

THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD

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March 7, 2012

Dear Brethren and Co-Workers,

Greetings from Headquarters! This letter opens with a little more analysis of world news than usual in the light of Bible prophecy.

With all that is occurring around the world, it daily becomes more crucial to follow world events and conditions. It should be obvious to all of us by now that PLAIN PROPHECIES are being fulfilled in one news report after another every day of the week. With Europe on fire—*figuratively* and more of the time *literally*!—economic conditions worsening—political infighting more vitriolic than ever—extreme weather reappearing (did it ever disappear?)—new diseases arising and famines appearing—increasing danger and tension in the Middle East—and growing lawlessness, corruption and moral collapse EVERYWHERE—the need for God’s kingdom becomes clearer to those who are obeying Christ’s command to pray for it.

One political commentator recently observed that it is as if the governments around the world—all of them—are “insane,” and “out of control!” Of course, brethren, we understand *why* this is true. Man has spent 6,000 years proving he is *completely incapable* of ruling himself. Any who doubt this should just keep reading.

European leaders continue to squabble over how to solve the economic crisis. Another Greek bailout (130 billion euros, or \$173 billion) was agreed upon. At the same time, riots continue to break out across European cities. Last week, tens of thousands of students all over Spain protested austerity cuts to education. They started fires and threw projectiles at police and buildings. The Genesis 6 condition of Noah’s day that Jesus foretold would come back before His Return—“the earth was filled with violence”—is coming true. (Space does not permit a full update on Europe, but I will have a lot more to say about worsening conditions in Greece in next month’s letter. You will find my report shocking beyond belief, *much* worse than is being reported. This becomes important because it is a harbinger of things to come in many more places.)

In Britain, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs officially declared south-east England to be experiencing drought as a result of two very dry winters. The descriptions given are almost apocalyptic. Some of eastern England was already seeing drought conditions since summer 2011, and reports are that the nation’s Midlands could also soon be in a state of drought. The recent announcement came after the government agency met with wildlife organizations, water companies and farmers to talk about increasing water shortages. Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman stated, “Drought is already an issue this year with the South East, Anglia and other parts of the UK now officially in drought, and more areas are likely to be affected as we continue to experience a prolonged period of very low rainfall...It is not just the responsibility of Government, water companies and businesses to act against drought. We are asking for the help of everyone by urging them to use less water and to start now” (*Telegraph*).

Yet how much conserving will the average Briton do when one considers the next account? In previous drought years, since food was being imported, farmers were banned from watering their crops, while water was instead used to irrigate golf courses. The President of Britain’s National Farmers Union, Peter Kendall, said, “Bluntly you can still play golf on a brown golf course. What sort of society [puts] golf before affordable food?” (*ibid.*). This is truly stunning! Again, men’s governments cannot get something as easy as this right.

On top of this, since the region being afflicted by drought has been called the “breadbasket of Britain,” strong warnings are also coming out about increasing food prices. Dry conditions, coupled with a lack of water reservoirs for crops, will cause a dramatic spike in the cost of food. Mr. Kendall also stated, “As sure as night follows day if it doesn’t rain, food prices will go up. I can guarantee you that...If there is less water across bigger areas of northern

Europe food will cost more...” (ibid.). Note the reference in the first quote to “affordable food.” There will be food, but it will be those with money who eat. What chaos could this engender from those without?

Yet all of this is only the tip of the iceberg. This entire letter could easily be filled with accounts of how many different aspects of society are affected when just one disaster such as drought strikes.

Then there were the early season tornadoes in the United States that ravaged five states and left at least 39 dead so far. The tornado that hit Henryville, Indiana was an EF-4 (second worst on the scale), and had winds up to 175 mph. A number of entire small towns were *completely* destroyed—NOTHING left! The pictures all through American newspapers and television are simply horrific. This destruction has led many to ask, if this is how the season is *starting*, what could the coming months bring? Those of us who understand prophecy are left to then ask, what could each of the coming *years* bring?

In the Middle East, the constant, almost 24/7 coverage of the Iranian nuclear program controversy continues. All eyes are on Israel to see what this tiny, surrounded country will do in the face of increasing threats. Some are reporting that Israel has in fact already made the decision to strike Iran. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu just met with U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington to discuss the issue. America has been pushing Israel to delay any attacks on Iran. A recent *Fox News* article reported, “Senior Israeli officials say Israel would have to act by summer in order to be effective. U.S. officials, wary that an Israeli strike could drive up oil prices and entangle the U.S. in a new Mideast military confrontation during the presidential election season, want to give diplomacy and sanctions more time to work.”

Brethren, watch this situation closely as events ratchet up in this region. I believe that we may be watching one of the greatest leaders of the last 100 years in the person of Benjamin Netanyahu. When he is gone, the disappearance of the nation of Israel as we know it could not be far behind. Those who think the present American administration will stand with Israel and can be counted on to “have Israel’s back” are kidding themselves. God declares that Judah has the “scepter” (Gen. 49:10), and Joseph the “birthright” (I Chron. 5:2). It is so obvious that both of these are in the process of being wrenched away by God for ever-worsening NATIONAL DISOBEDIENCE.

Finally, in what was the largest methamphetamine bust ever, authorities seized 15 tons of the powerful drug at a ranch in Mexico. First, try to think of the number of *pounds*—30,000!!!—to get a more accurate picture in your mind of how much this really is. And it is but a single location—just one event, just one bust. The drugs were estimated to be worth *\$4 billion*, and equaled *13 million* doses. (To put this in further perspective, this is *more than double* the amount of ALL methamphetamine seized at the Mexican border in the whole year of 2011.) Although it is viewed as good news by most that the drugs were found, the fact that this large of a cache even *existed* brings its own message of terrible news. Experts report that this latest bust reveals that the drug cartels are producing more than ever, despite Mexico and America ramping up efforts to stop these criminal enterprises. A spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration stated, “The big thing it shows is the sheer capacity that these superlabs have in Mexico...When we see one lab with the capability to produce such a mass tonnage of meth, it begs a question: What else is out there?” (*The New York Times*).

The answer to what is out there? A desperately sick Western society (not just the United States) in equally desperate need of what may be the most addictive drug the world has ever seen!

A little more. One expert brought the fuller picture about the impact of this latest seizure, stating, “It’s important to keep the seizure in perspective...It’s huge. Eye-popping. But seizures, even huge ones, don’t generally change the demand for the drug in the long run. If a seizure of this magnitude raises the street price, consumption may go down for a time, but it is only a matter of time until the market adjusts and the supply comes back up” (ibid.). Factor in the vast thousands of meth labs that are discovered every year in the United States (over 2,100 just in MISSOURI in 2011)—and then think that this is just ONE COUNTRY—and then think that this is just ONE YEAR—and then think that this is just ONE DRUG—and then think of what is NOT DISCOVERED! Are you sobered about what is going on in people’s lives with such a single snapshot?

We understand that the ever-worsening problem of drug abuse comes down to *character*, and that this will truly only be solved at Christ’s Return when there are simply no drugs available anywhere in the world.

You have or soon will hear more about the following in a sermon to be played in all congregations on March 10. There has been a fairly significant restructuring in the Work at Headquarters. In order to free up my time to carry out my commission further (from the same need for day-to-day, hands-on administrative involvement), Mr. Kevin Denee will now serve under me as the *Executive Director of Operations* of the Church and its Work. Mr. William Behrer will remain in the Executive Office and assist him in addition to continuing with 11 departments (for now) still under him. (He recently had 20 departments, we took away 11, but added two more back *for now*.) Because Mr. James Turck will be returning to Headquarters on April 1 to assist with the ever-increasing Church Administration

workload, Mr. Denee will be able to continue as Director of Church Administration without having to spend the same amount of time.

Every member of the Advisory Council of Elders agreed that this was the best way to structure Headquarters moving forward, and it will give me more time to fulfill my commission. With no exceptions, they all felt that Mr. Denee was “born to the job.” He has been in the office for over nine years, and is absolutely trained and able to carry out these duties. A number of other appointments have been made, with others to occur over the months to come. All of this is in preparation for the Work being able to greatly expand as I will describe momentarily.

First, in regard to my having more time, many or perhaps most of you would have by now seen the recent article that I was able to write addressing Ron Weinland’s “Christ will return on May 27, 2012” prophecy, alongside related ideas that he teaches. It is my hope that this very long article—the length of a pretty large booklet—will not only help those inside his organization to see through his deception, but also those in the world who follow him. It is also our hope that it will help many brethren in the splinters to do the same in regard to the many other false prophets who are out there—or who will appear soon doing much more damage than Ron Weinland is. I will be writing more of these types of articles in the future. There are certain very crucial issues that need to be addressed in this way, and I hope to be able to do one every four to six weeks. The above appointment is the biggest reason that I am now able to take on these very time-consuming tasks. Almost 1,500 people have read the article since its posting less than six days ago.

On an interesting statistical note, *The World to Come* broadcast “The Two Witnesses—Made Plain!” had one of the best openings of any broadcast. In the first weekend it was posted, it had 4,658 views. Since it was posted (February 10), a total of 9,497 people have viewed it. Due to the ever-rising interest in prophecy, especially surrounding the subject of the Two Witnesses, this video could eventually become one of the most popular *World to Come* broadcasts going forward.

The fast that we all took part in last Sabbath has already made a difference. God is clearly beginning to hear our prayers, and a tiny little bit of financial “loosening up,” if I may put it that way, is appearing within our “spring of 2012 to spring of 2013” temporary austerity budget, while we are being forced by world banking conditions to build our building “cash.” Some of this “loosening up” is that because we have now reached a point where we can give away more hardcopy literature, new co-workers and donors are appearing more rapidly than we have seen in the past, and existing co-workers are giving more than in the past. To say the least, this is wonderful to see for God’s Work. We can only hope and pray that it will be a trend that continues—and even grows as our literature budget grows by the month.

In this regard, it is evident that the whole Church seems to be realizing the *ongoing imperative* to continually dedicate ourselves to local fundraising in order for a “little flock” (Luke 12:32) with “little strength” (Rev. 3:8), as Jesus described His Church, to complete a BIG FINAL WORK! The goal that has been set reflects a high, but reachable, “bar” for the year 2012. We are just a little behind, but it is still in the winter months and we should be able to catch up in the summer months. Thank you for all that has been done thus far.

Further in this same regard, brethren, remember the all-important upcoming Spring Holy Day offerings. Pray about these as never before, realizing how annually they become such an enormous amount of our income—approximately 22.5% of our regular annual total. By now we all realize that in this particular year (spring of 2012 to spring of 2013), so very much hinges on the Work continuing to hit certain financial “mile markers” as we move toward the ground-breaking of the first building. There are nine separate Holy Days between now and May 1, 2013 when we need to enter the new building. Each of these therefore becomes of crucial importance.

Behind the scenes, plans bigger than anything else we have ever discussed since the birth of The Restored Church of God began are quietly underway for what happens AFTER May of 2013. I want all of us to be aware of this. In fact, as soon as this letter is complete we will begin our every-week Growth Meeting that includes a portion of time for discussion of how the Work will explode into the “world conversation” no later than the SUMMER OF 2013! The amount of television and increased literature distribution that we are planning for this September is really quite small compared to what is envisioned for the immediate phase beyond that. And know again that I am not merely talking about being on our own campus—and that is a big step—or adding a great many local students to the college at that time—certainly another big step—but rather how the Work will vault way up into the world’s “religious skyline” where we know that prophecy makes plain it ultimately must go.

The inescapable question we keep asking ourselves here is the one you should also ask and pray about on a regular basis: How long will circumstances and forces permit us from that point on to speak in the manner that we do on a stage as large as the one being built away from the lights in the background?

Now for the customary concluding quote from Mr. Armstrong. This one comes from his November 25, 1985 Co-worker Letter, written just seven weeks to the day before he died. I marvel at the unceasing purity of Mr. Armstrong's focus, by this point near the middle of his 94th year of life. His words state so clearly a perfect parallel from a time during the great Work that was done under his leadership to what the "short," but equally great "Work" (Rom. 9:27-29), must do in fulfilling the commission to "prophesy *again* before many peoples, and nations, and tongues and kings" (Rev. 10:11). I cannot help but wonder what Mr. Armstrong would have written if he were describing in paragraph three the United States TODAY. Then think about the much greater application in our time of all the paragraphs that follow the one beginning with "BUT WE SERIOUSLY AND URGENTLY...":

"This has been the MOST SERIOUS year of the Work of God so far. Never before has God given us such a leap forward...as in these past six months.

"GOD'S TIME HAS COME TO SPEED UP HIS WORK WITH DYNAMIC AND TREMENDOUS POWER! Time for completing the GREAT MISSION OF GOD in this dying world is fast running out on us!

"This country—the U.S.—and the whole world is in ferment, confusion, serious social and economic trouble! Satan knows he now has but a short time—BUT DO WE KNOW IT? We have to sacrifice now as never before! We have to put the Work of God FIRST in our lives! First in our prayers! We now have to dedicate our lives to his service as never before!"

"BUT WE SERIOUSLY AND URGENTLY NEED INCREASED INCOME to walk through these new doors! The Work must now plunge forward in greater power!

"God's time has come! These open doors cost more money."

"I now need you to work harder, more energetically and at greater sacrifice in prayers and extra financial offerings than ever before!

"A few years ago I wrote you a warning that we must prepare to tighten our belts, and reduce our living standards! This whole nation is going to have to learn to do that!

"I ask you, brethren, in Jesus' name, to put whatever you are able into God's Work in this crisis hour before the Great Tribulation that will cut off our work just prior to the soon-coming of Christ and the World Tomorrow.

"Let's now set our hearts and whole interest on the SOON-coming Kingdom of God, when we shall shine as the sun in brightness and find happiness forever! We—you backing me up—are preparing the way before Christ's soon coming and his Kingdom! What else now counts in this world? I ask you to sacrifice—go without some things you might want—put all you can spare into this GREAT SURGE FORWARD IN GOD'S WORK!"

"This Work of God was built from nothing financially, ON FAITH! I go forward now IN FAITH IN CHRIST that he will inspire you dear Co-Workers TO MAKE THE EFFORT WITH ME! You will have to give up some things you might want. But we all shall GAIN eternal glory in God's Kingdom—and SOON. I know you won't let me—or Christ—down! God bless, help, prosper and inspire you.

"PRAY as never before! Fast and pray!"

The last short three-word sentence describes what we all did last Sabbath. It may also reflect what we have to do from time to time as a collective Body, together, perhaps sometimes on the Sabbath (so that we can be physically together) and sometimes not.

Brethren, we must keep praying that God blesses His Work and Church in all that must still be done in the few short years remaining. We at Headquarters continue to pray for you. And I am ever grateful that all of you never let up in your prayers for us.

In Christ's service,



David C. Pack