

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 30, 1980

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Requests for Help From African Members

To all North American Ministers:

A number of the African brethren have developed penpalships with people especially in the U.S. and Canada. They have understandably lamented the difficulties they face and in some cases have asked for money (eg. several months ago we had a member in Ghana who by this means was able to elicit \$500 from a generous Church member in North America. However, the needs for which he requested the money could very easily have been provided out of third tithe in Ghana, if he had approached his local minister with the problem he faced.) As we do have third tithe available in most of the countries in Africa, it is inappropriate that members should appeal to brethren abroad while ignoring their own pastor at home and his ability to help them.

If you are aware of such requests coming into your area or feel it might be a problem, would you please approach the individuals concerned, or ask the brethren not to send money to members in Africa without first referring them to their local minister for advice?

We certainly do not want to dampen the enthusiasm of the brethren in North America in wanting to help these brethren, but I am sure that as each and every one of us appreciates, many of these things can be more effectively handled if done through the right channels. Nevertheless, we certainly do appreciate their caring concern.

Update From Australia

Campaigns: Campaigns and follow-up Bible studies are now in full swing. The main thrust of the messages being presented to Plain Truth readers is Bible Prophecy. Some titles of the lectures are: Upheaval in the 1980s; Australia in Prophecy; Will Russia Win the Middle East?; Will the Russian Invasion of Afghanistan Lead to World War III?; and The Middle East in Prophecy.

By the end of June this year it is anticipated that virtually every Plain Truth subscriber in Australia will have received an invitation to attend a campaign conducted at an auditorium within easy driving distance. Responses to these campaigns so far have been very encouraging. Many new people have attended and some are already attending local church services and Bible studies.

Booklets: It seems like every day boxes and boxes of booklets and articles are shipped out of the work's warehouse in Australia bound for numerous destinations--for displays at campaigns and follow-up Bible studies; for school libraries; for literature stands at city shows (fairs), exhibitions;

flea markets, and opportunity shops; and for distribution by other reputable community organizations.

So far this year the Australian office has supplied in bulk over 30,000 booklets and articles, and the following letter from Kingswood High School is a sample of the requests coming in:

Through one of our year nine students we have become aware of your publications and are interested in obtaining class sets of 35 of the following publications for use in our Geography, History, and Personal Development Classes: "Personal Finances," "The Black Horse --Famine," "World Crisis in Agriculture," and "The Modern Romans."

We would also appreciate copies of any other publications which could be used for reference material.

Church: Church attendance has been very good with well over 5,000 in attendance for several months in a row. Baptisms were heavy in March, and with quite a few to come in yet, it looks as though we are nearing the 100 mark for 1980 already. This is a considerable increase over the same period last year. There is also a noticeable number of people who have been inactive members now returning to church. The brethren are in good spirits and very excited about the growth and progress of the Work worldwide.

Mr. Kulasingam, pastor of the Bombay, India church, and his wife had been invited by Mr. Wilson to visit the Burleigh Heads office for a week in May. Mr. Kulasingam retired after many years service with Indian Airlines and is now working for the Church full-time. He was able to spend the time discussing and coordinating Church affairs with Mr. Wilson and the staff. He gave a split-sermon on one Sabbath about the history and growth of the Indian work.

Bible Lectures Held In Solomon Islands

Four people were present for the first Passover conducted by a minister in the Solomon Islands, Northeast of Australia. Because of the distance between the islands, two members were unable to make the trip to Honiara, the capital.

While there, Chris Hunting, administrator for Asia, held two Bible lectures. Seven new people attended the first night and five came the second day with two returning. Two hundred and three invitations were sent to the main island, of which six percent responded. Since the invitation to the Bible lectures was also sent to subscribers on the outer islands, fifteen people have written in expressing their interest in the meetings even though distance prevented their attendance.

Members from the Solomons will observe this year's Feast of Tabernacles with the brethren in Suva, Fiji.

Letter From Minister In Ghana

We thought you would be interested in an excerpt from a letter received from Melvin Rhodes, pastor of the churches in Ghana, West Africa, after the recent visit of the Pope there:

While in Kumasi (Ghana's second largest city), we went to see the Pope. Quite an experience. He certainly has a charisma; quite frightening really. He passed within one yard of us. He was raised on the back of a Landrover, waving at the crowd. Then he turned and looked right into my eyes. It seemed to last ages, though was probably only a few seconds. Diane [Melvin's wife] said afterwards, it was really weird. I think he was surprised to see a white family in the midst of a sea of black faces; but also, of course, we were not hollering like everybody else. But he looked at me so long, I thought I had to do something and gave him a half-hearted wave back. He is quite tall and of a strong build, but his face wasn't real. This impression may have been due to his make-up (for T.V. cameras). He seemed like a wax puppet, with rosy red cheeks.

But, you know, the "prophet" is already working "miracles," and deceiving the people--the miracle was that his visit got butter and Coke into the City Hotel; the deception--"it's enough to make you turn Catholic." But not even a strong Pope can change Africa--the service in the hotel (best in Kumasi) was still lousy and there was no hot water, while all of Accra and Kumasi took three whole days off during his visit (no mail, nothing).

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

ALBANY, OR--DAVID H. MILLS: The brethren are very inspired after the spring Holy Days and the visit by Mr. Gerald Waterhouse. There has been excellent support for public Bible lectures. Many are getting back on the track in their personal lives and are sobered by world events.

DULUTH, MN--BILL GORDON: Days of Unleavened Bread were inspiring. Offerings good. Church stable and growing. In-home Bible studies attended with enthusiasm.

PORTLAND EAST--JIM HAEFFELE: The brethren overall are very positive and behind Mr. Armstrong. They are also very supportive of Mr. Rader and his role in the Work.

RAPID CITY, SD--STEVE BUCHANAN: It's quite evident that Mr. Armstrong's leadership and direction is very much needed by the Church in Rapid City. Some have been having problems in obeying the law of Tithing, so we have received a letter from God's Apostle about tithing. Whatever subject that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong addresses fulfills a need we have in this area. We had a good Holy Day season, with attendance at near record levels.

NORTH PLATTE, NE--DON HOOSER: Since the sermons on faith, fasting, and healing, already we notice better attitudes, people coming back to Church, and more dramatic healings!

AUSTIN, TX--HAROLD J. RHODES: Offerings this spring Holy Day season were up 36% over last year!

LUBBOCK, TX--KEITH WALDEN: Attitude is good. People anxious for news of growth in the Work and Mr. Armstrong's direction. Attitude during the

Holy Days was like the "old days." A new high for newer members. God's Spirit was poured out abundantly!

GRAND RAPIDS, MI--WILLIAM D. MILLER: More and more evidence of "first love" zeal being manifested in the form of service, participation in P.T. distribution, Spokesman Club, subscription card program, and other activities. Some former members desirous to return.

DICKINSON, ND--DAN CREED: The Church seems to be very solid and growing at this time. The brethren seem to be excited about the new PT promotional idea. We hope to be able to work with that a lot.

ALEXANDRIA, LA--BRISCOE ELLETT, II: The overall attitude is the most positive I have ever seen. It is obvious that God is cleaning up His Church. So many have mentioned how inspiring the new GN's and PT's are. New people are coming along and the attendance, though small a few sabbaths due to bad weather, is higher than ever. God's Spirit is evident. Excitement is running high looking forward to the Feast.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS IN CALIFORNIA

Recently, an announcement was made in Pasadena asking California brethren to write their assemblyman and request that he help pass Petris Bill SB #1493. Please read the following memo to your congregations and then post the addresses of California Assemblymen who comprise the Assembly Judiciary Committee (see the last page of this P.G.R.)

SENATOR PETRIS' BILL SB #1493

Recently an announcement was made in Pasadena asking all California brethren to write their state assemblyman and request that he help pass Petris Bill SB #1493. Some persons had questions regarding who they should write to and about the Petris Bill itself. The purpose of this memo is to briefly answer these questions.

In January 1979 when the Attorney General took over God's Church, he did so by claiming that California laws pertaining to nonprofit corporations, specifically section 9505 of the Corporations Code, applied to churches just as if they were public charities. During that same year a new law (section 9230) was passed that ostensibly gave the Attorney General virtually unbridled powers to investigate and supervise churches, much as he had claimed under former Corporations Code section 9505. The new law went into effect January 1, 1980. Since then state Senator Petris (D-Oakland), among others, has grown increasingly alarmed at the manner

and extent to which the Attorney General has gone about wielding his claimed powers.

Senator Nicholas Petris has authored a bill which would revoke section 9230 of the California Corporations Code. Since the rights and privileges of individuals are more protected in criminal law than in civil matters, Petris' bill would limit the Attorney General to the more stringent restraints of criminal law and divest him of his virtually unlimited power to harrass and dictate to churches under the civil law.

If passed, Petris' bill does not mean that anyone would then be free to commit crimes in violation of the criminal laws. What it does mean is that the Attorney General would then have to proceed to prosecute criminally any individuals who are charged with having committed crimes. The Attorney General would not be free to harrass, disrupt, supervise or control the churches themselves.

The Petris Bill is scheduled for hearing before the Assembly Judiciary Committee on June 11. We are attaching the names and addresses of assemblymen on that Committee. We encourage you to write and ask them to pass the Bill. Write to as many as you can, but if you can only write to one, please write to the chairman or the Assemblyman closest to you.

It would appear that the Petris Bill will ultimately benefit our case, though this is still somewhat of an open question at this point. However, it has been determined that we should encourage backing of the Bill and pray that it will work to our ultimate benefit.

--Ralph K. Helge, Legal Office

MISQUOTE IN WORLDWIDE NEWS

Mr. Helge has requested that we call your attention to the correction of a serious typing error in his sermonette which appeared in print on page 4, column 2 of the May 19, 1980 issue of the Worldwide News. The quotation referred to criticism of the California Supreme Court:

...because the Supreme Court didn't make its stinking processes in public.

What Mr. Helge actually stated and what the quotation should have said was that the Judiciary Commission was improperly accusing the Supreme Court:

...because the Supreme Court didn't make its thinking processes public.

He then went on to state that the Judicial Commission was guilty of the very thing they were condemning the Supreme Court for because their proceedings are behind closed doors.

Unfortunately, due to the error, the article erroneously indicated that Mr. Helge was condemning the Supreme Court of California. It was not his intent to do so in any way. He asked us to clarify this so as not to leave any questions, because there is no indication as of this date that the California Supreme Court has in any way been involved in the improper

conduct of which certain judges of the Superior Court of California have been guilty.

*** IMPORTANT NOTICE ***

(Please read to all your congregations)

In addition to its use for literature requests, the WATS telephone line of MPC can also be used by members in obtaining church and ministerial information.

The (800) 423-4444 WATS lines are answered by live operators from 8 AM to 5 PM Pacific Standard Time, Monday through Friday. There are no operators on duty during the Sabbaths.

Any member who is traveling and needs to call the WATS number for church locations, times of services, etc., should plan ahead and call before the Sabbath. The best times to call our WATS operators for this church information are Tuesday through Thursday, 8 AM to 5 PM.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

OF BOOKS AND NEWSSTANDS

An Everest House Book, The Solar Age Resource Book, by Martin McPhillips, has been nominated by the Association of American publishers to be included in the American book awards program for 1980. Just to be nominated is a great honor. It means that in the opinion of the Association, "Solar Age" is one of the ten best general reference books published in the USA in 1979.

Plain Truth newsstand response has been showing an encouraging increase in some areas. Below is a listing of the top ten areas of the United States and their percentages of response for the period December, 1979, to February, 1980. Notice that the responses range from 5.00% to 3.00%. These are the percentages of people who send a reply card to Pasadena requesting a mailed subscription. The top ten areas are certainly to be commended.

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>%RESPONSE</u>
Jacksonville, FL	5.00
Fort Smith, AR	5.00
Chicago N.W., IL	4.96
Moultrie, GA	4.25
Brooklyn-Queens, NY	3.57
Albany, NY	3.45
Jackson, TN	3.38
Boston, MA	3.28
Oklahoma City, OK	3.00
Banning, CA	3.00

Presently we are working on some ideas to help other church areas improve their response. The average cost per response across the board at the moment is getting lower and still compares very well with other methods.

--Publishing Services

MAIL COMMENTS

Letters featured this week are about the broadcast and the special April GOOD NEWS section on Faith.

--Mail Processing Center

Response to the Broadcast

I was so thrilled to find you again after long years. I'm an 82-year-old widow woman. Forty years ago we had a chance for electricity. Then the six children and I worked hard (we lived on a farm) to get our crops gathered and ordered a radio from Sears, Roebuck and Co. While my girls were out with their dates, I sat up at home and listened to you at night. I want to say I'm enjoying your message so very much and feel like you are an old friend and a brother in Christ.

--Mrs. Stella G. (Iuka, MS)

Thank you for the wonderful message you bring to me each day on my way to work at 5:15 each morning. None of the worries of the day have started, and I am strengthened by your message you bring from God. I'm just not ready for the day on the occasions, which are rare, that I don't get to listen to you. That might be slightly overstated, but I do feel deprived.

I need to hear what you have to say, to keep my eye on the goal each and every day. It is too easy to slip and disappoint our Father. Satan is always ready to pounce on you if you let your guard down.

--Theresa M. (Harristown, IL)

Your program has created quite a turmoil in my life. I hope your Correspondence Course will allow me to answer many questions I do have.

--Larry K. (Greenfield, WI)

I was fascinated by [your] program I heard recently on a local radio station (WMAQ) Chicago. I enjoy the approach taken in reference to today's thoughts and ideas. I feel the way they are translated by you are much closer to the true meaning. I was not even interested in the Bible until I heard your program.

--John S. (Sheboygan Falls, WI)

I wanted to drop you a line to let you know that our prayers are going up to the great God on your behalf. We trust our Father to bless you with good health and His Holy Spirit to give you the continued power to give our nation a POWERFUL witness. I've heard a number of programs on WWVA radio in the morning. They are dynamite. We really appreciate hearing about Babylon and Russia and the future of Israel.

--Mr. & Mrs. Terry H. (Oxford, NY)

For nearly 34 years I have listened to you and the things you said would happen. They have slowly been revealed before our eyes.

--Mrs. S. G. (Mansfield, LA)

G.N. Special on Faith

The articles on faith and heroes of Hebrews in the latest GOOD NEWS were so wonderful, I simply cannot describe them adequately. I love such strong food and am so thankful for all of the ones responsible, under God's inspiration, who wrote them.

--Mrs. Morris O. (Sylacaugo, AL)

I feel compelled to comment on Mr. Apartian's article, "Let God Handle It" in the April GOOD NEWS. It gave me a deeper insight into faith. I understood Noah's and Abraham's faith. But Saul and Naaman had too much human nature for their own good. But the real point is God said to all four of them, "Do it my way." Two did, two others didn't.

--Mr. & Mrs. George A. (Somerset, OH)

I want to thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for your article on faith in the April GOOD NEWS. I have been studying on this subject in connection with how powerful and creative our words are. That if we claim with our mouths, words, the promises of God, in FAITH unwavering, we have that promise. Standing on God's Word while Satan tempts us, is so very important for us to grasp.

--Pauline L. (Tacoma, WA)

Thank you over and over for the articles on faith in the April GOOD NEWS!! God truly works through you all to give us what we need. I am totally digesting those articles as the subject of faith has been an area of weakness for me in the past. With God's help now though, it will be a strong point.

--Linda D. (Tampa, FL)

Thank you so much for the article, "You Can Have Living Faith" in the April issue of The GOOD NEWS. We are waiting for God to heal our son of an affliction for which he was anointed several months ago. It has been quite a test for me because I couldn't understand why God did not immediately answer our prayer. Your fine article has helped me to look upon this experience much more positively and to realize that indeed I do need more patience (James 1:3).

--Member (Pasadena, CA)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

"CYCLONE MAGGIE" SAYS "NO" TO EEC BUDGET; WILL EEC SAY "GOODBYE" TO BRITAIN? The Common Market is in the throes of its gravest crisis in 15 years. Attempts on the part of the British and their continental partners to resolve the issue of the size of Britain's contribution to the EEC budget have hit a stone wall--in the person of Britain's "Iron Lady" Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. Mrs. Thatcher may be "Mighty Maggie" to Britons who solidly support her, but to the French she is "Cyclone Maggie" and to the Germans, "Frau Nein" (Mrs. No).

The nexus of the crisis--which in particular pits London against Paris--is the fact that, measured by per capita income, Britain is the third poorest member of the Common Market. Yet Britain has been assessed a \$2.7 billion net contribution to the EEC central budget this year--a figure more than twice what prosperous Germany pays and ten times as much as France.

The imbalance is due to the complex mechanism of financing the EEC budget --much of which goes out as transfer payments to support high priced continental agriculture. France, which still has a sizeable--and politically powerful--farm population is the biggest beneficiary of the EEC budget. Its inefficient farmers cash in the most on guaranteed farm prices for their products which, if unsold, are then added to mounting surpluses.

The crisis has been brewing for a long time. But it came to a head at the Common Market summit in Luxembourg in mid-May. Trying to avoid an impasse, the continentals made an offer they thought Mrs. Thatcher couldn't refuse--but she did. Chancellor Helmut Schmidt offered an immense and immediate \$2 billion cut in Britain's dues--asking only that London make a \$745 million contribution this year and just slightly more for 1981. But Mrs. Thatcher insisted that London's contribution should be frozen at \$745 million for the next five years--a proposal the other European nations quickly rejected. Said a West German spokesman: "There are limits to our wallets." French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing was even more direct: "Under these circumstances, Madam, I am no longer able to help you in any way."

EEC officials were irked by the tone of Thatcher's rejection. "She seemed to treat all proposals as her due, a kind of divine right," complained one minister. "We offered her money and got our heads bitten off in the process. The dominant impression was that she simply despises us Continentals."

The British press, with the exception of the Times, which urged caution, rallied to Mrs. Thatcher's side. "Britain has a 'lawyers dream of a case' on the budget," said the conservative Daily Telegraph (about the only newspaper Mrs. Thatcher reads).

"Yet appeals to reason," continued the Telegraph, "seem fruitless, certainly where France is concerned. The stronger our case the more impenetrable, it seems, are the obstacles raised in Paris. Why the French are so unfriendly is a mystery about which we can but speculate. What is certain is that the Government must not allow itself to be weakened in its purpose by suggestions that the goal is unattainable or

to be won only at the cost of European political unity. Does that unity indeed exist now? After Afghanistan one can but wonder."

The acrimony flying across the English Channel reflects the bitter feelings between the two "worst of friends" inside the EEC. A British cabinet member labels the French as "bloody and obstructionist," while at the same time, in Calais, French farmers burn an effigy of Mrs. Thatcher. And Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac tells the British simply: "Shut up or get out!"

The British as a whole are downright upset that their taxes are being used to subsidize inefficient French agriculture and only end up adding to surplus "butter mountains" and "wine lakes." President Giscard d'Estaing himself sits on a tight rope: He can't afford to antagonize his own farmers, but he knows he must bend somewhat so that Britain will not slam the door on French agricultural imports.

Because of the nearly intractable conflict, President Giscard is already talking about offering Britain a sort of "half membership" status within the EEC. Many Britons would go further than that. A recent Daily Mail poll says that two of every three British voters now want out completely. And in a recent poll in France, 86% of the French public favored Britain leaving the market.

Where Britain would go, of course, is another question. Apparently the British have not considered the potentially grave consequences behind such a momentous decision. Britain, for example, ships 43% of its exports to the EEC. The old Commonwealth offers no panacea: many of the Commonwealth countries have linked up with the EEC too. Not much is left of the old European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

Mrs. Thatcher believes she still holds enough trump cards to force the budget game into her hand. But at the same time, she may be unable to control growing British public opinion that wants not a new deal with the EEC--but no deal at all.

For the record: A couple of errors crept into last week's On The World Scene report. First, considering the 57 electoral districts in Quebec that have a population of 90% or more French speakers, 45--not 45%--voted against the referendum (this accurately reflects the magnitude of the "No" vote.) Second, Canadians are talking about "renewed federalism" not "reserved federalism." Sorry for any confusion.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau