

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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NOW G O D SPEAKS TO
YOU MINISTERS

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Years ago I proclaimed on the air a great deal from the Book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel was among the Jewish captives of the 604-585 B.C. captivity by Babylon of the Kingdom of Judah. This was more than 125 years after the Kingdom of ISRAEL had been invaded, conquered, and moved from Palestine to Assyria on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea. But both the Assyrians and their slave Israelites had long since migrated northwestward into western Europe and Britain when JUDAH was made captive by Babylon.

When Ezekiel wrote as God inspired, he was among the Jewish slaves beside the River Chebar. Yet the Message Ezekiel was inspired by God to write was written primarily to ISRAEL, not Judah.

Ezekiel's Message is NOT to the Jewish slaves among whom Ezekiel was living. It was to the HOUSE OF ISRAEL (Ezek. 2:3 and 3:1). The prophet Ezekiel was never able to break loose from Babylonian slavery and proclaim his message to the Kingdom of Israel, by then dwelling in western Europe and Britain.

THE MESSAGE OF THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL IS GOD'S MESSAGE TO US TODAY--FOR WE ARE THE PEOPLE of the ancient House of ISRAEL, of the tribe of Manasseh. (See--and you'd better BELIEVE--our booklet on the United States in Prophecy.)

Since the original writer, Ezekiel, was not able to go to the people of the House of ISRAEL, God showed me years ago that it remained for God to raise up a "modern Ezekiel" to carry this Prophetic Message to the modern Israel of today--and that means, primarily, the English-speaking people.

I have proclaimed the Ezekiel Messages to our peoples by radio, television, by personal appearance and in print for more than 40 years. NO ONE ELSE HAS!

The Church of God is founded on the apostles and the prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. The PROPHETS, upon whom the Church is founded, are NOT New Testament prophets. Only four are mentioned--and NOT ONE OF THEM contributed any doctrines or beliefs to the Church--but the apostles did, and they quoted at great length from so-called "Old Testament" prophets.

THEREFORE EZEKIEL'S MESSAGE IS FOR US TODAY! That is, for GOD'S CHURCH to proclaim to the English-speaking nations.

There has been a system for many years now, of putting the ministers of God's Church today under a man at Pasadena, in most cases of which I was cut off from the ministry.

A system was built up through administrations to David Antion, Wayne Cole and Ron Dart based on a policy that the ministry is a select group, not servants but to BE served--to be flattered and mollycoddled, cut off from Christ's apostle, never criticized or corrected--a group ABOVE all others, and who could do NO WRONG!

David Antion considered his loyalty was to the ministry--NOT to Christ's apostle or to Christ or to God. Wayne Cole would never correct one under him who NEEDED correction. Under Mr. Dart's administration Garner Ted Armstrong was the real head, cutting the ministry and the church off from contact with any above him.

Now the living Christ who HEADS this Church has ABOLISHED that office, and placed his own chosen apostle directly over the ministry. Now ANY of you have free access to reach me and communicate with me direct. I hope you will still realize my time needs to be conserved, and refer all routine or ordinary matters to the Ministerial Services Department. But when necessary, or on any serious matter, you have direct access to me--and the Ministerial Services Department is working directly under, and with me.

So let me say that I will try to deal with the ministry as Christ shows me HE would. I will do my best to deal with you with the deepest, most sincere LOVE. I will do no political "back-slapping," but I will pat you on the back--or certainly intend to and will try to, when you give me the chance to give you this encouragement. Recently I wrote an article in the GOOD NEWS asking all members to quit calling their ministers by their first names, but to speak of you respectfully as "MR." I have written you from time to time how much I do LOVE you men and your loyal wives.

You must remember that being an ordained minister in the one and only Church of God is both a tremendous HONOR, and at the same time a serious responsibility. Remember Jesus Christ set us the example and He did not come lording it over people, but in love as a SERVANT.

Likewise, we have all been called to SERVE--rather than to BE served! We must be meek without being weak. We are at all times accountable to those over us, even as the Word of God tells the membership they must esteem highly those who serve and are over them in the Lord.

First, God prepared me in a special way, then called me in a manner to wipe my mind clean of every other or previous belief and to come to HIS TRUTH in a manner experienced by none other in recent times, CONQUERING ME, completely submissive to HIM and His Word.

He started His Work and His Church in a very small way--BUT IT GREW AND GREW and became a large WORLDWIDE Church!

God in due time added you ministers to 1) feed the local flocks, and 2) to stand staunchly and loyally WITH ME in carrying Christ's Gospel to the world.

Now the largest nation in the world has made plans for my OFFICIAL visit with their top-ranking men of the People's Republic of China shortly after the Feast of Tabernacles.

I constantly THANK GOD for you loyal ministers and your faithful wives, and for the way Christ is using you in furthering HIS WORK! God has called

us that we must all "SPEAK THE SAME THING" (I Cor. 1:10) in perfect harmony and love, that we be of ONE MIND--the MIND OF CHRIST!

But now I do feel we must seriously consider God's warning message to our nations and to the ministry of HIS CHURCH through Ezekiel. This is of CRISIS importance right now.

Ezekiel starts his Book saying "I was among the captives (slaves) by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God" (Ezek. 1:1). "...in the land of the Chaldeans (Babylon)" (verse 3).

The first chapter merely records what Ezekiel first saw IN THE VISION. It contains no message he is to deliver. He seemed to be taken to heaven IN VISION, preparing him to receive the message--which is to the "lost" House (or Kingdom) of ISRAEL. It is NOT a message to Judah--the Jews--but to the by then "lost" House of Israel--the TEN TRIBES.

I proclaimed much of Ezekiel's message to Manasseh and Ephraim during the thirties, forties and fifties. But I was ahead of my time--or else God has deliberately slowed down prophesied world events. We are now coming into the TIME for proclaiming Ezekiel's message.

When Ezekiel saw, in vision, this first chapter whirlwind and the glory of the Lord, he fell forward upon his face--and then heard a voice speaking to him, saying (chapter 2, verse 1), "Stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee ... and he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: ...even unto THIS VERY DAY" (our day now, last half of the 20th century). And, (chapter 2:4, 5) "GO, get thee unto the House of ISRAEL, and speak with my words unto them. For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech..."

The "lost" House of Israel in the three or four generations since their removal from northern Palestine had "LOST" their Hebrew language. They had "LOST" God's Sabbath, and thereby their knowledge of God, and their identity. But TODAY, God has raised up this Work of His Church to carry this message to the "lost" Israelites, whose true identity God has revealed to us--and to us they are not a people of strange speech.

"But the HOUSE OF ISRAEL will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me" (verse 7). Our peoples today will not listen to nor heed GOD'S WARNING MESSAGE!

Verse 17: "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the House of Israel" (today the English-speaking peoples).

In chapter 4, verse 13: "And the Lord said, Even thus shall the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles, whither I will drive them"--a forewarning for the U.S. and British peoples NOW!

Continuing in chapter 5:11-13, speaking of the American and British peoples, "Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord Eternal; ...A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword (the sword of nuclear destruction in our day) round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds ... Thus shall mine anger be accomplished, and I will cause MY FURY to rest upon them ..."

God's FURY is an expression used many times in prophecies to indicate the troubles soon to strike us--Great Tribulation and the first phase of the "Day of the Lord"--which shall climax in CHRIST'S SECOND COMING!

It is clearly evident that this prophecy is for our peoples and for OUR TIME--the latter half of the twentieth century.

This prophecy NEVER TOOK PLACE IN OLD TESTAMENT TIMES! Continuing into chapter 6, "In all your dwellingplaces THE CITIES SHALL BE LAID WASTE" (Verse 6). This could be accomplished only by NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION. The TIME of this prophecy is now JUST AHEAD OF US!

Verse 7: "And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye shall know that I am the LORD." This latter is an expression many times used by Ezekiel referring to the second coming of Christ. Our peoples as a whole do not really know that Christ is LORD. The State of California does not--their invasion of God's property shows they think "CAESAR" is lord. So there is no mistaking the TIMING of this prophecy. It is to happen in the approximate NEAR FUTURE--but we cannot set dates.

To continue through Ezekiel, expounding it, would take a hundred pages. But, speaking especially to the ministry of God's Church, I want to include some of chapter 34 where it speaks of the clergy of the American and British peoples.

LET US BE CAREFUL LEST ANY OF THIS APPLY TO THE MINISTRY OF GOD'S CHURCH!

"Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord ETERNAL unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?" (with the Word of God). "...The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick..." (Verses 2, 4). Some of our ministry wanted to do away with healing. God put HEALING in His Church. He put it in 1900 years ago through the original apostles. He put it in today's era of the Church through me, His apostle. DO NOT BE GUILTY OF NEGLECT IN THIS IMPORTANT DOCTRINE. But the Catholic and Protestant ministers RELY ON HUMAN DOCTORS AND MEDICINES! And God here upbraids them for this!

Continue (verse 4): "...neither have ye sought that which was lost"--here speaking of the "LOST" TEN TRIBES. Certainly the clergy of "traditional Christianity" have not sought to locate the "LOST" House of Israel. God revealed their identity and location to me before the present era of God's Church was started, and it has always been a PRIMARY DOCTRINE of this Church. Yet some few of our ministers have rejected this TRUTH, and even tried to destroy it from the Church. While I was overseas and did not know they were doing it, some, under my son Garner Ted, REDUCED the booklet "United States and Britain in PROPHECY" eliminating vitally important parts of it. A new, full edition of this important book is now in process of being published, full size. This book was one of the two or three that did more to BUILD THIS CHURCH than any others.

Continue in Ezekiel 34: "But" (even though you did not seek to locate the lost House of Israel, you were ministers AMONG THEM, unknown to yourselves, and) "with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered (spiritually into many sects and denominations), because

there is no shepherd ... my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

"Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord ETERNAL; Behold I am against the shepherds;" (be careful this does not apply to any of you) "and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more...."

"For thus saith the Lord ETERNAL; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out"... (at Christ's second coming).

I will break off there, for lack of space. But chapters 5 and 6 of Ezekiel, combined with Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, and other scriptures such as Matthew 24:21-22, Jeremiah 30, show the United States and Britain are going down, down, DOWN, into utter defeat, slavery, and dire punishment for our national SINS.

Beginning 1800-1803, we inherited the vast national promises of material wealth, power, and prestige that God promised our father Abraham. We have enjoyed a living standard higher than any nation in history.

Yet what have we done with these blessings? We have turned from our GOD and, in all our educational process, have taught instead the godless theory of EVOLUTION. We have allowed our FAMILY LIFE to be destroyed. Our morals have sunk into the cesspool. We have endorsed and given our national blessing to SODOMISM. We have been unethical and dishonest in our business and commercial dealings. We have rejected God's Sabbath (not this Church), and God's ways, and turned to Satan's ways.

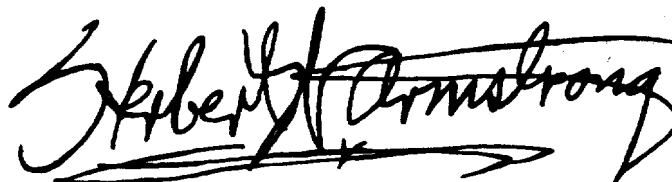
The sun already has set on the British Empire, which as an empire exists no longer. The United States is now caught in the vise of INFLATION, and an economic situation where our high living standard is being swept from us. Down, DOWN, we go!

And soon God will send such drought that it will bring disease epidemics that will take the lives of a third of our people! After that, our CITIES shall be destroyed--which never could have happened before WE first invented and produced NUCLEAR MASS DESTRUCTION. The remaining third of our proud people will be REMOVED from this country into SLAVERY!

Those left of us finally will repent. God says He will not make a FULL END of us!

Finally (Ezekiel 20:33,42), "As I live, saith the Lord ETERNAL, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury" (the last plagues) "poured out, will I RULE over you: ... And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall bring you" (not Judah, the Jews, but our people ISRAEL) "into the land of Israel ... and there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall loath yourselves ... and ye shall know that I am the LORD ... O ye HOUSE OF ISRAEL" (Not Judah, the Jews). Then shall come the KINGDOM OF GOD! Satan shall be banished. Christ with the Church converted to spirit immortality shall rule! Those still living shall have learned their lesson.

And PEACE, and HAPPINESS, and JOY shall flood the earth!



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

As the Feast of Tabernacles draws very near, we should already be reminding the brethren of the tremendous purpose of the Feast, preaching powerfully about what is truly foremost on God's mind--the restoration of His govern-
ment on earth.

Notice Acts 3:19-21--this could be considered the most central and pivotal passage in the whole Bible. Restitution means the restoring of something that had been destroyed, or taken away, to its former state. There can hardly be a more encouraging and absolutely thrilling topic than the end of all the world's evils--no more disease, no more death, no more suffering, no more tears--a new world under God's Government of Love where happiness and world peace are a reality, no longer just man's elusive dream!

Let us never forget that God has raised up this Work to support His Apostle in proclaiming that awe-inspiring message of hope, and that each individual's part in that Great Commission is the means God has given each of us to prepare and qualify us for rulership under Christ when He comes.

Some have asked for a clarification of how they should handle hall rental for the weekly Bible studies. If you do not presently have hall rental taken care of from Pasadena, be sure to continue (or initiate if necessary) holding the weekly Bible studies in private homes until we can budgetarily handle the costs. Forward all projected expenses for Bible study hall rent to Ministerial Services before signing any lease agreements. Please contact us if you have suggestions for raising hall rental funds in your own local area.

It seems that some ministers have lost sight of the basic attitudes that the calling of the ministry requires. Jesus commands in Matthew 6:19-21, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth, and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break in and steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

We need to think about this specifically in regard to purchasing homes. Many ministers who have purchased homes, then received notice of transfer, have immediately put their homes up for sale, packed up, and left. These men have a right attitude of faith, realizing that God did not call them to make profits on real estate investments, but to diligently serve Him.

Paul reminds Timothy in I Timothy 6:6-12, "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will (want) to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou are also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

Some ministers have found themselves unwilling to be subject to the government of God in His Church because of these "foolish and hurtful lusts." Making money and physical gain has actually blurred the spiritual vision

of some. We need to remember II Cor. 4:17-18: "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

This Work has always been a Work of faith. We must also walk by faith in our individual lives, trusting God for all our needs. As Paul says in II Cor. 5:7, "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

We are only sojourners in this world, and our citizenship is not of this world. It is not wrong for a minister to buy a home. It is wrong when he allows that or anything else to stand between him and his calling and responsibility in the ministry. When a minister of God purchases a home he must also be willing to leave it if necessary, without great anxiety over profit. He should trust God for his needs, and God will bless him in other ways if the attitude is one of confidence in God, not in mammon.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

The Festival break this year for Pasadena employees begins September 29 and ends October 15. This means that all departments on campus will be closed during that period. All invoices that need to be paid before the Feast will have to be to the Accounting Dept. by September 20 to insure payment within the last week before the Feast.

The expense allotment checks that would normally be mailed about October 12 will probably be mailed on October 19. The November checks will be mailed at the normal time.

Central Clearing Account

By way of a reminder, the pink copies of the Central Clearing Account checks need to be kept permanently with the Church area that they were written for. In other words, when cleaning out your office, do not throw them away--keep them. If you are being transferred, give the pink slips to the new pastor; do not take them with you.

Also, please remember to send in the yellow Expense Report slips as soon as possible after writing a Central Clearing Account check. Our goal is to reduce the amount on the Exception Report to a reasonable figure. The only way we can do this is by receiving the yellow slips promptly from you.

We do appreciate all the help you have been giving us.

--Joe Tkach

FURTHER PREPARATIONS FOR THE CHINA TRIP

(Editor's Note: As reported before, Mr. Rader has been making contacts and arrangements with Chinese government and university officials in preparation for Mr. Armstrong's momentous trip to the People's Republic of China. Following is a news release dated August 31, giving further details of Mr. Rader's recent activities on Mr. Armstrong's behalf.)

Dateline--Peking

Stanley Rader, executive Vice-President of Ambassador International Cultural Foundation was honored this week by the Chinese government and Peking University. The honor was an invitation to speak to the faculty and students of the University of Peking, with another special lecture to be given to the Department of Law.

Mr. Rader, presently visiting universities throughout the country, accepted the government's invitation and spoke on the law, the judicial system, and the American lawyer.

Rader, noted American lawyer and former professor of law at the University of Southern California who holds the Order of the Coif, was warmly received. Should time permit, invitations to the country's other leading universities will be accepted.

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

The latest available figures from our PLAIN TRUTH insert test in the San Diego Union have shown that this has doubled PLAIN TRUTH penetration in this area. This brings San Diego to higher than the national average.

Also of interest is the fact that the 16-page newsstand edition, which was introduced in May because of budgetary constraints, has shown to pull greater response than the March and April 32-page editions.

--Roger Lippross, Publishing Services Director

SUMMER MAIL CONTINUES UP

Usually mail flow slows down during the summer months. However, mail for both of the months of July and August has held up well this year. In fact, the mail count for the month of August (as of the 28th) is about 4% higher than it was last year at this time. Combined mail receipts for both the Pasadena and Tucson offices now stand at 137,123 letters through August 28.

There is no one single item which is bringing in the strong mail. A number of our mailings are doing well:

A letter to PLAIN TRUTH subscribers which offered the booklets "What Do You Mean--Born Again?", "What Will You Be Like In The Resurrection?", "What Do You Mean Conversion?" and "You Need God's Holy Spirit."

PT subscription renewals.

Responses to the "Literature Catalog" (which offers 19 pieces of our most popular literature to new subscribers).

Cards from newsstand displays are also coming in.

All in all, it adds up to a steady mail picture for us during August. We hope mail volume will continue at this good rate during the coming months also.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

MAIL COMMENTS

Thousands of letters over the past few months have related appreciation and a sense of excitement for the positive changes taking place in the Church as Mr. Armstrong moves to prepare the Church for Christ's return.

Many brethren are experiencing a strengthening of their faith and rejuvenation of their spirit as they rediscover the "truth" of the Bible and regain a "first love" once more. Following are a few typical letters.

--Mail Processing Center

Appreciation for Getting Us Back On the Track

I praise you to God each day for your zeal and dedication. I usually don't comment when I send in my checks, but I particularly wanted to this time. Thanks for doing a truly magnificent job. Please continue to admonish and correct us, for Christ is coming soon, and we seem to lack the power to clean up our act on our own. Yet we must. So spare the pabulum and feed us the hard truth we need so badly, as you have always done.

--David G. Huffman (New Orleans, LA)

My husband and I want to take the opportunity to thank you with all of our hearts for all the love and concern that you have for the Church. We feel that you are like a father to us, lovingly leading us in the way we should go, instructing us and expounding to us the things that God wants us to learn.

It must, at times, seem very discouraging to you when you view the condition of the Church in the U.S. But we want you to know that many, many brethren are becoming stronger in the faith by watching your strong and loyal example.

God indeed is on His throne!!! And through your efforts He will set His Church back on track. Thanks a million! What more can we say? Hang in there! Fight the good fight! Keep on swinging like you have for all these years, through trials and troubles.

--Mr. & Mrs. David Harris (Pasadena, CA)

Be assured we are behind you in prayer and our support. Where would we be without you? Because of your sacrifices and faithfulness to God and His truth throughout your life, God was able to call us. Because of your dogged determination, I can have hope in Christ. For this, I thank you.

--Linda C. Holley (Akron, OH)

I feel so much better spiritually and physically now that you are getting God's Church back on the track. I don't fail to thank God for you and pray that He will continue to strengthen you physically and spiritually.

"The articles in The GOOD NEWS and PLAIN TRUTH are so interesting now--like old times. I can hardly put them down until I have devoured everyone of them.

--Mrs. Margaret Gipson (Dawson, TX)

Thank you so very much for letting God use you to set the Church and College back on the right track. Every article you write is like a breath of fresh air; like wine poured on an infected wound, stinging, yet cleaning and healing at the same time.

We've been in the Church 19 years and just floated along with the times, becoming more and more confused the past 10 years as everything we thought we knew and understood was shot through with holes. Now the basic truths are renewed and the truth is simple and beautiful as it was in the beginning. Thank you again and again.

--Mr. & Mrs. Larry Shallenbeyer (Mishawaka, IN)

We are behind you and the Work 100%! So are all of the brethren whom we know. We have been excited about how strong your sermons have come out for our need to prepare ourselves as the bride of Christ for His return. Keep up the good work!

--Michael Osborne (Brandon, MS)

I believe this is the end time and that we all need more time on our knees before God. Thank God for the correction He gives through you. God's will is to make His Church ready for Christ's return. God help us to see that and be fervent and diligent in trying to draw closer to His power.

--Hasadore Hall, Jr. (Lexington, KY)

Your article in the recent GOOD NEWS carried a tremendously powerful impact to me personally ("Now Christ Moves Swiftly to Make Church Ready"). Somehow God, through that article, made me feel my own responsibility to get the spots and wrinkles and blemishes out of me, in a way I had never understood before."

Thank you very much for more blessings than I can count--but especially for that article and your letters."

--Mrs. Nettie Herzig (Pasadena, CA)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The Caribbean--Hurricane Update

Last week Hurricane "David," considered by weathermen the most severe hurricane of the century in that area, swirled in from the Atlantic and cut a swath of damage the length of the Caribbean.

Many of our members undoubtedly have faced one of the grimest weeks of their lives, but on the other hand, God's hand has so evidently been seen in the protection afforded them during the danger.

In Barbados the hurricane headed directly at the island where Mr. Bass had assembled the Caribbean ministers for a mini-conference. John Halford was attending en route from a series of church leadership and service seminars in Trinidad. At the last moment, hurricane "David" veered away and just battered the islands with strong winds. However, it then passed over northern Martinique and southern Dominica.

In Martinique we have over 140 members, most of whom live in the southern area of the island. On Sabbath 1st September, they all were accounted for at the services in their own church building--undamaged by the storm. Although private gardens and plantations had been damaged, no members had been injured nor had any of their homes been damaged. A miracle, considering the devastation around!

In Dominica (approximately 25 members), the hurricane devastated the island. The banana and coconut crops have been eliminated for at least two years and severe economic times lie ahead. The capital, Roseau, was severely damaged, however most of our members live in scattered rural areas of the island. Communications are cut and the one road from the airport to Roseau was still being cleared of debris. Mr. Bass (Regional Director for the Caribbean) was unable to get in. However, he hopes to be able to personally visit the members later this week and evaluate their needs then.

On Guadaloupe, there was much damage too, but all the members (approximately 25) were reported to be fine and in no difficulties. The hurricane then headed for the Dominican Republic and Haiti on the island of Hispaniola.

In the Dominican Republic, which was widely devastated, the airport is not yet open and we presume the three members there are fine as the area in which they live was not indicated to be the worst hit.

In Puerto Rico, no members have been seriously affected. There is severe agricultural damage running to \$75-100 million and flooding is expected to follow as the less severe hurricane "Frederic" now passes to the north.

A further report will be included next week when we have more information.

South Africa

Mail income for July has been very encouraging, maintaining a 14% increase over last July. This represents only first tithe contributions that have been sent through the mail to us.

We have recently contacted 9700 PLAIN TRUTH readers who did not renew their subscriptions back in 1978. We are happy to say 13% requested further copies of the PLAIN TRUTH magazine. Many had moved, so the actual response rate from those who received the offer may be considerably higher. We feel these subscribers are especially valuable since they already have a basic knowledge of what we teach and what our Work is all about. With the revitalized content of the PLAIN TRUTH, we are hoping a number of these people will react very positively to it.

The 8600 letters and cards we received in July brings our year-to-date total to 61,600. This is 70% of the total incoming mail for 1978. If the current trend continues, we will receive 20% more mail in 1979 than 1978!

In the first seven months of this year we sent out 140,000 items of mail, which is 10% above what we projected for this period of time. This is partly due to a number of extra renewal projects that we decided to use to increase the PLAIN TRUTH mailing list.

New Zealand

God is continuing to bless the New Zealand Work with a very fine increase in mail and income. Mail during July quadrupled that received during the

same month last year, bringing the year-to-date mail figure to 98.5% higher than for the same period in 1978. We have so far received 49,000 items of mail during 1979--already surpassing the amount received in the entire year of 1978! Income for July was 30.1% up on July last year, bringing the year-to-date income figure to a very encouraging plus 30.6%.

The major reason for the massive influx of mail over the last four months has been our promotion of The PLAIN TRUTH and The Dilemma of Drugs by a concentrated program of householder cards, newspaper and magazine ads, and radio spot ads. This advertising campaign has now brought in over 28,000 responses, at a cost-per-response of \$1.67. Most of these represent brand new Plain Truth readers, bringing our current mailing list to 43,500--more than double what it was just three months ago! All of these new readers are receiving the special introductory edition of The PLAIN TRUTH, providing them with an excellent introduction to the message we have to give.

We're happy to be able to report fine figures for church growth, too. With the establishment of seven new churches in the outlying areas over the last 12 months, church attendance has risen by 44%. Baptized membership is up by 8% since July 1979, and the number of co-workers increased by a pleasing 84%.

--Compiled by Rod Matthews, International Office