I am going to be in Cape May most of the summer at our Bible Conference. I would like to see you there. We just need intelligent, faithful and loyal supporters.

I am also enclosing the petition asking Reagan to withdraw his statement that the Soviets are no longer an evil empire. Please get it signed and get it in to us. Action is the word.

Faithfully,

Carl McIntire

Carl McIntire

(Photographically reproduced)

ECUTEXT: 'WCC Millennium Message to Russian Orthodox Church' EPS 88.06.89

These are the concluding paragraphs of the message from General Secretary Emilio Castro of the World Council of Churches marking the 1000th anniversary of the baptism of Prince Vladimir of Kiev [EPS 86.08.58].

... Following the entry of the Russian Orthodox Church into membership of the World Council of Churches in 1961, it has rendered an increasingly important and committed contribution to major ecumenical programmes. It has enriched the ... member churches of the WCC through its theological insights and its particular model of spirituality; through responsible sharing in the decision-making bodies, and its hosting of ecumenical delegations and conferences. ...

In our efforts to accomplish the purpose of the World Council of Churches to express the common concern of the churches in the service of human need, the breaking down of barriers between people and the promotion of one human family in justice and peace, we are deeply indebted to the Russian Orthodox Church for the leadership it has given, highlighting the theological and ethical presuppositions of the peace-making ministry and the need for cooperation with all people of goodwill.

We thank you for your impetus in the struggle for human dignity and defence of basic social, economic, religious and cultural rights, for taking new steps towards disarmament and common security, a new moral international order; educational programmes, inter-cultural, and inter-religious exchanges. Help and encouragement in that direction were provided also by the recent Moscow Summit, the result of which needs further development and sustained efforts by all moral forces including the churches.

We rejoice at the positive assessment in the Soviet Union of the patriotic, ethical and peace-making role of the churches, their contribution to building up a socialist society and deepening the process of mutual trust for international cooperation.

Momentous changes are taking place in the Soviet Union, the implications of which for the churches are yet to be fully understood and evaluated. But it may be assumed that there are new possibilities and opportunities challenging the churches to new forms of witness and service.

We believe that since 'glasnost' and 'perestroika' are defined as favourable, the spiritual and moral atmosphere in society, and comprehensive renewal of life, the significant contribution of the churches in the fulfilment of these noble tasks will be given further recognition.

These would also offer new avenues of greater freedom to practise religion, whether by performance of acts of mercy or by the expression in word or deed of the implications of faith in social, economic and political matters, both domestic and international. Theological formation should help carry on the dialogue with culture so that the tradition of yesterday could creatively interact and cooperate with the 'glasnost' and 'perestroika', that is, changes and progress in society going on today.

The World Council of Churches is convinced that all these will strengthen mutual confidence, social coherence, internal unity and development in the socialist society with beneficial results on a world-wide scale. To the great Russian church, the whole nation, and to all citizens of this country, we bring our heartiest festive greetings and those of 450 million Christians united in the World Council of Churches, with our best wishes for success in the second millennium. ... [EPS]