

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 7, 1982

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

May 6, 1982

The month of April was quite trying for the financial area, and for the treasurer in particular. We had ended March with a 13.8% increase over last year. As April progressed, the increase seemed to diminish day by day until in the third week the year-to-date increase was at a low of +8.1%, and the month to date was a minus 2.9%. The holy day offerings were only 4.5% over last year. All this when the spending was at an annual rate increase of about 15%.

On this basis the reserves built up over the last year would be gone before the end of the year, and we would be operating in the red. Without any current established lines of credit, this would be a very bad situation.

As a result of this situation, Mr. Armstrong wrote a memo to all department heads. They are the ones who control, on that level, the expenditure of funds. He asked them "to put on the brakes on expenditures, short of reducing" current employees.

He further said: "I find we have been overstepping a bit on television and radio commitments. Some unusual outlets have opened to us recently, due probably to some electric evangelists either reducing or being forced to go off the air altogether. We have grabbed these best broadcast opportunities, and the broadcast response is increasing considerably. This part of it is GOOD NEWS."

The very next day things began to improve drastically. During the week, we received over a million dollars more than the comparable week a year ago. It was more than double last year's amount. This changed the picture considerably so that we ended the month with an increase of 8.6% over the previous April; and the year to date, with an 11.8% increase. This is still about 3% under expenditures. Unless income improves, we may have to do much more than put on the brakes.

We still do not have what I consider to be a minimum national TV coverage, let alone radio. Increased income is needed to provide this coverage.

I understand that the number of new donors over last year is way up. This is a very encouraging sign, but it is not enough yet to take up the slack. I hope that you and all the members are continuing urgent prayers in this regard.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESNOTICE TO ALL PASTORS

If you are contacted by Paul and Melodie Pettyjohn, please get in touch with Mr. Al Mischnik before taking action of any kind.

Questions and Answers

Question: Is it permissible for a graduating senior to attend a graduation ceremony if it falls on Friday night or Saturday?

Answer: Mr. Armstrong stated that if the graduating senior simply attends the ceremony and receives his or her diploma, this would not be breaking the Sabbath since it is just a matter of quietly sitting through the speeches, and is not a regular or habitual Sabbath activity.

However, the graduating senior should not attend or take part in any of the parties, banquets or celebrations, etc. that would occur on the Sabbath, as that would be a violation of the Sabbath as God instructs us in Isaiah 58:13-14.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

ROANOKE, VA--ROBERT PERSKY: Unemployment problems continue, but the brethren are very excited about God's Work. They anxiously wait for Mr. Armstrong's tapes and letters. Many are studying the Bible and Church literature more than they ever have in their entire lives. The old "first love" is being rekindled. There is an eagerness and an excitement in the air at every Sabbath service. Everyone senses that the end of this age is near.

ALBANY, NY/SPRINGFIELD, MA--LYLE WELTY: We see solid progress being made in marriages and families. Headquarters has supplied us with much outstanding material on these topics. Marriages and families are getting back on the track. Congregation responds well to Mr. Armstrong's leadership and direction.

MINNEAPOLIS (NORTH), MN--LEONARD SCHREIBER: A record attendance at both a Sabbath service and a Bible study this month. The people are really responding to emphasis put on family unity and participation. More people than ever before seem to be taking self-examination seriously this year.

GARDEN GROVE, CA--TERRY P. MATTSON: People are getting a renewed vision of the importance of the Work, their need for involvement in the Church and personal growth. This attitude has been

growing over the last several months as God's Apostle becomes more powerful and effective.

SANTA BARBARA, CA--LES McCOLM: Attendance is up considerably. Attitudes are excellent. Mr. Armstrong's latest member letter has really stirred into action many of those who were not as zealous as they could be. Everyone really was inspired by Mr. Waterhouse's sermon.

MINNEAPOLIS (SOUTH)/LAKE CRYSTAL, MN--VICTOR KUBIK: Very encouraged about several very promising new PM's. Had a significant increase in Bible study attendance. There are continual comments from brethren and PM's about how excellent Mr. Armstrong speaks and appears in his latest TV broadcasts. The WORLD TOMORROW program can be viewed on three cable channels in most areas. The newsstand program, along with the excellent TV coverage, are adding new PT subscribers at a very good rate.

CINCINNATI (NORTH), OH--JACK PAKOZDI: There has been considerable activity with PM's wanting to be baptized. I am currently counseling about 10 people for baptism, which is the most at any one time in several years.

CHICO/EUREKA, CA--MARC SEGALL: Significant increase in PM's who are serious and conscientious about conversion and Church involvement. Mr. Armstrong's telecasts, broadcasts and the contents of the PT and GN are leading those God is calling to a more thorough understanding of the truth. New people are especially interested in understanding prophecy, God's laws and the holy days. Much appreciation for the photo directory of the ministry and for the Youth Bible Lessons.

FAYETTEVILLE, AR--JOHN R. ELLIOTT: Confidence in the leadership in Pasadena is becoming bedrock solid. Pessimism has vanished. The first refreshing program was aimed at unifying the ministry worldwide in doctrine and teaching. This second session, aimed more at administration and effectiveness of the person, was tremendous also. I learned so much the first three days I wanted to return home immediately and implement the many ideas and principles. During the next week and a half the problem was only compounded. I sure came away brimful.

PIKEVILLE, KY--WARREN J. HEATON III: We appreciate the Youth Bible Lessons for the youngsters. Parents are pleased that another lesson came out and are looking forward to more. My nine-year-old really gets excited when he sees his.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

God's Work Continues to Surge Forward

Mail response continues to be very good with a year-to-date increase of 58% over last year, as of April 30. Telephone calls in response to the telecast are showing a tremendous increase of over 300% compared to this same time last year. God certainly is moving His Work forward at a very rapid rate.

Weekly Letter Comments

This week we have a variety of letter comments, including comments about our booklets, The PLAIN TRUTH and Mr. Armstrong's messages.

Finds PT in Shopping Cart

While at the supermarket recently, I found a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH in the shopping cart I was using. I made nothing of it and discarded it into the bottom of the cart. When I reached home and unbagged my groceries I again came across the copy of your magazine. It seems that the bag boy at the grocery store placed it in with the rest of my groceries. Again I made nothing of it, until the time I was awaiting the arrival from sea of my husband who is employed by the U.S. Navy. I was extremely anxious and impatient. After paging through several magazines, I reached for The PLAIN TRUTH. Glancing through the magazine, I came across some very interesting articles. I became so engrossed and absorbed in them that I completely lost track of all time and my temporary anxieties. I've become so impressed with your publication that I've decided to subscribe to it.

S.A. (North Charleston, S.C.)

Sabbath Booklet Stirs to Action

I am a recent subscriber to The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. Also, I have just read your booklet, WHICH DAY IS THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH? and found it to be the most interesting material beside the Bible itself. I am now asking for the Sabbaths off forever, although it appears I may have much conflict headed my way. I have also quit my church since the pastor doesn't believe that it's not all right to work on the Sabbath. When I told him it matters he replied, "You must have gotten hold of some bad material!"

M.Z. (Chicago, IL)

Booklet Helps Mental Health Agency

I am writing to request five hundred copies of your excellent booklet, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS--MODERN SOCIAL CURSES. We are a private, non-profit mental health agency, providing services to people with emotional, drug and alcohol problems. My position is Consultation/Education Manager, and I provide drug and alcohol education to the community through speaking engagements, public forums, panels and lectures. Your booklet has been very helpful to me in getting the message across. Of course, we give out your booklets free.

S.G. (Phoenix, AZ)

Member Inspired by Mr. Armstrong's Messages

Yesterday, we listened to one of your tapes, "How to Keep the Sabbath." It was very inspiring, as are all your messages. I also enjoyed your TV program on the resurrection and Easter. You are speaking out more boldly than ever and looking very good.

Your voice seems to be getting more youthful and powerful all the time. I always enjoy your little stories and humor.

Your storehouse of knowledge also amazes me. You are a very well-educated and informed man with a lot of common sense. I have noticed that many college-educated people lose their common sense and ability to think on simple things. Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for your continued enthusiasm.

L.O. (South Hadley, MA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

A VERY EXPENSIVE LITTLE WAR--WITH SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS With the naval score essentially knotted at 1-to-1, the Falklands conflict has reverted temporarily to the muddled trenches of international diplomacy. The sticking point, as always, remains Argentina's Pharonic intransigence; specifically, its persistence upon recognition of Argentine sovereignty over the "Malvinas."

British Defense Secretary John Nott claims that there will be no peaceful solution unless Britain keeps up the military pressure, despite the disheartening loss of the sleek, modern destroyer H.M.S. Sheffield and three Harrier "jump jets" (two were lost yesterday in bad weather). "We are dealing with a military junta," says Nott, "and so far there has been no evidence they understand anything but strength." But the British task force is deficient in two areas of needed muscle--air cover and anti-missile defense.

Putting loss of manpower aside for the moment, the toll to Britain is rising in this limited but very expensive war--as all wars are these days. Each Harrier V/STOL (vertical and short takeoff and landing) fighter costs 5.4 million dollars. Thus, the Royal air force has already lost \$16.2 million in aircraft. This does not include the cost of a helicopter also lost by accident before the ships reached the "exclusion zone."

The replacement value of the abandoned, but still afloat and burning H.M.S. Sheffield is estimated at about \$200 million. The destroyer, like all new naval vessels was an electronic, computerized marvel. For that reason, the missile that put it out of commission, the state-of-the-art French-made "Exocet" missile, was programmed to home in on the ship's command center. When it hit, it blasted the electronic brains of the whole ship. The explosion wiped out not only steering and weapons control, but lighting, broadcasting, even fire-fighting capability. It was an instant floating dead duck.

Even winning a skirmish can be expensive. The two British computerized "Tigerfish" torpedoes that disabled the Argentine cruiser, the General Belgrano, cost \$900,000 apiece. Two shots: \$1,800,000! One wonders whether the 43-year-old third-hand cruiser was even worth that much as scrap. By the way, the two Exocet missiles used by the Argentines (one missed) cost \$200,000 apiece.

If the war continues, the British will somehow have to reduce Argentina's air advantage, perhaps via Vulcan bomber attacks on Argentine mainland air bases. The British apparently do not even have enough air cover to protect

their fleet. They will no longer be able to keep isolated, vulnerable destroyers between West Falkland and the mainland coast--that's for sure.

Not only did the Sheffield lack air cover, it was underarmed, lacking sufficient on-board anti-missile defenses. British destroyers of the Type 42 class have powerful "Sea Dart" missiles but these apparently are not effective against the low-flying, wave-skimming Exocets. The Royal Navy does possess an effective counter-weapon, the "Seawolf," but because of budget cuts only two smaller frigates are equipped with them. The Royal Navy's main role is to fight the Soviet navy which does not have Exocet-type missiles; hence it finds itself in an exposed position relative to the Argentines, and their French weapons. (The British also are rueing the decision of having sold to the Argentines two Type 42 destroyers equipped with Sea Darts.)

In sum, officials of the Royal Navy, NATO and the Pentagon are all said to be extremely concerned over the apparent vulnerability of the British task force in the South Atlantic.

Weakness notwithstanding, if there is no diplomatic solution the British have to make a decision by mid-June at the latest (the onset of winter)--withdraw or get onto the Falklands somehow. There seems to be little difficulty establishing a Falklands presence--the question is holding it in light of their questionable air power. (This is apparently why 20 more Royal Air Force model Harriers are on the way.)

U.S. Navy Secretary John Lehman, criticizing British military conduct in the Falklands, said yesterday the Argentine plane that destroyed the British destroyer could not have gotten near a U.S. ship in a similar situation. He told a press briefing U.S. ships would not have operated in a combat zone without the air cover provided by a naval battle group.

Nevertheless, despite Secretary Lehman's professed belief in the superiority of the U.S. Navy, critics of his plan to beef up the force to over 600 vessels are concerned over the vulnerability of such super-costly ships as \$3.3 billion nuclear aircraft carriers. And the Navy's newest carrier-launched attack plane, the F-18, costs \$25.6 million each!

"Hispanismo"

Meanwhile, Argentina's underdog battle with the Spanish world's traditional enemy, Great Britain, is causing the Latin Americans to rally around the latent cause of "Hispanismo"--Latin American solidarity. Even Cuba is getting into the act. Reported Reuters on May 1, 1982:

A Havana radio broadcast [recently] said Great Britain was trying to use force to gain territory it does not own.

"The peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean confirm who is their historical enemy," a recent Cuban broadcast said. "Now is the time of the Latin American solidarity. The cause of the Las Malvinas is the cause of the Argentine people and, therefore, the cause of Latin America and the Caribbean.

"It is imperative to stop the aggression and impose the law," the broadcast continued. "The Latin American countries have the duty

to support Argentina with all necessary means. Cuba is ready together with the Latin American peoples to fulfill this duty."

A further insight into the complex Argentine national character was offered in the May 10, 1982 issue of NEWSWEEK:

The invasion has stirred a national euphoria that hasn't been seen since Argentina won the World Cup in soccer in 1978. As the hour for battle drew near, many Argentines welcomed the struggle with the British as a blood rite. "The military, political, historic, almost metaphysical act of recovery of the stolen islands is the basis for all our future possibilities," says CABILDO, a far-right journal. "[It is] a new dawn for all Argentines."

To much of the world, such talk smacks of quixotic machismo. But the bluster has roots deep in Argentine history and culture. Argentines grow up studying textbooks that identify the Falklands and large stretches of Antarctica as part of "Argentina Grande." They insist that these and other lands have been "stolen" by North American capitalists and the imperialist British. As a result, says a veteran Buenos Aires diplomat, they tend to "view history as a succession of conspiracies whose objective is to keep Argentina from attaining the greatness which belongs to it by divine grace."

Argentina, it should be noted, is one of the most devoutly Roman Catholic nations, with a rigid adherence to Roman Catholic moral standards. When President Galtieri announced to the jubilant masses on April 2 that the Malvinas had been "recovered," he praised his countrymen for being "very religious and very Catholic." To continue with the NEWSWEEK report:

To some extent, the Argentines' sense of failed national destiny is justified. Argentina is blessed with a vast expanse of fertile land. The country produces thriving exports of grain and beef and it has largely untapped oil, natural-gas and mineral reserves. Even so, millions of European immigrants in the last century have failed to develop the country's full potential.... The downhill slide is the subject of bitter jokes. In one, Saint Peter asks the Lord at the Creation why he has so unequally blessed Argentina with so many natural treasures. The reply: "Wait, I am now going to populate it with Argentines...."

The streak of racism in the national character is reflected in the Argentines' attitude toward their Latin American neighbors. Invariably they boast that their worldly culture...makes them "European" and superior to other Latin Americans. (Colombian novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez is said to have defined ego as "the little Argentine in all of us.")...

The fervent emulation of Europe has led many observers to speak of an Argentine "identity crisis." One popular saying archly defines the Argentines as "a bunch of Italians who speak Spanish, wish they were British and act like they were French...."

With all their arrogance and xenophobia, the Argentines have avoided confronting the people most responsible for their problems--themselves.... These national attributes have led some Argentines to despair of their country's future. "I don't think we are worthy of democracy," laments the poet Jorge Luis Borges.

Dangerous Precedent for the United States

It takes no stretch of the imagination to realize that "Hispanismo," coupled with the principle of redressing old territorial disputes, represents a serious threat to the very territorial integrity of the United States. The TIMES of London editorialized in its April 20 edition:

...the arguments which Argentina maintains to uphold its claim to the Falklands might entitle Mexico some time in the future to advance the same kind of theories for reclaiming much of the Pacific Southwest from the United States. Mr. Haig--or more particularly Mrs. Kirkpatrick--might brood seriously on that implication.

In a similar vein, a commentary piece in the May 5, 1982 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR called for a "statute of limitation" on territorial disputes. The author, Pat M. Holt, wrote:

...there are many...situations in which the statute of limitations would be a useful principle. The U.S., for example, has not occupied Texas and California for as long as Britain has had the Falklands. The thought of Mexico now asserting a claim appears ludicrous, but logically it is no more ludicrous than the Argentine invasion of the Falklands. (It might be argued, not entirely in jest, that through uncontrolled and largely illegal migration Mexico is in the process of reoccupying Texas and California anyway.)...

Carlos Rangel, the noted Venezuelan writer, editor and television commentator summed up the all-pervasive Mexican attitude toward the United States in his article "Mexico and Other Dominoes" in the June, 1981 issue of COMMENTARY.

All Mexicans, without distinctions of class or ideology, see the United States as the other, the antagonist, radically and essentially the foreigner. The United States is the image of everything Mexico is not. It is strangeness itself. Yet Mexicans are condemned to live with that strangeness....

In 1845-46 the U.S. not only took Texas (which had seceded from Mexico on its own in 1836) but also made that the occasion for invading Mexico, occupying its capital city, and tearing off its body the territory of the present states of California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Understandably there is enormous bitterness in Mexico about the loss of the 1846 war and of what appears today as the most desirable half of the country's territory. There is no way out for Mexican pride as those lands blossom and become even richer and more desirable than the North American Northeast: either they would have developed in roughly the same direction if they had

remained Mexican, or they would (more likely) have still resembled Sonora and Sinaloa. Neither alternative is a thought to gladden the heart of a Mexican.

Author Rangel then touches on the deep-seated jealousies that unfortunately reside in many of America's neighbors in the Hemisphere, feelings that can be easily aroused by the likes of Fidel Castro, tweeking Uncle Sam's beard as he often does in his verbal broadsides against the U.S. and his now transparent call for Latin solidarity. Continues Rangel:

Fidel Castro [has] managed to fulfill the ambition that secretly or openly thrives in the heart of every Latin American (even passionate anti-Communists, like the Mexican conservatives...): to get back at the United States for the multiple humiliations that Latin Americans have met with, individually or collectively, from the "yanquis," and especially for the great, all-embracing humiliation inherent in the inevitable comparison between what Latin Americans and North Americans have achieved in their respective parcels of the New World.

Who could have seen at the outset of the Falklands crisis how far-reaching its implications might be?

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau