

THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD

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Dear Brethren and Co-Workers,

Greetings from Headquarters! My wife and I have recently returned from a wonderful trip to Atlanta, Georgia, where we were able to enjoy seeing about 125 brethren there on Mr. Turck's last Sabbath before his transfer back to Headquarters, effective April 1. What a joy to spend *all day* with the brethren—Sabbath services, luncheon and then an extensive Bible Study answering the longest list of questions I have ever received at *any* Bible Study (some were still left unanswered). It is obvious that the brethren are studying and are interested in knowing the mind of God. This is a far cry from my last years as a pastor in the early 1990s. All seemed to recognize that momentous prophecies are almost upon us—that the world is just about to fall into the “snare” that Christ warned of in Luke 21:35. This is very heartening to see. Like a mini-Feast of Tabernacles, it also makes me look forward already to the “full” Feast this Fall, particularly since the Church is now growing once again as fast as it ever has. I should report this dramatic change that began about two months ago—back to what was for so long the typical pattern—since it may have been overlooked.

Brethren, another Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread are almost upon us. In fact, most of you will read this letter after Passover—but hopefully before the First Day of Unleavened Bread. Be sure to take all of it to heart. Also, be sure to make this Passover season, which is always to be both sobering and inspiring, truly meaningful. There will not be many more until we keep it together with Christ in the kingdom of God.

We start with a more extensive report on Greece, some of which will be graphic. (I mentioned that this would be coming in my last letter.) But first recognize that conditions in Greece are a microcosm of what is soon coming in many more places around the world. It also shows the environment in which the masses will desperately cry out for someone—ANYONE!—to stand up and solve all their problems. Of course, we understand that the Beast system will fill this power vacuum, and promise to return prosperity to a now almost completely broken economic system all across Europe. The obvious—and recent!—historical pattern can be seen when considering post-World War I Germany in the 1920s under the Weimar Republic. Hyperinflation and extreme economic hardship, partly because Germany was trying to repay war debt, left the German population willing to follow almost *any leader* able to deliver the “good times” again. Hitler stepped in, and a big enough number of people welcomed him with open arms. Of course, the rest is history, including how over 50 million people were dead within 12 years as a direct result. Incidentally, to understand the scope of what desperate people reached out for, against today's population this would be the equivalent of 150 million people dying as a result!

Back to Greece. The stunning conditions inside this small European nation have gone largely unreported in the liberal American mainstream news media, perhaps in part because it so directly speaks against the entitlement mindset the liberal left is driving in the U.S. But one journalist recently provided a shocking report of what is really going on there. After spending six hours in Athens, he reported that the entire city had an “apocalyptic” feel to it. Stray dogs roamed the street in packs—just imagine this in America—since people were forced to release them after being unable to afford them. The city smelled like urine and feces, with drug use occurring openly. The reporter also stated that he had never seen so much graffiti in his life, even when comparing it to places like the Bronx, New York. I have seen and worked in all parts of the Bronx and seen the photos, and he is correct. Video of the city also confirms this. Virtually every shop window, awning, city building, university campus and store was littered with anarchist, socialist and communist graffiti that would have to be sandblasted out of the stone it covers in uncounted buildings. One is reminded of large American inner cities.

Then there were the buildings *destroyed* by protesters. Many structures were completely gutted by fires, including an entire seven-story shopping mall. Chunks of marble were chipped off city buildings by youth who would use them as rocks to hurl at police. Even more incredibly, the universities served as sanctuaries for the protesters. After causing havoc in the streets, youth would flee to a university where police would only be allowed entrance to make an arrest *with permission from the university dean*. Astonishing! Most of the time, the dean would not allow police to enter. The result? The protesters escape punishment. Imagine dealing with violent crime in American universities only if you had the permission from administrators to arrest students. Of course,

academics the world over are typically *very* liberal—but are they liberal enough to so blatantly endorse breaking the law? In Greece, the answer is *yes*. Other European countries will follow what has happened for centuries beyond Europe. (Last night in Lexington, Kentucky, home of this year's men's national collegiate basketball champions, as regularly occurs after virtually any championship in America, the CELEBRATION led to violence and riots that included two shootings and 61 fires across the city. Never forget how human nature is ALWAYS looking for a chance to demonstrate, party—and riot. Take time to read Exodus 23:2, which forbade all forms of mob action in ancient Israel.)

Again back to Greece. A *Bloomberg* article reported this: “Budget cuts of 23 percent since 2009 mean [university] buildings aren't heated in the winter...Students say it's hard to be hopeful with youth unemployment surpassing 50 percent and protesters seizing university buildings.

“‘People are pessimistic and sad,’ said Konstantinos Markou, a 19-year-old law student, speaking in a lobby at the University of Athens, where dogs fought nearby and students say drug dealers and users congregate. ‘The sadness is all around the air.’”

Much more could be said about the truly dire conditions in Greece, including how its medical system has broken down due to lack of finances. Diseases such as HIV and malaria are returning. But recognize that this is only the front edge of worsening conditions in a single country. As the Four Horsemen of Revelation pick up speed, the above reports will become much more frequent, much more widespread.

Regarding extreme weather, a stunning 6,000-plus weather records were broken across the United States just from March 1 to March 22. During the same period, there were only 250 daily record lows. This confirms that the nation has been experiencing unseasonably very warm weather in recent weeks. For instance, according to *weather.com*, “Chicago, Detroit and Indianapolis are all currently seeing their warmest March on record...Records date back to the 1870s in all of these cities.” There was also a new very sobering report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that forecasted much worse weather disasters in the coming years. “The greatest danger from extreme weather is in highly populated, poor regions of the world, the report warns, but no corner of the globe—from Mumbai to Miami—is immune. The document by a Nobel Prize-winning panel of climate scientists forecasts stronger tropical cyclones and more frequent heat waves, deluges and droughts” (*The Associated Press*).

Finally, in one of the most upsetting articles I have ever read about disease, the director general of the World Health Organization (WHO) recently came out and warned that bacteria were becoming so antibiotic resistant that it could mean “the end of modern medicine as we know it” (*The Telegraph*). She explained, “Things as common as strep throat or a child's scratched knee could once again kill. Antimicrobial resistance is on the rise in Europe and elsewhere in the world. We are losing our first-line antimicrobials. Replacement treatments are more costly, more toxic, need much longer durations of treatment, and may require treatment in intensive care units. For patients infected with some drug-resistant pathogens, mortality has been shown to increase by around 50 percent. A post-antibiotic era means, in effect, an end to modern medicine as we know it” (ibid.). The warning came on the heels of a book just released by the WHO that described a global “crisis...building up over the decades, so that today many common and life-threatening infections are becoming difficult or even impossible to treat” (ibid.).

Brethren, it becomes obvious that mankind has now reached a time where it is rapidly running out of options to hold back the big floodgates controlling disease. An analogy like this can be helpful in making the threat real. See a vast reservoir of disease behind an enormous dam that just “blows.” Of course we know that prophecy reveals conditions—and statistics!—will grow much worse before finally being solved permanently by Christ and the resurrected saints. The dam is about to blow, and in fact in small ways is seen to already be cracking. “Water” under pressure is “shooting” through.

Now for news of God's Work. Everything is on track to begin the beautiful new Hall of Administration building. In fact, with most of the trees down and cleared, and the property already beautifully mowed, the tiniest foretaste of what we will see is visible. The next phase is a temporary road, plus a lot of mud in the center of the “build site.” However, magnificent landscaping will begin starting with the perimeter and working inward all through this summer. We will send regular pictures in *The Pillar* and maybe even by other means, such as Member Services on our website. But everything is on track in every regard, and God is blessing us mightily in ways too numerous to list here. Thank you for your prayers about the details of this enormously important project that has led to so much positive press about us.

My Announcements sent out have mentioned this, but truly no one remotely anticipated the STILL DEVELOPING story of the article's appearance in newspapers across the world. In fact, a paper in Waterbury, Connecticut, carried the article both on its website and in the hardcopy about three days ago. At least one paper, in Macon, Georgia, came back a *second time* and covered the article, this time including its hardcopy paper. Millions upon millions of people read about God's Church and Work. This amount of exposure has truly been the hand of God at work. How much television exposure would it have taken to reach just the amount of people in the United States is impossible to calculate. (This hit many parts of the world.) The journalist who wrote the article is

thrilled about what has happened, and has said she would be pleased to report more as natural occasions present themselves. (Of course, local newspapers have also covered the story.)

It is impossible to quantify just the value of such a journalist in this equation. But she is just a very, very nice person. Try to imagine how this might have gone had someone else been involved. As time passes I will have much more to say about this free medium that is so available to us. For now, just realize that our name (and my name personally) is probably known to over 90 percent of the people in Wadsworth. ALL my neighbors read the article, and with not one exception have asked me about it when they have seen me, wherever.

We are now less than FIVE MONTHS from national television. (Incidentally, think of how many of the same above millions were told that *The World to Come* will soon appear on cable television, and who will be looking for it as a result.) We anticipate announcements on our websites, an advertising campaign for a couple months in advance of “launch,” as well as perhaps another newspaper article that might naturally fit in early September as part of an update on the building progress. We will see. In any event, it is important that all of us are kept “in the loop” with what God is doing in raising the profile of His Work, in this case meaning the overall progress continuing toward television.

We anticipate no changes in our television “timeline”!

Somewhat related to television later is the tremendous increase in literature that we are giving away NOW. We are getting very close, this will happen in May, to being unable to keep up with literature demands simply because we do not have enough people in the Mailing department. God willing, one or more students will be able to join us by late summer to help in this regard. As with last month, I can report that more and more co-workers and donors are appearing as a result of a bigger literature budget. These want to voluntarily give to a Church that shows itself to be generous.

Finding “more hands on deck” to work in Mailing becomes another item for all of us to keep praying about!

We have come to the spring of the year when the first two of the seven annual Holy Day offerings arrive. I do not need to tell all of you veteran members how important are these yearly “spikes” in our income. In what we have been describing as our “austerity year,” because we must (and are able to) pay for the entire building project cash—the banks are terrified of lending to any but their most established borrowers, and we never borrow anything—these Holy Day offerings become more crucial than ever. We can all understand why. Please go to God, at least once if not more, before preparing each of your Holy Day offerings. Consider making the decision on your knees. Ask God to give you the FAITH and the COURAGE—and the VISION of the world as it is and the great need to reach it with Christ’s “kingdom of God” announcement and the “Ezekiel warning” to the nations of Israel—before settling on a “number.”

Before leaving the subject of finances, I want to offer two great “thank yous.” The local fundraising efforts are making a huge difference in our budgeting. You brethren are responding. As long as it continues as strongly as it did in March (and warmer months of the year are generally better), this vital component within our planning will fully “hold up its end.” In addition, a steady and maybe even now slightly growing number of additional brethren are pledging varying amounts (some fairly large) of “common” offering (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37) to God’s Church. This is already permitting us to place back into the budget a few more expenditures that we thought may have to remain out through the entire “austerity year” (currently scheduled to end April 30, 2013). It becomes evident that more and more people are coming to grips with God’s command in this regard. Realize that as we learn of these pledges, changes in financial planning occur almost immediately. A prioritized “punch list” of items are in place for such moments. Finally, I continue to be grateful for the obedience and faith of God’s people to obey His instruction in the gospels and the book of Acts.

A mighty work lies just over the horizon for those with even a LITTLE patience.

I want to alert you to a sermon I delivered last Sabbath. You have been hearing that it is coming but not what it is about. Titled “The Synagogue of Satan Identified—and Marked!”, this sermon will be one of the greatest “game-changers” God’s Church and Work has experienced. Because of the Days of Unleavened Bread changing the normal two-week rhythm of when sermons are played in the field, this sermon will be played on April 21. God has revealed to me some of the most stunning understanding to which I have ever been led. It electrified the entire Headquarters church. Watch for it! (It is also important that the whole Church has carefully read my “Cry Aloud, Spare Not” article in advance of hearing this sermon. For those who have read it, consider reading the article again just before hearing the sermon.)

Now for the customary concluding quote from Mr. Armstrong. This one comes from his July 27, 1966 Co-worker Letter. It speaks to the vital “co-worker” element of our income. Be sure to read the last two paragraphs twice:

“Co-Workers, time is running out on us! It is, as I’ve said before, LATER THAN YOU THINK! Let us PRAY for God to speed the coming of HIS Kingdom—when HIS WILL shall be done on earth, and deliver us from the evils of THIS world! But also let us REJOICE that God has DRAFTED US into HIS PEACE ARMY, proclaiming the GOOD news of that coming

day of PEACE and happiness and joy over the earth—helping to CHANGE THE WORLD—preparing the way for CHRIST’S COMING! PRAY FOR GOD TO PUT IT INTO THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF MORE PEOPLE TO VOLUNTARILY BECOME CO-WORKERS that there shall be MORE added to our number SUPPORTING this great Work!

“I cannot, and will not, as you know, ask for contributions over the air, in any of our literature—or in any way solicit the public for money. GOD’S WORK simply cannot, and does not, do that. But, just as God called me into His Work—just as He somehow laid it on your heart to voluntarily start contributing offerings or tithes, He can, and WILL, if we ask Him earnestly enough, in this same manner DRAFT many additional Co-Workers by laying it on their hearts to start sending contributions. We need to INCREASE our Family of Co-Workers by 30% a year ALSO—and this year the increase is less than that.

“We all need to tighten our belts, as it were, make sacrifices if necessary, do our part as generously as possible ACCORDING to our means. But YOUR PRAYERS—if you put your whole heart into them—in REAL EARNEST—can accomplish even MORE. And the Work needs BOTH!

“Bad as conditions in this world are, CHRIST IS SOON COMING TO CHANGE ALL THAT—and to FORCE the people to have PEACE—and to be HAPPY! So let us DO OUR UTMOST, let us PRAY, let us BELIEVE—and let us be glad and REJOICE! Our Work is far from finished. Time is short. But our Great God—our living CHRIST—will see to it, if we seek Him with our whole hearts, and joyfully do our own part faithfully.”

We are all most grateful for the ongoing prayers of God’s flock for His Headquarters and His Work. These prayers truly make ALL THE DIFFERENCE. God expects us to be a praying Church in every regard, and it is evident that we are. Please continue to pray for all of us here and we will do the same for all of you “out there.”

In Christ’s service,



David C. Pack

P.S. Again, the Church is growing rapidly, with this month being the third highest numerical increase ever. And we hear that congregations in the field are “on fire” with what they are hearing. How inspiring for us, here. I believe more exciting announcements are coming and there is some difficulty at our end “containing ourselves” until we can speak with absolute certainty about them.