

The Bulletin



of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

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PAGES 687-718

DECEMBER 31, 1974

News Briefs

Highlights of news from division reports in this issue

BRICKET WOOD (page 701)

Mr. Hunting summarizes a very profitable series of meetings recently held at Bricket Wood and attended by all the British ministry, assistants and key personnel. Wayne Cole, Herman Hoeh and Robert Kuhn conducted a seminar in which a number of subjects were covered, and questions relative to doctrine, procedure and the future of the Work were answered. General news follows.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION (page 698)

"Pocket" conferences and their purpose is the first item covered by Wayne Cole, who recently returned from the meetings in Bricket Wood. Considerable space is then devoted to reasons for the B.W. meetings, underscoring the need for honest and forthright communication with others — and especially the need for *mutual trust*. Mr. Cole then describes the Chicago Basketball Tournament and associated activities which he attended, and emphasizes the success of these tournaments being conducted across the nation.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS (page 697)

Frank Brown says the tremendous response to Mr. Ted Armstrong's December Member-Co-worker Letter will now enable the Work to at least break even financially for 1974. More details of the sale of our press in Pasadena to the W. A. Krueger Co. are given, along with the benefits the Work will derive from this transaction. Mr. Brown then explains that the new healthcare program is the second of a three-part package of employee bene-

fits, the third stage being some form of pension fund currently under study.

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION (page 700)

Featured this issue is a special report from Roy McCarthy who details progress in the Dutch branch of God's Work, and especially plans for printing and distributing the new Plain Truth. Following that is news of recent meetings and ordinations in the French branch of the Work.

MAIL PROCESSING (page 688)

Richard Rice relates more facts and figures about response to Mr. GTA's PT gift subscription letter, as well as the returns to his mid-December Member-Co-Worker letter. Of further interest is an insight into how modern technology has helped MPC absorb an increase in mail between 1969 and 1974, while decreasing man-hours considerably. The letter comments are very inspiring excerpts of letters from those responding to Mr. Ted Armstrong's recent letter.

MEDIA (page 699)

Among items discussed by Norman Smith are the one-half hour daily strip on a large Chicago radio station; plans to interconnect 18 of our major stations so that the live program in Pasadena can be aired the same night or early the next day; plans for a coordinated multi-media effort revolving around the 1975 summer TV Specials; plans for running several of the best TV programs as specials.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES (page 703)

A final wrap-up of news regarding the Portland campaign is presented by Sherwin McMichael. He also explains a number of interesting "firsts" which occurred in connection with Portland.

Mail Processing

Mail Activity

The December mail count through the 26th gives us 191,072 letters for the month. Our accumulated total for the year has now risen to 2,897,644 letters.

Mr. Ted Armstrong's PT gift subscription letter continues to bring in a good response. As of December 27 we had processed 39,415 letters, 67.1% containing contributions for someone else's subscription. The average contribution per letter has risen to \$9.08. It may be of interest to note that the rate of gift subscription requests is nearly *triple* that of cancellations — and the cancellation rate is slowly *decreasing* besides. Of those who are cancelling, many appear to be people who have lost interest and simply used our return envelope to let us know. Others felt they could not afford to contribute so should relinquish their subscription for someone else. PC is contacting each of these so they know they can continue to receive the magazines.

The mid-December co-worker letter written by Mr. Ted Armstrong is also bringing a good response. Through December 27 we have received 34,177 letters for a 16.1% response so far. This response to Mr. Armstrong's letter is especially helpful to God's Work because it is *in addition* to the regular monthly co-worker letter mailed at the end of November!

On the Lighter Side

Our literature gets publicized in the strangest ways! One example of how private individuals have spread our publications into all stratum of society was revealed by a letter MPC received. Addressed to "The Work" and signed only "A Friend," the letter enclosed an ad which had appeared in the *Mother Earth News*: "I'm looking for any and all issues of the *Plain Truth* and *Tomorrow's World* magazines that were published before June 1970. Let me know what you want in trade or cash . . . (Address)."

As the letter writer explained, the *Mother Earth News* "is a magazine devoted to those individuals interested in the homesteading idea, and all the arts, crafts, and necessities for survival thereto attendant." This ad was found in a section of the magazine devoted to people who enjoy bartering or trading. It's conceivable that if a near neighbor

The
Bulletin

of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

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has some of our PTs or TWs, the requestor could be trading a crate of apples, leather pants, or *anything* for our magazines!

Gratitude for Technology

It appears to be a truism that as the need has grown for His gospel message to be published around the world, God has made available the scientific and technical means for His Church to accomplish the job. Without the modern tools now available to us (our broadcasting media, the computer to aid in mail processing and data processing, jet travel for Messrs. Armstrong, etc.) our effectiveness would be severely hampered and much more costly.

Because of the computerization of many MPC department functions and the development of more efficient methods of handling the mail, our average MPC employee is now able to produce much more than in past years. Comparing 1969 to 1974, we saw an *increase in letters being processed per man-hour of over 104%*!

This "letters per man-hour" figure is the average for *all hours* used, including supervision, quality control, training, etc. Statistics involving Personal
(Continued on page 696)

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

December 27, 1974

OFFICE OF
GARNER TED ARMSTRONG
Vice President

To all ministers and key personnel in God's Work:

Greetings!

Thanks very much to all of you who have written personal notes recently -- especially the many who gave me both constructive and helpful criticism and solid support following my lengthy dissertation on interracial dating in a recent issue.

Please be reminded that I was quite serious when I suggested that any of you who have material you feel important to the subject should send it to us as soon as possible.

By the time most of you are reading this, I will be, God willing, in Buffalo for the second time this winter, and, hopefully, another freak storm will not occur. If it should, I think I will hold the campaign regardless -- if only the ushers and the local brethren show up! I'm sure you read of the campaign in Portland in the WN, so I won't cover that here, except to say I was dissatisfied with the first night's sermon, but felt much more satisfaction with the final night, and do feel we obtained some good quality material for our upcoming television specials.

Mr. Armstrong is visiting the Big Sandy campus, taking Sabbath services and Bible study over there, as I write -- the first time he has been on the Big Sandy campus in many months, and I'm sure all the ministry, the faculty and the student body are very happy to have him there with them for a few short days.

He will be leaving again shortly following the upcoming concert by Artur Rubenstein, world renowned concert pianist. I am told we will receive a great deal of favorable publicity, since this is one of the finest concerts to ever be brought to Pasadena.

Now to a point which has become increasingly important in recent weeks, and I shall speak plainly. Some years ago a great deal of talk was heard around the hallways at Headquarters, and trickling out into the field ministry and even among various of the brethren about gold, silver, coins, and other various "hedgies" against approaching hard times.

I have heard a few (and only a few) disturbing rumors recently concerning even some in the ministry who are alleged to

be buying private stocks of gold, gold coins, shares, futures contracts, or who have felt it wise to take their money out of traditional savings accounts in favor of bags of coin which they can either hide somewhere on their own property, or have stored for them.

First, let me "cover" myself by saying there is nothing wrong whatsoever with a savings account; nothing wrong with the whole PRINCIPLE of "saving for a rainy day" (we all know as ministers, that the Bible says it is wise for a father to lay up even for his children's children).

I do not believe for one instant it was good policy, in years gone by, to ensure that people felt spiritually "guilty" for having any more than about \$1,000 in a savings account. This was, like it or not, a kind of "unwritten law" which, through pressure from pulpits, became an unspoken "policy" in the Work. Members and ministers alike began to literally "feel guilty" if they kept very much money in a savings account! In the pre-1972 days, I myself -- and I have talked to many of the rest of you personally -- never conceived of still doing this Work in the year of 1975! Consequently, my entire future plans revolved around the impermanent and the temporary nature of all fiscal responsibility, ownership of real property, or any long-term plans even for my own sons!

But we are CLOSER today to the time of the end than we were during those days when we THOUGHT we were so close! Let's never lose sight of that fact.

But now to the point. Let me give you from the top news sources available to us at Headquarters, and available to you all for checking should you care to pursue the matter, the real FACTS about people trying to buy gold as an inflation hedge, or even as an investment, or the ultimate financial refuge in a grimly uncertain world.

First, there is no more volatile investment than gold. Prices can change radically and dramatically and in any direction overnight. Even professional dealers and investors in gold are oftentimes totally surprised by the whims and caprice of the world gold markets. There is perhaps no other market with more shady operators looking for a fast killing than in gold, and coins for their numismatic value. Already, many gold coin dealers have gone bankrupt, taking their investors' money with them! One major South Los Angeles coin dealer, with big glaring advertisements in the financial pages of every issue of the Los Angeles Times over the course of several years in the past went straight down the drain recently, and, I understand, perhaps one or two of our own people had purchased some paper which "said" they owned shares in gold which never actually really existed!

Even after the market settles down following the rush by many Americans to buy bullion in early January, gold will remain

a volatile investment that pays no dividends, earns no interest, and must be kept safe at no small cost to the investor! The real attraction in doing this is the hope of a quick turnover, meaning a large capital gain. But even that could easily be offset by various fees and commissions. A New York investment adviser, Peter L. Bernstein said, "Gold is probably the most volatile investment we know, in part because it pays no income!" And, never forget that gold is most particularly vulnerable to government policy! While many people are now debating that private gold ownership will spark a massive surge in buying, boosting the commercial market price well over \$200 an ounce compared with the present level of around \$190 -- the only TRUE answer is, according to the experts themselves, that NO ONE KNOWS! Neither the government nor private experts can tell what the public's reaction will be to their new found freedom in purchasing bullion. Obviously, Arthur Burns, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, is deeply concerned that too many American people will withdraw traditional savings monies out of savings accounts to invest in gold. Such diversion of funds from customary financial channels (representing a gigantic sum in dollars) could place the prospect of recovery from deep economic recession in jeopardy -- and actually HASTEN the very thing Americans hope to avoid!

The message from highly respected bullion houses and dealers in recent weeks has been an insistent "be cautious" even to the investors, to the banks, to the brokerage houses, and to all future dealers of gold. The American Banker's Association warns "individuals who may feel lured by the glitter of gold should remember that the yellow commodity does not pay dividends, is costly and difficult to transport and store, may not find ready buyers, and could be the subject of international speculation." As a commodity, gold is subject to sales taxes from which other investments are exempt. For example, in New York City the lowest an investor is able to pay is 13% beyond gold's nominal value, when an 8% sales tax is added to 5% and other markups. And, each individual investor may have to pay assay costs -- to determine if the gold is genuine (since so much counterfeiting has been done recently, and so many fraudulent gold sales have been perpetrated by simply covering a thin layer of gold around a lead brick!) and such assay costs will be required both when buying and selling! This can run anywhere from \$30 to \$100 a time. Anyone involved in gold will know that unlike banks, it involves comparatively heavy dealer costs. Reputable dealers charge between 3% and 6% over value! Furthermore there is already a wealth (!) of history of fraudulent dealers selling gold they do not have, hoping to get sufficient funds in their coffers to quickly BUY gold if and when the price falls! However, the price didn't fall enough and such dealers usually went out of business -- which of course is total catastrophe for the investor. Why? Simply because banks are insured by the government, and even if a bank collapses the chances are the funds inside a traditional bank's savings accounts are insured up to a certain amount, and gold dealers aren't!

Furthermore, gold requires sufficient outlays in storage

and insurance costs! There is always the security problem -- and even though the only gold many people can "afford" is in gold coins which may sell anywhere from 10% to 100% over the value of the gold itself, coins are more easily counterfeited, and more easily stolen and turned over than gold bars! Recently, Forbes magazine reported that some authorities estimate "dealers over-grade fully half of all coins sold, in order to get anywhere from 50% to 300% more for them than they are really worth!" Forbes went on to report that "counterfeiting is at epidemic proportions, infecting even occasional bags of gold coins shipped here from Swiss banks...between fakes and over-graded coins, the average trusting buyer runs a better than even chance of being rooked, if not robbed." Much of what I am saying here will appear in an article in some future number of the Plain Truth -- but I wanted to discuss it with you in the ministry at this time.

Insistent rumors have it that there have been some unwise statements even trickling out of pulpits here and there, or in private conversations between local pastors and some of their leading men which have resulted in some people beginning to accumulate private hoards of gold (maybe only in the amounts of a very few thousand dollars, but "hoards," nevertheless). I have been hitting this a little bit on the broadcast lately -- and waded point by point through Luke 19 recently and the parable of the pounds! As ministers you all know exactly what that parable says! Again, I reiterate, as does the Word of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, that having money in a savings account is not only a wise thing, but, lacking the business experience to actually put your money to work, Jesus Christ all but COMMANDS that at least, it should be put into a savings account!

We all know the spiritual implications behind the parable of the pounds -- that it has basically to do with righteous Christian character; overcoming in exact proportion to the amount of basic talents and abilities given a person in the first place!

However, we can't overlook the fact that Jesus DID use a monetary standard for the purposes of the parable.

The fellow who came to Jesus at the day of reckoning and said "Lord, behold, here is thy pound" -- probably displaying the money he had been given, which had been carefully wrapped in a napkin so it could appear to be in bright, shiny "mint uncirculated" condition was soundly and sternly rebuked! Money means nothing to any society by its mere presence. Money is of value only as it is circulated -- put to work!

Even in the Bible, then, there are plain statements AGAINST burying money (hiding it away in a napkin), meaning taking it OUT of circulation so it is not even being used by others so that it may earn interest!

I hope that this is not a significant problem which is even having some effect on the Work of God and its annual income as a

whole, but I wanted to say something about it at this juncture, just in case! Again, it is not wrong, but is wise to build up a personal savings account; even to have limited stocks of emergency supplies in terms of food and water. But after all what does Jesus Christ tell us even in the Sermon on the Mount? In the simplest and most straightforward teaching of Jesus found in Matthew 5-7, as well as in the sample "Lord's prayer," He stresses again and again that we are to ask for our "daily bread," consuming the goods of this earth as we have necessity and NOT taking "anxious thought" or "undue thought" over tomorrow -- and the Bible admonishes "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof!"

So fellows, at some time soon, perhaps if you are preaching a sermon on the subject of tithing, or fiscal and financial responsibility, or bringing in comments about the present runaway inflation or joblessness as it affects your area, it would help not only the whole cause of Jesus Christ and the Work of God, but it might save some terrible financial disasters for some of your own brethren if you could avail yourself of recent editions of Newsweek, Forbes, U. S. News & World Report, Time and other leading weekly news magazines which have investigated this subject in depth, and remember a few comments out of the Bible so our people can be warned against unwise speculation in some fervent hope of a "get rich quick" scheme!

(w) Obviously, the only reason people would want to buy gold is because they feel they will still have something saleable and liquid in the event of a total collapse of the economy and the disappearance of the value of our paper money! Nonsense! You would be far better off with a few cattle on the hoof, or a half acre or so of ground on which you could grow vegetables! You can't eat gold -- but you can sure enough live on a piece of property that you yourself own, as long as you have God's protection and blessing, and He allows you to remain there.

This is growing overly lengthy -- but I thought I would share these thoughts with you, since I have been adding some of these comments on recent broadcasts to date, and an article will be coming out in the Plain Truth in the near future. I'll let it go at that for now, except to say that we are all extremely enthusiastic over the new Plain Truth format, and by the time you read this we will be going all the way to early brown lines and a full reproduction of the first February tabloid issue for the perusal of a number of us here, and then getting right down to the final press run of over two million in the United States and Canada.

(om ver) Until next time, keep busy inspiring and encouraging the brethren -- and please tell the entire Church how thrilled and pleased we were over the outcome of both of the large basketball tournaments of recent date, and the tremendous zest and excitement it gave the many multiple hundreds of teen-agers of the Church! Having been able to see the enthusiasm in both Chicago and in Pasadena at two of the tourneys recently, I can just say once

again, as I have always felt for so long, that if we give these young people half a crack at having a real PART in activities in the Church, we will find many thousands of them really "turned on" about the Church and the activities and opportunities it presents -- rather than a constant erosion of disenchanted, "turned off" young people who seem to have no goals for the future.

Until next time.

Your brother in Christ,

Barney Ted Armstrong

12-31-74

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Obviously, the only reason people would want to buy gold is because they feel they will still have something valuable and liquid in the event of a total collapse of the economy and the disappearance of the value of our paper money! Wonderful! You would do far better off with a few cattle on the hoof, or a half acre or so of ground on which you could grow vegetables! You can't eat gold -- but you can sure enough live on a piece of property that you yourself own, as long as you have God's good teacher and blessing, and He allows you to remain there.

This is growing overly lengthy -- but I thought I would share these thoughts with you, since I have been adding some of these comments in recent broadcasts, dates, and an article will be coming out in the Plain Truth in the near future. I'll let it go at that for now, except to say that we are all extremely enthusiastic over the new Plain Truth format, and by the time you read this we will be going all the way to early brown lines and a full reproduction of the first February radio lesson for the personal of a number of us here, and then getting right down to the final press run of over two million in the United States and Canada.

Until next time, keep busy laughing and encouraging the brethren -- and please tell the entire Church how excited and pleased we were over the outcome of both of the large basketball tournaments of recent date, and the tremendous test and excitement it gave the many multiple hundreds of teenagers of the Church! Having been able to see the enthusiasm in both Chicago and in Pasadena at two of the tournaments recently, I can just say once

Herbert W. Armstrong UPDATE

Dateline Pasadena, December 24

Since the date of the last *Bulletin*, Mr. Armstrong and I have returned to Pasadena, arriving on the 17th of December. During the last days of our visit in Japan Mr. Armstrong developed a very bad cold and laryngitis, which prevented him from keeping a scheduled appointment with Mr. Miyazawa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs (which had been set for Thursday before we returned) and it also prevented him from attending a reception in honor of Bunsei Sato during which the publication of his new book was announced. Fortunately, I was able to attend the reception, at which over 500 people were present, including perhaps 75 to 100 Members of the Diet and several Ministers of the new Miki Cabinet, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Although I had not been forewarned, I was suddenly called upon by the Minister of Culture to address the entire group on behalf of Mr. Armstrong and the Work, and, since I was perhaps the only overseas visitor and perhaps the only American, both my introduction and my remarks were viewed with great interest by all of those present. As a direct consequence, I was introduced immediately after speaking to the Ambassador from Dubai and the Ambassador from Libya, both of whom expressed a great interest in Mr. Armstrong and the Work, and they both stated that they would be looking forward to having dinner with Mr. Armstrong on our next visit to Japan.

Later that evening, Mr. Armstrong was the co-host of a dinner honoring Bunsei Sato. The publisher was the other distinguished host, and five of Mr. Armstrong's Japanese sons and his new Japanese daughter were present, as well as other distinguished members of the Japanese government, including the former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, the former Chief of all Defense Forces (he was heavily involved in the hijacking of the JAL airliner which was the subject of Mr. Sato's book), several newspaper publishers, one of the leading stars of the Japanese motion picture film industry and one of the leading motion picture producing companies that will film the book. Again, Mr. Armstrong's laryngitis prevented him from speaking, but I was given the opportunity to do so on his behalf, and I told the group that we were very

deeply honored and privileged to be participating in this dinner honoring our good friend, Mr. Sato, and I reminded the distinguished guests that we had first met Mr. Sato in January, 1971, when he was part of a contingent of Japanese Congressmen who had visited San Clemente with Prime Minister Sato at the time of his summit conference with President Nixon. I explained how a lasting friendship had developed between Mr. Sato, Mr. Okuda, Mr. Ishii and all of our other Japanese Congressmen sons, and I explained how we were deeply privileged to visit Dubai and other countries in the Middle East with Mr. Sato and seven other Congressmen in January, 1974. I stated further that we were very delighted with the fact that over the years our Japanese friends have introduced us to many other friends around the world, some of these friends being other Japanese living, working and serving abroad, but others being people from respective countries visited, and sometimes contacts have been developed between Mr. Armstrong, the Work and these people, as well as the respective governments, all of which we feel contributes to promoting better understanding between people everywhere.

The balance of our stay in Tokyo was devoted to smaller dinners with some of our Japanese friends, including Mr. Sato and the publisher of his book; Jesse, the famous Hawaiian-born sumi wrestler (who will visit Ambassador College in May); and Mr. and Mrs. Suzuki (Mr. Suzuki attended Ambassador, was married by Mr. Armstrong on campus, and now represents a leading Japanese newspaper and news service and covers the activities of the Liberal Democratic Party (L.D.P.)).

On returning to Pasadena, Mr. Armstrong and I received a phone call while dining at a Los Angeles restaurant from Minister of Tourism Moshe Kol, who announced that he had been successful in arranging for the world's outstanding pianist of the century, Arthur Rubinstein, to appear at a special recital in the Ambassador College Auditorium on the evening of January 15. Consequently, we have had to change our travel schedule for January, which had us departing on the eighth so that we could have another Bible Study in Tokyo on the eleventh. Additional reshuffling has been necessary vis-a-vis Bangkok and Bombay, but the rest of the schedule will be followed, a schedule which includes testimonial dinners in Jordan and Kenya, as well as Bombay.

Mr. Armstrong and I leave Thursday morning for New York to meet with Arthur Rubinstein and his manager, as well as Ambassador Salah and Mrs. Salah, who will fly up from Washington. Mr.

Armstrong will then spend the weekend in Big Sandy before returning to Pasadena.

— Stanley R. Rader

Editor's Note:

Mr. Rader called in this morning (27th) from New York and mentioned that Mr. Armstrong had a very enjoyable three-hour luncheon with Mr. Rubinstein. The two men hit it off immediately — Mr. Rubinstein will be 88 in January! With their mutual interests in Israel, world peace, the arts, music, etc. Mr. Rubinstein emphasized to Mr. Armstrong that he wants to make the concert an "event" — with much publicity, a lecture to the student body, etc.

The full text of the press release follows:

Press Release

In a continuing effort to bring fine cultural events to Pasadena, Ambassador College is extremely pleased to announce that Mr. ARTHUR RUBINSTEIN will be giving a piano recital at Ambassador Auditorium, Wednesday night, January 15, at 8:00 p.m.

Considered by many to be the world's greatest living pianist, Mr. Rubinstein will be coming to Ambassador College at the invitation of Chancellor Herbert W. Armstrong in order to support the International Cultural Center for Youth (ICCY) in Jerusalem — an organization with which both men have long and enthusiastically been associated. The ICCY is dedicated to the bringing together of Arab and Israeli youth in the interest of cooperation and mutual understanding. In its two permanent centers, young people of various races, religions and creeds study, work and play together, learning more about themselves, the world and the peaceful cooperation so vitally necessary in this region.

In presenting this concert, both Mr. Rubinstein and Mr. Armstrong hope to publicize and win public support for the worthy programs of the ICCY. Mr. Rubinstein has graciously volunteered to perform without fee, and Mr. Armstrong, on behalf of Ambassador College, has given financial and moral support to the ICCY. Tickets for this premier event will be distributed without charge, but contributions to the ICCY will be greatly appreciated by Mr. Rubinstein and Mr. Armstrong.

In many other countries, Ambassador College supports similar organizations and projects, promoting better understanding among all peoples everywhere.

Personally, Mr. Armstrong has spent the last

few years bringing his message of world peace and universal human potential to leaders in government, education and industry around the world. In both public and private meetings, Mr. Armstrong has talked with Premiers Sato, Tanaka and Miki of Japan, Prime Minister Gandhi of India, President Sadat of Egypt, King Hussein of Jordan, Prime Minister Meir of Israel, as well as the leaders of Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Singapore, Lebanon, Chile, Brazil, Austria, etc.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong's son, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong, is well known in his own right, broadcasting regularly over hundreds of radio and television stations and making public appearances across the United States, Canada and other countries.

The Ambassador Auditorium, the cultural center of Ambassador College, opened last May with Carlo Maria Giulini and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra. Subsequent concerts featured the Pasadena and Glendale Symphonies, as well as the Vienna Quartet and other groups.

Future concerts will include, among others, Yehudi Menuhin, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, and a return visit of Carlo Maria Giulini and the Vienna Symphony next October.

MAIL PROCESSING

(Continued from page 688)

Correspondence and the WATS Telephone Lines are not included in this figure since these areas were added into our present MPC configuration since 1969. This makes the comparison between the years more accurate.

Computerization and improvements in the Mail Department system made it possible to absorb an increase of 23% in mail between 1969 and 1974 while decreasing man-hours by 40%.

— Richard Rice

LETTER COMMENTS

REACTION TO RECENT MEMBER LETTER

The deluge of comments to the Mail Processing Center in response to the latest Member letter is deeply encouraging and impresses one with the loyalty towards Mr. Ted Armstrong, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and this Work. They are full of love, sacrifice and support. Some wrote in for the first time. A large number thanked Mr. GTA for baring his very thoughts for the needs of the Work

(Continued on page 704)

Financial Affairs

At the present time, the income picture indicates that we should finish the year at just about even with last year, as far as contributions, property and Holy Day offerings are concerned. However, when we add to those figures income from Second Tithe and Third Tithe, it reduces our overall income picture to about minus 2% from last year. In view of the tough year we have just experienced, it is really not surprising that we should finish this way. On the contrary, we are more than satisfied with the overall support that God's people have evidenced despite the problems and difficulties.

The thing that really made the difference in these end-of-year figures now appears to be the tremendous response to Mr. Ted Armstrong's co-worker letter. Without that response, we would have been in a negative income situation, but are now at least going to break even, if not possibly show a small increase. When the final figures are in, I will let you all know how we came out on December 31, 1974.

You have no doubt read by now that the sale of the Press has been consummated with only a few loose ends to be tied up. As you can imagine, it is a very complex operation with many and various "problems" constantly surfacing. So far, none have been insurmountable, and by the time you read this, Ambassador College should have signed the final papers with the W. A. Krueger Co. for assumption of all our printing and bindery facilities, except composing and camera. We are all very satisfied with the conditions of the sale and are more than happy that we are doing business with the Krueger Co., which has an outstanding reputation in the printing industry and maintains a very high quality of production. We have an arrangement with them that they will continue to do our printing for a fixed period of time, and they themselves will assume employment of most, if not all, present employees. As far as the employees are concerned, they will be working for a well-known reputable company with many fringe benefits that an old, established company like Krueger can offer, such as a fully vested pension fund, profit-sharing plan, and fully paid up health program. Their President even mentioned to me that he is thinking seriously about putting a smoking ban on the whole building and allowing smoking only in certain designated rooms! This just for the benefit of our people.

In the long run, we are gaining many benefits from the sale, not the least of which is a substantial reduction in overhead, as well as an immediate infusion of cash, which we will need to tide us over the approaching historically low income months of the year. It also takes us out of the printing business and puts it into the hands of a highly qualified printing establishment with a subsequent conservation of executive time and involvement. We are all agreed that it is the best possible deal we could have made and are looking forward to a fine working relationship with the Krueger Co. who are as competitive as any other printers in the business and who respect the same high standards of quality that we have come to expect ourselves.

By now we should have all received more information on the healthcare program which becomes effective on January 1, 1975. Because this is a self-insured program, we are able to offer the very low rates for coverage for your dependents and urge you to take advantage of it as soon as possible. Should you want to take advantage of the program at a later date, your dependents will have to be subjected to a physical exam. By signing up right now, this can be avoided. The funds which finance the program are in a trust fund with its own board of trustees and fund manager. The funds will not be a part of the College or Church operating capital and will be separately accounted for and audited.

This program represents the second step in the three-part package for employee benefits, the third stage being some form of pension fund which we are presently working on. As soon as we have information on the pension fund, which may take six months to a year to develop, I will let you know.

In viewing the year in retrospect, I can only hope, as I am sure all of you do, that we will not have to experience another one like it — at least from the standpoint of the wear and tear on health and faith! For us in the Business Office, it has been a year of one cutback after another, and yet, at the same time, I feel we are financially and operationally stronger in many respects. We have learned that we can live without certain activities we thought were absolutely vital and that we *can* do the same amount of work, if not a little more, with less people. Certainly 1974 was a year of major transition from our standpoint, but we have now been forced to develop certain tools that are going to enable us to face 1975 and subsequent years with a much greater degree of confidence in God, His people and His Church, and an improved ability to do His Work.

— Frank Brown

Church Administration

Greetings again fellow ministers. I would like to update you this time on some of the recent meetings and events that have been happening.

The first of our local ministerial conferences — sometimes referred to as “pocket” conferences — was held in New Orleans recently. Paul Flatt and I (with our wives) were there for the conference and are very thrilled with the results of the type of unity, dedication, sincerity and openness that was exhibited. We would like to say “thank you” to all you ministers who attended in New Orleans. Speaking on my own behalf since I have previously not been acquainted with many of you fellows, it is continually encouraging to make “new” friends and to personally observe the dedication and conviction that permeates the ministry in general.

In these “pocket” meetings our intention is to discuss current Church problems and questions, update on any and all doctrinal questions and meetings and discuss any doctrinal difficulties being experienced by the ministry, and also discuss thoroughly current and projected operations and plans in CAD. In New Orleans we had an animated discussion of the type of CAD communication and structure needed to fill our needs. Questions were raised about the possible merits of an organized “field-structure.” We have no current plans to develop a so-called field “sub-structure” but are anxious to have the kind of system in which you, those of us on the team here and also top executive management have the most confidence and which efficiently fulfills the needs. All these points will be discussed in meetings you will be attending during the next few months.

Dr. Herman Hoeh, Dr. Robert Kuhn, Mr. Art Ferdig and I spent a very profitable few days in England recently. Meetings were held with Ministers and Assistants present from all areas of the British Isles (and included Mr. Frank Schnee from Germany for one day) for three days. Those of us from here were grateful for the way we were received, the hospitality shown, the openness and frankness in communication and perhaps most of all for the spirit of brotherhood and unity that pervaded the meetings as well as private visits, luncheons, etc.

It is so true that when questions arise, confusion occurs or perhaps even a lack of trust or con-

fidence develops in human relationships, these problems fade away when those concerned sit down together as brothers with a sincere desire to hear and understand each other. Once more we have witnessed the need for effective, relevant communication. This was the kind of “togetherness” we experienced in Bricket Wood. By understanding each other we were able to have a meeting of the minds.

No matter whether it is a decision to substantially change the format of our leading publication, the *Plain Truth*, or whether it is a major correction in a Biblical doctrine or perhaps an alteration in an established church policy or possibly for even less important matters, when one is cut off by distance, etc., from the discussion surrounding the decisions for change it can be disturbing and disorienting. I know this from personal experience having spent many years a long way from headquarters. Throughout the Work of God in all areas around the world a spirit of unity, a fraternity and love for each other is growing.

At times an erosion of confidence occurs when things beyond the norm or the expected happen quickly and there is limited exposure to the reasons *why*. Hopefully, our trip to England helped to remind all of us once again how confusion can easily creep in among us, and underscored the need for all of us to communicate with others honestly and forthrightly and especially the need for *mutual trust*.

Trust in each other is a *vital dimension*. With rumors running rampant concerning every aspect of the Work and seemingly every personality in the Work, and with the realization that a “wild ravenous lion” — Satan the devil — is out to divide and conquer, to discredit and malign, we need to build a *trust* and *confidence* in each other so far as is humanly possible. We need to be always prepared to believe the best of one another, to refuse to accept the evil report about a brother until *absolutely* proved to be true.

We have recently had several meetings where several field ministers have been present with some of us at H.Q. In the discussion it was transparently obvious that “forces” are at work to divide us. If one were to believe everything he heard, we’d trust *no one*. You in areas away from Pasadena *could* have many reasons to ask “what on earth is going on in Pasadena?” if you listened to vicious reports and rumors you hear. On the other hand we here could wonder “who is there among the ministry” that is faithful and true to his calling if we paid heed to every false report heard.

Again I say, let’s trust each other. When ques-

tions arise to erode that trust, check it out. Believe me fellows, I'm confident 99% of all rumors you hear are totally unfounded.

One more area of update to cover. Mr. Ted Armstrong went to Chicago for the weekend of December 21. I was able to accompany him as well. We had an excellent time. Combined services were held on the Sabbath with approximately 3,000 in attendance. Ted Armstrong gave a very inspiring sermon on "God's Inspiration to His Servants in All Ages."

The sing-along on Saturday night was a "hand-clapping, foot-tapping" success. The hundreds or perhaps thousands present appeared to be *thoroughly* delighted with the occasion.

By the way, a word of gratitude is due to Mr. Carl Gustafson for the fine job he has done in organizing and directing the social, recreational and athletic function in Chicago.

Sunday morning a two-hour meeting was conducted with over 30 ministers present. Mr. Ted Armstrong expressed his personal appreciation for the meeting and felt it was a very successful two hours with fine repartée and openness. I certainly appreciated being with Ted and all of you present, and thoroughly concur that the meeting was another opportunity to exchange thoughts with those God has added to His task force.

I'm sure you will all be pleased to know that the basketball tournaments being conducted across the nation are proving a smashing success. Even though the organization of the tournaments was a very hurried affair and done at the last minute, *all* the reports we hear are *positive*. Many of our teenagers and young people are expressing tremendous enthusiasm and involvement. The results we are seeing and the fine reports being heard make the whole thing more than worthwhile. A few snags have been met along the way, but with the obvious good effects the entire project is producing, these have been only minor hurdles to be dealt with.

Mike Blackwell (my personal assistant) and Ron Dick (Youth Coordinator at Pasadena) have done excellent jobs in taking care of the "lion's share" of the organizational work. Mr. Kermit Nelson, head of the Big Sandy Physical Education Department, has been a fine help in giving professional advice and assistance. Others have produced a great deal to make the tournaments a success and my apologies for not naming those who should be given such credit.

In the next issue of the *Bulletin* I hope to start a short series giving further understanding about the *ministry*. Just what is a minister, what is his job, his responsibilities? I will treat this from a

practical level as it pertains to the ministry of the Church of God.

I hope to be seeing some of you soon in conferences. All the best to all of you.

— C. Wayne Cole

BIRTHS

Albert and Carrie Foy (Greensboro, N.C.): A few men in the ministry as Dave Albert, Tom Hall, etc. and Albert Foy know the thrills of delight when the gospel (good news) is shouted out for the third time — "It's A Girl!" Friday, November 15 at 4:51 p.m. a third charming daughter was added to the Foy family. Her name is *Knawonna Parmi*, pronounced as Nay-Wonna Par-me. She weighed in at 8 lbs., 4 ozs. and was 20 inches long. Mother and baby are both fine and healthy and sisters are overjoyed!

Media

I have good news and bad news. The good news is that we have a one-half hour daily strip on NBC owned and operated 50,000 Watt WMAQ in Chicago. The bad news is that it's at the early hour of 5:05 a.m. The start of Ted's programs will be coincidental with WMAQ's changeover to a country-western format on January 15. Although we don't like the early time, it is a major breakthrough to obtain a program clearance on an NBC O and O (owned and operated) station.

We have definite plans to inter-connect eighteen of our major stations with a Class A broadcast line. This means the program that Ted makes live in Pasadena at noon can be on the same night or early the next day on our top producing stations. We find that from September through November the top eighteen stations pulled over 70% of the new telephone responses and 64% of coded total responses.

We will be getting the vital, timely, current events and prophetic messages with occasional reports from our overseas correspondents now to approximately 64% of our audience on a same-day or following-day basis.

Ted is very enthusiastic about this and thinks there's a great audience building potential here. We have not yet contacted the stations, but we assume they will be willing to cooperate taping the program when it comes in off the line for delayed broadcast on their station with only a minimum charge to us, if there is any charge at all.

As Ted explained to you, the campaign taped in Portland will be the TV Evangelism Special this year. I haven't personally seen it yet, but I understand from others that it is a powerful message pointing the people toward baptism.

The goal of our 1975 summer specials, simply stated, will be to get people into the church and also keep people in the church through their involvement and events leading up to the broadcast of the summer special.

We are planning a coordinated, multi-media effort involving church participation in a local fair, followed by a one-hour special, backed up by newspaper, TV and Radio promotion, as well as *Plain Truth* distribution and word of mouth promotion all culminating in an invitation to attend Bible Study in each area. You will be hearing more about this later.

Ted has asked us to take four or five of the regular one-half hour TV programs and purchase time for them as specials in numerous cities. We hope to get some reasonably good one-half hour time periods on a random basis.

We are very excited about the prospects of same-day broadcasting on our major stations, a complete church involvement and follow-up Bible Study program for our Evangelistic specials, along with the increased exposure of our best programs as one-half hour specials.

— Norman A. Smith

International Division

DUTCH REPORT

Greetings Everyone. Just at this moment some rather important conclusions have been reached concerning the Dutch Language branch of God's Work. In keeping with a policy looking for effective savings and yet keeping this vital end-time message going to this world, we have reached some very exciting possibilities.

We are extremely thankful for the opportunity we have of directing and producing a Dutch Language Work in Europe. We are very appreciative of the great financial help we have received from Pasadena and also are grateful to Bricket Wood for the use of the Press and Mailing facilities.

The present economic situation has precipitated a careful assessment of the Dutch branch of the Work. We started in Dutch in September 1968, a little over six years ago. A basis had been laid in

Holland and Belgium in the English language; so much so that an English speaking church had been started in December 1967. The church members then met once every six to seven weeks in Utrecht. Since October 1970 we meet every Sabbath. We still have only one Church but the membership has grown from 19 to 45 and we expect good membership growth in the near future for reasons which I shall mention later.

The suggested new format of the *Plain Truth* is a tremendous blessing to us. With it we can maintain, using our local funds only, our total present mailing list of approximately 28,000 subscribers. Also, we intend to serve another 4,500 people in Holland and Belgium who are on our English *Plain Truth* mailing list. They will continue to receive the English new format *Plain Truth*.

The proposed plan is to print a sixteen page new format *Plain Truth* in the Dutch language once a month. The articles will come from the English copies of the previous month. Some of our translations will be done internally by those employed full time. The rest will be translated in Holland by qualified translators. Most of these translators also translate for Reader's Digest. They have been giving us excellent service.

Once the articles are translated they will be checked, edited and then made ready for typesetting. This will be done in England. We shall have Dick Gagel, Matthieu Janssen and Jeanette van Pelt staying and working in England. Their chief job will be to produce the monthly Dutch *Plain Truth*. It will be printed in England and be mailed out in Ostende, Belgium. This all sounds pretty complicated, but is financially to our advantage. The alternative was to transfer all personnel to Holland, translate and typeset there and then print and mail in Belgium. The postal tariff in Belgium is low and very attractive for distribution in Belgium and Holland, hence the mailing from Ostende while printing in England. Printing in England again is cheaper than anywhere in the Benelux countries, so we have the best printing and the best mailing to suit our budget.

The Belgian Postal rates have been doubled and come into effect on December 15th. They have a tariff scale which changes at 75 grammes. De Echte Waarheid magazine weighs 80 grammes and would under the new rates have cost us double. Again the new format *Plain Truth* is a blessing. It weighs 57 grammes and we can mail it out at the old price the magazine was mailed at before the rise in postage. When we look at 32,500 copies this means a great saving to us every month.

We now have the majority of the basic booklets

translated and published in the Dutch language. We hope to print the booklet, *God's Holy Days* soon. Our stocks of booklets are fair and should see us along especially now that the present manner of advertising the booklets is limiting the response. We also have completed the 12th lesson of the Correspondence Course, and can now give our students the basic introduction to an understanding of the Bible.

Towards the end of this month Miss Iepke Klarrenberg will return to her homeland, Holland, to do mail reading, typing, translation work and maintain manual files on our Member, Prospective Members, Co-Workers, Donors, Good News circulation, Worldwide News circulations and Correspondence Course students. This will greatly help in providing a better service to our subscribers who request booklets. She is very excited about this.

Another decision is that I move to Holland and settle there. I'll be taking care of all member, new and prospective visits. There are about six new visits every month. I shall also take care of all the personal correspondence work apart from the normal duties as Pastor of the Utrecht Church.

We now have permission to observe the Feast of Tabernacles in Holland in 1975. A good site has been selected in the northern part of Holland.

Now that I shall be living in Holland I shall be giving my full attention and time to the Dutch Language Work. It is exciting and awesome that we are responsible to get this message of warning and hope to 20 million Dutch speaking people in Holland and Belgium. We know that we have a foundation laid and with God's Spirit helping us we should continue to build on it. We look forward to 1975 realizing our duties. It will be a year of crises in the world and it probably will not get any easier to proclaim this message to the people. And so, we press on!

—Roy V. McCarthy

FRENCH NEWS

Mr. Dibar Apartian was in Geneva in early December for a series of meetings with the French-speaking ministers and assistants in Europe. Lengthy discussions were held regarding the budget and future plans of the French Work.

In addition, Mr. Apartian ordained a deacon, two local elders and a preaching elder. The new deacon is Mr. Jean Falcoz of the Geneva church. Mr. Bernard Andrist, Geneva office manager, and Mr. James Muir, a Bricket Wood graduate, were made local elders while the pastor of the Brussels

church, Mr. Jean Carion, was raised to preaching elder.

— French Department

BIRTHS

Tom and Linda Lapacka (Hannover, W. Germany): ACHTUNG! Linda and I are happy to announce the birth of our first child, *Rhett Thomas*, Sunday, November 24th weighing in at 8½ lbs. All are fine and healthy.

Bricket Wood

Greetings from England. I wanted to write up a brief summary of some very helpful and informative meetings we have just concluded here in Bricket Wood. Mr. Wayne Cole, Dr. Herman Hoeh, and Dr. Robert Kuhn came over from Headquarters to conduct a seminar with all of the British ministry, assistants and key personnel in attendance.

We had two-and-a-half days of meetings, in which we covered a considerable variety of subjects and had the opportunity to ask many questions relative to doctrine, procedure, and the future of the Work.

The first session brought everyone up to date on progress in the doctrinal committee. Dr. Kuhn spent some valuable time explaining how the doctrinal committee came into existence, showing his personal involvement in its origin, and pointing out how a number of major issues had been solved by the committee. He covered the working procedures of the committee, and of special interest to many of our personnel was the fact that all of the recent doctrinal changes came not from pressure from defectors, but through a thorough and carefully directed programme of study and discussion. Dr. Kuhn told how Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong have taken an active part in doctrinal decisions, leading God's Church to greater understanding.

Mr. Art Ferdig, *Plain Truth* Managing Editor, addressed the seminar regarding the new format of the *Plain Truth*. This provided an opportunity for personnel to ask many questions about contributing for the magazine and to come to understand more fully the purpose for the change in format. Mr. Ferdig has been in England for talks with our editorial staff, as well as visiting Brussels for talks with Ray Kosanke.

One of the most helpful sessions of the seminar concerned doctrinal matters. Dr. Hoeh made a

very clear and concise presentation relative to divorce and remarriage, explaining the major aspects underlying the new decision and showing many helpful aspects of application of the new understanding. Ministers were able to ask questions relating to scriptural explanations as well as specific cases in their own church areas.

Mr. Cole gave us a fuller understanding of the recent change on make-up, as well as important background to the approach we are now taking of not "spelling out" such things as modesty in the way that we used to. It was an excellent chance for the ministry to ask questions about how to deal with teenagers who have been brought up in the church, and other questions related to the way of life which we proclaim.

Dr. Hoeh gave the morning sermon on the sabbath — we had a special all-day service for the Bricket Wood Church — and explained in considerable detail the differences in what God expects of those who have His Spirit as opposed to the world which doesn't know Him. The sermon helped all come to see much more fully the background to the new decision on marriage and divorce.

The afternoon service was shared by Mr. Cole and Dr. Kuhn, with Dr. Kuhn bringing a message of special interest to everyone from Mr. Ted Armstrong. He went through a typical day in Mr. Ted Armstrong's schedule, showing all of us the great need to be holding his hands up each day.

In the final session of the seminar, the ministry were able to ask specific questions relating to the teachings of defectors who are mailing their material to members in the British churches. Dr. Kuhn explained the source of much of the teaching, giving us a fuller understanding of where some defectors might be heading in their future teachings. Although there has been no great problem in Britain so far, it did afford us the opportunity to be briefed well in advance of any potential problem developing.

We are very grateful to Mr. Ted Armstrong for his support of the seminar and appreciative to the men who came over from Pasadena to conduct it. It is the first time in some time that we have been able to enjoy such a tremendous opportunity, and we certainly hope that seminars can be conducted of a similar nature on a more regular basis in the future.

Now to more general news. Just prior to the recent seminar, I was in Pasadena for talks with Mr. Ted Armstrong. As you will know from past issues of the *Bulletin*, we are moving rapidly toward placing the Work in Britain on a self-

supporting financial base. This has meant major cut-backs in personnel and certain operations such as data-processing, purchasing, etc., etc.

We have found it necessary to completely close down the press and all operations will cease there by December 31. (Dozens have already been laid off, but we have kept a skeleton crew to finish the January edition of the *Plain Truth*.) Just as soon as permission has been cleared through the Charity Commission, we plan to sell the entire Radlett plant and move all operations back to the College. Our facilities in the Administration building, augmented by those of Memorial Hall and perhaps other parts of the campus, will prove an excellent base of operations for the present time. Virtually the entire Administration building has undergone considerable development as office space in recent years, so it is well suited for its new function as centre of the Work in Britain. The savings made by such a move will be of tremendous help in attaining our goal of operating off our own income.

We have completed our campaign programme for 1974, with only a few follow-ups yet to be concluded. It is too early to tell yet just what the total impact will be on the churches, but results certainly do look exciting so far. For example, one of the satellite follow-ups in London — held in Hornchurch, on the eastern outskirts of London — was attended by 55 people at the very first follow-up. Now, after eight follow up lectures, covering the entire plan of God, the sabbath, the true Church, etc., nineteen of the original 55 are actually attending regular sabbath services! In Birmingham the first of the campaigns, we have 39 people attending each week. If this kind of pattern is repeated throughout the country, the impact on the Work will certainly be considerable.

Beginning February, after the Christmas holidays are over, we will be embarking on an extensive program of campaigns with hopes of reaching up to a hundred cities during the first seven months of the year. Dr. Meredith and Mr. Plache will be working with me in the front-line speaking, and we look forward to some exciting action in this phase of our commission!

That's all for now. Cheerio from all of us here in England!

— Charles F. Hunting

Personal Appearances

Greetings from Personal Appearances!

The Portland Personal Appearance is now history. Attendance and audience response were most inspiring. Each evening produced a packed house with a standing room crowd of over 3,500! Both of Mr. Armstrong's sermons were repeatedly interrupted with applause — indicating the warm and open enthusiasm people in the Portland area had for meeting Mr. Armstrong in person and hearing the messages he brought them.

Also, a number of "firsts" occurred in connection with Portland which we think you will find interesting.

We are continually analyzing our pre-campaign publicity and occasionally experimenting with new ideas. The preparation for Portland produced *two* new tools with which to not only advertise the up-coming campaign, but also inform a greater percentage of the local population concerning the *total* work we are doing.

1. Five-minute Radio Programs:

Generally, radio/TV advertising is purchased in 30 second or 60 second blocks. However, we found that *five minutes* of radio time could be purchased in Portland for the same cost as only 90 seconds of air time. This seemed to be a terrific opportunity for us to reach more people for a longer period of time. The big question was how to best use the extended period of radio time.

The answer was obvious! The best material that we could possibly put on the air is that Mr. Ted Armstrong has done himself. However, because of his heavy schedule, it wasn't possible for him to produce new five minute programs. So, we simply extracted five minute's material from a number of the regular 30 minute programs he had previously broadcast.

Containing some of the best statements and material from the 30 minute programs, the five minute ads proved to be incisive, hard-hitting and compelling. Each program developed one point for the listener to consider: crime, economy, energy, pollution, etc.

Each five minute program included opening and closing wrap-around announcements informing the listener of the upcoming Personal Appearance — plus at the end of each program, the local announcer reminded the listener when the next

five minute program would be aired on that station.

Aired four times during the broadcast day, these five minute programs opened a new approach to repetitive exposure at a minimum cost.

2. Portland Interviews:

Another pre-campaign program which Mr. Ted Armstrong is developing revolves around interviewing representatives from the local business, civic, and media leaders. In Portland, we hired the facilities of Channel 12, KPTV for a Thursday morning taping session.

Two weeks prior to this session, Budde Marino and John Amos had contacted leading individuals in the business and media industry in Portland inviting them to appear on television with Garner Ted Armstrong, discussing local, national and international problems of the day. The invitation was greeted with *both* enthusiasm and skepticism. Some of the men saw this as an opportunity for them to express their views concerning today's issues. Others hesitated to commit themselves on local and national television to any statements regarding the local, national or international problems.

Mr. Armstrong scheduled two programs for the taping session — initially with the business and civic leaders and finally with the media representatives. Both programs went extremely well! Mr. Ted Armstrong conducted the interviews as if he had been doing them all his life. Every one of the participants in each program was pleased. One of the men, a city commissioner from Portland, was so happy with the program that he has ordered a subscription to the *Plain Truth* magazine for his office. In fact, he even asked how he could contribute financially to help support such a program!

If Mr. Armstrong sees fit to continue this program, we may one day end up with our own version of "face the nation" or "meet the press."

Portland was also the site for the taping of this summer's TV SPECIAL. Program Director Dick Quincer said he felt the taping went very well and that he has enough material to produce the hour-long special without adding footage from any of the subsequent campaigns. So, next summer, be watching for the TV Special taped in Portland, when it is aired in your area. I think you'll feel then as we did in Portland — that Mr. Armstrong's message each of these two nights was perhaps the most gripping, powerful and moving message of any of the campaigns to date!

Well, next week it's back to BUFFALO! This time of year we expect snow — but hopefully not

another freak blizzard similar to the one we experienced before. We certainly would appreciate your prayers concerning the weather and all other facets of the Personal Appearance in Buffalo on the 4th and 5th of January. It seems Satan is out to strike at us any way possible. Perhaps we must absorb a few of his blows, but I'm sure, if we unitedly request God's intervention, we can have a crisis-free program in Buffalo just as we enjoyed in Portland.

— Sherwin McMichael

LETTER COMMENTS

(Continued from page 696)

— "only the true Work of God could put their cards on the table and tell it like it is . . .," said one. All gave (and were frustrated that they didn't have more to give) to the point of not paying a bill or giving gasoline money, etc. in spite of the fact some were having to cut back because of inflation and unemployment in their own lives. The urgency of the letter inspired them to pray, fast and give all possible, as long as God gives them strength to back the Armstrongs "TO GET THE JOB DONE!"

The following are excerpts from the numerous comments received:

Willing to Sacrifice Personally to Help

"I am willing to help in any way I can, even to giving up my home."

"If the Work gets too badly damaged, we will sell our home, if necessary."

"I am willing to borrow if the Work needs it."

"This proposal may seem radical, but perhaps a partial liquidation of second cars, TVs, etc. by the Members (soon to be valueless anyway). Would God not back up such faith and sacrifice of His people and finish His Work now?"

"I'm willing to sell the bulk of our possessions and draw out any money we might have in banks, to put into a grand smash climax of getting out the Gospel to the world."

"Here's a large prayer though the offering is small."

"I pray your letter touches everyone to the core. I'm one of those who have not been doing enough for God's Work in the past, but I've turned over a new leaf."

"I want to help all I can (a widow's mite). " Enclosed was \$100 — 'a mite'?

"After receiving your last letter I was inspired to

send this 70 cents which is all I have until I get my allowance. I promise to send more."

"Here's \$6 on faith — part of my telephone bill. I'm divorced and off third tithe from the Church. I'm going to try and make it with child support money and a part-time job. God help us to put priorities where they belong."

"I could hardly hold back the tears when reading your letter and though I don't have much, I'm sending all I have, \$7."

"In response to your Co-Worker Letter I'm sending \$2 — I'm sorry, but it's all I can spare. It's part of my gas money to get to work on but I know God will provide."

"Your urgent letter came today. Here's \$20. We will go without groceries this week. We hope all of God's people will be moved to send in all they can."

"As soon as I read your letter I decided to send you this money that I have been saving for a physical check-up which costs \$100. I feel fine and I feel sure that God has been seeing to that, so what better way to repay Him than to send the fee for His Work; I wish it were more."

"Here is \$400. We can wait a little longer for a new car. With all the troubles and/or sickness everywhere, people worried about jobs, children having trouble in schools — a person would suspect 'Jacob's trouble' is getting started in earnest."

"I'm sending this little nest egg (\$300) I had tucked away for the Feast of Tabernacles. God will provide that I not go emptyhanded."

Realize They Cannot Be Slack Now

"As a direct result of your letter I'm increasing my offering five fold."

"I have no income of my own, but God has blessed my husband's business so much (he knows God has done this because he allows me to send offerings) that he gave me much more to send in when he read of the urgent need."

"Your letter rattled me awake. I will not repeat that mistake."

"Our prayers are with you! We'll make it! I will pray harder now."

"God wants us to ask Him for help. God will answer and help and will move this Work forward."

"I send this money out of a feeling of urgency."

"I really had not realized the urgency of getting the Work finished."

"I know our prayers can be more urgent. I know that God will help us finish this Work. God help us to get the job well done."

"I read the letter several times and although I

(Continued on page 718)

OPEN FORUM

Editor's Note:

Mr. Ted Armstrong and the entire editorial staff of the Bulletin would like to express appreciation for all of the fine contributions to Open Forum we've been receiving over the past several weeks. Many have commented that this section of the Bulletin is becoming a valuable channel for the transmission and sharing of interesting and profitable ideas and information of every type.

PLEASE KEEP 'EM COMIN' IN!

MAKE-UP

Concerning the recent changes on the issue of make-up, some of us have been faced with certain difficulties arising from the *force* with which the original decision was proclaimed in 1955. Such terms as "thus sayeth the Lord," "Jesus Christ has spoken," "bound in heaven," etc., have given the impression that what we are now proclaiming is nothing less than a departure from what Christ had actually bound as a doctrine in heaven, and thus we may have created a credibility gap between the ministry and some members.

It might have been preferable to have included with the announcement a few remarks explaining how we now view such terms as "bound in heaven." In my opinion the matter can be explained as follows: First of all we cannot compare 1955 with 1974 because conditions have changed. It is easy to say that we have erred in judgment, but one has to bear in mind that make-up in the past has had a connotation that it no longer has, and this makes a difference between right and wrong, good and bad, approved and disapproved. Faced with a particular situation, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong did some research, the facts of which have not proven to be beyond question. The conclusion, however, ensured for our members an appearance that was regarded as "modest."

I do not wish to appear to be saying that this modest appearance of the members justified the above-mentioned terms biblically or doctrinally, or the way the scriptures were understood. But at least one can say in all honesty that the decision in 1955, despite its defects, was not antibiblical — which it would have been if it contradicted a clear command of God telling us to wear make-up.

Perhaps we ministers can learn a lesson from

this, namely not to be dogmatic over points which God himself is not dogmatic about, and to check, double- and triple-check that what we proclaim in our sermons as "from the word of God" in fact really is. In this case let past experience be our instructor.

— David P. Wainwright
Bricket Wood & Leeds, England

DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE

Since the study paper on divorce and remarriage which we put out just after the May conference did not cover the permissibility of divorce in the Old and New Testaments, I feel that a number of ministers still hold the view expressed in the old booklet, now withdrawn, that God nowhere permitted divorce, either in the Old Testament or in the New. The booklet stressed that it was only an annulment of an unbound marriage that was discussed in Deut. 24 and in Matt. 19:9, and not at all a divorce in the normal sense. In the following couple of paragraphs I would like to establish once and for all with cast-iron proof that both testaments allowed divorce in certain instances, and I adduce evidence from the Bible itself, without recourse to non-biblical writings, though they also would support the inescapable conclusion that divorce was allowed in both the Old and the New Testaments. I feel that this is something every minister should be aware of, and I submit it for possible inclusion in the ministerial bulletin for further discussion.

In Isaiah 50:1 the word "divorce," both in English and in Hebrew, is used in the sense of putting away a wife not on the wedding night but at a much later period when children have been born, long after the marriage has been established. The Hebrew word for "divorce" in this passage (*Kerithuth*) is the same word used in Deut. 24:1, thus establishing beyond doubt that our previous definition of divorce as putting away on the wedding night when the marriage had not yet been bound, cannot possibly stand.

Therefore, when we come to Matthew 19, we must accept that the Jews understood the word "divorce" in the sense of Isaiah 50:1. There was no question or discussion about the term "divorce" itself, but only about the grounds for divorce. Christ, therefore, in Matt. 19 is addressing himself to the question of divorce in the same sense. He

was saying not that Moses had allowed annulment of an unbound marriage for the hardness of their hearts, but that Moses had allowed divorce in the universally accepted sense. This, he explained, was not what God intended from the beginning — which does not make sense unless Moses had in fact permitted something that God had not intended from the beginning. The annulment of an unbound marriage has been right and acceptable at all times from creation.

We can safely conclude from this that the Old Testament did allow divorce, and that the words of Christ set aside the Old Testament provision for divorce, except for the cause of "fornication." Although there could be much discussion as to the exact application of this conclusion to modern-day problems, and the clarification of the word "fornication," the fact is beyond dispute that both the Old and the New Testaments do provide for divorce in certain circumstances.

— K. J. Stavrinides
Bricket Wood, England

OPEN LETTER TO A.C. STUDENTS & GRADS

Something has been bugging me for a long time! I'd like to get it off my chest. Maybe this can be an open letter to former students, graduates, current students *and* those thinking about going to Ambassador College...

In one way or another, I've heard the Ambassador degree and the training received "put down." Not a malicious faultfinding approach, but sort of the "You know, it didn't do much good for me" idea. I've heard, "I'm not trained to do anything," "What have I got to show for it," "what can I do if the Work doesn't hire me," etc., etc., etc. . . . garbage!

Let's put things in proper perspective — O.K.? How many interviews have you had where the personnel manager whips out the College-University Blue Book? Not being able to find Ambassador College in the listing informs you the interview is over, "Can't use you" he says. How often during the interviews have you been told, "No, we have no need for someone like yourself that's trainable and willing to work hard at being a GOOD employee"? When was the last time you were told, "I like your appearance, desire to work, sense of loyalty and fine recommendation but we don't have need for that type of person on our staff"? Have you had a prospective boss tell you, "I appreciate your desire to fit in and serve but we'd rather have someone that's always going to be fighting for more wages and fringe benefits"?

See the point I'm making? Why can't we get things in sharper focus? Why can't we see it for what it is? If we put into practice the lessons learned or to be learned at Ambassador College, we'll *stand out* in the labor force. If we are not successful, productive or hireable whose fault is it? The College's? The employer's or company? Oh, come on. . . it's our own!

The question then comes up, what can we do about it? In the immediate sense it would be great to *not* hear another comment made against the system. Let's accept the responsibility for proving and demonstrating that training has been and is paying dividends. That will take a little longer. We each have the responsibility, as a product or a dividend of Ambassador College training, for being several, or more, cuts above the average employee — in every way. It's no small task but we should recognize that's what is called for in our case.

Let's be energetically and enthusiastically about getting the job done. And for those of us that are privileged to be employed by the Work — no, I better not get started on that.

— Donald L. Miller
Vancouver Office Manager

THE "I WILL" ATTITUDE

As a deacon in the Worldwide Church of God who has the privilege of giving sermonettes, I found having the opportunity to read the *Bulletin* a real blessing — especially the "Open Forum" section — because for some reason it is more informal than the rest of the *Bulletin*, as though the writers were being completely open in saying what's on their minds and talking from the heart, just as we are encouraged to do at Spokesman's Club.

I have the greatest respect for all Ambassador College graduates, and having had that education, why not treat writing an article for "Open Forum," the *Good News*, *Plain Truth* or whatever as being a college assignment — you had to do it then, so why not now?

In his book entitled *I will*, the author, Mr. Ben Sweetland, tells us the first step to success is having an "I can" attitude — "I can do anything I set my mind to do." The author then goes on to show how we must change our "I can" attitude into an "I will" attitude — "I will be a success," "I will do this or that," etc.

I would like to remind everyone of John 15:16: "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, [remember the feeling of excitement, the joy of even being considered for the ministry] that you should go and bring forth fruit

[be successful] and that your fruit [your success] should remain: *THAT* whatsoever you shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you."

The word "that" in this verse implies a challenge; then why not ask God to help you write something from which all the readers can benefit, and in doing so add to your own success? (In connection with this, Romans 8:30-31 also applies to ministers of God.)

— Donald A. Mackay
Sudbury, Ontario, Canada

COMING OUT OF "DEEP FREEZE"

I am happy to be a member of God's Church and to feel *free* and alive. I do believe with all my heart that His Word *sets you free*. What I'm trying to express here is the feeling of emotional freedom I now have after having been loosed from a 12-year D & R situation. This feeling took time to dawn on me and I still feel as if I'm coming out of the feminine deep freeze in which I was suspended for those 12 years since becoming a "D & R case." Even to be categorized this way made me feel like some kind of frozen vegetable poked in a pigeon-hole, but I'm now thawing out emotionally and in personality — in other words gradually emerging from a feeling of repression and "burial."

I feel free to express myself *happily* instead of struggling to express myself. I'm finding out that life can be fun and I enjoy people in a way different from before. I just *feel* happy while before I *basically* did not. That is the difference. I'm now interested in living, in a different way, while before I felt I *had* to be interested, and it was a struggle. I simply feel changed all through and have a *changed outlook* as a result, no longer feeling caged and looking *out* on life as it went by. This change is still affecting my system. I feel as if all my cells are gradually turning around and marching the other way. In a way it's a disturbing feeling, but when I've finished settling down I know I'll be back to normal — in other words, being loosed instead of being bound.

There is a difference between being single and being singly bound, and only someone who has been in this situation can fully appreciate the relief resulting from the recent new understanding of God's views on marriage as this makes for a *whole* person emotionally and physically.

I'm not being negative about the situation I've been in but can look at it in a positive way. I've been in the Work for the last ten years and any sense of loss resulting from being a "D & R" has been made up for by the experiences, lessons and contact with God's Work and Way over those

years which only a situation like that could have provided. They are lessons personally and deeply learned. When I look back on the time since coming into God's Church it seems to have gone like a flash, but I remember when I looked *forward* in my life on first finding out I was a "D & R", that life seemed to stretch ahead like an eternity and I didn't know that I could exist for that long. When I found out I needed to separate from my "husband" it was just as if he had died. For example, I naturally started thinking along normal channels — we'd just begun the foundations of a house we planned to build on some land in the country — but all that had to be chopped completely out of my mind. Life came to an absolute standstill and a new life had to be constructed. The person was alive yet dead. There was a huge gulf and I was sitting on its edge till I could build some more life to fit around myself. This was when I became employed in the Work, and so my life gradually took shape again. But it was a *pushing* all the way. This in itself was a blessing. To have been hit with something like that at the beginning of becoming a Christian gave me a foundation for the future and I've never ceased to believe that it would all work out right in the end. I do believe that God expects us to expect Him to be kind — and He is!

— Pam Nielsen
CAD, Pasadena

UNBALANCED GROWTH IS DANGEROUS!

What are the grass-roots members talking about these days? What questions are they asking of one another? There is an area where understanding seems to be lacking on a very vital, still current issue. At get-togethers of brethren it goes something like this. "I don't see how — ever left the Church. Why, he used to stop in and have Bible studies with me until late at night. He was always so interested in the Bible." Or — "I can't understand how Mr. — could become deceived and go out of the Church. He preached such powerful sermons and helped so many people."

Such honest ignorance exists among faithful members of long standing. God's people don't doubt that those who went out are wrong and are deceived. We are kept informed of the progression of errors in their beliefs. But this does not satisfy the basic question — By what method or process did Satan lead away these people and deceive them? Did he strike at a weakness in the Church? A clever enemy would. Was it weakness in doctrine? Was it only certain weak members? Was it weakness in the spiritual growth pattern of those he overcame? If God's people don't understand

then they are also vulnerable to the great deceiver. We can't afford to be ignorant of his devices. What an opportunity to study his *modus operandi*! You pastors of the flock surely must have some valuable observations, which, if shared here in Open Forum would serve to edify the whole Church, and strengthen and solidify our guard against the evil one.

Mr. Larry Neff's treatise, "Satan's Master Plan," in the Sept. 11 Open Forum was a very discerning analysis of the cleverness and the aims of that plan. Mr. Jon Kurnik's short discourse on II Pet. 1:5-7, "Handling New Knowledge," in the same *Bulletin* describes the cunning snare the deceiver has used. I think sharing ideas such as these is a demonstration of unity of purpose and has a demoralizing effect on the common enemy.

Here is my personal observation. The search for knowledge is a way of life urged upon us as God's people — and rightly so. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hos. 4:6). And yet, "Knowledge puffs up but love edifies" (I Cor. 8:1). Now *love* qualifies by definition as *grace* when freely given to recipients who have done nothing to deserve it, e.g. wholeheartedly supporting the work of preaching the gospel. Moreover, "But grow in *grace*, and in the *knowledge* of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18).

Two walnuts may look perfectly similar before cracking their shells. One may have abnormal full growth of fruit inside. Yet the other may be fully grown and developed in one half while the other half is dried up and shriveled away to nothing.

From personal acquaintance with some who went out, and from literally play-by-play accounts in the many long member letters, it appears to me Satan got the advantage because of an unbalanced spiritual growth in some. Growth in *knowledge* (getting) was not balanced by a corresponding growth in *grace* (giving, loving, forgiving). The "edification side" was empty and swept and garnished (I Cor. 8:1; Matt. 12:44). Satan was able to puff up that void with vanity of the growth in knowledge. With this combination in the mind, the knowledge became twisted and perverted with human reason. Isn't that the same process by which Lucifer fell? Possessing great light, he was not satisfied to freely give that light in patient administration of God's plan. Instead he became puffed up with his mere possession of it to the point of rebellion. And aren't we in danger of falling into the same snare if we get eccentrically engrossed in our growth or possession of knowledge and neglect the essential balancing growth in *grace*?

Satan didn't strike at an obvious chink in the armor of Galatians 6. This army is well drilled in those defenses. Shouldn't we more thoroughly analyze our weakness where he breached our defenses and arm God's people against him?

— Dan Anderson
Long Beach, Calif.

Editor's Note:

We strongly second Mr. Anderson's request for more sharing of ministerial experiences in Open Forum.

GETTING BACK TO THE "BASICS"

Surely one of the most rewarding experiences for a minister of God's Church is the development of an area that has formerly had little growth. Over the past year just such an area has opened up to us in the southeast corner of British Columbia (actually an area about the size of New Hampshire and Vermont together). Little growth has occurred largely because no regular visiting or Bible study was possible until now.

While actually participating in this area (now mushrooming out with growth) over the past year, it vividly brings to reality Christ's statement of John 4:35: "... behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." Many of the people we are contacting have heard the *World Tomorrow* broadcast or taken the *Plain Truth* magazine for more years than some of us younger ministers have even been in God's Church! Though many are physically elderly, they are like little children asking the very basic and elementary questions we all asked at one time. It so clearly re-emphasizes to me the importance of the Biblical basics that have always been the very foundation of this Church — the truths that answer questions every thinking adult has ever asked about the present life and what the future is all about.

Surely even in our "established" churches that are largely composed of long-standing members who have known the basics for years, one of the greatest services we can give those people is to *renew* a "first love" in them for the principles they have long since discovered. Everyone likes to hear a "new thing," but the onus on us in the ministry should be to preach the same "old thing" in a new and creative way. Mr. Herbert Armstrong has done that for years! People who attend God's Church, whether the oldest members or the newest PM, whether from old church areas or the very newest, all have a common appreciation for our

(e) B efforts to make the basic biblical principles more easily understandable.

— Jon Kurnik
Penticton, B.C.

COUNSELING ABOUT 3RD TITHE YEAR

How should a minister counsel a member concerning whether he can afford to pay third tithe or not? Here is an approach that I have used that seems to be effective!

As many members are about to enter their third tithe year they take stock of their financial situation. Many determine ahead of time that it would be impossible for them to save third tithe. In other words they are not even going to try.

The problem with this reasoning is that in this inflationary world, irregardless of which financial income bracket we are in, we all live just barely within our means. In fact, those with larger incomes stand an even greater chance of being in debt because of greater expenses. So any one of us could claim that it would be impossible to give a third tenth of our income for the widows.

(e) Saving third tithe is an act of faith! Members on fixed incomes (widows, retired people, etc.) are most likely to need a releasing from saving third tithe. But what about the average member? God says prove me and see if I'll bless you (Mal. 3:10). That faith will never have a chance to be exercised; will never be proved if a person decides he is not able to save it before he even starts.

Anyone entering his third tithe year should be encouraged to at least give it a try. He could be given encouraging examples of others in worse predicaments than he who came out of their third tithe year much better off. He could be advised to take his situation to God on his knees and let God know he's stepping out on faith and requesting that God carry through His part of the promise.

After a few months the person's situation could be reevaluated and perhaps then it would be deemed better that he not pay a third tithe. But only after at least giving it a try. Even then, anyone not regularly paying third tithe should be encouraged to give to it as they can, as opposed to not giving at all.

— Roy Holladay
Norfolk & Richmond, Virginia

SUGGESTION FOR HELPING OUT THE "E" FUND

(e) Here's a suggestion concerning the Emergency Fund, which is quite low at this point.

One way in which we could beef up the "E" Fund is to encourage the brethren who have borrowed from it to *pay it back!* In my limited experi-

ence in the field ministry, I've known of some people who owe one hundred or more dollars to the "E" Fund, and have not as yet made any discernible effort to return the money. Granted, it is difficult to pay back a lump sum of money, but I feel they should be urged to repay it a little at a time, perhaps in increments of five dollars a month or so. This would be beneficial in two ways. First, it would return some of the monies owed to the "E" Fund. Secondly, it would be for the borrowers' own good — they would be building character by paying back a legal debt. I don't mean to imply that we should begin high-pressuring "E" Fund debtors who are out of a job because of the current recession, or who can't pay a loan back for a good reason. But I think some people, by our not encouraging that the loan be paid back within a reasonable amount of time, begin to take it for granted, and it hurts them personally in the long run. If these people had borrowed the money from a bank, two things would have happened: 1) the bank would have charged them interest and 2) expected monthly payments on the loan. God's Church does not charge interest, but why should we not expect even a small repayment on a monthly or bi-monthly basis?

It might be interesting to make known to the brethren how much money is owed to the "E" Fund. This might prompt some of them to start repayment.

— Vince Szymkowiak
Jacksonville, North Carolina

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT "LAW"

In the Greek "law" can mean *a working principle*. In Hebrew it means to teach or instruct. So — when did this working principle or teaching principle begin? At the garden of Eden? with Abraham? At Mt. Sinai? At the giving of the Old Covenant? If it began at any of these previous mentioned junctures of time, then it could easily have ended or ceased to exist at some juncture.

I John 4:8 & 16 says, "God is love." I John 5:3 says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." These scriptures tell us that the law of God, or the working principle of God's character — His entire mind and nature — has *always existed*, since God has always existed.

Since God has always existed and *will* always exist, then His law, His mind, His character and way of life will also always exist.

— Kelly Barfield
Lexington & Pikeville, Kentucky

ACTUALLY OVERHEARD

We went to the Bronx, N.Y. to visit my mother on Thanksgiving Day, and I would like to relate a short conversation that took place between my 4-year-old daughter, Angela, and my mother.

While they were sitting in the living room together my mother lit up a cigarette. Angela said, "God doesn't like people that smoke." My mother asked, "but what about me?" Angela replied, "Throw them in the garbage and don't buy any more."

— Curtis May

Norfolk & Richmond, Virginia

BOOK REVIEW

Man of Steel & Velvet by Aubrey P. Andelin, \$6.95 Hardback. Published by Pacific Press, Santa Barbara, P. O. Box 3738, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105.

I would like to recommend the above book as well worth your reading. It's a good helpful book for the ministry, but even more so for the men in your congregations. *Man of Steel & Velvet* describes in a simple and forthright way what it takes to be a man and how to be a man. The book deals with leadership and I feel it is a good *solid basic* book that would be helpful to any man. It goes right down the line teaching men how to be men and how to treat and deal those in his stewardship.

Mr. Andelin uses several chapters to expound the principle of the man of steel. By this he means the ideal man has the strength, endurance, and temperance of fine steel. He deals with masculinity, aggressiveness, decisiveness, etc. The velvet qualities include a man's gentleness, his tenderness, kindness, and patience. The man of velvet, as the author brings out, is devoted to the care and protection of women and children.

Some of the chapters on *steel* include Man's Basic Role; Man, the Guide; How to Lead Women and Children; Man, the Provider; Family Finances; Masculinity; Character; Self-Confidence; etc. The velvet chapters include Understanding Women; Gentleness; Tenderness; Affection; Attentiveness; Youthfulness; Humility; Refinement; etc.

Man of Steel & Velvet is easy to read, utilizes basic vocabulary, and yet is *inspiring* and *uplifting*. It automatically challenges the man who reads it to want to *do better* in every way.

Many book stores now carry this book. I suggest you scan it, perhaps buy it, read it, and then recommend it to other men if you personally feel it has merit. As an overall informative and instruc-

tive book for men I have yet to see its equal or master — save the Bible. If you know of one better, please let us know in Open Forum.

— Hugh Wilson
New Orleans West

REVIEW OF THE REVIEW OF THE REVIEW OF OPEN MARRIAGE

In a recent issue of the *Bulletin* (Nov. 6) exception was taken to a book review of *Open Marriage* by Gary Alexander (Aug. 27). I feel the reply to the review evidences two basic errors: failure to read Mr. Alexander's review carefully and failure to read carefully even the part read of *Open Marriage*.

The first error seems the cause of missing the disclaimer at the end of the review: "I don't agree with the entire book. . . . That's why I'm writing this review to the more mature audience that reads the Bulletin, rather than the general Church audience of *The Worldwide News*. . . . if a couple is incapable of discerning good from evil on their own, then they are not ready to cope with the responsibilities of an 'open marriage' at this time."

I can give only a few examples of the second error without writing another review of the book. One important point emphasized both in the review and in the first chapter of the book is the *importance* of marriage. Nena and George O'Neill, the authors of the book, are sold on marriage. They are alarmed at the shocking breakup of marriages in our modern society. They are trying to get at the causes of these failures. A few philosophical platitudes is plainly insufficient. Theirs is practical advice gleaned from the experiences of hundreds of marriages.

Three specific objections were made to the book. I think all three are the result of misunderstanding.

1. Far from rejecting the biblical pattern of marriage, the O'Neills wish the husband and wife to form a team — 1 + 1 — which equals *more than 2*: "Open marriage thus draws on the idea of synergy — that one plus one equals more than two, that the sum of the parts working together is greater than the sum of the parts working separately" (p. 41). The closed-marriage concept (remember, we're using the terms as *they* define them) eliminates all but couple experiences. The result is a narrowing of both their horizons as the discussion on pp. 41ff shows. "Becoming one flesh" does not mean that all diversity of ability, outlook, and personality has to be homogenized into one bland emulsion.

2. "Rewriting one's marriage contract" was

labeled as bad. But by rewriting the marriage contract, the O'Neills do *not* mean rewriting the Church of God wedding ceremony. They refer to such unspoken selfish restrictions as "Only the wife can ever do the shopping" or "The husband must always be strong; if he has problems, he must never communicate them to his wife, because to do so might make him vulnerable" or "all friends of the married couple must be *mutual* friends."

3. It is somehow considered bad for a woman to be free from bondage to her husband. Strange, but I've yet to meet a woman who likes enslavement, whether to her husband or anyone else. Too many men seem to feel the concept of male leadership is a license to be tyrant of the house. No man can respect his wife if she is incapable of making any decisions or having her own opinions. No woman can really love a man with the sergeant-major complex.

While we have a number of good publications on marriage, we have never claimed they were the sum total of everything you would ever need to know about the subject. They give the biblical guidelines and the philosophical background needed to understand marriage. But the philosophical concepts don't always automatically transform themselves into the practical advice needed in day-to-day living. *Open Marriage* for the most part operates on these same concepts but adds the sorely needed pragmatic dimension. Far from any ivory-tower, fluffy dreams of adolescent romance, they draw on the personal experiences of counseling hundreds of couples having marital troubles.

By the way, it seems appropriate to point out that Mr. Alexander, as Associate Editor of the *Plain Truth*, is not ignorant of our own publications. But can we ask our writers to draw only upon our own literature? The self-destructive effects of such intellectual incest is plainly evident. Likewise, we hope the field ministers have more to draw on for counseling than just the two monthly magazines and the several dozen booklets available.

It is the unfortunate truth that male chauvinists (to omit the customary porcine epithet) are not lacking in the Church. Too many starry-eyed couples still marry with the idea that all a wife needs to be happy is to stay barefoot and pregnant. But after the sixth winter and the fourth child, the frozen corns begin to hurt and the continual midnight feeding loses some of its romantic appeal. The habit of snapping to attention at the husband's appearance becomes difficult while

holding one child on the hip, having another clinging to the petticoats, and dragging a third out of the cupboard.

Should I stifle my wife's musical interests just because I don't know an arpeggio from an augmented seventh? Does she have to like C. S. Forester because I do? My wife is occasionally gone for several days to play for campaigns. The children and I manage to survive. Believe it or not, fathers are capable of learning which end the diaper goes on. Should I draw myself up to my full biblically based height of male domination, puff out my overpowering masculinity, and exhibit great leadership qualities by asserting the place of the woman is *only* in the home taking care of the little bra . . . , uh, kids?

Anyone who feels the meek, mousy-type homebody is the supreme ideal for a wife never knew Mrs. Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong very much respected her for having her own mind and her own interests. I don't mean to say that any woman whose only interest is the home and the family is therefore a poor wife. Many women do not want outside interests. But most feel frustrated and unfulfilled without something beyond the basic daily housework and homelife.

What about those hundreds of graduated AC coeds? You don't need an Ambassador College B.A. to cook steak and potatoes. Again, Mr. Armstrong has lamented the fact that so many well-qualified graduates consider housewifery the only worthwhile occupation.

Unfortunately, some have the favorite stereotypes so entrenched it takes a shock such as reading *Open Marriage* to shake them out of their comfortable rut. Whatever its failings — and it has a number — the book helps clear the air of cliches.

If I had had the opportunity to read this book — with the proper guidance — before marriage, I would have had a more practical outlook toward sharing life with another person. Some of the problems which inevitably come up could have been avoided.

Ultimately, the O'Neills are getting across the point that marriage requires an unselfish commitment from both parties. No matter how idealistic or converted one might be, none of us is that far removed from complete self-centeredness. This is fully recognized and beautifully summarized on pp. 84-87, in defining the "Unrealistic Expectations, Unreasonable Ideals, and Mythological Beliefs" of most marriages and the "Realistic Expectations" which give marriage maturity and solidarity.

Some people should flee from *Open Marriage*. They're not ready for it — because it takes a good deal more flexibility, trust, and responsibility than many wish to give. But those who are mature enough can gain a great deal of workable advice to enrich their marriage.

Of course, the woman of Proverbs 31 is far too "liberated" for some.

— Lester L. Grabbe
Theology Dept.
Pasadena

REFLECTIONS ON RETURNING TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

My move this summer to Eugene, Oregon, gave me the opportunity to, in effect, *change professions* — to make the transition from being a college instructor at Headquarters to resuming the duties of a full-time pastor of a good-sized church in the field. From the beginning of this experience, I was made keenly aware of the contrast and began making certain mental notes that I would like to share with you and all of my fellow ministers in the hope of better understanding and appreciating our mutual roles in God's Work.

In making such a move, I was immediately struck by the considerable change in *lifestyle* my family and I had undergone. By this, I don't mean or have reference to the Christian way of life as opposed to some other. I mean the lifestyle — the schedule, habits, advantages vs. disadvantages, helps opportunities (or the lack of them), daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly life experiences — of a field minister contrasted with that of a college teacher bearing the academic rank of Associate Professor working in the Department of Theology.

The first and most striking of these changes to me was that of the constantly fluid, regularly changing very public, 24-hour-a-day-on-call nature of the field minister's daily life. My life in the college had been comparatively well structured around a fairly fixed schedule of classes and counselings. I could look into an upcoming week and predict with some degree of certainty how that week would go. I usually arrived at work between eight and nine a.m. and could pretty well count on leaving the campus between five and six in the evening. Evening activities were the exception rather than the rule, and even these were of a planned and scheduled nature such as an Ambassador Club or college dance.

Not so the field! Here the exception appears at times to be the rule. There is no fixed schedule of member needs. Anointings need to be performed

when people are sick. Counselings are necessitated when problems arise, which is usually suddenly and without too much advance warning. The member wants *you!* — the minister — nobody else will do. And he wants you *now*, not later.

Don't misunderstand. These are not complaints, just observations that may help us understand and appreciate each other more. I know my respect for the field ministry, especially those fellows who have been laboring faithfully at this task for many long years, has soared since resuming these same duties and responsibilities. But we all need to understand that this kind of lifestyle demands a certain price of the man and his family who is living it. It takes its toll in many ways.

I'd say the minister's way of life has its counterparts in a few other occupations. Like a doctor, he is on call 24 hours a day. Like a traveling salesman, he spends a good part of every working day behind the wheel of an automobile and making presentations to various clients — not all of whom buy the product! Like a psychiatrist, he listens for long hours to many people's problems. Like a politician, he and his family lead a very public, fish-bowl-like existence with few moments of complete privacy.

In addition he may be the hero (or arch-enemy?!) of the local teen set and a terror on the basketball or racquetball courts, a cordial host and purveyor of hospitality, a public speaker with the incumbent burden of preparing frequent messages, and all around friend and brother of literally hundreds of people who look to him with a certain respect and admiration that he doesn't feel in the slightest deserving of. I guess it might be fairly said that a minister of God's Church must be a true *man for all seasons*.

The minister's lifestyle is an unusually demanding one in many respects. It has great rewards and satisfactions, as well as frequent frustrations and disappointments. It takes a "rare breed of cat," as we say, to get on top and stay on top of the highly flexible, fluid schedule and workload.

Another contrast that I was forced to make at once upon leaving my little niche at Headquarters was the lack of the many support services and helps that were available to me at Pasadena. Boy, how I miss Wendy Shew and her mile-a-minute typing, her ability to turn a *very* rough draft into an error-free (almost) masterpiece! But I shouldn't just single out Wendy. There was also Betty Potratz and Mrs. Ione Wade, and many other fine secretaries at Headquarters.

Of course they used nothing but the finest electric typewriters and have access to all of the latest

duplicating equipment and other business machines all of which greatly assist both the production and appearance of any written project. These things make a difference, believe me! By comparison, most of us are hammering away at 20-30 words per minute on a used portable and a big handful of strike-over paper or a bottle of correction fluid. And it takes *time* to crank out an article or report! I can figure that the average six- or eight-page report will take a minimum of a half a working day, as ridiculous as that might sound to a professional typist, what with corrections, rewrites, interruptions, phone calls, people who drop by, etc. A lengthy report or article would have to be an all day affair, which may be fine with everyone, but I know I'm going to have to *wrestle* with my schedule to get that kind of time.

To illustrate my point, I am now going to have to break this off at the end of only my second point to go get dressed for an evening visit at Junction City about 30 minutes away. But before I do, and before the point skips me, let me add that in addition to typists and secretaries, some of the helps not available to the minister include *receptionists* — pleasant, efficient little gals who *answer the phone all day long!*

My point here is just to mention how much these many services add to one's effectiveness and increase one's production. Stated differently, the absence of these services tends to hold down the output of the kind of articles the Bulletin really needs. It's still possible, of course, but it can seem like a major production when you have to do it from ground zero all by yourself.

A third difference between life at Pasadena and in the field and one with considerable ramifications, I'm sure, is the almost complete *absence of peer pressure from one's colleagues*. This is something I grew to deeply appreciate at the college which the local minister hardly has going for him at all.

Colleague pressure and influence has a very stimulating effect — it puts a real prod on a man to grow and produce. At the college, my fellow teachers and administrators were regularly taking additional classes and coursework, attending seminars and workshops in their fields as well as meetings of professional organizations, and going on to attain advance degrees and with them greater responsibility and higher academic rank. I would especially like to applaud the efforts of Dr. Mike Germano for encouraging this kind of professional self-improvement in the college — and for picking up the tab for the expenses!

But in the field ministry there is much less of

this. The local minister, for example, is often one of the few if not the only one in his congregation who is college educated. The deacons and local elders with whom he works seldom share his same perspective and cannot always be a source of the same kind of stimulus and prod of which I am speaking. Most of my experience in the field confirms my suspicion that the church pastor professionally is on a one-way street — giving out all the time without very much coming in. He has few experiences in a given year or season that really charge his batteries or put a prod on him from without.

I am reminded of the third chapter of Walter Guzzardi's book *The Young Executives* entitled "The Man and the House He Does Not Enter." The "house" Guzzardi has reference to is the house of education, and he faults the typical young executive for seldom going there. "He is completely 'job oriented' and 'result oriented,'" writes this author. "His intellect is narrow in range. . . . During the business day, of course, there is not time and not much occasion for that activity [learning]. 'There just isn't the time,' one young executive points out." Sounds a lot like most of us, doesn't it? ". . . it is as though, being drained of mental energy by his job, he deliberately turned his back on the kind of cultural activities that requires a flex of the intellectual muscles." All of which, Guzzardi charges, makes the young executive "a narrow man." Could the same things be said of many of us in the ministry for all of the same reasons? Do we fall into the same trap? I'm afraid so.

But now I've broadened the point of colleague pressure into the whole realm of educational and professional activities, which is still closely related and worth considering with regard to our field ministry. Simply stated, *you can't give out what you aren't taking in*. This is true of sermons, Bible studies, conversational topics, book reviews, and contributions to the Bulletin, which brings me to my final point or observation taken largely from the recent ministerial conference.

During that conference and its many workshop sessions, I was struck by the fact that in terms of *contributing to each other's* professional knowledge or expertise, (as opposed to what we were taught by the HQ evangelists, doctrinal research team, etc.) we were all very limited because *we all tended to say the same things*. As secretary for two of the workshops with the duty of taking notes on the proceedings this was especially evident.

The analogy that came to mind was that of any

professional convention. We were like auto mechanics at a national conflag all "talking shop." Each had had very similar experiences and sharing those experiences seemed to me at times like only "theme and variation." From the same pool of experiences, we drew many of the same conclusions. One workshop on healing or counseling was very much like another. *There was very little if any introduction of truly new information of an educational nature*, aside from those sources listed above. Every once in a while someone came up with a "helpful hint" or two, but in the main it seemed to this observer that we were standing in a hall of mirrors reflecting back to each other the same or very similar conclusions many times over. To me this is clear evidence that *we are not as a body learning much* ourselves that would help us to do our jobs better and that the processes of education are not operating as effectively as they should be among our ministry.

This is a strong charge, I realize. But in stating it I do not in the slightest mean to blame, criticize, or find fault with anyone, and I realize that steps are being taken by the MET staff to turn this around, but these are my honest feelings and observations in the matter and something I hope we will all be increasingly aware of and take steps to overcome.

And now that I have shared with all of you my observations, I feel compelled to offer a few suggestions that might help to correct some of these problems. That wasn't my original intention, but now that I have voiced my sentiments, it seems that I am duty-bound to provide some solutions, not just talk about the problems. So here goes:

One of the first suggestions I would have in connection with the above points is to *free up time for professional activity and self-improvement*. I mean build it right into your weekly schedule and don't let anything or anyone crowd it out on a regular basis!

To do this, let me suggest that you *avoid overscheduling*. Keep some free time in every week. I especially like to do so during morning hours when I'm fresh and alert. Other may be nightowls and prefer to burn the midnight oil. Whatever your habits, fight to preserve some precious, uninterrupted time for yourself. You need it!

Sermon preparation alone would require such time budgeting. Few if any of us can whip out a really good sermon on a Friday night. As Art Mocarow said on "The Sermon Trap" tape, this is something we should be working at all week long — but *when?* You won't have the time unless you claim it and fight to hold it. How many good books

stand unread right this moment on your bookshelves? When will you ever get the chance to read them unless you schedule the time to do so?

A point in this connection worth noting is that in order to do so, *you must give yourself permission to do so*. This is a psychological law that applies to almost everything. In order to think you must give yourself permission to think — and so for being good at anything. You must, or someone else must for you, give yourself permission to do the things you want to do or else you simply won't do them.

I cite this point because in the past I didn't feel that I had permission to spend much time in such activity as a field minister. Rather, I got the distinct impression that I should be putting in eight or ten or maybe even twelve-hour days doing the work of a minister — mostly visiting members and prospective members. Even sermon preparation was crowded out. To use Guzzardi's phrase, I was (or at least tried to be and thought I had to be) completely *job oriented*. And I didn't feel that I had permission to be or to do otherwise. Again, that is not an accusation at anyone. Maybe it was just my own hangup, but that's the way I felt about it.

Now having had the college experience I described above, I don't feel that way anymore and I have permission to feel and act otherwise. This is often a hard thing to give yourself, however, and I doubt that I would have done so as well outside the college environment.

Second, *tap into new sources of information*. I can think of no better way of doing so than to take a college course that might be available to you locally. Such a plunge will force you to buy a textbook or two — and read it! It will expose you to reading lists in the field. It will put a prod on you to keep at it if you are to pass the course. Further, it is an organized study program in a given field as opposed to a little reading here and there.

For openers, get a college catalogue from your local campus. Look it over. Is there anything there you could use? Anything you feel weak in? Anything that would help round you out? Take a look and find out!

Lacking this, spend some time browsing in the bookstores and libraries available to you. This will be a less systematized approach, perhaps, but far better than not doing so at all. Here again, many of us have access to fine college and university libraries. But do we ever use them? Go down and poke around and see what you can come up with. Sure there's a lot of junk, a lot of error, a lot of

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Ministerial Education & Training

HELPING OUR NEEDY BRETHREN

We in the ministry know the many blessings most of our brethren have experienced as a result of obeying God's financial laws. But as Jesus told His disciples, "you have the poor with you always..." (Mark 14:7). That certainly is true in God's Church today.

Local pastors know through experience natural concern for those brethren who do suffer economic setbacks.

When dollars grow short and needs grow long for certain church families, pastors sometimes find themselves carrying the weight of a modern-day Joseph in wanting to provide for his people.

Are solutions to economic problems experienced by local brethren merely queuing up in food lines for free distribution? We hope it won't come to that no matter how welcome such a solution might be.

Our present generation has to face the times it's living in. And physical care for brethren is an issue pastors are going to be more pre-occupied with as world economic conditions grow worse. Waiting for economic miracles to take place, no matter how much desired, is not an immediate answer.

Needy brethren are pushed by economic adversity to seek more solutions to daily problems, whether it's looking for a job, applying for a business loan or seeking the help of government agencies. However one views it, practical information is daily growing more complex.

How can local pastors increase their expertise in counseling with brethren about such needs? Are there ready formulas pastors can draw from in helping brethren find employment or guiding widows and poor families to the right relief agencies? Or is it even the responsibility of pastors to do so, one might ask.

Without being overly-semantic, "caring" for the flock means more than being merely "informed" that brethren are in need and then merely "comforting" them without the extended hand of assistance. This in no way implies pastors haven't extended help. But how much can pastors undertake in this one area alone when other responsibilities must imperatively be met?

Tooling up for economic action at the local level might be the answer. It is only practical that we do what is necessary within reach of what is at hand.

Therefore, due to the pastor's daily pre-occupations in other spiritual matters, the choice of a qualified local man to direct the day-to-day help for needy brethren might be worth considering.

Sometimes the proper solution to any one problem is to wait for "necessity" to reveal which "invention" should be used. Obviously, if pastors, as a rule, can't devote more time in helping needy brethren in economic areas, then a qualified assistant very well could. An untiring man who has people's welfare at heart, without himself seeking the approbation of others, could effectively guide widows, orphans and the poor to proper solutions to their problems.

Helping the unemployed find work, directing timid widows to governmental agencies, even offering proper encouragement for some to enter into small businesses — all can be done by the assistant described above.

People don't initially need "high-powered" advice in taking necessary steps towards solving problems. One who can provide simple, but accurate information in a particular area of employment, business or social service, can be of real service to brethren and pastors. Mostly it requires an informed person to merely guide people to the proper agency. That, in turn, provides the necessary and accurate knowledge to be acted upon by the inquirer himself.

That would avoid anyone connected with the Church offering wrong advice. Again, the kind of man we are discussing is one who "informs" and "refers," not "advises," and with attending humility in knowing the difference between the two. We all know that even misinformation can lead to personal disaster for individuals. But what's "disastrous" about telling brethren where to go for small-business loans, or what office to apply to for college scholarships, or where to obtain summer employment — or to pass on, "I just heard of a job you might be interested in."

This is precisely what Human Resources tries to do at Headquarters. Local assistants, armed with ample, accurate information can be a boon to the local pastor in sharing his responsibilities of caring for the flock.

Not intending to push some program upon local pastors, but rather wanting to help in every way we can, the following suggestions are offered.

Every congregation could have a capable man chosen by the local pastor to closely work with

him in directing a program for informing and providing assistance to those in economic stress.

For the sake of convenience let's identify this man as a "local representative."

What qualification should pastors consider in selecting such a representative? Generally, representatives should be chosen from highly esteemed laymen in a congregation. Of course that wouldn't exclude him being either a deacon or local elder. But he doesn't *have* to be ordained. There are many other things he doesn't have to be, but let's remember what he should be.

Preferably a local representative should be an experienced businessman. That means he probably will be in his middle thirties at least. By "business," we mean one who busies himself in the matter of economic productivity with resulting, measurable success. He could be in business for himself or a good worker for another. He could be a teacher — one who seeks out knowledge and untiringly disseminates it to others for *their* benefit and reward.

The local representative should have a flair for economics. His mind is orderly and functional, leading to quick results. He must be untiring, patiently listening to people's needs and guiding them to proper channels of help. Maybe he has a job or business that allows him to spend extra hours doing research, making contacts, or helping widows applying for Social Security or Welfare assistance.

The caliber of man we have in mind is one who works independently without being aloof or implacable. He should be extremely cordial, sympathetic and courteous. Cooperating with others is a major consideration.

The more education the local representative has the better, as long as it doesn't become a barrier between people and their needs. If he writes well, speaks well and reads profusely, then he is able to educate himself without needing formal training. Regardless of how much he should know or doesn't know, what he *does* know has to be "rounded off" with practical mindedness.

An extra caution in selecting the right man is not to choose one who necessarily looks like a Bernard Baruch or has the wit of a Paul Getty. The flamboyant, overly-charismatic, horn tooters, egotists and exhibitionists should, of course, be omitted in selecting the proper person. It's a matter of passing up "the most likely to succeed" for the "little Davids." Humility is the local representative's greatest spiritual qualification.

After a local representative is selected (it is

hoped each congregation is blessed with one), what is the next step of organization?

There are at least two approaches that can be taken in organizing an "economic program" at the local level.

One, pastors could summarize what has already been done at the local level in areas of economic help to brethren. (We understand pastors may have effective programs in force already.) Along with this summary, further recommendations could be sent to Headquarters for evaluation with a resulting, uniform program to, in turn, be carried out by pastors in each church area.

A second approach would be for each pastor to tailor his own program to fit the particular needs of a given church area. Such a program would be built on a trial-and-error experiment with results co-ordinated at Headquarters for goals towards uniformity.

Our purpose here is not to necessarily propose an arbitrary program, but to present ideas that might prove profitable for each church area.

A *third* approach might be a combination of the first two.

Each local pastor could initiate an immediate program built upon what has been effectively accomplished already. Pastors and local representatives could inaugurate whatever expertise is available as long as it performs proper solutions to needs as they arise.

At present a pilot program for determining the effectiveness of representatives at the local level has already been initiated in five church areas. These churches were selected according to the largest, total number of widows within a given, geographical area. Such a pilot program offers a mutual study of what local pastors are doing to alleviate the needs of widows or poor families and what Human Resources can offer through its services.

The results of the pilot study will be evaluated and released to all church areas as soon as feasible.

Dave Albert, pastor of the Eugene, Oregon church sent us a memo illustrating what was done to help one unemployed member who wanted to improve his job potential.

Following are excerpts from that report, emphasizing significant steps a local pastor or local representative can take in assisting church members in their economic problems.

The Inspiring Example of John McNatt

"I'd like to take the last few minutes of this 'office-day' Monday to recount the inspiring story of one of our local members who has made some significant strides in self-improvement, and who

dang illustrates what can be done in the area of developing human resources and potential.

"I don't think he'd mind my mentioning that when I came into this area this summer, John McNatt was on unemployment and welfare having lost another low-paying job. In time he even lost the unemployment money and had to subsist with his wife and two children, the most recent of which was born this summer, on welfare and food-stamps. The future did not look too promising for this household head in his mid-twenties with only a high school education and very little good job experience.

"But John seemed to have a spark of promise, so I suggested that he check into the educational opportunities at our fine local community college. I urged him to contact the office of admissions for a catalogue of classes and to see the financial aids officer for information regarding financial assistance — and then to bring the whole bundle back to me so we could look it over.

logi "As I suspected, the catalogue contained descriptions of many strong vocational education courses, any one of which could help a man secure employment and earn a good living. John likes the looks of a security guard training program so we began at once filling out the necessary application forms and aid requests.

"We applied for both federal and state assistance. The federal program is called the Basic Education Opportunity Grant (or BEOG) and is designed to give grants in aid, not loans, to needy and deserving students. It seems to be awarded on the basis of financial need, not academic scholarship, athletics, etc.

"As it worked out, we were too late to receive any state funds, but the BEOG program granted John about \$300 per quarter or a much-appreciated \$900 per school year! This was enough to pay for the tuition, book fees and related school expenses and enable him to start his studies.

"Things have progressed well from there. Understandably, John's study skills were a bit rusty, but he applied himself and has come up with some very respectable grades on all of his courses thus far maintaining about a 'B' average. He is very excited about his program which has greatly helped his self-esteem, and his wife has new respect for him, too!

"But will all of this put bread and butter on the table? Admittedly, John is still on welfare, but now there's fresh hope to replace some of the discouragement and despair of the past.

"The real breakthrough came a couple of weeks ago, however, when the president of a security and loss prevention firm from Portland came down to

interview the men in John's class. He took them out to lunch, and John got to talk with him at length. The results? The company president made John a job offer *effective immediately* if he wanted to go to work for him!

"What a switch! Instead of having to search for work, often to be turned down because of the lack of experience and training, here John is receiving a job offer from the company president — all because he was in a vocational training program! Needless to say, John is elated, but he wasn't too sure that he wanted to quit college and go to work right away. It seemed a lot wiser to at least finish the quarter of schooling and get the course credits, and John still holds open the possibility of going to school a second quarter to be even better prepared for employment. Now he has before him a couple of pleasant and profitable alternatives from which to choose — not bad for a man who only recently began cracking the books!"

We feel that what has been done in John McNatt's life can be multiplied many times over in other lives of economically-distressed brethren. There are many programs similar to BEOG mentioned in the above report. As pastors and local representatives tap these sources of wealth, a new, vibrant sense of worth and accomplishment will pervade the lives of many such recipients as John McNatt. Not to mention what sense of accomplishment the pastor and his congregation will feel.

In the meantime, Human Resources will be glad to offer any assistance it can to any requesting either a suggested local program and its administration, or instruments of information local representatives could draw from in passing on helpful information to brethren.

You as a local pastor can help now! If you have incidents such as Dave Albert reported, please feel free to pass them on to us. We will in turn see that it is effectively used in the *Bulletin*, *The Worldwide News*, or Human Resources' services.

— HUMAN RESOURCES
INFORMATION CENTER

OPEN FORUM

(Continued from page 714)

pseudo-scientific nonsense, but there's a lot of valuable information, too, and you can separate the wheat from the chaff. Even exposure to commonly held errors is not altogether bad. We need to know how people think so as to be able to reach them.

Buy some books. That's always a good incentive to read them. Read them. Mark them. Use them. Feed on them. *Get something new coming in!* Something relevant, interesting, educational, profitable. Don't let your brain go to sleep!

Finally, *let's put a prod on one another every way we can!* Let's make the effort to keep in touch with each other by phone, by mail, by occasional visits to see one another, and certainly by this Bulletin that we all have access to! We *need* each other's support and prodding. Let's give it to each other!

If we have put forth the effort to learn new and important things, let's *share the results* with each other. To me, the "Open Forum" section of the Bulletin is the ideal place to do so. It shouldn't go begging for contributions if we are all doing our part. Seeing other guys take real strides forward in professional self-improvement should put a prod on all of us to do the same.

That's all for now. Thanks again for the opportunity to "sound off" on these issues that concern us all!

— Dave Albert
Eugene, Oregon

LETTER COMMENTS

(Continued from page 704)

realized that we all have the dire circumstances through which the Work has been struggling, the cares of just going to work and trying to budget (with the inflation) have kept me occupied both physically and mentally. This reminder was good since the inclination was to think that since the cutbacks that were made recently, the general atmosphere was leveling off."

"Thanks for the much needed prod. I need to get on my knees more often praying for the Work. It won't get done unless we get behind it and push."

"Thanks for the recent prod. Stay on the line — the vice is tightening. There can be no 99% Christians. Total victory takes total effort."

"I pray to the Father daily that you will not grow weary, nor will God stop the Work, if everyone will put their shoulder to the wheel and their knees on the floor then this Work will be finished. God promised."

"Stay strong for we are with you. Although you have never shook my hand I feel you are a part of my family. It will be nice when we are in God's family. We'll not worry about problems such as in these days."

"I write with an apology and shame for I haven't lived up to my part at all. Your letter has inspired me to try harder and endure more. I'm cheering you with my eyes full of tears."

"Your letter struck me with the realization that the age is drawing to a close much faster than I thought. Maybe God is trying to tell us to gear up for that final push before the violent persecution begins. Don't hesitate to do whatever is necessary for the Work."

"I hope your letter will stir more people into seeing our great goal and get off Satan's bandwagon and put their money where it will do some good. The thousands spent this month for trinkets could surely get us over the hump."

"I knew things were bad, but now it really hit my blockhead. I'm moved to 100% backing in moral support, financial help, prayer and fasting and I will sacrifice more."

"Your letter made me cry and moved me to remember I had some savings bonds I was saving for my daughter. I decided to cash them and send you the money."

"I've been out of work for two months and this money is from my wife doing housework. We will do more fasting and praying — we're really, really sorry before God and will really cry out to God to get His message out to this dying world."

"I send you this \$10 which I can't really afford to send on the one hand, on the other hand I must and will always be loyal to God, even if it means going hungry."

"You're in my prayers always. Here's some cash, too. Ready for the sale of our homes yet? If so just let me know."

Call a Special Fast?

"If there were enough 'afflicted souls' and prayers maybe another miracle from God would occur."

"I hope we can declare a Church-wide fast soon for the spiritual and economic good of God's Church."

"Why not call a special fast — fasting together in times of crisis seems much better and God has answered before when the Work was in trouble. I will continue to pray more fervently than ever."

The Sum of It All

"Please don't 'over worry.' This is the Work of the living God and *nothing* in this world can hold it back. God's people have *never* let you down in the past and we will not let you down now."