

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 2, NO. 38

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 17, 1980

LESLIE McCULLOUGH TO CINCINNATI

Leslie McCullough is transferring back to the United States from Canada, after the Feast of Tabernacles.

He will continue his speaking schedule to Canadian Festival sites during the Feast, and then become Senior Pastor in Cincinnati, pastoring Cincinnati's largest of four churches--the Cincinnati East Church.

Mr. McCullough has expressed pleasure in coming back to the United States, but has greatly enjoyed his ministry in Canada. The Work in Canada has made good growth during his stay there. The Canadian churches, along with all God's Churches, are back on God's track and being prepared to become with the rest of us the Bride of Christ, prepared for His coming.

Mr. Robert Fahey had been appointed director of the churches in Australia, but will return to Vancouver as director of the English-speaking churches in Canada.

Mr. Bob Morton is being transferred from New Zealand to direct the Australian churches.

Peter G. Nathan, a native New Zealander now stationed in England, will replace Mr. Bob Morton in New Zealand.

* * * * *

Problems With the Old System in Y.O.U.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

1. District, Regional, Tri-regional and National competition produced a spiraling rise in competition that caused some youngsters, parents, coaches and even a few ministers, to want to advance to the next level so badly that they would put winning above setting a right example. A spirit of "GET" and hostility above "GIVE" and love toward the other equal to self-love was introduced.

2. Winning became the main thing in these people's minds to the point that some (both players and spectators) were setting wrong examples at games, yelling at referees, shouting at their calls, angrily showing very wrong attitudes both on and off the court. When competition goes beyond "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," it is hostile--OF SATAN!

3. These wrong attitudes were becoming a problem to those who really wanted to play the way God would have us play.

4. Many players whose behavior in the congregation was totally contrary to any standards of God's Church, were kept on teams simply because they were good players.

5. This amounted to rewarding wrong behavior, and was very discouraging to those who were striving to uphold right standards of conduct.

6. The greatest emphasis in Y.O.U. has been on basketball, volleyball, track and cheerleading. Those who cannot participate in those sports had little opportunity for involvement. Churches that couldn't get up teams also had little opportunity for involvement.

7. A great deal of traveling on the Sabbath was required to get to tournaments in other districts or regions. Local pastors are now given responsibility to see this does not recur.

New Directives To Reap Positive Benefits

1. All youth in God's Church will automatically be part of Y.O.U., not just 55%.

2. Y.O.U. will be clearly another part of God's Church, not a separate organization with its own structure and its own government. Christ has placed the Government OF GOD in His Church, and it will govern Y.O.U.

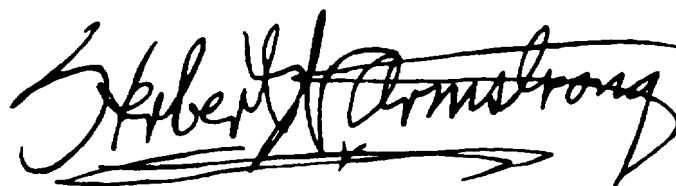
3. Pastors will be directly responsible for Y.O.U. in their churches, not local coordinators who answer to the National Y.O.U. Office.

4. The district weekend will provide opportunity for family participation and family-oriented activities where sports is one part, but not the main part of the schedule.

5. Pastors will see to it that the Sabbath is properly observed in all cases.

6. Cheerleading will become properly and tastefully done as an addition to the basketball games, without the poor taste in music and routines that high competition has produced in some cases.

7. Charters will not be necessary because Y.O.U. is not a separate organization but a part of the local church, for which the pastor is responsible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herbert Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script with a long horizontal flourish at the bottom.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESAdditional Guidelines for Y.O.U.

Many of you have expressed your appreciation for the very positive changes in Y.O.U. As all of us follow Mr. Armstrong's lead in working with our young people, the whole program will take on a new spirit. Here now are some additional instructions for all pastors:

Membership

Y.O.U. is part of the Church, not a separate organization. All youth who regularly attend the Church are automatically included in Y.O.U. membership. Exceptions and disciplinary suspensions are the responsibility of the pastor.

Age Limits

Effective September 1, 1981, the age requirements will change. A teen will be eligible to participate from his thirteenth birthday until the end of the activity year in which his eighteenth birthday occurs.

Chapters

The purpose of the Chapter Charters was to give the Y.O.U. Office leverage over local groups where the ministry had little involvement.

Now that the ministry will be fully involved in and responsible for Y.O.U., the need for the charters no longer exists.

District Weekends

Two or three times a year, each district will hold a District Y.O.U. Weekend. All teens and their parents should be encouraged to attend. Ministers should see that the Sabbath is properly observed. It may include special services, Bible Studies and Bible-bowls as well as time for rest. You should also plan to include some of the parents in the Bible games. The remainder of the weekend can include a wide range of activities such as a basketball or volleyball tournament, cheerleading performance, a dance and other social functions with emphasis on family participation.

Cheerleading

The main emphasis in Cheerleading should be placed on cheering at the basketball games. This helps to tie the whole group together and involves the parents.

At the District Weekend during basketball season, a cheerleading performance will be held. Competent judges will rate the squads against a standard perfect score. This should encourage all squads to work toward perfection while actually helping each other improve because the teams will not be competing against one another. If there is a need, we will divide cheerleading performances into Junior and Senior divisions.

You pastors are responsible for the types of music and dance routines your cheerleaders use. Some routines of the past have shown very poor taste and have not represented the teachings of God's Church. (Our young girls have been seen bumping and grinding to some very foul lyrics.)

Talent Contest

The talent competitions of recent years have revealed some really fine performers. But occasionally an objectionable act has made its way to the Feast of Tabernacles where it becomes a real embarrassment. Please screen the contestants carefully at all levels. While outside judges can recognize talent, they can't know what meets our moral and aesthetic standards. These young people must properly reflect the same values Mr. Armstrong has always required of the Church and Ambassador College.

Dances

Y.O.U. members have regularly chosen dances as their most popular activity. This can be used for good if these dances provide a proper atmosphere for real social development. But, again, care must be taken to insure that these are not just worldly activities "sanctioned" by the Church.

A dark room, punctuated by blinding strobe lights and filled with deafening noise masquerading as music, will hardly foster the social graces. Nor can it be described as good, clean fun. With a little direction from concerned adults, young people can enjoy dancing in a family atmosphere with more moderate music. As a minister of God, you should not feel compelled to let the kids "do their own thing"! But it will take initiative and planning to keep them interested and teach them right values.

We have before us a tremendous challenge. Satan's world offers our young people many alluring ways. Yet, those ways lead to misery and death. And while we cannot and should not be trying to convert them, God allows, yes, commands us, to teach them right ways by which they can be richly blessed. Parents especially must catch this vision. Don't let them down!

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services