PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. 3, NO. 48 PASADENA, CALIFORNIA DECEMBER 18, 1981

OUR LIGHT I S SHINING!

--And Not the Cosmetics on Our Faces

by Herbert W. Armstrong

ARE WE the true Church of God? Jesus said of His people: "Ye are the light of the world....Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is heaven."

I want you to read a letter I received from a restaurant operator regarding our people at the Feast of Tabernacles:

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"We own a franchised Perkins restaurant here in Rapid City, South Dakota. Our business is one that we have been very proud of the past few years, but this year is one that really made us feel very special. We had the pleasure and opportunity to serve members of the Worldwide Church of God while they held their convention here in our city.

"During the course of a year being in a tourist location we have had the pleasure of meeting many nice people from all over the world. But the members of the Worldwide Church of God are a very special people. We have never known such considerate, courteous, kind and gentle people. Our staff numbers 100 and we were all very sad to see the convention come to an end. To think that we would have to wait another whole year to see these great people. The love and affection shown on the faces of these great people makes one feel like he wants to be around them all of the time.

"Congratulations Mr. Armstrong. If all of your church members are like the ones we had here in Rapid City, South Dakota we tip our hat to you. We shared in an experience we will never forget."

Brethren, have you read my booklet, "WHY Were You Born?" And the booklet, "Just What Do You Mean--BORN AGAIN?" You were born for a PURPOSE! That PURPOSE is to be born into the GOD FAMILY--and that means to first develop God's own perfect spiritual CHARACTER! I know a woman who said, "I'd rather have a well-made-up face than perfect Godly character." But that woman has never been called to be a child of GOD--to develop His CHARACTER and enter eternal life in His Kingdom.

The restaurant operator was not impressed with painted faces, but with SPIRITUAL CHARACTER exemplified by performance. He could SEE God's people's GOOD WORKS!

God says: "The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." Also, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

When rumors leaped over telephone wires during the recent Feast that I had made a remark about cosmetics, a few protesting letters came in, informing me of "the woman's viewpoint." Of course I was concerned with our women's viewpoint, but far more with the way GOD looks at it. It's one thing to say, "Here's how I look at it"--and quite another thing to be concerned with how GOD looks at it!

I want to quote a woman's viewpoint when she heard the rumor, and also after she had read the article in the WORLDWIDE NEWS:

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I LOVE YOU! I have just read your article in the WORLDWIDE NEWS on make-up. While reading through I could feel the love and concern you have for us women. You are like a very dear and very wise father to us.

"When I first heard about the issue of make-up, more or less four weeks ago through my husband who works in the Johannesburg office, who heard from Mr. Frank Nelte who just returned from a ministerial conference--my heart sank!

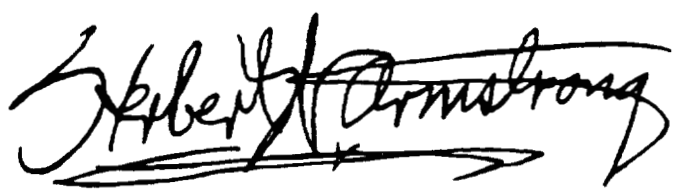
"Then I analysed my feelings. Of course you are right. It is vanity. But I didn't fully realise how it, the use of make-up, debased God by exalting the self, until I read your words. God forgive us women for doing that and our husbands for allowing it, and help us to start again on the right road.

"Recently the pastor of the Johannesburg Church in a sermon said, 'Let us be concerned with what Jesus Christ would have us do or be.'

"He is choosing His bride; He wants her to have a clean face. Soon we will be changed and will shine like the sun. What comparison to have a painted face for a few years and that? None! Thank you for your loyalty to God and the good example you set for us all."

Here at the Headquarters Church, as soon as the rumor spread our women, the very next Sabbath, almost universally appeared in Church without make-up. There has been NOT ONE complaint from this largest of all our congregations. GOD BLESS OUR WOMEN!

Let me give you a few other letters from women after having read my article. These letters begin on the following page.



COMMENTS ABOUT MAKE-UP ARTICLE

One Step Closer in Pleasing God

"Thank you for your love and concern in the recent correction on make-up. Everything you said about the subtilty of Satan deceiving us and our vanity and desire in wanting to be a part of this world is exactly right. After reading your article, it was so plain to see! We would not have known it by our own understanding, though.

"Because you seek God's righteousness, He has allowed you to show us that we have been doing something that is sin in His sight. Now we can be one step closer in pleasing God.

"Please continue to ask God to show us where we need to change in behavior and for the deeper understanding of spiritual knowledge. The sooner we learn our lessons, the sooner Christ can return!

"In deep love and respect, A.W."

Now Sees How Wrong It Was

"I wanted to write to you to let you know that when I heard you say no make-up I did remove it. But I also felt like the women who made excuses and didn't think it was that wrong.

"I just read the WORLDWIDE NEWS and I want to thank you for the article on this subject. I now see how wrong it was. I was just fooling myself. I now know that I was full of vanity, desiring to be beautiful, exalting myself, and wanting to be in the Kingdom but also looking like the women of this world.

"I believe you have the mind of Christ and I'm glad He has shown you through His Spirit that He was unhappy with us women, and that He has shown us one of our hidden sins.

"Your spiritual daughter through Christ, B.G."

Salvation More Important Than a Little Paint

"I must admit when I first heard about the make-up 'crisis,' which I heard through the grapevine, I was angry and started running off at the mouth. But after a little while I shut my big mouth and thought about it. I realize it's true. I felt like a different person with it on. I wanted to catch the eyes of passersby.

"I was angry because Christ threw a sword right in the heart of 'my' pride--and it hurt deeply. Because I had to battle pride and self-righteousness in myself and Satan was winning, I kept asking God to help me to be humble, then the make-up discussion came up. Salvation is much more important than a little paint.

"Now after a couple of weeks I'm used to not wearing make-up and it doesn't really bother me anymore now. I'm so glad to be without it. I'm not trying to hide behind the outward shell. It's making me feel more the importance of the inner me, the part that

God sees. It's scary to see my lack of character which I thought I had.

"Your daughter in Christ"

Minister's Wife Now Sees Herself

"I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the decision you made regarding make-up. (I realize God was the One who did it--through you!) My initial reaction was not very good, I must admit. I think Satan thought he really was going to get me on that one. You see, I didn't realize how important it had become to me. (I have been coming to Church since I was twelve years old and never wore any make-up until I was twenty-five!)

"It took much prayer, even tears, to get my attitude right. Afterwards, I realized how close Satan had come to getting me! My own intense disappointment at your announcement shocked me! But I'm sure it didn't shock God. He knew what was going on in my heart, if not in my mind, regarding make-up. I'm sure, if I had been asked, I would have said all the things you mentioned--'I can take it or leave it, I don't do it for vanity, I don't see any harm in it,' etc. God knew I needed to be tested on this--and soon--before Satan went too far and I would have been unable to extricate myself from a wrong way of thinking. Now I SEE myself! And I see that Satan was influencing me. That, of course, makes it much easier!

"The things I have learned about myself since your decision was read have been multiple. I am extremely grateful for your help in learning these necessary spiritual lessons, painful though they are. I know that Christ loves His spiritual Body--His Church--and all the physical things will pass away. So only the spiritual things are of very great significance to Him.

"You know, this brings to mind an interesting thought! In the past, when the subject of make-up had been brought up (rumors that you were looking into it, or were considering changing the '74 decision on it), I would always think, 'We should let the women's husbands decide. If he likes it on her, allow him to make the decision, since he is her head.' (I was pretty sure my husband would've approved my wearing it!) And now our Husband-To-Be has made a decision! He doesn't like it!!

"My husband and I also found it interesting that there seems to have been a great deal of emphasis on make-up in the world in the past few years (right during the years it was allowed in the Church!), especially in connection with women who are pursuing careers and who desire to project a certain image. Not a few of our members (those who find themselves in positions where they must work outside the home) have expressed some concern about how their bosses would react and how it would affect them at work. It's a revealing commentary on our lifestyles and how we must, as Christians, survive in this world but not be part of it.

"Well, I didn't mean to go on so, though I thought you might be interested in some of the reactions God's women had. We have

found that most, like me, felt taken aback, disappointed, even angry, but repented after realizing the source of that terrible attitude. A few were (and are still) feeling very depressed and rebellious about it.

"God is surely readying a beautiful Bride for His Son. Thank you for fearlessly allowing God to use you in that deep cleansing.

"With love, your daughter in Christ"

Now Busy With the Inward Woman

"I want to thank you for getting us 'back on the track' about make-up. Don't get me wrong, now, I was not pleased at first--I liked to wear a little make-up! Your letter, however, made me take stock and realize how far we had strayed from 'a little.' Thank you for reminding me of my reasons for putting make-up on.

"My first reaction was, 'I will obey because I respect God's authority in His Church, even though I don't understand the reasoning.' Having decided to obey, I gradually began to see why you made the decision. I have now begun to busy myself more with the inward woman. You, through God's Word, have shown us true femininity.

"Society has put so much emphasis on youth and the beauty that youth holds that, if we are not careful, we too can become caught in the fervor of remaining eternally twenty years old! My father says, 'Sooner or later you can tell what kind of a life a woman has had by her face.' The women, who don't know better, want to live life their own way and then paint innocence and beauty on their face. We in God's Church can receive love, joy, peace and gentleness that will not only give us beautiful faces--but also Godly character to take with us into the world tomorrow.

"Thank you Mr. Armstrong for your part in preparing us to be the Bride of Jesus Christ. I would like to add also that my husband has been most encouraging and helpful by his loving remarks to me."

K.B.

Feels She's Coming More Out of the World

"I'm quite sure you've gotten thousands of responses on the subject of not wearing any more make-up. Well, here's another response. I'd like to thank you for speaking out and I thank Jesus Christ for most definitely inspiring you as to how wrong we all have been. I've worn make-up for 20 years and never thought I'd go without, but it's really nice to see what I really look like! The funny thing is, my husband who is unconverted, hasn't even noticed I quit wearing make-up. Anyhow, I'm glad you were inspired to do away with the make-up. Every day I feel I'm coming more out of the world."

J.

Church Promptly Washed It Off!

"I think you will be pleased to know that ALL who had any make-up whatsoever on their faces prior to hearing the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT in which you spoke out vs. make-up, promptly washed it all off after services! The teens in our Church, who are under considerable peer pressure to wear make-up, also complied immediately--without parents telling them to--and they are glad to be doing the right thing."

L.P.

Needed to Be Told

"I have just read your article in the WORLDWIDE NEWS and heard your sermon concerning make-up....I have to admit, as our God has made me see, that every word you said about women and make-up applies to me, but I did not realize it until you told us.

"We know, as you continue to remind us, that Christ is going to return soon and we need to get ready. We also know that it is through you that He leads His Church. When we are displeasing in God's sight we need to be told. If you don't tell us, Mr. Armstrong, who will? I deeply appreciate your pleasing God and not men and speaking out on this and every other thing that God reveals to you. I pray that all our Father's begotten daughters will be thankful for this correction and free from the desire to look like or please the world."

S.M.

Thanked God for the Decision

"Thank you for setting the women of the Church straight on the subject of make-up. I have thanked God in prayer for making this decision and now would also like to thank you for communicating it to us. In common with many others, I was deceived about make-up and saw no harm in wearing a little. I used to wonder, however, if in the Millennium women would use facial paint, and it always seemed inconceivable that when the earth was full of the knowledge of God that such a thing would be done.

"You have always said that when our ways please God, the Work prospers. Thank you for showing us how we have unintentionally been disagreeing with God."

J.S.

THE MINISTER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. Armstrong asked me to mention a trend we have noticed on the make-up decision, a trend we have noticed many times before. In those Church areas in which the minister understands the decision and is confident that Christ has led His Church to see His will more clearly, the congregation he pastors is strong and confident in following Christ's lead too.

On the other hand, in those few areas in which the minister (or in the case of make-up, his wife) is uncertain, doubtful or even disagrees with the decision, the Church members in his care are the ones who are uncertain, doubtful and feel free to disagree.

Being in the ministry of Jesus Christ is a very serious responsibility. Far graver than many have realized. Our job is to teach God's way of life. And God holds us ACCOUNTABLE TO HIM to do it FAITHFULLY.

The Word of God came to us from Jesus Christ who said He spoke nothing of Himself. He spoke only the words His Father gave Him to speak. He gave them to the apostles who preached them throughout the world and were used to record them for us in the Bible.

Today, the world is in almost total confusion about God's Word. But God has raised up an apostle at the end of this age who faithfully preaches and teaches God's Word as God continually adds to his understanding of it. He has used His apostle to teach us every point of His doctrine we know. From the knowledge of God's Sabbath and Holy Days to the spirit in man and what it means to be born again. From events far in the past such as Lucifer's rebellion to the prophecies yet to occur in the Book of Revelation. We learned them all from and through Mr. Armstrong. Through him we have been commissioned by Christ to teach God's Word to the congregations we serve. Not our own ideas--but God's pure Word (Jer. 23:22, 28; I Peter 4:11).

Now we have been given God's mind on make-up, again through Christ's apostle. Actually, Mr. Armstrong's write-up on make-up was not primarily about make-up. It was about the principles of spiritual sin. If you did not see that you need to read it again. With that understanding many of the smaller questions in your mind will probably be cleared up. Or make them easier to clear up. We all need help now and then to stay on course.

But stay on course we must. The Church you supervise will <u>reflect your faithfulness</u>. If your trumpet sound is uncertain, wavering and negative, some in the congregation will not be ready--for battle or the marriage of the Lamb. You will be held accountable to Christ Himself (Jas. 3:1; I Cor. 3:13).

But if, under the government of God, your "trumpet" FAITHFULLY SHOWS GOD'S PEOPLE THEIR SINS, He will use you to assist Him in bringing the entire universe back under His government, obediently following His Way.

--Robert E. Fahey

<u>WHERE ARE WE GOING?</u>

(The following memo was circulated to all department heads in Pasadena last Tuesday, December 15.)

For an individual and for the Church as a whole, the first law of success is to have the right GOAL! And then after establishing it, to NEVER TAKE OUR EYES OFF OF IT!

At the beginning of 1982, it is wise to ask, where is God's Church going?

Sabbath, June 24, 1978, Mr. Herbert Armstrong had proclaimed a special fast day worldwide and spoke personally to the combined Pasadena congregations. The sermon was taped and played in all churches; excerpts were included in the June 26, 1978 PASTOR'S REPORT. In that sermon three and one half years ago, Jesus Christ instructed us through His apostle the direction He was leading His Church.

Mr. Armstrong began by saying that he had good news and bad news. The bad news was that the Church was in FATAL DANGER. A spirit of lethargy and liberalism had taken hold of us. Many were "doing their own thing"--what was right in their own eyes and not what is right in GOD'S EYES. Members were unsure who was in charge. God had withdrawn His blessings from the Church.

Then he continued, "Now for the good news--JESUS CHRIST IS MOVING TO PUT HIS CHURCH BACK ON THE TRACK!" Notice he did not say that Herbert W. Armstrong was putting the Church back on the track. But Jesus Christ, the living HEAD of His Body, the Church, was and is the One doing it. He said that Christ had brought him back to life for two reasons. One was "to revive you--TO SHAKE YOU UP if I can; TO GET YOU TO REALIZE THAT YOU'RE IN DANGER!" The other was to be used of Christ to redirect everything in God's Church to the way Christ shows it should be, doctrinally and organizationally.

The Church was so sleepy, so dull of hearing and spiritually blind that most did not comprehend what Christ was doing. Some don't see it yet. As leaders in the Church we must be awake and alert to Christ's direction. And RESPONSIVE to it! We MUST be! Else we aren't leaders at all.

Two months later Mr. Armstrong wrote, in the August 7th, PASTOR'S REPORT:

> This is the time of the trial and test of GOD'S PEOPLE! (Dan. 12:9, 10.) We are in the process of seeing the living HEAD of God's Church, Jesus Christ, enthroned once again along with the GREAT MAJESTIC GOD in our hearts as never before! GOD'S CHURCH is now striving with God's power to root out liberalism, secularism and spiritual lethargy and neglect from our midst! God's Church and Work has been completely turned around in the past two months.
>
> We are, praise to our Leader Jesus Christ, now making a NEW START in the right direction!
>
> We need to be AWAKE and plunge with renewed vigor into the work before us, for the night draweth on when no man can work!

God's Church has a job to do. One of the fruits of being "on track" is that the efforts and resources available to the Church are concentrated on accomplishing the TASK Christ has given us--the Great Commission--to preach and publish the Gospel of the Kingdom in all the world.

In announcing the special fast day in a co-worker letter, June 13, 1978, Mr. Armstrong wrote:

> Now the same Jesus Christ, the living HEAD of God's Church, is VERY SOON--in our present generation--to RETURN as KING of kings.
>
> Meanwhile, He has called us to proclaim that wonderful ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOOD NEWS to the entire world. THAT IS OUR JOB! That job is not yet finished.
>
> Now He calls on us to GET OUR MINDS BACK on OUR PART in FINISHING God's great OVERALL MASTER PLAN.

Mr. Armstrong has been diligently doing his part. His writing and preaching have consistently warned us to wake up, to see if we are really led by God's Spirit or just kidding ourselves. He has become far more deeply involved in every aspect of this worldwide Work to assure that each part is "on track" and running smoothly. This year, he has traveled to nearly every congregation and regional office and met with various heads of government to further God's Work. He has stepped up his television broadcasting and expanded radio and TV time-buying worldwide. The PLAIN TRUTH circulation is moving steadily upward. God's blessings have increased.

He is doing his part. Are we all doing ours?

As leaders of others in God's Church we must be certain that our goals are the same ones Christ has given the Church through His apostle. By ourselves, we can do absolutely nothing. For Christ to use us, we must be totally yielded to Him.

If we are turning to any other goals or pet projects, we are going the way of the self-willed, doing what is right in our own eyes and heading off the track. All such "effort" will be fruitless.

What are those goals Christ has set?

Firstly, Christ has shown us we must all speak the same thing. That is true in the ministry, our publications and administrative procedures. We are working to "speak with one voice" in the Churches, in the various PLAIN TRUTH editions, in our ads throughout the world and in our procedures and reports.

Secondly, Mr. Armstrong has directed that far more of our resources go into preaching the Gospel worldwide. We must vigorously be about our Father's business.

That means a shift in budget priority from the projects we may hope to do to the one we MUST DO! Of course, the care and spiritual feeding of those that respond to Christ's message must be maintained and strengthened.

Thirdly, Mr. Armstrong wants to streamline organizationally. Do we operate smoothly and efficiently? Is there a better and simpler way? Is the right man doing the right job?

Does each project help back up Mr. Armstrong in fulfilling the Great Commission? Does it need to be done? If it does not, we should not do it. That is especially true when we are trying to expand our publishing and broadcasting around the globe.

If the project should be done, does it properly reflect the high standards of quality of character and craftsmanship that Christ has inspired Mr. Armstrong to follow since the beginning? If we do it, we should do it the best we can. That is God's way.

Christ said the laborer is worthy of his hire. We are hoping to pay good wages to really productive workers. Christ also said that the laborers would be few. He did not comment on the number of employees!

The direction of God's Church in 1982 is a continuation of the turnaround Christ began in June 1978. We still need to awake out of spiritual

lethargy, to GROW in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and be busy with the work He has given us to do.

As a leader within the Church you are in one of two categories. Either you are helping the Church to go in this direction or you are delaying us getting there. Either you are part of the solution or you are part of the problem. The Church is certain to go in the direction the Head of the Body wants it to go. God's Church will be one heart and one mind, serving Him with one consent. No one can stop it. I know 'cause I read the end of the BOOK! Therefore, it is far better to be part of the solution than to be part of the problem.

1982 will be another year of trial and testing. That is sure. Christ will also accomplish very much through the Church He is preparing to be His Bride! We all need to be individually responsive to His lead so that "the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:16).

This end-time Philadelphia era of God's Church is being trained to disseminate God's way of life, God's spiritual knowledge. That knowledge has been almost completely withheld from mankind since Adam was expelled from the Garden. After He has prepared us and used us at the end of this age, He said He would move us to Jerusalem (Rev. 3:12) where an even bigger job awaits us!

God has set and explained the goal. Now each of us must press toward it.

--Robert E. Fahey

H.W.A. COMPLETES TOUR OF INTERNATIONAL OFFICES

Pages 11 through 13 contain information and charts which were part of the report presented to Mr. Armstrong at the Mexico City office November 3rd. Mr. Leon Walker, director of the Spanish-speaking areas of the Work, gave the presentation. The visit to Mexico City, which was covered in the WORLDWIDE NEWS, completed Mr. Armstrong's tour of all international offices this year.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Removal of Church Children From Public Schools for Teaching at Home

(The following is from Mr. Ralph K. Helge of the Legal Office)

A legal issue has arisen in some outlying churches that could affect the Church overall. As a consequence it is necessary to communicate the Church position on the matter so that we all act with one accord.

Some Church members have totally removed their children from public school with the intent of teaching them at home.

(Continued on page 14)

THE SPANISH PHASE OF GOD'S WORLDWIDE WORK

KEY DATES AND EVENTS

1956 — Spanish Department was begun in Pasadena under the direction of Benjamin L. Rea.

1958 — First literature published in Spanish.

"El Mundo de Mañana" (The World Tomorrow) program began with Benjamin Rea as broadcaster.

1959 — Generosa López de Ríos was the first Spanish-speaking person to be baptized outside the U.S. She was living in Montevideo, Uruguay, at the time and was baptized by Dr. Rea. She is still a faithful member now living in La Coruña, Spain.

1960 — Spanish Department was transferred to England, where it remained until Dr. Rea's death in 1965.

1965 — Spanish Department was transferred to Big Sandy under the direction of Charles V. Dorothy.

1967 — Pablo González from Puerto Rico became the broadcaster for "El Mundo de Mañana."

An office was opened in Mexico City and a local church was raised up — the first in a Spanish-speaking country.

1968 — *La Pura Verdad (The Plain Truth)* began in the Spanish language with the February issue.

Advertising began in *Reader's Digest* and continued until early 1970. This campaign brought in over 80,000 new subscribers — we still receive a few coupons each year from that very successful effort.

1969 — Robert Flores, Sr. was sent to Santiago, Chile, to raise up the first church in South America.

The Feast of Tabernacles was observed in Chile — the first time in a Spanish-speaking country.

1971 — Robert Flores, Sr. was transferred to Bahia Blanca, Argentina, to raise up the first church in that country.

1972 — Spanish Department was transferred to Pasadena.

1973 — Walter Dickinson became director of the Spanish Department.

1975 — A Spanish-speaking church was raised up in Pasadena, pastored by Robert Flores, Sr. — the first Spanish-speaking church in the U.S.

1976 — *El Comunicado* (The Spanish equivalent of the *Good News* and *The Worldwide News*) began with the June issue.

Herbert Cisneros was ordained a Local Elder and a church was begun in San Salvador, El Salvador — the first in Central America.

The Spanish newsstand program began in the United States and Puerto Rico.

1978 — Wilfredo Sáenz was ordained a Local Elder and a church was raised up in Lima, Perú. Two outlying Bible studies were also begun in Huaraz and Piura, Perú.

Pablo González was transferred to Bogotá, Colombia, where a church was begun.

The cardholder program, which has had excellent results, was begun.

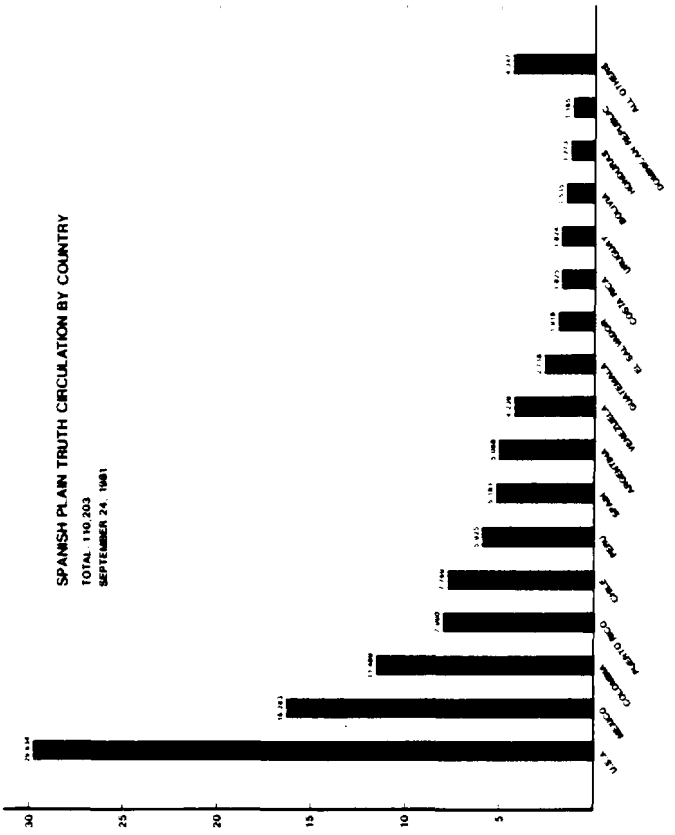
1979 — Leon Walker became director of the Spanish Department.

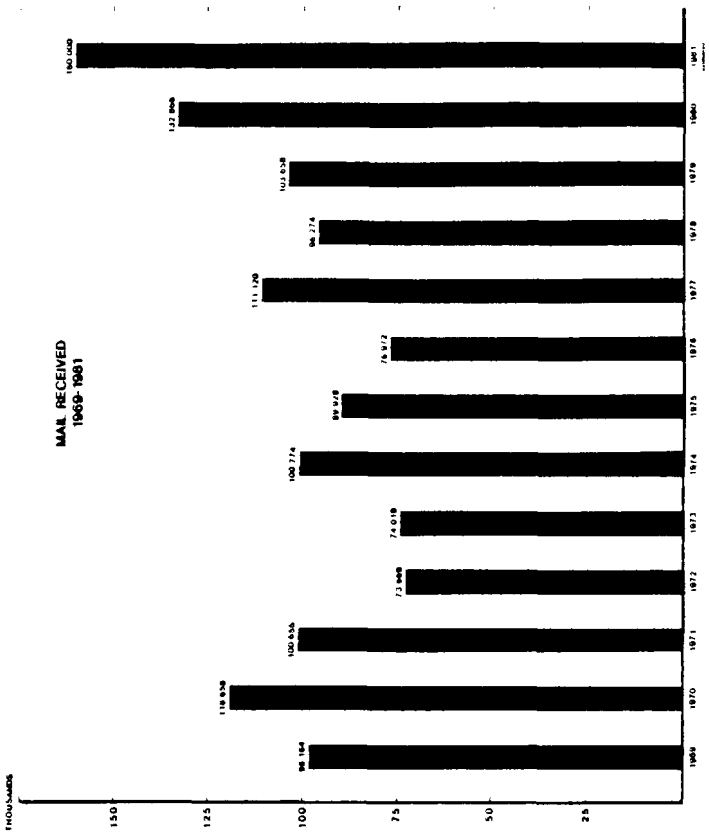
1981 — In January, all ministers from the Spanish-speaking areas of the Work were brought in for the seventh session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. This was the first time all had been together in one place.

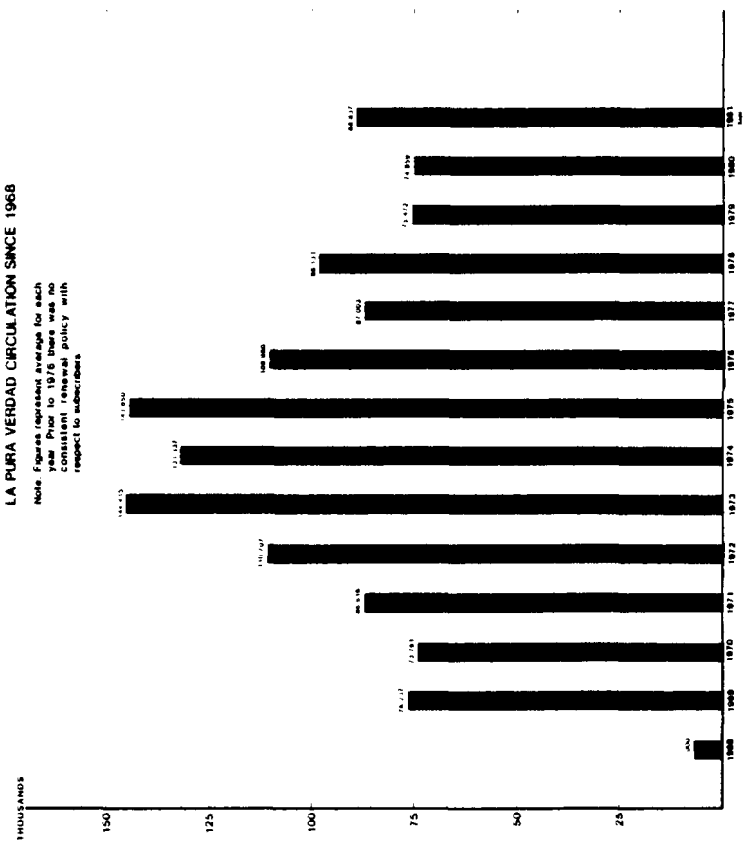
September marked the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the Spanish Department.

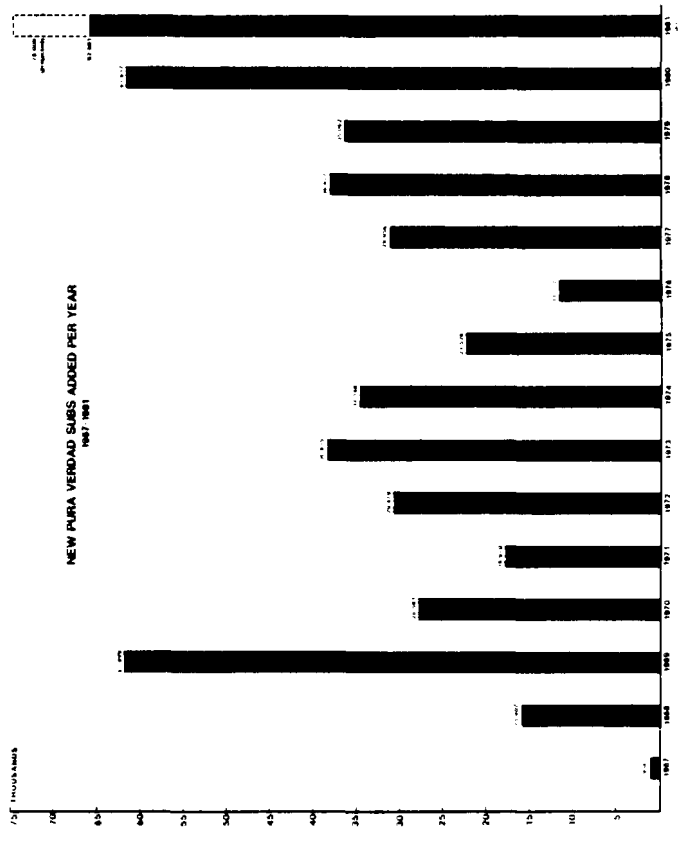
MAJOR AREAS

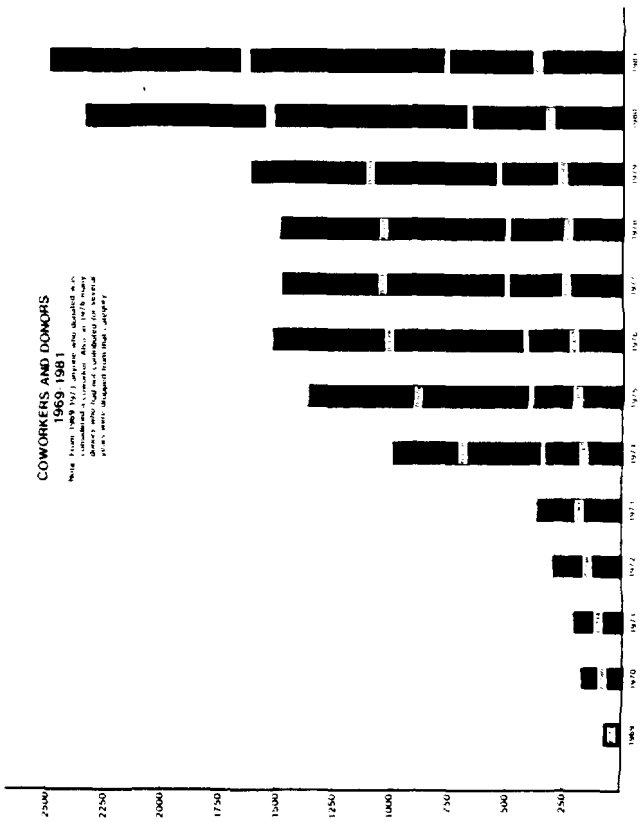
Area	Population in millions	Ministers (Assistants)	Churches (Attendance)	Bible Studies (Attendance)	Pura Verdad Circulation	Members
MEXICO	72	4 (3)	8 (489)	4 (132)	16,283	241
Puerto Rico	3.5	1	1 (89)	None	7,990	45
CENTRAL AMERICA	22	1	3 (168)	None	9,902	111
COLOMBIA VENEZUELA	40.8	1 (1)	1 (93)	2 (90)	15,728	119
PERU	17.7	1	1 (75)	3 (64)	5,925	81
CHILE	11.2	2	2 (77)	None	7,769	58
ARGENTINA	27.3	2	2 (136)	2 (20)	5,088	68
SPAIN	38	None	None	None	5,181	17
BRAZIL & PORTUGAL	140	None	None	None	849	16
TOTAL	**372.5**	**12 (4)**	**18 (1127)**	**11 (306)**	**73,866**	**756**

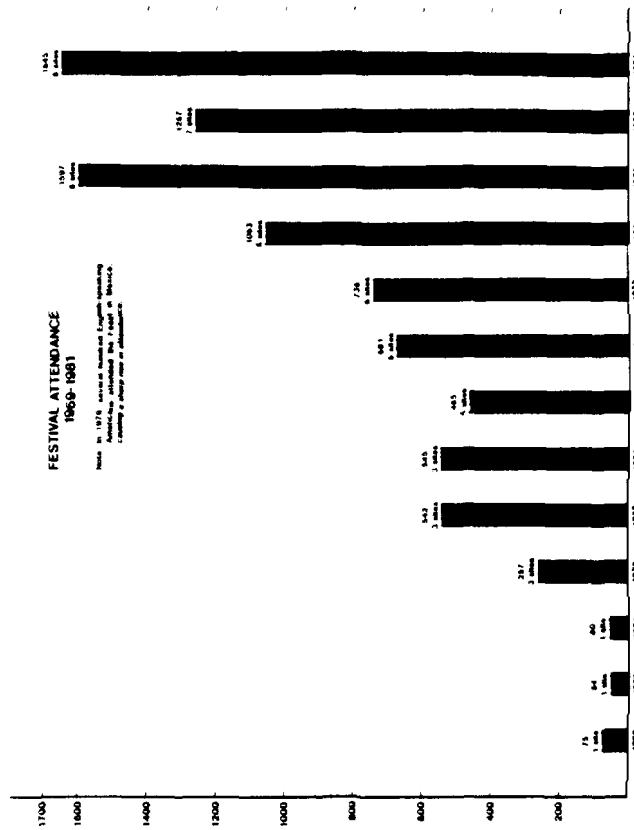

SPANISH PLAIN TRUTH CIRCULATION BY COUNTRY
TOTAL: 110,203
SEPTEMBER 24, 1981
U.S.A.
MEXICO
COLOMBIA
PUERTO RICO
CHILE
PERU
SPAIN
ARGENTINA
VENEZUELA
GUATEMALA
EL SALVADOR
COSTA RICA
URUGUAY
BOLIVIA
HONDURAS
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
ALL OTHERS

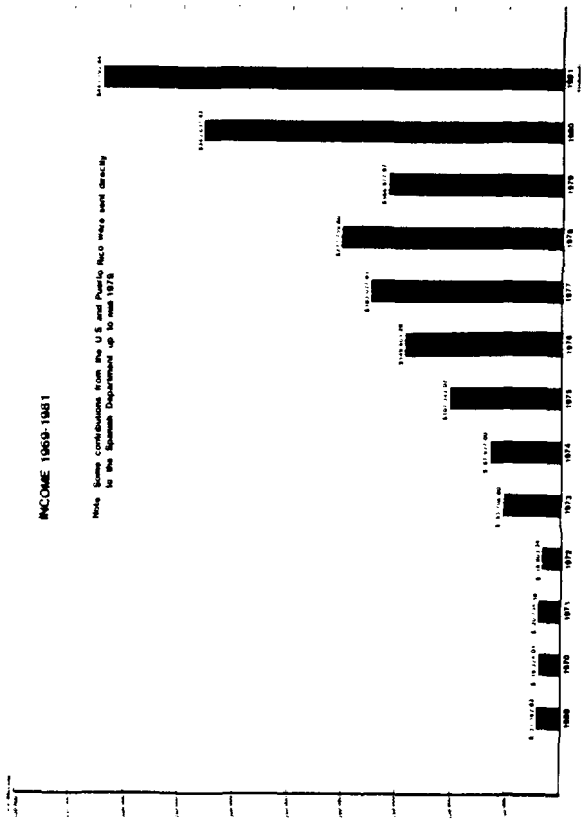

MAIL RECEIVED
1969-1981
THOUSANDS

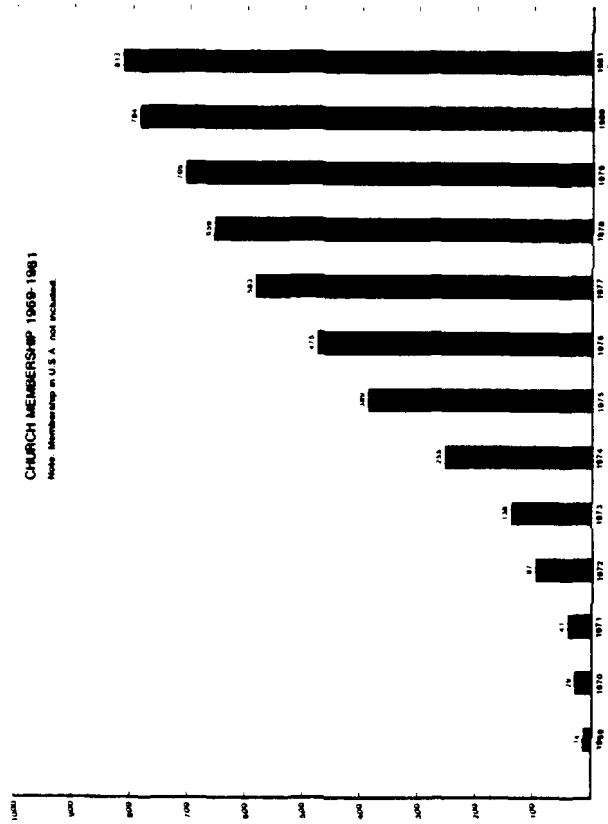

LA PURA VERDAD CIRCULATION SINCE 1968
Note: Figures represent average for each year. Prior to 1976 there was no consistent renewal policy with respect to subscribers
THOUSANDS


NEW PURA VERDAD SUBS ADDED PER YEAR
1967-1981
THOUSANDS


COWORKERS AND DONORS
1969-1981


FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE
1969-1981


INCOME 1969-1981


CHURCH MEMBERSHIP 1969-1981

Removal of Church Children (Continued from page 10)

Church members having children in public schools is, of course, not a sin nor a violation of God's Law. The majority of Church members have their children in public school. Hence it can never be represented that the Church has a policy against Church children attending public school. If local law requires that children attend public or private school, or be enrolled in some acceptable type correspondence course, then from a Church standpoint that should be done.

If, however, the parents are of the conclusive conviction that the local law which might require one or more of the foregoing is unconstitutional, and it is their intention to raise this constitutional question and attempt to have it resolved in their favor, then they must be ready to bear the consequences. Some of the readily foreseeable consequences are as follows:

1. That the state would undoubtedly criminally prosecute the parents for violation of the compulsory school attendance law, or some other similar charge.

2. Ultimately the state might appoint a guardian to take custody of the children. This does not necessarily mean that it would remove the children from the parents' possession, although it might. One of the things the guardian would do is to give consent or see that the children attend school, or some other alternative, until the legal questions are all resolved.

3. The parents would then be required to defend the criminal case and the attempt to appoint a guardian, and to appeal any convictions or adverse decision. This would cost a great deal of money and the parents would have to be able and willing to bear the cost. One possible alternative is that the state might appoint an attorney to defend a criminal charge, if the parents are unable to pay. In other cases, the parents might be able to obtain the assistance of some private civil rights group interested in such a case.

4. The Church itself could not become involved in a dispute of this nature directly in that it is too far removed from its Commission of preaching the Gospel and feeding the flock. It should be understood this does not mean that the Church is not concerned for such parents. It is just that the Church must concentrate on the fulfillment of the primary commission that God has given to it. If the Church were to take a different position in this matter it would be battling individual states or school boards from one end of the country to the other and could literally immerse the Church in hundreds of court battles.

5. An alternative problem that would arise from parents removing their children from public schools to teach them at home, for no reason other than the fact that they want to teach them at home, is the impact it would have upon the overwhelming vast majority of other Church members. They are willing to have their children in public schools. In these cases we have been fighting in a few isolated areas for the simple right to remove the children for the Holy Days without having them denied make up work and arbitrarily failed. If the Church were to become involved in advocating a total removal from the public school

system, it would exacerbate the problems of the vast majority of our membership in removing their children from school for the Holy Days and being granted excused absences.

Therefore it should be noted that the Church aiding in the defense of Church members who remove their children from the public school system for the purpose of keeping the Holy Days is to be distinguished from the issue where the Church members want to remove their children from the public schools simply because they want to teach them at home.

One exception to where the Church might be willing to become involved in removing the child from a public school system, transfering him to a different public school, or some other alternative type of teaching, would be in the highly exceptional area when some children are being truly persecuted solely because of their religious convictions or they are literally the true victims of gang violence. Before any such exception could be effected, however, it would take truly demonstrable, unequivocal facts that these situations were occurring, that the children themselves were not provoking the problem and that the parents had no other readily available viable alternative.

Even though the Church as an entity cannot become involved as above stated, the legal area of the Work would be desirous of following such cases and would be willing to furnish whatever constitutional expertise they can on "as-time-would-permit" basis. It would have to be understood of course, that there would be no duty or obligation whatsoever in this regard.

International News

News From Canada November turned out to be an excellent month for God's Work in Canada! The income continues to show a healthy increase of 26.8% over one year ago. The year-to-date figures now stand at plus 23.2%.

French and English PLAIN TRUTH circulation stands at 182,312, with an additional 209,500 going out each month on newsstands.

November saw the start of our fall advertising campaign. Replies are now beginning to come in. The results so far are as follows:

MACLEAN'S	1,367
TIME	964
CANADIAN LIVING	253
SATURDAY NIGHT	53
FINANCIAL POST	13
TV GUIDE	2

Advertisements offering LA PURE VERITE were run in L'ACTUALITE and PERSPECTIVES. We hope to see results from these in a few days.

The dust has finally settled with regard to the postal rate increases. Confusion within and without the Post Office resulted in figures being given to the public which turned out to be misleading. A clearer picture is now emerging of the exact rate increases. Third rate bulk mailing, which is our present method for mailing The PLAIN TRUTH, will increase by 48.5%, not the 100% we originally had been led to believe. This new rate (coupled with

the 76% increase in first class) will impact our mailing costs greatly. Although the Post Office will offer us certain reductions because of volume and some presorting we can do, it will still cost us 59.4% more to mail Mr. Armstrong's semi-annual letter in 1982 than this current year.

At the present time Mr. Colin Adair, Canadian regional director, is making application to the Post Office to register for second class mail--our third attempt. Following Christ's admonition we keep trying, so hopefully we can wear them down. There are many hurdles in the way, but then miracles do occur.

Australia Reports The WORLD TOMORROW on television and radio together with our newsstand program continue as the main thrusts in presenting the Gospel to the people of Australia. A recent analysis showed that 65% of the nation is able to tune into Mr. Armstrong on television, and 13% of the population --mainly in the rural areas--can hear The WORLD TOMORROW on radio. As finances permit we are continuing to examine ways to increase our T.V. and radio coverage throughout Australia.

At the present newsstand distribution level, it is estimated that one person in every hundred has opportunity to pick up a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH from one of the outlets. Since its inception ten months ago, the newsstand program has yielded over 11,250 new subscribers.

A significant breakthrough in preaching the Gospel has been made in the Melbourne area. So far we have not been able to secure time on any of the T.V. or radio stations operating in that city, but God has opened another door. Mr. Armstrong recently gave his approval to run The WORLD TOMORROW telecast on a giant video screen in Melbourne Square.

Melbourne's commercial and business activities revolve around the square and the video equipment is modern and very effective. At any given time, as many as 2,000 people are normally within viewing range and the audio reproduction is excellent. Speakers around the square allow anyone interested to either listen or to move out of range if they wish. The screen normally carries T.V. programs and is very popular.

We have secured time on this giant video screen three days a week--Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays--at 12:30 p.m. This is the lunch hour for many employees and the square at that time is crowded with people enjoying the noon break. People in Melbourne Square will see the first WORLD TOMORROW program on this giant video screen on Monday, December 28.

A recent letter from the manager of radio station 2LT, Lithgow, New South Wales, is an example of the impact Mr. Armstrong's program is having on the nation. This station approached us completely unsolicited and offered to air The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast at prime time at a good price seven nights a week! They had heard Mr. Armstrong on another station and now want the program.

Radio 2LT covers the Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Wallerawang, Portland, Oberon and Bathurst with a potential listening audience of 75,000 people.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

KENT, WA--J. RICHARD PARKER: Had a new attendance record set this month for average weekly attendance. Also Bible study attendance is

at a new high. Mr. Armstrong's tapes are much welcomed by the local Church.

DAYTON (AM/PM), OH--DICK THOMPSON: The sermon on "How to Keep the Sabbath" gave a lot of help to the brethren. They commented that the overview Mr. Armstrong gave cleared up several questions. Very happy to hear about LTC material being sent out soon. The Y.O.U. manual has been most helpful in the specific areas which it covered.

JOPLIN, MO--VINCE SZYMKOWIAK: Everyone is thrilled about the Feast--all stated that this was the best spiritual Feast they ever attended. Another observation is that the brethren are talking about the sermons they heard more than the physical aspects of the Feast such as places visited, restaurants, etc.

Please express my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Armstrong for his most recent message on Sabbath keeping. I feel all the brethren need to hear messages like that from him--they answer a lot of questions that come up from time to time.

ADA, OK--DAVID CARLEY: This Church is an extremely warm and close Church. Solidly behind Mr. Armstrong. They are growing and overcoming. All seem to have had a great Feast which gave all a shot in the arm for another year.

ALBUQUERQUE/FARMINGTON, NM--WALTER M. DICKINSON: The members are desirous of a closer relationship with God and are dedicating themselves to more fasting and prayer to achieve this spiritual growth. God has been answering prayer and intervening more directly than in the past two years. There have been miraculous healings and direct answers to prayers for jobs, changing of attitudes, increasing families, solving personal problems.

BANNING, CA--JIM PEOPLES: Members enthused by upgraded Church location and surroundings. Feast a real boost to the Church. People beginning to realize that changes must be made in their personal lives if the Church is to be put fully back on track.

HUNTSVILLE, AL--LAWSON J. TUCK: I want to mention that I feel Mr. Waterhouse's visits to the local Church areas are very solidifying for the Church and help all to see the importance of church government. He is a real asset to Mr. Armstrong and we appreciate the work he does.

The decision concerning make-up was accepted readily and with good attitude by the large majority of the brethren. We have had no problems in relation to this decision.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MAIL PROCESSING CENTER UPDATE

Third Tithe Payers Reap Blessings

As the Work continues to be put further on track, God is not only blessing the preaching of the Gospel, but also rewarding individual members as they faithfully follow His commands which includes the paying of third tithe. This year many have commented how abundantly they have been blessed in

their third tithe year, thereby experiencing fulfillment of the promise in Deuteronomy 14:28-29:

> At the end of three years, thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year...that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.

Below are only a few of the many accounts of brethren sharing how their money stretched, needs were supplied from unexpected sources and extra blessings were added.

> We have just completed our third tithe year. Last year I was making $25,000. This past year I passed $31,000 (Feast to Feast). It was a good year. We had a second son born, bought a new car, took several vacations (one paid in full by someone else) and still had a savings account of $2,000 more than before. We had $1,700 excess second tithe to give away and in general, we prospered.
>
> J.R. (Palm Bay, FL)

> We have been blessed more in the last year than the last ten. I have told my wife that we cannot afford for our third tithe year to end. My income has more than doubled!
>
> J.W. (Houston, TX)

> This past year--my first third tithe year--I have been greatly blessed, both financially and otherwise. I have earned more money than ever before and have also been given more money than ever before by my Dad! I have spent a very profitable first year at AC and was selected to go on this summer's Jerusalem Archaeological Program. God has blessed me with a job I love, which began immediately when my third tithe year started! I have been blessed with many deep and lasting friendships; more than ever. This past year has been full of blessings. I thank God.
>
> A.C. Student (Pasadena, CA)

> As I sit here this morning, I am in absolute awe of the marvellous power of our Great God. I am overwhelmed by the blessings we as a family are beginning to receive! You see, this is my first third tithe year. What an experience to see the Almighty God so direct circumstances in my life that not only can we pay all three of His tithes, but at the same time enjoy more physical blessings! There is no room to enumerate all of them, so, just one.
>
> I am employed at a small welding shop. My employer has in the past year constantly been on the verge of bankruptcy. Since I began my third tithe year, we have taken in more work than we can possibly do. I am often called to come in early and to work on Sunday. So you see, even my employer who has no concept of God's plan, is being blessed because he is indirectly involved. I would say to those whose third tithe year has not yet come, expect blessings--look forward to it! It will be a year of wonderful and thrilling experiences as you see the results of one of God's great laws taking place in your very own life.
>
> W.H. (Montezuma, GA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center