

The Bulletin



of the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College

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Herbert W. Armstrong UPDATE

Editor's Note: We are reproducing for the interest of our readers an article which appeared in the NASSAU GUARDIAN following one of Mr. Armstrong's public lectures in the Bahamas. The article itself is quite a witness in that it really tells it like it was, quoting extensively from Mr. Armstrong's talk.

6—NASSAU GUARDIAN, Monday, March 1, 1976

Lack of peace: Human nature to blame — Dr. Armstrong

Noting that in a world with so many scientific and material accomplishments there is no peace, Dr. Herbert W. Armstrong questioned the reason for this lack of peace, and placed the blame on human nature.

Dr. Armstrong, the head of the Worldwide Church of God, made these statements at his public lecture which was one of two he gave addressing himself to "The World Tomorrow."

Dr. Armstrong described human nature as "vanity, lust and greed, competition and strife, resentment of authority over us and revenge. This is the way we human beings have been living on earth," he said.

Recapping the world today in which he saw crime and violence, corruption in governments and abject poverty, Dr. Armstrong noted that man has created such awesome weapons that used once, would completely annihilate the earth's population 50 times over. He said that conditions in the world were getting so bad and the efforts of the League of Nations and the United Nations so fruitless that it would take an "Unseen hand from someplace" to intervene in world affairs.

"Our first parents did not believe what God

began to teach them from the day they were created," he said. "God said to Adam and Eve, 'You are mortal and you will die if you go the wrong way.' Satan said, 'Now you know better than that! . . . how do you know? You only have God's word,' and so they began to doubt.

"Jesus came 4,000 years later. There were many who believed on Him, but few believed what He



COURTESY VISIT — During his recent visit to the Bahamas, Dr. Herbert W. Armstrong

paid a courtesy call on Governor General, Sir Milo Butler. Here he greets Sir Milo.

Photo — Nassau Guardian

said. After 3½ years of teaching on earth, there were only 120 who really believed Jesus and still followed Him."

Dr. Armstrong told the hundreds of Bahamians who attended the lecture that the Bible explained what had happened and why there were so many problems and the blame was placed on human nature. "Few people know where human nature originated and what it is," he said. "They think we are born with it; that the God of love created us with a spirit of jealousy and envy, lust and greed. Does that sound like God?"

"Jesus Christ brought a message from God the Father; a message for mankind. He was crucified in 31 A.D. and the Church was founded that same year. Another Church was founded in 33 A.D., which became quite great. About 68 A.D. the Apostle Paul wrote to the Church in Galatia chiding them for having so soon turned to another Gospel. The message, the true message of God, at that point, was sabotaged and it was not preached in the world for 18½ centuries."

The church leader said that when he first began to study the Bible 49 years ago he came across the text of Romans 6:23 which states, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Dr. Armstrong said that he was amazed by this because he had been taught in Sunday School that the wages of sin was eternal life in hell fire. He said that he had been taught that he had an immortal soul but the Bible plainly stated that "The soul that sinneth, it shall surely die."

Dr. Armstrong explained that God had said to Adam and Eve that if they took of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil they would surely die but that they did not believe Him. Satan told them that they were immortal souls and they would not die and they believed him. Thousands of people still believe him, he said. "But you do not have to take my word, I invite you to look into the Bible for yourselves."

Dr. Armstrong pointed out that "Elohim" was the Hebrew word for God — meaning more than one person. He said that there was only one God, but more than one being in it — a family called God that there was the Father and that Jesus was the Son. He stated further that the Church, according to the Scriptures will marry Christ at His second coming and be born into the family of God.

"When God created the earth it was perfect and all the angels shouted for joy," he said. "God put the angels here to administer His Government. This Government is based on love which is simply

The Bulletin



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EDITOR IN CHIEF

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

EDITOR

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG

DIRECTOR OF CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

RONALD L. DART

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MANAGING EDITOR

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SENIOR EDITORS

C. WAYNE COLE, HERMAN L. HOEH,

BRIAN KNOWLES

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outgoing concern for others. As long as this law was upheld, there was peace on earth, but then a rebellion set in. The Bible reveals that the angels have personalities, and stupendous intellectual capabilities and possess the power to choose. They used their minds to make wrong decisions and rejected the Government of God.

"After the angels disobeyed God, He created man for the purpose of restoring the government of God, and because the government of God is not on this earth now — that is the reason for all the troubles on this earth today. Call it human nature! It is all the same."

Dr. Armstrong said that God had created man in his own form and shape but that God was composed of Spirit and man of matter. "He doesn't look like us for one reason," he said. "We came in colours and perhaps the reason is that there is beauty in variety." He agreed that "Black was beautiful," but said that there was also beauty in the white, brown, yellow and all the colours of the nations of the earth. However, he said that some day soon we were going to look like God — a face that shines like the sun and bodies composed of spirit.

Referring to the article in The Tribune of Feb-
(Continued on page 108)

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

Herbert W. Armstrong
President and Pastor

Garner Ted Armstrong
Executive Vice-President

April 5, 1976

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

GREETINGS! I have just this moment arrived back in Pasadena following what I felt was a very successful campaign in Cleveland, Ohio.

A special thanks to all of the ministers who came to the campaign there, and most especially to all of the local pastors and other people who worked so hard to make the campaign a success and our stay such a pleasant and effortless one.

Another special thanks to all of the MANY of you who have written very enthusiastic letters concerning my "State of the Work" message of a few weeks ago, now having been heard by all of the local pastors throughout the world.

As no other event in recent years, this new surge forward for God's Work has triggered an enormous amount of enthusiasm and response from the lay members and the ministers alike, and I especially appreciate the many heartfelt letters of personal encouragement from so many who kept encouraging me to remain firm in my resolves and to continue "right on" with pursuing the goals we had set.

Once again, I want to emphasize that by no means do I intend departing from the broad avenues of communication laterally which we have come to so appreciate and enjoy throughout the ministry.

On the other hand, it is time and well past time that many of our senior pastors who have been faithfully serving in the field (for up to 20 years in some few cases) receive not only the grateful thanks and recognition they so richly deserve from their fellow ministers, but are designated as Senior Pastors. I want to encourage the many dozens of you younger and newer men to rely upon the wide range of experience that is available to you from the Senior Pastors.

I want to emphasize once again that loyalty is a two-way street. We will expect the fullest cooperation and loyalty all the way up and down the line in the entirety of the structure of Christ's ministry, and I know we shall have it. Roughly, then, the plan as we presently envision it is to designate a large number of men (to be announced upon the finalization of studies and lengthy talks presently under way at Headquarters) as Senior Pastors over several

of the local congregations in their areas. Then, a much smaller group of men will be designated as "Area Coordinators" whose primary function (in addition to pastoring their own local church) will be to keep in close touch, as required and necessary, with each of the Senior Pastors in a given area. In this fashion, by creating two separate levels for the purpose, primarily, of COMMUNICATION--communication in BOTH DIRECTIONS--Mr. Ronald Dart's job will be made much simpler here at Headquarters.

By no means will this imply plunging into an immediate series of many conferences, creating a heightened amount of travel, or substituting the warm and friendly lateral communication we presently enjoy throughout God's ministry for a rigid structure which stifles the individual in the local pastorate, requiring of him "clearance" through at least two bottlenecks prior to obtaining permission for making a telephone call or writing a letter to Headquarters.

I hope I am not being overly cautious in making these explanations; I merely want to reassure all those who may have felt "turned off" by situations in the past which seemed to stifle individual communication and personal initiative, and to reassure all of you that the restructuring of the ministry is for the purpose of very greatly improving our efficiency and of giving that feeling of security and approval to so many local pastors who have felt as if they were living in an area of uncertainty and indecision from time to time.

Mr. Dart should be in Headquarters by the time I arrive (I am dictating this on the way from the airport to the campus after having arrived at Van Nuys from Cleveland) and we will plunge immediately into additional talks on the whole situation tomorrow morning.

I expect to be going over a sizeable list of new radio and television availabilities with Henry Cornwall during the first few days of this week, and will announce in the "Personal" and via articles in the WN as in these pages any new stations obtained which, I hope, will include quite a number where we have local churches.

I hope no one misunderstood the article in the WN concerning the statement that this Work ought to be "Number One." Even though H.M.S. Richards broadcasts on 1,900 radio stations, you must remember that in many of these cases the programs may be only 15 minutes in duration and dozens of the stations may be broadcasting over 250 or 500 watts only once per week. There are several very accurate measurements by which we can determine whether or not we are in fact first in radio broadcasting; by determining the number of watts of power utilized, the size of the "markets" reached by various electronic media and the demographics involved in determining the size of the audience reached by any one particular station, the frequency of the program, the length of the broadcast, the type of reception in given areas, etc., etc.

However, I sincerely hope we can ultimately become "Number One"

in ALL categories! It will take time--it will not happen immediately. As we are making streamlining and efficiency changes wherever we can find ways and means of doing so, we are very much sensitive to the needs of focusing our efforts into the primary purpose of preaching the gospel of the kingdom as a witness and a warning to all nations--and the primary consideration will be radio and television time, as well as continuing to upgrade both the quality and the effectiveness of The PLAIN TRUTH and the GOOD NEWS magazines.

By now you all know that we have rescheduled the Conference for May 18-20. This will allow all of the pastors of churches to use Sunday, May 16, for travel to Headquarters, being here for Commencement Exercises on Monday and ready to attend the opening session of the Conference on Tuesday morning. Plenary sessions will continue through Wednesday and Thursday, with Friday designated another travel day for those who must return to their pastorates prior to the weekly Sabbath.

Again let me emphasize that ALL ministers throughout the entirety of the Church worldwide are MORE than welcome to attend the upcoming Conference; however, we can defray the expenses of pastors of churches only. I understand there may be methods whereby some of our men in the midwestern and the eastern areas could get together as a group traveling to a central city (such as Chicago) and arranging either a charter flight or a special group rate which might provide them with the leeway to bring their wives and/or Associate or Assistant Pastors who might not otherwise be able to attend.

I want to especially stress that all wives are especially welcome and we hope as many as possible of you will be able to afford to bring your wives. As you know, Mr. Bill Evans and others at Headquarters will be more than glad to assist in any way possible in obtaining temporary housing for you at no cost wherever this can be worked out.

I hope you will especially urge all the Local Elders not in our employ to come to the Conference if it is at all feasible with regard to their jobs, families and responsibilities.

Though we have delayed the Conference a little bit in order to give Mr. Dart and many of the fellows here at Headquarters a little additional time for planning, I should imagine that we will have to wait until Conference time to make a number of additional announcements, and of course there is always the excitement after the time of the Spring festival and at Conference time as it is designated this year, of new assignments, new ordinations, and new responsibilities.

An idea I discussed with Greg Sargent, Dave Treybig and Al Foy at the breakfast table in Cleveland this morning might be worth passing on to you: I had thought it may make some of the sermons we send out from Headquarters far more effective if we could investigate the costs of video taping the sermons on the

small cassettes and sending them out--even if we produce a limited number which could be sent from church area to church area--not necessarily played universally on the same Sabbath, thus increasing the effect of the sermons from Headquarters by providing video monitors at both ends of the hall for crowds up to several hundred people who then see a live sermon taped from Headquarters.

As you know, I intend doing quite a number of television programs in the future which can be shown on our weekly television outlets as well as "specials" purchased in prime time on various stations around the country during the summer months or other off times when such slots on television may be available.

Another idea I was discussing with them I would like to relate: For some time we have thought that it might be helpful if we could call upon some of the theology faculty at both of the colleges and perhaps designate one or two individuals to correlate the material to provide regular outlines of one or two sermon topics in each issue of the Bulletin which could be used if any of you local pastors so choose.

If you are like the average person, you probably find yourself wondering at a very late moment prior to the Sabbath services, "What will I preach about today?" The answer to that question USUALLY comes as a result of various attitude problems within the church, various counseling sessions or difficulties you have encountered in the last week or two, or questions which may have arisen in Bible Study.

Thus, it is safe to say that at least in many cases the local pastors may find themselves preaching throughout MOST of the year "attitude conditioning" type of sermons where they are dealing with the way people ought to act; the way they should respond; their devotion and attention to the work going out from Headquarters, and the like. All of this is GOOD if it is in a right balance and is offset by the continual preaching of the strong meat that is needful for solid Christian growth.

For example: How long has it been since you have preached a sermon on the 10 commandments before Moses? What about sermons such as law and grace, the Sabbath, the annual Holy Days, PROVING why we keep the Passover on the 14th of Nisan, the inspiration of the writings of the Apostle Paul, the judgment, the immortality of the soul, the inspiration of scripture, the veracity of prophecy, the truth about Israel, or other such fundamental subjects which we usually feel are covered by our booklets and articles?

Many of us run the risk of assuming, since we "learned all these things in college," or since we have a well marked Bible and many of these subjects seem like closed issues with us, that our audience is far more intellectual and educated than it truly is. We have to constantly remind ourselves that there is an ongoing metamorphosis in new people coming in, youngsters growing up who reach new plateaus of an awareness with each passing month, people

who move from place to place, and the constant, subtle change in any local congregation.

Further, though you preach sermons on any given biblical topics, you cannot assume that 1) every member of your congregation heard it the same way; 2) those who heard it the same way understood it the same way; 3) those who understood it the same way understood it the way you intended it; and 4) those who understood it the way you intended it really got everything you had to say.

Obviously, there are as many varying degrees of comprehension and understanding of any given sermon as there are people to sit in the audience and receive it. It takes a good deal of the "self start" personal drive in our makeup to force us to plunge into a topic about which we are not personally excited! Oftentimes it seems a dull and tiresome task to "resurrect" scriptures which have long since been thoroughly understood and tucked away in our memory and are therefore no longer exciting to us--but nevertheless this is what is very sincerely needful for all of God's people! I have received over the course of the last months and years many a letter from a local lay member who was deeply desirous of hearing more of the strong meat from the Bible, and less of the philosophical approach or lessons about foreign religions, or the various pet peeves or problems of the local pastor. While these letters have been very decidedly few in number, I find when talking to some of you local pastors personally that you all have very similar problems--and I feel this is a real need in the Church so I thought I would take this opportunity to mention it. At any rate, I am going to proceed to enlist the help of some of our Theology faculty in providing that service in the Bulletin from hence forward. This is by no means an edict that you MUST preach the materials which will be presented, but is a service to the local pastors, providing them with thorough biblical outlines of topics which can be very helpful to the local congregations.

Additionally, please view this as an official announcement that we do solicit sermon outlines from everyone of you in the field at any time you desire to send them in! In so doing, even if you ask your wife or some other person in the congregation to take a fairly comprehensive outline of any particular sermon over which you are especially concerned, and into which you have poured a considerable amount of research, we will be more than happy to receive it. In this way, we will have an immediate reservoir of excellent topical material from which to select various sermon outlines which could be disseminated to you all.

In any given week, I am sure there are literally hundreds of very fine sermons which are being preached which are meticulously going through scriptures and which would be very inspirational and helpful to all. So, even though I will enlist the aid of our Theology faculty, I want to also harness the entirety of the ministry together in providing useful ideas and sermon topics for each other!

Let's not wait another six months or so on a second announcement on this--we sincerely hope to hear from a large number of you very soon with some comprehensive outlines which you feel would be helpful to your fellow ministers everywhere. Send all such outlines to Richard Sedliacik, Managing Editor of the Bulletin.

The enthusiasm over the Y.O.U. program is at an all-time fever pitch just now, and especially in the immediate forefront of the upcoming National Basketball Tournament. The following material I have read thoroughly and approved concerning Y.O.U. and I hope all of you will very carefully read every line and make special announcements in your local church areas concerning the new method we are presenting to all of the young people in the Church for the funding of the Y.O.U. projects.

Y.O.U. has just celebrated its first anniversary! In the last year it has accomplished more than any of us even remotely expected. In one year we've had National Basketball and Volleyball tournaments, a National Talent Contest, Photo Contest, and Youth Day at the Feast of Tabernacles. Many young lives have been inspired and changed and many more are being benefitted by these opportunities. (See the letter excerpts in this Bulletin.)

I want to thank each of you men for the enthusiastic support you have given the program over this last year. Without your support in sermons, sermonettes, local activities and announcements, the program could not have become the success that it is. I know many of you have put in countless hours working with and developing the program in your areas, which is greatly appreciated by us at H.Q.

Unfortunately, the program has operated for a full year now without any budget. It has existed off funds it has generated, borrowed money, money "bummed" from other departments, and fund raising projects in local areas. The time has come to change that. Y.O.U. must now have its own budget.

The procedure we are using to set up that budget is somewhat unique. We want to use contributions which come in from the youth themselves to finance youth programs! These programs will not only include current Y.O.U. activities, but in the future will also include Sabbath activities for youth and other worthwhile programs.

Since we feel the youth program is a definite need, we have to finance it in some way, and whether we do it from the general operating fund or from youth contributions is simply a matter of semantics--all donations beyond what is needed for the program will remain in the general fund.

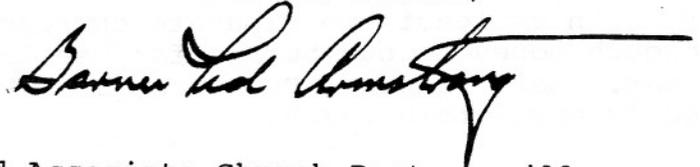
We feel there are several reasons for financing the program this way. One main reason is that it will instill in our youth the habit of giving to the Work at a young age--a habit which will not easily be broken. Another major reason is that in this way we do not have to draw off funds desperately needed for other aspects

of the Work to support Y.O.U. Thirdly, the youth will place much more value on the program if they can build it and support it themselves.

We are including in this Bulletin a copy of a letter to be sent to all church families with teenagers which discusses plans for Y.O.U. Please read it carefully. Your enthusiastic support of this program in sermons, announcements and any other way will be greatly appreciated.

Again, THANKS to all of you--I have received so many inspiring (and inspired) letters of encouragement and gratitude for the new developments in the Work, following my "State of the Work" message--I have been very much helped, strengthened, and inspired by YOUR enthusiasm and inspiration! Thanks very much--to all of Christ's true ministers!

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sammie Lee Armstrong". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Sammie Lee Armstrong".

P.S. All you Church Pastors and Associate Church Pastors will find included in your Bulletins 10 S.E.P. applications. We are going to need your help in promoting the Summer Educational Program and would appreciate announcements about S.E.P. on a fairly regular basis in order to be able to fill the program this year.

Dear young people of God's Church:

Did you know you are helping to build a unique youth program? Churches, businesses, government agencies, and universities around the country are calling your program fantastic, unheard of, unparalleled!

No other church with youth programs in operation for over 100 years has attempted the scope of your national Y.O.U. activities.

In addition to already established national activities including sports, talent, writing, photography, arts and crafts, local Y.O.U. chapters are springing up across the U.S.

A number of chapters are already promoting monthly social activities, sports programs, community involvement projects, involvement in local church services, special youth Bible studies and rap sessions.

In at least two separate churches, the young people earned enough money to buy busses for use in their activities far and near. Long trips to Pasadena, Disneyland and Disney World are goals now within reach.

During this coming Feast of Tabernacles Y.O.U. will take complete charge of all youth activities. So be prepared for the best Feast of your life. Plans call for youth dances, talent competition, arts and crafts shows, and a youth social center at every site complete with every attraction we can provide. A place to meet new and old friends and have a real blast!

But Y.O.U. is not all play time. In planning for the future, we would like to help make Sabbath services meaningful to every age level. You young people ask questions about your future and how to cope with the present. We are going to answer those questions. Many of you have also asked how you can have a part in doing the work involved with these activities. And so we are going to provide you with many more opportunities to get involved.

The Y.O.U. program is only one year old this month. Yet its impact has already been felt by thousands of our young people. There are 17,000 of you in the Church spread out all over this giant country, and to date about one-fourth of you are Y.O.U. members. That is a very fine response for the first year. But now the word is spreading and membership is starting to snowball.

After the first year Y.O.U. is still in the process of being formed. It is being designed to serve you and to be shaped by your suggestions and your needs. After all you are the FUTURE LEADERS of God's Church, now comprising over one-third of its total membership.

WE WANT YOU to take it from here!

We want you to build your own youth program. How much can you do? Obviously, 17,000 people can do wonders.

We want to use your financial contributions to build your program, not your parents' money. We want Y.O.U. to be totally yours. Then it remains your responsibility to make it grow or let it shrink. Seventeen thousand enthusiastic young people can do an awful lot!

We believe you can help build Y.O.U. to be the greatest youth organization on earth. And we don't intend to leave a one of you out of the program as it grows and spreads to include every church. We will keep you posted in the monthly youth newspaper, "NOW YOU KNOW," on just how you are doing with your program.

In the planning stages right now is a national youth convention where two youths from every church will meet to help us build your program and meet the needs of the youth in each local church. Youth representatives from each church will travel to either Pasadena or Big Sandy and spend several days in meetings with Y.O.U. leaders. Your ideas will be heard and discussed to further the national program. In addition, many social activities will be planned for your enjoyment while at the convention. But ALL THIS WILL COST MONEY.

Here is how you can help. Read the following carefully:

ALL YOUNG PEOPLE 19 YEARS AND YOUNGER

1. Write your age on a note and send it along with ANY and ALL contributions you send to God's Church.
2. Please don't mark your age on the outside of the envelope, or on the checks. But on a separate note.
3. If your contributions are included regularly within your parents' check, write on the note 1) the amount that is from you and 2) your age. (Tax credit will still go to the parents in this case.)

Just be sure we know how much of the amount is from you if you are 19 years or younger.

We plan to stop charging you for every activity we sponsor. We want to use the amount of money you contribute as a gauge for building the Y.O.U. budget. We want to spend on you a comparable amount to what you as a whole are sending in.

That's it.

Y.O.U. can grow from here as fast as you make it grow. It's an opportunity unique to any youth around the world. The success depends on YOU!

Garner Ted Armstrong

Church Administration

The days since Mr. Ted Armstrong's "State of the Work" meeting have been exciting to say the least. I think I speak for several of us when I say it's good to be "back in the ministry again." That may sound a little strange, but those ministers who have been in administrative responsibilities for the last few years know exactly what I mean. God called us to be ministers, counselors, preachers, and teachers, but circumstances have thrust us so deeply into administration that our "ministry" may have all but disappeared.

Speaking for Allie and me, I have to admit that our years in Bricket Wood were some of the happiest and most fulfilling years of our lives. Our responsibilities there included pastoring the Birmingham church, teaching Old Testament Survey, Epistles of Paul, and Speech, counseling with students for hours on end — all ministerial functions.

Small wonder then that the recent announcements were such a breath of fresh air. For a long time now we have been ordaining men to the ministry, asking God to give them the gift of the ministry, and then circumstances have forced some of them into jobs where 90% of their work was involved with non-ministerial functions. The men to whom this has happened have usually performed well enough, but where do we go to find other men with the spiritual maturity, experience, education, and gift needed to perform the tasks of the ministry? Paul told Timothy not to neglect the gifts that were in him by the laying on of hands of the ministry, but I fear that we have allowed and even encouraged some of our men to do just that.

In our last major ministerial conference, I had the opportunity to moderate some very interesting sessions on "The Ministry and the Calling." It was encouraging to hear from so many of you fellows that you felt that you were not only called, but "bought and paid for" by Jesus Christ. I suppose every Christian should feel that way, but it has special meaning for those of us in the ministry.

For Allie and me, this will be at least the 19th move in 23 years of marriage. We've been moved before and we know we will be moved again. I'd never compare myself with Abraham, but sometimes I wonder if we in the ministry are supposed to get the same message — that we are strangers in this world, without roots but with a God-ordained responsibility.

I know it's a lot tougher for you who have children, but God will never forget the sacrifices that some of you have made in order to serve wherever you were needed. The example being set by Norman Smith should be inspiring to us all. He and Charlene are in Arizona this weekend looking into the possibility of moving there and serving in that area. He's thinking about taking the Prescott church and starting the Flagstaff church. He said he initially wanted a small area since it had been so long since he had pastored a church.

Ben Chapman is leaving Data Processing to join the Pasadena Theology faculty and will be pastoring a major Southland church. Leroy Neff and Raymond McNair have volunteered to serve where they are needed and we are still considering assignments for them.

It has to be encouraging to the church to see all that experience, spiritual maturity, and conversion being dedicated to strengthening the church. And it has to be encouraging to the entire ministry to see the emphasis and thrust of the Work being made so clear.

Frankly, it's tremendously encouraging to get the chance to carry water for you fellows and to support you in doing your job. We see the responsibilities of Senior Pastors and Area Coordinators as a service to the field ministry and the church. If we are helping you do a better job, we are succeeding. If we get in your way and confuse matters, we're not.

Don't hesitate to call on us at any time day or night.

Sincerely your servant,
Ronald L. Dart

Financial Affairs

Greetings from the Business Office! I have very good news — it appears that our income, after having a downward trend for some 18 months, has finally set an upward trend for the past two months. I am looking at the final income figures for March and I am happy to report that income exceeded the budget for the third month in a row. First Account income for the first three months is running 10% on the same period last year.

These increases have helped to offset the lower than expected income received during the last six months of 1975 and have brought First Account income up to the fiscal year-to-date budget. We are hopeful that the recent upturn in income will continue in the coming months. Thank you, fel-

lows, for your support and we ask you to tell the brethren that their sacrifice and prayers are *known and appreciated!*

Although we have an upturn in the income, we are still experiencing at this time temporary cash flow problems and have instituted the normal financial control that is necessary in such a situation. But, I can tell you that we have never been stronger as an organization than we are at this time and the future holds tremendous growth.

Many of you have called about the problem of delayed pay checks. By now you have received a memo from our Payroll Department asking you to wait at least a week following the Thursday payday before calling about your late-arriving check. The Accounting Department has found that very few checks are actually lost, but are merely delayed due to the slowing of the Federal mails. The resulting telephone calls and reissuing of checks can get rather complicated, especially when the original check is found and cashed. If waiting for a few days works a hardship financially, you may want to consider the automatic deposit system we have with either United California Bank or Wells Fargo Bank. Here the money is deposited in the bank the Wednesday evening prior to payday. Just check with the Payroll Department for details.

Until next time.

— Ray Wright

Publishing

NEW GN & BOOKLET PLANS

The "new" GN is now about 2½ years old and already it's time for yet another "new" approach! With the PT returning to a magazine format, it now becomes necessary to refocus the editorial content of the GN.

Beginning with the June issue, the GN will contain even stronger "spiritual" content. That is, we will focus on developing donors, co-workers and members even *more* than we have the last 31 issues. The mailing list will be continually renewed so that only those who are *really interested* in becoming involved in the Work will be retained. This may reduce the list somewhat, but the "quality" of readership will improve.

Plans call for *stronger* biblically-oriented articles in both *The Plain Truth* and in *The Good News*. The GN will be *especially* strong, discussing the feast days, tithing, and other fundamental

doctrines and beliefs of the Church. It will contain more articles of an exhortative nature, Christian living, God's way of life and even a certain amount of gentle correction. The GN will provide strong meat for the *members* as well as for those who are coming along toward baptism.

You'll be seeing more articles from the "old guard" — those whose articles we all cut our spiritual teeth on when coming into the Church years ago — Roderick C. Meredith, Herman L. Hoeh, and Raymond McNair, to name a few. Jon Hill has a very inspiring article titled, "What the World Needs Now — Hope!" coming up in the May issue. Jon will once again become a regular contributor — after all, he is one of the "father figures" of the GN, not to mention *Tomorrow's World!*

We'd be happy to hear from any of you in the foreign offices who would like to contribute material shedding light on what's going on in your part of the world and the Work. Paul Graunke, our Update editor, would be happy to receive your ideas and copy.

We want to make the GN truly *international* — a "window on the Work" so that those who are coming along toward baptism and total involvement can gain some grasp of the scope of this Work. (*The Worldwide News* does a fine job of keeping the members informed!).

A special GN bonus for the foreign language editions of the PT will be an eight-page, compatible, black and white signature of the best GN articles to be added as an insert as budget and circumstances permit. We hope to have the first installment ready for film in a couple of weeks. You'll be hearing more on that shortly.

Our booklet program is being cut due to budget pressures. Many of the "secular" booklets and some of the less-used religious booklets will be temporarily discontinued. Plans now call for about four new booklets per year and these will be mainly of a religious nature.

I want to emphasize that *none of these booklet cuts are due to "doctrinal" considerations*. The current reduction of the booklet inventory has *no relationship* to what the Church now believes, or now disbelieves as some have suggested. At this time, all booklet reductions are strictly due to *budget* constraints. The instruction to reduce booklet inventory has originated with the Office of Financial Affairs and Planning and has been approved by Garner Ted Armstrong.

We will be retaining the most important and necessary booklets and reprints. We will add to them as needs arise and budget permits.

If any of you have specific inquiries concerning any given piece of literature, please direct them to me, and I will give them immediate attention. In most cases it would be fine, for example, for overseas offices to use up *existing stocks* of booklets rather than destroying or discarding them. New orders will be considered for approval on an individual request basis.

We feel that by streamlining the booklet and reprint inventory and increasing the "strong meat" content of the GN, our overall publishing package will be that much more effective. The PT, too, will be "beefed up" in content, and we hope that the new publishing approach will constitute a powerful and effective "double-whammy" that will shake up and motivate our whole mailing list.

You'll be hearing more, I'm sure, from Art Ferdig on the PT and his plans for circulation development of all publications. That's it for now. If you have any ideas, suggestions, comments — or even "onions" — I'll be glad to hear from you.

— Brian Knowles

AICF UPDATE

Greetings!

We are in the process of sending the rehearsal copy of *HUMAN POTENTIAL* to all members and co-workers worldwide. Even before getting through two thirds of these mailings, we are already receiving excellent comments from our members. For this issue, I would like to share several of these comments with you:

"I just received my copy of the *HUMAN POTENTIAL* magazine. It is by far one of the best I have ever put my hands on. You have done a wonderful job with it."

— R.M., Santa Ana, Calif.

"Congratulations!! Yesterday I received the rehearsal copy of the *HUMAN POTENTIAL* magazine and after just glancing at the titles and pictures as I thumbed through it, I had to share my thoughts with somebody.

"There are so many articles so well done; I've never wanted to sit down and read a magazine from front to cover as badly as I did this one. Your photography is better than *Audubon*, its educational value better than *National Geographic*, and *HUMAN POTENTIAL* is as up-to-date as *Newsweek*. I have really never been so impressed and thrilled with any previous publication.

"I particularly like how you separate different topics by the advertising. The whole magazine is a

piece of art I would be proud to show any king, statesman, or business person.

"Again. Congratulations!"

— J.S., Portland, Org.

"I have just finished reading an article in your magazine and have to write and tell you that *HUMAN POTENTIAL* is without a doubt the finest magazine I have ever read. I congratulate you.

"I have to admit that I was not too excited about the AICF until I read the magazine. Concerts in Pasadena seemed awfully far off to me. But, now that I have a better understanding as to what it is all about, I am really excited.

"Enclosed you will find a request for two subscriptions to the *HUMAN POTENTIAL* magazine. I thank you for making a publication of this quality available to us. I cannot even begin to say enough about this magazine."

— J.C., Glendale, Ariz.

"I have received my rehearsal issue and it is truly a fine, beautiful, wonderfully presented magazine; one I am very proud to be a part of... Congratulations on the fine magazine."

— H.W., Torrance, Calif.

"Thank you so very much for the free copy of *HUMAN POTENTIAL*. It's beautiful, and makes one feel and think on a higher level just looking through it. I have only a fourth grade education, but thanks to the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College I have learned to read and enjoy the finer things in life without being ashamed of my lack of education. Thanks to God for he has made it possible for even the smallest of us to learn right along with the mighty of the world, and I am most thankful that God truly is no respecter of persons, for the truth is there for anyone who wants to reach out for it. So, thanks again for one more rung on the ladder to climb up to a better way of life."

— Mrs. C.B., Truckee, Calif.

"I just had to tell you how thrilled I am with my rehearsal issue of *HUMAN POTENTIAL*. It's just beautiful! I'm so excited with the whole program.

"I was especially pleased to see how many world renowned people that I admire who are connected with it and that many writers I enjoy will be contributing to it.

"Thank you for this magnificent gift."

— T.S., Tacoma, Wash.

(Continued on page 109)

International Division

UPDATE FROM THE PHILIPPINES

Greetings from Manila! The past year has seen good growth in all areas of the Philippine branch of God's Work. Despite the continuous problem of inflation, with the country battling a serious balance of payments problem due to the oil price hikes, the income as of this writing stands at 22.5% increase over last year. At the outset we had planned for a hoped-for increase of 32% (admittedly an optimistic figure) but based on past performance this seemed attainable. However, by December 1975 when we had to take a second look at the budget, we realized that we would not reach this figure. So out came the bolo (local name for chopper) and we hacked off some expenses. Among them was the advertising budget which was totally dropped. However, with the limit put on the number of booklets we could receive from HQ, this was really no problem. We discovered we had over-budgeted in some areas and so we were able to reduce our expected expenditures from 32% over the previous year down to 25%, hoping for a 25% increase so the books would be balanced. As men-

by special publicity efforts. These included local newspaper advertising, press conferences, courtesy calls on the mayor of the city and governor of the province, speeches to local Rotary Clubs and Colleges, free interviews on local television and radio programs (half-hour in most cases) and leaflet distribution in the city itself where church members could get involved. In Cabanatuan City (eastern Luzon) in November, another first took place when the actual lecture was carried live on a local radio station with a potential audience of thousands. After that, in each city we held the lecture, we had live radio coverage with sometimes a re-run later.

The format of the lectures also changed as the year progressed. Instead of two lectures, we shortened it to one, on the topic "Will there be World War III?" giving both the bad news and the good. The following morning an open forum was held where those who came could ask questions and hear more detailed biblical explanations for what was said the previous night. This way those who didn't come next day would still have received a witness. We have only to go to Laoag City in the extreme north of Luzon (May) to have covered the main cities of the Philippines.

At the follow-ups the Good News and Correspondence Course were offered. We feel that good ground work has been laid for future growth in these key cities.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES OF LECTURES CONDUCTED SINCE JUNE 1975

Cagayan de Oro (Mindanao)	June:	200 (a.m.)	220 (p.m.)
Cebu City (Visayas)	July:	485 (a.m.)	400 (p.m.)
Naga City (Bicol)	August:	515	Follow-up next morning: 86
Iloilo City (Visayas)	October	540	Follow-up next morning: 120
Cabanatuan City (Luzon)	Nov:	600	Follow-up next morning: 64
Davao City (Mindanao)	January:	420	Follow-up next morning: 68

tioned, we are now at 22.5%, just 2.5% short of our goal. If we don't reach our 25% income increase we do have some options to cut without seriously reducing the work.

P.T. Lectures

In last year's report we mentioned the lectures which were taking place in various cities. Since then we have travelled to eight more cities, and the lectures have become public rather than just to P.T. readers. Beginning with Cebu City, in June 1975, we endeavored to create interest in each city

Plain Truth

This past year we have been concentrating on increasing our subscribers in the main population areas. We discovered that our distribution was very widely scattered over the country and most of the key cities had few readers. Sample copies of the magazine were sent to the minister in charge of the cities and he arranged for local distribution to government and private offices. Each copy contained a card offering a free subscription. Results have been very good with most cities showing an

increase of 1,000 plus subscribers. The magazine has continued to be printed locally and we will continue to print with the new format (magazine-style, four color) although our costs will rise somewhat. We are still limited by finances to a circulation not exceeding, at the very most, 50,000 copies.

Mr. Armstrong's Campaigns

In December 1975 Mr. Armstrong was due to hold another one-night meeting in Manila. At the last minute he couldn't make it, being detained in Bangkok. I had possibly the longest impromptu speech in the history of Ambassador College! And just recently it happened again. This time, however, we did get a few days notice. Mr. Armstrong's illness prevented him from coming to Manila on March 20 for what was to be the biggest exposure yet. I stood in for him once again and spoke to an audience of 3,200 on the subject of survival or extinction and man's great potential. This was carried live by the Voice of the Philippines (50kw government station), videotaped by GTV 4 (also government) for later telecasting, and filmed by an independent group. All for free! Channels 2 and 9 in Manila also replayed the hour-long speech later in the week. Several radio stations also recorded the proceedings and will air them later to the rest of the country. GTV 4 will also take the tape to *all* the main cities (7) in the Philippines where the campaign will be aired, again free! As a result of the campaign, the Voice of the Philippines has requested to carry The World Tomorrow program *free*; and GTV 4 has offered to air the Garner Ted Armstrong telecast also for free *at any time* we want! This is a real break-through as we have not had the radio or TV program for about two years, due to budgetary restrictions.

Church News

Church membership as of February this year is a 10.5% increase on last year's figures, with a total of 1,621 baptized members. We now have ministers or assistants strategically placed throughout the country to take care of those interested in the Work. These men will soon be conducting local Bible Seminars for graduates of the C.C. and perhaps getting more involved in community affairs. We have already had two series of seminars in Manila averaging 70 in attendance and some are already attending the Manila Church (averaging about 600 every sabbath). Mr. Ted Armstrong's Portland campaign film was shown and will be shown at future seminars. The C.C. has an active list of 4,800 and 10,955 have already graduated. The course is now printed in Manila in two volumes of six lessons each. This saves considerable amounts of money, being printed on newsprint but

with hard-back cover. It also means students can finish the course in a much shorter time and saves the age-old problem of lost and missing lessons. We have received good response to this new method.

General

There is so much more that could be said, but this is already long. Let me finish by reproducing something which will show you the amount of favor the Work of God continues to enjoy in the Philippines. The following has enabled me to travel anywhere in the country and speak to top education officials on any topic I choose. It is, as you will see, a *carte blanche* to reach those responsible for education of the youth. It was obtained after a courtesy call on the Under Secretary of the Dept. of Education and Culture and was *unsolicited*. I hope you will pray that this exceptional favor will continue and that we will reach this nation of 42 million with even greater power in the months ahead.

Memorandum for: ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS (Dept. of Education and Culture)

Bearer herewith is Mr. Colin Adair, Regional Director of Ambassador College for North East Asia, Regional Editor of the Plain Truth magazine and personal envoy of world-renowned educator Dr. Herbert W. Armstrong, the Ambassador for World Peace. He is going around the Philippines to bring the message that our people need today to enable them to catch the meaning of living.

I will highly appreciate it if you could extend the courtesy and assistance of your office to Mr. Adair.

Signed: Narciso Albarracin,

Under Secretary of D.E.C.

— Colin Adair

HWA UPDATE

(Continued from page 94)

ruary 21, which stated that his organization was racist, he said that no matter what "colour a person's skin was we were all of one blood, all of the same ancestors, Adam and Eve and we should learn to love one another." He noted that if Adam had made the right choice there would have been no need for the second Adam (Jesus) to come to the world to open the way to eternal life.

He said that in God's master plan he had given man 6,000 years to make his own decisions and had allowed Satan to remain on earth. At the end of the 6,000 years He was going to send His son Jesus Christ back to the earth as King of Kings, to

remove Satan and restore the Government of God.

"SATAN HAS DECEIVED THE WHOLE WORLD," he said. "He is the Prince of the Power of the air. Satan is now working in the people of disobedience — he broadcasts and we are in tune to his wave lengths. He puts in people the attitude of rebellion, of lust and greed, competition and strife, resentment of authority, vanity and pride. That is what we call human nature. But through repentance of our past violations of God's law and willingness to be governed by God, man can be tuned into God's wave length, we have the power to overcome and to qualify to rule with Christ in the Kingdom of God. When Jesus comes, He will put Satan out of commission and all the world will get in line under the government of God."

Dr. Armstrong stated that he was not going around making altar calls and pleading with people to be saved, nor was he looking for new members for the Worldwide Church of God and that there is never a solicitation for funds. He explained that the church was supported by the tithing system of the Bible and all campaigns such as the one in the Bahamas is paid out of that fund and freewill offerings. He also said that all literature was mailed free of charge.

"We are in The Bahamas announcing that the Kingdom of God is coming and what the people of the Bahamas do about it is entirely their decision and responsibility," he said.

AICF UPDATE

(Continued from page 106)

"You are absolutely CORRECT! The magazine is SUPERB! The magazine's structure and quality live up to its name. Thanks greatly for making this fine piece of workmanship available."

— E.G., Corona, Calif.

"Thank you for this fine outstanding and enlightening magazine." — E.F., Olathe, Kan.

"Mr. Ted asked for our comments on this rehearsal issue. For two days I have tried to think of words that express my impression with this new endeavor. All I can come up with is, 'I cannot find words that would do justice to this great magazine.' I just think it's great, and it is my prayer that God might allow this publication to be in print for at least a 'few' years before things get so rough in this world.

"One other thing — I am grateful for the opportunity to send gift subscriptions to others who would appreciate the fine quality of this magazine, for only \$9.00 per subscription. . . .

"Well, that's all I have to say — just 'thank you,' and the magazine is even more than I expected. I am proud to be associated with you at AICF."

— F.C., Williams, Ariz.

"We are quite impressed with the rehearsal copy of the *HUMAN POTENTIAL*. The magazine has a pleasing positive effect. It is beautifully illustrated and has a broad scope. Please continue to produce in high quality. (It pleases us very much). We're looking forward to seeing the August/September issue."

— M.A., Brush Prairie, Wash.

"A positive, inspiring, beautiful publication!!"

— K.S., Albany, Org.

"I'm so happy! This is really wonderful! I mean — I heard about it at church services and even at the Feast of Tabernacles from both Herbert and Ted Armstrong, but I didn't quite understand the *aid* this magazine and the AICF would be, in making achievement of our human potential 'real' and possible.

"I think everyone who really 'gets into it' is in for an adventure no words could describe!"

— P.S., Needville, Tex.

"It is a beautiful magazine, every article is very interesting. All the pictures are outstanding. From Mr. H. Armstrong's letter to the last page it is filled with educational and inspiring articles.

"The Aug.-Sept. issue will be most welcome, and every issue thereafter. My congratulations to everyone connected with AICF."

H.S., El Paso, Tex.

"Thanks so much for the magazine *HUMAN POTENTIAL*. It looks like a winner."

— B.R.K., Bellevue, Wash.

"*HUMAN POTENTIAL* magazine is with, and ahead of the times. Thank you."

— J.P., Mansfield, Ohio

"I received my first copy of the *HUMAN POTENTIAL* magazine yesterday. It is certainly an excellent portrayal of what humanity needs today. I appreciate the price as it makes it possible for me to afford to send it to a few people who might appreciate it."

— B.B., Akron, Ohio

"I am pleased with *HUMAN POTENTIAL* magazine. The reading material is informative and satisfying to any group or taste.

"I hope to be able to give some gifts in the near future, as I think everyone should have this in their home."

— Mrs. G.R., Seattle Wash.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to subscribe to *HUMAN POTENTIAL*. At first I thought I would have to borrow from someone — but a subscription for \$9.00, Wow! Now I can have my issues to keep and have lying around my home for others to read and ask about!

"The first issue I received this morning is just great! What a stimulant for good conversation! There is only one terrific thing I have against it — I've already lost 1½ hours, just sitting around reading the first issue! Now I'm going to have to re-arrange my whole schedule so I can get my work done too!! I really can't think of a better reason, or a better way to get across to you how great I think this whole idea is!!!!!"

— Mrs. K.H., Superior, Wi.

"I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the rehearsal edition of the *HUMAN POTENTIAL* magazine. It is very impressive and beautiful, and I wish you the greatest success with its publication."

— Mrs. D.W., Kingsville, Tex.

"I'm so thrilled and excited about the *HUMAN POTENTIAL* publication. And I am so pleased and proud to be able to send a subscription to my son."

— H.S., Elkhart, Ind.

"I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for a most wonderful magazine, *HUMAN POTENTIAL*. I have never seen or read such an exciting piece of literature.

"I live entirely from a social security check, but I will scrape together enough money to pay for a year's subscription. I will look forward to each issue. Thanking you again."

— R.C., Wautoma, Wisc.

Of course, there will be obvious delays because of distance before the international areas receive their complimentary copies. That's it for now.

— Jack Martin

Mail Processing

New Literature Index

Our latest Index of currently available booklets and reprint articles was mailed with the previous issue of *The Bulletin*. The following special box gives additional details concerning this new Index. Since a number of booklets and articles have been discontinued, please carefully check your Index concerning them — each recently discontinued piece of literature is marked by an asterisk. Other older unavailable items are simply not listed, so please recommend to members and PMs only that literature found on the Index. MPC cannot mail material which has gone out of print.

LITERATURE INDEX

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

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

You will notice that we have placed asterisks by certain pieces of literature which have been discontinued.

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

— MPC

Mail Activity

Special renewal letters to the *Plain Truth* mailing list have been written by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and should be mailed out to all subscribers by the time you read this column. Members, as well as coworkers, are receiving copies of this special letter but there is no need for them to renew their subscriptions. We are keeping them on file automatically.

The first of the renewal responses have been received (at this writing 10,132 letters have been processed). 72.4% of these responses have contained a donation averaging about \$19.34 — which is encouraging to us. We will keep you posted as

returns to these letters come in. This renewal is very important for the *Plain Truth* and we do encourage your prayers for a good response to it.

Another item of exceptional good news is the return of the *Plain Truth* to the magazine style format. In its new attire the *Plain Truth* looks very good and we are all happy to see it! The first issue is a *combined* edition for the two months April-May 1976.

Mr. Ted Armstrong's letter clarifying "second tithe" has prompted a positive response. MPC is still receiving about 100 letters a day from members responding to the letter. A total of 7,884 letters have been received at this time (March 31) and the donations enclosed have been exceptionally good and have given a considerable boost to the tithe of the tithe fund. We are grateful to the brethren for their support. It's their faithfulness that makes this great worldwide Work of God possible!

Mail for the month of March came in at a moderate pace. We crossed the *half million mark* in total letters received for the year as of March 26 — but April is promising to be a good month for mail! With holyday offerings coming in, the expected response to Mr. Armstrong's renewal letters, and our normal mail continuing at its present pace, we expect April to be a record-breaking month for mail.

That's all for this time.

— Richard Rice

LETTER COMMENTS

Editor's Note: We are reproducing the following letters as examples of the dozens of letters coming in from the field ministry commenting on Mr. Ted Armstrong's recent decisions.

"Just heard your work-policy tape and was inspired to write a short note to say thanks and let you know we are behind you all the way.

"Hope we can get on the 1000 stations in a few *weeks* instead of years. Hope you will make 1 minute, 5 minute, 15 minute, 30 minute commentaries, hour sermons and two hour specials! Let's reach *everybody*!

"I wrote a two page letter telling you how much we respect and love you but decided it was too long. I'm all in favor of ministers ministering — it's really just great being out in the field again after too many months as a 'clerk' at H.Q.!

"God abundantly bless you, your father and this, our Work!"

Art Docken

"Have just finished listening to your tape on the State of the Work. It's hard to find words to express how I feel — but I'll try. I'm sure everyone there must have been moved emotionally because I certainly was just from hearing the tape! It is obvious God has inspired you to give new direction and purpose to His Church and ministry. Everything you said was positive, encouraging and motivating!

"With God's help we must *respond*, work harder, sacrifice more and do the Work Christ has called us to. Thank you for the leadership and example you are providing. I hope you know you have my loyalty and support in every way. Actions speak louder than words so I'll keep this short and get busy *applying* what you said. I'll be praying that we can all be *more effective* servants of Jesus Christ and *get busy* doing the work of the ministry! Thanks again!"

Denny Luker

"We have just received your tape of the meeting you conducted last Wednesday entitled 'State of the Work Policy' and have played it to some of the men in the area as you have directed. . . .

"There is no question as to the accuracy of your analysis of the condition of the Work and how it came to be this way. Furthermore, we are quite certain that your clearly stated objectives of the Work and the direction the Work will take will go a long way in removing the problems we have been experiencing.

"As Jenny and I listened to the tape we couldn't help but let out a few cheers and hurrahs. All the men I have spoken to have responded in just about the same way.

"Mr. Armstrong, again I want to say thank you for the courage you have shown by making the decisions you have, by continually standing up to the detractors and accusers, and by taking a firm hold on the leadership of this Work. A lesser man would not have been able to do it."

Sincerely,
Bill Bradford, Jr.

"Thank you very much for sharing the very exciting talk you gave on 'The State of the Work' with all of us in the field.

"Madeline and I were very happy to hear about the plans outlined for really getting involved in a BIG way with God's truth on Radio, Television, and in the *Plain Truth*.

"I can personally think of nothing that will unify all of God's people more than the STRONG leadership you are now exercising — especially in

the direction you outlined to us — with all of the aggressive momentum that God makes possible.

"Please **KEEP** that determination!!! We, the Fresno and Visalia Churches, are with you all the way — helping prepare **THE WAY** for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

"Your brother in Christ,"
Don Billingsley

"It is hard to describe the feeling that Norma and I had in listening to your tape about 'the State of the Work.' We are both thrilled and excited. We played the tape for the elders and deacons last night and they were 100% behind the ideas also. We really like the idea of putting all our efforts into going to this world with the gospel. We are behind this approach 100%. Anyway we can be of help please let us know. We will do our best to encourage the brethren. Our prayers are with you constantly."

Love,
Roy & Norma Holladay

"Hello again from Cleveland, Ohio!

"The entire Church is **EXCITED** and **THRILLED** with the upcoming campaign, April 3 and 4. We are busily preparing the final details after having Ross Jutsum and Jack McKinney from the College. We appreciate all the direction and guidance that we've been given from the campaign office. The Cleveland Church has been very impressed with the men that have come from that office.

"After listening to this past Sabbath's sermon on 'The Work Ethic' and listening to your tape on the policy of the Work, I felt I had to write you a note telling you how much we are really behind you in your effort to do what is right with the 'Work' being put first in priority. The ministers here, and I'm sure all the people too, have been excited with your changes and are looking forward to the continual perfection of this Work to get the job done. We are behind you 100% and more! Whatever is necessary on our part, which includes the ministers, deacons and members, *we will do!*

"I personally want to be involved more deeply in the direct fulfillment of this Work more than ever before! Continue to let us know what to do and we will do it!"

Your brother in Christ,
Greg Sargent

"With some of the decisions you have to make, you must at times feel like the loneliest man in the world. It is at these times that we, who stand

behind you, yearn to actually stand at your side and hold up your hands as Aaron and Hor did for Moses in the battle with the Amalekites.

"Thank you for doing a job which many of us could do but which must be done. Please remember every time you make a decision for the Work or do a telecast or speak to an audience that there are tens of thousands of us out here who are saying with all of our might **AMEN!**"

Sincerely,
Mel Horne

"Last night we were privileged to hear your tape of March 17 which was sent out to local pastors and shared with deacons and elders.

"I felt rather like a soldier prepared for battle, ready and eager, waiting for the bugler to sound the 'charge'. The news you gave us concerning imminent changes in the Work came as the bugler sounding the order to 'charge.'

"All present agreed — it was the most exciting news we've ever heard. We stand ready, willing and eager to help in any and every way we can. The attitude can be summed up in the comment made at the conclusion of the tape — "'Let's go to it!'"

Sincerely,
Charlene Horne

"Cindi and I want you to know we were really thrilled by the special tape you sent to all the ministers! It was very sobering and a real shot in the arm to both of us. We only have praise for everything you said on the tape.

"There seems to be no new way to tell you how we support you, but we want you to know that we are 100% behind you and your father. We are going to do our best to work harder and set the right example for God's people.

"We do have very deep love, respect, and appreciation for the leadership you have exemplified in God's Work.

"We're behind you all the way!!"

Sincerely,
Raymond & Cindi Taylor

"Thought at first I'd telegram, but I'll just drop you a note and hope against hope you'll personally receive this short and informal note to tell you that at times you may *feel* alone, but you'll never *be* alone. Thanks so much for sharing the meeting with the ministry. Karen and I could hardly sleep with our excitement over 'doing the Work.' Although I suppose it would be wise to recall Isaiah's delight with the scroll before he swallowed

it! A new beginning is what we need and both Karen and I wanted to send our greetings and pledge, so to speak, to start in whatever way God intends.

"Wonderful, inspiring tape — we got the message loud and clear!"

Your Brother in Christ,
Dennis Diehl

"Howdy! We just listened to your tape concerning revitalization and 'going back to work.' We were thrilled, stunned and more excited than we have been in *years* and hope desperately we can make the transitions and be right in the middle of wherever God leads this Church. Thank you, deeply, for the courage and positive leadership these recent and future decisions have and will require. Perhaps we have been derelict in not communicating our support in the past, but we are too excited to contain our feelings tonight. We will be busily trying to shift gears, come out from under the bushel and be true Christians. Lead on!"

Our Love and Prayers Are With You,
Darryl & Terry Henson

"YEA! YEA! YEA! tells a little of how I feel about your last 2 tapes. I had planned to write you a letter of thanks for the 'Work Ethic' tape anyhow, but *had* to after my wife and I listened to the Policy tape.

"Thanks for the reminder of what our job as ministers *must* be — it's so easy to be sidetracked.

"I highly admire you and deeply appreciate the boldness you have in making necessary changes. Thanks again."

A younger brother,
Garvin L. Greene

"You can't imagine how thrilled we were when we heard the tape on the restructuring of the Work. This had to be directly inspired by Christ. My wife and I both agreed that now you're 'telling it like it is.' This has been needed for some time.

"You have our *total* support! Anyone who can't see that this is what has to be done must lack at least some insight.

"We have men who are willing to do the job, whether as assistants or local members in the congregation. If some don't want to work, why keep them on the payroll, when many will be more than happy to participate in this Calling?"

"Thank you for taking a stand and having the courage to make these decisions."

With all our love and support,
Roger & Andrea West

"Thank you for your dedication to the Goal we sometimes forget and take for granted, for your courage to forge ahead and pursue that calling, and your love in sharing these ideals and opportunities with us.

"My wife and I are behind you and your father 100%!!! The most interesting and stimulating times of our lives have been during our enlistment in 'God's army' under your command and we're not about to give it up now!

"As for this Associate Pastor and his wife, and the Meridian Church I serve — we're behind you all the way! Keep up the Good Work and make all the changes you want!"

Sincerely with love,
Tom & Charla Steinbeck

COMMENTS ABOUT Y.O.U.

"Completed our first Y.O.U. basketball and volleyball season. This project has proven to be the most worthwhile thing we have done in the local church areas since I've been associated with the work. More enthusiasm has been generated by Y.O.U. than any single event I know of with the exception of a GTA campaign. Our youth are looking forward to next season and already practicing."

Daniel J. Bierer

"The most significant change here has been the approach and attitude change in our Teens. They are very interested in participation on all fronts. Work projects have proven very successful and have generated active involvement for most of our young people. The Y.O.U. basketball games have been a big morale booster for them."

John D. Hammer

"As a summary of this season, I must say that enthusiasm for Y.O.U. is tremendous among kids and adults — we have a large number of brethren heading over for the finals in Hershey. And most important of all, the kids see that we aren't here just to play ball, but to become adult Christian people. They are learning that the rules of conduct our coaches enforce on the court must carry over to all parts of their lives. Thank God, we're finally helping build the right kind of character in a constructive and enjoyable way."

Kevin Hudson

"There are many churches in the U.S. where Y.O.U. programs have been given such a great start in the last year and a half, that their pro-

grams are not going to diminish when the novelty wears off. The overall message of Y.O.U. is coming through very well. Many areas have found they really can relate to the teens and that many teens want very badly a part in God's Church."

Ed Mauzey

"I enclose \$10.00 as tithe and \$4.00 to Youth Opportunities United. I am anxious to find out what Y.O.U. is going to do as far as activities at the Feast. I'm sure I won't be disappointed when I get there. Keep up the good work!"

Tony Lucio, III

"Enclosed is our donation for Y.O.U. activities. Thanks for your efforts, it's really paying off."

Gene Noel

"I don't have any 'teens' at home any more, being an 81-year-old. All have 'flown the coop' long since. But I'd like to sponsor one. . . ."

Ruth Blair Thacker

"My wife and myself are both 67 years old and naturally do not have any teenage children, but we would like to give a \$4.00 donation each to this very worthy cause. Please find enclosed a check for \$8.00."

Frank & Betty Meadows

"My wife and I have grown in God's Church from our pre-teens and we realize how important a program such as this would have been in our upbringing. I'm sorry we couldn't send a donation sooner. But please use this in whatever area of the program you see fit."

Billy and Diane Sauls

"I'd just like to mention that Y.O.U. seems to be catching the interest of many of the teenagers in the Newark Church . . . and being a person just coming out of teenage (19-20) and baptized, I like what I see. God is definitely working here, thanks be to God and those who set up Y.O.U. From all of me to all of you, THANKS TO Y.O.U. It's WORKING."

Charles C. Walker, Jr.

"I've been meaning to write you concerning the Youth Activities Program and how it has been received by the teens in the Portland-Vancouver area. First allow me to say how timely and needed these Youth-oriented programs are, and how grateful the young people are that Mr. Armstrong and yourself are so interested in their needs. Some

have even begun attending Sabbath services more frequently as a result of the interest God's Church is showing in these young people. And perhaps more significantly, more of the teenagers are voluntarily coming up to me after services or calling me at home requesting counsel and advice about their personal lives. They were actually going to God's Church for guidance in how to cope with their problems (including in a few cases, drug hang-ups that they were trying to lick). Some of these kids who in time past might not have even taken the time to say hello to a minister in God's Church are now going to us and disclosing their personal needs and desires. To say the least this 'fruit' of God's Work has been very gratifying to witness."

Marc Segall

"Involvement with the Y.O.U. program has made a positive impact on the entire Church. It has given real enthusiasm to both teens and adults."

Vince Szymkowiak

"Our Girls' Volleyball Team from Medford, Oregon attended the Y.O.U. tournament in Portland, Oregon on February 21 and 22. In order to make money to go on the trip, we held bake sales and sold golf balls. We are enclosing our tithe from the money we made. In addition to our tithe, we would like to send in an offering to show our appreciation for the enjoyable time we had at the tournament and for all that Y.O.U. has accomplished and is continuing to accomplish. The tournament helped us realize that winning isn't as important as the effort put into a game and the attitude of the players. Y.O.U. is giving each one of us opportunities and experiences that we haven't encountered before. It is helping us to look at God's young people as a unit and realize that we, along with the adults, have a part to play in God's Work. Our team would like to say a big 'THANKS' for being able to attend the tournament and being able to get involved in Y.O.U. We feel that Y.O.U. is a great step forward in God's Church."

Girls' Volleyball Team
Medford, Oregon

RESPONSE TO FESTIVAL TITHE LETTER

"Mr. GTA's letter on the festival tithe was wonderful and good news. It is such a blessing that God is still giving growth in understanding His laws and commandments. In many ways in the

past, I've had misgivings in the use of my second tithe and would have felt very guilty had I been unable to save second tithe. Don't misunderstand — I still believe we should save it if at all possible and I will!!! It's too great a blessing to miss."

— Cynthia C. Cook, Corrigan, TX

"After having read your letter of February 8 concerning the Feast of Tabernacles and the festival tithe, I simply have to tell you how grateful I am for being lifted from the burden of knowing that I need not have guilt over not saving much second tithe, even though I should have. Thanks for that, and also for the other information contained in this letter."

— Gary John Eads, Albany, IL

"I appreciated Garner Ted's letter on the festival tithe. Shows again that God is a practical God. Another proof of this is His Church."

— Ellwood G. Stambaugh,
Prescott, KS

"After reading your February 8th letter to the Church, I thought I would write to say that we still feel the same way we have since we came into the Church three years ago — we're behind you and your father 100%. I only wish we could give more and make up for those who have lost their senses.

"In both you and your father, God has and is answering one of my constant prayers to 'show us and especially you and your father the plain truth with conviction.' We just obey and be doers and be blessed, or we disobey and be fools. It is very important that God gives us what He promises — guidance into ALL TRUTH.

"Keep up the good work!!!! Continue to step out on faith and walk through the doors God opens. Our prayers are with you and we are behind you 100%."

— William Halbe,
El Segundo, CA

"Thank you for your letter on the Festival tithe and explaining it so thoroughly. Personally, if we ever felt we needed to keep back some of our second tithe to make it — I would feel guilty and that we had sinned. Thank you for explaining that it wouldn't be robbing God, but rather, only ourselves."

— Mr. & Mrs. G. D. Manning,
Kansas City, MO

"Your wonderful letter of February 8th, 1976 was and still is a welcome sight to a pair of eyes full of empty dollar signs. Your explanation of Church policy on tithing and how to handle the festival tithe in particular makes much plain and common sense to me."

— Robert L. Bush,
Los Angeles, CA

"Received the letter from Mr. GTA the other day and was pleased to hear the policy statement regarding the festival tithe. It surely makes sense and will be a big relief to those whose circumstances do not permit a decent living standard."

— John R. Sutton,
Cincinnati, OH

"I received your letter to the brethren dated February 8, 1976. I thank you for taking time to explain the 'festival tithe' and 'tithe of the tithe' to us. You made it much clearer to me.

"I am one of the guilty ones who did not send in a 'tithe of the tithe' in 1975. Now that I understand what it is, and what it is to be used for, I plan to send it in each year as I am able. Being rather new in the Church, there are many things I don't fully understand yet. I am trying to learn — and as God permits me to learn, I will continue to make the necessary adjustments. Please keep explaining Church doctrines to us in this manner from time to time."

— Jeremiah Aycox,
Washington, DC

"Greetings in Jesus' name! Thank you for that letter you sent out to all the brethren of God's Church. It explained very clearly about the Feast of Tabernacles and the festival tithe, and about our tithe of the tithe, of which I knew nothing about. Of course, I'm only a baptized member a short time, but I'm sure learning fast, and I'm only happy to send in my tithe of the tithe for the expenditures of the Feast sites."

— John Matyas,
Paradise, CA

"Three cheers for Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong!!! I thought his February 8, 1976 letter regarding use of the festival tithe was quite inspiring. Particularly encouraging was the policy he described on transfers."

— Steven M. Collins,
St. Paul, MN

"Thank you very much for your letter of February 8, 1976 in regards to the Fall Feast. I am very glad for your clarification of the saving of the festival tithe. I also want to thank you for allowing transfers again this year. The Feast is the only vacation we can afford and the only vacation time we get, and going to the Feast is the only way we can travel and see other parts of our great country. Again, thank you!"

— Bruce A. Bremer,
Richfield, MN

"We're very thrilled to be able to transfer, as it is our only vacation each year. Thank you."

— Donald L. Jackson, Jr.,
Dallas, TX

"Hats off to Garner Ted Armstrong that Festival transfers are again being approved. It is the only time for many families for a vacation — at the Feast."

— Gregory R. Olson,
Tampa, FL

BIRTHS

Brent and Jeanne Curtis (Lubbock, Tex.; Roswell, N.M.): For the record, the Curtis family has increased by one — Girl, that is. *Tanya Renee*, 9 lbs., 2 oz., was born January 23, 1976. Destined for spoilage with 2 older brothers and pop.

David and Robin Hulme (Sutcliffe) (Johannesburg, South Africa): We are very pleased to share the good news of our first African (!) son, *Mark Jonathan*, born 4 a.m., 22nd January, 1976, weighing 6½ lbs. He took a while coming, but he's well worth it!

Ron and Paulette Jameson (Columbia-Walterboro, S.C.): We planned to have our second child in a hospital under the new nurse-midwife program here. We preferred a home delivery but county health personnel would not allow it. *Denise Michelle* didn't care what they allowed! With very little warning she was born at home on January 12 at 2:40 a.m. She weighed in at 8 pounds even on the vegetable scale at a local supermarket. We had it our way, but Dad hadn't planned on being the midwife!

Doug and Janel Johnson (Winnipeg North, Manitoba): Janel has been laboring on the Sabbath again, and this time the result was a boy — *Richard David* — born January 3, 1976 at 10:41

a.m. He weighed in at 8 lbs., 8 ozs. and was 20 inches long (3860 gm. and 51 cm. for you metric buffs!) — built like a tank! Everyone is doing fine, with big sister Pamela (21 months) trying to get used to the idea of a real *live* "toy" around the house!

Greg and Kathy Johnson (Westlock, Alberta, Canada): We are pleased to announce that God has blessed us with a little "Sweetie Pie." Her name is *Leticia René* and she was born on March 17 at 1:40 p.m. Weight was 9 lbs., 2 oz. Everyone doing just great!

Wil and Patricia Malone (St. Louis North, Mo.): At 3:30 a.m., Jan. 27, 1976, *Ryan Wil* was born into the Malone family. Ryan weighed in at 10 lbs. and was 22 inches long. New son and mother are doing fine. Dad is also recovering.

Dan and Christine Orban (Bakersfield, Ca.): Though I'm the president, I am now in the minority. The secretary of *labor* (my wife) is thrilled with her new responsibilities. The newly elected speaker of the house is *Melyssa Marie*. We're certain she will literally fulfill her job. She was born Tuesday, January 20th at 6:55 p.m. She weighed in at 8 lbs., 9 ozs. and was 20 inches long. Her arrival was 3 weeks early and she has spent one week in the hospital. All are doing fine.

Tom and Sylvia Root (Bonn, West Germany): Without patiently waiting for the "expected" date, all 6 lbs. 9 oz. of our first child and son, *Daniel Frederick*, made his Grand Entrance on February 27th, 1976 at 11:50 a.m. We, (primarily Sylvia, that is) had the birth at home, attended only by her Hubby and a midwife. It was a wonderful experience for all!

Bruce and Amy Vance (Ann Arbor-Detroit West, Mich.): We are pleased to announce the birth of our newest child, *Bruce Alan Jr.*, on September 11, 1975.

Glen and Connie Weber (Trail, B.C., Canada): *Dennis Frank* was two weeks overdue, but when he decided to make his debut on March 14, he surprised everyone! With only 2 hours and 55 minutes of labor, we almost didn't get the doctor there on time. He weighed in at 7 lbs., 1 oz. (3200 gms) and stretched to 21¼ inches. Although Connie developed food poisoning the week before birth, all are doing well now.

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PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING— ITS VITAL IMPORTANCE

by David L. Antion

Most marriages run into some kind of trouble within the first year of adjustment. Newlyweds, after the ecstatic experience of dating, seem to flow into marriage almost in a state of stupor. For many, their return to reality comes after the honeymoon and when the routines of marriage settle in. It is then that many begin to find difficulties in marriage.

For some, these difficulties seem overwhelming. They become disillusioned. Things usually grow worse.

Many young couples are embarrassed to seek help. After all, still ringing in their ears are the many well wishes from their friends and relatives who just celebrated their wedding with great joy. They feel it's a disgrace to let their parents or friends know that they are having trouble in marriage. So they quietly endure and stumble through one problem after another.

Many make adjustments to marriage in this way. Some of these adjustments are quite unsatisfactory. By that I mean that they learn to adjust in marriage by using a variety of techniques. One of the most common techniques is that of *deceit*. And by deceit I mean not really letting one's marriage partner know how he or she really feels. Not being open. Hiding one's true thoughts and feel-

ings and submerging them for the sake of marital harmony.

Thus, the first years of marriage go by with a certain "adjustment." But as more years go by, this adjustment becomes more difficult, and one day the real problems, which lay hidden underneath, surface and the couple finds themselves in very deep trouble, probably both wanting to end the marriage.

The Minister's Involvement

As ministers, we usually get involved with the marriage before it comes into being. The minister is usually contacted prior to the wedding ceremony or upon the couple's official engagement. He is asked to perform the wedding and naturally he will usually want to counsel with the couple prior to the wedding.

This puts the minister in a unique position with regard to marriage. It gives him a tremendous opportunity to lay groundwork in the *pre-marital counseling* to head off problems that may arise in the marriage later. He has the opportunity to teach the couple at this early stage, to help them understand what marriage really is, to make an appraisal of the couple and help them work out the arrangements for their wedding ceremony.

All this gives the minister a chance to establish a bond of friendship and rapport, which hopefully will last for quite some time.

The Goals of Pre-Marital Counseling

One of the first things the minister should do is to establish a rapport with the couple so that they feel close to the minister and feel they can trust him. He should be sure that he makes the couple feel at ease so that they feel free to talk to him about the future of their marriage. This groundwork is very important especially in heading off marriage problems after the wedding ceremony has taken place.

We could hope that these problems would not arise. But too often they do and the couple feels hesitant to go to the minister for marriage counseling.

One caution here: So many times the minister can give the feeling that this marriage just *must* be happy, or that he will be very deeply disappointed if it isn't. He can do this in a variety of ways; by being overenthusiastic about the wedding, by making comments about how great marriage will be and should be, and by implying that if it is not, one or both are low on the spiritual totem pole.

What this does is to embarrass the couple later on when they run into marriage problems. Many couples feel, "I just can't go back to our minister and tell him that we have some really serious marriage problems. It will hurt our minister so much. He wanted us to have a happy marriage so badly and I just can't *disappoint* him by letting him know that we're miserable in this marriage."

As ministers, we must always be aware that people are not being married to *please us*. They don't seek a happy marriage to make *us* happy! We are there as a helper when things go wrong, and we do want their marriage to be happy — not because we don't want to be disappointed!

So the first thing is to establish a good rapport and have the quality of trust and openness and approachability.

The second goal of pre-marital counseling is *education*. The minister in this counseling process is also a teacher. He is imparting to them information about what is involved in marriage. He may want to be sure that they understand the state requirements, the marriage license and any waiting periods that may be required by the state. He may want to discuss the various aspects of marriage — economic aspects, the sexual aspect, the religious aspect, etc.

Also, in the teaching process, here is the place to lay the groundwork for the realistic side of mar-

riage. It would be greatly helpful in the future if at this time in the pre-marital counseling sessions, the minister explains that it is likely the couple may run into some problems in the first year or so of marriage. That sometimes in the adjustment period couples have some difficulties. At this point, he can explain that there is no shame or reason to feel bad or guilty in having these difficulties. Many couples run into them, so it is not unusual or strange.

At the same time, he can offer the couple his help or counsel if they ever run into trouble and need help — that he would be very happy for them to come to him if they have any questions or any troubles in their adjustment period. He can explain that it is better to get help than to suffer through it or, because of pride, pretend to have a happy marriage.

Appraising the Couple

While the minister is not a judge as to who should marry whom, he can be a discerning person as to the general compatibility of a couple during his pre-marital counseling sessions. In fact, any discerning minister could not help but make some type of appraisal of the couple.

This appraisal should not be used to tell the couple what to do with their lives. He should not say, "I think you should call off this marriage because I don't think you are compatible." This is not his decision to make.

But on the other hand, there is another extreme to which ministers can go. That is, they may see definite indications in the pre-marital counseling sessions that a couple may be headed for problems after they marry because of certain incompatibilities. Should the minister therefore say nothing? Should he ignore such signs and assume that it's "none of my business"?

If, in the pre-marital sessions, the couple obviously has major differences in values and the minister sees this plainly; I think it is his duty to call this to the attention of the couple. He ought to let them know that here may be an area where they may have some marital conflicts.

For instance, suppose the couple has a tremendous difference of values on the subject of money and finances. Suppose that in the pre-marital sessions when the subject came up there was some disagreement and obvious collision in values. What should the minister do?

He ought to inform the couple that he noticed that they did have some problems communicating and coming to agreement on the subject of finances. And if these value collisions continue

into marriage (which they obviously will) they are likely to have difficulties and arguments over this subject. He should prepare them for this ahead of time. This does not say that they should not get married. He is not telling them to call off the wedding. He is merely, as a friend and a counselor and a trusted pastor to whom they look, giving them his professional opinion that they *might have* problems in this regard in the future. Furthermore, he could suggest that they have more communication and come to better understand each other's viewpoint on this subject before the wedding itself.

How Many Interviews?

Pre-marital counseling does not take as much of the minister's time as does marriage counseling. Marriage counseling consumes a great deal of time and should be done over a number of sessions. However, pre-marital counseling should *not* be relegated to a simple fifteen-minute interview on a one-time basis.

Charles Stuart, in his book, *The Minister as Marriage Counselor* (textbook used for marriage counseling class at Ambassador) recommends at least three pre-marital interviews for the normal couple. He suggests that these be one week apart to be ideal. (If a minister has known a couple and their families well, he may wish to have fewer sessions than this. However, he should *make himself available* to the couple prior to the marriage ceremony at any time and let them know that if they have any questions whatever, or if he can be of help in any way other than the one or two sessions he's had with them, that they should *feel free* to call him and set up an appointment.)

Use of Tests

There are many tests available that can be used as effective tools for the minister in pre-marital counseling. However, some of the companies that put out these tests will not sell them to ministers unless the minister has had specific training in psychology or counseling or in marital counseling. The reason for this is obvious. Too many people will tend to interpret tests and put too much reliance on the interpretation of that test. However, there are some tests that are simple and useful as tools to the minister. In his book, *The Minister as Marriage Counselor*, Charles Stuart points out, on pages 56 through 57, a number of tests which could be used in the pre-marital counseling interviews. One is a sex-knowledge inventory. Actually it comes in two forms, desig-

nated form "X" and form "Y", published by Family Life Publications of Durham, North Carolina. This is a form which has to do with the couple's knowledge of sex and anatomy and vocabulary dealing with sex. These tests have been devised in order to find where the couple might be in ignorance about sexual matters. Stuart suggests that these tests may be better taken in the classroom than during the counseling interview.

The other tests determine the compatibility of the couple. Three such tests listed in Stuart's book are "The Burgess-Kattrel-Wallin Schedule on Marital Adjustment"; "The Hurvitz Marital Roles Inventory"; and "Schedule 'E'" from the Marriage Counsel of Philadelphia.

In the class at Ambassador, we have dealt with the "Hurvitz Marital Roles Inventory" test. This test lists 11 roles which are to be ranked by each partner in the marriage or each fiancée in pre-marital counseling. First of all, a person is to list in order of importance his role in marriage as he sees that role. Then he is to list in order of importance the duties or roles that he expects his partner to fulfill in marriage. Each person lists what they do or the roles they perform in marriage and the expectation of the roles of their partner. These are compared and the differences are noted. Many times what one mate expects the other to do in marriage is not what the other is doing or plans to do. This sets up what Hurvitz calls "a marital stress."

These tests are not a substitute for pre-marital counseling. They are tools for the minister to help him in pre-marital counseling by showing the couple where they lack knowledge in sexual understanding or where they are likely to run into severe conflict in their marriage because of the differences in role expectation and performance.

Other Tools for the Minister

If a minister's bookshelf contains a number of books on marriage, sex, and various aspects of marriage, he can use these books effectively by loaning them to the couple. He can point out that there are a number of important areas of marriage that he would hope that the couple would read about and understand and *discuss* prior to the wedding ceremony. If they have any questions, he, the minister, would be most happy to answer them and to discuss these subjects with them.

The minister should also be well aware of other services available in the community such as the various organizations which distribute literature and information to couples planning to be mar-

ried. There are usually organizations on Planned Parenthood which give couples the needed information on birth control devices and methods. There are various savings and loans organizations which have pamphlets and free information available to young married couples on the subject of family finances, investments, insurance policies, etc. If the minister is informed, he can give this information to the couple who can then avail themselves of these services.

Is Pre-Marital Counseling Necessary?

Does a minister have to do pre-marital counseling? Can't he just show up for the wedding on time and perform it when the couple plans to be married? What if the couple doesn't desire any pre-marital counseling?

First of all, we have to assume that a minister is there for the help, strengthening, and education of the congregation. This assumption automatically suggests that a minister would want to do pre-marital counseling with the couples in order to help them and to help insure the stability of their marriages. He would want to do this because he wants to be of service to his people.

But what should he do if the couple just wants him to perform the wedding, but doesn't want any counseling ahead of time?

In his book, *The Minister as Marriage Counselor*, Stuart says, "If a couple is not willing to sit down with the minister to talk unhurriedly, they disqualify themselves from his services."

In other words Charles Stuart, who is a minister himself, would refuse to perform the wedding of any that refuse to sit down with him in pre-marital counseling interviews.

Overall, pre-marital counseling is a very valuable service which pays big dividends to the married couple in terms of its educational and inspirational service. Furthermore, it is a tremendous service to the minister himself because of its value in heading off future troubles in the marriages of the people he pastors.

Abraham Stone, a veteran marriage counselor, is quoted as saying, "An hour's discussion before marriage, may be more valuable than weeks of counseling later, after difficulties have arisen."

Besides Stuart's book, *The Minister as Marriage Counselor*, which is the textbook in our class at Ambassador, the minister may want to read the book by Granger Westburg entitled, *Pre-Marital Counseling*. In any case, here is another area of service in which the ministry can be of great service to God's people.

BOOKSHELF

What wives wish their husbands knew about women by Dr. James Dobson — Author of *Dare to Discipline* and *Hide or Seek*. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Ill., \$5.95.

Ah — Dr. Dobson has done it again. Another good book. This time it's more for Mom and Dad rather than being solely about children. Let's just save time and work and I will quote the inset write-up (Sales pitch) for the Book.

"American women are facing a severe crisis of identity, brought on by persistent challenges to everything feminine — everything traditionally 'female'. Suddenly, within the past few years, many women have begun to question who they are and where they are going in this rapidly changing world. This tumultuous upheaval of roles has strained members of both sexes and undermined the foundations of the home, producing widespread dissatisfaction with life as it is. Thus, the Seventies have already been called an Age of Depression, particularly with regard to women in our society.

"In an attempt to understand the specific causes and treatment for feminine dissatisfaction and unhappiness, Dr. James Dobson identified ten 'Sources of Depression' which were most commonly expressed by women he counseled and by those attending his Family Life Seminars.

"In essence, this book is devoted to a discussion of those ten problems and the solutions and suggestions which the author has found effective. They are as follows: 1. Absence of romantic love in my marriage; 2. In-law conflict; 3. Low self-esteem; 4. Problems with the children; 5. Financial difficulties; 6. Loneliness, isolation, and boredom; 7. Sexual problems in marriage; 8. Menstrual and physiological problems; 9. Fatigue and time pressure; 10. Aging.

"The title of this book, *What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women*, reflects the vital role played by men in helping their wives overcome gloom and despair. In fact, all ten of the items listed are usually related to (or aggravated by) an unsatisfactory relationship between men and women. Simply stated, women often have unique emotional needs and aspirations which their husbands fail to understand and appreciate. In this book, Dr. Dobson provides an empathetic look at these barriers to marital harmony, and then offers many insightful and helpful suggestions for their resolution. Both men and women will find his discussion interesting, often humorous, and immensely practical in application to everyday living."

So — don't delay — buy today!

— Hugh Wilson
New Orleans West