

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Feast Transfers for 1982

All ministers employed by the Church are required to attend their assigned Feast sites with their local congregations. The Feast of Tabernacles is considered a part of your routine responsibilities in serving the brethren even though you may have no specific assigned duties at the site your congregation will be attending.

Only those who are requested to fill a need at another site will be permitted to transfer. However, if you feel there are extenuating circumstances in your case, please send a written request and explanation to Ministerial Services for approval. All overseas ministers requesting transfer should send their requests to their Regional Directors.

Note: All such ministerial requests for transfers to U.S. or overseas sites must be in by May 10th.

Y.O.U. Reimbursement Policy

Funds are available for the district coordinator for the express purpose of organizing district activities. Funds for other ministers attending district activities, but not coordinating them, are not available. This may be prohibitive to participation, but we would still like to strongly recommend that all the ministers in a district attend as many district Y.O.U. activities as possible.

If there are extenuating circumstances where a need for funds prevails (above and beyond the statement mentioned above), please call Jeb Egbert at the National Y.O.U. Office in Pasadena.

S.E.P. Update

As of this moment, the Y.O.U. Office has received approximately 1,400 applications for the S.E.P. programs in both Orr and Big Sandy. This is down 22% from the number of applications received last year. Undoubtedly the economy is taking its toll in the number of applicants.

All of the Ambassador College staff for S.E.P. have been notified of their acceptance to work in the program. A total of 109 college workers were initially chosen out of a total of 253 students interviewed by Y.O.U. director Kevin Dean, S.E.P. Big Sandy director Kermit Nelson, and the Business Administrator for Y.O.U., Jeb Egbert. Forty-three percent of those who were interviewed for college staff positions at the camps were accepted.

Most high school workers for the camp in Orr have received their letters of acceptance, while the letters for the camp in Big Sandy are yet to be sent. Campers for both sites will be notified of their acceptance/denial during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

If any minister, especially in the Northwest U.S., including Alaska, needs information regarding Jorge Debarros, a disfellowshipped member, please contact Mr. Bill Quillen.

Also, if you are contacted by Stephen Little, do not reinstate him or give him emergency fund aid until you have contacted Mr. Burk McNair.

Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Exodus 13:7 states that unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days. Does this mean that we must eat unleavened bread on each day of this Feast?

ANSWER: It is not required to eat unleavened bread for seven days. This instruction means that whenever bread is eaten during this Festival it is to be unleavened. It does not mean unleavened bread must be eaten each day.

Mr. Armstrong wants us all teaching and preaching the same thing, as God has instructed us in His Word. Please take note of this answer so that there is peace and harmony in all churches on this often-asked question.

International News

The Netherlands The month of February has been a very active month for the promotion of the Dutch edition of The PLAIN TRUTH in the Dutch-language areas of Belgium and The Netherlands. 190,000 flyers were placed this month in the weekend edition of De TELEGRAAF, a Dutch national newspaper. This month's flyers completed the entire campaign with this newspaper which has a circulation of 800,000. At the same time our ad promoting De ECHTE WAARHEID appeared for the first time on the back cover of a full-color Dutch language magazine, De KAMPIOEN, the monthly publication of The Netherlands Automobile Association. This magazine has a circulation of 2,200,000. Responses continue to come in.

As a result of the advertising campaign in De TELEGRAAF and De KAMPIOEN, in one year the subscription list of the EW increased from 17,634 to 44,000--a 149.5% increase in circulation! God has certainly opened a door for His Work here and has blessed us with growth.

As a result of the ads, the total mail was up 291% over last year. At the same time 2,200 requests came in for the Dutch edition of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's book THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL in digest-size format, which was advertised in the January ECHTE WAARHEID.

Financially we are holding our own. The economic recession has a definite effect on the income of all congregations in this country. THE TELEGRAAF ran an article a few weeks ago explaining that at the beginning of this year the income for churches and charitable institutions has sharply declined to just about or well below 1981 figures. Our income for February showed an 18.1% increase, which brings the year-to-date to a plus .55%. With a 149.5% growth in PT circulation, we need the continued prayers of the brethren asking God to provide the required labourers to also support this part of God's Work in carrying out the Great Commission to all Dutch-speaking people under the leadership and direction of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Spanish-speaking Area Mr. Reginald Killingley was ordained a local elder during Sabbath services of the Pasadena Spanish-speaking congregation on January 23rd by Mr. Leon Walker and Mr. Robert Flores, Sr. In addition to his editorial responsibilities with the Spanish PLAIN TRUTH in Pasadena, he is serving in the Tijuana and Mexicali areas with Mr. Fernando Barriga.

Several men have been sent to new posts in different areas of Mexico: Mr. Gilberto Marin, a ministerial trainee, will work with the Churches in Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua; Mr. Alfredo Mercado, a local elder, now serves the Church in Monterrey and Bible studies in Piedras Negras and Villa Gonzalez; Mr. Daniel Vazquez, a ministerial trainee, is now serving the Church in Jalpa and Bible studies in Oaxaca and Tuxtla Gutierrez; Mr. Francisco Hui is assisting Mr. Pablo Dimakis in the Guadalajara and Tepic area. Also, Mr. Salvador Barragan is now a ministerial trainee working with Mr. Tom Turk in the Mexico City area. Brethren in all these areas have responded enthusiastically to the presence of these men and to the fact that regular services are conducted in their respective areas.

Four small advertisements placed in EL PAIS, Spain's largest circulation daily newspaper, have brought over 1600 responses. Six very small ads placed in EL COMERCIO, Ecuador's leading newspaper, produced 350 responses. Also, a renewal letter was sent to former PURA VERDAD subscribers in Ecuador which has already brought in 500 responses. These are from some individuals who hadn't received the magazine for two to eight years. Many people sent letters of effusive thanks for the offer of the magazine. Through these and other efforts, the number of PV subscribers in Ecuador has more than doubled within the last two months!

Canada February turned out to be a very busy month. Over 14,000 new people wrote or phoned the Vancouver office requesting literature. This is a 377.6% increase over last year!

Plans are already underway for a Spring advertising campaign using newspaper inserts. In total we should be printing over seven million inserts in the French and English languages. As a result of this campaign we are hoping The PLAIN TRUTH subscription list will pass the 200,000 mark.

Last month, Mr. Richard Rice from the Mail Processing Center in Pasadena and Mr. Ron Urwiller, who assists Mr. Rice in the International Mailing Section, visited the Vancouver office. Vancouver is the first office they have visited on their itinerary that will eventually see them travel to all the International offices. Mr. Armstrong has requested they make these visits to share ideas and procedures that are mutually beneficial and to introduce compatibility with Pasadena wherever possible.

Life of Members in Northern Ireland

(The following is from Mr. Mark Ellis, pastor of our Churches in Ireland.)

People often ask: "What is it like to live in Northern Ireland? Are you in danger? What type of problems/risks do you face?"

Well, as much as it is possible, the average member in Northern Ireland carries on a normal, balanced, routine way of life.

Of course, the politics of the "Irish problem" overshadows, although hardly anybody in Ireland trusts the politicians. (The latest national poll showed that 60% of the people did not believe what the politicians were saying!)

Members have learned what to say in order not to offend their neighbors. They have learned which areas of Belfast are dangerous and which streets to avoid.

Probably people are more likely to be mugged in New York or murdered in Dallas or are at more risk in El Salvador and Zimbabwe than members in Belfast.

We have security checks at shopping areas and occasional spot checks by the army. (Some days we face six roadblocks and other days none.) We also take our own security precautions at Church services because we meet in the city centre area.

Members and visitors are free to travel in Northern Ireland, much of which is very beautiful.

The members do appreciate the prayers of other members worldwide for their safety, for the Irish "question" will probably remain until the return of Christ. It may well get worse before it gets better. Hopefully, the brethren will have the necessary faith to go through any future trials.

Members Protected From Fort Wayne Flood

Greetings from soggy Ft. Wayne:

In spite of the severe flood in the Fort Wayne and Allen County areas, the good news is that God protected the members and their homes.

In one case the flood waters stopped three inches short of a member's home. There were several cases where members had to be evacuated, but there was little or no damage to their homes.

The story of one family is quite remarkable. They live in one of the worst flood areas, called Riverhaven. For the first time in all the years that they have lived in the area, they decided to purchase flood insurance just five weeks before the flood. They had to be evacuated, but instead of having to go to an evacuation center they were able to go to their in-laws who "just" decided to take a three-month vacation two days before the flood, and

told them that their home would be available to them as long as they needed it.

The water was so high that the only thing visible around the road where we normally turn to go to their home was the top of a 35 m.p.h. sign. In spite of all of this only their basement was flooded. The flood waters stopped one inch short of their first floor, saving the carpets and the contents of the home from the muddy waters and saving them a great deal of clean up. It should be mentioned here that they are in their third tithe year. They were so excited about this that they came by my house at midnight just to let me know.

Many of the church members and Y.O.U. members were involved in the sandbagging operation that helped save the dike system.

God so protected the members here that the Church was able to help the less fortunate by providing a truck load of food, blankets and clothing.

For several days we had predictions of more rain but that rain "somehow" just never came. There is no question that God certainly did provide for and protect His people here in the Fort Wayne area.

Stephen R. Smith

P.S. A big thanks to all of you for your prayers--they helped!

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you for yet another refreshing, refresher course. Our first refresher set us the theme of ministerial responsibility. We learned to say "NO" when God does rather than simply trying to be popular and please man.

This present Refresher built on the foundation laid by the first course. We were given the answer to the oldest question asked by man. YES! We are to be "our brother's keeper." We are to live the Law of God in leading our flocks in true tenderness, love and warmth--as only those who know God's Law and have His Spirit can.

Thank you once more for giving us this splendid opportunity. Not only did we enjoy the teaching, but also the wonderful example of harmony and cooperation set by those at headquarters.

John and Christine Comino

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Please convey our gratitude to Mr. Armstrong for allowing us to attend the second Refreshing Program. The classes were very beneficial and inspiring. We feel better equipped to serve God's people. It seems that God provided even greater depth in the material presented in the classes than in the first Refreshing Program.

We appreciated Mr. Armstrong taking the time from his many responsibilities to speak to us. His message was most inspiring. We also appreciate all of the work you and your staff have done to serve the ministry day in and day out. Thanks for holding up Mr. Armstrong's arms in doing this great Work. Our prayers are with all of you.

Earl and Katrina Williams

Dear Joe:

Thank you so very much for everything you and the other ministers did in giving us such a beautiful experience at the refresher. I came back thinking, if only we could give it back to each of our precious members here. We sure will try to do that Joe.

What a thrill it was to see the campus back to the old standard of quality that Mr. Armstrong has always demanded, before certain ones "crept in unawares" and set about to weaken and downgrade. After living through that period, I realize what a task it has been for Mr. Armstrong to fight the battle to maintain excellence.

So many things that might seem unimportant thrilled me, such as the students once again getting raw milk, and really healthful meals being served at the dining hall. Another thing is the way the apartments were maintained with the good housekeeping standards that Annie Mann used to insist on. Plus all the girls that were helping were so happy in their work and so agreeable. Of course, the really big difference was the warmth and love that was extended to us everywhere we turned. People were just obviously happy; so much of the love of Christ in them. And how wonderful to see the Bible study overflowing again, with everyone getting there early so as not to miss a seat.

Walter and I will try to keep that picture of excellence before us this year and try earnestly to carry out everything we learned in the meetings.

Joanne Dickinson

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Donna and I thank you and all who served as apt teachers. To be among God's ministers and taught by God's ministers is truly refreshing. What a vast difference from the seminars of this world's religions I've attended in years past.

Please extend our thanks to Mr. Armstrong for sharing inspired thoughts of his mind with us for an hour and forty minutes.

Tom and Donna Grede

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Please convey our sincere thanks to Mr. Armstrong for his insight in allowing another Refreshing Program to take place.

To be able to sit at the feet of experienced and loyal men to hear again God's truth was very inspiring for us.

We have been moved to grow personally that we may better be qualified to be a shepherd of the flock God has called.

As an International Area minister, the opportunity to come to God's College, to imbibe of the warmth and unity of the faculty, student body and the rest of God's people, was also worth traveling half way round the world.

Thank you for your own personal example and involvement, as well as all the others on the team with you.

John and Gwen White

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

MIDDLESBORO, KY--MEL DAHLGREN: Brethren are enthused by doors opening for more T.V. and radio time. Anxious to hear from Mr. Armstrong on his latest trip. No doubt in anyone's mind that a voice is crying out after viewing the broadcast of Mr. Armstrong's message to Egyptian leaders.

MELBOURNE, FL--CRAIG L. BACHELLER: The brethren appreciate the direction we receive through Mr. Armstrong, especially from his tapes on basic and fundamental truths. There is a definite movement by the brethren to go back and review doctrine and basic teachings.

PORTLAND (WEST), OR--DANIEL FRICKE: Despite the fact of high unemployment (11.5%) and numerous other trials, most members continue steadfast in their high calling from God. Interest is keen in Mr. Armstrong's trips and any news regarding growth of the Work.

SPRINGFIELD, MA--LYLE WELTY: Members seem to be coping well with their personal and economic difficulties. Mr. Armstrong's continued strong leadership really is an inspiration to us all. Congregation continues to make notable progress.

BOISE/BAKER, OR--JEFF MCGOWAN: Finances and unemployment are on people's minds. This area is especially depressed economically because of high interest rates, the depressed construction industry, and consequently the slack in the timber industry. Most of the people are very determined spiritually, and as a result God is supplying their needs. The faith of God in them is at work.

FRESNO/VISALIA, CA--ALTON B. BILLINGSLEY: We now have the telecast in our area and the programs are super! This is adding a lot to the enthusiasm of the membership. Also, we have several new PM's requesting visits. The first time we've had this many in a long time. Fantastic!! Visalia congregation is in fine shape overall. A lot of enthusiasm in wanting to be involved and to do the Work is being expressed.

PORTLAND (EAST), OR--JIM HAEFFELE: Overall, everyone seems to have very positive attitudes towards the Work. Make-up change is now all in the past and I haven't had any negative reactions to it.

MINNEAPOLIS (NORTH), MN--LEONARD SCHREIBER: There are a lot of severe trials right now, including several afflicted with serious illnesses. On the positive side however, we have baptized nine people in the two church areas this month. Six of the nine people are children who have grown up in the Church!

GREENVILLE, S.C.--RON JAMESON: More brethren are getting actively involved in newsstand distribution of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine in the local area. They are also very excited about having The WORLD TOMORROW program on local television. Please extend my grateful appreciation to Mr. Richard Rice and his staff for providing the bound volumes of our current literature and an index. I have started to systematically go through the material to refresh my understanding of our doctrines. Thanks again.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MAIL PROCESSING CENTER UPDATE

Worldwide Growth of God's Work in 1981

With the Days of Unleavened Bread almost upon us, we thought the following report of growth in God's Work worldwide may be helpful as you prepare to take up the offerings.

In the year of 1981 the Work around the world experienced tremendous growth. This was especially true with The PLAIN TRUTH. Circulation topped 4.2 million by the end of the year. It is estimated that The PLAIN TRUTH was read by 10-14 million people worldwide (as indicated in Mr. Armstrong's March member/co-worker letter)!

More details on The PLAIN TRUTH and other programs in the Work worldwide during 1981 are as follows:

- * Nearly 20 million copies of The PLAIN TRUTH were mailed to people on the subscription list.
- * In addition, 15.5 million PLAIN TRUTH copies were distributed on newsstands.
- * 1.3 million copies of The GOOD NEWS magazine were sent to members and co-workers.
- * 1.1 million WORLDWIDE NEWS issues were mailed.
- * 1.3 million new people were added to The PLAIN TRUTH subscription list.
- * Over 800,000 lessons of The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course were sent.
- * 4,300 new people became baptized members in the Worldwide Church of God.
- * In addition to all of the above, The WORLD TOMORROW program was broadcast on more than 300 television and radio stations.

Meanwhile in the United States, as a result of the upsurge in the Work's media programs, the following results were observed in 1981:

- * 2.6 million pieces of mail were received--the highest count in seven years and up 17% over 1980.
- * 336,000 calls were answered--a 100% increase over 1980.
- * 45,000 subscribers donated to the Work for the first time.
- * 12,000 PLAIN TRUTH subscribers became co-workers in the Work.
- * 50,000 new students enrolled in The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course.
- * 50,000 business waiting room subscriptions were added to The PLAIN TRUTH list as a result of phone calls placed by Church members. (As a result of those subscriptions, 17,000 additional people requested subscriptions.)
- * 21,000 people were added to The PLAIN TRUTH list as a result of the new cardholder program, which was also handled by Church members.

Tithe Payers Are Blessed

Our letters this week show that as members and co-workers take God at His Word and honor Him with their tithes and offerings, their needs are more than met.

Here is my tithe and offering money again. It seems like a lot of money when I look at it and add it all up, but it is amazing that, just as God promised, the more you give the more you receive.

This month was supposed to be my tightest month financially, but now after all is paid, I have almost enough for next month's bills, too! I haven't yet learned to be as generous as God is to me, but I am learning more all the time. I am thankful that God has revealed the truth about managing finances as well as all the other truths about His way.

T.S. (Madison, TN)

The enclosed is a thank you offering from our garage sale--a sale that the newspaper forgot to advertise, that two other parties backed out of, that required a number of people to help move a hundred or so plants, and that had the competition of three large commercial plant sales in town. Everything was against it! Yet, 99% of everything--especially the plants--sold. God always blesses.

Mr. & Mrs. J.P. (Champaign, IL)

It's time to again send another tithe. Even though I am used to hard times, the Holy God has really blessed me lately. I am making good money which hasn't always been the case. I am fishing for a living right now, and it seems the boat I am on is the only one around here making a living. Apparently the other boats in

the fleet are not profiting. It's really hard on most fishermen around the coast. It has never been this bad before. Most people that I know are quitting. My captain even admits that God must be with us as we have been doing very well. It really is amazing that one boat out of a hundred is prospering and that's the one I am on. So it sure pays to tithe.

D.S. (Apalachicola, FL)

You mentioned recently in an editorial the man who had not been tithing his eggs. For some reason we had never realized that we should have been tithing ours. Immediately we began tithing them and our egg production doubled! Now we have enough eggs for our family, whereas before we had to buy extra. And to think we had been blaming the poor hens--and even threatening them with the "frying pan." Thank you again, Mr. Armstrong, for helping to open our eyes to truth!

Mrs. E.H. (Weatherford, TX)

I have been remiss in my tithing, and it seems to have had an adverse effect on my finances. I understand much more now about God's Law of love through your publications. I see the need to obey God's Law in tithing, the Sabbath and the annual feasts. I am spending more time in God's Word and less on the things of the world. Recently, I had been wrestling with a problem in seeking employment, but came to realize the easiest way for me to be able to observe the Sabbath is by working harder as an insurance agent. I set my own work hours and days and thereby can refuse to work on the Sabbath.

As I become more aware of God's Word, I find things work much faster for or against me. If I violate the Sabbath by making appointments, I don't sell. If I violate the tithing laws, I can't make appointments and the ones I do make are without merit. It is indeed a miracle how things work out according to my obedience.

L.C. (Brooklyn, NY)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

BEHIND THE NUCLEAR FREEZE MOVEMENT--ANOTHER MORALITY CONNECTION One of the biggest pressures on President Reagan right now is the rather sudden emergence of a broad-based movement calling for a "freeze" in the nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The term "arms race," it should be noted (though the press rarely does) is mostly a misnomer, the U.S.S.R. having done most of the racing the past 20 years, ever since its embarrassment during the 1962 Cuban missile square-off. Since that time the U.S. has essentially been hopping up and down in place, for the most part improving technology, rather than increasing either megatonnage or number of delivery systems. (This, however, would change with advances in the cruise missile program.)

Nevertheless, Mr. Reagan's political opponents are attempting to capture the rather amorphous nuclear freeze crowd for their own political gain.

Hence, Senator Edward Kennedy, with eyes on the White House in '84, has co-sponsored legislation on Capitol Hill calling for a joint, verifiable U.S.-U.S.S.R. nuclear freeze.

Advocates of the freeze claim that nuclear disarmament is going to become the central moral issue of the 1980's, just as Vietnam was in the '60s. The political resolutions introduced in Congress represent only the tip of the iceberg. The senators and congressmen are merely responding to a flood of university teach-ins, referendums ranging from town hall meetings in Vermont to statewide initiatives in California, as well as an upsurge in books describing in graphic detail the horrors of nuclear war. It's as if life under the nuclear cloud--a reality since the early 1950's--had gone unnoticed to the generation of self-centered pleasure-seekers during the 1960's and 70's. Suddenly it dawns on many--"Hey man, there are real BOMBS out there!"

Nuclear freeze advocates cut across a rather wide swath of society, but mostly stem from the intellectual upper crust. It is hardly the "grass roots" movement the press portrays it as being. A list of some of the newer anti-nuclear organizations reflects this professional and intellectual orientation: Physicians for Social Responsibility, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, the Lawyers Alliance for Nuclear Arms Control, the Business Alert to Nuclear War, Artists for Survival. These groups join older anti-nuclear bodies plus the ever-present anti-Vietnam carryover crowd always anxious for another issue. Religious leaders and groups are also playing an important role in the movement.

The movement, of course, appeals to a growing segment of the public at large, primarily idealistic people and others who want a dramatic, simple "quick fix" to the arms race. Those who can see flaws in this approach are almost accused of favoring a nuclear war. Recent statements on the part of the Reagan Administration stating the belief that a nuclear war can be limited or is survivable add to the clamor.

Critics of the movement point up its essential idealistic flaw, that of getting the Soviets to agree to a verifiable freeze--meaning that both sides would have the right to confirm the other's observance of the agreement on site in the opponent's country, if necessary. The verifiability question has been the principle obstacle in all past disarmament talks with the Soviets.

Some of the most idealistic "freeze-firsters" (freeze now and negotiate later) are not overly concerned about verifiability. They are so frightened about the prospect of nuclear war--but not overly concerned over the certainty of Soviet nuclear superiority translated into political leverage and domination--that they call for the U.S. to take the first step "on faith" and to set the "right example" for Moscow. Some go further still. Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark has called on the United States "to become the first nation to unilaterally disarm." Dr. Benjamin Spock urged in a recent mass mailing: "We must stop him. And we can stop him"--Ronald Reagan, that is--from making it "more likely than ever that you and I will die in a nuclear attack."

The President, in the view of the freeze-firsters, is the main culprit in the supposed arms race, one who is turning down legitimate offers of peace from the Kremlin such as President Brezhnev's recent announcement of a

moratorium in Soviet mid-range nuclear missiles in the European part of Russia. (However, few if any freeze advocates applauded Mr. Reagan's "zero-option" proposal last November--no new NATO weapons in exchange for the Soviets removing their SS-20's. Why?)

Of course, what the Kremlin really wants in this case is to force NATO countries to scrap their 1983 plan to install new Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe--the first nuclear weapons in Europe (outside of some French weapons) that can reach the Soviet heartland. Moscow is deathly afraid that these new weapons which though initially under U.S. control (the Soviets essentially trust America), could someday fall into the wrong --meaning German--hands.

The U.S. freeze-firsters, however, appear blinded to the geopolitical strategies of big-power politics. Essentially humanists, they see only the horror of all-out nuclear war, however it would come about. For example, a leading freeze advocate Helen Caldicott, President of Physicians for Social Responsibility, when asked about verification answered simply: "That can be worked out. I'm not a politician." Moreover, freeze advocates see the U.S. as the chief villain in the "arms race" now. The Soviets, they admit, are strong, perhaps even stronger than the U.S. But for the U.S. to catch up, they feel, would only provoke the Soviets further. Perhaps the best expression of this mind-set, which contains an underlying "better Red than dead" resignation, was contained in a recent letter to the editor of the LOS ANGELES TIMES:

I am amazed at my country, more specifically at my government. The people of this country are beginning to clamor for some kind of worldwide freeze on nuclear weapons, and, when the Soviets actually come forth on their own and make a positive first step in the direction of nuclear arms reductions [the European freeze offer], all the Reagan Administration can do is scoff and say, "It's not enough." What more does it want?

The Soviets claim that if we don't accept their present proposal they will retaliate by putting us and our allies in an "analogous position." I don't believe that the United States is in a position at the present time to repel another Cuban missile crisis situation. Twenty years ago we had nuclear superiority, but not anymore. We are not in a position to reject Soviet proposals.

Arms reductions have to begin somewhere; the Reagan Administration is just asking for trouble by rejecting this proposal....The present Administration persists in its attitude of making the Soviets concede everything first, especially when they have just made a perfectly reasonable first step. I am truly mystified.

Wrote another reader:

Peace...is waged with trust, courage, understanding and compassion. Russians, like Americans, are intelligent, aggressive, competitive and fiercely patriotic people. If we are a great and honorable nation, we will "wage peace" and find creative, constructive ways to compete with the Soviet Union. A nuclear weapons freeze would be a giant first step on this road.... Economic, cultural and scientific ties must then be strengthened if we are to work toward mutual understanding and trust.

Helen Caldicott, quoted earlier, is a formidable leader in the freeze movement. Interviewed at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting, she told PLAIN TRUTH Senior Writer Michael A. Snyder that the Soviets should be trusted because:

...they're not suicidal, they haven't shown suicidal tendencies. They signed SALT II, and America did not....

Survival is the only issue that matters. All other issues pale into total insignificance. If we don't do anything about it, within 10 or 20 years we'll all be killed anyway. We stop building weapons, we move to sanity, we feed the people, and induce birth control--we can help most people on the planet. It just depends on our motivation and we have to stop being evil, projecting our dark sides out into the world.

Once Again--The Unseen Morality Connection

The only evil that the single-issue freeze-firsters can see is the evil of producing nuclear weapons (even other weapons, small and great lay outside of their focus). Many of these people, primarily those springing from the largely liberal "bi-coastal" (East Coast and California) intellectual communities of the country, would hardly condemn the real social evils in contemporary American society--which evils are so great God says our people are as Sodom.

"They proclaim their sin like Sodom," God says, "they hide it not. Woe to them! For they have brought evil upon themselves" (Isa. 3:9). The very thing they fear--nuclear destruction--is going to rain down like fire from heaven, as happened to Sodom. This will occur despite efforts to effect a freeze, or rather partly because of it, since such pressure will only make the United States less able to prevent the nuclear holocaust so greatly feared.

Many of the freezers proclaim great fear of "what will happen to our children." Yet how many of them are concerned about what is happening to young people today, at least to their morals? An absolutely shocking article is found in the April 5, 1982 issue of NEWSWEEK. For sake of space we can't quote much of it here; be sure to get a copy for yourself.

Entitled "Gays and Lesbians on Campus," it deals with the growing power and attraction of the homosexual movement on U.S. university campuses. Mr. Armstrong said long ago that higher education is decadent. How much more so now!!

Gays and lesbians (female homosexuals) represent a powerful subculture on campuses around the country. It is usually against the law for a college to deny financial support to a gay organization. Many students, notes the NEWSWEEK article, come to college confused about their own "sexual nature." Obviously they received no proper sex education from either their parents or in church, if they attended one. Their sex education in high school contained no moral absolutes.

Some students "discover" they are gay or lesbian at college! Others dabble with it, if only temporarily, infected by the seditious leaven of homosexuality all around them. Meanwhile homosexuals at college are fortified

in their orientation because of the tolerant climate. It's easy to come out of the closet at college! The NEWSWEEK article itself is very tolerant of the gay scene at school and full of "understanding" for the discrimination gays yet face. It adds:

While the unease felt by straight students [confronting gays] can hardly be compared to discrimination against gays, it is no less real and is likely to increase in an atmosphere of sexual ambiguity....One Harvard woman says that "homosexuality is fine intellectually. [?????] But then you're confronted by it, and you don't know what your relationship is. You can't tell who's what anymore. It seems like soon it will be weird to be heterosexual."

In Sodom, "straight" was weird too! NEWSWEEK continues, tolerantly:

Gay rights in the abstract is one thing, but a son or daughter bringing a homosexual friend home is something else. Parents often react badly, threatening to pull the student out of school or withdrawing support...[but] whatever anguish parents feel, they are not demanding that college administrators reinstate strict regulation of students' private lives.

In college, the gays indeed "proclaim their sin like Sodom, they hide it not." Concludes NEWSWEEK:

Many gays and lesbians are no longer content to be tolerated as eccentrics. They want to get their sexuality out in the open so they can get it out of the way. The problem, as both straight and gay students see it, is that college may be the closest thing to a perfect world that gays will ever find--prospective employers will not accept open homosexuality as easily as the lab partner in Bio 101 does. A gay professor of public policy at Berkeley is more confident; he argues that the number of gay students at some campuses is so large that "this group may just hold its identity in the larger world."

America--a modern Sodom--is being set up for its day of reckoning, just as when "the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven" (Gen. 19:24). God, in His great love for His people Israel (Jer. 30 and 31) is stepping up His Work of warning (Isa. 58:1). If we are diligent in our calling of turning many to righteousness (Dan. 12:3), many more people, similar to the experience of Lot and his family, will be rescued before calamity strikes.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau