

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 3, NO. 34

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 21, 1981

## AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

The students are now on campus preparing for the new college year. We will have approximately 500 full-time students, plus about 25 part-time students (those taking only one or two classes).

On Tuesday, August 18th, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong conducted the first faculty meeting of the 1981-82 college year. He pointed out where the educators of this world go astray--not knowing God, or not having contact with Him. He revealed that the real problem with modern education all started in the Garden of Eden when the first parents of the human race chose the way of death as opposed to the way of life.

On Wednesday, August 19th, Mr. Armstrong spoke at the Orientation Forum. During his address to the students and faculty of Ambassador, he stressed the importance of having the proper foundation for a true education. He showed how he disproved the theory of evolution about fifty years ago. Also, he proved to his satisfaction that there was a Designer and Creator of the universe who ordered the material creation. Again he stressed the fact that Adam and Eve rejected the true foundation of education by rejecting God and His way. Modern educators do the same thing--reject God's instructions as found in the Bible.

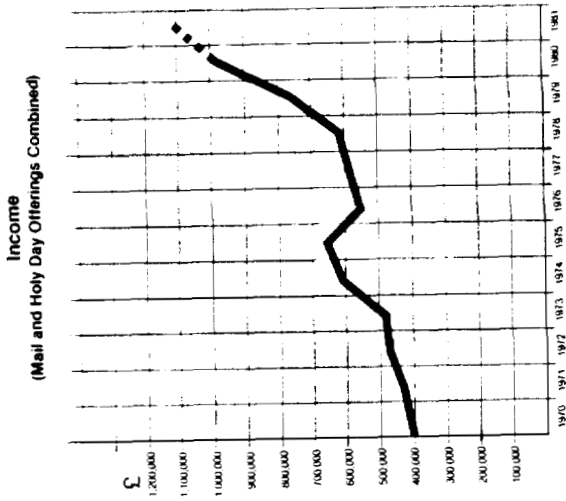
Then, on Thursday, August 20th, Mr. Armstrong flew to Big Sandy to be there for the reopening of that campus. He especially wanted to be at Big Sandy for both the faculty-student reception and the Orientation Forum.

Once again, it looks like we have a very good group of students. I have already met quite a few of them, including sons and daughters of some of the ministers. We fully expect the 1981-82 college year to be the best in well over a decade. I am sure God will continue to bless Ambassador if we keep Ambassador on the course which the Founder and Chancellor set for the College from the beginning.

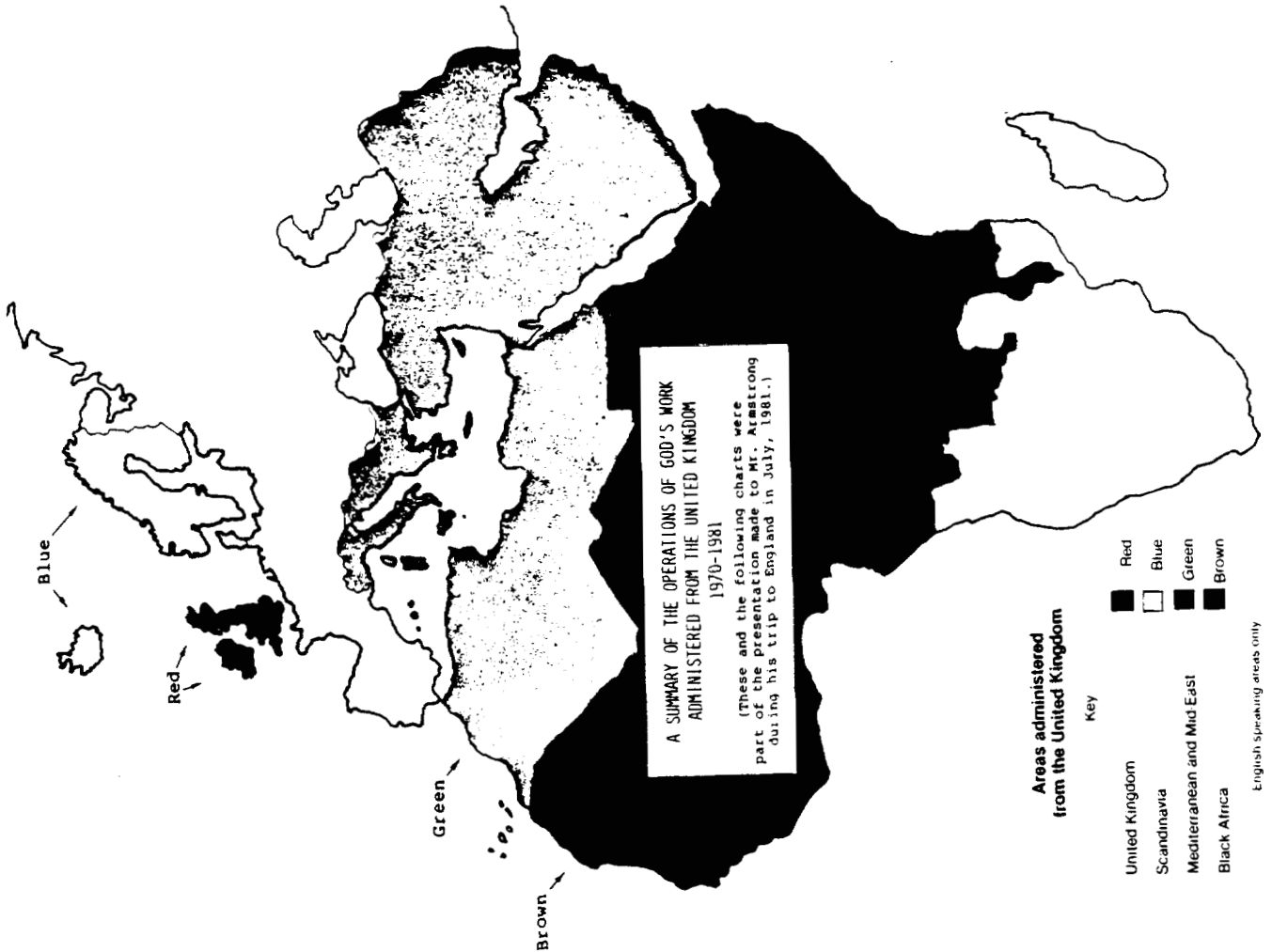
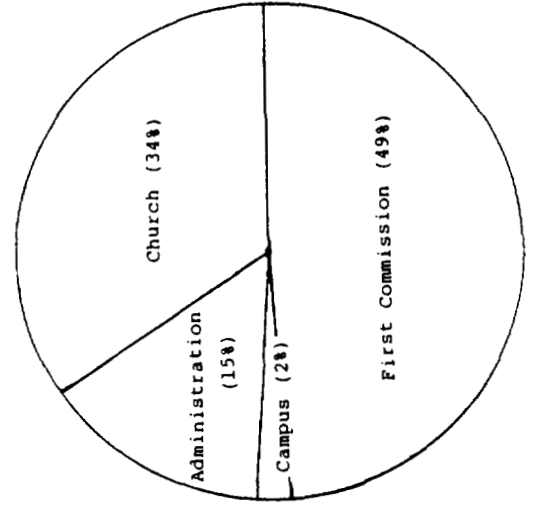
We are going to be very busy for the next few days with the students registering for classes, signing up with various departments to work, etc.

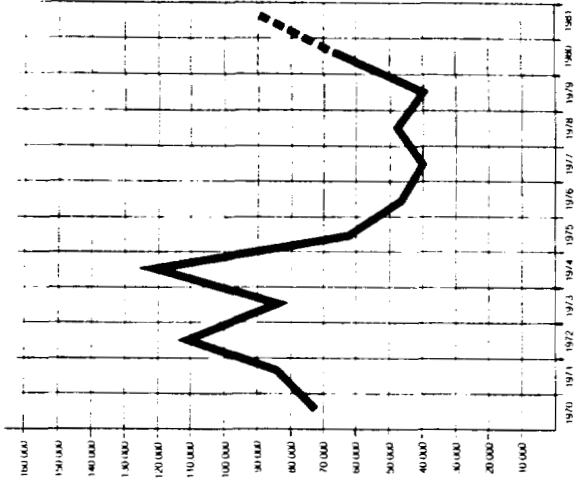
And I might add that it is good to have Mr. Armstrong back in Pasadena, making this truly "headquarters" once again. He has a very busy schedule, but I feel that in spite of this Mr. Armstrong will manage to take quite a number of the forums and/or assemblies during the coming college year, thereby inspiring both students and faculty.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

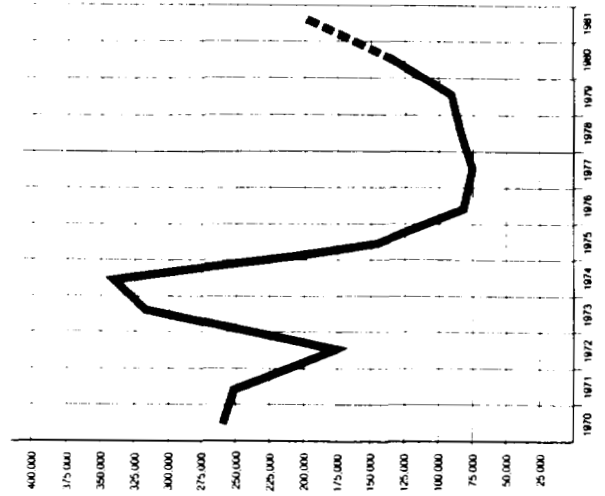


God's Work in the United Kingdom & Ireland 1970-1981





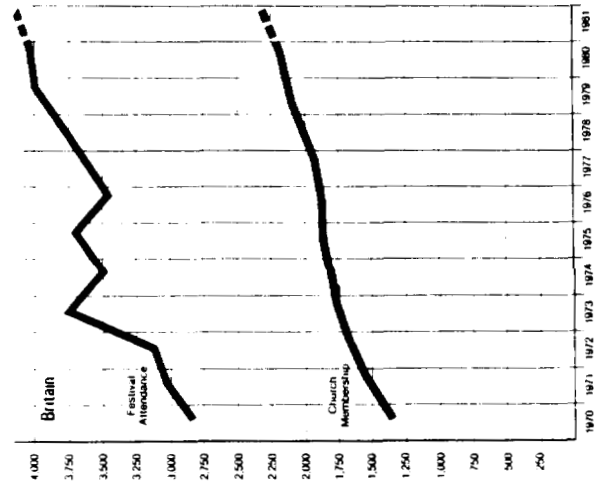
The Plain Truth  
Subscriber Circulation



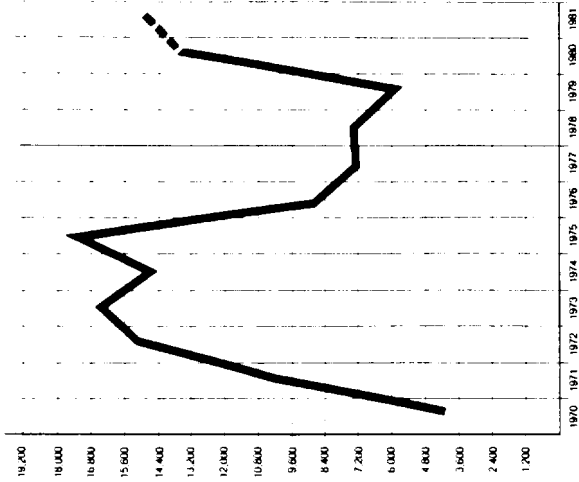
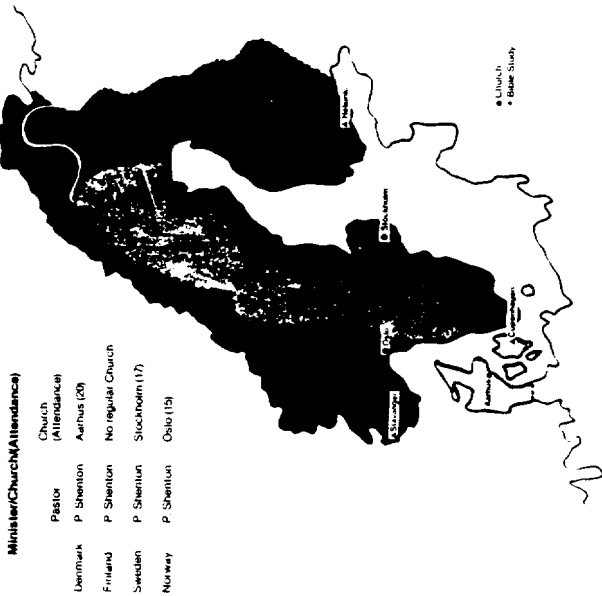
Mail Processed

CHURCH

Ministers/Churches (Attendances)	
<b>Pastors</b>	<b>Churches (Average Attendances)</b>
David Bedford	Bristol (60), Cardiff (26)
Robert Bowker	Carlmarthen (33), Gloucester (60)
Barry Bourne	Channel Isles (19)
Mark Ellis	Birmingham (140), Northampton (65), Nottingham (50)
Robert Harrison	Ballymena (60), Belfast (155), Dublin (80)
David House	Liverpool (60), Stoke-on-Trent (49)
John Jewell	Brighton (65), Cucknaming (58)
Rubin Jones	Reading (80), Southampton (80)
David McQueen	Plymouth (40)
John Meakin	North London (220)
Peter Shenton	Bedford (62), Hull (55)
David Saxon	Middlesbrough (60), Newcastle (65), Sheffield (25)
Edward Smith	Maidstone (80), Ovington (75), Wimbeldon (70)
David Sinks	Basildon (65), Ipswich (65), Norwich (55)
Paul Suchling	Lancaster (42), Manchester (80)
Colin Wilkins	Cambridge (48)
	Borehamwood (150), Luton (80)
	St Albans (155)
	Aberdeen (42), Glasgow (74), Edinburgh (68), Nairn (60)

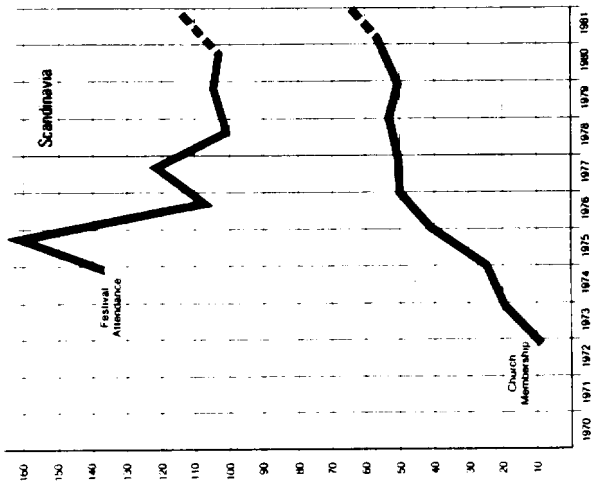


Church Membership & Festival Attendance

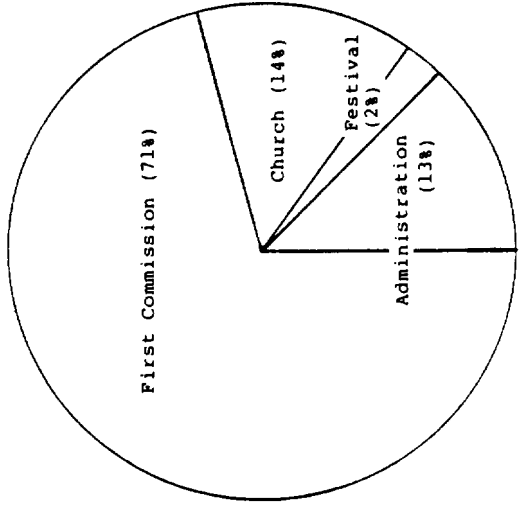


Scandinavia - 1970-1981

The Plain Truth Subscriber Circulation



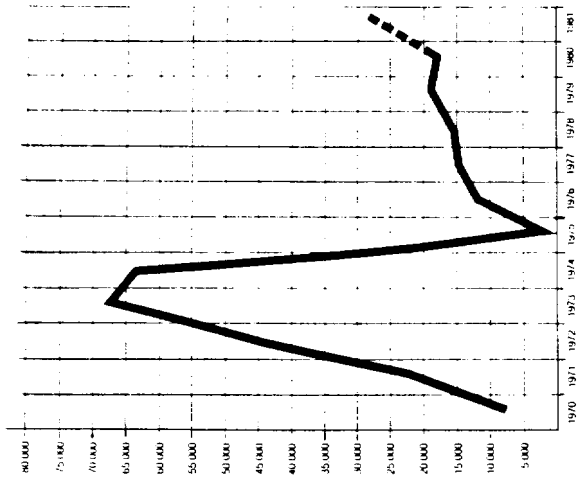
Church Membership & Festival Attendance



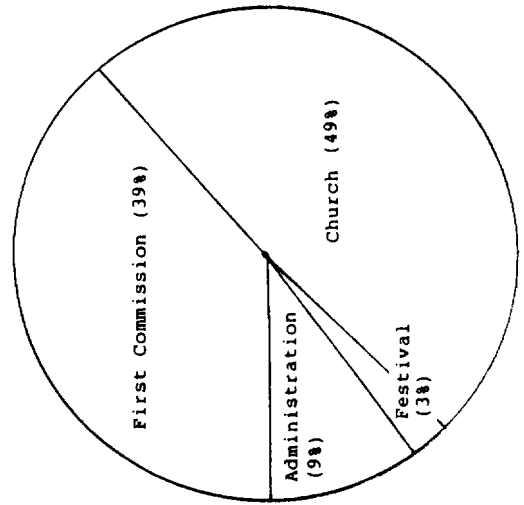
**Financial Information Expenditure 1981**

First Commission (71%)	\$1,38,650
Church (14%)	\$27,144
Festival Expenses (2%)	\$3,936
General Administration (13%)	\$25,940
<b>Total Expenses - \$195,000</b>	

Note: Work in Scandinavia incurs little overheads since it is operated from the U.K. directly.



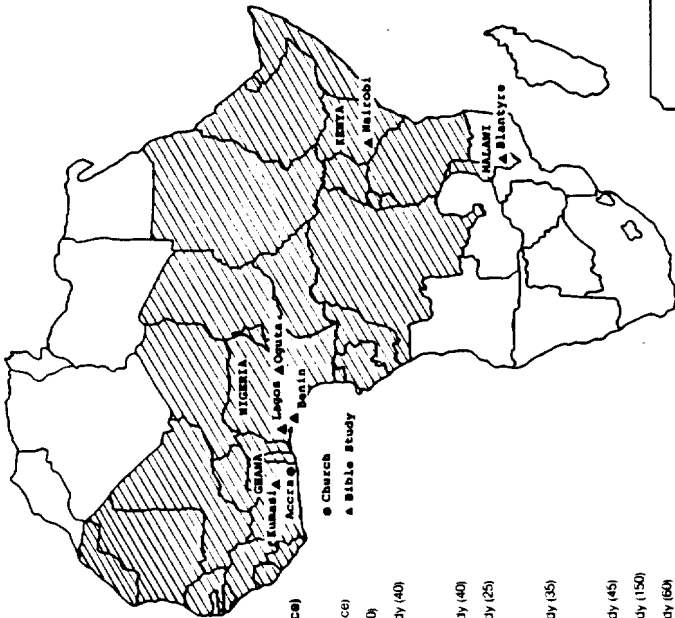
The Plain Truth  
Subscriber Circulation



Financial Information Expenditure 1981

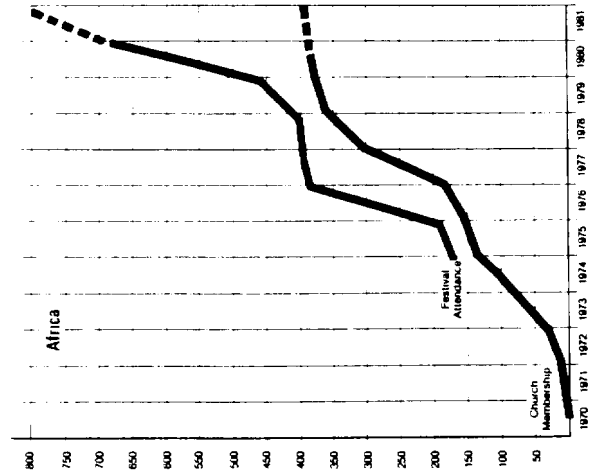
First Commission (39%)	\$2,008,077
Church (49%)	\$2,640,786
Festival (3%)	\$15,841
General Administration (9%)	\$540,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,377,544</b>

Black Africa - 1970-1981

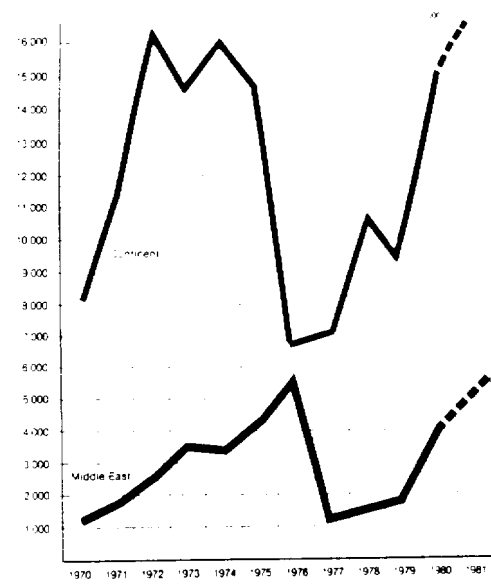
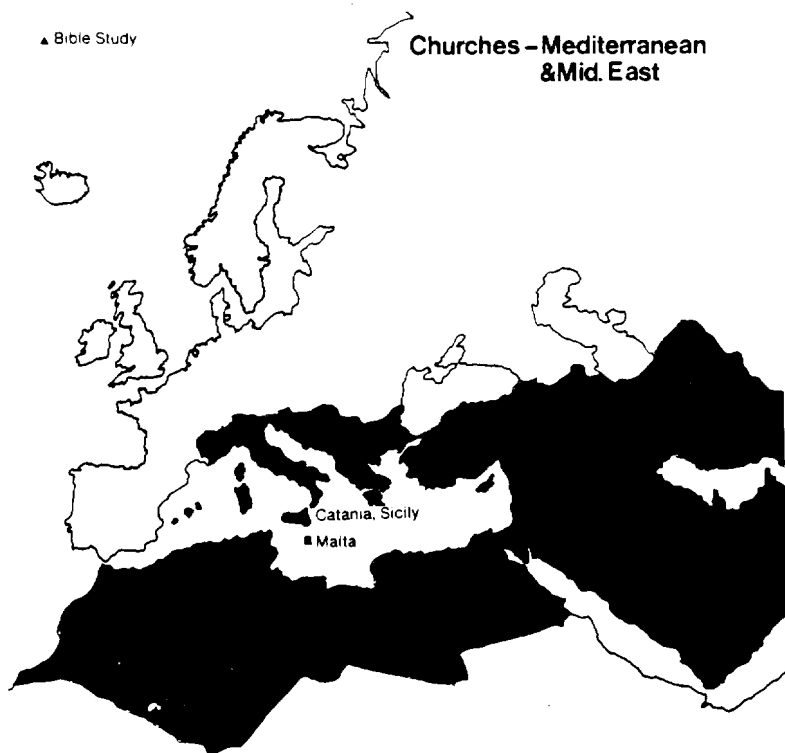


Church/Minister/Attendance

Ghana:	Church (Attendance)	Church (Attendance)
Accra	M. Rhodes	Church (90)
Kumasi	M. Rhodes	Bible Study (40)
Kenya:	Pastor	
Meru	O. Willis	Bible Study (40)
Nairobi	O. Willis	Bible Study (25)
Malawi:	Pastor	
Blantyre	O. Willis	Bible Study (35)
Nigeria:	Pastor	
Benin	L. Edalere	Bible Study (45)
Legos	L. Edalere	Bible Study (150)
Oguta	L. Edalere	Bible Study (60)



Church Membership &  
Festival Attendance



The Plain Truth—  
Subscriber Circulation

Mediterranean, Mid-East and  
Rest of English-Speaking Europe  
1970-1981

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Camping at Big Sandy Feast Site (PLEASE ANNOUNCE)

Anyone wishing to camp at the Big Sandy feast site who has not yet turned in an application should do so immediately. Those transferring to Big Sandy should mail their applications to: Worldwide Church of God, P.O. Box 866, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, Attention: Mr. James Duke.

Campsites must be assigned prior to the Feast, not upon arrival. All booths have been assigned; no more are available. Camping forms are available from your local Feast Advisor.

Impact of Y.E.S. on Hall Rental

In the near future all church pastors worldwide will be receiving the Y.O.U. Manual and in September the youth will begin receiving the first Y.E.S. lessons. The Y.O.U. Manual has instructions on conducting monthly evaluation meetings to review the Y.E.S. assignments for each level.

Before these instructions reach you, we felt it would be best to discuss the topic of sabbath hall rental as it relates to the Y.E.S. evaluation meetings. It is intended that these meetings will not require any additional hall rental. Since by policy they cannot be held during services, these meetings could be held in the main meeting hall either before or after services and thus not require the renting of additional rooms.

If you feel you will need to spend more for hall rental in order to implement the Y.E.S. program, please write to Ministerial Services (or the appropriate

Regional Office) requesting approval before doing so. As you can easily imagine, the impact on the budget would be immense if everyone increased their hall rent in order to provide classrooms. (For example: a \$10 weekly increase for every church in the U.S. would cost \$183,000 in a year's time.)

Where extra hall rental is needed we will give approval this year if the budget permits. If more is needed than the budget can allow, we will try to obtain sufficient budget for it in the 1982 fiscal year.

### International News

From Manila, Philippines This month completed the 19th year since the office of God's Work in the Philippines was established by Mr. Gerald Waterhouse in July 1962. While there was no official celebration of the event, it was inspiring to realize that God's Work here is beginning another 19-year cycle. It looks like an auspicious start as July presented a 34% increase in income compared with the same month last year. The year-to-date increase is a healthy 20.5%.

Another highlight of this month was the visit to Manila by Mr. William Sidney, the Financial Services officer of the Australian office of God's Work. He spent over a week here helping the local office in setting up a more effective office and financial system.

So far nine Filipino ministers, with their wives, have attended the Ministerial Refresher Program in Pasadena since March. The Philippine ministry and the brethren appreciate the Pasadena office's help in financing the travel and accommodations of the ministers and their wives on the refresher program.

From the Dutch Office The most important event at the end of July and August 1st this year was the opportunity for the Dutch-speaking brethren to see and hear Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong in person when he visited Bonn, West Germany. For most of them this was the first opportunity ever. Needless to say, enthusiasm was at an all-time high! Except for a few widows and some of the smaller children, all three of the Dutch-speaking congregations from Belgium and Holland came by bus and car to Bonn.

On July 31st (the day Mr. Armstrong entered his 90th year) Mr. Bram de Bree presented to Mr. Armstrong an overview of the history, present status and future plans of the Dutch language area of God's Work.

As the Dutch language PLAIN TRUTH circulation keeps increasing (current subscription 26,659), God has also blessed His Work financially this month. July shows a year-to-date increase of 43.57% in income. Church attendance increased 32% in July.

From Australia This month saw a significant surge forward in carrying out the Great Commission in Australia. Following Mr. Armstrong's decision while he was here in May, our advertising agents contracted with 15 radio stations to air the half-hour World Tomorrow radio program daily! This is a substantial increase in radio power and coverage, reaching people who usually do not listen to radio on Sundays, but who are more inclined to tune in weekdays. The additional 15 stations currently airing the program weekly will go daily as time becomes available.

Responses are continuing to come in from The World Tomorrow program currently being aired over 28 TV stations. Mr. Armstrong's series on the "great image" and the "four beasts" of Daniel 2 and 7 is receiving very favourable comments. The World Tomorrow program is slotted into the usual lineup of religious programs aired by most TV stations on Sunday mornings, so the contrast of The World Tomorrow message and presentation to its competitors is striking to those who regularly view it.

The PLAIN TRUTH: Printing of The PLAIN TRUTH has now been moved from Singapore to Australia. Beginning with the September issue the magazine will be printed by John Sands Ltd. of Sydney. John Sands is the oldest and one of the most prestigious printing firms in Australia. Its Artarmon plant, where they are printing The PLAIN TRUTH, has over 500 employees and a vast array of modern web-fed offset presses designed to print our kind of magazine. They base their reputation on quality and have assured us the magazine in Australia and Asia will once again become the finest quality magazine of its kind.

Each month they will print 100,000 copies of the 48-page edition for our Australian readers, 50,000 copies of the 32-page international edition for our readers in Asia, and 150,000 copies of the 32-page newsstand edition. This makes us one of John Sand's largest and therefore most valued customers. Not many other customers in Australia place orders for such a large volume of printing on a regular basis as we are doing.

The PLAIN TRUTH will be mailed out for us by one of the major mailing firms that does millions of dollars worth of business annually with the Australian Post Office. This will bring about a major improvement in delivery time to our subscribers. Also, a special postage rate is being negotiated with the post office which will allow us to mail out the magazine for 10¢ per copy, rather than at the regular rate of 27¢, saving us \$180,000 a year in postage.

Mail and Income: Despite nationwide transport and postal strikes which have seriously disrupted mail deliveries, we received 21,175 letters this month-- a 28.8% increase over the same month last year. However, income for the month was very low showing an increase of 6.8% over July of last year. This low figure largely reflects the wave of uncertainty that has swept the country as a result of widespread strikes in many industries which have left supermarket shelves depleted and thousands temporarily out of work. Mr. Armstrong's latest coworker letter, which informs the membership of a similar income problem in the United States, was mailed out in the last few days of the month. Responses to it should produce an encouraging boost in income for next month.

#### Appreciation for the Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I would like to send you our love and greetings by means of this letter, wishing you every success in everything you do every day the way it has been from the beginning and will continue always so to be.

Many thanks, Mr. Armstrong, for having allowed us the opportunity to attend the Ministerial Refresher Program in January of this year! It was a wonderful blessing to have received a treasury of basic teachings for the carrying out of the work of the ministry. In the meetings we



were able to clearly see how God has once again turned His sight toward leading His Church--the Church of the Living God--by breathing in of an environment of love and support from all the men under you--everyone working with one mind in this stage of the Church's spiritual renewal!

We are now seeing the fruits of the Ministerial Refresher Program, of the teachings we received. All the benefit we derived has helped us in counseling, helping, guiding and better serving those whom God has placed in His Church and whom He is now calling here in southeast Mexico.

We would also like to deeply thank all the people who made this course possible: Mr. Tkach, Mr. Walker, the teaching staff, translators and all those who in whatever service made it possible to carry out the Ministerial Refresher Program.

Mr. Armstrong, we want to let you know of our total support in everything you do now and in the future. We continually pray to God that He will grant you spiritual and physical strength. We're with you Mr. Armstrong!

Daniel and Maricruz Vazquez  
(Translated from original Spanish)

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Warm greetings from Guadalajara, Jalisco (state), Mexico! My wife and I would like--through this letter--to thank you for the fantastic privilege afforded us of attending the Ministerial Refresher Program. We were in on session number seven, which took place while you were preaching the powerful message of the Kingdom of God in the Philippines.

During the almost four weeks we were in Pasadena we had classes full of information and extremely valuable material which has been of great benefit to us. In addition, we had the opportunity to meet ministers from different parts of the world in person, and were able to sense the unity and harmony which prevails among the ministry of the Church. We were impressed by the beautiful and well-maintained buildings, gardens and facilities of the College, as well as by the behavior and genuine happiness of the students. It was all deeply inspiring! Thank you very much for such a wonderful opportunity!

Salvador and Maria Barragan  
(Translated from original Spanish)

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Pat and I just wanted to give our thanks to the entire Ministerial Services team for their efforts in making our refresher program so successful. It seemed like the three weeks just whisked by because of the flurry of scheduled classes and activities.

Having gone to college in Big Sandy, this was the first time we had been to Pasadena long enough to get to know where everything is on campus. That truly helps in knowing who to contact in order to get any necessary information. It is also nice to meet the people in Ministerial Services, who up to now have just been a voice on the other end of the phone.

Thank you as well, Mr. Tkach, for your example of drive and service for the good of others--namely those of us in the field who do need encouragement, admonition, and support. It appears that God is working it out where He has people in key positions who exemplify what it means to be "converted"--which is the example all of us need to be following and setting for others in our care.

A comment I overheard at Sabbath brunch from one of the college girls reflects a right spirit being taught at AC. She had been asked who was speaking today at services. Her reply was, "God is, but I don't know which minister He will be using today." I thought that was an excellent response.

Thanks again for the entire program. It truly is the best effort we have seen to help us all speak unitedly, support God's Work and God's chosen Apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Joe and Pat Dobson

### Ambassador Chorale Sets Fine Example

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

What a wonderful treat our churches in Northern California had during the Days of Unleavened Bread this year. We were visited by the Ambassador Chorale for three days!

I want you to know how well they represented you and the Ambassador way of life while they were here. Many members have called to express thanks for the opportunity to have these fine students in their homes as guests. The music was superb and the Chorale showed a great deal of talent and professionalism. As Steve Martin remarked during the concert, "They certainly can radiate an unmistakable freshness and vitality from the stage."

I think that both Mr. McNair and Mr. Schroeder should be complimented for the work they are doing in your behalf at Ambassador College. As "Ambassadors" for you, they are doing an outstanding job! Thank you very much for allowing them to visit the San Francisco Bay Area.

Ed Mauzey

### Comments From Monthly Church Reports

OMAHA, NE--ARTHUR W. DOCKEN: Members are encouraged by the growth of the Work and the positive directions taken by Mr. Armstrong. They continue to be amazed by his dynamic example. Planning two PT lectures--one in Lincoln and one in Omaha. I have had lectures in every city and large town in the area with the exception of Omaha.

AUSTIN, TX--HAROLD J. RHODES: Attitudes of the people are good overall. Happy over financial stability of the Church and excited about Mr. Armstrong's plans to increase radio and TV. People are always concerned and interested in Mr. Armstrong's health.

HOUSTON (NORTH), TX--JOHN OGWYN: Things are running well. Good PM activity and a positive attitude on behalf of the people toward the Work. Growth and good news from HQ have been exciting to them.

CINCINNATI (EAST), OH--LESLIE McCULLOUGH: We are beginning to have some new people in attendance as a result of some of the WATS line calls. On the initial visits they prove to be very new, but a few of them have come along quite rapidly. There are quite a number of favorable comments about the telecast. Everyone is encouraged by the way Mr. Armstrong continues to work so hard.

KANSAS CITY, KS--BRUCE GORE: We are having an increase lately in new PM's and baptismal requests. I feel Mr. Armstrong's telecast in the area is beginning to have an impact.

AMARILLO, TX--JIM O'BRIEN: Surprising number of new PM visit requests. PM activity is starting to pick up, which is very encouraging since we have never had any since I have been here and probably several years drought prior to my arrival. We desperately need a local broadcast or telecast--the nearest broadcast comes from about 500 miles away. The broadcasts and telecasts Mr. Armstrong is doing are great; hopefully we can share more closely in them.

TONASKET, WA--GERALD R. FLURRY: This area seems to be getting more interested people. We're working with close to half a dozen new people! Some in this area are focused on personal survival. We're working to balance them out while helping them to focus on God!

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA--LES McCOLM: The Church is filling up with very active young people. Many of the newer ones are making the Bible studies very interesting because they are asking questions that prompted most of us when we were first converted.

PRESCOTT, AZ--JOHN AMOS: Marriage problems still seem to be the main "church" problem, but progress is very much evident. The usual employment problems exist in this area. Membership morale is very high though and attendance is excellent in both Sabbath services and Bible studies. I have baptized seven people since the first of the year, so the Church as a whole is growing in number and quality.

ROANOKE, VA--ROBERT PERSKY: PM activity is beginning to increase. There is a constant flow of people moving into and out of the area. The face of the Church is slowly changing in personality just by people moving. People in the Church are very dedicated. The whole Church drove by bus or car 250 miles to hear Mr. Armstrong at Charlotte. Trials are increasing among the brethren--health, job, personal over-coming.

AUGUSTA, GA--JOHN RITENBAUGH: Mr. Armstrong's visit to Charlotte, N.C. was deeply appreciated. It has been THE topic of conversation among the brethren. It was his first visit ever to this area at a time other than the Feast, and the first time since the Feast of 1976. The brethren were all remarking how sharp and quick of mind and speech he is and how good he looks. His visit here has without a doubt inspired and encouraged and helped us to put our hearts more zealously into our prayers.

GREENVILLE, S.C.--RON JAMESON: The brethren were greatly encouraged and inspired to have Mr. Armstrong visit our part of the country and to

have the opportunity to hear and see him in person. Likewise the ministers and their wives deeply appreciated the hour of instruction and encouragement from Mr. Armstrong before services.

RUSSELLVILLE, AR--KEN MATTSON: About one-third of the Church traveled to Lake of the Ozarks May 30 to hear Mr. Armstrong. Many enthusiastic comments about God's continued guidance which was clearly evident. A big boost for those who went and the rest who heard about it later.

FORT WORTH, TX--BOB SMITH: Mr. Armstrong's travels, the continuing growth of the Work, encouraging messages via Mr. Armstrong's tapes and Dean Blackwell's visit to the area all spark interest.

LITTLE ROCK, AR--FRED KELLERS: Everyone appreciated the sermon by Mr. Armstrong. Wish we could get all the sermons he gives at Pasadena.

HAMMONTON, NJ--VINCE PANELLA: Church is becoming more HQ-oriented. Some new PM's show a high level of interest. Church is still buzzing over Mr. Waterhouse's message. Many are stirred up; can't estimate the value of his ministry; it is extremely beneficial. Thanks for sending him.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

#### MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

##### August 16th TV Program Brought Highest Response This Summer

"Prelude to World Peace," which aired last weekend, produced a 34% increase over the summer weekend average, making it the highest response for this summer.

Reasons for the increase in calls include advertising the booklet UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY (which usually generates a high response) and Mr. Armstrong's personal comments on the events in the Middle East, including the Work's involvement in President Sadat's World Peace Center project.

##### Calls for The PLAIN TRUTH Increase 67% in July

July telephone calls requesting The PLAIN TRUTH increased 67%. We received 1,300 calls compared to 780 coming in during an average month. Many of these first-time callers had seen the magazine on a newsstand, in a waiting room or read a friend's copy.

Most of these subscription requests were sparked off by the August issue, mailed in mid-July. Many callers commented on this issue, especially the article on venereal disease, "The New Silent Epidemic."

##### Firstfruits From WALL STREET JOURNAL Ads

Though Mr. Armstrong's WALL STREET JOURNAL ads were not intended to try to convert people, we are beginning to see some fruit. Of the more than 11,000 who initially responded, one person has become a baptized member of the Church; another is a prospective member; four people have become coworkers; 75 have become donors; 137 take the Correspondence Course; nine receive The GOOD NEWS; and 3,672 subscribe to The PLAIN TRUTH.

Weekly Letter Comments

The August issue of The PLAIN TRUTH generated more-than-usual interest. Especially commented on was the article entitled, "How Should Children be Born?" Below are some of the comments received.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center.

Comments About August PT

What a wonderful and warm article written by Jeff Calkins in the August PLAIN TRUTH entitled, "How Should Children be Born?" As a firm believer in home-oriented birth experiences, I was delighted to see the well-written article and the pictures shared by Jackie Knapp. You may receive some negative "flack" from others, but I just had to praise Mr. Calkins on his research and positive approach to natural childbirth.

My husband shared our daughter's birth standing beside me, and we wouldn't trade the togetherness for any alternate method. The article brought back the emotions we felt at the birth, such as the elation and joy at our new arrival.

Mrs. K.S. (So. Portland, ME)

I would like to thank The PLAIN TRUTH editors for such a wonderful magazine and for the article by Jeff Calkins, "How Should Children be Born?" It's such an inspiring article.

I am a mother of two children. As I read the article, I realized how much I missed at the birth of my two children and how unconcerned some doctors are in today's society. I experienced fear, neglect and confusion with both children, while my husband stayed in the waiting room for long periods. My first baby was delivered with the use of forceps. They left bruises on his head....

I just hope all mothers and mothers-to-be can read this beautiful article so they can see how God Almighty intended childbirth to be.

D.W. (Sissonville, WV)

Please remove my name from your mailing list. The article by Mr. Calkins is insulting to the "Medical Childbirth Establishment," and since I am a part of it I find your advice on childbirth dangerous to my patients in the waiting room (specially the advice of Dr. Mendelsohn).

From two MDs (Chicago, IL)

I want to thank all of those responsible for the very fine and timely articles in the latest PLAIN TRUTH, especially the one on venereal disease. I was not totally aware of the seriousness of this disease. As a nation, we are really beginning to reap the whirlwind.

L.W. (Harrison, AR)

Congratulations on an excellent article, "The New Silent Epidemic," in the August PLAIN TRUTH. As Educator/Counselor for our clinic, I was glad to see such excellent coverage of STDs (sexually transmissible diseases) in a family magazine. Even here in rural Nebraska the number of cases is staggering. (The article on teenage pregnancy was equally good.) We would appreciate one or two copies of your booklet, THE

SILENT EPIDEMIC, to help in the crusade to educate our clients, the community and the schoolchildren we see at our programs.

G.D. (Columbus, NE)

I really enjoyed the article, "What Your Garbage Reveals About You!" in your August issue. It was an excellent article. I don't normally read The PLAIN TRUTH because it's my Dad's magazine. I think everybody should take their garbage seriously. I'm only nine years old, but I think they should. This article has made me a new reader of The PLAIN TRUTH.

M.V. (Kalamazoo, MI)

### ON THE WORLD SCENE

PESTS THREATEN U.S. FOOD SUPPLY, FORESTS This past weekend it happened: The dreaded Mediterranean fruit fly broke out of coastal containment and implanted itself in the world's single most productive farming region, California's San Joaquin Valley. If it spreads--and no one can say for certain now whether it will, but it looks bad--it would deliver a calamitous blow to the state's \$14 billion agriculture industry.

California alone produces about half of America's fresh fruits and vegetables. And three states--California, Texas and Florida--produce 69%. Florida too, is battling an infestation of the same pest (probably imported from California).

The Medfly, slightly smaller than the common housefly, can destroy 250 different types of soft-skinned fruits and vegetables. The female lays its eggs (300 to 1,000 during a breeding cycle) underneath the skin of the host. The eggs develop into larvae, which feed on the fruit causing it to rot and drop off (note Deuteronomy 28:40). Larvae change to pupae in the surrounding soil, and soon prolific adults take to the air.

The pest spreads like wildfire, though it depends upon help, usually from humans (carrying infected contraband fruit) to get beyond its limited range. Officials are convinced that humans transported the pest into the western edge of the valley from the San Francisco Bay. People have not proved overly cooperative in the quarantine procedures. Dismayed police at roadblocks on major highways have reported seeing people skirting around the checkpoints on frontage roads, taunting the officers by holding fruit outside rolled-down windows!

California has been fighting the latest infestation for 14 months. Governor Jerry Brown first bowed to largely affluent, more naturalist-oriented urban dwellers in the Santa Clara Valley by refusing to spray with the pesticide malathion. He chose instead to try to eradicate the pest by tree-stripping and releasing irradiated sterile male Medflies in order to break the breeding cycle. This procedure had worked twice previously in the Los Angeles area. But the sterile-fly program is a chancy and drawn out one. The Bay Region is a more critical region since it lies much closer to the gateway into the central valley.

In the Bay Region the "naturalist" approach simply did not work. (Curiously, two men were arrested in Santa Cruz County for threatening to shoot down spraying helicopters. They claimed the spray damaged the ecological system of the crops they were growing. It turns out the "crops" were marijuana and

hallucinogenic mushrooms. That's California for you!) Governor Brown, had he known it, had only two real alternatives--pray or spray. Or rather, pray and pay, or spray. ("Bring the full tithes into the storehouse...I will rebuke the devourers for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil"--Malachi 3:10,11, RSV.)

In the end, pressure by the federal government forced the governor to spray infected areas with malathion. It will be a very tough fight. Officials are optimistic at the moment while they wait to see if they interrupted the fly in the infected Stanislaus County region in the middle of its 30-day breeding cycle. The Medfly is indeed a formidable foe. It is specially designed, it seems, to do its destructive work. Experts call it "the shark of the insect world."

On America's east coast, gypsy moth caterpillars wrought a record amount of damage in 1981. The pests ate the leaves off trees covering at least nine million acres from Maine to Maryland--twice the defoliation of the previous year. "This is the greatest defoliation or infestation that has ever been recorded in the Northeastern United States," says a U.S. forestry official. Next year will be as bad or even worse. There have been indications lately that the gypsy moths were spreading across the nation, with minor infestations reported in Virginia and West Virginia.

Trees affected by the moths grow back their leaves next year, giving a false impression of recovery. However, the trees are weakened by the initial attack, making them subject to disease and other pests. Note Deuteronomy 28:42--"All your trees and the fruit of your ground the locust shall possess." (And it might be good to read the first chapter of the book of Joel.)

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau