

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 2, NO. 17

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 25, 1980

United States
HUMILIATED AGAIN!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

As we go to press, the United States once again bungles a military action and suffers another serious humiliation from a comparatively small country.

For six months President Carter was blamed for "doing nothing" about the hostage crisis in Iran. Now we learn that all during this six months the Pentagon and military command was preparing--training volunteers for this attempt by helicopters to rescue the hostages. But first reports say that one, two, or three of the helicopters, after they reached the Iranian desert, from which point the rescue was to be made, went sour mechanically.

God Almighty says this country is now about to suffer punishment as no other nation ever suffered in all history. Could the mechanical failure of those helicopters have been an "ACT OF GOD"?

The knowledge of GOD'S WILL and of GOD'S WAY has been revealed to our nation more than to any other. Since the expiration of the 2520 years of withholding the national Birthright (Lev. 26) which God had promised UN-conditionally to Abraham--which expiration occurred 1800-1803--God has kept His promise to Abraham by blessing our country as no other country ever was blessed. We were blessed with GOD'S TRUTH, yet we trampled it underfoot, and educated our on-coming generations in the atheistic, God-denying basic approach to knowledge of atheistic EVOLUTION.

As a nation we have denied God's TEST Commandment--His holy Sabbath. The churches of our country have turned God's Holy Word upside down, and proclaimed the diametric opposite of its TRUTH! God chose to reveal to me His Holy days and annual Festivals. Yet when I revealed them to the one fragmentary true Church of God left on earth in 1927-1933, they "laughed me to scorn" (II Chron. 30:10). No other church body on earth observes God's annual festivals, with their true MEANING except the Worldwide Church of God!

Our government, elected by vote of the people, has in many respects been corrupt. God calls our people, even today, a stiff-necked and hard-hearted people--though some would disagree with God on that.

Now God says, in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, He is about to punish us as no nation ever was punished! See latter portion of our booklet United States and Britain In Prophecy.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESMinisterial Trainee Assignments

(Editor's Note: As a fruitful college year draws to a close, Mr. Joe Tkach spoke to the student body at a special assembly Thursday afternoon, April 24th. He exhorted the students to continue building character and learning how to truly serve, so they will be prepared for whatever opportunities and responsibilities God may give them in the future. His encouraging talk addressed many topics, including men's and women's roles in marriage and the importance of service to the congregation. He concluded by announcing field assignments of undergraduates, graduates and one alumnus from a recent graduating class. Mr. Tkach mentioned that other graduates, already located in church areas and helping their pastor, may be hired full-time in the future--depending upon their own progress and the Work's needs.)

Summer Trainees

<u>Junior</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
Steven Elliott	Pasadena Imperial	Selmer Hegvold
Randy Duke	Auditorium A.M.	Larry Salyer
Lincoln Jailal	Pasadena Spanish	Robert Flores
Marty Davey	England	
Steve LeBlanc	England	

Full-Time Trainees

<u>Graduating Seniors</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
Phil Rice	Tulsa	Don Mason
Ron Smith	Belleville/Mt. Vernon	Harold Smith
Tom Damour	Bluefield/Oakhill	Charles Crain
Dave Myers	Albany/Springfield	Lyle Welty
Ron Guizado	Flint/Lansing	Nelson Haas
Chris Beam	Buffalo	Dan Bierer
Malcolm Tofts	Orlando/Melbourne	Bob Bertuzzi
Charles Knowlton	Gadsden/Anniston	Bill Winner
Dan Samson	Canada	
Kim Wenzel	Canada	
Jim Herst	England	
Eduardo Hernandez	Bogota, Columbia	

Former Graduate

<u>Graduate</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
Jeb Egbert	Wheeling	Lyall Johnston

Report From the Dutch Work

Mr. Bram de Bree, Regional Director for the Netherlands, wired this report after the Feast of Unleavened Bread:

"Greetings from the sunny Netherlands!

"After dull and cool spring weather, finally the sun brought balmy temperatures. Our Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread went very well indeed. Every member of both churches attended the Passover which was held in two places, Tilburg and Zwolle. At the first holy day our attendance was 9.8% higher than last year and at the last day 1.5%. Offerings for the first and last holy day combined gave us an overall increase of 2.5%.

"Income for the month of March gave us a healthy increase of 13.6% over the same month last year. Two people were baptized in March bringing total active membership up to 143 for both churches. Church attendance increased by 8.7% compared to one year ago. Due to our automatic renewal program we lost 3,185 readers of the Plain Truth and added 1,033. The April issue of the Plain Truth will be sent to 10,000 inactive readers with a letter enclosed inviting them to rejoin again. We also had several meetings with our advertising agency to review our ad program. Rather than advertising a booklet we decided to offer the magazine alone, making use of the April cover and contents. This ad will be placed in three major newspapers at the beginning of May in different parts of the Netherlands as a pilot project.

"The month of March also gave us the opportunity to have two public lectures in the city of Amsterdam. One percent of the invited people responded to the invitation and came back for the follow-up lecture. The last one in this series is scheduled for April 25th. The public lectures in Zwolle have now been concluded and the new people who have been attending these past winter months have now been invited to attend a once-a-month Sabbath Bible study starting April 26th. The regular activities of the Dutch speaking work as of April are as follows:

--Once a week Sabbath services in Tilburg and Bilthoven.

--Once a month Sabbath Bible studies in Antwerpen and Zwolle."

New Zealand/South Pacific News

The following update for the month of March was prepared by our New Zealand office:

"This month's income figure was the second highest monthly figure ever recorded by the office here. It was 17.1% higher than the record-breaking figure achieved last March, bringing the year-to-date figure to 21.2% for the first quarter of 1980.

"Mail from the Pacific Islands has stepped up noticeably this year, averaging 1,370 items per month compared with an average of 660 items per month during 1979. Our recent opening of Post Office boxes in Fiji and Tonga has contributed significantly to this increase.

"Since October last year we have been placing insert cards inside each issue of The Plain Truth, listing all of the literature advertised in that issue, thus making it easy for people to request it--by simply ticking their choices and returning the card. Responses to these cards range from 1% to 1.5% of our readership each month.

"Church growth has started the year very well. From all over the region ministers are reporting a large increase in the number of new visit requests, prospective members, and church attendance. Our minister in Fiji noted 11 new prospective members in his March report.

"We're now gearing up for our 1980 householder card campaign, which will involve putting a card in every letterbox in the country. Last year this added 30,000 new subscribers at a cost-per-response of only \$1.57, so we decided to do the same type of promotion as our major advertising thrust this year too. Church members nationwide will begin walking the streets and dropping cards in letterboxes in mid-April."

Update from Germany

"Three hundred and ninety-three members took the Passover on March 30th, which was held in eleven different places in East and West Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

"Two ministers reported encouraging new visits in their areas in March. We hope the trend continues.

"Mail: In March we renewed most of our subscribers. At the same time we offered a new booklet, part one (the first five chapters) of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's Autobiography. As a result we were swamped with renewals and orders for the new booklet. The continuation of a very encouraging trend is the incoming mail for this month--up 171% over last year (mainly due to renewals). The year-to-date total is up 14%.

"In March we added 3,000 new subscribers, which is nearly 100 new subscribers per day. We will need an average of at least 100 new subscribers every day in order to reach our goal of 35,000 new subscribers this year. In addition, 1800 new subscribers in Canada were added as a result of the flyers distributed there.

"Our 28-page special GN on Bible Study was well received by members and co-workers. This was the first GN issue produced on our new AB Dick offset duplicator. (Our German GN has the format of an A.C. booklet and is slightly larger than Reader's Digest). We are already working on the next GN special on faith.

"As a result of many programs and ads in the KLAR & WAHR [German PT] and GN, we have already sent out 129% more booklets this year as compared to 1979."

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

There is only one more week of classes before exam week, then Graduation exercises on May 12th.

Yesterday, April 23rd, we had our annual Ambassador College Track and Field Day. The A.C. students didn't set any new world records, but nevertheless did very well.

After the track and field events, the students and faculty had dinner in the Student Center, and this was followed by an enjoyable sing-along.

During the student-faculty dinner, Messrs. Jim Petty and Bernell Michel were each presented with an award for many years of dedicated service to Ambassador College and the Worldwide Church of God.

Dealing With Prospective Students

We have already accepted approximately 150 students for the 1980-81 college year. This is about all we can accept for the coming year.

About three weeks ago, we felt we should discontinue sending out application forms. We had already sent out about 1000, and we felt that if we continued to send out more forms, we would raise the hopes of prospective students, only to dash their hopes later when we informed them that we had no more available spaces in Ambassador for this fall. Following is a copy of a letter by Dr. William Stenger, Director of Admissions, which the Admissions Office has been sending out for the past three weeks.

Dear Prospective Ambassador College Student:

Thank you for requesting an application for undergraduate admission.

As we are now winding down admissions for the fall semester 1980 we are not sending out application packets at this time. However, we will be sending applications for 1981 later this year.

New freshmen may apply only for fall semester (August 1981) admission. Students who would like to transfer to Ambassador from another college or university may apply for either spring semester (January 1981) or fall semester (August 1981) admission. Former Ambassador College students, including those who attended Bricket Wood or Big Sandy, who would like to be readmitted may apply for spring, summer, or fall (1981).

If you would like to apply for admission in 1981, please complete the enclosed postcard and return it to the Admissions Office at your earliest convenience.

Your interest in Ambassador College is very much appreciated.

Even though we are not routinely sending out any more application forms for the 1980-81 college year, this does not mean that we are unable to accept any more students. It does mean, however, that we are very limited as to our ability to accept very many more. And unless you ministers give a very strong plug for an exceptional applicant, we will be very reluctant to admit those who may seek admission for the 1980-81 college year.

If you ministers have any very good prospective students who are really keen to enroll in Ambassador for the coming college year, then call us or in some way let us know that you have a super-excellent applicant which you strongly urge us to accept for the coming year. Otherwise the student will probably not be admitted. All others should be encouraged to apply for the 1981-82 college year.

The students appreciate the new direction of the college which Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and those of us who are assisting him have maintained. And, as a result, God has blessed us with a very good college year!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

JOB OPENING INFO NEEDED

With graduation approaching shortly, many A.C. graduates will soon be job hunting. If any of you ministers are aware of any job openings or attractive employment opportunities in your area, we would be happy to pass these on to our seniors. Just drop us a line at Career Services c/o Ambassador College or call us on the WATS line (Phone ext. 5591). Your help would be much appreciated!

--Dave Albert, Director of Career Services

SIGNS OF GROWTH IN THE WORK

In this update, we would like to relate to you a number of the POSITIVE indicators that we see in Mail Processing which show that Mr. Herbert Armstrong's inspired efforts to put the Work "back on track" are bearing very good fruit!

The Mail Is Up

1979 was the first year since 1973 that the yearly mail count has been up from the year before! The amount of increase of 1979 mail over 1978 mail was not that large (about two percent)--but we view it as a very positive sign for the future. And, 1980 appears to be following this upward trend. Comparing the first three months of 1980 to those of 1979, the mail is up about nine percent.

More Literature Going Out

In spite of the receivership disruption during 1979, there was almost a five percent increase in the amount of literature which was sent out, as compared to 1978. Over 2,723,000 booklets, articles, and correspondence course lessons were mailed out to readers during 1979. (These figures do not include issues of The PLAIN TRUTH, GOOD NEWS, or Worldwide News).

WATS Calls On the Increase

Phone calls to the toll-free WATS number are showing a significant increase in three main areas:

1. During January to March 1980, we received 8,612 calls in response to the telecast. This is a 16% increase over the same period last year.
2. There were also 17,256 requests for literature via the WATS line in January to March 1980. This is a 17% increase over the same period in 1979.
3. The total number of completed calls received January through March 1980 was 35,710--a 13% increase over the first three months in 1979.

Personal Correspondence Activity Up

The PC area of Mail Processing was established by Mr. Armstrong many years ago to provide short, personal answers to readers' questions--and to direct special letters out to the local ministry. In comparing January through March 1980 figures with those of 1979, we see increases in each main category:

Letters forwarded to the ministry for baptism, visit requests, etc.Up 24%
Prayer and encouragement lettersUp 24%
Other letters and memos written.Up 29%

Positive Comments About the Ministry Increasing

There is a definite increase in the number of letters we are receiving from members regarding the fine examples of their local ministers. Church brethren are very much inspired by the quality of sermons and Bible studie they are getting. The trend from overall mail responses seems to be a bright and clear upturn for the Church in almost every category.

We thought you would enjoy hearing about these positive signs of growth in God's Work over the past several months. We here in Mail Processing are certainly inspired and encouraged.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE NEWSSTAND PROGRAM!

Newsstand response in the U.S. during March reached its highest point in a year with nearly 13,000 new subscribers added to the Plain Truth list. This is certainly encouraging to all involved in the newsstand program as we search for ways to increase response without increasing our expenditures. TV, Radio and other circulation sources are also contributing to the fairly high number of new subscribers being added to the Plain Truth list.

--Publishing Services

MAIL COMMENTS

The report this week includes comments from co-workers on a variety of subjects. Also included is a selection of enthusiastic responses to Mr. Armstrong's book TOMORROW...WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE.

--Mail Processing Center

Comments From Co-workers

Here is a good description of how I feel toward the Work and the Commission. I feel like a mother in the kitchen cooking for a very large brood. Someone keeps pestering me to sit down and eat, but I say I will eat after everyone else has been fed first, and not until. In a sense I feel I was called to be a co-worker only, or until the Work and the Commission is almost, or completely, finished. If it is too late then to become a member, I will wait until the Great White Throne Judgment and then see if I still have a chance.

--Jack O. (Baldwin Park, CA)

I'm twenty now. I'm bored, lonely, this government is a joke. Please don't misunderstand me. I love being an American, but we desperately need a leader. This is Rome all over again. Anyway, I guess what I'm trying to say is I have taken a good long look and thought about this. I really want to be part of your religion and practice.

Because I feel you're right and want to learn, I'll tithe 10% of my check weekly to you. I want to help you do your thing."

--Cynthia D. (Columbus, OH)

Am so thankful I found out the truth about Christmas from you. Now I don't have to go through all the nerve-wracking shopping, and everything else that goes with it.

--Mary G. (Esom Hill, GA)

After 29 years of hearing this message, I am joining this church soon. I know this is the truth. Nobody in their right mind can dispute that. Keep up the good works.

--A.D. (Paducah, KY)

So far I have attended three Sabbath services, all of which I found very beneficial. Everyone received me cordially. I was most impressed by the simplicity of the services and the great amount of teaching imparted each time. The same is true of the Bible study class that I attended. It is clear to me that I am now embarking on a new learning experience.

--Mr. C.E. (Cleveland, OH)

I don't necessarily see everything "eye-to-eye" with you, but your message makes more common sense than any other "Christian Group" that I know. I'd like to express my thanks to God and to you for your help.

--Donald A. (Mouthcard, KY)

On January 31, 1970, I lost my only child, a son, in a car accident. He was 30 years old. At that time I was getting The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. Soon after I went to make my home with my daughter-in-law and wrote to you my change of address and received a very encouraging letter which I still have. I was getting literature from others, but you were the only one I got a reply from.

--Mrs. May J. (Angola, IN)

Is the Attorney General still bugging you people? If they bugged some of the ones that needed it they'd be too busy to go poking their nose in a church while they let dirty books say anything.

I think it is a dirty shame. If you were to call them they wouldn't come. But when something happens like that Jim Jones thing, that sends them out like flies on a dead horse. People practically begged them to look into that thing, and they waited until 900 had to die and now they act like maniacs going from church to church.

--Mrs. Edgar K. (Madera, CA)

Response to TOMORROW...WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE

I read every word in the book and found it interesting and thought provoking. It made me want to read my Bible more often.

--Mrs. Josephine C. (St. Michaels, MD)

Your book is one that every person should read. But not many people want to hear the truth. I have talked to other ministers. One told me your books were garbage. I don't care what they think. Jesus said you would be hated. May God bless you and keep you into the new world.

--Mrs. John H. (Williamsburg, VA)

This seems to me the most sensible account of creation and where we are headed that I have ever found.

--Edwin M. (Leechburg, PA)

Thank you for writing that wonderful book, TOMORROW...WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE. It's so plain. Anyone can understand. I am ordering four more of the books and I know they will be a blessing to anyone that reads them.

--Mrs. C.G. (Rosston, AR)

TOMORROW...WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE, is simply great. I love it. It's a piece of the true meat to feed the flock.

--D.M. (Red Banks, MS)

Just a note to say that I just recently received your new book, TOMORROW...WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE. I think that it's just wonderfully well written and understandable. Actually I haven't the vocabulary to truly express myself.

--E.L. (Wysox, PA)

I doubt if there is another person in the world who could gather that information together and give us insight as to what the future will be like. Knowing the Bible from start to finish as Dr. Armstrong does he gives us scripture to back every statement.

--Mary A. (Birmingham, AL)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

U.S. RESCUE EFFORT FAILS! Just as we go to press comes the startling news of the abortive attempt to rescue the fifty American hostages in Iran. The dangerous mission had to be terminated when three of the eight helicopters assigned to the task malfunctioned, leaving one less than necessary to proceed to the embassy compound from the staging ground 200 miles from Teheran. The mission, Secretary of Defense Harold Brown said, had been planned and practiced since January. No American allies had been informed of the rescue attempt beforehand, Brown added.

President Carter termed the operation a humanitarian effort, not a military attack. Iranians, jubilant over the U.S. failure, can't see it that way.

Had the operation succeeded, even at the cost of the lives of some of the hostages, U.S. honor could have been salvaged in the six-month old crisis. But succeed it didn't, even though the helicopters had been able to fly 500 miles over Iranian airspace under cover of night virtually undetected. The attempt fell one helicopter short. It is obvious God is no longer fighting America's battles!

The reaction among America's allies in Europe is one of dismay, even anger. The Common Market countries had agreed to step up sanctions against Iran, even a full embargo by May 17. They claim, however, that they undertook this policy in order to forestall U.S. military action. Now they are left holding an empty bag. The NATO alliance has suffered a severe blow.

The fact that both America, Europe and Japan seemed to be solidly committed to diplomatic and economic pressure against Iran, shows that the element of surprise was definitely in America's favor in this attempt. It could have succeeded, had God been on America's side.

Of course, by the time you receive this issue of the Pastor General's Report, many more details will have come to light regarding this surprising development.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau