

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 3, NO. 3

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 16, 1981

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Australian Office Report The year of 1980 for God's Work in Australia and Asia ended on a very positive note. Results financially continue to be most encouraging. Income for December was up 32.2%, bringing our year-to-date increase to 27.5%.

6,097 letters were received in December, bringing our total count for 1980 to 188,981--a 9.5% increase over last year. During the twelve months ending December, 1980, over 300,000 booklets and articles were mailed out to Australian and Asian readers.

This month Mr. David Hulme arrived from the Canadian office to assist us in our media and advertising. One-half million dollars has been set aside in the 1981 budget to enable us to preach the Gospel following the pattern set by Mr. Armstrong in the U.S. While here in Australia Mr. Hulme will be assisting our Regional director, Mr. Morton, in setting up a viable Newsstand edition of The PLAIN TRUTH, inserting into the magazines appropriate reply coupons with our G.P.O. Box 345, Sydney address.

Over the next month or so Mr. Hulme will be travelling extensively throughout Australia and will be involving the local pastors in developing and maintaining the Newsstand Programme. As he visits each church area he will be speaking at Sabbath services and conducting Bible studies, explaining to members our media and advertising plans for 1981, and how they can have an effective part in God's Work.

In addition to the Newsstand Programme, the groundwork is being laid to air Mr. Armstrong's radio and television broadcasts. Newspaper and magazine advertising is also being planned. It is hoped that by early 1981 we will have been successful in placing the latest series of Mr. Armstrong's Wall Street Journal Ads in major newspapers throughout the country. All in all, excitement and anticipation is mounting as we support Mr. Armstrong's efforts in preaching the Gospel in this area of the world.

Caribbean News The Regional Office in San Juan has sent in statistics compiled from all the areas served:

Incoming mail for the third quarter (July/August/Sept) was up 138% over the same period last year. Mail containing contributions was up 83% over last year, and mail requiring local action increased by 128%. Mail sent directly to the International Mail Center in Pasadena increased by 114%.

The income for the Caribbean area during this third quarter increased slightly--about 5% over the same period last year. The good news is that operational expenses were reduced by 2% during this quarter. The holy day figures for all of 1980 showed a 9% increase in attendance and a 10% increase in offerings.

Church attendance has also been increasing steadily during this quarter. We have now registered an increase of 12% over the same period last year.

Urgent Prayer Request

Paul Ivicevic, Local Church Elder in San Diego, and his wife Bea, are both suffering from cancer. He is fast approaching the place where he will be unable to be up and around. He is beginning to have trouble breathing. Bea has a large lymph growth on the left side of her neck and is growing thinner and weaker. It is a most unusual trial when a husband and wife are both afflicted with this dread disease at the same time.

Paul has certainly been a dedicated and loyal servant to the Church and the Work as a whole. He was instrumental in helping coordinate the efforts of the San Diego church during the recent Church-State confrontation. Both Paul and his wife urgently need our prayers for God's intervention at this time of great need in their lives.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

The Refreshing Program is like a united army bearing the Holy Spirit, sending unity and binding His Church in His true doctrine once again. There is a definite difference in those that have been refreshed and those who are yet to have the privilege. A gleam in the eye, a snap in the step and a quickened heartbeat rejoicing in the wholesome Spirit which prevailed.

Thank God He inspired the Refreshing Program; It was direly needed. To all the instructors and your wives, your dedication and sacrifices in your personal lives did not go unnoticed.

Gil and Nancy Goethals

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We've just concluded the Ministerial Refreshing Program and have been rewarded beyond our expectations. The program you have provided is fulfilling in so many ways--studying basic doctrines of God's great plan, experiencing the example of everyone cooperating together, enjoying the atmosphere of Ambassador College, renewing and developing friendships in the ministry; but most of all seeing everyone in Pasadena locking arms to support you in doing the Work. The cooperation of all in the Work is a beautiful situation and is inspiring to everyone in God's Church. Truly, coming in for the Ministerial Refreshing Program was a refreshing experience!

Your example of driving effort in fulfilling the great commission of warning the world and announcing the good news to come is one that is inspiring the whole ministry and church to a greater effort in support of you. We are totally behind you in your efforts.

Dan and Marilee Fricke

A Voice Cries Out: What's Wrong with Religion?

Has it, after all, contributed to a better modern world, or—?

Appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 12, 1981

KEEP CONSTANTLY in mind—for the first time in history, weapons of mass destruction threaten to erase human life from the earth! Our world today is filled with evils humans seem unable to solve or eradicate!

WHY?

In such a world, we now ask, what has religion contributed? Of the six major facets of today's civilization, we have examined, in these pages, the contributions of government, of education, of science and technology, of business and industry and of organized labor. But what about RELIGION?

Surely we should expect to find here, at long last, the knowledge of and leadership in the way to peace, the true values and the purpose of life, leading to a better world!

Here, at last, we must surely find a stabilizing and uplifting influence for a better, happier, more abundant life!

Yet, shockingly, if we focus the searchlight on the facts, and view them realistically with open mind, we find here the most sad disillusionment of all!

First, look over beyond our own Western world. What have the religions of Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism, Hinduism and Islam done for their part of the world? There we find even the greatest prevalence of illiteracy, poverty, retrogression.

But what about Christianity? Reluctant though we be to recognize it, we find those proclaiming the name of Jesus Christ preaching about His Person, yet many teaching diametrically opposite to His teaching, disapproving the customs He practiced, following instead the pagan customs His Word condemns.



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

The Christian-professing churches are divided and in confusion. They have not "saved," reformed nor changed the ways of the Christian world into peace, happiness, joy, abundant well-being. Yet Jesus said He had come "that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Bishop Hazen G. Werner once said: "We have been dried out by the hot winds of secularism. We who are to overcome the world have been overcome by the world."

Harvard Divinity School's Dean Miller was quoted saying: "The Church simply does not have a cutting edge [i.e., it has thrown away the "two-edged sword," the Bible]. It has taken the culture of our time and absorbed it."

To this, Yale's former Chaplain William Sloane Coffin adds, "We churchmen are gifted at changing wine into water—watering down religion."

The Western world's Christianity has taken the name of Christ—has proclaimed to the world that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ—has proclaimed its own message about the Person of Christ—while rejecting His Gospel—the Message God sent to mankind by Him. That Message He proclaimed was His Gospel.

And what was and is that Gospel? I quote: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.... Jesus

came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God" (Mark 1:1, 14). The Christian Bible says many times that Jesus was born to be a King. It says that He will return in supreme, almighty power and glory to establish that Kingdom, and to compel all humanity to enjoy peace, happiness and abundance!

It's all a matter of *how* we live! The world for 6,000 years has lived by the self-centered way of "GET." That way of life has caused all this world's troubles and evils and sufferings!

When the worldwide Government that the *real* Jesus proclaimed is ruling mankind we shall turn to the way of "give"—outflowing LOVE toward God and toward man. Every government is based on a foundational law or constitution. The Government of God is predicated on the way of outflowing LOVE.

As humanity now lives, by the "GET" incentive, we can super-successfully deal with *things*, but we *cannot* deal with one another!

"GIVE" and "GET" are basic spiritual terms, in the most practical possible sense!

All six major facets of modern man-made civilization have come short in this BASIC UNDERSTANDING!

In such a religious confusion this voice cries out that true Message. The unseen "Strong Hand from Someplace" soon will intervene in man's civilization now about to destroy him. And before it does, that Christ-proclaimed Kingdom of God shall compel a now self-centered humanity to find peace, joy, universal abundance. Whether one agrees doesn't matter. It's as certain as the rising of tomorrow's sun!

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

We have nothing to sell. We practice "give," not "get." We will gladly send, gratis, no follow-up, two eye-opening booklets, *What is the TRUE GOSPEL?* and *Just what do you mean KINGDOM OF GOD?* Address: Herbert W. Armstrong, Pasadena, Calif., 91123, or call toll free (800) 423-4444. In California, call collect (213) 577-5225.

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We have just recently returned from the sixth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program, and with all the others who have already written, want to add our sincere thanks to you and the entire Ministerial Services staff for a job well done.

This is another great tool to help the ministry be in unity and in turn keep the entire Church on the track and speaking the same thing. As time and money permits, I hope this is something that can continue in the future. Again, our heartfelt thanks.

Bob and Ruby Peoples

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I just returned from the sixth Ministerial Refreshing Program. We appreciate the program and the design, purpose, and rationale behind it. It was a very good review and we are now better "equipped" to take on any questions on any subject that people might have. This update is paramount due to the times we live in.

To be able to have a change of pace and to come in and see Pasadena is very important. We appreciated the fellowship, food, classes and the concern shown for the field ministry.

Our thanks again to you for making this possible and our thanks and appreciation also to the many men and women in Pasadena who have a part in the program.

Hugh and Linda Wilson

Dear Mr. Tkach:

It is very hard to describe our feelings about the Refreshing Program just completed. The harmony and unity in a setting so beautiful must surely please our Great God immensely! Only Mr. Herbert Armstrong's presence could have added any more than was there, and we realize that this was impossible for many reasons.

Please convey our thanks to him for seeing the need and for providing the inspiration that made this program possible. We all realize that it is Jesus Christ who is leading, but by the same token it has been Mr. Armstrong's willingness to follow that has brought such beautiful results!

Thank you, Mr. Tkach, for your many hours filled with work and devotion to your task and give our thanks to your dedicated staff as well. Hope to see you on round #2 in the not too distant future!!

Walter and Carol Johnson

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Having now arrived back home from the sixth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Programme, we wish to thank you, and Mr. Armstrong through you, for all that we've experienced over the

three weeks of the Programme. We felt we were more than royally treated by all with whom we came into contact. The courtesy, consideration and respect we were shown by all at the College was almost embarrassing--we certainly didn't expect it nor felt at all deserving of it.

We are grateful, too, for all the information conveyed to us through the Refreshing Programme, and we will be trying hard to ensure that the benefits of the programme will not stop with us, but will be passed on to the congregations we serve.

Once again, a very inadequate but wholehearted thank you.

Karl and Merike Karlov

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Would you be so kind as to pass on to Mr. Armstrong our very sincere thanks for being given an opportunity to take part in the recent Refreshing Program. Although it was certainly refreshing, it was also humbling and I know that we returned to Ontario determined to improve the quality of our pastoring of God's people here.

The obvious dedication of Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Rader and the present staff in Pasadena, seen at close hand, was a source of inspiration to us.

Virtually everyone has mentioned in previous letters the quality of the classes, to which I fully concur. But in addition, it was invaluable to get to know the other pastors and their wives. It was just like going back to Ambassador again. The warmth and the camaraderie were all there. Thank you, once again.

Rob and Micki Elliot

Dear Mr. Tkach:

The Refreshing Program was certainly very enjoyable and inspiring. The ministry and Church as a result will be able to speak the same thing. Thank you for your efforts in the program and for bringing together a team of men who all contributed positively to the program. We know your job is a very busy and demanding one, and we certainly appreciate your willingness to spend time with each of us personally.

Dan and Marilee Fricke

Mr. Tkach:

Thank you very much for your efforts to make the sixth Ministerial Refreshing Program a success. Everyone there in Pasadena seemed so helpful in trying to make our stay both profitable and pleasant. My wife and I appreciated the program very much.

Dave Treybig

Mr. Waterhouse's Visit to the Philippines

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Greetings from Manila! I just had to write to tell you how our brethren here really appreciated Mr. Gerald D. Waterhouse's visit with us. His almost four-hour sermon went by so fast, we didn't really notice the time. Every minute was filled with spiritually reawakening and revitalizing words.

In this day and age of skepticism, we were really pleased with how Mr. Waterhouse reassuringly upheld the surety of the word of prophecy (II Peter 1:19), and how God will certainly finish His Work through His chosen apostle to the very end of this age.

Thank you, thank you, Sir, for sending to us Mr. Waterhouse last November 1.

Our brethren here in Metro Manila, and all the Philippines, are loyally behind you. We love you and pray for you every day.

Pedro R. Melendez, Jr., Associate Pastor, Metro Manila

Weekly Letter Comments

Much excitement and anticipation is reflected in the letters from teenagers as they eagerly look forward to their very own magazine--YOUTH 81. Then brethren continue to praise and appreciate their local ministers for their examples of loyalty and dedication, as well as their inspiring sermons. The last section of comments are from readers who responded to Mr. Armstrong's full-page ads recently placed in the Canadian business newspaper, the Toronto Globe & Mail.

Teens Eagerly Anticipate YOUTH 81

I think your idea about a magazine for the youth in God's Church is terrific! Having the "spotlight" on teenagers is like opening a new world to us and showing how we are special in God's eyes. I am eagerly looking forward to the first issue, as many teenagers are; and I wish all the people on the YOUTH 81 staff the best of success.

Richard Ritenbaugh--14 yrs. (West Columbia, S.C.)

I am very excited about the new magazine for youth and look forward to receiving it. It will be especially encouraging to me because every year I find it harder explaining why I do not celebrate this and that. Your concern and emphasis on the youth is inspiring. We are behind you (Mr. Armstrong) all the way.

Lori Yeager--14 yrs. (Toledo, OH)

I was both surprised and thrilled at the announcement of the upcoming magazine, YOUTH 81. I think this magazine will reach the teenagers and get them more interested and involved in the Work. It will give them a sense of purpose in the Church. I am sure that it will be a tremendous success!

Cindy Burruss--14 yrs. (Bumpass, VA)

A Church magazine for the teens is a great idea. It's a good feeling to know that finally most of our questions will be answered. I'm very excited about the magazine and can't wait until the first issue.

Carla Becker--13 yrs. (Saskatchewan, Canada)

I think a magazine for us is great. It can help us realize that God cares about the decisions we make in our lives and that He wants us to live according to His laws. That way He can bless us with long, prosperous lives. Thank you!

Anthony Curry--18 yrs. (St. Louis, MO)

I think the idea of our own magazine, YOUTH 81, is great! I would like you (Mr. Armstrong) to write analogies, comparing our goal (the Kingdom!) with the goals and trials of great heroes and athletes, so that more kids can understand this way of life. I want my friends to go this way of life and I want to also! It's hard sometimes--real hard! But one has to keep on keepin' on!!! We can't forget our goal!

Debbie Browning--16 yrs. (Pasadena, TX)

I am very pleased to hear about YOUTH 81. It will do all of us young people a lot of good. It is just what we need. I think that with a magazine like this, a lot more young people will read it, knowing that it was written especially for their generation. I want to thank you very much, Mr. Armstrong, for what you are doing for us and pray that this magazine is a success in reaching the younger generation.

Beth Grosz--16 yrs. (Omaha, NE)

YOUTH 81 is just one more blessing that God has given to the teenagers in His Church. I'm sure that I speak for all the teens when I say we have been waiting a long time for such a blessing. It will help us in our daily lives, as we are faced with the problems and challenges of this world. Patience truly is a virtue! I will go so far as to say that this magazine is also a blessing for the parents in the Church; it will, hopefully, make it easier for them to teach their children the true values of God.

Steven Mooney--16 yrs. (Mobile, AL)

I am so pleased to know that you have thought of a magazine that would help us teens to better cope with the world today. The school system is so hard and sinful now; it scares me. I just pray that I will be able to withstand the pressures we have to go through in the school system and the world today. So I hope and pray that YOUTH 81 will help me to learn and understand the things I need to know to become a good wholesome woman as God expects, and be able to one day have a family like I should. Thank you Mr. Armstrong and keep up the great work.

Beth Wilson--15 yrs. (Greensboro, NC)

Brethren Inspired by Their Ministers

May I take the opportunity to express our great joy at seeing the Church and Work back on the track (it may sound [like a

cliche by now, but we really do mean that). I think we can all look at ourselves and say that we have learned valuable lessons in recent months. Above all, I believe its very important that God has lifted up Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong as our physical leader under the living Christ. How good to have fearless GOD-CENTERED, HUMBLE & OBEDIENT leaders in God's Church.

J.W., (Carnegie, Vic., Australia)

Thank you very much for the very fine dedicated ministers we have. We have met them all now, and know we are in safe hands. It is a joy now, a joy and happiness to go to Sabbath services and know we are going to hear God's Truth expounded to us.

Our local minister is fantastic (we have met his wife also) and he has helped us very much to see where we had become too relaxed (and even worldly) in some instances. Yes, he has told us where we are wrong, and we love him for it. What words can we say? How can we express our thanks to you all? We can only pray with thankful hearts, brimful with love for God's wonderful church, and our beloved Mr. Armstrong.

M.S. Clarendon, (S.A., Australia)

I wanted to let you know how much we appreciate our minister in the Roanoke Church, Mr. Bob Persky. He is so dedicated to you, Mr. Armstrong, and to God's Church. He is always talking about how important it is to support you. And we have learned so much from him about God's government that I never understood before. It is nice to have our very own minister and not have to share him with another church area. He has done so much to help each of us and the Church as a whole to grow spiritually.

Dianne Roschelli (Showsville, VA)

I wish to thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for sending Mr. Earl Roemer to us. He is so sincerely dedicated to the Work and preaches God's Word right down the line in real, loyal and loving dedication. His sermons are extremely inspiring and we love him. Thanks also for Mr. Glenn Doig and all the other ministers we have the opportunity to hear.

Mrs. Joseph Seeholzer (Anchorage, AK)

Just a short note to tell you how very much I will miss our pastor, Mr. Lyall Johnston. In my opinion, he is the ideal pastor. He always has the welfare of his congregation uppermost on his mind. When we need correction, he gives it to us without mincing words, whether we like it or not. He can see our failings when we cannot. He is generous with praise when we do well. He has been with us (the Wheeling, WV church) only a short while. Now he is being transferred back to his native New Zealand. We will miss him more than words can express. He is dedicated, honest, courageous, impartial and compassionate. Truly a man of God.

Mrs. Pauline Huey (Weirton, WV)

Thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for giving us Mr. Al Kersha. He is an ideal minister, very family and people-oriented, and very conscient-

tious in his duties. He and his family always set a very fine example. Also, he is a tremendous speaker. We hope we keep him much longer.

Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Smith (Miami, FL)

Just a few lines to let you know how I appreciate your sending a new minister here to Brainerd to preach the true Gospel to all of us. You couldn't have sent a better and truer minister than Mr. Stanley McNeil. I like him very much and I know every one else in the church does too. I really enjoy the services on the Sabbath days and the Bible studies that he gives.

Lorraine Teagar (Brainerd, MN)

We are thankful for the ministers God has provided in this area. They have shepherded us faithfully through thick and thin. Just wanted you (Mr. Armstrong) to know that our ministers are doing their job and taking good care of us.

Mrs. Michael Sanborn (Rochester, NH)

I want to thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for our minister, Mr. Art Dyer. He makes every Sabbath a wonderful experience and the Bible comes alive. You can be very proud of him, for he is a truly good and faithful servant.

Mrs. John Powell (Hollsopple, PA)

Again I want to mention how much we appreciate the efforts of God's minister in the Lansing, MI area. Mr. Nelson Haas has continued to bring us strong reminders of just how important it is to stay close to God by prayer, study and the keeping of all God's commands.

Mr. & Mrs. Darrell West (Webberville, MI)

I want to tell you, Mr. Armstrong, how thankful I am for the ministry in our area. Mr. Ken Martin is always so kind and willing to help. Mr. Collins is also very loving toward us all. And we in this area are blessed to have even a third minister, Mr. Dave Dobson. Anyone could tell how much they care for their flock--and not forgetting these men have wives, who are also very understanding. Also, our local elders are always there when called upon. In short, God has richly blessed us with men and women who really care and who don't mind showing it.

Mrs. Steven Upton (Jasper, AL)

Canadians Respond to Mr. Armstrong's Ads

I have become most interested in the articles appearing in the Toronto Globe & Mail morning paper, written by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, and would appreciate it if you would send me a copy of THE SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS; also a copy of the magazine, THE PLAIN TRUTH. In a world of such confusion, I am pleased to hear from people who can and do speak out against the confusion that confronts us all, even in the midst of nature's bounties, scientific advancement, and armies of unemployed skilled people "worried to death," to use modern phraseology, because the future

looks so hopeless, especially at this Christmas season of good will towards men. I shall be looking forward to hearing from you.

T.D. Robertson (Toronto, Ontario)

I would like the booklet by Mr. Arsmtrong, THE SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS. Also I would very much be interested in receiving the trial subscription of The PLAIN TURTH. Thank you for your great article in the Toronto Globe & Mail. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Vera Richards (Ottawa, Ontario)

Please send me a copy of THE SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS and a trial subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH. I would also appreciate an explanation about the Worldwide Church of God such as its history, objectives, present affiliations and source of finances.

P.J. Osmond (Willowdale, Ontario)

I was deeply moved by your recent advertisement in the Globe & Mail written by H. W. Armstrong. I request you to kindly send one copy of THE SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS and a trial subscription of The PLAIN TRUTH.

L.K. Grover (Willowdale, Ontario)

I just saw your advertisement in the Globe & Mail paper and it started me thinking about life. I would appreciate it if you could send me copies of your two booklets, THE SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS and The PLAIN TRUTH magazine.

R.M. Noble (Guelph, Ontario)

Please forward to me the following: THE SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS and The PLAIN TRUTH. I just finished reading "What Is Wrong With Government?" Very impressing. And more important, I believe in it as it was written.

Jack Agema (Sarnia, Ontario)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

THANK YOU FROM Y.O.U.

Y.O.U. would like for all pastors to pass on a special thank you to all of the former local Y.O.U. coordinators for the fine job they have done. Their diligent sacrifice of much hard work and time is sincerely appreciated. Please give them our heartfelt thanks! Now that you, as pastors, are the local coordinators, their help and support are still very important. As we serve Jesus Christ in supporting Mr. Armstrong and his work, so they can help you through their continued support of you as pastor. There are, as you know, many areas where their aid or assistance will help make things run smoothly.

Again, please convey our deep appreciation for their tireless support and prayers. And as always, encourage them to continue praying for God's Work in every area because the big push is just ahead.

--Kevin Dean, Y.O.U.

YOUTH 81 MAKES ITS DEBUT

This week marks another milestone in the history of the Church with the publication of the first issue of the new magazine for our young people--YOUTH 81.

The printing was done by a small, quality printer here in Pasadena, just 15 minutes from our offices. Wrapping and mailing is being done by our own postal center.

Every minister worldwide will receive the first copy of YOUTH 81 along with this Pastor General's Report. Remember that the magazine was created for our youth--it belongs to them--it's dedicated to them. Therefore, please don't pass your advance copy around among the congregation. We want the intended readers to enjoy that element of surprise generated from receiving their own copy in their mailbox.

As this is the first edition, it will also be made available to every head of household for this Collector's Edition only. We would appreciate your reading the following YOUTH 81 circulation policy approved by Mr. Armstrong to your congregation.

YOUTH 81 Circulation Policy Worldwide

YOUTH 81 is to be sent automatically to all children, ages 13 to 18, of Church members. It is the responsibility of the parents to write to the central office in their country or region to have their children of those ages added to the mailing list. Birthdate should be specified.

When a youth becomes age 19, YOUTH 81 will cease to be sent automatically. (A year's subscription to the PT will begin at this time.)

YOUTH 81 will be sent on a six-month renewal basis to anyone else who requests it.

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

1980: A YEAR OF CONTINUED GROWTH

Here are some encouraging highlights of the Mail Processing Center's activities for the year now past:

Mail Received

Almost 2.2 million pieces of mail were received in 1980--the highest total in six years. The number of PLAIN TRUTH cards returned showed a 453% increase--from 30,000 in 1979 to 165,000 in 1980. Also, the November semi-annual letter brought in the second highest response for a semi-annual letter in the last 10 years!

Letter Trends

With the Work back on course and brethren understanding their role in the Church, total support for God's apostle has been apparent from the mail. Members and co-workers deeply appreciate Mr. Armstrong's seemingly tireless efforts.

The Bible study tapes have been well-received. In one member's words: "I count it a wonderful opportunity to be able to be taught more by you (Mr. Armstrong). Please keep this much appreciated instruction coming."

Misunderstandings that once surrounded Mr. Armstrong's personal aide, Mr. Stanley Rader, seem to have all but disappeared. Many letters expressing love, respect and support for him have been received. Members have gotten to better know Mr. Rader through his visits to the local churches, as well as his book AGAINST THE GATES OF HELL.

Responses of excitement and gratitude came as a result of Mr. Armstrong's decision to launch a magazine for the youth of God's Church. Young people and parents alike feel the magazine will be of great benefit to our youth. Anticipation for the first issue of YOUTH 81 is running high.

Brethren from all over the country also expressed their joy and relief at God's delivery of His Church from the State of California lawsuit.

Telephone Response

Telephone response increased 22% over 1979--almost 170 thousand calls were received during the year. Nearly one fifth of this response was from The WORLD TOMORROW telecast! Many phone calls were received as a result of Mr. Armstrong's newspaper ads across the country, especially the recent Wall Street Journal ad series.

Index of Work's Publications

Mail Processing continued to work on an extensive project to index all Church literature written during this era of God's Work. When completed, it will be possible to locate the title, subject or author of any article the Work has ever published. The need for such an index has become increasingly apparent down through the years. The partially completed index has already been used to research hundreds of subjects for many key personnel in the Work.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

NAMIBIA TALKS COLLAPSE: WAR TALK, SANCTIONS THREATS RESUME To no one's real surprise, the United Nations-sponsored conference on independence for South West Africa, or Namibia, held in Geneva for the past week, has ended in failure. The contending parties to the talks were simply too far apart for their differences to be bridged at this time.

South Africa has ruled the former German territory for 60 years, under terms of an old League of Nations mandate. The UN ruled that Pretoria's authority was "illegal" in 1966. For the past several years, South Africa has been battling an insurrection mounted by a guerrilla group known as SWAPO, an acronym for South West Africa People's Organization. SWAPO is backed by the Communist block, the OAU (Organization for African Unity) and the United Nations. A UN General Assembly resolution in 1973 proclaimed SWAPO as the "sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people."

Meanwhile, South Africa, in a 1978 election which was declared null and void by the UN, has permitted installation of a semi-autonomous "internal" government in Windhoek, the territory's capital.

Failure of talks centered around well-grounded suspicions on the part of South Africa and the democratic political parties in Namibia that the UN --officially biased toward SWAPO--could not effectively monitor a cease-fire and supervise a fair, intimidation-free, four-month-long election campaign. (The election would be held to select delegates for an assembly to draw up a Namibian constitution.)

Pretoria and its sister parties wanted the 1973 UN resolution publicly revoked, something the UN fudged in doing, saying only that the special UN status enjoyed by SWAPO would somehow be terminated (along with funds given to it for its "peaceful" activities).

There is no doubt that South Africa prefers to have additional time in order for the internal parties to gain strength to tackle SWAPO head-on in any election. Pretoria feels that if SWAPO wins the election, it will be Namibia's first and last election as a free country--"one man, one vote, one time."

Predictably, SWAPO, backed by several Black African states (who were in Geneva as "observers"), have called for comprehensive UN-mandated trade sanctions against South Africa, including an oil embargo. Under a Carter administration, the sanctions threat probably would have become a reality, since the U.S., U.K., Canada, France and West Germany have represented the UN in its case against South Africa. Now, however, with the new Reagan administration taking over, Pretoria is banking on the hope that a U.S. veto will block any sanctions move.

Nevertheless, Mr. Reagan will be presented with a nasty foreign relations problem in the UN Security Council right at the outset of his term of office. Nigeria will probably champion the African cause. Nigeria is America's second most important foreign oil supplier. While this confers upon the Lagos regime some leverage, Nigeria also must sell its oil somewhere.

Moreover, sanctions could be an embarrassment for the many black African states dependent on millions of dollars in trade with South Africa (including vital food supplies) despite an already existing, totally ineffective OAU embargo. At the Africans' press conference after the conference, a Zimbabwean spokesman gave an ambiguous reply to the question of whether the Africans would respect the sanctions they were proposing.

The sanctions game is a very dangerous one. If and when enacted, they would assume a permanent character, playing into Moscow's hands to deprive the western world of the African subcontinent's vital raw materials, a topic explored earlier in this column [Oct. 31, 1980].

Much is at stake, therefore. At the very least, SWAPO's war will intensify, further polarizing the diverse population of South West Africa. The S.W.A. situation is a far more difficult situation to solve than Rhodesia. The proportion of Europeans and other advanced mixed-race peoples is much higher--over 10%. Pretoria feels it must stand on principle and not merely walk away from these peoples, consigning them to a communist-backed dictatorship arising mainly from one of the territory's twelve ethnic groups (the Ovambo). As Africa's last colony to be "liberated," the "South West" is proving to be the most difficult.