

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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MR. ARMSTRONG VISITS LAKE OF THE OZARKS

Everyone was surprised and delighted to learn of Mr. Armstrong's visit to the Lake of the Ozarks, as word began to spread on Friday, May 22. One minister, who was informed late Friday, found that three fourths of the congregation knew about it by Sabbath services the next day. This was indicative of the excitement generated by Mr. Armstrong's visit May 30th, when 3379 from 17 churches attended the combined meeting in our own building.

Initial planning was begun with a phone call from Mr. Tkach. Then the coordination of efforts came through Mr. Robert Fahey. The Lake of the Ozarks Church, with assistance from the Columbia Church, prepared the site.

We had had a great deal of rain the past few weeks here in the Ozarks. Sabbath morning the liquid sunshine was still falling and the cloud ceiling was low. The rain continued to fall heavily in the morning and lightly the rest of the day. The cloud ceiling lifted around noon, a short time before Mr. Armstrong's arrival.

Mr. Armstrong delivered a powerful message preparing God's people for the coming day of Pentecost. He emphasized the need to recognize what would have happened if Adam had taken of the tree of LIFE. "We need to think about this," he said. "Most of us have not spent sufficient time looking at this question," he emphasized.

Mr. Armstrong made very clear the fact that LIFE--real LIFE--was in Christ. Not the temporary, chemical life of man we normally think of, but inherent LIFE that is eternal. After explaining more about the mortal life of man, Mr. Armstrong gave special attention to the judgment that is on the Church, and how we have available God's Spirit which will lead to LIFE eternal. But we must first prove that we will obey God in this temporary life before we are given real LIFE!

He emphasized that Christ would build His Church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it (Matt. 16:18), and that the prophecies of the Old Testament were for the New Testament Church. It was a very timely and important message for the brethren gathered at this memorable occasion.

In the meeting with the ministers and wives, Mr. Armstrong explained that he delivers the overview, beginning in Genesis which, he emphasized, "I will continue to do." He admonished the men that "We must all speak the same thing. That which comes from Christ the head of the Church. Many forget that Christ is the head of the Church." Then as the ministers fill in the details to their congregations, he said they must always remember that Christ is the head of the Church. Christ works through human instruments and those instruments should deliver His message. Then they will all be speaking the same thing.

Mr. Armstrong then turned to some "lighter" topics which added to the enjoyment of the day.

It was the first time for several local church elders to hear Mr. Armstrong in person. They were very grateful for the opportunity to hear him in a ministerial meeting.

Though the sky was overcast it was still a bright day! For almost one third of the assembled members, it was their first time to see Mr. Armstrong in person. After services, hundreds expressed heartfelt appreciation for Mr. Armstrong's efforts in making these journeys to the outlying Church areas while continuing his heavy workload in Pasadena.

A very enjoyable and rewarding day!

--Jim Kisse

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Report From Manila, Philippines In the wake of flooding by torrential rains for more than the Noachian 40 days and 40 nights starting in December last year, a large portion of the southern island of Mindanao was totally devastated. A good number of the brethren in the area lost their crops and property. Thankfully, there was no toll on their lives. While the flood waters remained above rooftops for several days in many places, it was impossible for Regional Director Guy Ames to reach the affected members of God's Church until mid-March. Roads were washed out, and Mr. Ames had to travel through dangerously slippery mud by jeep and cross swollen rivers on a small native boat (banca) to get to the brethren in northern Davao and the Agusan provinces. They were found to be in high spirits.

Since the news of the Mindanao brethren's plight, members of several Luzon churches have sent money and used clothing to help rehabilitate them. A sizeable donation of money and used clothing has also been taken up by the Big Sandy Church in Texas, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Dale Shurter who visited Manila recently and relayed the news of the need to the Big Sandy brethren.

As if the earlier trial was not enough, a group of brethren later found themselves in the crossfire between government and rebel forces in northern Davao. Members were on their way to the morning Sabbath service in the newly established Nabunturan Church when the fighting took place. They were shaken but unhurt, and the start of services was delayed for awhile.

Two other incidents also closely brushed our brethren in the same area. Local elder Mario Dulguime reports on the situation:

Last April 1, brethren were witnesses to the divine protection of God. The mining site where they were panning gold was fired upon by the rebels, hitting a policeman and three CHDF (Civilian Home Defense Force) men. Stray bullets killed a woman and seriously injured another. Moments before one of the CHDF men was felled by a bullet, church member Geronimo Esparagosa was talking with him. Had it not been for the timely arrival of another member, Benito Pablo, who took hold of Esparagosa's hand and forced him to leave, he could have been hit too. Upon hearing the gunshot, the other brethren dived to the

ground and took cover among the huge boulders, while bullets rained upon them.

Another example of divine deliverance was Reynaldo Obligana. He almost became one of the 40 casualties when the cave where they were looking for gold collapsed. Moments before the accident, he was right there in the cave together with his 40 companions (not members). He was sent out on an errand by their team leader and had not yet gone far when he suddenly heard a big explosion that killed all his co-workers.

On the brighter side of the Work here, the first Filipino ministers to attend the Ministerial Refresher Program in Pasadena, Messrs. Edmond Macaraeg and Pete Melendez and their wives, have returned. They attended the ninth session in March.

While in Mindanao, Mr. Ames ordained the 32nd Filipino elder in God's Church in this area. He is Mr. Petronilo Leyson, who until then was a ministerial trainee. He is employed full time by the Work and will continue to serve in Butuan City as pastor of the church there.

In the last week of April Mr. Ames made his first visit to the churches in the Visayan islands. He spoke to the brethren in Cebu City and Tacloban City on two separate Sabbaths.

French Director Visits Quebec On Thursday, May 28th, Mr. Dibar Apartian, director of the French-speaking areas of God's Work, flew to Montreal. On Friday afternoon he addressed the French-speaking ministers, deacons and wives (27 people) and answered questions on the progress of God's Work around the world.

On the Sabbath, a record attendance of 534 brethren met in Montreal, coming from all French-speaking churches in the area. The same evening the first public Bible lecture was attended by 503 people, 125 of whom were new. Mr. Apartian discussed "The French Canadian Family--Today and Tomorrow."

The second lecture, held on Sunday afternoon, was attended by another 150 new people who heard Mr. Apartian speak on the future of Quebec. It was a most attentive audience and a good number of people stayed afterwards to ask questions.

On Sunday evening all the ministers and wives had a fine dinner and fellowship at the home of Mr. Picard.

Finances permitting, Mr. Apartian expressed the desire to see French-speaking ministers in Canada visiting the French Churches in Europe, and French-speaking European ministers preaching in Quebec. Time permitting, it is hoped that both Mr. Kneller, and Mr. Carion will be able to preach in Montreal on their way to or from the Refresher Program in Pasadena.

Appreciation for the Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I just want to add our names to the long list of those who have already been in on the Refresher Program and join with them in saying "thank you." We really appreciated your taking the time to talk with us who were in the tenth session even though you were still fighting off the

Asian flu. It was also a delight to hear you talk about the early years of Ambassador College at the student forum as well as to hear your sermon on the Sabbath. Our prayers go with you that God will allow you to keep on accomplishing His will and setting the right example for us.

At the same time, we want to thank your fine staff for the courteous way that we were made to feel welcome at the college. The food, accommodations, and transportation were excellent. The messages in the classes were timely and helpful. The students at the college were really friendly. In some ways it felt like starting college all over again back in the middle '60s. Mr. McNair and the faculty are to be commended.

Thank you once again for sending the "times of refreshing" to the ministry of this church worldwide. God be with you.

Rainer and Claudia Salomaa

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I wanted to take this opportunity to write and thank you on behalf of my wife and myself for the privilege of attending the Ministerial Refresher Program in Pasadena. It was a refreshing experience. It was a warm experience. We especially enjoyed the opportunity to develop close friendships while there, and the genuine warmth of the ministry that attended.

It was, of course, a highlight to be able to hear from you, personally, on three occasions while we were there for the tenth session of the Refresher Program, particularly when you spoke directly to us during one of our afternoon sessions. It was good to see your vitality, warmth and humor in spite of the flu bug you were fighting.

Finally, I must tell you that Mr. Green and the Food Service Department did their best to see that we all brought home more than we left with. Perhaps I could put it like this; knowing my body is a temple, I can assure you that the congregation grew while I was in Pasadena. Thanks, again, for the refreshment.

Terry and Liz Johnson

Mr. Tkach:

Thank you very much indeed for all the arrangements you made towards the success of the tenth Refresher Programme. We appreciated your own contribution and that of so many others. I personally returned from the programme mentally and spiritually rejuvenated, and what was most noticeable of all perhaps was the genuine spirit of unity that now exists at Headquarters.

The programme really is all that people have been saying it is up to now and it has made a tremendous impact in that the instructors, and now the ministry in general, all speak the same thing.

Francis Bergin

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Greetings from rain-soaked Lagos, Nigeria!

Many weeks have elapsed since we left Pasadena, having attended the ninth Session of the Ministerial Refresher Programme, but as we review and compare notes, the thrill and excitement is rekindled. There is so much to teach God's people here and time seems so short!

Thank you, Mr. Tkach, for taking the time to talk to us--and more importantly for sacrificing time to listen to us. Our thanks, too, to all the ministers who fed us so bountifully--both physically and spiritually! We have made new friends, renewed the old, and eagerly look forward to the blessing of "round two" in the not-too-distant future.

We have witnessed a strong bond established between the entire ministry of God's Church. What better platform do we need to ignite the "homeward stretch" mentioned by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong?

Our prayer is that the Spirit of God will continue to work mightily in spreading this oneness of purpose worldwide to the congregations, just as your team has presented it to the ministry from God's only Apostle.

Lateef and Yvonne Edalere

Excerpts From Monthly Church Reports

PORTLAND (WEST), OR--DAN FRICKE: As God stirs Mr. Armstrong and he stirs us, the overall attitude and involvement of the members continues to improve. The attendance continues to increase with many new people beginning to come through member contact. Numerous members are out of work because of the sluggishness of the economy, yet the Holy Day offerings were better than ever, again showing that the members have their hearts in the Work.

MONTVALE, NJ--LLOYD BRIGGIE: Members are wholehearted in their support for Mr. Armstrong and the Work God is doing through him. There is greater personal affection for him as members hear from him more and more and pray for him. There are some HARD trials that a number of members are going through--unconverted mates, family illnesses, falling down in personal areas of weakness; Satan seems to be pressing harder against God's children.

PORTLAND (EAST), OR--JIM HAEFFELE: Everyone was very excited to have Mr. Armstrong in Salem for services. There have been many very good comments about how good he looks, the energy he shows, and especially the new points of understanding he is bringing out about the Philadelphia era of God's Church and Revelation 12.

WASAS CITY (EAST), KS--RUSSELL DUKE: Everyone was very pleased with the video from Mr. Armstrong. It was especially effective in the smaller groups compared to the Feast. They could see him clearly and understand him plainly, without distractions. Sure hope we can do it again. It was also timely, just before Passover.

ROANOKE, VA--ROBERT PERSKY: The brethren were very encouraged and inspired by Mr. Armstrong's film; also by Mr. Waterhouse's Bible study. Even though the area is hurt by unemployment, the offering on the last Day of Unleavened Bread was the highest ever--23% over last year's.

KALAMAZOO, MI--KEN WILLIAMS: One of our four-year-old girls was struck out of her shoes and socks by a car traveling 40 m.p.h, knocking her 30 feet through the air! She appeared dead at first. One week later she was running and playing with her friends with no injuries at all. Highest Holy Day offering given on both first and last days of Unleavened Bread. We gave a 33% increase over last year, and this during much harder times!

CHICO/EUREKA, CA--MARC SEGALL: We really appreciated having Mr. Rod Matthews as a guest speaker for the Passover service and the next day's Sabbath service. He made all the brethren feel the concern of the leadership at Headquarters and helped us to see the Work of God from a worldwide perspective. We have been trying to guide the brethren to be concerned for God's Work and people in all the many nations where His Church has grown.

LAKE OF THE OZARKS, MO--JAMES E. KISSEE: The past few months have seen a great leap forward in the serving attitude. This is reflected in the care and concern we have seen when others are sick and afflicted or otherwise in need. The brethren are helping in whatever way they can, whether it be in prayers, food or a physical service.

BLUEFIELD, W. VA--CHARLES R. CRAIN: Our Bluefield teenagers are showing outstanding enthusiasm and excellent attitudes. We were very pleased with all of the Y.O.U. members who participated in the District Tournament and activities. The sportsmanlike conduct was the best in the last several years.

Weekly Letter Comments

Comments From New Members

It is with great joy and happiness that I have recently been baptized and become a member of God's Church. I look upon baptism as the real beginning of life. If God had not called me and conquered my mind, I would not be writing this letter today. There is no doubt in my mind that you (Mr. Armstrong) are God's chosen apostle and that this is God's Church.

G.L. (Washington, DC)

I am newly baptized in the Church. I am so overjoyed to give what I can to the Work to help other people like me to understand the truth and why we're here. I really thank God for calling me out of this world, and I thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for publishing the literature. This is why I see such a need for tithes and offerings for the Work.

Mrs. J.P. (Shreveport, LA)

Recently I became a member of God's Church by being baptized in Lenoir, North Carolina. This was the most wonderful day of my life, knowing that I had become one of God's own Spirit-begotten children.

I now have a peace of mind that I never had, knowing that I have God's Holy Spirit to help me with life's trials.

L.S. (Hickery, NC)

"Missing Dimension In Sex" Gratefully Received

Thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for the hardcover copy of THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX. Being single and never having been married, I find the information invaluable.

May God continue to inspire and keep you healthy to finish the Work, feed the flock and prepare the Church for Christ's return.

M.K. (Biggs, CA)

I want to thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for sending us the new book, THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX. It is a well written and beautifully bound book. We appreciate your efforts to update the Church's material, as well as writing new books. Also we're looking forward to A VOICE CRIES OUT.

D.&T.Y. (Wrenshall, MN)

I wish to thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX. It is a very interesting book and you bring the subject out in a different and delightful way.

G.G. (Girard, OH)

Thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for your book, THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX--it is just great. I am so thankful to know God's truth. It is light in a dark and confused world.

Mrs. J.C. (Closplint, KY)

Brethren Inspired by Mr. Waterhouse's Message

Mr. Gerald Waterhouse spoke at the Boone, North Carolina church last evening--WOW! What an impact he makes on the brethren. He gets better with every visit! We really appreciate your (Mr. Armstrong) sending him around--he represents you very well.

H. & J.B. (Blowing Rock, NC)

Yesterday we were blessed to hear from Mr. Gerald Waterhouse! I don't believe anyone left not having learned something new, or realizing even more the importance of God's Work and you (Mr. Armstrong) being the Elijah of this end time. He was, as always, very interesting and quite humorous! We are thankful for him and his helping all of us to speak the same thing.

T.B. (Fincastle, VA)

It was good to recently have Mr. Gerald Waterhouse for Bible study in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He spoke for three hours and 15 minutes, and I loved all of it. I don't know the words to tell you (Mr. Armstrong) how much I thank our Father for men like you and Mr. Waterhouse.

E.M. (Fayetteville, NC)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

ON THE WORLD SCENE

MOSCOW'S ROLE IN FILLING THE EARTH WITH VIOLENCE It is for good reason that Jesus Christ singled out "wars and rumors of wars" as being one of the hallmarks of the end-time age. Wars there have been since time immemorial--but warfare in our day has taken on new and frightening dimensions. Much of the bloodshed is now caused by a worldwide terrorist network, with the spokes of the wheel leading back to Moscow.

Author Claire Sterling in her new book The Terror Network (excerpted in the May, 1981 Reader's Digest) divulges the terror lines emanating from Moscow through such countries and places as Libya, radical Palestinian factions, South Yemen, Cuba and KGB-staffed Soviet embassies, onto the various "national liberation fronts" and so-called "peace forces" around the world.

Soviet-inspired terrorism either foments or aggravates nearly every trouble spot in the world. And the aim everywhere is to tear down the power of the United States, Britain, the nation of Israel (Judah) and other Israelitish governments.

Just look at the three most intractable disputes in the world today--Northern Ireland, the Middle East and Southern Africa. Moscow's hand is in all three regions.

In Northern Ireland the fasting suicides of Bobby Sands and three associates have drawn enormous sympathy for the cause of the Provisional Irish Republican Army in strife-torn Ulster. The press in America, where so many people of Irish extraction live, is overwhelmingly pro-IRA and has been completely swayed by its propaganda. Little is said about how the small number of terrorists in the "Provos" wing of the IRA victimize their own Catholic countrymen in the six-county province. Nor are the linkups of the Provos to the worldwide terrorist network given much play.

In the Middle East, the fuse is still lit over the crisis in Lebanon. Israel has shown remarkable patience in not forcibly taking out the SAM-6 missiles the Syrians, under Russian prodding, moved in. Prime Minister Begin has let American and Saudi Arabian negotiators try to persuade Damascus to remove the missiles peacefully, so far without success. As the Israelis feared, the delay has worked to their disadvantage. The Soviets have shrewdly taken advantage of the situation in order to move more "advisors" into Lebanon to strengthen Syria's hand.

In South Africa, minor disruptions caused by the outlawed African National Congress (employing Communist-made weapons) damped the 20th anniversary "Republic Day" celebrations. And for the past few days coloured students near Johannesburg have rioted over the arrest of a student activist.

Civil rights groups in the United States are up in arms over documents leaked to the press (probably by a Carter Administration holdover in the State Department) which recommend closer U.S.-South African ties. The documents reportedly stress the importance that Washington attaches to "constructive internal change" in South Africa, but, even more importantly, voice U.S. concern for Soviet domination in the African subcontinent. This concern undoubtedly has been heightened by the announcement this week that Moscow will set up an embassy in Salisbury, Zimbabwe--formerly Rhodesia--certain to be staffed with oodles of KGB agents.

U.S. civil rights groups prefer not to see the geopolitical side of the story, however. Randall Robinson, director of TransAfrica, an anti-South African lobby in Washington, said that the documents "clear up any remaining shadow of a doubt that the United States is moving rapidly toward an open and obvious alliance with military dimensions with South Africa.

"I think it ought to be alarming to the American people," Robinson continued, "that this country is now clearly on a path toward this kind of relationship with perhaps the most vicious nation in the world since Nazi Germany." (It is common for activist groups to denounce Pretoria in hyper-exaggerated Hitlerian hysterics.)

A report financed by the liberal Rockefeller Foundation entitled "South Africa: Time Running Out," concludes that South Africa's racial policies "stir special concern because they could eventually lead to a race war that could have serious ramifications in the United States." It said if open conflict breaks out between white and black in South Africa--especially if the Communists should help wage a "war of liberation" against the white regime--the United States would face difficult questions and the resulting U.S. national debate "could quickly develop into divisive racial overtones, damaging to race relations in the United States."

Of course, this is exactly the type of disruptive impact that Moscow hopes would occur in America. This is where the Kremlin keeps funneling aid to "national liberation" camps around the world through its terror network.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau