

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 3, NO. 35

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 28, 1981

REBIRTH OF BIG SANDY

Ambassador College at Big Sandy has been BORN
AGAIN! And what a glorious resurrection!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

What an exciting start! The Big Sandy campus came alive with a burst of love, harmony, dedication!

Ambassador at Big Sandy, Texas, is only a two-year junior college at present (though it may become more within the first two years)--but it started off with one of the most enthusiastic and joyful starts of any year at any of the three Ambassador campuses of the past thirty-four years.

Orientation of students began Friday, August 21st. The faculty-student reception began the preceding evening. Most students already were registered by that time. The opening activities continued on past the Sabbath, August 22nd. Brethren from a number of surrounding churches came for the Sabbath service, with perhaps the largest attendance ever gathered together at Big Sandy except at the Feast of Tabernacles. Brethren of the entire area seemed overjoyed that the Big Sandy campus had come alive again. Rejoicing permeated the air. And God blessed the air with beautiful weather. Some 4,000 attended the Sabbath service.

Mrs. Armstrong and I, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fahey, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Neff, Mrs. Ruth Nestor, Mrs. Rona Martin and Mr. Mel Olinger flew over in the G-II jet Thursday. Crew members Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Dean also attended the various activities.

Thursday evening at 7 p.m. the faculty-student reception was held in the registration building adjoining the feast site. I made a very short introductory speech of welcome to the new students. Then the new freshmen came by one by one to shake hands with Mrs. Armstrong and me. We were more than well impressed by the evident quality of the new students. They were beaming. Had not the decision been made to reopen the Big Sandy campus they could not have become Ambassador students. They seemed thrilled and overjoyed at the blessing God had opened for them.

Then the sophomores came by for a handshake. One year at Ambassador, Pasadena campus, showed its fruits in their faces and manners. I'm sure they will set a fine example for the new freshmen as Ambassador students.

Then the faculty came by. And what a capable, loyal and competent faculty they are! And all are members of God's Church!

Following the reception we looked in for a few moments at the beginning of a student dance in the beautiful dining hall. Then a private dinner in the faculty dining room with our party and the officials of the new college.

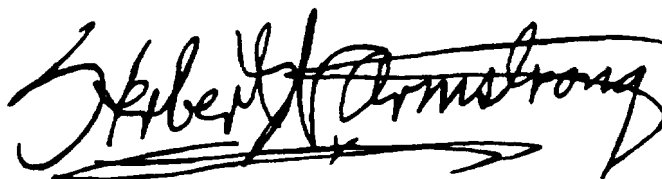
Friday morning was orientation for students. I spoke, after introduction of faculty members, to the students.

There was a faculty luncheon in the faculty dining room. Again I spoke briefly to the faculty. In the afternoon there was a meeting in the Science Auditorium with campus employees, whom I addressed for about an hour. Friday evening Mr. Neff took the Bible study.

Sabbath we had an overflow attendance at the afternoon service. The large auditorium was completely filled. Also the dining room, piped in with speakers. Also one or two other rooms were filled. It seemed all faces were beaming.

Friday evening there was a dinner for ministers and wives from the surrounding area--some seventy or eighty people. I spoke briefly, giving an update on the Work from Pasadena.

Then the grand finale, a concert in the main auditorium, conducted by Mr. Roger Bryant, the new chorale director and his wife, and Mrs. Ruth Walter. Mr. Bryant is a professional tenor. I heard he has performed with the San Francisco Opera Company. His wife is a concert pianist. The two women pianists played a two-piano duet, after each had played solo, and Mr. Bryant had sung several arias. The concert was a happy ending of a most happy and inspiring beginning!



NEWS FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

Here are some statistics through July that were prepared for Mr. Armstrong by Richard Rice's area. Overall, they show that in the United States we are sowing far more seed than last year. But the drop in Co-workers shows that the lack of seed sowing in previous years has had an effect. By praying the Lord of the harvest for a good crop and increasing our media efforts to get the seed to the field, we are expecting that figure to increase in the future. From time to time we will keep you updated.

<u>Mail and WATS Calls</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Mail Received	1,267,812	1,463,325	15.4%
WATS Calls	101,739	152,963	50.3%

<u>New Names Added to File</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>% Change</u>
PT Subscriptions	15,884	129,423	714.8%
PT Newsstands	74,262	125,235	68.6%
Television	17,442	54,074	210.0%
Radio	11,468	14,195	23.8%
Newspaper Ads	16	8,669	---
*Total New Names Added to File	261,044	549,775	110.6%

Magazine Circulation (July)

PT Subscriptions	830,658	1,094,618	31.8%
PT Newsstands	650,000	1,100,000	69.2%
GOOD NEWS	78,141	78,277	0.2%
WORLDWIDE NEWS	38,827	36,631	-5.7%
YOUTH 81	0	15,649	---

Literature Requested

Books	46,177	145,393	214.9%
Booklets	1,285,051	947,405	-26.3%
Reprints and Reprint Series	522,271	93,681	-82.1%
*Total Literature Requested	2,639,600	2,445,653	-7.3%

Contributors

Members	35,121	35,881	2.2%
Co-workers	29,894	24,421	-18.3%
Donors	38,348	34,675	-9.6%
*Total Contributors	104,455	95,992	-8.1%

File Counts

Members	50,421	51,139	1.4%
Co-workers	40,748	35,895	-11.9%
Donors	57,517	50,788	-11.7%
Regular Subscribers	652,298	1,021,193	56.6%

*Total includes all categories, some of which are not listed.

Letter Comments About Mr. Armstrong's Visit to Bonn

We are extremely thankful for the tremendous interest you have shown our language area despite the workload you are carrying in the Great Commission. Your trip here was for us much more than just a "visit"--it was living proof of your love and concern for each one of us. Once again you have given us a poignant example of what it means to care for the Church in the service of Jesus Christ. Your inspiring words have

strengthened us and given us the encouragement we need to fight our daily battles. Please come again soon! We are already looking forward to seeing and hearing you again.

W. & I.S. (Thun, Switzerland)

Words cannot express the appreciation felt in hearing that very important message God had for us, expounded by you as Christ's Apostle. Your presentation of the Gospel and the overview of God's purpose for putting man on the earth was indeed powerful and so very inspiring. Never before have I understood it in such a crystal clear way. It was a message which I feel really stirred us up to be the more diligent Christians we ought to be. What a fantastic privilege it is to be called by God now!

I feel that your trips to the many church areas around the world are of deep significance and brethren all over gain tremendous benefit from your visits. Seeing and hearing you in person really gives us a spiritual boost, brings us closer to you and in turn God, as well as motivates us to pray even more fervently for you and the many tasks you have to fulfill each day within the Great Commission God has called you to do. It helps us to support you in a more effective way and work harder spiritually in our various roles within the Body of Christ.

S.K. (Konstanz, West Germany)

Thank you so much for coming to Bonn and bringing us the new message personally. It was wonderful to see and hear you "live." One feels now to be much closer to headquarters and also gets a stronger consciousness of "a building fitly framed together."

It was so evident on that day how God blessed the event and worked miracles to make sure that everything went perfectly well, from your strong appearance to the uplifting atmosphere among the people in the hall.

It is marvelous to have that new insight about our access to the tree of life and about the three kinds of knowledge that man has to have in order to live successfully. One does appreciate the gift of the Holy Spirit the more for it, and God's way of life gets even more attractive.

C.S. (Baden, Switzerland)

That was the most pleasant bus trip I ever made as I travelled to Bonn on the first of August. I am so thankful to have been able to see and hear you, God's Apostle, here in West Germany; so happy to have been able to come. I, too, pray for you and I thank our Lord Jesus Christ that I can know His Church and His Apostle in this end time. And I know that God speaks to us, His Church, through His Apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong. Only you proclaim the true Gospel! Thank you Mr. Armstrong! May God protect you and your wife.

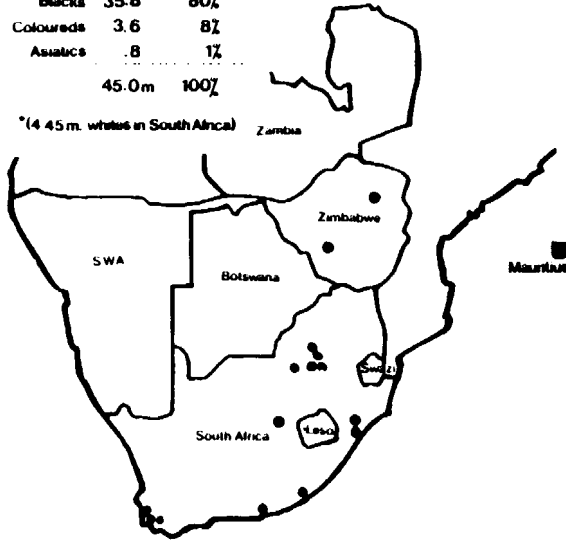
E.S. (Hamburg, West Germany)

Area Administered

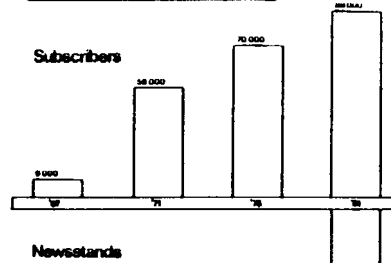
POPULATION BREAKDOWN 45 MILLION

Whites	4.8	11%
Blacks	35.8	80%
Coloureds	3.6	8%
Asiatics	.8	1%
	45.0m	100%

* (4.45 m. whites in South Africa)



Circulation Southern Africa



Churches

15 CONGREGATIONS

- Johannesburg 474
- Soweto 64
- Pretoria North 38
- Pretoria 124
- Durban 236
- Pietermaritzburg 84
- Cape Town 311
- Retreat 58
- Mitchell's Plain 94
- Funt Ekrabeth 86
- East London 75
- Salisbury 231
- Bulweroyo 165
- Richardsop 57
- Bloemfontein 55

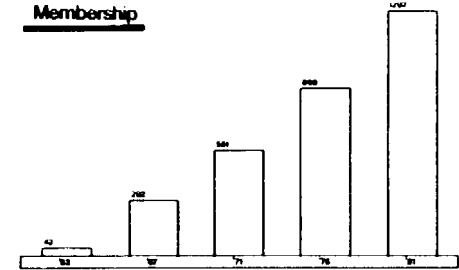
Average Sabbath Attendance 2152
Local Bible Study Attendance 717



Report to
Pastor General
Herbert W. Armstrong
on Gods Work
in Southern Africa

20th JULY 1981

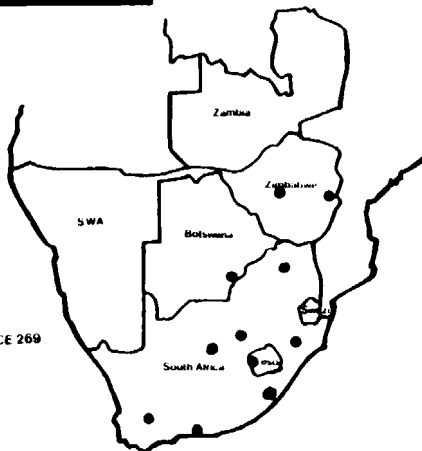
Membership



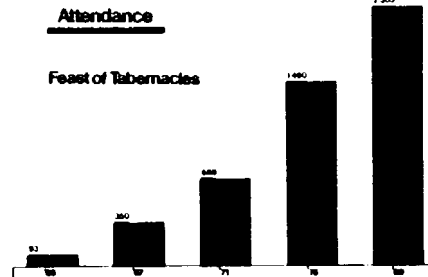
Outlying Bible Studies

- Pretersburg
- Newcastle
- George
- Worcester
- Kimberley
- Welkom
- Gwelo
- Umtali
- Umtata
- Maseru
- Gaberone

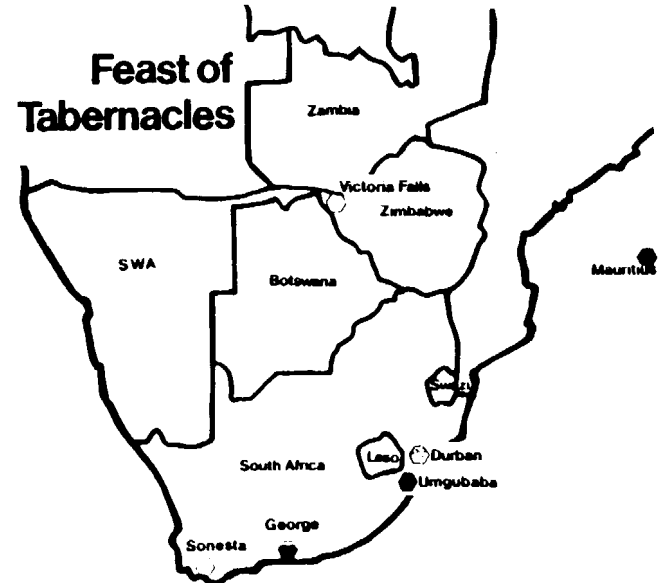
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 269



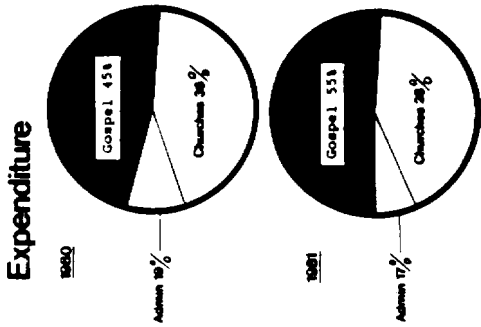
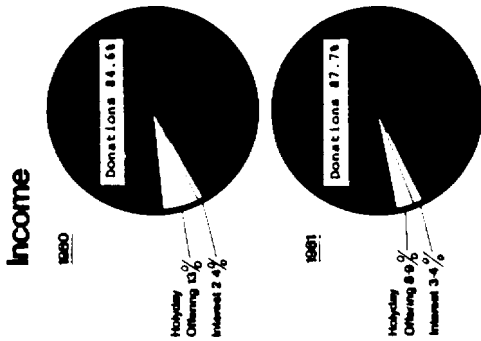
Attendance



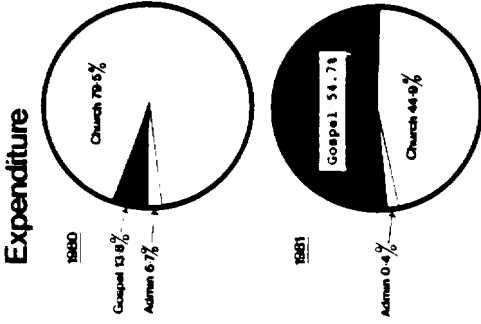
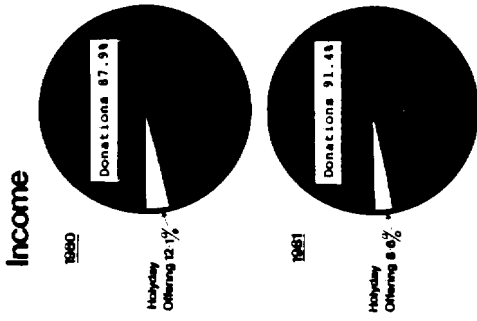
Feast of Tabernacles



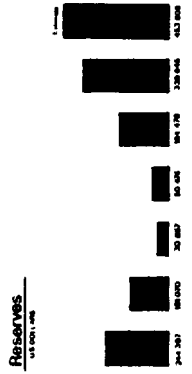
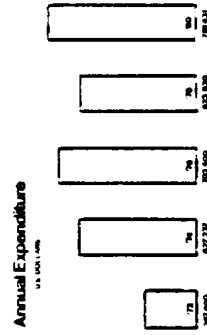
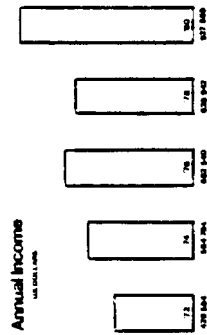
Operating Account South Africa



Operating Account Zimbabwe



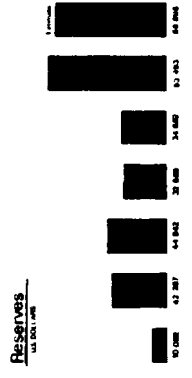
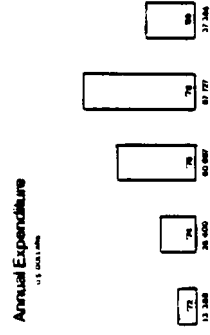
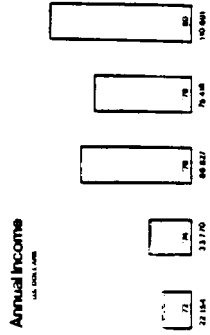
Operating Account South Africa



Zambia Mauritius

ZAMBIA	MAURITIUS
1026	PLAIN TRUTH Circulation 1360
29	Members 37
39	Attendance 65
16	Prospective Members 9
\$19 000	Finance/local account \$2 200

Operating Account Zimbabwe



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

****To Be Announced In All U.S. Churches****

SECOND TITHE ASSISTANCE

All member second tithe assistance requests should be handled through the local pastors before the Feast of Tabernacles. Members should not go to the feast without sufficient funds expecting assistance at the festival site. Only limited funds for genuine emergencies will be available at the festival location, and then only with the local pastor's recommendation.

Appreciation for the Ministerial Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Every week upon receiving the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT I was excited about reading it. I noticed that week after week there were numerous comments about the refresher program. After reading a couple of the comments I began to skip over them. But since I have been blessed to attend the 10th session, I now understand why so many have written to show their appreciation and thanks to our great God and you.

Several times I started to write and thank you but something would interfere. I would feel very undeserving and unworthy if I do not give thanks to God's Apostle, the instructors and participants for making the 10th session of the refresher program mentally stimulating and spiritually rewarding--truly a most memorable experience.

Dolphus Williamson

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you very much for allowing us to attend the 12th session of the Ministerial Refresher Program. We experienced a feeling of love and unity that was outstanding. Since many of the ministers were from other countries, the spirit of unity was intensified as we became acquainted with our brethren from other nations.

We felt especially blessed to have you there to speak to us last Wednesday. As I watched and listened to you speak, I realized that I was watching and hearing a miracle, as I think back and realize you were dead and God brought you back to LIFE to finish the job He has given you. So it was doubly inspiring when I witnessed what God has done, and is continuing to do through you.

Cecil and Ruth Green

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I have just returned last week to Germany from the United States having taken part in the 11th refresher program! We just wanted to drop you a note of deep appreciation for the opportunity to be instructed by men who are truly dedicated to doing God's Work! There was no question as to the unity of spirit and purpose that was evident among the ministry! We are thankful to be a small part of such a fine group of men and women.

The brethren in Switzerland are always anxious to hear about what you are doing and how you are feeling. We have assured them that God is most powerfully working through you. Everyone is anxious to see and hear you in Bonn on August first! Our prayers are with you daily.

Tom and Linda Lapacka

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Carol and I want to say thank you very much for instituting the Ministerial Refresher Program. We felt privileged to be a part of session 13. Your speaking to us on the state of the Work was truly the highlight of the program. We in the field have a real need to be able to touch base with headquarters. By hearing Church doctrine expounded by the evangelists makes our work easier because now we can return to our churches with confidence knowing that we are speaking the same thing. We deeply appreciate the love and concern you certainly show your sons and daughters in the ministry.

Vince and Carol Szymkowiak

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you so much for the Ministerial Refresher Program. It provided a boost of encouragement and a sense of direction and focus that we all needed. We were very grateful to have you in to speak to us just prior to your departure for England. A lot of planning and effort has been put into the refresher program, and I know it will be well worth it. Thanks also goes to Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Tkach, Mr. Neff, Dr. Hoeh and others who gave of their time, lectured, and spoke candidly on the subject at hand. We are looking forward to a repeat performance!

Ray A. Meyer

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

ALBUQUERQUE & FARMINGTON, NM--WALTER M. DICKINSON: Members are very receptive to information about Mr. Armstrong and headquarters. Are immensely impressed with progress they see being made both spiritually and in doing the Work. They feel reassured by the stability and God-directed effort they see in all areas of the Work.

GARDEN GROVE, CA--TERRY MATTSON: PM growth continues to be overwhelming! For everyone baptized a new PM replaces them. Brethren are excited about the growth because they can see it with their own eyes--transcending just statistics. Noticeable improvement in family relations. It's becoming more and more obvious that God is moving through Mr. Armstrong to fulfill Malachi 4:5-6. Almost everyone seems to be working for family unity.

PORTLAND (WEST), OR--DAN FRICKE: Mr. Armstrong's trips out to the churches and his exhortative articles are causing many in the Church to pick up steam now that the Church is back on the track. Member involvement in activities and new, quality PM's are exciting trends.

KNOXVILLE, TN--DAVID L. ORBAN: I was able to see Mr. Armstrong when he visited Charlotte, NC. He is truly an amazing and inspiring person. His love and service for the ministry and all the brethren are very much felt and commented on in conversation among the brethren.

PORTLAND (EAST), OR--JIM HAEFFELE: Outside of marriage and financial problems, the brethren overall are very loyal to the Work and trying to get their lives individually back on track with God. I'm very pleased with the growth and service I see from the majority of the brethren.

SEATTLE, WA--DENNIS LUKER: On the whole, people are excited about the Work and becoming more committed to becoming an active part in whatever way they can. Seems to be new stimulus in PM's. Still a lot of need for basics.

GLENDALE, CA--RONALD W. LAUGHLAND: Many contacts both from friends and Mr. Armstrong's broadcast are "asking questions." The straight-forward, plain-speaking program right from the Scriptures makes people take notice.

FORT WORTH, TX--BOB SMITH: All are appreciative of Mr. Armstrong's travels and encouraged by his continued ability to function so dramatically as he visits the church areas. Involvement in church activities continues well. Newsstand growth is exceptional.

MINNEAPOLIS (NORTH), MN--LEONARD SCHREIBER: The exceptional articles in The GOOD NEWS on family relations are producing fruit in this area. I have been urging families to use these as material for family Bible study.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MAIL PROCESSING CENTER UPDATE

Most Requested Booklet Offered on Telecasts This Year

THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY has been the most requested piece of literature offered on the telecasts this year. THE BOOK OF REVELATION UNVEILED AT LAST! was a close second. Both publications deal with end-time prophecy which is clearly a subject of great interest and concern to our viewing audience.

Below is a list of booklets Mr. Armstrong has advertised this year, along with the number of requests for each one.

<u>Literature</u>	<u>Total Requests</u>
The United States And Britain In Prophecy	14,503
The Book Of Revelation Unveiled At Last!	13,356
Just What Do You Mean...Kingdom Of God?	10,994
The Resurrection Was Not On Sunday	7,358

What Do You Mean...Salvation?	7,097
Just What Do You Mean--Born Again?	5,436
Why Were You Born?	5,311
What Is The True Gospel?	5,110
The Plain Truth About Easter	4,169
The Four Horsemen Of The Apocalypse	3,453
What Is The Reward Of The Saved?	3,378
Just What Do You Mean...Conversion?	<u>541</u>

Total 80,706

Weekly Letter Comments

This week's letter comments include support for Mr. Armstrong and appreciation for SEP.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

Support for God's Apostle

My wife and I are most appreciative of the constant outpouring of spiritual food we receive from you. We thank God for choosing you as His apostle in these end times, and for placing us under you in the Church.

I must confess that at times I have taken your steadfast obedience to Jesus Christ for granted. I have to remind myself that you endure the same pulls, desires and weaknesses that we do. But you overcome them by your hard work, yieldedness to God and by Christ's strengthening of you. Thus your example is a constant source of inspiration to us. We are 100% behind you.

M.F. (Tustin, CA)

I know God will continue to be with you, giving you understanding of His plan, for you are His true apostle. Your life has been dedicated to God's Church. You have filled the lives of many people with the hope and consolation of God's way of life. You are a lamp shining in the dark. May your light keep burning brightly with God's power and strength to overcome all things in the night.

H.P. (New Orleans, LA)

Appreciation for SEP

I would like to give special thanks to all those who made SEP a success. I have attended camp for three years now and this year was the best. One would think SEP could not get better, but somehow you find a way to improve it every year.

SEP taught me to reach for a spiritual goal, rather than a physical one. Everyone becomes your family there, and when you leave camp, you take a part of them with you--a part that will always remain. Thank you so very much for SEP and for helping teens to learn more of God's way of life.

A.M. (Spanishburg, WV)

We wanted to extend our special "thank you" for sharing yourself with our young people again this year at SEP, Orr, Minnesota. Mr. Armstrong, I thought you were kidding us when you say you are getting younger each year; but apparently not. When my 14-year-old son returned from the second session, he was asked how Mr. Armstrong appeared to him. His reply was, "Much younger than I expected. He came down those steps like a 13 year old." Of course, we were overjoyed to hear this because we know it takes God's Spirit to accomplish that; and it takes much Godly character in you for that Spirit to flow so freely. We love you for being such a tremendous example to God's people.

C.E. (Ellisville, MS)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

FUTURE TROUBLESPOT--PANAMA The death of Panama's General Omar Torrijos in a plane crash on July 31 has clouded the political future of this crossroads nation of the Americas--now the possessor of the vital Panama Canal, once America's pride and joy. Washington, understandably, is very concerned.

Torrijos had stepped down in 1978 from his role as head of government in Panama, a function he had held since a military coup d'etat ten years earlier. But his replacement, current president Aristides Royo, has been a mere figurehead. Torrijos, as commander of the National Guard, Panama's combined army and national police force, which is the nation's real power base, remained the tiny country's real boss.

As is common to most dictators, Torrijos groomed no successor. Writes R. M. Koster in the NEW YORK TIMES: "His great figure kept others out of the sun; no one in Panama has his authority or stature...It is not simply that a vast power vacuum has opened. Panama's center of gravity has suddenly vanished, and the country is liable to go reeling off in almost any direction."

Over the next few months there will be a struggle for power, not always publicly discernable, within the Guardia Nacional. Current front-runners may not win out in the end. Instead the victor may be some major or captain, unknown beyond the barracks. But eventually the bubble will rise to the surface.

Torrijos himself was at first a minor figure in the 1968 coup, but he had a shrewd political sense and a knack of playing forces off against each other. The "maximum leader" also had a keen sense of international political timing. To solidify his own revolution, he seized the issue of sovereignty over the U.S. Canal Zone at a moment when American power and prestige was at an ebb. The U.S., in 1968, was deeply enmeshed in Vietnam and confronted with anti-war demonstrations on American campuses. Earlier negotiations over the canal, begun by President Lyndon B. Johnson, had bogged down. Torrijos turned up the heat.

The big question is: What effect will the future leader have on operations of the Panama Canal, vital as ever to U.S. and international waterborne commerce? Will he take an anti-U.S. stance in order to consolidate his power base? He can always tap Panamanian frustrations, lying uneasily below the surface.

There is still lingering resentment in Panama of the canal treaties. The U.S. does not relinquish operational rights to the waterway until 2000.

After that, Washington, by treaty, reserves the right, hazily defined, to intervene militarily to protect the canal. This provision doesn't sit well with many pepper-hot Panamanian nationalists, jealous over their country's sovereignty.

American employees of the canal company--down to 2,130 from 3,591 the day the new treaties took effect October 1, 1979--are skeptical over the creeping Panamanianization of the enterprise. They are especially wary of what will happen after April 1, 1982, the day American police and judges no longer have authority in the former zone.

U.S. police have continued to function, side-by-side with Panama's National Guard during a 30-month transition period. The problem is that two police forces operate under differing philosophies and culturally-based mentalities. The Panamanian guardsmen act quicker; they arrest even for disrespect. Guardsmen operate under the Napoleonic code, under which people arrested are presumed guilty by virtue of their arrest. A defendant has to prove his innocence to the judge.

Operations of the canal itself are slowly deteriorating. Roads in the old zone have more potholes in them; the jungle is creeping over some of the once close-cropped lawns, especially in outlying residential areas. (Grass-cutting was not done only for the visual effect, but to control insects and snakes.) Officials are concerned over illegal tree cutting in watershed areas which are vital to maintaining year-round drain-off into the system's lakes and locks.

Maintenance suffers as skilled Americans leave. Those remaining simply don't have the old gung-ho. The 68-year-old canal ran as much on pride as anything else. With morale slipping, problems will grow--and the United States will be blamed, of course. Said an American engineer: "The canal is like an old car going down the road. The door falls off and you can keep going. But eventually it's going to stop."

Torrijos was no communist, despite what some of his critics in the U.S. claimed. He was, like most in the National Guard, a conservative nationalist. He did not tamper with Panama's thriving private commerce. In fact, during his time, he turned the country into a world banking capital; branches of 111 banks now operate there.

In the Americas, Torrijos walked a tightrope between the left and the right. (He was the only head of government to have maintained good relations with both Israel and Cuba.) Washington considered him somewhat of a moderating influence in the political cauldron of Central America, churned up by communist inroads in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

The politically astute Torrijos cleverly co-opted Panama's youthful leftists by making appropriate leftist rhetoric on the world stage in exchange for their pledge not to challenge him on the home front. He could, as one analyst put it, "fake right and go left, faint left and go right, with equal dexterity."

Torrijos, Panama's "strongman" came on the scene while America was weak. He wrestled the canal away when the U.S. Senate was left-of-center politically, more concerned with "what other nations think than of the U.S. national interest." Many senators who voted for the treaties have since paid a polit-

ical price--election defeats in 1978 and 1980. Had Mr. Reagan been in office between 1976-80 (he had made the canal an election issue in his unsuccessful 1976 bid for Republican nomination) no new treaties would have been forthcoming.

The WASHINGTON POST, while editorially recognizing Torrijos' stature among his own people, went too far in stating that the strongman "relieved the United States of an imperial burden that it had picked up in another age." It's as if one can thank a purse snatcher for relieving the owner of her "burden."

Columnist Patrick J. Buchanan lashed out at the liberal POST's denigrating idea of America's "imperial burden":

Yes, I suppose that is one way of remembering the final harvest of Manifest Destiny, of gazing upon one of the great engineering marvels of mankind, of reflecting upon the Age of Confidence, the Era of Teddy, the Republic that Never Retreats....

Like a fool and his money, a frivolous nation and its overseas possessions are soon parted. Great empires and little minds go ill together....

"Torrijos Is Buried Near Canal He Won for the Panamanian People." Reflect on that headline: It says much about what we call, respectfully, "The Third World." Much of the Third World does not erect; it does not create. It expropriates. The pioneer spirit replaced by the squatter mentality....

How can the Panamanian people take pride in what Torrijos "won"--when neither these people, nor their fathers, contributed the ingenuity, the vision, the wealth, the labor, the suffering that produced this wonder of the modern world? Without pride, is it any wonder the jungle is coming to reclaim the roads constructed and kept immaculate by the departing Americans? Civilization retreats; we call it progress.

The final chapters of the Panama Canal saga still remain to be written. The United States has already lost much, but with American engineers and soldiers still on the scene, future troubles are assured. The U.S. has not been totally kicked out of its isthmian birthright.

Author R. M. Koster, quoted earlier, said: "The only certainties for Panama's future are turmoil and unease."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau