

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 24, 1981

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Feast Transfers Between U.S. and Canada

Good news! Festival transfers between our two countries are now simpler than ever. Pastors on both sides of the border will soon be receiving computer printouts on which to record festival information from each member family. Therefore, letters to the Pasadena and Vancouver offices are no longer necessary.

Members in Canada requesting transfer to a U.S. site (and vice versa) will simply record that request on the Festival Attendance List in their home church area. Their transfer will then be considered in the appropriate office. The approval will show up on the next list their pastor receives, again in the home church. (Those who have already written letters need to follow this procedure as well.)

This process will save both offices a great deal of time, as well as giving us more accurate statistics. Complete instructions for pastors and further updates will be in the mail shortly. Transfer approvals should be out around June 20.

Y.O.U./S.E.P. Update

The S.E.P. camp is now completely filled for all three sessions. The responses of the young people this year have been overwhelming. We estimate that we have received almost 1800 applications. We have room for only 900 for the summer.

IMPORTANT

PLEASE ANNOUNCE TO YOUR

CONGREGATIONS

If you have been accepted to S.E.P. and find you cannot go, please notify the Y.O.U. office as soon as possible so that other young people may be given the opportunity. Call us collect, if necessary, at (213) 577-5720.

Questions have arisen concerning the health certificates sent to those campers accepted, especially concerning immunization. We are not asking or suggesting that the campers be immunized. Minnesota state law requires that we send out the health certificates with the immunization records and requires that we have a certificate on file for each camper.

The regulation board of the Minnesota Health Department, however, will accept the religious exemption forms signed by the parent and the minister in lieu of the immunization. Please make this information and the forms available to your membership.

We have received several requests for exceptions to the April 1st cutoff point for 12-year-olds entering Y.O.U. We must draw the line somewhere and have decided not to make any exceptions.

Thanks for your continued efforts in Y.O.U.

International News

Australia Reports Sunday, March 15, was a day of anticipation and excitement as members tuned in their television sets to see for the very first time in the history of God's Work in Australia, Mr. Herbert Armstrong proclaiming the good news of "The World Tomorrow." Mr. Armstrong's first programme, outlining the seven modern events involving Middle East antagonism, was outstanding in every respect.

The World Tomorrow programme is now being aired over fifteen television stations covering most of Australia, and twenty-two radio stations. The dynamic message presented by Mr. Armstrong has aroused a great deal of interest in the media world. Some stations are now coming to us expressing interest in airing the programme! Plans for April include increasing the number of television and radio stations carrying the Gospel to this part of the world.

Responses to Mr. Armstrong's semi-annual letter offering his book, THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX, are still trickling in from subscribers in Australia, while requests from Asia are continuing to come in quite strongly. At this time the following results emerge:

Australia	18,528	(19.2% of the mailing list)
Asia	9,575	(22.1% of the mailing list)

Thus far we have received around 5,000 more requests for Mr. Armstrong's book than was originally anticipated.

The continuing loyal support and renewed enthusiasm of our members and co-workers is evidenced by an excellent increase in income for the month--up 54.9% over the same month last year. Our year-to-date increase now stands at 29.7%.

The Netherlands During the month of March, God's Work in The Netherlands continued with another 50,000 newspaper flyers going out. This resulted in 1500 new subscribers being added to the Dutch PT list, which was a 3% response.

Income for March shows a year-to-date increase of 37.7% and a month-to-month increase of 14.8%. Church attendance increased 27.7% compared to March one year ago and we have 1221 active CC students compared to 1118 in March 1980.

Late News Early reports from various international regions indicate exceptional holy day offerings and attendance. In South Africa attendance was up 11.3%; offering up 31.5%. In Canada the offering was up 36%.

What Mail Trends Are Showing This Year

(The following report comes from the Mail Processing Center.)

So far, 1981 has been a year of growth and excitement as the Work of God surges ahead on all fronts. Christ's dynamic leadership through Mr. Armstrong is having impact on both God's people and the public. Brethren are examining their lives and resolving to strive even harder to overcome and support the Work.

Mr. Armstrong's visits to local churches are strengthening and encouraging to the members. They are thrilled to personally hear from Christ's apostle and marvel at his God-given power.

The February co-worker/member letter had great impact. Especially exciting to the brethren was the reopening of the Big Sandy campus. The response also reflected a renewed dedication to God's Work and a willingness to sacrifice.

Through YOUTH 81, the young people in the Church are being positively affected. Many have shared how the magazine is answering their questions and helping them cope with the daily challenges of life.

As Christ's message spreads through The PLAIN TRUTH, other literature and the media, people's lives are being changed. We receive many letters of gratitude as God opens the minds of people and they are inspired to act on the newly understood knowledge.

Here are some typical letters:

Church Visits

I want to thank you for your recent visit to Denver. We live in Utah, 256 miles from Denver, but the trip was well worth it. Your message was just the inspiration we needed. You looked and sounded so strong and encouraging. Thank you for giving so much of yourself to others.

Mr. & Mrs. John Fogg (Moab, UT)

I just wanted to thank you for taking of your time and energy to visit the local areas. I believe that no one whose heart is truly in the Work can fail to respond to your obviously heartfelt appeal for our support--not only in money, but in our prayers for you as God's apostle, and the greatest Work being done on earth today.

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Bubert (Arlington, TX)

February Letter

Your February co-worker letter is exciting and encouraging! The new ad campaign is a very positive step, and now the planned growth in radio and TV will be a big boost.

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for stepping out in faith--that's how God's Work was built, and that's how it will be finished! Thank you also for setting the example for us. God will likewise provide our personal needs as we step out in faith to support His Work.

Brian Drawbaugh (Mount Airy, MD)

YOUTH 81

I was elated when I received my first issue of YOUTH 81 and hope that the success of it will be great. Young adults such as myself have been in great need of a magazine to discuss things like dating, friendship and other topics where advice from God's perspective is helpful. I must extend my wholehearted appreciation to God and Mr. Armstrong for making this excellent magazine possible.

Tracy Cooper--17 yrs. (Austin, TX)

PLAIN TRUTH

The PLAIN TRUTH is one of the most powerful magazines I have ever read. Sometimes it is really frightening. It has started me to read the Bible from the beginning. My life has changed tremendously! A better home life is resulting. Drinking was stopped "cold turkey." My health is improving greatly. Thanks to God for helping me to help myself.

Edward Cichon (Bristol, CT)

Radio

I have been enjoying your wonderful radio messages for some months. I tape-record each program, then listen to the tape, checking and studying each Bible reference from start to finish. You have helped me greatly. I cannot tell you how much--it cannot be measured in words. Thank you so much. May God bless you and watch over you and your family.

John Vernon Nelson (Naperville, FL)

When I first heard you [Mr. Armstrong] over the radio, I was a seventeen-year-old suicide case. My parents were separated and my father, whom I lived with in a cramped trailer, wasn't much more than a poor provider, having no concept of raising children. In His great love, God opened my ears to your message and one night, in utter desperation, I fell to my knees and asked God to be the father I never had.

Since that prayer in 1964, I have never lacked parental guidance, punishment and reward. Every word from your programs and literature is, to me, the word of my own father--and I cherish it. Through you, God has remade me.

Edward McKinney (Hanford, CA)

Appreciation for the Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We have just returned from the ninth Ministerial Refresher Program. Thank you sincerely for this educational opportunity.

Three of our children had the privilege of graduating from Ambassador College in Pasadena. We are grateful to you for making it possible for both of us to attend this very valuable, stimulating, and enjoyable program.

To meet so many dedicated servants from many continents made us realize how worldwide the Work has become since we first heard your voice in 1936. It is an added blessing to hear you in person in Oregon today! With love and deep appreciation.

Ernest and Evelyn Hoyt

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you so much for the blessing and opportunity to be a part of the ninth session of the Refresher Program. Mr. Tkach said during the first day that we would have to see the unity at Pasadena to believe it. We surely did see it!

Each lecturer presented his subject succinctly and in relation to backing you up in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. The subjects covered were precisely the areas we needed the most instruction in. Many of us have never heard your thoughts or teachings in these areas.

Those assigned with teaching us evidenced real cooperation with and respect for the other personnel and departments. We saw no one "doing his own thing," but rather desirous to support the field ministry in building the Church as we all hold up your arms.

Thank you again, Mr. Armstrong. Be reassured that we and the rest of your "children in the Lord" pray for you and back you, and those who assist you, 100%!

Jim and Mary Ann Snyder

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Tamara and I have just returned to Canada from the ninth Refresher Program. I thought all the letters we had read about the program had to be slightly overstating things--but I was wrong! It was truly inspiring and refreshing, both spiritually and physically (thanks to Carlton Green and company). Thanks for setting up such a profitable experience. We feel it is our responsibility now to pass on all we learned to the people we serve in this area. Thanks again!

Gary and Tamara Moore

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I were a part of the ninth Refresher Program. It was a rich and wonderful experience--thank you for planning this for the ministry! In many ways we feel like we received as much information as we did in going through Ambassador College. We were able to develop such strong ties and friendships in three short weeks that the last day felt like "graduation day"!

It meant a lot to us--and to the churches in Montreal and Magog, Quebec where we serve--that the men teaching the program really and truly represent what Christ is giving His Church through you. We will certainly do our best to pass as much as we can on to them of the 100-plus hours of instruction, as well as the many other rich experiences that came from living on campus for three weeks.

Equal to any of the other things was the 4 1/2 hours that we were able to spend with Mr. Roman Borek, touring the House of God. Mr. Borek is a very able manager--and is very supportive of you and the whole purpose of the Auditorium. It is a beautifully planned building--such a contrast to this world's way of doing things.

Your assistants in Pasadena--Mr. Tkach, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Neff, etc.--were warm, strong, loyal, interesting and stimulating. They set an excellent example of how to feed and care for the flock, as well as telling us how to do it.

We wished both that the program could have been longer and not quite so long! Every minute was super, but by the end we both felt filled to the brim. Our limited minds could not absorb anymore. But we already are looking forward eagerly to next time!

The idea of a Refresher Program has likely done more for bringing us to say the same thing than any one single thing has ever done. It is one clear fruit of your work that shows God is using you mightily.

On another note, we rejoice that God is leading you to spend more time in Pasadena, and that it is now possible. Various aspects of the Work will likely be speeded up now.

Cecil and Karen Maranville

Greetings Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

I was privileged to attend the eighth session of the Refresher Program (February 8th thru 26th). It is obvious that God inspired the institution of this ministerial program to establish unity in the ministry and oneness of doctrine. We have long needed definitive instruction on Church doctrine and policy in order that the ministry can properly represent God, Jesus Christ, God's Church and Christ's apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

The closeness and sense of cooperation among the Pasadena team supporting Mr. Armstrong was a delight to see and experience. Everyone seemed dedicated to assisting Mr. Armstrong in completing God's Work.

Again, thanks ever so much for the opportunity to attend the Refresher Program! May God richly bless and guide all of you in God's service!!

J. Harold Lester

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We wish to thank you for organizing the Refresher Program and giving us the opportunity to attend. What others have said about it has not been exaggerated in the least. The extensive information given on each subject formed a basic foundation that will unify us all in doing our jobs better in the ministry.

It was also an inspiring experience to live on the beautiful Ambassador campus, mix with the students and faculty, and attend the services and public concerts in the Auditorium. The delicious meals

and comfortable accommodations were added blessings that made it a memorable three weeks. We look forward in great anticipation to the next series.

Bob and Margaret Boraker

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We find ourselves unable to express in words our gratitude for having been permitted to take part in the ninth session of the Ministerial Refresher Program.

Especially impressive to us was the spirit of supportive teamwork among the leadership and instructors of this well-planned course. It is inspiring to see such dedication and loyalty to God's Apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

This was our first visit to Pasadena and the fulfillment of plans that began the instant we learned that local elders were eligible to attend. We arrived like dry sponges and soaked up every drop of information we could. From classroom to data processing, from mail processing to radio production, from video recording to the Wednesday night socials, and all the memorable points in between.

My wife and I want to thank each one that had a part in the program, through you in Ministerial Services; and that includes each instructor, and Mr. Carlton Green in that fantastic food service department.

All of this will go a long way in preparing us to better carry out our supportive roles in God's Church. Please convey our sincere, heartfelt thanks to all of the others involved with Ministerial Services and especially to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Jim and Grace Stokes

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I have just returned home after attending the ninth Refresher Program. We would like to express our sincere thanks to you and your staff for the inspiring, practical and down-to-earth instruction which we all received over the three weeks.

These sessions were quite a contrast to the material presented in the same room while we were students in 1975. It was also a pleasure to spend time on campus and to see firsthand the renewed enthusiasm of the students. We feel thoroughly prepared to help hold up Mr. Armstrong's arms in our new assignment in Singapore, and look forward to doing so.

It was also obvious that a great deal of work was needed to provide the excellent accommodations, meals, banquets, and the Auditorium tour and concerts for those in on the program. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to also thank you for the hospitality extended to us during our stay. We look forward to a return visit next year.

Colin and Beverley Kelly

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

COLDWATER, MI--KEN WILLIAMS: Hard financial times have hit Coldwater, even harder than Kalamazoo. If no other solution surfaces, some may have to move out of the area to find work. Overall, the brethren seem to be aware of the urgent need to get closer to God through more prayer, fasting, and financial sacrifice than ever before as Mr. Armstrong has exhorted us. We know God started the Coldwater Church and that He will sustain it even though there is no obvious answer to the financial situation right now.

CINCINNATI, NORTH, OH--JACK PAKOZDI: People are bearing down early this year in very sober preparation for Passover. Attitudes have been very positive, serious and responsive to the removing of all spots and wrinkles from Christ's body under Mr. Armstrong's decisive leadership. I don't know when I've seen a greater desire to be properly spiritually aligned.

ELKHART/MICHIGAN CITY, IN--RAND MILLICH: The members who attend Sabbath services in Chicago to hear Mr. Armstrong were very encouraged and inspired by his message. For many, this was the first time they have seen him in person! It was encouraging to see him in good health, as well as hearing his powerful sermon on prophecy.

CLEVELAND, EAST, OH--GUY L. ENGELBART: God blessed this area with a record high attendance for the month of March. There is increased activity from prospective members, both from those who write in for a visit and from friends and relatives of members. Enthusiasm for God's Work remains high and the brethren are eagerly anticipating the coming Holy Days.

JACKSONVILLE, NC--JOHN A. MOSKEL: Mr. Armstrong's 3-19-81 letter was filled with good solid principles regarding God's Work. The brethren greatly appreciated it. Everyone's excited about Mr. Gerald Waterhouse's visit to the combined Raleigh/Jacksonville churches on the last Day of Unleavened Bread in Goldsboro.

HATTIESBURG, MS--RON D. WALLEN: Quite an upsurge in personal trials and tests prior to Passover--finances, health, family and job areas affected. But the attitude of God's people is very good, loyal and encouraging as Mr. Armstrong continues to lead this Work and Church to its conclusion.

PIKEVILLE, KY--WARREN J. HEATON III: Many are finding out the joys and blessings of serving; that is, those who in the past never lifted a hand. Men in Spokesman's Clubs are really putting forth the effort to improve.

BIRMINGHAM, AM & PM/JASPER, AL--KENNETH M. MARTIN: Pre-Passover trials evident in abundance this year. Financial problems loom ahead for many of the brethren who work in the coal mines. Big UMW strike seen lasting for some time! Many are being forced to take a most serious and deep evaluation of their conversion and spiritual progress. Truly judgment is upon the house of God! One family in Jasper lost home and possessions in fire. Brethren have gone out of their way to help. This is very encouraging! The taped Bible studies are TERRIFIC! There can be no doubt that God is using Mr. Armstrong in a mighty manner to point the way.

Letters of Special InterestFilm of Mr. Armstrong's March 7th Sermon

The congregations in Lake Charles, TX and Beaumont, TX wish to express their heartfelt gratitude for the sermon by Mr. Armstrong last Sabbath. It was a rare blessing to be able to both SEE and HEAR Mr. Armstrong. The strong, timely, and stirring message was very encouraging and just what we needed! It is so good to see him looking so fit. His sermons are delivered with as much or even more power and authority now than ever before. We know where his strength comes from and we are grateful to God. We wish to say to Mr. Armstrong, "Thank you very much!" And to all the others who planned the film schedule and then labored to make it available to us, "Thank you!" It is this type of love and care for one another that binds us into one.

Dennis Doucet

Astounding Example of God's Miraculous Protection!

Recently, two of our members (one blind with a Seeing Eye dog) were walking on their way to church. They were crossing a street when a man who claimed not to have even seen them hit them with his low-slung, mid-sized American car. The dog was knocked rolling and both of the fellows were knocked completely under the car. When they managed to crawl out, to their amazement and relief they were both unhurt except for a few bruises and scratches. Needless to say, they were quite shaken up. Giving thanks to God for their protection, they proceeded on to church with the Seeing Eye dog which was also unhurt. I just wanted to share this encouraging example of God's protection.

Rick Beam, Tallahassee, FL

Weekly Letter Comments

Brethren have been greatly inspired by Mr. Armstrong's visits to local church areas and by his powerful messages, as our first comments clearly show. For many it has been a special privilege to be able to see and hear God's apostle. Next, first-time readers of The PLAIN TRUTH express their impressions, recognizing that our magazine is unlike any other publication. Our final group of letters shows that when God's people claim the promise of healing by calling the elders and requesting anointing, God does intervene miraculously, sometimes in breathtaking ways!

Brethren Inspired by Mr. Armstrong's Church Visits

I was very happy to see you looking so well and strong and to hear you once more. I attended the services at the Big Sandy campus when you were there recently. I thank God daily for you and for His restoring your health and strength. I just want to let you know I am back of you every inch of the way. Thank you very much for visiting the outlying churches.

Elizabeth J. Ferrell (Round Rock, TX)

Mr. Armstrong, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to you and to God for your appearance before the brethren in Denver, Colorado last Sabbath. Most of all I want to thank you for the corrective sermon that you gave. Of a truth, we do live in perilous times. We are praying for you that God would grant you the physical strength and spiritual vision to finish the Work. It was very inspiring to see and hear you expound the Work of God with such power. I am sure that it is the hand of God that makes this possible.

Felix L. Scott (Colorado Springs, CO)

I am writing to express my sincere thanks for your personal visit to Denver, Colorado. This was a very special event for me--to be able to hear you preach such a powerful sermon with the help of God's Holy Spirit. You have helped me to really understand what God wants us to do now. You made it so plain, even a child could understand.

Thanks be to Jesus Christ for guiding and inspiring you to carry out His mission of feeding the flock. We are very grateful for your inspired sermon. I know God is pleased with your work.

Edward G. Denkler III (Colorado Springs, CO)

What a thrill to have seen and heard you in Chicago last Sabbath. I can't remember when you sounded or looked better. It was so good to have received your powerful message on prophecy.

Mrs. Leslie Finger (Milwaukee, WI)

One of the greatest highlights of our lives was the opportunity of seeing you when you visited Chicago. We are indeed grateful for the wonderful inspiring sermon you gave us that Sabbath. We would like to let you know that we are 100% back of you. Thank you very much for the advice you gave us, as well as the challenge to really drive ourselves and work harder. Thanks very much again.

Allswell and Victoria Alalibo (Chicago, IL)

Thank you so much for taking the time to come to Salem. It was very enjoyable and inspiring to see and hear you. I thank God for you and your health. I pray for you and am backing you 100%. Thank you again for giving us the privilege to see you and hear the message.

Leona Barrett (Winston, OR)

The love you show for us reminds me of the love Paul had for the churches he wrote to and visited in his ministry. I am very grateful to our heavenly Father that He has strengthened you to be able to come to us, and grateful to you for making this great effort that we may be encouraged and assured of your concern for each of us. It was indeed a pleasure to hear you speak and see you personally at Salem, Oregon last Sabbath. I pray earnestly that God will continue to protect, strengthen, and guide you in every way.

Mrs. Bob D. Russum (Portland, OR)

PLAIN TRUTH: Impressions of New Readers

I have just finished reading my first issue of The PLAIN TRUTH. This issue has really opened my eyes, thoughts and mind to our world's crises of the future. As I see the world's condition, I know we are living in this world's last days. Also, I know that the Bible is being fulfilled every day.

Ethel J. Weathers (Harrisburg, NC)

Thank you very much for the free subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH, a magazine of understanding. I have just received my first copy and although I'm a Muslim by faith, I believe this is one of God's blessings given to me as a rare opportunity to view the current world situation from the perspective of the Worldwide Church of God.

Halsey M. Sarail (Busay, Philippines)

I have just finished reading my first issue of The PLAIN TRUTH and have found it to be one of the most up-to-date and comprehensive magazines about world events I've read. Please keep up the good work. I particularly liked the article on Poland and "What and Why the Church?" I'm also pleased with your commentary on the "Moral Majority."

Fred Zimmerman (New Orleans, LA)

Thank you for sending me The PLAIN TRUTH. If future issues will be the same as this introductory issue, please keep sending the magazine. I read it through the very first day.

Richard F. Tagliabue (Paterson, NJ)

Your magazine first arrived a few months ago. What prompted this I will probably never know. However, I must confess that I find it very enjoyable and enlightening. The articles bring the prophecies of the Bible into our modern-day political arena, as well as our modern-day living, and make very interesting reading.

W. Brad Abbot (El Paso, TX)

I would like you to know that after reading THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY and my first two PLAIN TRUTH magazines, I accept Christ gladly. For years I have toiled with the Bible and gotten nowhere, now it's opening up like hidden manna. Yesterday, I kept my first true Sabbath. It wasn't easy, but today I feel like jumping over the moon. I have been blind for over 50 years. Now I can see. My thanks to all who have made this possible.

W. Hoyle (Melton Mowbray, United Kingdom)

God's Miraculous Intervention Through Healing

My eldest daughter went into labor with her first child. The following morning I was called to the hospital. The unborn child had expelled its bowels prior to birth, which is a sign of a distressed fetus. The hospital staff placed a monitor on its head to measure the heartbeat. They said there was something wrong with the baby, but they couldn't tell what until it was born.

The boy was limp at birth. His respiratory system failed and he was put on machines to keep him alive. His head was grossly malformed--his skull from the front hair line, about eye level, to the back of the head was missing. The skin was there but no bone. The doctor felt that part of his brain was undeveloped and scheduled a brain scan for the next morning. He said, "Even if his brain was intact, it would take years for his head to look like a human skull." His jaw was pushed back and sideways, and his nose was flattened to one side.

Things looked bleak indeed, so I called the minister in my church area and requested prayers for the baby. One hour after the request went out, he was removed from the machines as his respiratory system had stabilized.

I went home that evening to rest and when I returned the next morning, the head R.N. said, "Come and see our miracle baby." The boy's head was perfectly formed, the skull intact, his jaw line normal and his little nose straightened out. He was kicking and yelling, telling us he was fine! I told the nurse of the Church's prayers and she said, "It could only be an act of God," and she sure believed it!

Carolyn Gennill (Kennewick, WA)

In a sermon we heard recently, the minister mentioned how Satan places roadblocks in front of our faith in order to get us to think that God will not intervene for us when we have problems.

I realized then that Satan had roadblocked the faith needed for the healing of my back. For 17 years I have had pain which became more severe--24 hours a day--for the past 10 years. I had polio at four years of age in my left leg and back, leaving many muscles atrophied and my left leg shorter. At age 20, I was in an auto accident that pinched all the nerves to the right side of my body, adding "insult to injury."

I meditated about this sermon and then prayed to God to remove that roadblock of Satan (I had been anointed several times for my back pain), to increase my faith and take away the pain. When I arose there was no more pain in my back. Our God is indeed merciful and loving.

Mr. and Mrs. William Whiteaker (Aumsville, OR)

I am writing to thank you for praying for me. I requested prayers because I couldn't travel without drugs. I am delighted to tell you that I have been traveling and doing my shopping for the last six months without drugs. Mr. Armstrong, it is a miracle, for I've tried for years to do it but it was humanly impossible. But it's true that our heavenly Father supplies the need. I still get nervous going out but now I know how to handle it--just put it in God's hands and ask Him to take care of it. He has never let me down yet. I'm so thankful for the hard lessons I've had to learn. This was the hardest trial I have ever had to face and go through. Know why? Because I had to trust and rely on God completely--not my own strength, for in this I knew I was helpless like a small baby.

Mrs. Thora McCormich (Scotland)

Last year in June, I had the misfortune to contract hepatitis and become weak and unable to work. I asked our local pastor to anoint me for healing. About two or three days later, I came down with the flu which turned into pneumonia. I was very ill and called our doctor who diagnosed the pneumonia. The following day, however, he was taken aback and mystified when he called, as both the flu and pneumonia had completely disappeared!

Nevertheless, the hepatitis was still there, and this turned into cirrhosis of the liver. The specialist in Christchurch, who confirmed the cirrhosis, gave me some pills. They made me feel worse, so I decided to leave my fate in God's capable hands. It was doubtful whether I would be able to make it to the Feast of Tabernacles. Yet I did go and felt really good and thoroughly enjoyed myself. On returning home, I went back to work, for four hours per day.

Thanks to God's healing power and blessings, I am now working full time again and have been for a month. I am completely healed of the cirrhosis, much to the amazement of my doctor.

C.N. Nelson (New Zealand)

Recently my wife awoke not feeling well. She had a headache which became progressively worse. By noon she became delirious and at times would black out. Her eyes turned back in her head and she was unable to see. Her wrists turned inward and became rigid. She also lost sensation in her legs.

I called our minister who anointed her and within a matter of minutes her eyesight returned, paralysis left, and she was able to talk rationally. However, her headache was still there, although not so severe.

Realizing that something was drastically wrong, we called a local doctor and described the symptoms. He immediately told us to bring her in. She was diagnosed as having meningitis, and advised to go to the hospital immediately in order to have a spinal tap done. Neither of us wanted this, so once again, we looked to God for His intervention. Again she was anointed, this time for the meningitis.

She felt a little better, but still had her headache, which later became so intense she couldn't bear it anymore. For the third time now we called for anointing. Immediately after the anointing, her headache left as if she never had it. I was thrilled beyond words. By this time many people had been praying on her behalf and twice, in less than 24 hours, we had seen the hand of the living God.

Clarence Miller (Dundee, OH)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

ON THE WORLD SCENE

MASSIVE ARMS BUILDUP IN MIDEAST TINDERBOX Fueled by sales and grants from the two superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, the volatile Middle East is bristling more than ever with huge amounts of sophisticated weaponry.

The most visible example of this is the decision reached by the Reagan Administration to sell five advanced aerial radar (AWACS) planes and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia. The package includes aerial refueling tankers plus long-range fuel tanks and sophisticated air-to-air missiles to be added to the Saudis' U.S.-built F-15 fighters.

President Reagan will have a tough time getting congressional approval of the package due to the strong pro-Israel lobby on Capital Hill. Israel has sent out the word to its friends to fight the package tooth-and-nail. Tel Aviv probably would have backed off on the Saudi F-15 improvement program, but the AWACS deal is simply too much. The Israelis fear that the Saudis will use these sophisticated airborne radar crafts to spy on Israeli military actions--or even, in event of war, to vector (set the course of) Syrian or other Arab craft on anti-Israeli missions. Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban calls the AWACS plane "an Arab eye in the sky."

Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, is making the arms package a test of future U.S.-Saudi relations. Saudi officials claim (probably correctly as of now) that the craft will not be directed against Israel. Both the Saudis and Pentagon officials view the deal only as helping the oil-rich desert kingdom defend its vast territory against a future Soviet threat. It is known now that the Saudis have kept on pumping an extra million barrels of oil a day than necessary, helping to produce the current world oil glut and thus keeping their prices low (\$32 a barrel versus an average \$36 for OPEC)--all to win Washington's favor for the arms deal.

An often overlooked danger in the entire affair is this: What if this equipment falls into the wrong hands? The military people who will pilot the F-15's and the new 300 Leopard tanks on order from West Germany just might decide to use their power to overthrow the Saudi royal family. And they might be decidedly more anti-Israel. Such has happened before in the Arab world. Colonel Qaddafi's revolution in Libya, for example, deposed King Idris once Qaddafi was properly armed.

Much has been said about how the introduction of U.S. manned forces into the Middle East would destabilize the region. But some experts now believe that U.S. or other Western forces operating this equipment would likely lead to less instability than native forces armed with the same equipment.

The Russians don't take such risks in their client states. They have enormous stockpiles of weapons in Libya and Syria. But the Russians and their East European allies man the most sophisticated equipment themselves. In this manner, no dissident group can use the arms to overthrow a pro-Soviet government.

The Russians, for their part, have greatly accelerated the war-footing that the entire Middle East is on. Syria, for example, now has more tanks than Nazi Germany deployed in its 1941 invasion of Russia.

Libya is nothing but a massive arms depot for Moscow. So much is stashed there that part of it is earmarked for Russian use elsewhere in the Middle East or Africa, ready to be airlifted at Moscow's orders.

One remarkable evidence of the awesome size of Soviet military aid to Libya is this fact: when the forces of Muammar Quaddafi invaded neighbouring Chad a few months back, they had so many artillery pieces, missile launchers and tanks that they did not bother to bring along parts to make repairs. Instead, they simply abandoned malfunctioning weapons for brand-new equipment.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau