

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 3, NO. 25

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 19, 1981

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Important Update From the Festival Office

Some members have called asking about the status of their transfer to international sites, including Jerusalem, for the Feast. By now, most people should have received a letter of confirmation or denial from the proper office, or R & J Travel (for the Jerusalem trip). However, due to an error on our part, everyone who requested an international site on the computerized attendance list will appear to be approved on the new list now in your possession.

PLEASE ANNOUNCE and make clear that only those who have a confirmed booking with R & J should consider themselves approved for Jerusalem. Likewise, only those who have written to and been approved by the appropriate international offices (EXCEPTION: transfers between U.S. and Canada) should consider themselves approved.

We apologize for the error, and for any inconvenience it may have caused.

International News

Update From Australia At the present time The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast is being aired once a week over 29 television stations and 32 radio stations. While in Australia, Mr. Armstrong gave instructions that we should go on daily radio throughout the country as soon as possible. Our media agents are already working on this.

Response from our newsstand programme continues to be most encouraging. We have received a 2.1% response so far, adding many hundreds of new subscribers to The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list each month.

Fifty thousand newsstand copies were distributed in May. In June the figure will double to 100,000, and in July we anticipate 125,000 copies will be picked up by interested readers at outlets throughout the country. In October newsstand distribution will have increased to 150,000 copies per month.

Another exciting milestone in the history of God's Work in Australia occurred during Mr. Armstrong's visit. Mr. Armstrong approved the purchasing of land near beautiful Lake Moogerah (about one hour's drive west of Brisbane) for a Summer Educational Camp for the young people of God's Church in Australia.

Sri Lanka Plans were made this month for daily broadcasting over Radio Ceylon in Sri Lanka. Following the decision made by Mr. Armstrong (while he was here in Australia) to begin daily broadcasting in the area, we are negotiating a contract to give the Church the same time each night across

the board, seven nights a week. Current plans are for this to be paid for partially out of local funds, and the balance out of funds generously contributed by the Canadian branch of God's Work.

Radio Ceylon currently broadcasts with 50,000 watts of power and its signal is picked up by all the countries of the Middle East and East Africa, along with Malagasy, Mauritius, and all of Asia east to Malaysia. Radio Ceylon is due to increase the power of its signal to 100,000 watts in the near future, making it one of the most powerful radio stations in the world.

The Church in Sri Lanka now numbers 30 baptized members, with an average monthly attendance of 51. Services are conducted in three different locations with weekly services in Colombo and fortnightly services in Anuradhapura and Nuwara Eliya. The Church is taken care of by Mr. Mohan Jayasekera who is an Ambassador College graduate and a local elder.

Jesus Christ is certainly blessing His Work in Sri Lanka. Local income for the first five months of 1981 is running 407% ahead of the same period last year, and new visit requests are piling up faster than Mr. Jayasekera can take care of them.

Malaysia/Singapore Mr. Colin Kelly made his first trip to Singapore and Malaysia this month as the new pastor of the Singapore and Kuala Lumpur churches. Attendance in these congregations is 53 and 79 respectively, and many additional members are scattered over a wide area. Once their residence and work permits are granted, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly will move to Singapore permanently.

Apart from a brief period in which Mr. Guy Ames pastored the Kuala Lumpur Church, Mr. Kelly will be the first full-time pastor of a congregation of God's modern-day Church that is in a nation which is officially Islamic. This presents its own unique problems--especially since it is illegal to baptize a Moslem into the Christian faith in Malaysia.

Spanish-language Activities The "take one" cardholder promotion has yielded many La PURA VERDAD subscribers since its inception two and one half years ago. After an initial testing in Spain and Puerto Rico from late 1978 to mid-1979, use of this promotional device has spread to the U.S., Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Portugal. (It is also being used to promote The PLAIN TRUTH in the U.S., where over 27,000 subscribers have been added in 18 months.)

In less than three years, the cardholders have produced a total of 21,000 new subscribers, or 18.6% of all new subscribers added via promotions during that period. In Chile and Argentina, 87% and 50%, respectively, of all new subscriptions added since 1979 have come on the PV list in this fashion. Since the beginning of 1981, the monthly average of new subscriptions received from the following countries have numbered: 400 in Argentina, 800 in Chile, 350 in Peru, and 150 in Guatemala.

These subscribers have also shown substantial interest in the Work for the short time they have been on the PV list. To date there are three members, six co-workers, 30 donors, 20 GOOD NEWS subscribers and 736 Correspondence Course students within this group.

Appreciation for the Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I would like to sincerely thank you for the Ministerial Refresher Program we were able to attend. We considered it a tremendous opportunity to learn from notes of your conferences of years past and from men that have been faithful ministers for so many years.

The program was "refreshing" because we know God personally directed you to approve the sessions by discussing with our teachers many vital points to bring out.

God certainly inspired every class and the whole program. The ministers who taught us were enthusiastic, excited and showed the unity that only God's spirit can bring. Thank you again for putting us all back on God's track.

Tom and Charlene Melear

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

We can hardly believe the three weeks of the refresher program are over (session 11). We had anticipated this being an enriching experience, but it was better, far better, than we had expected. The classes, the contact with our fellow elders, the fine example of Messers. Tkach, Blackwell, Hoeh, Neff, Helge, Webber, Matthews, McNair, Albrecht and "the staff," the Wednesday night socials, graduation exercises, etc., etc. were all outstanding. The defensive driving course with Jim Snook was very helpful, and Jim's pleasant personality made it extra interesting. We really felt our "well" was replenished with more of the valuable "water of life," and now we can dispense it to our brethren whom we have the privilege of serving.

And to our beloved Mr. Armstrong, we gratefully thank you for the vision and courage you have demonstrated in building Ambassador College and the Auditorium. The campus and headquarters of God's Work is such an uplifting environment. They have a truly God-plane quality beyond compare. Mr. LaRavia and his staff are certainly doing an exemplary job of following your directives and goals. Thank you most of all, Mr. Armstrong, for faithfully following Christ's leadership so that we could learn the values and lessons needed to be faithful shepherds of God's flock. As you said so lovingly and powerfully in Stockton, California on the day of Pentecost, we must remain "small in our own eyes and keep those eyes on Jesus Christ." Listening to you and watching your example is clearly showing us how to do this.

Thank you again for your steadfast devotion to your calling. We have all been blessed greatly as a result of it. Truly, as Proverbs 29:2 tells us, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice." We are strengthened and refreshed as a direct result of the "refresher," and from the bottom of our hearts we thank you all for making it possible!

Marc and Lisa Segall

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I would like to thank you and the team working with you for the very fine refresher program that has been put together. The value of updating and thoroughly covering the subject matter presented will help us to better serve God's people for years to come. It's obvious Christ wants his ministry and Church around the world to be evenly grounded in all matters of the truth. We learned many new points on basic subjects that we had not heard before. We felt the course was very thorough, very sound, and very positive in strengthening the ministry. Again, we want to thank you and all those who worked on lectures and necessary preparations which made this course a real success.

Jim and Lois Haeffele

Dear Mr. Tkach:

This is just a short note to thank you and those assisting you in the Ministerial Refresher Program.

I've just completed the tenth session and I consider it a great personal blessing to have been at headquarters and to have been taught by men of deep commitment and long experience. I feel better equipped now to assist my pastor, Mr. Dan Rogers, as he imparts the certainty of the Church's calling, hope, doctrines and commission to God's people.

This was my first visit to the College, so I'm thankful also that the program is being extended to the elders not employed by the Church.

Jim Baldwin

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the tenth session of the refresher program. I was much inspired to see the team spirit in the lecturers and staff of all departments. They all showed a willingness to assist in any way they could. Please pass on my thanks to all.

To see the 100% support of Mr. Armstrong truly gives us a confidence that God's will is being done. The refresher program instills motivation in the local ministry which should spread in the Church worldwide. Thanks again.

Robert Collins

Mr. Armstrong's Visit to Lake of the Ozarks

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I just wanted to drop a note in the mail and thank you very much for coming to the Lake of the Ozarks. We appreciate the love that you have for the brethren and ministry in sacrificing your time to be with us.

Your talk to us in the ministry was extremely helpful. The wisdom God has given you is profound. It touched both my wife and me when you told us you missed lunch because of the time zone differences. The zeal and spirit of sacrifice that is the hallmark of your ministry is an example to the rest of us.

We love you deeply and want you to know we are behind you 100%. We are looking forward very much to the time when we will be serving under you for eternity as you reeducate the world in God's way of love.

Vince and Carol Szymkowiak

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

PASADENA, CA (AUDITORIUM PM)--ROBIN WEBBER: Enthusiasm is high! Mr. Armstrong's stay in Pasadena has lifted the spirits of the people, along with the tremendous news of how God is blessing the Work financially.

ROSEBURG, OR--GREG JOHNSON: People were thoroughly inspired by the spring Holy Days; especially by Mr. Armstrong's visit to Salem and his powerful sermon film. We are also very encouraged to see the income come up so dramatically in the U.S.

GLENDALE, CA--RONALD W. LAUGHLAND: Spiritual growth continues. Mr. Armstrong's meaty broadcasts have produced fruits in the Glendale area. New PM's starting to come in. It's as if a floodgate has been opened.

RESEDA, CA--ROBERT CLONINGER: New PM's are up--many counseling for baptism. The strong radio and TV broadcasts seem to be bringing a better quality of PM.

AMARILLO, TX--JIM O'BRIEN: The people baptized within the last year, and those wanting to be baptized now, have shown a remarkable depth of conversion. They are not halfway in their commitment to the truth and have inspired old-time members.

FT. WAYNE, IN--STEPHEN SMITH: There is a renewed interest in hearing the radio and TV broadcasts. The members are encouraged by the power and directness of these broadcasts. Many comments have been received from the brethren and we've had more response in this area.

COLUMBIA, S.C.--JOHN RITENBAUGH: We had our best month for PM's in over two years during May. The congregation's attitude is solidly behind this Work with more positiveness and enthusiasm than I've seen in a long time. Attendance is rising steadily, with a big jump this month.

LOUISVILLE, KY--RAY A. MEYER: Noticing an increase in PM interest. We are having good success with the PT program, the waiting room program, etc., and I think God is beginning to work with some new people who responded to the PT program or media some months back. Certainly appreciated Mr. Gerald Waterhouse's visit.

ST. LOUIS (SOUTH), MO--ROBERT L. SPENCE: The brethren were REALLY enthused by hearing and seeing Mr. Armstrong at the Lake of the Ozarks. The get-together with all of the surrounding churches had the flavor and happiness of a "mini" Feast of Tabernacles.

SAN FRANCISCO--STEVE MARTIN: Holy Day season a real "upper" for membership. Good response from Passover service and Holy Day sermons. New visits and baptisms up remarkably. Baptized an inmate at San Quentin, which was quite an experience.

MELBOURNE, FL--CRAIG L. BACHELLER: The brethren are beginning to grasp the need to trust totally in God and His ways, rather than getting so wrapped up in the "cares and riches of this world." Some have been forced to make stands and decisions lately to test this and the results have been encouraging.

Weekly Letter Comments

New Telecasts Continue to Have Impact

I had to write and tell you how much we have enjoyed watching the telecast on Sunday mornings. Yesterday was only the second program aired, and I compare it to an oasis in the middle of a visual desert (television in general). We look forward to many more exciting and refreshing lessons that God has revealed through you in His Word.

Mrs. A.M. (Oklahoma City, OK)

We have been viewing your show for about a year but we really started by accident. I was looking through the TV guide to see what was aired on Sunday night when I came across a program called "World Tomorrow." The title sounded interesting so my husband and I began viewing your show. Now we wouldn't miss it for anything. We have changed our outlook on life, and are beginning to understand the purpose of our existence.

Mr. and Mrs. V.D. (Lake Ron Kon Koma, NY)

I really enjoyed your television show on the book of Revelation today. There seems to be much urgency and zeal in the new programs, and I know that Jesus Christ is inspiring this.

The telecasts are excellent. They are well organized, to the point and full of God's strong truth. I really enjoy the film and graphic inserts--they make God's Word come alive in a new way. May God continue to bless you and His Work.

G.L. (Morrilton, AR)

Members Cherish GOOD NEWS Magazine

The article, "Why Many Don't Understand Pentecost," in the May 1981 GOOD NEWS, is so chock-full of information. God's inspiration and your years of experience in writing have allowed you to cover so much in so few pages of print. Each time I reread it, new thoughts and nuggets of truth open up.

S.M. (Kerman, CA)

Your article on Pentecost is one of the most knowledge-packed, single articles I have read! If ever I had a question unanswered, you have cleared it up with this one writing.

Thank you, sir, for your courage and tenacity concerning God's Master Plan for humanity. Thank you for sharing this priceless knowledge with us and for working so hard to help us understand so that we will overcome and be able to enter God's Kingdom. I will keep my May 1981

issue of The GOOD NEWS in a readily accessible place, so that it will be available for future reference.

D.M. (Medford, OR)

The articles in The GOOD NEWS get better and better! The magazine is a welcome sight every time I see the next issue in the mail. The articles give me hope and security. Keep up the good work.

R.F. (Boone, IA)

Examples of God's Healing Power

One year ago this March, I was told that I had cancer of the bone, and that my bones were deteriorating. When I found this out, I wrote Mr. Armstrong a letter and received a prayer cloth. I did what was instructed. I decided not to have an operation and trusted God for my healing.

At that time I could not bathe myself, dress, or even shave. Now, one year later, since God has touched my body, I can claim a complete healing through Jesus Christ. By His stripes I am healed. Not only can I do the necessary things for myself now, but can cut wood, split logs and do mechanical work as well as anything else that comes up.

I want to thank God for His wonderful healing power, and I want to thank the Worldwide Church of God for their prayers.

J.H. (Dalton, GA)

Some time ago, I wrote telling you that my husband was going into the hospital and that he had cancer. The last x-ray showed something that the doctors didn't like the looks of. When we heard the doctor's bad news, we prayed night and day.

Then, right before he went to the hospital, we received a reassuring letter from your staff. Mr. Armstrong, I can't tell you how happy and grateful to God I was, when the doctors told me that my husband was found clear and clean of cancer.

Mrs. M.C. (Joppa, MD)

I had sent for an anointed cloth recently and was not expecting to be well enough to attend services that week, but God healed me within an hour. How humbling! My head cleared and my mouth, which was swollen and blistered, became normal when I stood up after my noon prayer. It was exciting! I called a family to come and pick me up and was so thankful to be able to attend church!

Mrs. D.M. (Rochester, MN)

--JOE TRACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

HOW YOU CAN HELP TWO PUBLICATIONS

Youth 81 We have just passed the half-way mark in the first year's production of the new YOUTH 81 magazine for the Church's teens. Mr. Armstrong continues to be pleased with the publication and plans to increase its size. That means, of course, that we need more articles from you. They

should be short--no more than four to six double-spaced, typewritten pages, and be pointed toward a topic or a problem relative to today's youths. If you question whether your chosen subject is suitable or not, make up an outline of what you plan to write and send it in. Your suggestions for topics to be covered in the magazine are also welcome.

The Worldwide News The Worldwide News could not effectively report on the events in God's Church without the concerted effort of the ministry and those reporters you assign. When you know that a significant happening is planned for your area, such as a visit by Mr. Armstrong, feel free to contact us and we will forward you information on how to better cover the event, both editorially and photographically. And, if you have suggestions for the improvement of the Church's newspaper, please write or look us up when you're in on the refresher program. Thank you for your support.

Dexter H. Faulkner, Managing Editor

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE WHY'S AND WHEREFORE'S BEHIND ISRAEL'S DRAMATIC ATTACK "Operation Babylon"--the Israeli code name for its blitz against the Iraqi Tammuz nuclear complex--is over. The smoking rubble of the French-built reactor bears mute testimony to what Newsweek magazine called "a bolt out of the Old Testament."

Now the scene shifts to the United Nations, where, fortunately for Israel, the Reagan Administration, exercising its veto power, will prevent any sanctions from being levied against Jerusalem, despite the howls and cries of Israel's foes which hate the "Zionist entity." And while the debate drones on, additional facts emerge concerning the raid, why the Israelis did it, and what the Iraqis were really up to.

"Operation Babylon" added another star to a lengthening list of successful Israeli secret sorties. This one was of considerable length in the planning stage. Five different dates for the attack had been set. On June 5, Prime Minister Begin, in complete control of the operation, finally set the launch date for two days later, upon learning that the Iraqis were planning to activate it as early as the first week in July. Once "hot," contamination from the destroyed reactor could have spread to the 3½ million people in Baghdad.

For several months prior to the attack, the Israeli air force was groomed for the operation. A full-scale model of the entire reactor was built in a restricted part of the Sinai Desert. A carefully selected group of the most talented Israeli pilots practiced bombing runs incessantly. (After the actual attack, there was some controversy as to whether the pilots used electronically guided "smart bombs" or conventional "dumb bombs." It was probably a case of "dumb bombs" and "smart pilots.")

The raid took the Pentagon, said one of its spokesmen, by "thunderous surprise." The Israeli pilots, skipping low over the desert floor in a weaving pattern, carefully avoided the lone U.S. AWACS plane flying over Saudi Arabia near the Persian Gulf. Israel may even have had knowledge of the AWACS schedule and flight paths.

The debate rages in full rhetoric over whether Jerusalem's daring strike was "aggression," or to use legal terminology, "anticipatory self-defense."

Prime Minister Begin certainly views it from the latter perspective, calling the raid a "morally supreme act of national self-defense."

Iraq, of course, claims that its reactor complex was intended for peaceful purposes. But few nuclear experts who understood the workings of the Tammuz complex doubt what Baghdad was up to. The fact is, Iraq, which has ample oil for energy, had made no plans, built up no infrastructure, to utilize nuclear energy as a power source.

The French, too, were increasingly suspicious. Former Foreign Minister Raymond Barre had tried to persuade Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to switch to a different design for the reactor, and proposed that the Iraqis use instead a so-called "caramel" fuel, a low-grade French uranium that could not be used for weapons. Hussein refused; he wanted the good stuff.

The Carter Administration asked the French and Italian governments (the Italians were building support facilities) to halt their nuclear projects in Iraq. Specifically, Washington tried to get Paris to back off from shipping the first 12-kilogram load of weapon-grade, enriched uranium. The U.S. request was turned down in both Paris and Rome.

Watching this "business as usual" parade only convinced Mr. Begin there was only one course of action to take.

Iraq's Hussein helped seal his fate by his own words. In September 1975, a Lebanese newspaper article quoted Hussein as saying that the nuclear program was "the first Arab attempt toward nuclear arming, although the official declared purpose of construction of the reactor is not nuclear weapons." And after Iranian jets had struck, but not damaged, the reactor last September 30, Hussein declared that Iran had nothing to fear from Iraq's nuclear capability, that any weapons would be used against "the Zionist enemy."

The French, for their part, seem to be glad to be off the hook. The new government, more sympathetic to Israel, would probably never have permitted the delivery of such a dangerous plant in the first place. Official French reaction to the raid was therefore remarkably mild. Said Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson: "I am saddened. This government has a great deal of sympathy for Israel, but we don't think such action serves the cause of peace in the area." Hardly even a slap on the wrist, milder even than President Reagan's perfunctory criticism (which White House aids say privately should not be taken too literally).

Israel is not out of the woods yet. Archfoe Libya has funneled billions of dollars into Pakistan to build what its President Muammar Kaddafi calls "the Islamic bomb." This weapon could only be months away from completion. Supposedly it would be available for "export" to Libya or other radical Arab states.

To the question of how Israel would react if Libya got the bomb, Mr. Begin bluntly replied to newsmen at an after-raid press conference: "Let us deal first with that meshuggener (Yiddish for lunatic), Saddam Hussein. With the other meshuggener (Kaddafi), another time."

The time setting is not yet, but one certainly is reminded of the prophecy concerning Judah, given in Zechariah 12:6: "On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch

among sheaves; and they shall devour to the right and to the left all the peoples round about, while Jerusalem shall still be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem."

Until then, more threats and troubles will come Israel's--and the entire world's--way. The nuclear genie is out of the bottle for good, as nation after nation lines up to join the nuclear club. And it's an indictment against the nations of the western free world that it is the sale of their technology--for handsome profits--that's making it all possible.

The Soviet Union is very cautious about to whom it delivers nuclear technology, while the nuclear reactor merchants of the United States, Britain, Canada, France (Paris is especially aggressive), West Germany, Switzerland and Italy are tumbling head over heels after each other in a mad competitive race to push their products.

The nuclear merchants find customers among the anxious smaller powers willing to pay the price for their own defense (yet invite attack from equally anxiety-ridden neighbors). "The result, as last week's Osirak incident suggests," said Newsweek magazine, "will be a world in which all nations live a bit closer to Armageddon."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau