

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

The latest income comparison figures for the U.S. have just been given to me by our accounting and budget area. This is the first such report for some time because of the Feast of Tabernacles. Since the Feast last year was at a slightly different time, according to the Roman calendar, we have not been able to make valid comparisons with last year's income for about a month until these new figures came in.

These new figures are very encouraging. The year-to-date increase as of October 31 is 22.1% over the same period in 1980. The Holy Day offerings during the Feast of Tabernacles were about 12% above last year's, which is somewhat lower but still good considering very good Holy Day offerings last year. I hope you are all continuing to ask God for continued good increases so we may continue to expand in radio, television, and publishing.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Ministerial Expense Allotment Year-end Review

Now is the time to review your expense allotment. When your allotment check is mailed it is sent in advance of projected expenses. At the end of the year, the total of all allotment checks will be added to your W-2 form as income.

Unless you can sufficiently justify to the IRS the business expenses that match the expense allotments sent you, you will end up having to pay the tax on it. In order to prevent this from happening you may want to review the record-keeping requirements of the IRS and make sure that you have the proper receipts and documentation.

The allotment check is only to be used for Church business expenses. If you have received more expense money than you actually spent, you should return the excess to the Church. We will need to receive the check no later than the middle of December in order to credit the amount to your W-2 statement. If we don't have it by then we can't be sure the necessary processing will get done. What this means is that you will need to approximate the balance of expenses for the rest of the year.

If you find that your allotment has exceeded your expense by a large amount, you may want to consider reducing the allotment. If you want to do this, please include a note to that effect with the check when you send it.

You should also review your festival expenses and return any unused festival allotment at this time. Please make separate checks for second tithe funds being returned and your regular allotment.

The changes that were requested on the recent ministerial expense review are still undergoing budgetary review. If we get the clearance, we will make those changes with the November check run.

Counseling Members About Planned Moves

Over the years we have had a perennial problem with some members unwisely moving from one area to another, causing both themselves and the Church considerable difficulty and becoming a financial burden to the Church. In this article we would like to review some of the major mistakes these members make so you will know how to better counsel them.

Hopefully, any member who is contemplating a major move will counsel to one degree or another with his pastor. While we can't demand that every member who is contemplating a move consult his pastor, if you hear that a member is planning a major move, it would be helpful to tactfully inquire of his plans. This is especially true if the individual is a little short on both financial resources and sound judgment. It is this type of person that causes most of the problems.

From extensive personal experience most ministers know a move can be very expensive, time consuming, and difficult. This is true even when you have a guaranteed job in the new area and your employer is paying most of the moving expenses. When individuals move without having carefully weighed the factors involved, without a job lined up in the new area or with only a tenuous prospect for a job, and without the proper financial resources, they are not only acting irresponsibly but are also courting a severe trial or aggravation of an already difficult situation.

Ministers have written and called in asking for advice when members have ended up on their doorsteps (literally) with no place to go, no job, little or no money, discouraged, disillusioned, disheartened and expecting the Church to bail them out and make everything all right. Even in this type of circumstance we should be willing to extend assistance if the individuals are in a right attitude, willing to recognize their mistakes and willing to do their part in getting their lives back on an even keel. (Always be sure to contact an individual's former pastor before giving someone a large sum of money. The former pastor's knowledge of their background will also help in future counseling.)

Ill-advised moves which end up in a financial debacle are expensive for the Church as well as painful for the individual involved. Our goal should be to avoid this type of problem by giving wise counsel to those who are likely to have problems. Sometimes those who are most likely to get themselves into difficulty are the same individuals who will not come to you for advice. This is why we suggest that where you feel an individual is lacking in wisdom, you may have to go to him and discuss the situation if you hear he is considering a move.

The following are some of the factors that should be carefully considered in evaluating the reasonableness and feasibility of moving:

1. Why is the individual moving? Will the move improve the situation? Is the individual trying to get away from problems he has created rather than dealing with them constructively?

2. Does the individual have a job lined up in the new area? If presently unemployed, has he realistically considered the job market in the new area?
3. Has the individual fully considered family and social factors? Experience has shown us that many individuals who move to unfamiliar areas far away from relatives and friends end up returning to their former areas.
4. Does the individual have the financial resources to make the move? Is the individual planning to receive financial help from the Church when he gets where he is going? If so, is this a proper expectation? Cost factors such as transportation of family and household goods, temporary living expenses while finding a place to live and until the first paycheck, first and last month's rent and deposits for housing and utilities, the cost of living in the new area, etc. should be considered.

In the end the decision about whether to move or not rests with the individual, but the ministry needs to provide wise counsel so as to spare members and the Church from unnecessary problems.

International News

While awaiting Feast reports from around the world, here are summaries of pre-Feast activities from several areas:

Canada A new postal rate, little known or noticed by most Canadians, was introduced by the government which may force the Work to change where we print The PLAIN TRUTH. The government is raising by 100% the cost of postage on all magazines printed outside the country but mailed within the country. At the present time we print The PLAIN TRUTH in Glasgow, Kentucky, U.S.A., then ship it to Toronto, Ontario and Vancouver, British Columbia where it is inserted into the Canadian postal system. This allows us the benefit of lower printing costs while maintaining an early delivery of the magazine to the subscribers. By raising postage 100% they are trying to close this "loophole" and force businesses to print within Canada. As an extra incentive, they are limiting to 18% the increase in postage for magazines printed and mailed in Canada. A cost analysis study is already in progress to determine which is the most economical way for the Work.

The WATS line responses are continuing to increase, with a high of 95 calls recorded three Sundays ago. We're sure this will be an ongoing trend since the government has dropped its "bombshell" and announced a rate increase of 76% on all first class mail.

Germany In September regular mail was up 30% and media response showed a 129% increase over September 1980, as a result of 80,000 flyers placed in the Austrian daily newspaper DIE PRESSE. This was the first of three publications which are distributing our flyers in Austria. On October 29th, 70,000 flyers appeared in the magazine PROFILE. On November 11th, 72,000 flyers will appear in the magazine TREND.

New Zealand and Pacific Islands Circulation of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands is reaching unprecedented heights, thanks to three very successful recent programs.

The first of these programs was a series of newspaper flyers, which have now brought in over 9,700 new PLAIN TRUTH subscription requests.

Secondly, in the past few weeks, Church members nationwide have been participating in the waiting room telephone subscription program, and results have been extremely good. Already well over 1000 waiting rooms in motels, doctors' and dentists' offices, hairdressing salons, hospitals, etc., have expressed interest in making the magazine available in their waiting rooms for their clients to read. As yet, the telephone campaign hasn't been conducted in Auckland, the largest population centre in the country, so these results should soon be boosted substantially.

Thirdly, our recently established PLAIN TRUTH newsstand program is now beginning to gather momentum with 16,500 copies of the October/November issue being distributed. In addition to these programs, renewals have been coming in at a much better rate than previously, and this has also contributed to the upward trend of the mailing list.

The circulation of the mailing list edition of The PLAIN TRUTH reached 45,000 with the October/November 1981 issue--a 22% increase on the circulation of the same issue last year. When the 16,500 newsstand copies are added, the total monthly circulation totals 61,500--by far the highest level ever reached in this area of the world.

Another indication of the exciting level of interest in the Pacific Islands is that even though we have done absolutely no advertising in Fiji, the circulation there is 32% higher than it was last year!

Space has been booked for advertisements in the NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, THE NEW ZEALAND WOMAN'S WEEKLY and the New Zealand edition of TIME magazine in October, November and December, so PLAIN TRUTH circulation is still on the way up!

Mail for the first nine months of this year is 12.6% ahead of the figure for the same period in 1980. Mail from the Pacific Islands is showing a particularly exciting growth trend. So far this year we've received an increase of 44.2% in mail from the Pacific, including Fiji, Tonga, Niue, Samoa, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands. We've had more than three times as much mail from these areas as we received in 1979, just two years ago. Mail from the French-speaking areas of New Caledonia, Tahiti and Vanuatu is also coming in at a markedly-higher rate than ever before.

Netherlands One of the main events for the Dutch-language area of God's Work in Europe was the ordination of Mr. Harold van Lerberghe to local church elder on the Feast of Trumpets. Mr. van Lerberghe lives in Antwerp and will be especially useful in the Tilburg and Antwerp areas. All three congregations met together that day in De Bilt for combined services. This is the first time in the history of the Dutch-language Churches that a local elder has been ordained.

Mr. Bram de Bree has pastored the Churches here since 1978. In the meantime God has been adding people to His Church on a regular basis. The first Church in Holland started in 1967 in Utrecht. A second Church was added in Tilburg in 1976. In 1978 a once-a-month Bible study started in Antwerp, and in May this year the third Church, Zwolle, was started. All three Churches have regular once-a-week Sabbath services with an average attendance of 85 each.

Membership since 1975 has increased at an average of 23.6% per year. Total attendance at the three Churches is 260 and the total number of baptized members is 175. Rather small compared to the total membership in the U.S.A., nevertheless God is doing a Work here and He is calling people and blessing them.

Appreciation for the Ministerial Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

A few weeks ago my wife and I returned from the 15th session of the refresher program. In reminiscing about the experience we felt compelled to write and express our heartfelt appreciation for being able to attend such a dynamic program. The fast-moving, hard-hitting approach motivated Dana and I to work more diligently in growing closer to God and thereby become more effective tools in His hands to accomplish His will.

Being a young man in the ministry, I deeply appreciated the opportunity to be taught by men you have personally groomed over the years. The wisdom and balance reflected in these men was a true inspiration to me. Thank you for providing us the strong, energetic, God-inspired leadership which compels us to give our 100% in supporting God's Work.

Michael Greider

Dear Mr. Tkach:

It is difficult to express in words the gratification and inspiration Mona and I felt and feel about the warmth, sincerity and genuine love we received and experienced while in Pasadena attending the refresher program. It was difficult to believe the "adulations" we read in the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORTS prior to being there. I guess you could say we "saw through a glass dimly, but then face to face."

A cooperative attitude prevailed everywhere--in the student body, the Church, the ministry and administrative personnel. Many thanks for inviting us to attend the program.

It was a special blessing to be able to speak to the student body and faculty of Ambassador College in the Auditorium and an unforgettable and encouraging experience to visit with Mr. Armstrong in his home. To renew old friendships and develop new ones with ministers and wives, faculty and staff, etc. was deeply heartwarming. Everyone who instructed in the refresher program contributed so much. It was truly a GOOD NEWS and REFRESHING experience.

Dale and Mona Schurter

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I would like to express our sincere thanks for having been given the opportunity of attending the Ministerial Refresher Program. As a local elder, we had never had the privilege of receiving instruction at God's College. We are thankful to have been instructed in an atmosphere of unity of mind and dedication towards one goal. A special "thank you" to Mr. Armstrong and to all who made this

opportunity available. We hope that other local elders will take advantage of this spiritual blessing. We are looking forward to another session next year.

Richard Woodall

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MAIL PROCESSING CENTER UPDATE

Telephone Calls Up Greatly in 1981

An exceptionally good phone response was received during the Festival break--a total of 25,000 calls. This was a 273% increase over last year's Feast period!

Mr. Armstrong's special telecast on President Sadat (aired October 18) drew the largest-ever Sunday telephone response. One hundred and fifty volunteers from among those attending the Pasadena Feast site helped answer the phones. Without them, it would have been impossible to handle so many calls.

It appears that telephone calls in 1981 may nearly double the volume of calls for last year. The first ten months showed an 84% increase over 1980. The main reason for this increase was The WORLD TOMORROW program. Phone calls in response to the telecast increased four and one-half times so far this year as compared to the same period a year ago. (By the end of October we had received 123,665 TV calls as compared to 26,734 in 1980.) As response continues to climb, we anticipate a 90% to 95% increase in overall phone activity by the end of the year.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

Weekly Letter Comments

Members United Through Satellite Message

I just felt I ought to write to say "thank you," especially for your message on the first Holy Day and the opportunity to be united with brethren in the U.S.A. and Canada. You certainly do look and sound fitter and stronger every time we see you (we sat near the loudspeaker)! When we left the hall at 11:15 p.m. there was a brilliant full moon in the sky. Having just sung hymn number seven (How Excellent Is Thy Name!), it really did have an inspiring effect.

W.L. (Cambridge, England)

Children and Parents Welcome Y.E.S. Lessons

Thank you so much for the new program you have begun for the children in God's Church! Our seven-year-old received the Youth Bible Lesson on the fall festivals and it is just fantastic! It was so enjoyable to go through it on the Feast of Trumpets. I even learned from it--and this is my 20th Feast! It is exciting for the children to be more involved in the Church. Receiving their own literature helps them feel more a part of it. Thank you again for your insight into their

needs and for continuing to dynamically lead this Church as never before.

Mr. & Mrs. R.M. (Pasco, WA)

Our children recently received their Y.E.S. lessons on the fall Feasts. They liked them very much and said they plan to use them at the Feast. I like the easy-to-read printing as well as the overall format and design. Our children also like the YOUTH 81 magazine very much. Many thanks to all who had a part in preparing these publications.

L.R. (Jenera, OH)

Life Changed Through Literature

I am writing to express my deepest thanks to you for sending me The PLAIN TRUTH each month, as well as different free booklets and The Bible Correspondence Course. For as long as I can remember I had always thought of life as miserable, without meaning, joy or happiness. Your booklets have changed my life completely. I now wake up each new day rejoicing, no matter what is in store. The PLAIN TRUTH and the Bible Correspondence Course help me apply the Bible to today's world, something I always thought impossible.

C.R. (Biddeford, ME)

Russian Appreciates PLAIN TRUTH

I am a recent immigrant from Russia and have been receiving your magazine for two years. I read other magazines and newspapers and watch TV, but I think that your magazine is of a high standard, sophisticated and clear-sighted. It stimulates thinking about everything. In my opinion, your magazine is the most objective and truthful. Thank you very much, Mr. Armstrong!

S.G. (San Jose, CA)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

EUROPE'S "PEACE MOVEMENT"--END RESULT COULD BE A SHOCKER! A neutralist/pacifist movement has surged from almost nowhere as little as a year ago to become a potent political force in Western Europe. Last month, during two weekends of demonstrations, leaders of the movement called out more than 850,000 protesters into the streets of five capital cities.

Europe's new neutralists are specifically determined to scuttle a NATO agreement, reached in December 1979, to deploy a new generation of nuclear missiles on European soil. A force of 572 Pershing II's and ground-launched cruise missiles are slated to be positioned to offset the Soviet Union's nuclear buildup against Western Europe.

Youths are in the forefront of the neutralist movement, the fact being that a new generation of Europeans is maturing politically, one with no personal experience of World War II, the Berlin blockade or the cold war. Nurtured on detente, this generation has a different view of the United States than do Europe's elders. To the former, Americans are not viewed as the liberators of Europe, but rather as the oppressors of the poor and politically

helpless in Vietnam, or more currently in El Salvador and other Third World nations.

Much of the movement, though naive, seems genuine, based largely on a growing fear of Europe's future. It has suddenly dawned on many Europeans that a "nuclear exchange" between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. just might not conveniently pass Europe overhead, but that Europe itself could become a nuclear battlefield, perhaps even the main battlefield. President Reagan, in fact, disturbed many in Europe when he expressed the belief, on October 16, that a nuclear war might in fact be confined to Europe, without spreading to the superpowers themselves.

Regardless of the actual genesis of the widespread movement, the Soviets, with their organs of propaganda and "dis-information," are making the most of it. Moscow helped foment the fear psychosis in the first place with its massive buildup of weapons (SS-20 missiles equipped with three nuclear warheads each) targeted on every major West European city. Now the Kremlin is carefully cultivating public fear by launching "peace offensives" aimed at preventing the U.S.-NATO counterforce from being deployed.

This "peace offensive" reached an almost embarrassing plateau (to all but committed neutralists) on October 31 when Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev promised West Germans that their country would be spared from a nuclear attack if they refuse to deploy U.S. medium-range missiles on their soil.

"I declare with full responsibility," said Brezhnev, "that the Soviet Union under no circumstances will use nuclear weapons against states that renounce the production and acquisition of such weapons and have not stationed them on their territory."

The Soviet leader made his remarks via an interview from Moscow with the influential liberal West German magazine DER SPIEGEL which is increasingly sympathetic to the neutralist cause. Brezhnev further warned in the interview that the people of Western Europe will face "colossal dangers" if the North Atlantic Treaty Organization deploys U.S.-made cruise and Pershing II missiles to counter Soviet multiple-warhead SS-20 missiles.

Brezhnev said he would sign treaties with West Germany and other nations pledging that the Soviet Union would not use nuclear weapons against nations not equipped with nuclear arsenals.

The combined pressures of the neutralist surge and Soviet "peace offensives" are bearing heavily on Europe's political leaders. West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt called the recent 250,000-person demonstration in Bonn a "declaration of war" against his government. Yet later, betraying the heavy pressure he is under from the strident left-wing of his Socialist party, Schmidt contradicted his own admittedly-dominant role in the December 1979 decision by inferring that the impetus for the new NATO missile force came primarily from then President Jimmy Carter.

The surging neutralist/pacifist tide is producing a great deal of concern in Communist China. Peking's leaders are warning European visiting diplomats of the dangers of the peace movement. One West European official said, after his delegation met China's powerful Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping and other top leaders: "Naive," "simple-minded," "foolish" were the words

they used for these people [the neutralists], assuming the whole movement is actually not a Soviet front. They wonder how we can be so blind to what they perceive as a growing danger and do not understand why these people oppose preparations to face that danger."

What is to become of Western Europe's slide into the dangerous political vacuum of leftist-dominated neutralism--a vacuum that could only be filled by Soviet political dominance, the so-called effect of "Finlandization"?

One possible scenario is grippingly portrayed in the book THE LAST DAYS OF AMERICA, the latest best-selling novel by famed author Paul Erdman (whose earlier book, THE CRASH OF '79 foretold the fall of the Shah of Iran). Erdman creates a spellbinding scenario centered in the mid-1980's, a time after the next West German elections (1984). In his real-life novel, Erdman casts Franz Josef Strauss as the next chancellor, with a mythical "Graf von Amsburg" (von Habsburg?) as his foreign minister. The story line of the book revolves around a plot by German and other European interests to acquire, from a private American company, cruise missile technology with which to neutralize the Russian threat. (By the mid-1980's, the Americans, turned off by neutralism and plagued by social chaos at home are no longer perceived as being willing or able to continue as Europe's nuclear protector).

Nuclear-tipped cruise missiles finally in German hands, ready to be deployed, the scene shifts to mid-1987. Author Erdman then reflects upon the political career of Germany's then-chancellor:

...when Strauss lost the election for the chancellorship in 1980, everyone thought the new German messiah was through. No one wanted to know that 45 percent of all Germans who went to the polls voted for him, giving him his country's largest bloc of votes. No one wanted to realize that Germany was entering an era of revived nationalism and xenophobia, whose primary external target was the United States. No one wanted to think that a Franz Josef Strauss would convince the German people four years later that he, and only he, could save the world, or at least Europe, or at the very least Germany, from a third catastrophe in this century, convince them that the new road to perdition lay in following any further the mindless, intellectually bankrupt leadership of the United States. Convince them that salvation lay in the political, economic, and military independence of Germany. Convince them that the prerequisite to independence from the United States lay in Germany's military strength, and that the corollary to a declaration of independence from the United States was a declaration of willingness to coexist with the Soviet Union.

...the Strauss/von Amsburg objective was to achieve a state of armed neutrality, with the stress on the adjective "armed"...He only hinted at all this, sometimes in private meetings, sometimes very obliquely in television interviews in the 1984 election campaign. He did not have to shout it from the housetops: the Germans knew what he was getting at, and they knew he had to be cautious. So they voted him in. And even in his first two years in office, he had to be careful. For he still needed the military umbrella of the United States standing protectively over his Germany. He still needed the three hundred thousand American troops stationed in Germany to stand between his people and the Soviet tanks. He still needed the threat, even though

the whole world knew it was as empty as any threat would ever be--namely, the "commitment"--that America would fight a nuclear war, even if it involved the American homeland, to protect its German allies and friends.

But in June of 1987, he knew that soon--very, very soon--he would no longer need the...Americans. So he sent Graf von Amsburg to Moscow to test the water there, just as Hitler had sent von Ribbentrop.

The result of the Moscow trip according to Mr. Erdman's scenario: A new non-aggression pact, carving out spheres of influence for Germany and the Soviet Union, not only in Europe but right down into the Middle East! Germany is reunited as the Soviet forces pull out of East Germany. The United States is issued an ultimatum to leave Western Europe within sixty days.

Things may not happen exactly this way, of course. But author Erdman, as proven by his earlier works, has a unique ability to project today's trends--such as neutralism/Finlandization--out to their logical consequences. It might be well to read and reflect on the Erdman thriller. I guarantee you won't be able to put this book down till you finish.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau