

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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NEWS FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

Television and Radio Station Update

God continues to open the doors of media to His Work in the United States. The following list of television and radio stations details the new buys, changes and renewals we have been able to make in just the last three weeks.

TELEVISION

Alabama

*WOWL (NBC--Ch. 15), Florence--
7:30 a.m., Sun.

California

*KBAK (ABC--Ch. 29), Bakersfield--
7:30 a.m., Sun.

Georgia

*WRBL (CBS--Ch. 3), Columbus--8:30
a.m., Sun.

Iowa

KWWL (NBC--Ch. 7), Waterloo--
10:00 a.m., Sun.

Maine

*WVII (ABC--Ch. 7), Bangor--10:30
a.m., Sun.

Mississippi

*WAPT (ABC--Ch. 16), Jackson--7:00
a.m., Sun.

*New Stations

New York

*WBNG (CBS--Ch. 12), Binghamton--
11:00 a.m., Sun.
WHEC (CBS--Ch. 10), Rochester--
8:00 a.m., Sun.

Ohio

*WSFJ (Ind.--Ch. 52), Columbus--
10:00 a.m., Sun.
*WTVN (ABC--Ch. 6), Columbus--6:30
a.m., Sun.
*WYTV (ABC--Ch. 33), Youngstown--
11:00 a.m., Sun.

Oklahoma

*KGCT (Ind.--Ch. 41), Tulsa--9:30
a.m., Sun.

South Carolina

*WPDE (ABC--Ch. 15), Florence--
8:00 a.m., Sun.

Tennessee

*WDEF (CBS--Ch. 12), Chattanooga--
10:30 a.m., Sun.

RADIO

Alabama

WMGY, Montgomery--9:30 a.m.,
Sun.; 6:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.

Arkansas

KFMV, Magnolia--9:30 a.m., Sun.;
9:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.

Colorado

*KLDR, Denver--9:30 a.m., Sun.
KQXI, Denver--11:30 a.m., Sun.;
3:45 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

District of Columbia

*WVKX, Washington, DC--8:00 a.m.,
Sun.; 5:00 a.m., Mon.-Sat.

Florida

WFIV, Orlando--10:00 a.m., Sun.;
5:15 p.m., Mon.-Sat. (Effective
2/1 will change to 5:30
p.m.)
WCBF, Tampa--9:30 a.m., Sun.;
1:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
WPLP, Tampa--11:30 p.m., Sun.;
5:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.
*WWQT, Tampa--10:00 a.m., Sun.;
8:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.

Indiana

WSBT, South Bend--7:30 a.m.,
Sun.; 11:15 p.m., Mon.-Sat.

*New Stations

Minnesota

*KTCR, Minneapolis--10:30 a.m.,
Sun.; 12:00 noon, Mon.-Fri.
*KROC, Rochester--9:30 a.m., Sun.;
5:00 a.m., Mon.-Sat.

Virginia

WGGM, Richmond--7:00 a.m., Sun.;
1:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.

Washington

*KCKO, Spokane--9:30 a.m., Sun.;
7:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30
a.m., Sat.

Wisconsin

*WJJK, Eau Claire--7:30 a.m., Sun.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESSecond Ministerial Refreshing Program Begins

The new Ministerial Refreshing Program is now in progress. The first session of the current program began on Monday, January 18, with most of the Work's Regional Directors and U.S. Festival Coordinators in attendance.

The new refreshing program will consist of 21 two-week sessions spanning a period of 21 months. During this time, over 500 ministers representing 127 countries and 650 churches will have the opportunity to participate in the program.

The expanded number of sessions will enable us to have a reduced class size, with approximately 30 ministers and their wives attending each session. Session number six (June 7-17) will be the faculty session, during which all faculty members from both the Pasadena and Big Sandy campuses will attend. Sessions number 13 (January 10-20, 1983) and number 14 (February 7-17) will be the Spanish and French sessions respectively. The classes will, of course, be translated for those who cannot understand English.

The new program will be similar to the first refreshing program, but will cover a number of new topics and give greater detail to previously covered subjects. We all look forward to seeing you again in Pasadena.

Time Off Requests

We have been noticing an increasing number of ministers informing us they are going to, or already have taken time off. We want to remind everyone about the vacation or "time off" policy. As is stated in Pastoral Instruction #4.5.9, if time off is needed for any reason the request should be made in advance. If the planning can be done far enough in advance, we would appreciate it in writing. If there isn't enough time, please give us a call. Whatever the case, approval must be received before any time off is taken.

Factors to Consider When Moving One's Family

From time to time we have noticed that some field ministers live in what appear to be inappropriate locations. We recently did a survey and found that about 15% of the U.S. ministry live an average of 15 miles away from the area where the bulk of the members they serve reside. This doesn't include men who live between two churches in a circuit. Nor those with rural route addresses since the location of their homes could not be determined from their addresses.

We realize that housing costs are often cheaper the further out one goes; however, what may be a very good deal for you may be obtained at substantial expense to the Church and the membership.

On the surface an extra 15 miles may not seem too great a distance; however, if a man lives 15 miles further than necessary from the bulk of his members, the additional cost to the Church for providing a fleet vehicle would be slightly under \$2,000 per year if he has to drive that extra distance back and forth just once a day. If a man lives so far out that he has to get an extended dialing service, it could add an additional \$1,200 a year to his ministerial expense. For the 40 or 50 men who currently live this far out, the potential added costs to the Church are over \$120,000 per year.

Very little has been said about this subject in the past, so it seems appropriate to discuss it briefly at this time. We realize many factors go into the decision on where to locate--housing costs, school systems, crime rates, personal preferences, housing availability, etc. Along with these factors we feel that serious consideration should be given to the effect your location will have on your ability to serve the members, as well as the effect on costs to the Church.

A minister living further out could keep costs down by visiting less often and requiring the members to call him at their expense. However, both of these approaches would tend to cast doubt on the minister's willingness and sincerity in serving the members. This is, of course, something we all want to avoid.

The purpose of this discussion isn't to get anyone to move from his present location since the cost of doing this could be excessive. Nor do we feel that everyone who has chosen to live further out has automatically made a poor decision since circumstances may not have allowed any other choice to be made. However, in the future whenever you are transferred or must move due to the termination of a lease, etc., we want everyone to fully consider how his location will affect his ability to serve the members and control costs for the Church. These factors definitely need to be weighed in along with all the others.

International News

Canadian Year-end Report 1981 was a year of steady growth for God's Work in Canada. The year opened with Mr. Armstrong's full-page advertisements being placed in the TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL and other national newspapers. Results were encouraging, but not high. However, the point of the ads was to get a message across and in this respect it was successful.

It was a year of consolidating and expanding our media coverage. As the months progressed, areas which were lacking in radio and television coverage were surveyed and many new stations added. Presently The WORLD TOMORROW program can be heard on 116 radio stations and seen over 378 TV channels throughout Canada and Alaska (TV includes satellite and relay stations).

As the months progressed, The PLAIN TRUTH list steadily increased in circulation. It had reached almost 230,000 in English and French by August, but the renewal program reduced that in the last two months of the year. Presently the subscriber list stands at 190,743 in both languages. New subscribers who were added this year totaled 38,630.

The newsstand program grew quickly as ministers and members took a more direct hand in the distribution. In Ontario, contracts were signed with large outlets, particularly the Cara group which opened up shops in airports and hotels throughout Canada. As of December, over 200,000 copies in English and French are going to the public through various stores and malls.

Our advertising program did not begin until late in the year. A crippling postal strike during the summer months virtually brought our operations to a standstill. As a result, we were late in getting started and it was November before we began to advertise in national magazines. MACLEAN'S, TIME, FINANCIAL POST MAGAZINE, TV GUIDE, L'ACTUALITE and PERSPECTIVES were some of the magazines in which we placed full-page advertisements for The PLAIN TRUTH. By the end of the year we had received a total of 11,702 responses.

During 1981 we received 243,127 pieces of mail and mailed out over 294,000 pieces of literature. This kept our office staff of 20 busy (except during the mail strike). Total income for the year was a +21.6% over 1980, of which about \$400,000 was help for some international areas. Of the total income received in 1981, 82.3% came from members and 17.7% from co-workers and donors.

Church attendance this year increased by about four percent. On the average, nearly 10,000 people attend Sabbath services each week. Baptisms were up in 1981 by 10.2% and membership now stands at almost 6,000. Future growth seems assured as we received nearly 800 new visit requests during the year. This was up 34% over 1980. Serving the needs of the 76 churches throughout Canada are 52 full-time ministers, 25 local church elders and five ministerial trainees.

Over 9,000 people were registered for the Feast of Tabernacles this past fall. Attendance was almost 9,500. Holy Day offerings over the seven annual feast days were up by 22.8%.

The highlight for many Canadian brethren last year was the visit of Mr. Armstrong to Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Calgary. Thousands came to hear his important messages. It is hoped that Mr. Armstrong can visit other cities in Canada in 1982.

As we go into 1982 we see increased spending in the areas of the first commission, with plans to increase advertising expense by 100%, radio and television by 54% and the newsstand program by 68%. International assistance will increase by over 280%! But that story will have to wait until the end of next year.

New Zealand and South Pacific 1981 was an exciting and inspiring year for God's Work in this part of the world, continuing the wonderful trend which began in 1978 when Mr. Herbert Armstrong began to put God's Work back on God's track. The highlight of 1981 was Mr. Armstrong's personal visit to Auckland on May 16-18.

Since January, 1979 the income has run at about a 30% increase every single month, with an annual increase of 28.3% in 1979 and 27.4% in 1980. The annual income increase for 1981 was a very fine 32.5%. The total Holy Day offering for 1981 registered a 32.6% increase over 1980, which in turn has been 40% up on the previous year's figure.

Because of difficulties in securing radio and television openings here for The WORLD TOMORROW program, we have concentrated our major efforts on building up a large and solid PLAIN TRUTH mailing list.

During the year 700,000 full-colour flyers offering The PLAIN TRUTH were distributed in leading newspapers throughout the nation. Advertisements were also placed in leading national magazines. These promotions, coupled with a remarkable improvement in renewal response rates, boosted The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list to almost 46,000 in December, compared with 27,000 in December, 1980--an increase of 70%!

The PLAIN TRUTH newsstand program was also developed during the year, rising from a total of 700 newsstand copies in January to 21,500 copies in December. With new outlets speedily being added, this figure has jumped again with 40,000 copies of the January, 1982 newsstand edition being printed.

When the mailing list and newsstand copies are combined, the total PLAIN TRUTH circulation in this part of the world was 67,500 in December--by far the highest monthly circulation figure ever achieved here. Average monthly circulation in 1981 was 26.7% up on the 1980 figure.

Renewal responses for The PLAIN TRUTH doubled in 1981. In 1980 they hit an all-time low of 32%. Last year they have been in excess of 60%--a most encouraging result. This demonstrates that the magazine is holding the interest and attention of its readers to a much higher extent than previously. It also reflects Mr. Armstrong's recent redirection of our methods of promotion of The PLAIN TRUTH to new subscribers.

Mr. Armstrong's semi-annual letter of November, 1980 brought in over 7,000 requests for THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX in early 1981, a response of 26%. The June, 1981 letter brought in 6,000 requests for the UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, a response of 15%. By the end of the year, 6,000 requests had come in as a result of the December semi-annual, already a response of 16.4%, with hundreds more coming in every day.

Church attendance also grew during the year, with 53 baptisms being performed. The average monthly church attendance exceeded the 1,000 mark for the first time ever, registering a 6.1% increase over 1980. Growth was adversely affected by an attrition rate of about one church family per month seeking greener pastures in Australia in order to escape New Zealand's depressed economic situation.

During 1981 we received 80,451 letters, 73.5% of these coming from New Zealand and 26.5% from the Pacific Islands. This was a slight reduction on the total for the previous year, although the Pacific Islands mail count was 31.5% higher than for 1980. The lack of increase in incoming mail reflects the cessation, in late 1980, of locally-produced Subscriber Development letters.

We ended the year with 657 members, 670 co-workers and 1,250 donors supporting the Work. GOOD NEWS circulation is 1,200; WORLDWIDE NEWS, 640; and YOUTH 81, 240.

The 1981 S.E.P. was held on Montuapu Island, near Auckland, at the end of December. Some 40 staff and 90 campers enjoyed a most enjoyable and profitable session with excellent weather throughout.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

LEGAL UPDATE

Federal Appeals Court to Rule on Important School Board Case

You may recall that approximately a year ago a federal judge in Amarillo, Texas held that the local school board had violated the constitutional rights of Worldwide Church of God children in penalizing them for taking off from school to observe the Feast of Tabernacles. The court also ordered that the school board grant the children makeup work for the time of the Feast, allow them to take any missed tests and give them grades accordingly. The school board subsequently appealed that ruling to the Fifth Federal Circuit Court of Appeals.

The briefs on the appeal have now been filed and the case is set for oral argument before a panel of the Appeals Court in New Orleans on February 4, 1982. A decision of the Court of Appeals can be expected within a few months after the oral argument.

A favorable decision by the Court of Appeals would have a binding precedential effect on the states of Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi--states covered by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. It would also have a persuasive effect in the other states in the United States and all of its territories.

Thus, many thousands of the children of Church brethren stand to be benefited by a favorable decision on the part of the Court of Appeals. We are confident that the legal issues are all favorable to the Church and believe that the court will uphold the ruling of the trial judge. However, we must remember that we have an adversary, Satan the devil, who, if God allows, will use governmental power against God's people in an attempt to discourage our brethren and cause them to give up on following God's way of life.

Therefore, we should urge the brethren to pray that God will grant favor in the eyes of the court so they may rule favorably to the Church. This will help many of our brethren by relieving them of present or potential problems with their children's schools, and enable them to focus more wholeheartedly on the effort of getting the Gospel out to the whole world before the end comes.

As an aside, we are pleased to report that the trial judge recently awarded the Church \$45,000 in attorneys fees for litigating the Amarillo case. Although this is a substantial reimbursement for the Church, it falls considerably short of the total attorneys fees the Church incurred. Nevertheless, the Church will be entitled to an additional award of attorneys fees in defending the appeal if the appeal is decided in the Church's favor.

--Ralph K. Helge, Legal Office

WEEKLY LETTER COMMENTS

PLAIN TRUTH Comments From Around the World

Each month The PLAIN TRUTH reaches people on all continents. This week we have selected a number of short "capsule comments" showing the impact of the magazine throughout the world.

From Europe

I have received your magazine for several years now. Thank you for the truth and courage it has brought me. I hope with all my heart that your voice will be heard, but especially listened to and followed.

M.P. (Lisane, France)

For ten years now I have received LA PURE VERITE. My life has much changed since then. We find answers to the many questions we have. It is a lamp placed on a pedestal ripping through the terrible and frightening darkness.

J.B. (Bellevue, France)

Today I received my first issue of KLAR & WAHR....It seems almost a miracle in our materialistic age that one can receive a magazine free in these hard times we're living in. My life has now taken on deeper meaning.

E.G. (Poland)

From Asia

One year of reading this wonderful magazine seems to have done a whole lot of good. Life seems to be more meaningful. I have learnt (sic) a lot of things from the superb PLAIN TRUTH. I have become a more humanitarian and God-fearing man. I am beginning to understand the motto of "give" as opposed to "get."

P.S. (India)

From Africa

I just cannot explain the help your magazine, The PLAIN TRUTH has brought into my life since I started studying it. Most importantly, it enables a person to look into the future. It is holding faithfully to God's Word as its authority. It stays clear of all political involvement. It points to the Bible prophecies

showing that Jesus Christ is God's means for restoring peace and harmony to this globe. It shows that this Son of God, because of His shed blood, will release mankind from sin and death to enjoy eternal life in happiness on a paradise earth.

C.M. (Salisbury, Zimbabwe)

From Australasia

Your magazine, The PLAIN TRUTH, is very refreshing. It always gives encouragement and hope for humanity in a world full of problems.

J.M. (Ruse, Australia)

Although a Catholic, and not just in name, I find your magazine presents articles with incredible insight to today's problems, situations, and trends. A thoroughly enjoyable magazine.

A.O. (Peregian Beach, Australia)

No other magazine has explained to me the times in which we are living and what the future holds so well as The PLAIN TRUTH.

R.S. (Albany, Australia)

I find your magazine inspiring, informative, thought-provoking, educational, impartial and immensely interesting, to name the first six adjectives which come to mind.

S.B. (Whangerei, New Zealand)

I am a retired printer and find the quality of your publications excellent.

J.R. (Invercargill, New Zealand)

Nobody I have ever known, minister or otherwise, has been able to explain the Bible or its tremendous connection with today as you people have.

W.R. (Lyttleton, New Zealand)

From the Caribbean

Today, more than ever, we have to be informed, to know where we are, to come out of the darkness and to prepare ourselves in light of certain events that can occur and surprise us at a time least expected. When I receive your magazine each month, I thank God.

J.B. (Port-au-Prince, Haiti)

From Canada

Of all the magazines and papers that come into our home, yours is the only one I read from cover to cover.

J.F. (Oro Station, Canada)

I'm so glad that finally I have found something to read. There's truth in what you write. Everything else was something differ-

ent, uncertain, untrue. There is something "between the lines" in what you write.

T.L. (Mississauga, Canada)

I have never in my life read the Bible or had any interest in the Church whatsoever until I started reading The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. You seem to make sense to me--something other religious programs didn't do. Whoever initiated The PLAIN TRUTH magazine, thank them on my behalf.

E.B. (Willowdale, Canada)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

COMMUNIST NOOSE ON CENTRAL AMERICA DRAWS TIGHTER Because events in Poland have dominated recent headlines, not enough attention has been paid to the deteriorating security interests of the United States much closer to home, in Central America.

The Soviet Union and its number one proxy, Cuba, are turning pro-communist Nicaragua into the military powerhouse of Central America. This trend confirms the worst fears of U.S. officials when the Marxist Sandinista revolutionaries overthrew the government of Anastasio Somoza in July, 1979.

In a series of recent statements, Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig, Jr. and other top White House officials have decried the "drift toward totalitarianism" of the current Nicaraguan regime. "The hours are growing rather short," said Mr. Haig, to prevent Nicaragua from becoming another Cuban-styled dictatorship.

Warnings from Washington have failed so far to impress either the Nicaraguans or the Cubans. They know full well that, in the aftermath of Vietnam and given the suspicion toward U.S. power even among more-or-less friendly governments in Latin America, the U.S. is extremely unlikely to intervene militarily to counter the buildup. The very most that would occur would be a naval blockade of Cuban and Soviet arms shipments to Nicaragua. Even this would be a last resort, and the Nicaraguans hope that the new ocean-going Soviet navy would help break it.

Nicaragua's buildup is thus proceeding without regard to U.S. "warnings." The country's regular army has expanded from the 8,000 men during the time of Somoza (the alleged repressive militarist) to between 22,000 and 33,000 today. The goal is a 50,000 man regular army supported by 200,000 reservists--a force of enormous size for Central America, far outdistancing the armies of Nicaragua's worried neighbors. In fact, it would be the biggest army in all of Latin America, after that of Brazil.

The Nicaraguans claim they need the huge army to protect the country from raids by ex-Somoza followers located nearby in Honduras and as far away as Florida. However, the size and composition of the other branches of the Nicaraguan military structure clearly show that the Soviets and Cubans intend to use Nicaragua as an aggressive springboard to topple one country after another in Central America--all in the name, of course, of "national liberation."

Of bigger concern to Washington than the 30 Russian T-54 and T-55 tanks and 1,000 East German and Soviet military transport trucks is Nicaragua's obvious intent to become the region's unchallenged air power. Runways of at least three Nicaraguan airports are being extended to a length where they could accommodate, if necessary, advanced Soviet MiG-21 and MiG-23 fighter aircraft. The Nicaraguans now fly no MiGs, but from 12 to 18 older models are expected soon. About 80 Nicaraguans have been sent to Bulgaria for pilot training, presumably for handling the MiGs.

American officials are worried over the air force buildup for two reasons. First of all is the intimidation impact on Nicaragua's neighbors. Notes Major General William Masterson, deputy Commander-in-chief of the U.S. Army's Southern Command in Panama: "A high-performance aircraft would make a far greater impact psychologically than would a tank or armoured vehicles." Secondly, advanced MiGs using runways in the heart of Central America could strike at any target in the Caribbean region, including the Panama Canal. Adds General Masterson: "I'd be forced to recommend that the air defense system guarding the canal be greatly improved here."

Perhaps most galling of all (no play on words intended) is the fact that the new Socialist government of France has agreed to sell \$17.5 million worth of "non-offensive" military equipment to the Sandinistas. The items include two patrol boats, two helicopters and 15 trucks. Despite howls from Washington, the government of Francois Mitterrand claims the sale will help Nicaragua from being totally dependent upon the Soviet bloc for arms. (French Socialists generally choose to overlook the "Russian connection" in so-called wars of liberation.)

The United States has bent over backwards--to an embarrassing degree--to temper the Marxist fervor of the Nicaraguan government. This has proved futile. On a trip to Managua last August, Thomas Enders, assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs, placed before the Sandinistas a remarkable set of proposals, including a form of non-aggression pact and assurances of control over Nicaraguan exile groups on U.S. soil--all in exchange for a modification of the Sandinista regime's behavior.

The attempt failed. All the Nicaraguans did, complained one U.S. official was "to make hostile gestures and to accelerate the process of radicalization."

The political momentum is clearly on the side of the Soviet/Cuban/Sandinista triumvirate. The United States is hamstrung at nearly every turn. Washington has tried, to little avail, to solicit the help of the Mexican government, hoping that its friendly ties to both Havana and Managua can stem the tide.

Privately Mexico's leaders are deeply concerned about a Marxist tide sweeping up Central America to spill over into its strategic oil fields located just north of Guatemala (which is also battling a growing leftist insurgency). Publicly however, Mexico's leadership must maintain its distance from Washington, to assuage "anti-Yanqui" sentiment. The Mexican media are all too ready to repeat Cuban warnings that the U.S. is about to undertake aggressive action in the Caribbean. Mexico City dailies headlined the Pentagon's creation of a new Caribbean military command as "U.S. Prepares to Invade."

Thus the Soviet threat to the very "neck" of the Western Hemisphere should be able to proceed in two directions, checked only by Moscow's timetable and pocketbook. It will fan out relentlessly northward to the oil fields of Mexico, perhaps even Mexico itself.

One can only hazard a guess what the impact upon the U.S. would be should Mexico ever go Communist. The economic rupture of the extensive U.S.-Mexican relationship would only be one casualty. Certainly several million Mexicans would stream across the U.S. border seeking escape from Communism, paling into insignificance the refugee problem from Cuba, El Salvador and elsewhere in Central America today.

Southward the tide would extend through Costa Rica (which now is creating an army again after 33 years without one) to the Panama Canal, still the most vital element to U.S. dominance of the high seas. A Communist clamp on the canal would place several South American nations such as Colombia, Peru, Chile, even Brazil in extremely serious straights (to say nothing of Japan, the canal's chief seafaring power).

The Soviets are aiming high--but cautiously at the same time. In Nicaragua, as elsewhere, the Kremlin is proving the value of working through revolutionary groups which appear to be home-grown, thus receiving the applause of the Third World. The leading Soviet expert on Latin America, Sergey Mikoyan (son of the late Anastas Mikoyan), recently counseled the need to build on "military political fronts" like the Sandinista movement rather than avowedly Communist parties, in order to sow revolution in Central America.

The Communists are far more clever than their adversaries. "The Soviets want a division of labor, not total control," stresses Walter Laquer, an expert on guerrilla movements. "For this reason it is wise to let subcontractors like the Sandinistas, like Kadafi take both the praise and the blame."

The U.S. has no means to counter this cleverly-contrived style of warfare.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau