

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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CHURCH EXONERATED BY CALIFORNIA APPEALS COURT

We are very pleased to bring you some good news!

As I am sure you will recall, Hillel Chodos was one of the attorneys responsible for suing the Church on behalf of the state and having a receiver appointed. Mr. Chodos requested that the court award him fees, payable by the Church, for his involvement. The court denied him fees at that time and stated that it couldn't be known yet if Chodos had done good or harm.

Chodos appealed that adverse ruling. The case was briefed and argued and today [December 10] we have just received a decision that not only denies fees but has some very far reaching, relevant comments that serve to exonerate the Church and strengthen First Amendment guarantees.

The key portion of the opinion is the court's concluding paragraph which reads as follows:

We are of the opinion that the underlying action and its attendant provisional remedy of receivership were from the inception constitutionally infirm and predestined to failure. It follows that the burden of the ill-conceived litigation, including the expenses of the receivership and Chodos' fees for procuring that receivership should not be borne by the prevailing party--the Church.

This case was decided by a three-judge appellate court. There were no dissents--all three judges concurred in the opinion.

The opinion is subject to possible review by a higher court, but the chances of this are slight. However, whatever changes might be made will not detract from the moral exoneration expressed in this court opinion.

This opinion will undoubtedly weigh heavily in our favor in some of the remnant suits and appeals that are still pending peripheral to the state case.

We fervently prayed to God for His intervention when the case commenced. I would request, as a reminder, that we now as fervently thank God for His granting us grace and favor in the eyes of the court and for the favorable opinion. Although I feel this request is actually superfluous, I feel it aids in expressing my view as to the true source of victory in this case.

--Ralph K. Helge, Legal Office

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Report From the Philippines Like at the feast sites elsewhere, the just-concluded feast at all five sites in the Philippines was "the greatest

ever." The number who attended (a total of 3,334) and the offerings given were the highest ever recorded in recent years. Beautiful weather prevailed throughout the Feast, and brethren were grateful and appreciative of the spiritual feast of inspired sermons, especially enhanced by visiting minister Mr. Arthur W. Docken who was sent by Pasadena. Some 35 other overseas brethren and families kept the Feast in the Philippines.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's first-day message was received in Baguio City through an audio hook-up. It was taped and copies were replayed later at three other sites.

What a tremendous blessing God has poured out on His Work in the Philippines. Considering the offerings received at all seven holy days this year, the total represented a 34.9% increase over last year! The holy day of the Feast of Tabernacles showed a 17.4% increase in attendance and a 46.8% increase in offerings. A late report also showed that some 20 people were baptized during the Feast of Tabernacles.

New Zealand/Pacific News November was a very light month for mail, with just 3,717 items received--considerably lower than our average monthly mail count. Mail income for the month was up 22.8% on the same month last year, bringing the year-to-date mail income increase to 31.9%.

A series of advertisements in the NEW ZEALAND LISTENER and the local edition of TIME magazine have so far brought in just under 600 new subscription requests for The PLAIN TRUTH. Early December will see ads in THE NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S WEEKLY and THE DOMINION newspaper, and in February we're slated to begin placing Mr. Armstrong's powerful "A Voice Cries Out" full-page ads in some of the nations's leading newspapers.

The PLAIN TRUTH newsstand program is really moving now. Back in August 2,000 newsstand copies were distributed in New Zealand, but by December this had jumped to 20,000 copies. And with new outlets speedily being added, 40,000 copies of the January, 1982 issue are now being printed. Newsstand responses are rising accordingly, with hundreds of cards now coming in each month. Adding this newsstand circulation to our current 46,000 subscription copies, we're ending the year with a whopping 86,000 PLAIN TRUTH circulation, compared with the 39,000 with which we started the year.

Mr. Rex Morgan, one of the ministers employed in the office here, spent the last week of November visiting our members and prospectives in Vanuatu. He conducted a Bible study in the capital, Port Vila, attended by 18 Melaneseans, and baptized one man, bringing our membership in Vanuatu to five. He also took the opportunity of approaching Radio Vanuatu, with the idea of airing both the English and French-language WORLD TOMORROW programs. The Director of Radio Vanuatu has been a P.T. subscriber since 1964 and is keen to audition the broadcasts. The station is government owned, so if the broadcast is accepted it will be aired free of charge.

We're now gearing up for the 1981 S.E.P. which is to be held on Motuapu Island, near Auckland, at the end of December. Campers should number well into the 80's, almost a 100% increase over last year's program.

Update From German-language Area The German language congregations of God's Church all showed a great deal of excitement and interest in the resounding success of the KLAR & WAHR ad in DER SPIEGEL magazine. People are

hoping and praying that God will call new members and co-workers out of this harvest of new subscribers.

Another highlight for Church members was The WORLD TOMORROW program on Radio Luxembourg which can be heard clearly on medium wave in most Church areas. Once again, Church members feel stimulated to "gird up their loins" and learn English!

In the month of November, as a result of our advertising this fall, we experienced an amazing 99% increase in the incoming mail over November last year. It was simply a superlative month in the area, with increases of 19% in regular mail, 14% in donation mail, 90% in solicited mail and 125% in media response mail. Some 15,978 pieces of mail were recorded this month. This year's total mail count will exceed every year except 1969 by a considerable margin. In 1969 we were advertising frequently in READER'S DIGEST (DAS BESTE) magazine.

Our fall advertising campaign has been completed, but the end results won't be in for another month or so. We are especially happy about the increase God gave us through the DER SPIEGEL ad. We have added 20,057 (as of December third) new subscribers and expect another two or three thousand before the last card or coupon has been sent in. We also have had flyers in three Austrian magazines and newspapers. The 220,000 flyers that have been distributed in the daily newspaper DIE PRESSE and magazines PROFIL and TREND have brought 4,281 new subscribers thus far.

As a result of all this advertising in 1981, we now have a subscription list of nearly 80,000, which was also the highest total ever for the German magazine back in December, 1973. However, in January, 1974 the circulation dropped to 40,000 as a result of financial difficulties and steadily decreased until we resumed advertising in 1978. It increased rapidly in 1980 when we added 35,000 new subscribers to the list. This year we will probably be adding some 50,000 new subscribers to the German PLAIN TRUTH subscription list worldwide.

Summing Up the Ministerial Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Ingeberg and I, the only native Scandinavian local elder, are just back home from the 15th session of the refresher program and from the best Feast of Tabernacles ever, and it's high time to express our feelings.

I have read scores of letters of appreciation and as far as I remember I agree with each and every one of them! It's hard to come up with something new, but we would like to emphasize three points:

1. The unity and the strength in unity. It is so encouraging to know, and to know that you know that we are all speaking the same thing and not only speaking it, but meaning it and doing what we can to act on it, realizing that the motivation comes from the gift of the Spirit of a sound mind.
2. The humble serving attitude. We, as you may remember, visited the campus in 1976-77. As human visitors you can't see deep

below the surface, but one thing is strikingly different now: The serving attitude within all ranks at Ambassador College. Not just giving a day's work for a day's pay--like the unprofitable servant (or less)--but far over and above and to anybody!

3. Loyalty. It was also most encouraging to see the loyalty with which Mr. Tkach and everyone on the team teaching us were backing you up and following your example as you are following Christ. I hope (and strive for) that we again will be following that example so that the unity, the serving attitude and the loyalty will be more and more apparent in the congregations all over the world.

So THANK YOU for the three most stimulating weeks in our lives!

Christian and Ingeberg Zernichow

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

CLARKSBURG, WV--DAVID M. JOHNSON: Enthusiasm as a result of the Feast seems nearly universal. We have heard many fine comments from nearly everyone and very few, if any, complaints. People seem quite genuinely enthused about the growth the Church is making and eager to work on their own personal problems.

WASHINGTON, D.C.--RICHARD J. FRANKEL: Brethren inspired to do better and seek the Kingdom of God more earnestly as a result of the Feast of Tabernacles.

SALEM, OR--DAVID MILLS: Everyone here came back from the Feast renewed spiritually and ready to get on with the Work. All reports about the Feast have been very positive. The Church is growing in unity and love.

CHATTANOOGA & COPPERHILL, TN--WILLIAM C. COWAN: Everyone is up. There seems to be more excitement and joy and involvement in the Work of God than EVER before. And it is exciting to me to see it.

HAZARD, KY--WARREN J. HEATON III: People are becoming more and more responsive. More willing to sacrifice and more anxious about return of Christ. People are understanding the new truth about the tree of life and tree of the knowledge of good and evil. I also much appreciate the comments Mr. Armstrong made regarding the 144,000 and on baptism. Christ is really working here on earth!

BOISE, ID--JEFF MCGOWAN: Commitment in the Church to the Work of the Church and fulfilling spiritual responsibilities is greater since Mr. Armstrong has established greater doctrinal stability as God has inspired him to do.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK--ARNOLD CLAUSON: The direction of the brethren here is definitely upbeat. There is very positive response to the direction of Mr. Armstrong and the entire HQ team. On the brethren's behalf, I'd like to thank you all for the excellent job you are doing in guiding the most important Work on Earth! We appreciate you!

FAYETTEVILLE, AR--JOHN R. ELLIOTT: "Make-up" was well received by most and gave us all an opportunity to see God's hand in preparing His future bride. Following a couple of sermons here, people are realizing much more that Church policies are of God, not men.

RICHMOND, VA--KENNETH GIESE: Overall, response to the make-up announcement was positive. Longstanding problems seem to be coming to a head as God continues to clean up the Church locally and worldwide.

TOLEDO, OH--GEORGE KACKOS: Our public Bible Lectures covering the greater Toledo area were quite successful. The level of understanding and interest among those attending was better than in past years. I feel this reflects, in part, the effectiveness of The PLAIN TRUTH and The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast in reaching, educating, and motivating people. The film, "A Worldwide Church," provided an excellent introduction to the first night's lecture, "From Economic Chaos to Christ's Return." One woman remarked, "I think I've found my church." She is now attending services.

TOPEKA, KS--JAMES WELLS: We have had two new couples coming to Church. Very good "candidates" for baptism. It is good to see PM letters coming again. Most PM's are reading a lot of literature and are very interested and enthusiastic.

WICHITA, KS--JUDD KIRK: We are seeing a clear trend toward more knowledgeable PM's who are more "mature" in their development. Also, there is much more of the enthusiasm we used to see so commonly. We find this very encouraging.

PHOENIX (EAST) & MESA, AZ--MARK CARDONA: It seems the PM influx is turning into a small flood--I have six more PM's since the Feast!

TEXARKANA, TX & SHREVEPORT, LA--BILL BRADFORD: Prospective member activity is picking up this month and the prospectives seem like good ones. Most members continue to get the picture and are making good strides in personal growth and overcoming.

NASHVILLE, TN--JAMES L. FRIDDLE: The new Y.O.U. manual is excellent. The rules of conduct and dress are guidelines the Y.O.U. needed from HQ. I, for one, am very thankful for the stress on youth education.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MAIL PROCESSING CENTER UPDATE

God's Work Continues to Grow

Most indicators in terms of WATS calls and mail responses show that the Work continues to be richly blessed by God.

Between January first and the beginning of December, close to 300,000 calls were received in the Telephone Response Department. This is a 90% increase over the same period last year. Those requesting literature from Mr. Armstrong's telecasts account for most of the increase. Also, we now have a total of 25 WATS lines accommodating the toll-free number (800-423-4444) compared with nine last year. In addition, there are 19 regular phone lines to take requests from California, Hawaii and Alaska.

By the end of November, the year-to-date mail count stood at an 18.4% increase over 1980, with mail response to radio and television up over 100%!

So far, over 840,000 new people have been added to the Work's mailing list--an all-time record. This is a phenomenal 138% increase over the same period in 1980.

Finally, almost all of the comments received in the mail are very positive and supportive.

Weekly Letter Comments

This week we are featuring comments from international areas. The diversity of areas they come from shows just how worldwide God's Work is.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

Radio Luxembourg

Congratulations! We listened to The WORLD TOMORROW program on Radio Luxembourg Sunday, November first, and was it good to hear! Thank you! The program comes in so well--we thought the clearest ever! It came on at 7:30 p.m. here in Norway (same time as TV news), but we hope it was heard by many. We felt proud of it.

Family (Norway)

The PLAIN TRUTH

Thank you for putting together and distributing such a wonderful, enlightening magazine. It is without doubt the best I have ever read or am likely to. If there were more publications like yours, the world would be a much better place, I'm sure.

J.L. (London, United Kingdom)

Since discovering your magazine, I am beginning to see that what you say is true. You have helped me a great deal in the right path. I wanted to share my joy with you.

F.L. (Paris, France)

I want to express in an overwhelming tone my appreciation for your highly illuminating and fascinating magazine, The PLAIN TRUTH. There is no gainsaying the fact that The PLAIN TRUTH is a living magazine. It broadens and enlightens the minds of men who are very anxious to know why they are here and where they are going from here.

O.F. (Nigeria)

Missing Dimension in Sex

I have to give credit to Mr. Armstrong for his book, THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX. For me, this work is absolutely admirable! I can't put it into actual practice myself--I'm a widow--but I communicate the information it contains to those around me who need it, especially from the moral and spiritual viewpoint.

J.V. (Brussels, Belgium)

God's Blessings

I write this letter with a very happy heart to let you know that the God we worship and serve is a great God indeed. As of December 1980, until about June 1981, we were completely broke. We had to go to the minister for help to buy food. We even had the power and phone cut off. So we really were broke. Then God let us know what we were doing wrong. We changed on that point and He started blessing us to where today I am able to send in tithes and offerings. Also, I have a clear title on 34 acres of land, a few dollars in the bank, and no debts! And, to top it all off, we are going to Hawaii for the Feast of Tabernacles. This has been quite a year.

A.D. (Canada)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE MAN MOSCOW FEARS MOST After extended stays in Jerusalem and Cairo, the G-II carrying Mr. Armstrong and his party had two important, though shorter "touchdowns"--Geneva and Munich--before returning to Pasadena via an overnight (Thanksgiving Day turkey dinner) stopover in London.

After Cairo, Geneva certainly seemed to be the world's most beautiful city (which may be the case, regardless of any comparisons). What could be more soul-stirring than the brisk walk Barbara and I took along the shores of Lac Lemane (Lake Geneva) on an early autumn morning? Come to think of it, there probably is one thing more soul-stirring--jogging along the same shore even earlier in the morning, as Mr. Fahey did.

The idyllic lakefront views of Geneva, however, were but a facade to a grim game of power politics which was to begin in the city shortly after our departure. Soviet and American negotiations started, on November 30, negotiations over the future of the so-called "theater nuclear forces" (TNF)--intermediate range nuclear weapons in Europe.

The two sides approach the talks with such highly disparate sets of figures as to preclude any agreement. The Russians, of course, claim that both sides (NATO and Warsaw Pact) are equal--but they said that six years ago too, before they started deploying their triple-warheaded SS-20's at the rate of one a week.

Moscow has proposed to halt its SS-20 program, or cut it back slightly, in return for no new NATO "nukes," 572 of which are scheduled to be in place in 1983. President Reagan has countered with this "zero option" proposal--no new NATO weapons if the Soviets pull out all their SS-20's plus older SS-4's and SS-5's.

Of course, Moscow won't do this. The Soviets know that time is on their side; their missiles are in place, those of NATO aren't. They can bide their time, letting the "peace groups" in Western Europe, which they've infiltrated, do the job for them. Reports Don Cook of the LOS ANGELES TIMES:

It is obvious that if the peace movement succeeds in making it politically impossible for West Germany, Holland and Belgium to accept any American intermediate-range nuclear weapons, then the Soviet Union will have largely achieved its prime objective without having to concede anything at all....Thus, the real outcome of the Geneva talks may be decided not at the conference table but in the Social Democratic

Party of West Germany, and at the next German general election in 1984. The Russians know this; it is one reason why they have picked as their chief negotiator a Germany expert, Yuli A. Kvitsinsky, former counselor of their embassy in Bonn....It will not take much ingenuity for Kvitsinsky to spin out his talks with [U.S. negotiator Paul] Nitze in Geneva for the next three years to see just what happens politically in West Germany.

Those 1984 German elections therefore loom as increasingly important. In the meantime, Moscow will continue playing to West European neutralist and anti-nuclear forces. In some countries, such as Great Britain, with its Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), these forces advocate total unilateral nuclear disarmament, with their leaders talking about "taking a chance on peace" with the Soviets.

I witnessed a spokesman (or spokeswoman, I really could not tell) for the "ban the bomb" movement explain his (her) position while being interviewed on British television. It said: "I would prefer being Red to dead." Now, this was the first time I actually heard anyone personally express this preference. This spokes(wo)man professed the belief that should the "Red option" come about, "we would be under Russian domination for only a period (of time), for a generation or two by Russia." How incredibly naive!--but there's more. He (she, it) said that "being forced to conform to an alien system is not an end to life."

What a difference between this attitude and the spirit that aroused the British people in 1940 to stubbornly refuse to bow to an alien slave system worse than death. "Whosoever seeks to gain his life will lose it...." What a contrast also to the "Masada spirit" that animates the Israelis.

"Protestant Angst"

It is also an interesting observation that Protestant Northern Europe has been the scene of most of the demonstrations against the new NATO weapons. Even in West Germany, the Protestant rather than the Roman Catholic clergy has been in the forefront of the mass movement. Commenting on this phenomenon, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard N. Perle said: "The Protestants are suffering from angst--a gloomy, often neurotic, feeling of anxiety or depression. I refer to it as Protestant angst because when you look to Catholic Europe, when you look at Portugal and Spain and Italy...you find a very different attitude, a much greater awareness of the danger of military imbalance, a greater willingness to make sacrifices for defense." The same is true, of course, for Catholic France.

This high Pentagon official also noted that the Protestant clergy have jumped on the disarmament issue as one way to revive flagging church attendance. Added Perle: "I had a Dutch friend tell me that the disarmament campaign has been good for the membership drive in the church. 'With the ability to bring people into the churches with seminars on GLCMs [ground launched Cruise missiles] and Pershing-2s, you can hardly blame the clergy for holding seminars of GLCMs and Pershing-2s.'"

The "Strong Man of Europe" Points the Finger

While in Egypt Mr. Armstrong expressed the desire to stop in Munich to visit Franz Josef Strauss, who, of course had been a guest in Mr. Armstrong's home a little over ten years ago. Mr. Fahey made a quick call to Bonn and our

office manager, Frank Schnee. Within the day an arrangement had been made for Mr. Armstrong to visit Bavaria's Minister-President (governor) in his office in Munich on Thursday, November 26 at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Alfred Hennig, our photographer in Bonn, knows Herr Strauss's longtime personal secretary, who worked for Strauss even when he was a federal cabinet minister in Bonn in the 1960s.

Without this contact, nothing could have been arranged so quickly, especially considering the fact that Strauss was not in Munich but in Bonn on Tuesday and Wednesday, attending the proceedings of the official visit of Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev to West Germany. Mr. Armstrong's private visit was conveniently squeezed in as Mr. Strauss's first order of business back in the Staatskanzlei in Munich.

When the time came, Herr Strauss was in no hurry. He gave Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Fahey a one-hour-thirty-five-minute-long tour de force of world affairs as he saw them. Herr Strauss laid much of the world's political problems right on the doorstep of the Kremlin. He claimed that the Soviets were implicated in all three assassination attempts on high world officials this year--President Reagan, Pope John Paul II and President Sadat. Not that KGB agents actually pulled the trigger in each case, but the Kremlin set events into motion that resulted in the desired end. (Last week in this column we discussed how that the Soviets pursued this precise tactic in Egypt by stirring up the religious dissension that ultimately ended in Sadat's death.)

The last things the Soviets want, said Strauss, are a U.S. President to stand up to them, an activist Pope in Europe and a peacemaker in the Middle East. How the Russians may have been involved in the attempted assassination of President Reagan was not explored, but Strauss pointed to evidence implicating the Soviet Union in the attempted murder of Pope John Paul II. We have some of the same evidence in our News Bureau files.

"Western intelligence experts, particularly the West Germans," reports the TIMES of London, "are now convinced there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the Soviet KGB, or one of its client organizations in Eastern Europe, had a hand in the attempted assassination of the Pope."

The intelligence agencies have not produced conclusive evidence yet, but they do generally support the theory put forward by both Vatican intelligence and Italian security services that Turkish gunman Ali Agca was not a fanatical lone wolf but was part of a carefully conceived plot originating probably in Eastern Europe. "Vatican sources" added the TIMES, "were certainly convinced that the KGB had organized the attempted assassination by indirect means."

Initially Soviet agents are believed to have infiltrated a faction of the Turkish secret police. This faction had seen the usefulness of Agca as a hired killer, after he had shot the editor of the Turkish newspaper MILLYET in 1979. This faction subsequently planned his otherwise impossible escape from a maximum security prison.

Agca then lived lavishly while traveling through East and West Europe for the next year and a half, two months of which he was in Bulgaria. It is believed that the Bulgarian secret service (100 percent tied to the KGB) supplied Agca with money, documentation and instructions. A leading

Italian security official investigating the attempted assassination of the Pope is convinced, said the TIMES, "that during the time Agca was preparing for the attack, his movements were never decided by himself but were prompted and instructed by someone else."

The Pope's "Compelling Mission"

But why the alleged KGB assassination attempt in the first place? The Russians, Herr Strauss told Mr. Armstrong, now fear the Polish Pope more than they do American missiles. And with good reason.

The Pope's electrifying visit to his homeland in the summer of 1979 fanned Poland's national rebellion which broke out in Gdansk a year later. John Paul II's promise of a second visit home next August has Soviet and Polish Communist authorities wringing their hands.

According to some cardinals in the Roman Curia, the Pope has such a fixation with events in Poland that they feel he is overlooking church concerns elsewhere. John Paul II constantly refers to Poland in his public pronouncements. A special section of St. Peter's Square is roped off for the 1,500 Poles who visit the Vatican each week. A special monthly edition of L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, the semi-official Vatican newspaper, has a circulation of 150,000 inside Poland.

The Pope reads a number of Polish newspapers, and talks often on the phone to Polish clergymen. Top level visits by both Solidarity and Polish government officials are frequent. The Pope has met three times with Lech Walesa, Solidarity union leader, and once had an unprecedented two-hour-long conference with Poland's Foreign Minister.

Little wonder that Soviet news media consider the Pope a troublesome meddler in "their world" and continually attack him, albeit indirectly. While the Soviets realize that the Pope is very cautious about interfering too much in day-to-day Polish affairs, they are also aware of the Pope's long-term goals for Poland and all of Eastern Europe. Here is what the November 23, 1981 edition of NEWSWEEK had to say about this:

The Pope is enthralled by a compelling mission--he believes he has a calling from God to unite Europe. During his first return to Poland he declared that the Holy Spirit intended that "this Polish Pope, this Slav Pope should at this precise moment manifest the spiritual unity of Eastern Europe." Beyond this, John Paul seems to believe that Poland's salvation will also bring salvation to the West. In this spirit he has named the Slavic Saints Cyril and Methodius as the patron saints of Europe. Addressing top European theologians on the subject of Europe's Christian roots, the Pope summoned up two other apocalyptic visionaries--Spengler and Dostoevski--to bear witness to his own conviction that "the problem that assails us is really to save Europe and the world from the final catastrophe...."

John Paul II, in political terms, is the most powerful Pope of modern times, and no one appreciates this more than the Russians.

Little wonder that the KGB tried, in its typically devious manner, to do away with the Polish Pope. So continue to watch the Vatican's own "Ostpolitik," as well as political events and personalities in West Germany leading up to those critical 1984 elections.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau