

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 4, NO. 33

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 13, 1982

EVEREST HOUSE PUBLISHING SOLD

Everest House Publishing has been sold effective August 4, 1982. Ambassador Foundation has negotiated an agreement with the previous publisher to assume the responsibilities for the operation of Everest House.

The Foundation had determined last year to dispose of both QUEST/81 and Everest House publishing operations. The disposal of the QUEST subscription liability was completed in July.

The Foundation ceased the operation of Everest House in mid-March and closed the operation as of August 4th with the signing of the agreement.

Everest House began as an operation to publish and market major book offerings to the buying public. It was an effort to reach a segment of the public with the Gospel Message who do not generally respond to other media.

Other books, however, had been published by Everest House. The purchaser will assume the responsibilities to these authors, the book inventory and other obligations of the Foundation.

--Ellis LaRavia

MAIL PROCESSING CENTER UPDATE

Some Still Try to Pay for The PLAIN TRUTH

For years Mr. Armstrong has informed the public that The PLAIN TRUTH is given gratis with no strings attached. On a recent TV program he stated: "You don't have enough money to buy it! It's not for sale! But we'll be happy to give it to you."

Yet some people still try to pay for their subscription. A few definitely want to see if he means what he says, but most are well-meaning. For example, recently a lady from Perry, Ohio wrote: "Mr. Armstrong, I am sending you a check for \$25.00 to pay for The PLAIN TRUTH magazine and WHY WERE YOU BORN." She received the literature and her check was returned with a polite explanation of how God led His servant to see that the Gospel must be given without cost or obligation.

Most who receive their money back are pleasantly surprised and often write being very apologetic for thinking they could buy God's truth with money. Sometimes these people even respond with a larger contribution.

If there is some doubt as to the intended purpose for sending the money, we write and explain that it has been credited as a contribution but will return it if they actually meant to pay for their subscription or literature. During the first six months of 1982 we returned \$645.90 to 61 people who sent money as payment for the literature.

People From All Walks of Life Reached by the Truth

The PLAIN TRUTH and our other publications reach people at all levels of society. Some come from unusual backgrounds or have interesting occupations. A number of these people are recognizing the truth and finding purpose in life as a result. The following letters are some typical examples.

Vietnamese Refugee Encouraged by PT

I received your magazine today. There is plenty of splendid news for me, a surviving Vietnamese Catholic refugee who has arrived in free America only two months ago....Thanks again and I wish you success in expanding your outstanding Work in the world.

T.T. (Alameda, CA)

From a Rodeo Cowboy

I am a rodeo cowboy and a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (P.R.C.A.). I was leaving the Tulsa, Oklahoma rodeo when I heard you speaking on the local radio station. You were speaking about the seven laws of success....I would like to have a copy of your booklet, and would also like to know what stations you can be heard on. If you have any other information that you think would be helpful to me, please send it also. Thank you for all your help.

G.T. (Mangum, OK)

Radio Announcer Enjoys Program

Please send me your pamphlet on why we're here. I'm the over-night announcer at WKJJ radio and run your program and really enjoy it!

B.B. (Louisville, KY)

Appreciation from Flight Attendant

Thank you very much for the enjoyable reading you generously supply me with. As a flight attendant, I have ample time to read. Also, I have contact with scores of people that will benefit from my understanding, and who will possibly even pick up and read your literature. I am not afraid to spread the good news, and your articles have helped me to so much better understand God's Word and commandments for our lives.

P.P. (Indianapolis, IN)

TV Film Director Responds

I am the film director at WXII-TV in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where we air your program each Sunday. I would like to have the booklets you told us about recently. If you have a mailing list, please put me on it. I think your programs are great--keep up the good work.

S.W. (Winston-Salem, NC)

PT Read by New York Municipal Officials

Today, my executive officer related to me that while attending the New York State Conference of Mayors and Other Municipal Of-

officials, he was amazed to hear from officials attending that they subscribed to The PLAIN TRUTH. They praised the quality of the articles and the magazine.

P.G. (Monticello, NY)

From a Church Pastor

Just a note to let you know that I represent a few people who pray for you on a daily basis. Thank you for what you mean to our church. Thank you for obeying God. For what it's worth, we love you and look up to you as one of God's chosen for this age. Thank you for the inspiration to follow God regardless of cost. Stay strong, and in God's care.

W.P. (LaFayette, GA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I want to thank you for including local elders in the fantastic Ministerial Refreshing Program. Just being on campus taught us much about God's way and how He has taken charge of His Work completely.

We appreciate the excellent material covered and please thank all the ministers for their personal participation. With this information, we now feel that we can better serve our pastor and congregation. Our understanding has been greatly broadened.

We enjoyed the delicious meals and service extended to us by the cafeteria staff. Please thank Mr. Green for the excellent job he is doing.

Thank you again for extending this opportunity to us. We are behind God's Work 100%!

Norman and Beverly Des Jardins

Mr. Joe Tkach:

Marti and I would like to express our sincere appreciation for what proved to be much more than we expected. Truly, the local congregations will profit from the "meat" we've been given to disseminate to them. Already I can see the people being "refreshed" because I feel that the truth in me has been renewed and made so much clearer. I know, without question, that this program has helped to make me a much better pastor.

Warren J. and Marti Heaton III

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

KENT, WA--J. RICHARD PARKER: The two tapes that I played from Mr. Armstrong were really appreciated by the congregation. Mr.

Armstrong's tape, "The Unthinkable Will Happen," really hit home and made all think about the seriousness of our times.

CLARKSBURG, WV--DAVID M. JOHNSON: Mr. Armstrong's recent sermon tapes have been very helpful in getting people stirred up again about their responsibilities as Christians. Many have found themselves letting other things crowd out things that are really important. Unemployment is really starting to hit the area. Most of the local economy is tied to coal, and with the decreased demand from the steel industry, steady jobs are getting hard to find.

WILMINGTON, DE--DAVID REGISTER: Some members here are suffering from the recession with a few families unemployed. However, other members are very supportive and have helped by giving donations of groceries as well as financial support to their less fortunate brethren. The financial conditions here have actually served to bring the membership closer together.

MILWAUKEE (SOUTH), WI--CARL McNAIR: Good spirit and attitude in these adverse times. About 12% of our people are unemployed and others are on short-time. Dr. Hoeh's visit was super. The members profited the most, but the 300-plus new people (PT subscribers) were extremely responsive too. A dozen have received visits and seven are attending Church now. Many thanks to Dr. Hoeh and the staff for their support.

PORTSMOUTH, OH--DAVE TREYBIG: After some testing and waiting, God has provided jobs for most of the congregation's unemployed. The jobs are not the highest paying, but are appreciated! God certainly does take care of His people.

BATON ROUGE, LA--KARL BEYERSDORFER: Had Bible lectures with 35 new people total and as a result have 16 new PM's to visit. Best fruit of any lecture so far.

COLUMBUS (PM), OH--ROBERT DICK: PT newsstand program has grown rapidly. A steady stream of good PM's has produced growth in the Columbus Church.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

ON THE WORLD SCENE

TELEVISION: HOW IT DISTORTS THE NATURE OF MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT The next week should reveal whether a negotiated settlement is indeed around the corner in the Lebanon crisis. What is certain is that without the heavy and prolonged Israeli military pressure, the P.L.O. gunmen would never leave Beirut. What is also certain is that the "tunnel vision" of television reporting has distorted the Israeli-P.L.O. struggle, concentrating on day-to-day, blow-by-blow accounts, emphasizing the plight of unfortunate (but not always innocent) victims, without giving the audience a proper background understanding of the conflict. Call it the "Vietnam syndrome," I guess. Even President Reagan, according to the August 16, 1982 issue of TIME magazine, has not escaped the impact of television's reporting on the war:

Reagan has been one of the staunchest believers in America's bond with Israel, but his feelings of loyalty have been deeply

affected by the continuing bloodshed in Lebanon. "I lost patience a long time ago," the President noted sharply to reporters on returning from Camp David the weekend before Israel's latest assault. More than anything else, the vivid television coverage of Israel's relentless pummeling of civilian areas has altered the President's thinking. Referring to one powerful image broadcast a week ago, an aide says: "That picture of the baby with arms burnt had more impact on him than 50 position papers." An Administration aide attaches even more importance to the President's gut-level reactions. "Reagan," he says, "gets 50% of his foreign policy from Dan Rather" [the CBS news anchor-man].

That's a bit of an overstatement, considering that Messrs. Reagan and Rather are poles apart ideologically. Nevertheless the now "underdog" P.L.O. tends to come off better on "the tube" (the telly). Joseph Kraft analyzes why in the August 9, 1982 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

The violence of Israel's enemy, the Palestine Liberation Organization, appears from time to time. But much less dramaticallymost of the current operations [of the P.L.O.] involve guerrilla infiltrations and terrorist attacks, difficult to identify in the general mayhem. They are, so to speak, below the range of the camera.

The Israeli army is a modern force equipped with the most advanced weapons of destruction, and led by officers capable of making bold strikes. The level of these operations serves as a kind of magnet for television. The P.L.O. military operations are designed to make the most of that sensitivity. They rely on acts of terror that fall below the level of sustained interest by television. The casualties that they inflict are designed to induce retaliation of a kind that gets played back to Israel or America with devastating results.

Worse yet, nightly television news is concerned only with the now. It detaches news from history. The news accounts of Lebanon, said one expert, "beg, unrequited, for explanation." Television reports and cameramen have no time, in their haste to meet morning news, 7 o'clock news, 11 o'clock news deadlines, to delve into even the recent past. There is little to no explanation as to how the P.L.O. brutalized Lebanon for years, especially in the south and how Lebanon had been, for all practical purposes, a conquered country under the heels of the P.L.O. and other leftist forces plus those of Syria since 1975. There are too few reports on television, for example, of thousands of Lebanese streaming back into southern Lebanon to recover their homes from which P.L.O. gunmen evicted them years ago, or of convoys of Israeli trucks carrying supplies north into Lebanon to relieve civilian suffering. Some of this background information has appeared in articles in major newspapers--but newspapers now play second fiddle to television in the dissemination of news.

Facts, But Little Understanding

Israel, says a leading Israeli journalist, is paying a heavy price for the way American television journalism is providing "facts without concepts." JERUSALEM POST editor Erwin Frenkel was in the U.S. when the war started and

was appalled at American TV coverage. In a commentary article entitled "Distorting Angle" in the JERUSALEM POST INTERNATIONAL EDITION, July 11-17, 1982, Mr. Frenkel gives an illuminating analysis of news coverage of this war. He also compares the intriguing difference between American and European coverage of the war and respective attitudes toward Israel:

The reporting by the Western press of Israel's war in Lebanon has become an important side issue of the conflict. There is a difference, however, between the performance of the European and the American press. If European reporting has been biased, it is by intent. Like their governments, European newsmen have in recent years tended to become hostile towards Israel. They view Israel as a throwback to a discredited past when states, especially European states, actually used military power to gain their ends. In their view, Europe has transcended such nationalist primitivism....

Moreover, the white man, which includes Israel (but somehow excludes Russia) must make amends for his past colonial dominion of native peoples and honour the aspirations of the Third World. For the Middle East, this tends to be defined as anyone attacked by Israel, and especially the Palestinians....

American newsmen come to the subject from a wholly different angle. American newsmen...are less ideologically encumbered.... The American newsman thinks he is a camera. He must therefore always keep his lens clear. But how clear is it? Unacknowledged, first of all, is the assumption shared with his government, that testy Israel should be tamed, that it is too fast on the trigger....This hidden premise is nourished as well by a prevailing agnosticism in the American press about the U.S. military establishment. Generals, especially after Vietnam but even before, are not heroes. Israel, a formidable war machine, is in a sense guilty by association.

But more important in affecting the performance of the American lens is the range. Convinced that their role is to tell it as it is, the American media focus on facts....Airplanes dropping bombs, houses being destroyed, homeless seeking shelter--these are the most dramatic facts....Thus where European journalists may have fixed solely upon havoc in Lebanon in order to condemn Israel, American journalists, and especially network TV, did it in order to satisfy the professional and material requirements of their news organizations. For Israel the result was the same....

The American media, especially in the first week of the war, provided no political context and no background of understanding to enable the American consumer of news to make sense of the war....There were, of course some exceptions. The NEW YORK TIMES and The WASHINGTON POST tried to provide concepts as well as facts. But in describing rapidly moving events, newspapers inevitably lag behind the electronic media--who can report almost in "real time," and thus shape the public's initial perceptions....

As Immanuel Kant said long ago, facts without concepts are blind. And if the American public is blind, what happens to the quality

of American foreign policy? In the case of Operation Peace for Galilee, Israel has already and will continue to pay a price for the manner in which American journalism, and especially TV journalism, presented this war. It was indeed a camera, used however for political pornography rather than for intellectually or professionally respectable purposes.

One of the clearest efforts to explain the Israeli-P.L.O. death struggle appeared in the August 7, 1982 issue of Britain's newsweekly, THE ECONOMIST. Its lead editorial was advertised on the front cover with the title, "And the children of Israel went out with an high hand." THE ECONOMIST editorial shows that the so-called "Christian" Western world has a lot of difficulty understanding Israel and the way it goes to war against its sworn enemies.

President Reagan, like many other people, has still not understood what makes Israel behave the way it does. When he told the visiting Israeli foreign minister this week that there should be a "complete end to the hostilities in and around Beirut," Mr. Reagan missed the point....The P.L.O. will not leave unless it has to....

To think that Israelis will flinch from this logic is to misunderstand the two things which have made them what they are. The first is that the Israelis are still, for good reason, people of the Old Testament. For people of the New Testament, this is not easy to grasp; and "people of the New Testament" means not only Christian and ex-Christian Americans and Europeans, but also people in other parts of the world to whom the European empires of the nineteenth century brought at least a veneer of European ideas and attitudes [shaped, one might add, by the false church]....

It is suggested that you compromise with your adversaries? Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor show mercy unto them (Deuteronomy). You are worried about the odds against you? Five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight (Leviticus). A city gets in your way? The people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city (Joshua). To what end? Israel then shall dwell in safety alone (Deuteronomy)....

The majority of today's Israelis...would certainly deny that they think the Old Testament is a literal guide for behaviour in the late twentieth century. But the old words ring in their ears, and the circumstances of their life since 1948 have brought out much of the old quality. The fact that in 1982 more than half of the population of Israel has its roots in the Middle East [meaning Sephardic Jews and younger generations born in Israel], rather than in Europe or America, sharpens the difference between Golders Green [a Jewish-populated London suburb] and Tel Aviv. Anyone who has seen lean, sun-blackened Israeli soldiers on road-block duty in the West Bank, or watched an Israeli tank column on the move, knows that he has seen a gleam of the Old Testament in the modern world.

The other thing that makes Israelis behave the way they do is a continuing sense of insecurity. The unacceptable side of Israeli policy is the desire for expansion in the name of historical-religious "right." (And expansion how far? The Old Testament could take Israel right up to the Euphrates.) The acceptable side is the need for more or less assured physical safety. It may seem astonishing that a 34 year-old country which has already won four wars, more or less won a fifth (1973) and has swept up to the edge of Beirut in its sixth should still feel insecure. Yet geography lends some plausibility to Israeli nervousness.

"Finish the Job"

Yes, the "Christian" Western world, largely ignoring the history, examples and admonitions of the Old Testament, influenced by the teachings of the great false church and infected with worldly humanistic concepts, cannot see the depth of the no-compromise, life-and-death struggle that the modern state of Israel is engaged in at the moment. The Jews, however, realize what they are up against in battling their implacable foe. Here is a remarkable editorial entitled "Finish the Job" published in the Los Angeles weekly Jewish newspaper, the B'NAI B'RITH MESSENGER (July 9, 1982):

Much has been made in the media these days about Israel's unwavering dedication to ridding Lebanon of every vestige of P.L.O. presence. Very few reasoned people can be found who condone the festering cancer of terrorism spread by the P.L.O. Yet many of these same "reasoned people" seem not to understand the purpose of the radical surgery which Israel was forced to perform in Lebanon to purge the cancer....

Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin is a student of the Bible. He knows well the chapter in Exodus which describes the terrorist-like attack of Amalek upon the Israelites. Mr. Begin remembers clearly that in Exodus, chapter 17, verse 14, it states that, "The Lord said to Moses. 'Record this in writing and tell it to Joshua in these words: I am resolved to blot out all memory of Amalek from under heaven.'"

Mr. Begin knows that Joshua did not finish the job as the Lord instructed and it was left later for King Saul to do and he, too, failed. And later, from the survivors of Amalek, there arose Haman. Again and again the survivors of Amalek have risen to afflict the Jews generation after generation.

We believe that the government of Israel has determined that, as far as the P.L.O. is concerned, they must finish the job in such a way that the P.L.O. will never again plague the Jewish state from generation to generation across its border.

It's obvious that Israel will not be able to quite finish the job this time either. Descendants of Amalek will still be around in the future when an anti-Israel confederation is formed (Ps. 83:7).