



September 2, 2004 • Vol. 1, No. 2

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

UPDATE ON MRS. FLURRY'S HEALTH

by Stephen Flurry

Important: This announcement should be read worldwide at services this week, September 4th.

My mother's health has taken a turn for the worse in the last two weeks. The night of August 29 was especially bad as she wailed in pain on three different occasions. Her pain appeared to be heart-related as we could see the pounding at the top of her chest. Her condition prompted me and my wife, along with my father, to spend the night with her at the Turgeon home. She was extremely restless the whole night. Unable to lie down because of discomfort, she stayed in her motorized wheel chair the whole night and kept moving around.

The next day, her condition stabilized somewhat, but she is still weak and also restless and fidgety. She has not been able to keep any food down the last three days. On September 1, the nurse tested her heart rate and it was beating 212 times a minute. She's had problems with a rapid beating heart for most of her adult life. But this does

seem to be a particularly difficult and long spell, as her heart simply will not slow down. The nurse also commented on her color, which seems to be getting more yellow. She said this could be an indication that her liver is beginning to shut down.

Regarding her stroke, improvement has been slow-going. If anything, because of her weakening heart, it has regressed in recent weeks. She still cannot communicate much and her right arm and leg are virtually paralyzed, though the swelling in both appears to have gone down.

My father wanted me to get this update out to the ministry so that the brethren might be aware of Mrs. Flurry's declining condition. Her life truly is in God's hands. Your prayers are very much appreciated.

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CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

GOD'S HOUSE

On Wednesday, August 24, representatives for the Church met with three architects from Rees & Associates to begin discussions regarding God's House. This was just a general discussion, but exciting nonetheless because it means we are starting the process that will result in God's House being built!

Rees & Associates, the same firm that designed the Hall of Administration, wanted to get an idea of what kind of building we were interested in as well as the quality of the structure. We gave them a brochure from

the WCG that detailed some of the construction and design that went into the building of Ambassador Auditorium. In return, they gave us a portfolio of work they have done around Oklahoma in designing auditoriums and concert halls.

Of course, nothing has been set in stone, but we asked them to work up some preliminary numbers for a hall that would seat around 700 to 800 people. They asked about the many features we might want in addition to the seating, like whether we will have a balcony, how big the lobby will be, the TV-audio room, the size of

the stage and all the associated rooms for performances, the orchestra pit, piano storage, dressing rooms, etc.

To our surprise, their initial estimation of the building's size was that its footprint would be about *three times bigger* than the Hall of Administration. Even a modest-sized hall of "only" 700 seats will be a huge undertaking for this Church. It will dominate the landscape on campus, and even North Edmond. The community *will* notice it!

We also spent some time talking about how the building will be situated on the land next to the Hall of Administration. We told them that instead of having a giant asphalt parking lot out front that perhaps we could develop several small parking areas with walkways and paths leading to the House of God.

The architects encouraged us to continue talks internally so that the next time we meet we can narrow our focus. In the meantime, they will begin work on some conceptual sketches based upon the ideas from our first meeting.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Question: What types of costumes are permitted at Church costume dances?

Answer: With regard to Church costume dances, Mr. Flurry said we ministers should discourage our members and their children from dressing as "super heroes" (e.g. Batman, Spiderman, Jedi knights, etc.) or other violent characters (e.g. "G.I. Joe," gangsters, cowboys with six-shooters, Samurai warriors with swords, etc.). It would be better for us to steer our kids away from the idea of role-playing with magic, superhuman powers, or

weaponry; rather, we should encourage more positive, uplifting role models.

Here are a few quotes from Garner Ted Armstrong's child-rearing booklet for us to keep in mind with regard to this subject:

"Children would far rather imitate gangsters, crooks and hoodlums than they would the heroes. Have you ever noticed how often children, in playing games, will call themselves by the names of some of their heroes? The chances are—the more of a merciless killer he is—the more 'fans' in the youthful generation he will acquire."

"Adults chuckle to themselves, as they see their little children imitating their favorite TV heroes—they don't see any harm in it—the [children] are 'just playing.'

"There are many dangers inherent in allowing children to pretend, without careful parental knowledge and guidance."

One more thing: With regard to face paint, Mr. Flurry said it is allowable, but should be used very sparingly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRECTIONS

Corrections: It was not listed in the PGR last week, but Mr. Dennis Leap will also be attending the New Zealand feast site. Also, Mr. Icasiano will be going to the Phillipines, not the Netherlands.

Note: Mr. Leroy Keith was listed as attending in Greenville, S.C. However, he has been suspended and will not be attending the feast this year (Do not announce this in services).

EDITORIAL SERVICES

by Joel Hilliker

Last week was a mighty juggling act between trying to finish the September/October *Trumpet* and to start the new IC school year off. We have delayed our *Trumpet* deadline by a few days to make this possible, which we really can only do on our two bimonthly issues each year.

Our new Editorial student helpers are beginning their training on our software. We reconfigured our office space somewhat to accommodate an additional workstation. This month we will be ordering a couple new computers; Apple is launching a new deal we can take advantage of in order to upgrade at least two computers here at the office; we will send two of the slower (but still reliable) machines out to the college campus to accommodate publishing projects that occurring out there.

In our continued push to replenish our stock of lit-

erature, we sent *The Little Book* and *History and Prophecy of the Middle East* to press last week. With the ongoing war in the Middle East the latter booklet came up for a reprint much sooner than expected. (Stock was depleted in less than two years.) It just shows how world-events have driven people's curiosity to see why these things are happening and where it is all leading.

Mr. Flurry is currently reviewing the Habakkuk booklet which is also up for a reprint, to include the revelations concerning the court case in book form. Next on the docket is the Lamentations booklet, which needs to be reprinted for the first time since its initial print run in 1993.

We are planning to let the November/December *Royal Vision* feature a series of article on personal finances. This

seems to be an ongoing area of counseling for many field ministers and hopefully you'll be able to use this particular issue as a specific tool in helping members and prospective members manage their finances in a godly way.

As a reminder, please encourage brethren to use *Royal Vision* articles from previous years in preparation for the fall holy days, as we will not be producing a festival issue this year.

MEDIA SERVICES

by Andrew Locher

August was an intensely busy month for Media Services. Call volume in the call center was the second highest level of the year—second only to March. Over 7,600 telephone calls were answered for literature requests, roughly 67 percent of which were generated by the *Key of David* program. That marks a 30 percent increase over July's figures.

There were five Sundays in the month of August, which is the main cause for the increase in call volume. With the program airing on Sunday, most all of our TV generated call volume comes on that day.

Even with repeats this summer, we have maintained record breaking response to all forms of advertising. Over 8,500 new subscriptions were added to the *Trumpet* magazine from June through the end of August.

NEW TELEVISION STATIONS

We have finalized negotiations for a return to Dallas, Texas on KDFI. The Dallas market is the 7th largest TV market in the United States with just over 255,000 television households (roughly 750,000 potential viewers). The program will air Sunday at 10:30 a.m. beginning October 3, 2004.

Mr. Harrison continues to work with a media firm in his region to secure airtime throughout Britain and Europe. Positive progress has been made, and it appears some new and strong opportunities might be working out. More details will be forthcoming, but for now, we really need to remind the brethren of the importance of their prayers for us to obtain time in Britain and Europe.

THE KEY OF DAVID—NEW SEASON

We define a full season as the programs taped from the end of the Feast of Tabernacles through the beginning of the Feast days the following year. With the Feast fast approaching, we are anxious to enter our 12th year of television production. Beginning with the first program taped after the Feast all productions will be numbered as the '05 season.

We anticipate taping a few more new episodes to conclude the '04 season which added nearly 40 new programs to the running list of inspired shows. To date

Mr. Flurry has recorded nearly 390 different episodes of *The Key of David*.

THE KEY OF DAVID SCHEDULE

The schedule below applies to all stations in the United States, Canada and our website. Stations throughout Australasia and the Caribbean follow a schedule that is one week behind the U.S. and Canada due to shipping delays. The Philippines, South Africa and Malta all follow schedules that are a few weeks behind the U.S. and Canada for the same reason.

Program Title: *The Missing Dimension in Sex*

Air Date: September 5

Literature Offered: *Missing Dimension in Sex, God is a Family*

Synopsis: *Sex has become big business in the world today. Countless movies, television programs and magazine articles all deal with the topic of sex. But so few today understand the purpose of sex. Sex was created by an all-loving, wise and powerful God. Why did God create sex? Sex draws a husband and wife closer together and also brings more members into a family. Sex, when used properly, builds and strengthens the physical family, which is a type of the God Family. Perverted sex destroys marriage and family, but proper use of sex builds family and helps people realize their incredible human potential, to be born sons into the very Family of God.*

Program Title: *Breakdown of the Family*

Air Date: September 12

Literature Offered: *Conspiracy Against Fatherhood, United States and Britain in Prophecy*

Synopsis: *History and Bible Prophecy both demonstrate the primary reasons why empires fall. The Roman Empire quickly deteriorated due to fractured families, over taxation and burgeoning military expenditures. The fall of the Roman Empire was prophesied as is the fall of the American and British Empires in the last days of mankind's history. Today we are living through chilling similarities in the nations of end-time Israel compared to what the ancient Romans experienced just prior to their fall.*

MAIL PROCESSING

by Andrew Locher

CALL CENTER

The call center answered 49,900 telephone calls in the first eight months of the year. Last year, we answered a total of 54,153 calls over the entire 12-month period. We will easily surpass last year's total with the start of the new television season coupled with the addition of several new booklets.

Several more in-home WATS operators have volunteered and are awaiting their training materials which will be shipped later this month. With the additional students in our IC call center together with the expanding number of in-home operators, we are able to field 50—60 operators Sunday morning to handle the majority of our incoming calls.

Soon coming issues of the PGR will feature more detail about the in-home program.

MAIL DEPARTMENT

We are overwhelmed with data entry tasks for all of the written requests, website requests and mail-back cards. With the increased volume, a few students will be added to the task of performing the data entry to make sure the orders are processed in a timely fashion.

New student labor is also being trained to help us package and ship orders processed in Scepter. Last year, we had one student assigned specifically to the Mail department, this year we have three. In addition, we are using about 30 students to assist us on Sundays—our peak call and packaging day—to keep up with the demand for literature.

The new MPC has proven itself filling vital needs for warehousing, packaging and making shipping easier. We are now able to use USPS (U.S. Postal Service) mail carts to move our literature from the warehouse onto our box truck. We average over 5,000 pieces of outgoing mail per week that must be delivered to the post office, so the use of carts, a loading dock and box truck all make the job a little easier.

CO-WORKER LETTER AND HOLY DAY ENVELOPES MAILED

Mr. Flurry's co-worker letter was processed and sent out on August 31, 2004, from HQ to all U.S. and Canadian households. By the end of this week, we hope to have out the UK region, Spanish and other foreign language versions of the letter. The letter is also being processed in the Australasian region by Mr. Williams and his staff.

Fall holy day offering envelopes were also mailed earlier this week making for a very active couple of days in the MPC.

WEBSITE ACTIVITY

Activity on our websites has been consistent throughout the year averaging roughly 50,000 visits a month. The statistics we gather from the website indicate the country of origin that is using our website. Here listed are the top-15 nations visiting our websites during the month of May 2004:

	<i>keyoflDavid.com</i>	<i>trumpet.com</i>
1.	United States	United States
2.	Canada	Australia
3.	Australia	Canada
4.	United Kingdom	Netherlands
5.	Japan	United Kingdom
6.	China	South Africa
7.	New Zealand	New Zealand
8.	Israel	Singapore
9.	Germany	Japan
10.	India	Philippines
11.	Netherlands	Mexico
12.	Philippines	Saudi Arabia
13.	Nigeria	Israel
14.	Malta	France
15.	South Africa	Zimbabwe

BUSINESS OFFICE

by Andrew Locher

PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD NET ASSETS

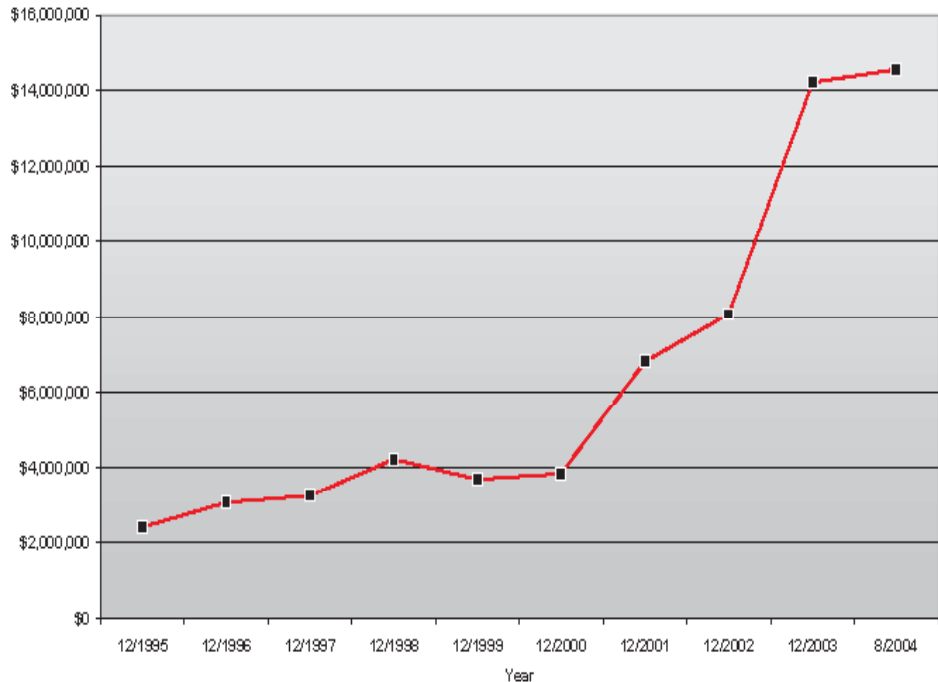
Net assets of the Church have increased by 270 percent since December 2000. This is primarily a result of the investment in facilities on the Imperial College campus such as the mail processing center, the field house and duplexes for student accommodation. The other significant factor contributing to the rapid growth in net assets was the acquisition of copyrights in 2003.

TREASURER'S REPORT

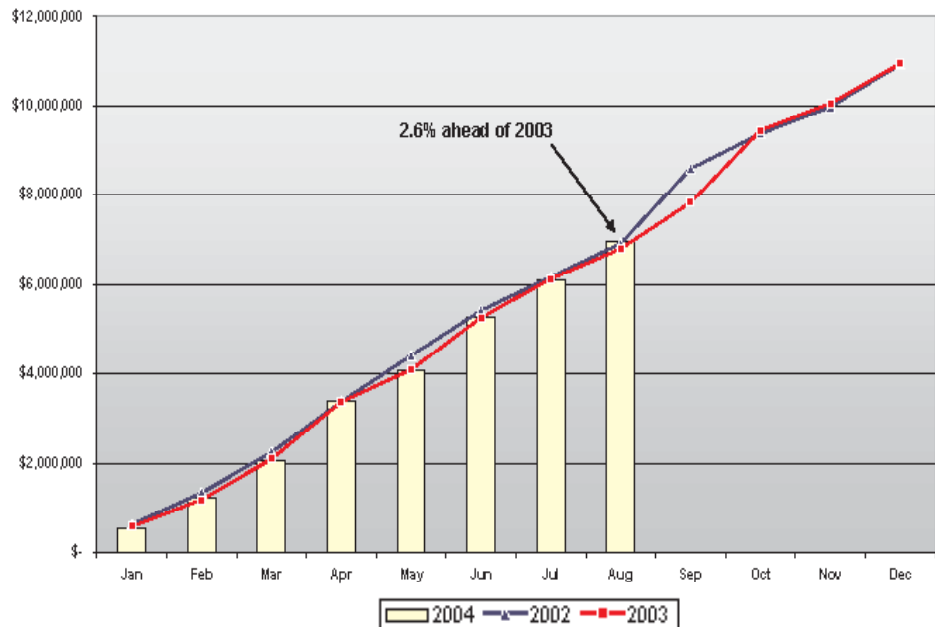
Cumulative contribution income to August 31 for the United States increased 2.6 percent over last year thanks in large part to the increase in building fund donations and a sizable estate recently deposited with the Church. As is commonly known, we anticipate the fall holy day offerings to supplement our standard daily deposits of tithes and offerings to bring us through the long winter months leading to the spring holy days. Our cash flow will be greatly impacted with the start of construction of the Hall of Administration slated to begin shortly. God's timing is amazing as He brings resources to bear just at the right time. The fall holy days should add roughly \$1 million to the Church's account.

Please note the accompanying graph depicting U.S. cumulative contributions comparing the years 2002, 2003 and 2004.

Philadelphia Church of God
Net Assets 1995-2004



Philadelphia Church of God (USA)
Cumulative Contribution Income
(2002-2004)



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

by Wayne Turgeon

College Orientation week has concluded and classes have started for Imperial College's fourth year. The new crop of students with which we in the Building and Grounds area have the privilege of working are extremely eager and desirous of being a part of the growth and development here on God's land. The weather this week has been warm and cooperative, allowing us to accomplish some things that had been held up during previous weeks due to the inclement weather.

HALL OF ADMINISTRATION

This week we have been attempting to finalize some of the bids, in particular, some to of the steel quotes for the Hall of Ad. It is necessary that we make a decision on this very soon in order to lock in the steel price before it gets any more expensive.

We are still awaiting the confirmation from the Fire Marshall to start the project. In speaking with Rees & Associates, they concurred that chasing the fire mar-

shall will only cause him irritation.

God is in charge and He knows what's going on. Perhaps it's a blessing in disguise allowing us to finalize the position of the House of God in relation to the Hall of Ad, making sure that everything works together in harmony.

PARKING LOT

We have been diligently working on getting the parking lot around the field house completed. The influx of the new students has assisted in helping to further complete some of the work in the parking lot islands. We will also be trying to prepare the areas that will be laid with sod. We received approval to seal the parking lot prior to the Feast. We will probably only put lines at the crosswalks and perhaps the handicapped parking spaces. Sealing the lot will add at least 10 years of life to the surface by preventing the harmful UV rays of the sun from breaking down the asphalt.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE

by Stephen Flurry

We completed our first week of classes and, as is now customary, freshmen are a little stressed about how to keep up with the frenzied pace of Imperial life! It does take a little while to used to the "pressure cooker."

INTEREST IN ONLINE COURSE SKYROCKETS

Over the last couple years, you have probably heard comments from members who have taken Imperial College classes over the Internet. I know some of you in the ministry have even enrolled in a course or two. Each time we have offered a course, the level of interest increases significantly. This year was no exception.

Old Testament Survey began on Thursday, August 26, for the fourth consecutive year here at IC. In the classroom, Mr. Leap has 24 students—which is big, by IC standards. He finishes his lectures at about 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. By 5:00 p.m. on those evenings, an additional 267 church members from around the world can begin downloading each lecture on their computers and listen in at home.

We offered our first online course in the fall semester of 2002—Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ. Though about 60 people applied that year, we only accepted

about 20 online students because it was our first year and we wanted to make sure we had enough manpower at Headquarters to service the students.

The next year, for Epistles of Paul, we accepted nearly everyone who wanted to enroll in the online class—115 total. This past summer, for Christian Leadership, 151 church members listened in from the field. So 267 for this fall represents quite a jump—77 percent, in fact.

The brethren will have much to look forward to in the Old Testament Survey course. It's an in-depth study of the law and the former prophets, with emphasis on background, geography, teachings, structure, content and basic meaning of each book. It also includes study of outstanding people and events; emphasizes the Old Testament's key role as the background and foundation for understanding the New Testament.

The growing popularity of IC online courses has the potential to take some of the educational benefits of IC direct to the brethren. Mr. Armstrong often said that the growth of the Work grew in direct proportion to the development of the college. Maybe this is a way God is pushing for greater growth in His end-time Work.

MINISTERIAL TRAINING SERIES

SHOULD GOD'S PEOPLE TAKE ACTIVE PART IN LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES?

by *Herbert W. Armstrong*

Taken from the August 28, 1978, *Pastor General's Report*

We need to go to GOD'S WORD to understand our relationship in and with our respective local communities. Misunderstanding had started creeping into God's Church. Some have thought God's people, and His ministers in particular, ought to start taking a more active part in local community activities.

It was even urged by one who is no longer in God's Church that the Worldwide Church of God ministers ought to become active in local, social and community affairs—join various clubs, perhaps take a stand on political issues, become an integral part of the community.

But what does the Word of God say? What did Jesus teach?

Jesus said to those who formed the starting nucleus of God's Church—the same church Christ has called us out of the world and baptized us into: "These things I command you, that ye love one another ... if ye were of the world, the world would love his own ..." (John 15:17, 19). Let's face it! Is not the underlying motive in unthinkingly recommending that we—and especially our ministers who are our local leaders—begin fraternizing more with the local community—taking more active part in community activities—isn't this an unrealized desire to win the approval of the world which "loves its own"? But Jesus continued, "... but because ye are not of the world" (participating in its activities), "... but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. ... If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you ..." (verse 20).

Brethren, and fellow ministers, I know that God has called me out of the world. Jesus Christ committed to me His GREAT COMMISSION—to GO FORTH as His Apostle, to the world with His message. Yet, though we must live in the world, Jesus said we are not to be of it—participating in its activities! And Jesus Christ made this a COMMAND! Do we want to break His COMMAND?

It is true that one of the qualifications of an elder (minister) is, "... he must have a good report of them

which are without ..." (of the world) (1 Timothy 3:7). He must be blameless" (verse 2). But that does not mean being a participant with the world in its affairs and its activities.

This I know: Jesus Christ commissioned me to go to the world with His gospel, but not to be of it!

We should all live blameless before the world—let our light of godly character so shine before the world, that they may see our good works. But that does not mean to be of them.

The admonition, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers ..." (2 Corinthians 6:14), applies not only to marriage or business partnerships, but in social or fraternal contacts as well. Notice the remainder of that same verse: "for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" The passage continues on to say that we of the Church are the very TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD, to which Christ shall come, in His GLORY!

This same passage continues, referring to the worldly community in which we live, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord ..." (verse 17).

We are called into the FELLOWSHIP with Christ and also of God the Father (1 John 1:3).

Notice God's instruction to us, His Church, in Ephesians 5:11: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness"

So, what is the sum of Christ's teaching to us in His Church? We of necessity must live in the world—but must not be of it. We must let the world see our GOOD WORKS—we must be friendly, courteous, polite—yet not be a friend of the world. "... know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God"! (James 4:4)

God's COMMAND and instruction to us is DEFINITE! That is why I never (since conversion 51 years ago) have "joined" or affiliated with any of this world's ac-

tivities. That is WHY, when I was sole leader, and God's Church was smaller, our ministers did not in any way participate, fraternize, or fellowship with the world in their local communities.

But when I say there has been a tendency to water down God's TRUTH in the Church—to see just how close to this world, and to Satan's way, we can come and still “make it into God's Kingdom,” this is one specific illustration of what I was talking about!

JESUS CHRIST is the HEAD of this Church. But I am His representative, and not Satan's representative! JESUS CHRIST is putting God back into His Church and College!

Listen to what Christ inspired Peter to say: “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a PECULIAR PEOPLE ...” (1 Peter 2:9). Notice—a “PECULIAR people”—UNIQUE—DIFFERENT—unlike those around us in our communities. We have been

called out from them—and yet one who was taking to himself authority never vested in him, was encouraging our ministers to go back into them—be like them—participate with them—become the ENEMY OF GOD! This take-over of unauthorized authority had put inter-collegiate competition in the basketball courts of God's College.

One of the fruits of Satan's way, along with vanity, lust and greed, envy and jealousy, is COMPETITION—rivalry—“party spirit” as Moffatt translates it.

Once again, Christ through me, has put that competition with the world out of Ambassador College! And our Church basketball teams should NOT compete with the outside world!

There has, been a TURN-AROUND in God's Church and College! To those minister who have joined local activities or clubs, Christ commands, “Come out from among them and be ye separate”!