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PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

Greetings, ministers and wives!

In Revelation 3:8, God praises the Philadelphians for not denying His name, or *government*. That is high praise from Almighty God. We have a little strength, we're small—but we have not denied God's name and His authority.

We must learn the lesson of God's government, or Satan will easily deceive us!

Notice: Verse 9 talks about the synagogue of Satan rising up within God's own Church. While Mr. Armstrong was alive, he was dumbfounded at how many people didn't "get it." They were sitting right there, attending God's Church, and yet they were part of the synagogue of Satan! Why?

The reason they became the synagogue of Satan is that *they have a government problem*.

God makes a direct contrast here between those who didn't deny His government, and those in the synagogue of Satan. He says He is going to **MAKE** those people come and worship before the feet of His faithful Philadelphians. They are going to have to come back and accept the government of God, or they're finished.

A government problem cuts off revelation. And if you don't have revelation, why should God open doors for you? (verse 8). The Philadelphia Church of God is the only Church on Earth that receives revelation today. Why? Because we hang on to God's government. If we compromise, then we can't be Philadelphian. If we don't keep God's word, or we deny God's name—or government—then Satan is going to deceive us.

When you look at the ministers in the Worldwide Church of God, there were some very talented people. Many of them were far more talented than I am. But what good is talent? What good is it, as far as serving God? Talent is great if you yield yourself to God, but in and of itself it isn't worth anything. In fact, it can be a detriment, because people can begin to look to that talent, rather than the great God.

God says these people "say they are Jews and are not but do lie." In other words, their life is a lie. Yes, they do lie—but it's like their *life* is a lie! These people were hypocritical in some ways. So God is going to bring them back and teach them to live in childlike submission to His government, or they won't make it.

God is going to make them see that He loved you and me. He wants them to know who His Family is. Many will come back and be part of that Family—the bride of Christ.

God also wants *us* to know that He loves us. We need to act like God acts and show that kind of love through the Spirit of God. We ministers must make sure God's people are not being abused. There has been enough of that in this era of God's Church.

This passage tells quite a story. All you have to do is submit to the government of God. If you do, God will reveal His truth to you, and then you can walk through the open door and do the Work of God. It's so simple—but that's the only reason this Church is as effective as it is.

Many people won't admit that God is behind us, but God is going to make them come to us and recognize that God loves us for not denying His loving government. As Mr. Armstrong said, "Government is everything."

With love, in Christ's service,

IN THIS ISSUE

Church Administration	2
Media Services	2
Editorial Services	3
Business Office	4
Mail Processing	5
Ministerial Training	6

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

The 2005 Ministerial Conference is fast approaching. All non-full-time ministers should notify Mrs. Melody Thompson of their plans to either attend or, not attend this year's conference immediately. It is also important that all ministers attending the conference let Mrs. Thompson know of their travel plans. We must begin making arrangements for shuttle service too and from the airport. Remember, conference attendance is mandatory for a full-time minister and wife unless approved by Gerald Flurry.

In addition, all non-full-time ministers should let Mrs. Thompson know where they are staying in Edmond. Please note: all full-time ministers and wives (unless staying with relatives) will be housed at the Sleep Inn not the Best Western or Ramada. This is being done for your convenience. The Sleep Inn is within walking distance of several restaurants.

Looking forward to seeing you at the 2005 Conference.

Dennis Leap

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE HOUSING

Jim and Iva Sutherland have a fully furnished three bedroom house for rent to PCG members on a daily or

weekly basis. Cost is \$60 per night. There is room for up to three couples in the house. The price remains the same no matter how many people are staying there. The house is located less than a mile from the Imperial College campus and includes the following amenities:

- Free long distance phone
- DSL hookup
- Cable television
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Washer and dryer
- Linens and towels furnished

Contact Jim or Iva Sutherland for details:

Phone: (623) 977-7454

Fax: (623) 977-8968

E-mail: jimniva@cox.net

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Please note that Church members are encouraged to enroll in the new *Imperial College Bible Correspondence Course*. The lessons provide a wealth of information not just for those in the world, but for those in God's Church as well.

MEDIA SERVICES

By Andrew Locher

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: "Jordan Foils WMD Attack"

Airdate: November 7

Literature Offered: Reprint: "The Shocking Story About WMD in Jordan", *History and Prophecy of the Middle East*
Synopsis: A recent terrorist attack was planned against the nation of Jordan. Jordanian officials were able to stop this attack before it occurred. The terrorists planned to use 20 tons of chemical weapons. Where did these chem-

ical weapons come from? Evidence points toward Iraq. This week on the Key of David, Gerald Flurry looks at what happened to Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Program Title: "Russia and China In Prophecy"

Airdate: November 14

Literature Offered: *Russia and China In Prophecy, Zephaniah's Day of the Lord*

Synopsis: The Bible prophesies about a future army from Russia and China that will consist of 200 million men. This army will fight German led European forces. These power blocs are beginning to take shape already. Russian President Vladimir Putin is about to gain control of Russia's oil production. Russia and China are on the rise economically and militarily. This week, Gerald Flurry discusses what the Bible shows will happen very soon to the United States and Britain, Europe, Russia and China.

EDITORIAL SERVICES

By Joel Hilliker

We came back from the Feast this year fired up to improve our efforts to prophesy again. Some of our goals include improving our *timeliness* and *accuracy* with the publications, better reflecting God's perfect character in doing so.

First, we aim to tighten the schedule so every publication gets out on time. We've been trying to divide responsibilities enough within the department to avoid bottlenecks; each publication has *one individual* charged with ensuring it gets finished according to the schedule.

Second, we have found that a number of errors were getting put *into* the publications *during the final editing process*. Thus, we plan to be more diligent in ensuring that each publication has one final proofread *after* all the corrections are put in and before it goes to print. This final proofread will fall on the shoulders of people outside of headquarters: we have begun using a professional proofreader in Norman, Oklahoma; also, from time to time we have brethren in the field offering their services for proofreading; we now have the technology to make this possible without slowing things down too much. We've come to have the mindset that it doesn't hurt to try someone out if they're willing to take the time to do the reading under a tight deadline.

This week we finished the November issue of the *Trumpet* (on time), with a cover story about how pornography is destroying families. In it we are advertising the *Imperial College Bible Correspondence Course*, which we are very excited about. Related to the above paragraph, this issue marks the first time we used a Church member to do that final proofread; Ken Jeffries from Arkansas read it and made some good catches.

Wik Heerma spent the Feast in the Netherlands, and got an earful from the brethren overseas who are *begging* for more publications in foreign languages. Mr. Harrison related that it is very hard to counsel a prospective member when you don't have the literature for them to read in their native tongue.

Relative to this goal, Mr. Heerma wrote the following:

In last week's PGR, we referred to the possibilities of the *Key of David* returning to the UK and the European continent in the near future. In preparation for this, as well as to assist those brethren who currently speak little or no English, Mr. Flurry approved some drastic changes to our foreign-language publications.

"For quite some time we've been struggling to let the new revelation God has given us trickle down to those who are unable to fully comprehend it as published in English. Mr. Armstrong faced a similar experience in the early 70s. In his personal of the January 1972 edition of *Tomorrow's World* he wrote the following:

"A momentous decision has just been made. For months we have faced the problem of getting *Tomorrow's World* to the many thousands of *Plain Truth* subscribers in Germany, France, Belgium, Holland and Spanish-speaking countries."

Mr. Armstrong went on to explain how "[g]radually, in both the broadcasts and magazine articles, in order to get God's Message to the world ... we had to speak to the world in the world's language, not in King James Bible language.

"[W]e made a drastic change in the editorial policy of the *Plain Truth*. It became entirely a secular-appearing magazine. I say secular-appearing because the word secular is sometimes used in the sense of meaning non-religious or even anti-religious.

"Although the *Plain Truth* is actually based on biblical revelation, instruction and teaching, it gives this teaching in non-biblical and non-religious terminology. As the Apostle Paul was all things to all men, so we speak to the world in the world's language, not in religious-sounding language. Thus we do proclaim God's way of life, though we do not call it by that name—in the *Plain Truth*.

"But this change in *Plain Truth* editorial policy made necessary the production of a NEW magazine of biblical understanding. Thus *Tomorrow's World* was born. It became what the *Plain Truth* used to be—a magazine of biblical truth and understanding—making the truth of the Bible PLAIN!

"But we were unable, at the time, to have both the *Plain Truth* and *Tomorrow's World* published in the other four languages. Meanwhile the German edition went wholly secular-appearing, like the English edition. We were no longer making the Bible, as such, PLAIN and clear to our German readers—even though we were still giving them biblical principles and teaching in non-biblical language. The French edition became a sort of mixture between the two.

“It became evident that it was incumbent on us to issue both magazines in all five languages—otherwise we were simply not carrying out our divinely called commission. ...”

The Philadelphia Church of God experienced a similar transition with the launch of *Royal Vision* in 1998. Prior to the launch of *Royal Vision*, many of the articles in the *Trumpet* carried a more biblical theme. As most of the foreign editions of the *Trumpet* were established before this time, they too saw a shift in focus when *Royal Vision* was launched. However, just as in the '70s, there was no additional magazine to fill the gap. Most of the foreign editions carried limited serializations of Mr. Flurry's booklets.

For many of our non-English speaking brethren, this quarterly magazine is the only literature they receive and their spiritual life-line. Therefore Mr. Flurry has made a judgment similar to that of Mr. Armstrong: Starting in January 2005, the foreign *Trumpets* (excluding Spanish) will be reduced in size from 32 pages to 24 pages, to allow our translators and editors more time to focus on getting the new revelation to our members, prospective members, co-workers and anyone else

who requests booklets. We will resume to print booklets in as many languages as we possibly can, something that has been on hold since 1997. We hope to be able to offer several new booklets with each issue of the *Trumpet* in the respective languages. In addition, we will again print the cover of all foreign *Trumpets* in full-color, giving an increased appeal to the magazines, particularly now that we have a waiting room program in Germany, France and Italy.

Although we are excited about this development, bringing all of our booklets up-to-date will be a monumental task for our volunteer translators and we are still in need of more help. If anyone in your area is able and willing to assist, please have them contact Wik Heerma at headquarters.

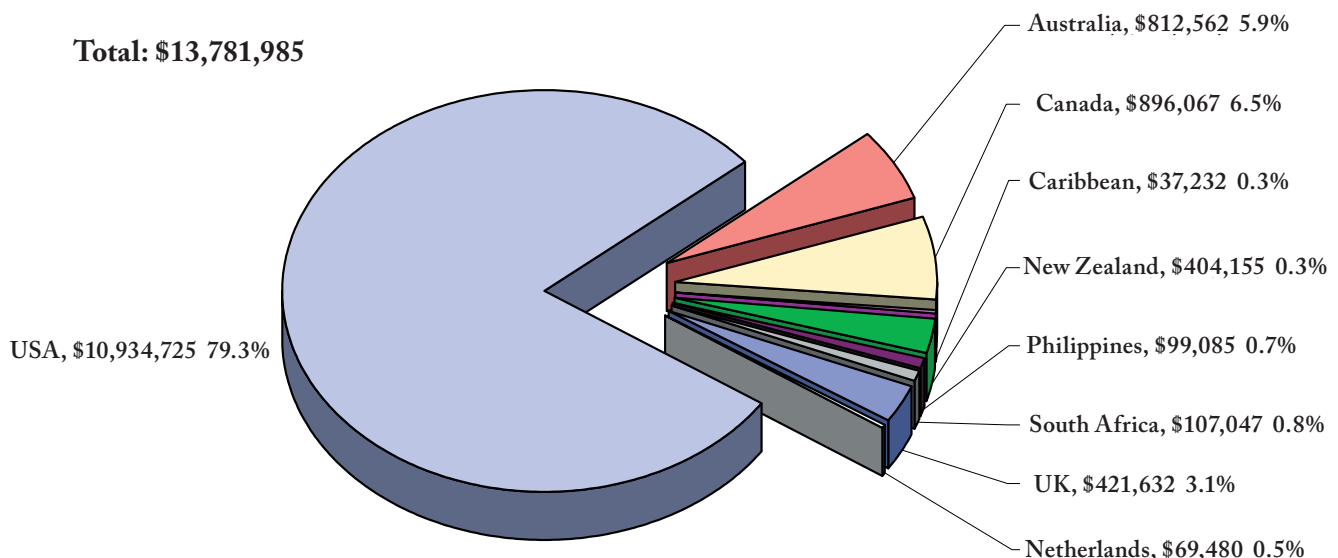
Finally, we are wrapping up the Fall 2004 *True Education*, the September-October *Philadelphia News* and the November-December *Royal Vision*. Our earnest hope and prayer is that these will be the last publications that are issued behind schedule. A good sign is that we already have a strong start on the Winter 2005 TE and November-December *Philadelphia News*. Please pray that we would be able to complete these punctually and accurately!

BUSINESS OFFICE

By Andrew Locher

PCG Worldwide Combined Contribution Income 2003

(USD Equivalent)



MAIL PROCESSING

MAIL DEPARTMENT

Current, up-to-date address information is critical to any mail operation. An organization is simply throwing away money if they mail literature to the wrong address or a bad address. Each month, on average, headquarters receives just under 3000 returned addresses from the United States Postal Service (usps). We pay approximately 70 cents each to have this valuable address information returned to us. Once received, we spend approximately 20 hours each month entering that address information into the database. You can see that a great deal of time and money is spent in order to update our data base—ensuring that greater waste isn't occurring by mailing literature to the wrong address each month.

The mail department is in the process of subscribing to a service that will assist greatly with our address updates. The usps offers a program called the Address Change Service (ACS). The ACS program allows a mail department to receive the updated address information electronically. Rather than receiving returned envelopes or postal cards with the updated address information, we can download a file which contains all of the address changes. In turn this data file is used to update our data base *automatically*—saving the many hours it takes to input the address changes manually. Because it takes less labor and paperwork for the usps, the ACS program charges only 20 cents per address rather than 70. What once cost God's Work close to \$25,000 a year will now cost just over \$7,000. When considering the time and money the ACS program will save God's Work, it is a true blessing—those valuable resources can be spent elsewhere while our data base continues to be updated.

Currently Ray Kaleho and the information services department is working to develop and program all that is needed to implement the ACS program. Please pray that God will continue to guide Mr. Kaleho and his staff as God's Work prepares to use the ACS program.

The usps is also in the process of developing other programs and services that will benefit God's Work. When we consider how few there are to accomplish such an important work in this last hour, God's timing is amazing! Without technology and the efficiency

it lends us, God could not accomplish so much with so few.

Mark Saranga

CALL CENTER

This past Sunday we repeated the program titled "King of the South" which last aired in November of last year and brought in 689 calls for the week. This airing generated over 2,600 calls on Sunday, of which we took 2,175. Of the 2,175 calls, 1,211 were new subscribers. We expect to answer about 2,400 responses by the end of the week. God's timing of this program, of course, was perfect. It aired just nine days before the election and remains the hottest topic on the campaign trail. This rerun was by far the strongest response we have taken since we returned to air back in November last year. The previous best was the program on "The Prophetic Beast" with a total of 1,803 calls. The prophetic beast program was also the program that generated 21,000 ring-busy calls that never even reached Siebel, our call-center service provider. As of this Monday, Siebel reported that the available lines we had this past weekend reached capacity 78 times which means this program also generated ring-busy calls or calls that never even got into our system to be accounted for. We have yet to be notified by the long distance carrier as to how many ring-busy calls occurred this weekend, though we estimate it is a significant figure.

This level of response further illustrates our need for more inbound lines, more headquarters operators as well as more in-home operators. As reported in an earlier PGR, Siebel will be expanding their number of inbound lines about eight fold within the next month or so. In the same time period, we will be expanding the headquarters call center to add another 14 or so operators. At the moment we have about 37 more in-home operators going through their training CDs who should be trained within the next 45 days. By the end of the year I expect we should be able to field between 80 to 90 total operators each Sunday. While this might relieve some of the pressure, it is exciting to think that each time we expand God quickly fills that new capacity to the full and we have to expand again.

Andrew Hessong

MINISTERIAL TRAINING SERIES

HOW TO CONDUCT PROPER AND EFFECTIVE IN-HOME VISITS PART TWO: PREPARATION

by Dennis Leap

You have been given the vitally important reasons why we should make in-home visits. Now let's discuss *how to prepare* for those visits. Of course, the most important preparation you, as a minister, must make is **SPIRITUAL**.

The first thing we must recognize is that we cannot help people unless we are close to God. This is the most important point for successful visiting! Being close to God can only come through daily prayer and Bible study and occasional fasting. Mr. Armstrong set a goal for everyone to fast at least once a month. There are times when our jobs require us to fast more often. How can we possibly help God's people unless we are filled with God's Holy Spirit? "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16). Before we leave to go visiting, we should be sure that we have spent ample time in prayer and in Bible study. "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8). If we draw close to God like this, then He will draw close to us and inspire our visiting.

When we are close to God and have prayed about the visits, Jesus Christ will speak through us during the member visit. Unless Christ is working in us and through us, we are of no good use or purpose. Paul tells us this fact: "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (2 Corinthians 13:5). We all must face the reality that we have nothing to give of ourselves. Remember, we cannot feed God's people unless we are filled with the Spirit!

So we should drive ourselves to stay consistent in prayer and Bible study. There is no other way to be competent and beneficial tools for God. Unless we are filled with God's Holy Spirit through prayer and skilled in use of His Word, we just cannot conduct a visit the way Jesus Christ did.

LOVE AND COMPASSION

The second-most-important spiritual preparation we should make before conducting a visit is to be sure that we are full of love and compassion. Mr. Armstrong taught that love is outflowing concern for others. Compassion is suffering with others. Jesus Christ held deep love and compassion for the Jews of His day even though

they highly disliked Him. "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd" (Matthew 9:36). Love and compassion are spiritual attributes. We need an ample supply of these two qualities of godly character in order to properly do our jobs. We all need much more love and compassion.

Love and compassion must be our motivation for us to effectively do our jobs. If we are not stirred to action by love and compassion, then we will be energized by vanity and self-exaltation.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23). The first fruit of the Holy Spirit is love. We need to pray to God to have more of this gift.

All of God's ministers need to make the effort to review 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 periodically. These verses explain how love and concern for other human beings is expressed. Love is patient, kind, considerate, gentle, and gives others the benefit of the doubt. Love is not jealous, envious, resentful, selfish, harsh or full of vanity. We need to fully remember the scripture, "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" (1 John 4:8). God is love, and if we are going to serve His people, we need to be like God in love. "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him" (1 John 4:16). God loves us unconditionally—even when we make mistakes. We must dwell in love with God people.

As ministers, we must also be willing to suffer with our people. We must be moved with compassion for our people. "For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity" (Hebrews 5:1-2). Paul showed the Jews that the high priest, or anyone serving God's people, should have compassion on the ignorant and weak, remembering that he himself is compassed with weakness, sins and problems. Ministers, let's pray fervently for more of God's love and compassion.

HUMILITY

We must be truly humble if we are to serve God's people. "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:5-7). Peter said first of all that we must be submissive to God's government. You, as a minister, must submit to the man assigned responsibility over you. Of course, your boss must be following Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1). And Peter also says we must be subject one to another. Every man assigned authority must be open to suggestion and willing to listen to those underneath him. This is the foundation of our unity. How do we achieve this kind of unity in the ministry? By being "clothed with humility." How do we attain this kind of humility? By humbling ourselves first before God.

True humility is not hard to define. It is an attitude of mind. It is a spirit of meekness. There is a false, put-on kind of humility. We must avoid this dangerous charade. God's ministry must not walk around looking pious and holy, or speaking sweet religious sentiment. We must humble ourselves before God (through fasting and prayer) and then be brave and strong with our people. This is the essence of true leadership and service. We need to know that we *are* nothing of ourselves and *can do* nothing of ourselves (John 5:30). We also need to realize that, if we are repenting, submitting and yielding to God, He will work through us very powerfully to help others!

FAITH AND WISDOM

The last several points I want to make regarding our spiritual preparation for visiting are that we need to be sure that we are growing in faith and wisdom. If we are truly humble before God, if we are asking for more and more of God's Spirit, then we will be growing in faith. Faith is a gift! "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). We must have strong FAITH if we are going to be able to strengthen God's very elect. We must know that God is real! We must know that God hears and answers prayer. We must do and act, knowing that God is behind our actions.

Unfortunately, many of God's people are very weak in faith. Jesus Christ prophesied that a lack of faith would be a major weakness in this end time. "I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke

18:8). If we are not living by faith, it is doubtful that our people will be.

How does faith grow? Faith grows in us when we obey God. "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him" (Acts 5:32). Faith grows in us when we see God backing up His Word. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Faith also comes by stepping out and doing the Work! We need to be asking for more of God's gift of faith.

The Proverbs say, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7). Without wisdom we will not be able to be loving and compassionate. Without wisdom we will not strive to be humble. Without wisdom we will not see the need to build faith in ourselves and others. Wisdom is absolutely necessary for us to be able to make right decisions and give good advice. Most of our mistakes as ministers are made because we lack wisdom.

Having wisdom and using wisdom is one of the most important qualities of leadership. How can we possibly serve God's people without wisdom? Proverbs states, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her" (Proverbs 3:13-15). Our life in the ministry will be so much more enjoyable and rewarding if we use wisdom—in every situation.

Wisdom is also a gift from God. Solomon asked for it; we must ask for wisdom as well. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). If we truly seek God's wisdom, he will give it to us. And of course, the source of our wisdom should be the Bible. We must be using godly wisdom. When we are counseling or giving advice to God's people, we must be sure we are reasoning from the Bible. It is all too easy for us to rely on our own thinking, reasoning and experience. There is a worldly kind of wisdom. We are warned to be careful about using carnal wisdom. "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work" (James 3:14-16). If we do not give advice from the Bible, then we will end up doing more harm than good. It would be far better to give *no advice* then to give the *wrong advice*.

We are also told that God's wisdom is from above. "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then

peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace” (James 3:17-18). When we use godly wisdom, righteousness and peace will always be the result! Pray for wisdom and faith.

PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS

After doing our part spiritually first, we also need to take care of some necessary physical preparations in order to be effective in our visiting. The first and most important thing we need to do physically is to be clean and well-groomed. Mr. Armstrong always set a fine example in this area. Our personal cleanliness and appearance have a definite effect on our visiting.

Mr. Armstrong stressed that the ministry should take a shower or bath every day. We should use the proper soaps so that we not only look clean but smell clean. Usually a deodorant is necessary to prevent offensive body odor. Masculine-smelling colognes or lotions are also very much in order. We should be sure that our hair is clean and combed. If necessary we should use a dandruff shampoo to prevent unsightly dandruff on our coats. Our teeth should be brushed and our breath smelling fresh. We should all use some kind of breath freshener if we have problems with bad breath.

CLEAN PRESSED CLOTHING

We should also be making sure that we are wearing clean pressed sport coats and slacks or a suit when visiting. Nicely starched shirts make us look sharp. After several wearings, we should be sure that our wool suits and slacks have been dry-cleaned. We should also be wearing a tie. Our shoes should be polished. Unpolished shoes are always noticeable. We should also be wearing socks that cover the calf.

We should never wear overly-stylish flashy sports clothes while visiting. However, we should not go to the opposite extreme of wearing only black suits either. We should be wearing conservative suits and sport coats. Overly trendy clothes can make the wrong impression and cause the brethren to lose respect for us. A colorful tie often adds a great accent.

Remember that we represent Jesus Christ when we visit. Our purpose in personal cleanliness, good grooming and clothing choice should be to set the right example and make a good impression.

ORGANIZE YOUR VISITING TRIP

After preparing to dress property, we should also plan and organize our visiting trips. Our visiting day or

weekend will go so much better if we plan ahead. Every minister should invest in a good road atlas. If you will be visiting in a city that you are unfamiliar with, it would be good to buy a good city map. Write or call all of the people you plan to visit ahead of time and then plot out your trip on the map. Taking the time to do this first can greatly relieve frustration and save you time later. Planning ahead also saves the Work money.

Your visits should be scheduled to last for approximately one to one and a half hours. Some appointments will take more time. Plan accordingly. Be sure to leave enough travel time between visits as well. Once you make a schedule, keep to the schedule.

Allow some time to prepare for each day. Don't just hurry into each day. Be sure you leave in plenty of time for your first visit. If you fall behind schedule, it is usually impossible to catch up. This will be frustrating to the brethren if you are late for your appointments. Remember, God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). We must make sure that we do not create confusion in our visiting schedule. Don't forget! Organizing and planning your visiting schedule is part of good physical preparation.

SAFE DRIVING

One final aspect to physical preparation is safe driving. We need to make sure we are not hazards on the road. We should all take our driving responsibilities seriously and be careful. Drive courteously and stay alert. Violent crime on the highway is on the increase. Experts now believe that inconsiderate driving is one of the leading “draws” of a violent act.

When you must drive a long distance, be careful not to let your mind wander. Accidents can happen so quickly. Keep your mind on your driving. Be sure to drive defensively! Watch the other person. In very rainy or wintry weather, be sure to adjust your speed for the road conditions. Studying a defensive driving book would be a good idea for all of our ministers who drive frequently.

Also be careful not to exceed established speed limits. This is not only good for your safety, it sets the right example as well. Some today feel we should disregard traffic laws. However, Romans 13 shows that we must have a healthy respect for all law, unless man's laws violate God's laws.

Be sure your car is well maintained. Check fluids, hoses and belts often. Tires should not be balding. And above all, use your seat belts! Let's be sure we are not tempting God with our driving. Do your part in driving safely, and God will do his part in protecting your life.