

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has flown to Big Sandy today (Thursday, Feb. 25th), and plans to speak to the Big Sandy students and faculty tomorrow. Then he intends to speak to the brethren in Atlanta on the Sabbath.

Plans are already being made for the soon-coming Feast of Unleavened Bread. I haven't heard of most of the ministers' Feast plans yet, but I was informed by Ministerial Services today that my wife and I will have the privilege of spending the Passover and the first part of the Days of Unleavened Bread with the brethren in Pittsburgh. Then, for the last day of the Feast we are scheduled to be with God's people in Chillicothe and Portsmouth, Ohio. We certainly look forward very much to these opportunities to get to know more of you ministers and your wives and to meet many of our brethren.

Recently, the College received another award from the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation for the way our grounds (especially the area just east of the Hall of Administration) are kept looking so beautiful. In fact, when the recent award was presented to the College, a comment was made that the College keeps this particular area of the campus looking like a perpetual float--like one of the floats in the annual Rose Parade.

Just last Sunday we held our annual speech banquet and were able to invite as guests the ministers and their wives who were here on the Ministerial Refreshing Program. This is one of the most interesting and enjoyable annual College activities--with four outstanding student speakers giving speeches, after which they are given awards. A dance followed the banquet.

This coming Sunday, 28th of February, the world-renowned pianist, Vladimir Horowitz, is performing in the Ambassador Auditorium. We are honored to have him perform at the Auditorium, as this is his only West Coast recital this season. I hope he will also feel highly honored to be able to perform in this beautiful building. We expect to have the performance piped into the Fine Arts Building where it will be projected on a large screen for an expected overflow crowd of 300 faculty members and students.

Everything is coming along very well with the College and with the many other facets of this rapidly-growing Work of God headquartered here in Pasadena. We are happy to be able to continually host you ministers and your wives as you attend the MRP and become refreshed thereby. Our continual prayer is that God will bless, guide and inspire all of you as you serve Him to the utmost of your ability.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESInternational News

Australian Report God's Work in Australia began 1982 in a healthy financial position with a budget for the year exceeding four million dollars for the first time. Of that amount 54% has been allocated for the Great Commission, and all programs instituted in 1981 will continue full steam ahead.

In the media field, contracts have been signed to place one and one-quarter million inserts advertising The PLAIN TRUTH in T.V. WEEK, a nationwide magazine. The ads will appear in the next three months.

We have some disappointing news to report. One working day before The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast was to be aired on the giant video screen in the Melbourne City Square, the Melbourne City Council closed down the screen. The City of Melbourne (which owns the screen) recently had a change in government, and the new Council decided to close down all its money-losing operations. Unfortunately this included the giant video screen in the city centre which is reported to have lost well over a million dollars last year. There is only a faint possibility that the screen will begin operation again. Meanwhile, we are continuing our efforts to have The WORLD TOMORROW program aired in the Melbourne area.

The heavy emphasis on Victoria in our upcoming advertising program in T.V. WEEK is designed to partially compensate for the fact that doors to Melbourne's radio and T.V. are still firmly closed to us.

Highlights of 1981 From British Office March 15, 1982 will mark the end of a ten-week transition period and the beginning of a new era for the Work in Britain. On this day the new Regional Office at Elstree House, Elstree Way, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire becomes fully operational.

At this point we'd like to review 1981 and look forward to plans for 1982.

U.K. AND EIRE: At the very end of 1981 a chapter closed when the Work finally sold Ambassador Press to the commercial printing organisation, Alabaster Passmore. This company has been managed by the Passmore family since its foundation in 1844. Our move has led to a simplification of operations and a more concerted effort in preaching the Gospel in this country.

The highlights of the year were the two visits by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong to England when he spoke to combined Church audiences in London. We were all very happy to see Mr. Armstrong once again visiting this country. With the live satellite transmission during the Feast, we were privileged to hear God's Apostle on three separate occasions.

It was during his July trip that Mr. Armstrong visited the Summer Educational Program on the shores of Loch Lomond in Scotland. He also addressed a meeting of our Scottish brethren. This was the first time the Pastor General has actually visited the British S.E.P., and we hope he can return again another year.

Another exciting event was the relaunching of the newsstand program in the London area with a distribution program of 40,000 magazines per month through 26 outlets. Our reappearance did not go unnoticed by the British

press and one magazine ran an article about us. Meanwhile, the advertising program continued with insertions in such publications as The TIMES, OBSERVER, IRISH INDEPENDENT, TIME magazine, NEWSWEEK, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH and T.V. TIMES.

As a result of generally increased activity, incoming mail was up 22% over the previous year, and the amount of literature mailed was up 32%. PLAIN TRUTH circulation rose to 65,000-70,000, and in spite of the recession in the U.K. the increase in income was 18%.

The final major event of the year was the resumption of broadcasting The WORLD TOMORROW program over the superpower station Radio Luxembourg. Once again Mr. Armstrong's voice can be heard proclaiming the good news of the world tomorrow across Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia and a large area of northern Europe.

During 1982, a renewed advertising campaign will start once we are completely in the new building, and we expect to build the subscriber circulation from its present level of 65,000 to approaching 100,000. The newsstand program in London will hold steady at around 40,000 magazines per issue for the time being, but is subject to constant review.

MEDITERRANEAN: For the first time, perhaps in 1,900 years, a Feast of Tabernacles was held on the Island of Malta in 1981 with about 200 brethren in attendance. This was a tremendously exciting event for the Mediterranean brethren who live in such places as Greece, Italy and Malta, and was an inspiring occasion for all who attended. Membership in the area is up 40% over the previous year. An eight-day Festival of Unleavened Bread was also held on the Island of Malta. Interestingly, the penetration of The PLAIN TRUTH in Malta must be one of the highest in the world--3,650 circulation for a population of 340,000 (1:93)!

After the success of the Feast in Malta in 1981, plans are being made for a slightly enlarged program in 1982.

SCANDINAVIA: The year 1981 opened a new chapter with the publication of our first Norwegian-language booklets and Bible Correspondence Course lessons. The evidence is that Norwegian is the best generally understood of the Scandinavian languages, so various booklets will be translated into this language in years ahead. Incoming mail was up 5.4% for the year, but the total amount of literature mailed out was up 75%.

Our P.T. circulation of 15,000 remained fairly steady throughout 1981, maintained by an advertising programme in such publications as HELSINGEN SANOMAT, BERLINSKE TIDENDE, AFTENPOSTEN, SVENSKA DAGBLADET. In 1982 we expect to maintain circulation at around the same level as last year, and budgets permitting we hope to continue the booklet translation programme.

The Feast of Tabernacles was held in Norway with a 100% increase in attendance over the previous year, though many of those attending, of course, were visitors. The increase in indigenous Holy Day offerings, however, was 27%. Total income was up 20% over the previous year.

EAST AND WEST AFRICA: For Black Africa 1981 was also an exciting year of activity and growth. P.T. circulation rose during the year from 20,000 to

30,000 magazines with a resultant upsurge in mail. This year will see the maintenance of circulation at the increased level of 30,000.

Feast of Tabernacles attendance increased to over 600, even though some of the members this year went to festivals in areas administered by the South African office. Nevertheless, Holy Day offerings were up 26% over 1980. Total income was up 35%.

Three Bible Studies were changed in status to weekly Churches and a full-time ministerial trainee, Steve Le Blanc, was hired in Ghana on a one-year training programme in pastoral duties.

In March, Regional Director Frank Brown will visit Lome, Togo to conduct a conference of personnel from both East and West Africa.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

The first session of the second edition of the Ministerial Refreshing Program has come and gone, so I'm quite late in giving you thanks and deep appreciation for what we have been privileged once more to sit in on as students! Thank you for initiating such a marvelous method of updating all of the ministry worldwide on the wonderful new truths Christ has been revealing to you, His Apostle and Pastor General of His Church in this age!

We all have been made to realize we have accumulated knowledge of God's great purpose and plan over these many years in His service, BUT have never really understood that knowledge! We have only seen "through a glass darkly" up to now!

Through you and all the teaching staff here at headquarters that amazing understanding is beginning to seep through to us. You said many points of understanding have only in recent weeks been made clear to you. Now we can go on to encourage and strengthen the brethren for whom we are responsible.

I watched with interest the expressions and attitudes of the ministers who are here for the second session. I've seen those expressions and attitudes change from "Ho-hum, here we go again. What more can they give us this time that we didn't get the last time around?" to real anticipation and eagerness to get to each succeeding class as each period comes around.

The fellowship is just wonderful, and I'm convinced the wives have a deeper need for this opportunity to renew old, and make new acquaintances.

Each will have to wait his turn to come in, and I'm sure every one of those who have been here for the second program, and those who are here this time heartily endorse the new format and subject matter adopted for this second edition of the MRP. All will agree too that the schedule has been made easier, though packed full of vital information.

Again, many thanks for the program. And thank you again for your personal talk at the beginning of the first and second sessions, for speaking to us so powerfully (and without Bible or notes!), and for the dedicated servants you have appointed to carry through the rest of the program.

Selmer L. Hegvold

God's People Living the Way of Give

We recently had a very inspiring and encouraging thing happen in the Churches in Arizona--proving once again that God's Church and its members are getting "back on the track" in truly practicing the godly way of give.

Being the new pastor in the Prescott and Flagstaff Churches, I have come to see very quickly that the nation's faltering economy has taken its toll on a number of families in this area. Problems in the construction, logging, and other industries have caused no small number of unemployment and financial problems.

However, in a matter of a few weeks after our arrival here, the Spokesman Club in the Phoenix West congregation (pastored by Mr. Jim Turner) offered to sponsor a fund/food raising drive in their area to assist those families in need in the Northern Arizona Churches! (Brings to mind the example of the early New Testament Church in I Corinthians 16.)

About three weeks later I received another phone call from Mr. Turner informing me what type of offering they would be sending up to us inside of a few days: 1) several boxes of quality used clothing, 2) over \$600.00 worth of canned and other food goods and 3) a cashier's check in the amount of \$792.82! Needless to say, it was a humbling yet very INSPIRING experience to receive a totally unsolicited offering from another congregation of God's people. Many families have benefited from their generosity.

It goes to prove that when we, as the people of God, submit to Him, He will give us more of His Holy Spirit--one of the fruits of which is LOVE.

Doug Horchak

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

CINCINNATI (NORTH), OH--JACK PAKOZDI: Mr. Armstrong's recent tapes were not only inspiring, but also helpful to the members, keeping them current on Mr. Armstrong's trips and helping them to see the principle of sin. It seems this recent series of sermon tapes has made a great deal more clear the subtleties of Satan and how sin can easily enter our lives. I hope that Mr. Armstrong's tapes will continue to be sent to the local areas. He is truly able to give us the strong leadership that we need for total unity.

CINCINNATI (EAST), OH--LESLIE L. McCULLOUGH: Several have been very impressed with the recent telecasts, especially those with Mr. Armstrong in Egypt. They felt they were being allowed to see

the inside workings of the Church and how Mr. Armstrong's talks are very direct and straightforward in preaching the Gospel. They felt they were present, and taking part in, the higher levels of proclaiming the Gospel.

FLORENCE, SC--PAUL KIEFFER: Members here were very heartened and encouraged by having The WORLD TOMORROW telecast made possible over WPDE, Channel 15, from Florence. This station has a wide coverage and boasts the tallest UHF transmitting tower in the Southwest. The power of Mr. Armstrong's messages, his clarity and the urgency of the message have impressed many as they see him warn our people. I think the broadcast will complement our newsstand program here (and vice versa).

ATLANTA, GA--HAROLD LESTER: Area very excited about the T.V. Program (10:00 a.m. Channel 36) and very aware of world events and world trends.

MURFREESBORO/COOKEVILLE, TN--DARRIS L. McNEELY: I really appreciated MPC sending out the bound volumes of booklets and articles. They have been of great help. Attitudes are good and stable. Brethren are supportive of Mr. Armstrong and really enjoyed viewing again the film "Behind the Work."

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING CENTER

Number of New Donors Increases

The number of new donors (people donating for the first time) added in January showed a significant increase when compared with monthly counts over the past five years. A total of 12,445 people were added to the donor file last month. The previous high during this five-year period occurred in December, 1979, when 9,200 new donors were added.

Of the new donors just added, 75% were in response to Mr. Armstrong's recent semiannual letter and 20% came from PLAIN TRUTH sources (mostly renewals).

Appreciation for Mr. Armstrong's Efforts

Many members continue to express appreciation for Mr. Armstrong's efforts. Especially valued are his example, warmth, leadership, dedication, correction and concern for God's people. Brethren are reciprocating his love and assuring him of their support and prayers. Here are some of their comments which were received recently:

Mr. Armstrong, you are a dynamic, unifying force in God's Church. It is really uplifting to see everyone speaking the same thing, and it makes me want to put forth more effort in serving God.

I can't thank you enough for what you have allowed God to do through you. Where would we be without your leadership under Christ? I dread to think of what would have happened to us over the past few years if you had not determined to get the Church back on the track. We want you to know that your efforts are not

in vain. You can rest assured that God's people are behind you all the way and we all love you very much.

J.J. (Big Sandy, TX)

I am deeply grateful to you for "hanging in there" when the going gets tough. If it weren't for your being as faithful and converted as you are, how many of us would be in God's Church now?

May God bless all your efforts as well as our eyes and ears to drink in more fully of the revealed knowledge you give us from Christ Himself. I pray that you won't become discouraged, but that you will constantly be buoyed up by knowing that God's people are behind you 100%.

Mrs. B.G. (Hebron, IN)

Mr. Armstrong, I feel I must express my deepest love and respect for you--God's apostle. You show such deep concern and warmth in admonishing us all. Your correction regarding make-up was, I felt, a marvelous example of perfect fatherhood; so full of real outgoing concern that you've taught us for so long--the kind that is from God.

Sir, please continue to shepherd us in the strong, consistent and brilliant way that you have been. Thank you for loving us.

P.T. (Atlanta, GA)

We, as a family, appreciate your efforts under Christ's direction to awaken the Church and reestablish it on the correct path. We are now beginning to concentrate our efforts toward the goal Christ has for us all.

The exciting new truths that have been revealed help us to realize the great gulf that exists between God's thoughts and plans and our own present level of understanding.

Thank you for your lifetime sacrifice which has brought to thousands of us our chance for real life.

R.G. (Bismarck, ND)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE (SPECIAL REPORT)

AMERICA: THE FLAMES WITHOUT AND THE ROT WITHIN--AND THE "MORALITY CONNECTION" BETWEEN THE TWO On February 24, President Ronald Reagan delivered a stirring message to the Organization of American States at OAS headquarters in Washington D.C. The President outlined a sweeping economic program for Central America and the Caribbean basin region as well as warning Havana and Moscow to refrain from igniting brushfire wars in the region.

"If we do not act promptly and decisively in defense of freedom, new Cubas will arise from the ruins of today's conflicts," Mr. Reagan told the OAS representatives. "Let our friends and our adversaries understand that we will do whatever is prudent and necessary to ensure the peace and security of the Caribbean area." (An administration spokesman said any further

military assistance to beleaguered El Salvador would "absolutely not" involve American combat troops.)

The President's proposed economic program--an additional \$350 million in aid, plus decreased import limitations on products from the region--clearly has political objectives. "Make no mistake," said Mr. Reagan. "The well-being and security of our neighbors in this region are in our own vital interests." He said nearly half of the U.S. trade flow, two-thirds of the nation's oil imports and more than half of the strategic minerals brought into the United States come through the Panama Canal or the Gulf of Mexico.

The President said the United States shares "a common destiny" with the some two dozen nations that rim the Gulf-Caribbean area, which he termed the "third border" of the United States. The President said those nations "are under economic siege" because of spreading political turmoil in the region. "Our economic and social program cannot work if our neighbors can not pursue their own economic and political future in peace but must divert their resources, instead, to fight imported terrorism and armed attack."

Mr. Reagan described in blunt words the challenge of "brutal and totalitarian" Communism in Central America, Communism which has proved to be a colossal economic failure wherever it has been tried. (Of course, Communism is a political success because it gives leaders who adopt it a monopoly of power.)

"A new kind of colonialism stalks the world today and threatens our independence," the President said. "It is brutal and totalitarian. It is not of our hemisphere but it threatens our hemisphere and has established footholds on American soil for the expansion of its colonialist ambitions."

Mr. Reagan said "the dark future is foreshadowed by the poverty and repression of Castro's Cuba, the tightening grip of the totalitarian left in Grenada and Nicaragua, and the expansion of Soviet-backed, Cuban-managed support for violent revolution in Central America. The record is clear," he said. "Nowhere in its whole sordid history have the promises of Communism been redeemed."

If the United States does not act promptly in defense of freedom, continued the President, "we will face more totalitarian regimes, more regimes tied militarily to the Soviet Union, more regimes exporting subversion, more regimes so incompetent yet so totalitarian that their citizens' only hope becomes that of one day migrating to other American nations as in recent years they have come to the United States."

Does a Fearful Public See the Danger?

The big question is: Does the American public, much less America's allies, see the "big picture" the way the President clearly does? One wonders.

"The Fire Next Door" headlines the cover story of the latest issue of NEWSWEEK magazine. In a poll in that article, 45% of the Americans who were described as "aware of the situation" in El Salvador felt that the U.S. should stay completely out of the dispute (36% said the U.S. should be involved); 89% said U.S. troops should not be committed; 60% said that even military supplies should not be sent.

These "aware" Americans, of course, were probably made aware of the situation because of what Dan Rather tells them on CBS television news, or Frank Reynolds on ABC.

Still, comments NEWSWEEK on the findings of its pollsters: "While 80 percent see an impending domino effect--with other Latin American governments likely to fall if Salvadorian rebel forces prevail--nearly three-quarters of those polled believe U.S. involvement there will escalate into another Vietnam. Rightly or wrongly, the memory of Vietnam clearly is influencing public perceptions--and adding momentum to the anti-interventionist movement."

Make no mistake. America's "pride in its power" was shattered in Vietnam. Americans in general are afraid to act, as well as being too confused as to what to do--even in the face of direct threats right at the nation's doorstep!

The hue and cry is "no more Vietnams"--presumably meaning U.S. military intervention and likely defeat. Yet few stop to think about what has happened to Asia since Vietnam and surrounding mini-states fell to the Communists--millions of lives lost in warfare and multiple thousands of people cast upon the oceans as hapless refugees.

Americans don't stop to think, as the President warned the OAS, how many thousands--rather millions--of people will seek refuge in the United States if the "red tide" in the Americas is not stopped. (In fact, some of our own brethren in the region may have to seek refuge as well--perhaps the first full-scale relocation in this era of God's Church!)

It is rumored that Fidel Castro would like to, if he could, rid his island of another three million people--cynically dumping them across the Florida Straits into the United States. The last time he did so he emptied his jails of criminals and perverts. This time it would be to relieve economic pressure from his Caribbean "Communist showcase." (Police chiefs all along the Atlantic coast are bitter about having to deal with all the problems caused by the Cuban criminals Castro unloaded and former President Carter let in.)

Despite four billion dollars a year in aid from Moscow, Cuba's economy is in wretched shape--the very epitome of the colossal failure of Communism Mr. Reagan pointed to. Leftist propaganda has pictured Cuba otherwise, as being some sort of an egalitarian paradise, a bit short on food perhaps, but with free medical service, compulsory education, etc., etc. People are misled in believing, as one news source said, that Cubans live well these days "by Third World standards." Few realize that before Castro, Cuba had no "Third World" economy, but one that was far ahead of any other nation in the Caribbean and any nation in the Third World.

"After 22 years of Castroism," says Professor Norman Luxenburg of the University of Iowa, "and despite large-scale infusions of Soviet bloc technology and aid, the real gross national product per capita in Cuba is below what it was more than 20 years ago. Indeed...it is only massive Soviet bloc aid of perhaps \$4 billion a year that keeps the sputtering Cuban economy alive."

Cubans--the Modern-day "Philistines"

"The Cuban government is without question one of the nastiest at home," adds Carlos Rangel, the noted Venezuelan author, "and most aggressive abroad of all Communist regimes. This regime has practically ceased to claim that Communism has improved the lot of the Cuban people. Now it says that improvements will have to wait upon the destruction of the last remnants of capitalism and the worldwide triumph of Communism.... [Cuba prides] itself on being the spearhead of a world Communist revolution against the West, and most especially the United States."

Cuba has spread its venom to Nicaragua. Nicaragua's new national anthem, as decreed by its leftist government, has a line referring to the U.S. as "the enemy of mankind."

In the face of its own internal failure, why then is Castro succeeding? The fact is, a Communist Cuba exists for one primary purpose today: It acts as an agent to trouble and curse America, just as neighboring nations troubled Israel in the times of the judges whenever Israel lapsed into sin! Read Judges 13:1. Notice also Deuteronomy 28:20 and 25: "The Lord will send upon you curses, confusion, and frustration, in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly, on account of the evil of your doings, because you have forsaken me....The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them..." (R.S.V.).

Whichever way the U.S. chooses to fight in Central America, it will not win! If America's side "wins" the U.S. would be labeled worldwide a champion of oppression. A leftist victory, however, especially after a protracted war and against deep American involvement, would amount to a shattering defeat for the U.S., propelling Soviet/Cuban influence in the region.

"On account of the evil of your doings," God says. The evil inside America is too extensive to recount--but it is worsening all the time. And now gross immorality is on the verge of being brought into homes of people all across the country in the form of "adult entertainment" on cable television--entertainment of the form that Mr. Reagan has condemned but is powerless to do anything about in our "free" society.

By June of this year, for example, over 200 cable systems will be carrying programming from the Playboy-Escapade channel. This outfit produces such programs as "Everything Goes," an "adult" game show which is sort of a cross between "Hollywood Squares" and "strip poker." If a woman contestant guesses a question (usually a lewd one) incorrectly, the male contestant removes an article of her clothing. And vice versa. On a recent show ("reviewed" in the LOS ANGELES TIMES) the woman contestant was down to nothing but a G-string by the end of the half-hour. (The male contestant was also asked to guess the identity of three females standing behind a wall by looking at their exposed bosoms.) Obviously as cablevision expands, so will immorality.

America has lost its way, broken loose of its moral moorings. No wonder God has removed His blessings and is allowing the modern "Philistines" to move in for the kill. In a remarkable essay in the December, 1981 issue of HARPER'S magazine, famed Italian author Luigi Barzini writes this in his article, "The Americans":

"The United States is...a great nation, in many ways the greatest nation of all times....Very few imitators have understood that the secret of the United States' tremendous success is not merely technology, know-how, the work ethic or greed. It was a spiritual wind that drove the Americans irresistibly ahead. Behind their compulsion to improve man's lot was at first an all-pervading religiousness, later the sense of duty, the submission to a God-given code of personal behavior, the acceptance of a God-given task to accomplish and of all the necessary sacrifices. Few foreigners understand this, even today. The United States looks to them like the triumph of soulless materialism. The religious fervor and the Protestant ethic that were so blantly evident in the past are certainly less visible now. But they are still there, even if few Americans mention them. They are feeble, discredited by intellectuals, corroded by the doubts of these impious times, but without them, or what is left of them, America would not be what it is." And without God's blessings and favor, an immoral America cannot stand before its enemies. The future is far more bleak than contemporary "impious America" realizes. Perhaps it was best foretold in a letter from a woman in Pasadena to the editor of the LOS ANGELES TIMES on February 24, 1982:

"I would ask those who criticize our government's policy in El Salvador to reconsider. Do they want the United States to ultimately have to go to war to defend our own border--at our very border? Could they, their children and grandchildren, in some way, become boat people in the not too distant future?"

Americans as "boat people"? Read Ezekiel 5:5-8, leading up to the end of verse 12--"and a third part I will scatter to all the winds and will unsheathe the sword after them" (R.S.V.).

Who else but this Work of God is showing the "Morality Connection" between obedience to God's laws and the reward of national blessings and protection?

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau