

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 2, NO. 8

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 22, 1980

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LEGAL BATTLE

Mr. Rader's Deposition

On February 20th, Mr. Rader appeared at the Attorney General's office in Los Angeles for his court-ordered deposition (question-and-answer session). He was accompanied by Church attorneys and representatives of the primary defendant organizations named in the original lawsuit. Various motions and petitions had been previously filed seeking to prevent this deposition from ever taking place, but because the order stood Mr. Rader did appear.

Nevertheless, the result was of no consequence because the four-hour session dealt with questions posed by the Attorney General which Church attorneys deemed in violation of constitutional protections granted the Church and its members. The Attorney General may want to continue the deposition, but that will have to wait until Mr. Rader returns from his current trip on behalf of Mr. Armstrong and the Church, which began the day after the deposition.

Document Grab Prevented by California Supreme Court

Judge Johnson of L.A. Superior Court had previously ruled concerning the 6,918 documents in the possession of Peat, Marwick and Mitchell. The judge ordered that the documents, retained by them these many months since the receivership was dissolved, should be turned over to the Attorney General for inspection and copying. The impact of the order was effectively "stayed" (halted) through various legal motions until February 20, 1980, at which time the documents were delivered and opened in the Attorney General's Office. However, only one document was pulled out of the fourteen boxes when, at the last possible moment, the California Supreme Court announced an order directing that Judge Johnson's lower court order not be obeyed until the California Supreme Court had had a chance to determine if they want to hear an appeal from that order.

This was the first time the State's highest court had intervened on behalf of the Church and is precisely the type of interim appellate relief that the Church was hoping for in this urgent matter. There is no possible harm to the Attorney General other than a slight delay (though he would like the documents immediately) whereas if the stay had not been granted, the very question the Church was seeking to raise (whether the Attorney General should ever see the documents, much less possess them) would become mute because the invasion of Church privacy had already occurred.

WORK'S GOALS AND CHALLENGES DISCUSSED AT EMPLOYEE FORUM

Bringing greetings from Mr. Armstrong in Tucson, Mr. Stanley Rader took time February 19th to update the employees and students at Pasadena on developments in the Work.

Mr. Rader reported that Mr. Armstrong continues to write prodigious amounts of copy and is presently working on a series of articles for The PLAIN TRUTH covering the history of the Church, particularly those early years he remembers so well but which most of us know little about. He will be going into greater detail than ever before. While in Tucson recently, Mr. Rader had extended discussions with Mr. Armstrong on a number of topics including plans for upcoming trips.

Upcoming Trips

As Mr. Armstrong's aide in preparing for his visits to world leaders, Mr. Rader often will go ahead to make preliminary arrangements on location. In this capacity, Mr. Rader will be leaving Pasadena this week with a stopover in Pittsburgh where he will speak to a combined Church service, during which the TV documentary will also be shown. Then he will fly to Warsaw where we have already established good relations, and then on to Moscow to make arrangements for Mr. Armstrong's trip which, it is hoped, will take place in about the middle of May.

When Mr. Rader leaves Russia, he will return to China where he is scheduled to speak at the University of Peking on three or more occasions, and then at five other Chinese universities. He explained how this March trip to China will further our efforts to initiate a Work in that most populous nation on earth: "Hopefully on this trip I may also receive permission, which I have already requested, to open an office in Peking and maybe even permission to get our PLAIN TRUTH distributed there. So we're moving along very, very quickly... So far that [opening an office] is the only request they have not granted... Naturally there is a heavy demand [for office space] and there are no vacancies...."

"Also, I've been asking for ground level space because the idea that I had in mind for China would be something, initially, along the nature of a 'Christian Science Reading Room' where we would have our materials on display for those who would walk in. We would have Chinese Bibles. (The Bible has been translated into Chinese and is no longer considered contra-band over there.) We would have some English Bibles available. We'd have our PLAIN TRUTH magazine in various languages and some of our booklets which are more fundamental and elemental in value for us and for those interested, which we could have available first in English and maybe some other languages. [English language materials are welcomed in China.] That would be a way of getting in and getting our job done, and then getting permission, of course, to do what we've done in other countries--have PLAIN TRUTH reader meetings as well as have meetings of those who are baptized."

After Mr. Rader's return from China, he will be in Pasadena for only a very short time before he leaves again. This time he will be accompanying Mr. Armstrong who plans to speak at a combined Church service in the Chicago area, just before continuing to Israel where he will spend five or six days. Afterward he will visit Cairo and then return home again. After this trip the G-II will undergo its annual 10-day to two-week inspection.

Then, God willing, on to Moscow where Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader will have discussions with the Minister of Culture, who will be their host, and with those in the Ministry of Education. It is hoped that Mr. Armstrong will also be able to have a meeting with one of the two top men in Russia--either Brezhnev or Kosygin.

Mr. Rader noted that during the next few days and weeks further cooling of relations between the United States and Russia may transpire. Nevertheless, even though the Church might come under criticism for visiting Russia at a time of deteriorating relations between the two superpowers, Mr. Armstrong feels we must run the risk and go through the door God has opened to His Work.

It is planned that on Mr. Armstrong's return from Moscow he will stop in Warsaw where he will have large meetings with representatives of the Polish government. There will also probably be a very large testimonial dinner in his honor.

Moscow Trip Promises to Be Significant

In any event, the trip to Russia is expected to be significant. Mr. Rader explained that Mr. Armstrong already has some concrete plans for the erection of a new cultural bridge. This is one of the things he and Mr. Rader discussed at some length in Tucson last week. The goal is to establish a really significant cultural bridge between the Soviet Union and the Church, the College and the Foundation, as well as the American people. He said these relations would transcend politics.

Mr. Rader then explained why, even on Mr. Armstrong's first visit, the discussions should be very meaningful: "When you are dealing with people and you're looking for a lasting relationship--for one that will go beyond the immediacy of the visit--you have more opportunity to talk about things because people do take a longer view and they want to be sure, if they're going to be involved with you in a project for a period of time, that they're not making a mistake. So they look more closely at what you are doing. If you are just hitting and running that's one thing, but if you're saying that you're going to come back again and again, and there's going to be a permanent relationship, they're going to be talking about things that are very substantive--things important to us, things important to them. So we think the discussions will be very meaningful."

Church/State Documentary Accomplishing Its Purpose

In answer to an inquiry about the success of the documentary, Mr. Rader was happy to announce that from all indications available to us it is accomplishing what it was intended to do. He said that in addition to its having been aired here in Southern California, it has also been aired in Tucson. We are hoping to have it aired again here in the Los Angeles area on another station sometime in March. We are also shopping market by market for prime time slots (9-10 p.m.) around the country. All of this, of course, will take time.

The word-of-mouth response among the informed community here in this area has just been tremendous, said Mr. Rader. Lawyers have been talking about it, commenting on how different the case was from how it had been portrayed in the press as well as by the courts and the Attorney General.

Current plans now call for two follow-up half-hour documentaries; one on the Honorable Jerry Pacht and the other on the Honorable Steven Weisman. Everyone will be able to learn who some of the cast of characters are, what they did and how it happened. There has been tremendous interest in these two men within the legal community. Mr. Rader noted that the nature of

these men's roles and their own words are quite enough to make an eye-opening story. We won't have to editorialize. We'll just let the program zero in and focus on the record.

Also in the thinking stage are several one-minute TV spots in which the Church and its struggle with the State of California would be mentioned. These spots could close with a literature advertisement and be aired in many different areas very easily.

Church Continues Fight for Its Right of Privacy

The Attorney General has been making a concerted effort for some time to get papers belonging to the Church which have been in the possession of the Receiver's accounting firm. The firm of Peat, Marwick and Mitchell took the papers with them when the receivership was terminated and their work stopped. Many of those papers were taken illegally by the Attorney General from Mr. Jack Kessler's office in January of last year. The Church and Mr. Kessler want their respective property returned to them and certainly not handed over to the Attorney General.

Mr. Rader explained the ironic twist which will be very clear in the end if the Church's privacy is breached by the culling of those documents by a public agency which has no right to them.

"Frankly," said Mr. Rader, "I don't really care about the papers. We have examined the papers ourselves because our people have had access to the papers [as a result of a court-ordered inventory] because they're copies of papers that came from us. There's nothing in the papers that in any way, shape, or form will help the Attorney General. But he doesn't know that. He's still hoping to find something.

"What it will do if they are released [and become public record] will be embarrassing for some people. They will not be embarrassing for me. I would like nothing more than to give you all a copy of every single piece of paper that has my name on it or has my name even directly or indirectly mentioned. You could read those papers to your heart's content and then you would find out who I am, what I am, what I have been, and how I related to all of the people in this organization over a period of some 22, 23 years. It would be mind-boggling for 99 percent of you.

"Eventually, maybe those papers will get out. When they do, those papers will put me into a different shape in your minds and you'll see what we've been talking about for some time. But, although I have a natural desire to do that, I know in the process some people will be hurt and some of those people are innocent people. People who should not be hurt; people who have been damaged by others.

"As I said last time I was here, those who have been making the most noises from the opposition will be the ones hurt the most. That's really what it amounts to. But most of the papers are not even relevant. About 6,000 documents. I would say 90 percent of those documents are not even of any consequence, but the Attorney General doesn't know that. The others reveal inside information concerning relationships of people and transactions of one kind or another not of a financial nature that involve other people. But the State doesn't know that yet. The question is, should they be permitted to know that [if and] when they get the papers? The people who have the papers have them illegally anyway.

"So they're nice little issues for the lawyers to fool around with, and we will exhaust every possibility [to prevent the Attorney General from receiving those papers]. What I don't want to happen, frankly, is this: when and if any of those papers are released, some of my friends out there will say, 'Aha, Mr. Rader wanted those papers to be released. He's always wanted to tell everybody the whole story.' That's what you'll hear from some quarters.

"But let's remember now that we've fought for well over a year to keep those papers private. At least everybody in this auditorium today ought to remember it. We've done everything we could for 14 months to protect the privacy of this church, to protect the privacy of the people who have been involved in the Church. And although I, for example, have been somewhat in a 'Catch-22' situation, where you're damned if you do and damned if you don't, let's all remember and not let anybody twist you around on that score.

"We have had the finest lawyers in the country trying to keep the privacy of this church intact. If any of it comes out, just remember I didn't let it out. That I did not throw that first stone. Do you all understand that? I did not throw it. I did everything I could to prevent anybody from throwing it, as has Mr. Armstrong, as has Mr. Helge and everybody else involved in the action to thwart the State from destroying our privacy."

State's Futile Quest for Wrongdoing

Mr. Rader put these comments into perspective with the following reminder: "The State got itself into a lawsuit and if you read carefully all of the documents that are part of the public record prepared by the State, you will see the State has said 'Well, we don't know of any wrong; we've only been told there is some wrong. And acting upon what we have been told, we started this whole thing and now we're still trying to find some evidence of wrongdoing.'

"That's really what this case has been about. Moving on what is called, in lawyers' language, 'information and belief,' which are just lawyers' words for rumor and gossip... They filed a lawsuit based upon that. Ever since that time they've had a tiger by the tail!

"We are the ones who have had control of the record base, the Church itself, and the record base was never in the administration building which they raided that day with detectives and armed guards, fingerprinting experts, [even] probing into the ceiling for gold bullion! I mean think about it; the whole thing is just absurd--just ridiculous! In other words, if it hadn't happened and I told you it were to happen, you wouldn't believe it. You'd laugh. Anyone would laugh if it weren't such a serious thing."

U.S. Justice Department Viewed Documentary

The U.S. Justice Department is taking our case seriously. Mr. Rader answered in the affirmative a query about whether that federal agency viewed the documentary as planned. He said they were very impressed with it. He also said our attorneys in Washington D.C. are continuing to work very closely with the U.S. Attorney General's office, feeding them infor-

mation. They are sympathetic toward the Church's plight and may yet make the decision to come in on the State, but that is a heavy decision fraught with political considerations. Mr. Rader noted that we have been trying to get them to move in our behalf for over 14 months now, but "the impossible takes a little while."

Support Coming From Jewish Group

The only major group that did not come to the fore in mid-November of last year was the Jewish community. Mr. Rader was pleased to announce that we now have been joined by the Synagogue Council of America. The man who will write their brief in our behalf is Leo Pfeffer, one of the leading constitutional lawyers in the country.

Mr. Rader stressed that it is becoming increasingly obvious that slowly but surely we are succeeding in educating the public about the need to guard our rights and freedoms, which we are guaranteed in this country, before they are eroded away to the detriment of all. In this vein, Mr. Rader explained what the bottom line really is:

"We must have freedom of speech, press, assembly, as well as freedom of religion. We must have those four things and all of the procedural safeguards to be certain that nobody intrudes upon those rights or impinges upon those rights. It's very, very important. Our whole life as a church depends upon our ability to get out our message, to practice our beliefs, to act upon them or refrain from acting upon them, to assemble and, of course, to believe in what we believe.

"I still remember what Dr. Thomas, Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Brigham Young University, told me when I met him for the first time four or five years ago. He told me, 'In the next two decades, the question will not be what you believe, it will be whether you're going to be permitted to act or refrain from acting in consequence of those beliefs, and the battles will be fought in the courts. You'll be fighting them, we [Mormons] will be fighting them.' He was right."

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

News From the Work in the Netherlands

The following report came from Mr. Bram de Bree, Regional Director for the Dutch Work:

On Sabbath, February 9, 1980, we had the pleasure of having Mr. Frank Brown, Regional Director for the United Kingdom, visiting the Netherlands. He took the services at both Dutch churches. The brethren enjoyed being filled in on the activities of Mr. Armstrong and reports about the other areas of the Work in the world. The brethren here are very loyal to God's Work and in full support of Mr. Armstrong. At an occasion like this, one is again reminded of the worldwide scope of this Work and the importance of all speaking the same thing.

The subscription list for Echte Waarheid (the Dutch Plain Truth), stands at 15,928--an increase over last year at this time. Good News circulation is down 1.4%, and so we intend to promote the Good News in the future.

Church attendance had a 3.2% increase, bringing the total attendance for both churches (Tilburg and Bilthoven in Utrecht) to 193. Our mail income went up 52% this month compared to January 1979. A total of 2,476 pieces of mail were also received this month. The increase is mainly due to Plain Truth renewals and responses to newspaper ads. Financially we had a 29.65% year-to-date increase, and a 1.68% increase for the past 12 months.

United Kingdom & Eire Update

Plans for 1980:

1) Advertising--Almost any time you travel by "tube" (London underground railway) or train in Britain, someone in the car will be reading a newspaper. And during the year ahead they should have a far greater chance of coming in contact with our advertisement for the Plain Truth.

Beginning in February, an advertisement offering an introductory copy of the magazine will begin to roll off the presses of Fleet Street, starting with a test in the Daily Mail. This will be quickly followed by ads in the Sunday Express, Daily Express, Sun, Telegraph, Sunday Telegraph, Daily Star, and hopefully, the Daily Mirror and Sunday People--all of them large circulation national papers that the vast majority of the British public purchase--mainly on a regular basis.

To produce and place this kind of ad, it was decided to change our agency to one specializing in coupon responses and so the services of Hilton Advertising (Direct Response) Ltd. was employed. As almost all our advertising is naturally of a direct response nature, this move should give the Work of God greater impact on the British public. We wait with bated breath for the first ad to appear around 22nd February.

2) Exhibitions--For the second consecutive year the Plain Truth will be on show in a number of major Ideal Home Exhibitions around the United Kingdom and Eire. Featured in the displays will be eye-catching color spreads from previous editions, and brief details of the progression of the magazine from its humble beginnings into the quality color publication it is today.

Also at selected sites, a full-color audio-visual production will be shown which gives a lively graphic insight into the content and history of the Plain Truth. Stand personnel will be available to answer queries, and supplies of a specially prepared leaflet will be provided offering a free subscription to the magazine.

As a back-up to the exhibition itself, three forms of publicity will be used: First, many households in the area will receive a Plain Truth offer leaflet distributed by members and specialist firms. (Altogether one million should be distributed). Second, we'll mail a personalized letter offering the Plain Truth to "opinion-formers"--doctors, councillors, lawyers, businessmen, etc.--who have influence in the community. Lastly, we will issue press releases to relevant newspapers, etc. explaining our local activities, and will follow these up by personally contacting the news editors in question.

Upward Trends: Apart from news of future plans, we have good news on other fronts. January was a record month for income--up 39% over last January. Church attendance is up too--16% over last year.

1980 Plans for Scandinavian Work

1980 looks like a promising year for the Work in Scandinavia as a somewhat greater allocation of finances is planned. Projections currently include an advertising program for the English language Plain Truth, though the ads themselves will probably be produced in the respective native languages.

A number of direct mail shots are also planned and, eventually, we would like to try using the Exhibition stands that have been so successful in Britain in at least one Scandinavian Site.

Pacific Islands Report

The Work in the Pacific Islands was dealt a severe blow this month when news came through that the Fiji Post Office was increasing its postage rates by approximately 100%! As all of our mail to readers in Fiji is shipped to Fiji from New Zealand and posted there, this move will have quite an effect on our budget there.

Meanwhile, in Tonga, our minister Tolu Ha'angana has posted a card offering The Plain Truth into each of the 1252 Post Office Boxes in Nuku'alofa, the capital. Results have been excellent, with 232 cards already having been returned. This has already trebled The Plain Truth list in Tonga, with more responses still expected.

In the Pacific Islands, we plan to continue the World Tomorrow broadcast in Fiji and Tonga, plus the ongoing newsstand program in Fiji. With the January Plain Truth began a small newsstand circulation in Tonga. The major new promotional thrust in the Pacific Islands this year will be an extensive newspaper advertising campaign. Twenty-eight advertisements are about to be placed in newspapers spanning Western Samoa, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Tahiti and Tonga. Hopefully more ads of this type can be placed later in the year.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

FOUNDATIONAL BOOKLET TO BECOME AVAILABLE AGAIN

We have some good news about Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's important book, United States and Britain In Prophecy. The good news is that after an absence of many years, the booklet will again be available in the larger original version. There will now be two versions, both with the same editorial copy. One version is hard-back 6" x 9" in full-color which will be published by Everest House for commercial distribution. The second version will also be full-color but will be produced to our regular booklet size of 5 1/4" x 8 1/4". It will be soft-cover but with a glued binding like the old original booklet.

We already have a waiting list of 25,000 for this booklet version, and with planned advertising in the April U.S. PLAIN TRUTH, we are going to print 200,000 of this important booklet for free distribution.

--Publishing Services

MAIL HOLDING ITS OWN

The mail count for the year of 1979 ended with an increase, and 1980 is getting off to a good start. January mail has fallen off from the high response to Mr. Armstrong's "semi-annual" letter we received in December, but there are many positive programs in the works which we believe will increase the mail significantly in the months ahead. As Mr. Armstrong said in his latest letter (1/23/80) to the Church, this new decade of the '80s should see the Work of God really surging ahead in spite of present activity in the courts.

Quite a number of responses have been received to the newspaper inserts which the PLAIN TRUTH Circulation Department has been testing. We expect this new program (along with their testing of various mailing lists) will bring many new, interested, and viable subscribers on our files.

The month of January ended with a total of 183,385 pieces of mail received, including mail received in Tucson.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

MAIL COMMENTS

A number of responses came in this week from Mr. Armstrong's letter of January 3, 1980 on the new decade and what Bible prophecy says is to happen. People are becoming more apprehensive about the economic situation in America. Also Gene Hogberg's article, "America--'A Paper Tiger'?" dealing with America's broken "pride of power" in the January PLAIN TRUTH, sparked a number of comments. Also, the stronger Biblical articles in the PLAIN TRUTH are having considerable impact on our readers.

--Mail Processing Center

Many Agree With Mr. Armstrong

I enjoyed reading your letter very much. It is so very timely. I think your comments on the world at large are right on. And I do think we are living in very dangerous and unusual times, as prophesied.

--Adrienne Sibley (Gallipolis Fry, WV)

Thank you for your recent letter on the situation in the Mideast. I really appreciate someone caring enough these days to print the truth to inform us common people of the truth between the lines.

--Tim Shimko (Fort Worth, TX)

You are not alone. Anyone that thinks clearly, thinks this world will be brought out of chaos soon now in this decade by Jesus Christ at His second coming.

--Walter Barnes (Las Vegas, NV)

Just received your most interesting letter of 1/13/80. As for global events: I perused your letter with care. I concur with your analysis. The real serious problem in this nation, as this amateur economist sees it, is "inflation." The economic cancer engulfing us all is now gaining momentum.

This most insidious process can ultimately wreck the country's economic system and deform the character of its people. Such has been the experience of mankind in all the centuries of recorded history without a single exception to date.

--Sam Virshbo (Chicago, IL)

Response to "Paper Tiger" Article

I want to comment on the article "America--'A Paper Tiger'" in the January issue of The PLAIN TRUTH by Gene H. Hogberg. It certainly tells it like it is. I wish everyone in the U.S.A. could read it.

--Earl White (Forsyth, MT)

The future does not seem promising for America in the decade to come. The "Paper Tiger" image of America does little to inspire us with confidence about our place in the world. Of course, this has been predicted in your articles for many years--as long as I have been reading your exceptional magazine.

--Richard Lee (Seattle, WA)

I enjoyed reading your January 1980 copy of The PLAIN TRUTH (this is the first time that I have seen this publication). I really enjoyed and was informed while reading "America--'A Paper Tiger.'" Keep up the good work. Thank you!

--Brandan F. Stock (Hamtramck, MI)

Continued Support for The PLAIN TRUTH

I have been getting The PLAIN TRUTH magazine for a good many years and this one magazine has taught me more about the Bible, explaining the Bible, more than all of the preachers I have heard combined!

--Helen C. Cooper (Talladga, AL)

Just a note of thanks for your continued inspiration and dedication to all of us hungry souls being inspired to search the Scriptures more fully as we read the meaty articles in The PLAIN TRUTH.

--Mrs. Leonard Hall (Hillsboro, OR)

When you say that you think that the magazine speaks for itself, it sure does--a thousand times over. I never knew that such a magazine was being printed. It's just wonderful to pick up a magazine to read and not have the advertising stare you in the face and other articles not newsworthy that I would call junk.

--Irene Krall (Marianna, PA)

I am a new subscriber to your PLAIN TRUTH magazine and I want to express in this letter that I am very happy with your affirmative truth about the prophecies in the Bible.

I believe very strongly that your information is correct in reference to your magazine and your literature. It is self-explanatory and it's inspirational to keep on hoping for the coming of Jesus Christ and to keep on reading your brilliant magazine.

--Margarita Robles (New York, NY)