside people have come into contact with our local congregations by way of the church membership. Some of these have been called by God into the Church, others have become donors and some have only received a witness. A good example would be the unconverted mate who showed interest because of the converted mate. God calls and deals with people in many ways.

One of the objectives of the Human Potential Center, which functions under the auspices of the Church, is to create new exposure for the church in order that outside people can come to know who and what we are. Obviously, we hope that you pastors will eventually come in contact with many of these new people.

The methods of operation are similar to our function when the Center was under A.I.C.F. By using the Center's seminars, lectures, tapes, publications and humanitarian works, the Church offers help to solve many of the daily problems of these outside people. This presents a real Christian service and an excellent Christian witness.

We ask these new people who use our services if they would like to be added to our list in order to be notified of any future activities or services we may have. As an example, we recently concluded a series of three seminars. We had one in Peoria, Illinois, another in Santa Rosa, California and the third in Yakima/Pasco, Washington. The results were very encouraging. From a total of 1161 people who attended, 429 were outside people, and of that number about 201 signed up to be on our new church development list.

One follow up is a humanitarian church picnic being planned in Pasco, Washington this summer where we will invite all elderly and handicapped people in the community. Our church people will put it

together and serve them. The non-members who attended the lecture will also be invited. This activity should also increase our new church development list. At the end of the summer yet another seminar is being planned. As these new people come to know our local congregations and who we are, we will also invite them to Bible studies conducted by the local pastor. Those non-members who are interested will attend and begin to have contact with our local pastor and hopefully, in time, request our literature. We feel this system can be a helpful supplement to enlarge church exposure as well as offer our local members a meaningful way of helping the Work directly just like our P.T. newsstand distribution program is already doing.

Our latest series of lectures took place in the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Lakeland, Florida areas. The results were also encouraging.

For the first time we tried to hold a series of seminars in five cities all within one hundred miles of each other. The composite attendance of the five was 920 with 486 people (or 53%) being totally outside the church. Of these non-church people, 30% have signed up to be on our mailing list.

In addition, we had phenomenal T.V., radio and local newspaper exposure -- all free, too! The Church was discussed very favorably and viewed as a real humane, Christian work. Many new speaking opportunities emerged as well. The University of Florida in Tampa and St. Petersburg Jr. College had representatives there and they want us to come back and speak to the entire student body. We are really getting favorable press and making considerable headway in reaching out to new people. At the seminars, attendees pick up our booklets on drugs, alcohol, finances, marriage, bringing them into direct contact with church material (which is "chained" to advertise more meaty literature and deepen their involvement). Some at the seminar even asked about church attendance.

At present we have thirty seminars scheduled for the rest of the year. We will probably have double that number before the year ends since more requests keep coming in.

We intend to gradually increase the number of speakers. Presently, the following men are speaking: Dr. George Geis, Dale Hampton, Dr. Robert Oberlander, Dave Antion, Steve Martin, Ken Coleman, Arnold Vandenberg, Ray Considine, Carl Gustafson and myself. We hope to increase the number from the present ten to twenty-five by the end of the year. It is hoped those of you who have some specialized field in helping resolve daily human problems and are effective as speakers, can eventually have an active part in the speaking responsibilities. We do want to build slowly and carefully, field testing everything, then retaining those aspects which produce fruit for the Church. Let us know if you think you would like to participate in this program.

We do not want to make the speaking available to everyone at once as we did the local Bible studies. We feel it is wiser to grow slowly, see who really feels comfortable with it and continue field testing all the way. This way expenses will be kept minimal and better planning will prevail.

At present, income from our cassette tape program is about \$80,000 per year. Since the Human Potential Center is under the Church now, that income comes directly into the Church to help finance these seminars since most of them are admission free. Of course, all are free to church and A.I.C.F. members. Some of the seminars now available are: Keys to Family Enrichment; Marital Compatibility; Talent and Skill Development; Alcohol Awareness; Enriching Your Career; Finding Your Personal Identity and many others. If you are interested in testing the program in your area and want a list of all the lectures available, please call Charles Scott on the WATS line or write to him at the Human Potential Center.

Looking at it statistically with our present response, if we had fifty speakers, averaging two hundred at a seminar, that would be 10,000 people attending. If each speaker conducted five lectures a year, that would bring exposure to 50,000 people. Of that number, 18,500 would be totally new people. Those added to our mailing list would be 8,695. However, our average seminar size for the last few have been 400 in attendance instead of 200. If that kind of attendance continues, it doubles all of our above figures. We would end up contacting 37,000 new people and adding 17,390 new people to our list. This could lead to many new donors, co-workers and members as God calls!

Please feel free to write in and ask questions or send in suggestions. We will keep you all updated as more data becomes available.

--Art Mekarow, Human Potential Center

AMBASSADOR GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY TO OPEN IN AUGUST The Ambassador Graduate School of Theology will begin operation this autumn in Pasadena. The school has been specifically designed to serve the needs of the Worldwide Church of God ministry on a short-term as well as long-term basis. This will include much more than just formal degree programs: a number of educational services for the entire church and ministry are being planned.

At a recent forum for students, faculty, and employees of the college (Thursday, April 13), Garner Ted Armstrong stated that "Ambassador Graduate School of Theology has as its purpose to become the intellectual, spiritual, and sociological heart of the Church around which would center a variety of important activities directly enhancing the growth and development of the Church." To fulfill such a purpose, the graduate school will need the participation of ministers near and far.

A number of programs, well into the planning stages, will provide immediate services to the ministry at large as well as highly concentrated service to those who are coming to Pasadena on sabbatical. We are planning intensive two-to three-week workshops to be held on the Pasadena campus and shorter seminars in centralized field locations. Presented at these events will be strategies for church growth and development and in-depth discussions on church doctrine and the Systematic Theology Project, as well as new concepts for developing professional skills. Other subjects will include practical ministerial functions such as preaching and counseling and lectures designed to give new biblical knowledge.

An immediate out-growth of the graduate school will be a ministerial journal. Again, the focus will be on serving the broad needs of today's

ministry with articles from specialists in the primary fields of interest. Participation from sabbatical ministers is anticipated.

The graduate school will also work in developing resource tools for the Church. That will include works such as the Systematic Theology Project and other reference sources and aids.

Formal programs of the graduate school will include the 30-unit certificate of the ministry program which will begin its third year of operation this fall. According to ministers who have been through the program, this sequence of study has been especially practical and enriching to the vast majority. This program will offer more courses this year and will form the first year of study in the graduate school.

A master of arts program in religious studies (60 units) will focus on subjects of direct importance to the local church and the Church as a whole. Areas of specialization will be in church growth and development, marriage and family counseling, theological journalism, church educational programs, and youth ministry. Work in the graduate school combined with practical experiences from the entire pastoral ministry will further help develop a full professional master's degree serving the unique needs of our ministry.

Expansion of the graduate program promises another benefit to the local church congregation. According to George Geis, who has been asked to coordinate educational activities of the school, "We're hoping to have up to 30 non-ordained students enter the program this fall." They will be in addition to the ministers on sabbatical.

Dr. Geis continued, "We see the student who has specialized in one of the five areas of concentration becoming a part of a major support system which would provide the field minister with a tremendous resource to help build the programs he wishes to incorporate into his pastorate."

While much work must be done in organizing these plans, all of the needed resources are there: Hundreds of ministers with numerous years of pastoral experience, many men with graduate degrees in areas of special interest to the Church, a library responsive to the information needs of the Church operations and Graduate School, a beautiful campus at Church headquarters, and a world full of people in need of what we in the Church of God have to offer.

CENTER FOR MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY TO BE OPENED Along with the many new developments taking place in the Work will be the establishment of a Center for Marriage and the Family. Operating in conjunction with the Ambassador Graduate School of Theology in Pasadena, the center will provide actual counseling services, a practicum program for the graduate school, and hopefully, a source of vital information on marriage and family counseling for the entire ministry.

David Antion has been asked by Garner Ted Armstrong to guide the initial development of the new center and he will be assisted by Robert Oberlander. Mr. Antion said: "We expect that the center will provide not only a place to obtain marriage and family counseling, but more than that, it will deal with the causes of marital and family

problems. This is family life education and will include areas such as premarital counseling, enrichment for healthy families, and preparing for children."

As with the graduate school, a direct aim of the center is to draw from specialists in the field to combine that knowledge with the experiences of our entire ministry. The centralization of work in this area will provide a location for ministers on Sabbatical to focus on their counseling skills. Some of the knowledge generated can also be shared through graduate school seminars here in Pasadena or out in the local field areas for ministers.

Another key benefit for the ministry will be an information source for pastors who are seeking additional help in some of the very difficult counselings they face on a weekly basis. In fact, a hotline type service, exclusively for pastors of Worldwide Church of God congregations will be instituted as a vehicle to provide professional consultation.

Articles for publication in church-produced literature is also seen as an important activity of the center. Ultimately, entire Church-wide programs for family growth and enrichment might be developed through this new center. For the time being, however, Mr. Antion said: "We feel we ought to start very small, 'as a grain of mustard seed,' with very high quality and build carefully and gradually from there."

As the new center grows, details of its scope and direct services to the ministry will be sent to you through the Pastor's Report.

CHURCH RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE (Editor's note: Here is another example of where two ministers of God and His Church have gone into the world and are producing truly viable fruit through concerned community service! The following letter was sent to Pastoral Administration by the director of the Alcoholism Treatment Center in Eugene, Oregon.)

I am the Director of Counseling Service at an Alcoholism Treatment Center in Eugene, Oregon called Serenity Lane, Inc. Being in a position of working with people, I realize one gets a great deal of negative feed-back and very few positive strokes for the efforts put forth, so I would like to give you some positive praise for some of the work ~~you are~~ doing within your Church to help with the problem of Alcoholism.

I have had the pleasure of meeting and even participating at a seminar with Dale Hampton and I was very impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication he projected in his dealings with the public about Alcoholism. We are also impressed with the dedication another of your pastors has toward this problem here in Eugene: Rev. Larry Walker works with us at Serenity Lane and we share and learn a great deal from each other. It's thorough Larry that I learned of the work your Church is doing with alcoholism.

I firmly believe, if all Church's took the same stand and direction your Church is taking, it would not be the malignant stigma

that it carries now, and instead of helping the Alcoholic sink deeper into the illness, we might help him to recognize and accept the need for help. Again my congratulations for your attitude and my praise for your work.

Sincerely,

Samuel H. Graves
Director of Counseling Service

MEDIA REPORT Last week during the National Association of Broadcaster's (NAB) Convention in Las Vegas, Garner Ted Armstrong met with people representing approximately 91 stations in the United States. Our agency, Ed Libov & Associates, felt that it provided excellent public relations and exposure for the program.

Garner Ted conversed freely concerning the program, the church, college, his books and most any other subject that happened to come up. Feedback from our agency indicated that the station representatives were very impressed with Mr. Armstrong, both as a personality and as a commentator. This exposure will undoubtedly help our goal of covering the top 50 markets in radio. Presently our agency has contracted with fifteen 50,000-watt radio stations which cover over 60% of the top 50 major markets in the United States.

Roland Sampson, our minister in Bermuda, sent in a copy of TV WEEK. (This is the "TV Guide" of Bermuda, where our TV program has been airing continuously since September, 1975.) It contained an opinion by columnist Eric Hopwood. We think you will find his comments (below) on evangelistic programming very interesting.

--John Lundberg, Media Division

An acquaintance the other day was complaining about the number of evangelistic programmes which continue to be screened, and was particularly critical of ZBM for repeating "by special demand" a Jack Vanimpee Special.

One can sympathise with him, for it seems to me that if you do not favour this type of programme, you get more than a fair share.

I asked him what he thought of Garner Ted Armstrong. "Oh, the same as the rest," he snorted.

There one must disagree. Armstrong is an astonishingly versatile person. He can Bible-punch with force on occasion, but there are many times when his Bible is not in sight, and when there is not one solitary reference to anything that has to do with religion.

In fact, some of his presentations could easily be described as "current affairs programmes, and he discusses anything from sand to oil, sociology, politics, economics -- you name it, he has it.

Undoubtedly he has a big research staff, otherwise he could not have so many facts and figures at his finger tips, and

he adopts very firm lines according to his own beliefs and opinions.

One would hesitate to say that he is biased, but he makes no bones about putting the emphasis on where he wants the emphasis to be. It isn't a case of "slant." He just ups and outs with it.

One cannot compare Armstrong with the aggressive Bible-punching Vanimpee. And as for Oral Roberts, well, he is the impresario who produces the musical spectacular and introduces into it his own particular brand of family-life sugar.

A GREAT WEEK FOR MAIL! The mail count for the week ending April 14th was the best we've had in the last eleven months! According to our preliminary count nearly 53,000 letters were received for the week, bringing our monthly total for April to about 93,000 letters. The year-to-date total now stands at 590,000 letters.

Newsletter Generating Good Return: A flyer and card combination featuring the Worldwide Church of God was sent with the "Co-Worker Newsletter" last month. Three booklets were offered: Where Is God's True Church?, This Is The Worldwide Church of God, and Which Day Is The Christian Sabbath? Most importantly, a visit request was also offered. So far, we've received 527 visit requests.

We feel the response was helped by a special article featuring excerpts from Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's address to the 1978 Ministerial Conference. The article was titled: "Not The Work Of Man -- It's The Work Of Christ."

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

EDITORIAL SERVICES UPDATE Peter Butler reports from England that the special Kiddie Porn booklet (based upon the articles written by D. Paul Graunke) has had an excellent response in Britain. It was mailed to M.P.s, schools, and the Press. Apparently about 60 M.P.s have already responded, including Margaret Thatcher, Edward Heath, and the grandson of Winston Churchill. (This booklet is not available elsewhere at present. It was specially adapted to British consumption.)

Lesson 12 of the CORRESPONDENCE COURSE has gone to press today and ~~should be available~~ within 4 to 6 weeks. We're glad that project is finally completed. Richard Sedliacik, John R. Schroeder and Ron Nelson have all worked very hard on it.

The Doctrines of the Worldwide Church of God booklet, based on the STP project, has also gone to composing today. We are giving this booklet top priority. It will be sent automatically to all church members. It is chained to numerous booklets and reprint articles which expand on the subjects summarized therein. The international areas will have to edit out some of these chainings due to the inavailability of some of the literature advertised. Those responsible for international chaining and editing should check the manuscript carefully for this.

Results are beginning to come in on the February PT. The largest number of comments came in on Mr. Armstrong's feature article "What

Every Reader Needs to Know..." Pro comments slightly outnumber cons on that one. The "Speaks Out" column and the "Personal" were the next highest mail pullers, though Jon Hill's article on tithing drew much favorable mail.

Please announce to your congregations that the June/July and October/November issues of the PT will be combined due to continuing financial restraints.

--Brian Knowles; Editorial Services

IMPACT OF NEW BOOKLET IN BRITAIN In a "first" for the Work in Britain and Ireland, over 20,000 copies of the brand new 16-page booklet "Kiddie Porn -- Causes and Cures" (essentially a compilation of the recent P.T. articles on the subject) are being sent to M.P.'s, schools, the media and church and civic leaders throughout the region. The mailing is being timed to coincide with the passage through Parliament of the "Protection of Children Bill," legislation similar to that recently enacted by the U.S. House of Representatives by 401 votes to nil.

A taped interview with noted child educational psychologist Doctor Ludwig F. Lowenstein has also gone to 25 local radio stations for immediate use, and phone-in programmes featuring representatives of the Work will be run on a further two stations. Nearly 60 M.P.'s, including Edward Heath, ex-Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, present Leader of the Opposition and David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, have already written in expressing their support for the effort we have made. A number of prominent newspapers have also featured the story which was nationally wire-released.

In view of its success in this venture, the idea of promoting a booklet on a topical issue to opinion-leaders will be repeated on suitable occasions in the future. In press coverage, the names Plain Truth and Worldwide Church of God have been prominently featured.

--Frank Brown, Regional Director, Great Britain

TRAVELETTER REVIEW A complete review of Traveletter limits and expense budgets has been mailed to the area coordinators. If your expense budget needs adjusting, please contact your area coordinator soon. If you have sent in a request for a change and haven't heard anything, your request has been sent to your area coordinator for his consideration and approval.

--Ministerial Services

PREPARATION FOR PASSOVER SERVICE--A SUGGESTION (Editor's note: The following suggestion from Ron Stoddart may arrive a little late to be taken advantage of this year, but we thought we would include it this time in case some of you receive this Pastor's Report before Passover and wanted to give Ron's idea a try.)

Every year we have to pour hundreds of small amounts of wine into the glasses at Passover, so I thought you might want to let whoever does it in the church areas know of a simple and effective way to pour quickly and without spillage.

Last year I bought a disposable hypodermic syringe, a fairly large one, and used that without the needle. It is lots easier

than pouring from the bottle through those special metal attachments.

In a small church, perhaps there is no need to bother. But in a church where hundreds meet, it is lots of work and almost impossible not to make a mess when the usual methods are used.
--Ron Stoddart, Salisbury, Rhodesia

ON THE WORLD SCENE

U.S. AFRICA POLICY FIASCO The United States and Britain have painted themselves into a corner on the Rhodesia situation.

Both countries have refused to accept as final the "internal settlement" plan as reached by Prime Minister Ian Smith and three moderate black leaders, even though it provides, by the end of the year, for a universal-franchise, black majority rule government, with appropriate safeguards of the white population (for ten years). The terms of the agreement are basically those former Secretary of State Kissinger proposed to Ian Smith in September 1976, which Smith accepted -- and so did the leaders of surrounding black states until the Soviets forced the latter to change their-minds.

President Carter, in Lagos, Nigeria, even called the settlement "illegal." Black African states will not accept the settlement because they cannot countenance any agreement made with Smith, and because they frankly do not like the minority safeguard provisions, even though if the whites are forced to flee, the Rhodesian economy would collapse.

The policy of the U.S. and Britain in Africa is to placate the black African state on this issue, but to "moderate" their demands, if possible. The alternate Anglo-American plan for Rhodesia calls for including the "Patriotic Front" guerrillas fighting the new transitional government, in the settlement -- like letting the wolves into the hen-house. Of course the Patriotic Front wants total control of "Zimbabwe," and not to share power with the moderates. Nevertheless Washington and London push on, in their vain meddlings.

Over the weekend in Tanzania, Patriotic Front leaders Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe totally frustrated Secretary of State Vance and Britain's Foreign Minister David Owen. Knowing the U.S. and Britain "can't" support Smith and the moderates, Nkomo and Mugabe raised the ante for their "co-operation." Instead of agreeing, as they did earlier, to equal representation with the "internalists" in a transition government, they demanded a dominant role; they demanded that their guerrillas become the new Zimbabwe army and that the present Rhodesian army be disarmed and disbanded.

The PF's demands obviously were made so high that they could not possibly be accepted. They are not interested in a peaceful settlement since they lack popular support within the country. But good 'ol America is still trying. Reputed the L.A. Times: "In their public comments, U.S. officials made excuses for Mugabe's need to sound tough at this stage of the talks and asserted their conviction that the Patriotic Front guerrillas were still open to compromise."

The Patriotic Front knows it has the U.S. and Britain over a barrel. They can force the talks to break down, realizing Washington will probably blame Smith and the moderates for the impasse, for not giving in enough. Also, they realize that the West will not give the new moderate government military support. Thus, they can bide their time until they have enough Russian arms to win out.

The same situation prevails in South West Africa where talks have broken down because the Marxist SWAPO outfit has rejected every concession made by the South African government. Pretoria finally said "no more" yesterday.

In Nigeria, President Carter warned South Africa of dire consequences -- probably economic sanctions -- if it didn't accept the latest Western offers, heavily weighed in SWAPO's favor.

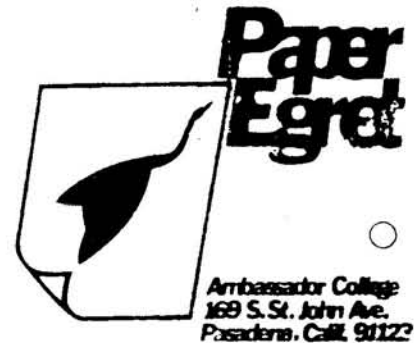
Thus, the stage appears to be set for a mighty big blowup all over southern Africa, with America, as usual, on the wrong side.

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau

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The following book will be sold at the library rate (40% discount, plus postage) if it is wanted for your church library. For personal copies a 20% discount will be awarded. We only have 24 copies in stock so the supply is limited!! Please hurry and place your order!! This offer is good until all stock is sold.

It is highly recommended by the Career Services Department of Ambassador College and would be an informative and valuable reference for your library.

Occupational Outlook Handbook 1978-79 Edition
U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics

Retail price	<u>8.00</u>
with 20% off	<u>6.40</u>
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