CC STANDS



N general, the whole operation of the worldwide Church of God is one massive administrative undertaking

However, modern facilities and methods are available to its administration that did not exist in the first century world. Computers have taken over and information technology is now a way of life.

Indeed, today's communications and resources would seem strange to those early Christians some 2000 years ago.

The UK office of the Worldwide Church of God is based at Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, with headquarters in Pasadena, California

Christ's message goes out worldwide by the mass

circulation magazine 'The Plain

This unique magazine of more than eight million copies monthly, in seven languages, is in full colour. There are also millions of copies of attractive booklets published and even full books. Campaigns have been run in leading newspapers, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal. Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, and other daily newspapers. Large space has been used in the London Times for dynamic full page messages.

Twice monthly a tabloid newspaper, The Worldwide News, goes out to all members. Monthly a handsome full-colour magazine, The Good News, is sent to all lay members, ministers and near-member

co-workers. The Pastor General sends out monthly a Co-Worker letter to all members and co-workers reporting on progress in the work, current activities and needs. A Bible Correspondence Course is sent free on enrolment to lay members and the public and provides monthly in-depth lessons on basic subjects covered by the Bible.

Additionally, there are Church meetings to be held, charitable concerns worldwide and an annual eight-day conference worldwide for all members and families

The UK base at Borehamwood administers an area stretching from Scandinavia to most of Africa and tasks involved in this include budget analysis, general accounts, subscription and member file handling, conference organisation. mailing operations and sundry related jobs.

"Administratively, the business needs some form of automated data processing.

"The Worldwide Church of God in the UK receives an average of 40-60,000 letters per month through the post from customers together with a large number of telephone enquiries. With both orders and enquiries, time and efficiency is of the essence," says James Henderson, the data processing manager

ROCC computer usage of the Worldwide Church of God initially started in a modest way in 1975 with the acquisition of a Seecheck key-to-disk system for data entry of subscription file handling into the Pasadena-based IBM mainframe.

Since then, after a series of upgrades (the system is now a ROCC 2830), the applications have increased - accounts ledgers, management information, covenant contribution records, stock control, fleet management, a newsstand distribution system, mailshots and response analysis.

"There is a steady



"ROCC has become so much a part of our office life," says James Henderson - data processing manager, pictured in his office at Ambassador College, Borehamwood.

workload," and, according to Henderson, "the equipment service and the maintenance support from ROCC over the years has been reliable. We enjoy a good and solid relationship with the company."

Henderson joined Ambassador College, the Church's in-house educational institution, 16 years ago from St Andrews in Scotland. He graduated from the college in 1974 and has worked for the Church ever since.

Today the Church occupies four wings in a modern office block overlooking Borehamwood in Herts. The company originally chose Seecheck because, "We wanted to enjoy the benefits of using an easy system that did not receive a lot of data processing expertise. Henderson, himself, however feels he is piloting new applications.

"We are now able to do the massive label runs for the subscribers' mailshots which is an enormous help. We print 1.2 million monthly magazines and the regular mailshot used to be a very labour intensive task.

"I am actually finding that the ROCC system can do more than ROCC says itself. We have currently some 12 ROCC terminals installed here including one letter quality printer for word processing, four dot matrix printers and four viewdata posts providing a mixture of capabilities.

"ROCC has become so much a part of our office life."

A major task for the Church worldwide is organising the annual eight-day conference. In the UK this involves receiving applications for seven sites with 5000 in simultaneous attendance.

"The responses and the attendance projections entail a major administrative effort. ROCC has stood the test of time. It has taken the headache out of the delegate booking system."

"We are developing a management information system using ROCC's viewdata facility. It can be operated very simply. Once complete the directors will be able to access the database on the minicomputer by using special security codes.

"Generally speaking, ROCC handles our data and transaction processing needs well. And the glory of the system is . . . it's all so simple!"



The ROCC 2830 computer at Ambassador College, Borehamwood, handles a steady workload of applications covering accounts ledgers, management information, covenant contribution records, stock control, fleet management, a newsstand distribution system, mailshots and response analysis.





FINANCIAL DATA

