

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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SEPTEMBER 3, 1982

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

September 3, 1982

The financial news for the U.S. is improved and therefore encouraging for August. From a disappointingly low year-to-date increase of only 7.6% last month, it has risen to 9.8% this month. You may recall that July had less income than the previous year by almost one percent. August, 1982 showed a remarkable turnaround to 27.3% more than August, 1981.

We have been trying very hard for several months to hold expenses down to a minimum, even though this has hurt a bit in some areas. This effort is paying off. We have returned almost a half million dollars back to reserves this month that had previously been spent. So far for the year, we have spent about one and three-fourths million dollars more than received. Prospects are that we will pay this back in the next month or two. We hope to end the year with some reserves added.

I am sure the prayers of the membership have been largely responsible for this turnaround. Even though the change is not large, it is still quite encouraging.

Don't forget to remind and exhort your congregations about the soon-coming Holy Day offerings. So far this year we have received only 8.8% more in such offerings than last year. When we are in a recession like the present, it will take planning, extra effort and sacrifice to have good offerings. Those who are able will need to give more to make up for those who can't because of unemployment or limited employment.

We hope and pray that the increase will grow more and more so that we can again allocate significant increases to particularly the radio, TV and publishing areas.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Questions and Answers

Question: Should Spokesman Club meetings ever be held on the Sabbath, or started before sundown on the Sabbath? It would be a matter of convenience to those who must travel 60 to 100 miles for services to have Club on the Sabbath, or to begin before sundown.

Answer: Even though Spokesman Clubs are of great value in training begotten sons of God, meetings should not be conducted on God's Sabbath. Keeping the Sabbath holy should be uppermost in our minds on this day.

Although Spokesman Clubs should not be conducted on the Sabbath, there could be an exception, depending upon circumstances, when a ladies' night could begin toward the end of the Sabbath. Such occasions are often held at a banquet room in a restaurant where the Club members and their wives or dates simply sit down to a served meal and fellowship until the end of the Sabbath. Thus club activities would not begin until after the Sabbath. Unless these circumstances prevail, such activities should be held after the Sabbath or at another time.

**** TO BE ANNOUNCED ****

Taping of Services at the Feast

As restated recently in the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT, the sermons or other parts of Church services should not be taped by members for their personal use. The same policy applies to the Feast of Tabernacles. So please do not plan to take your tape recorder to the Feast for the purpose of taping the services, as this will not be permitted.

Those who are unable to attend the Feast may request to borrow sermon tapes from their pastors afterwards.

Shortage of Hymnals for the Feast

All brethren who own personal copies of the Bible Hymnal are encouraged to bring them to the Feast. There is a special need for extra hymnals at Hawaii, St. Petersburg and Jekyll Island due to the high percentage of transfers. Your attention and help in this matter will be much appreciated.

International News

Spanish-language Areas A total of 170 new people attended PURA VERDAD public Bible lectures given by Mr. Pablo Gonzalez, pastor of the San Juan, Puerto Rico congregation. Seventy-five attended in San Juan on June 20, and 95 attended in New York City on June 26 and 27. About 2.5% of those who were invited came.

In Puerto Rico, most new people came to the meeting carrying a Bible. Most posed questions that indicated a deep knowledge of the Church's literature. One family traveled several hours from Boston in order to attend the New York City meetings. Mr. Gonzalez reported that he was impressed by the high quality of those who attended in both areas. About twelve people seemed very interested in the Church. Mr. Gonzalez will conduct two more lectures (August 8 and 15) in San Juan for the same group that attended in June.

As of June 30, the PV subscription list totaled 143,669--less than 6,000 short of the all-time high of 149,523 reached in August, 1974. Over 26,000

new subscribers were added in May and June by the hard-working mail processing staff--more than in any other two-month period since 1969! We now stand a bit short of the 150,000 subscribers expected at the end of June, but if the current pace continues, the year-end goal of 200,000 subscribers is likely to be attained.

Counting newsstand copies, total PV circulation at mid-year stood at 220,169. This figure breaks down as follows: 143,669 subscribers, 47,500 U.S. newsstand, 5,000 Puerto Rico newsstand and 24,000 Mexico newsstand.

Mail originating from Mexico outnumbered that received from any other country during May and June, with 12,238 cards, letters and coupons received in Pasadena and Mexico City. This is due to increased media efforts to boost the subscription list in Mexico City, including newsstands, newspaper and magazine ads, PV insert cards, cardholders and "mini-PV" distribution. At the end of June there were 18,559 subscribers in Mexico--34% more than just four months ago, and 47% more than one year ago.

Mr. Armstrong's semiannual letter of last January netted nearly 33,000 responses by the end of June. Responses will continue to be received for many months to come, and the estimated response will be 32%. The countries with the highest percentage of response were: Costa Rica, 54%; El Salvador, 53%; Guatemala, 48%; Colombia, 44%; and Nicaragua, 43%.

The countries yielding the highest number of responses were: U.S.A., 8,080; Colombia, 6,094; Mexico, 4,603; Puerto Rico, 1,950; and Chile, 1,925.

Ads placed in top daily newspapers throughout the Spanish-and-Portuguese-speaking world have yielded many new subscribers as the following figures show: Guatemala, 2,184; Portugal, 175; Brazil, 846; Honduras, 263; Costa Rica, 92; Venezuela, 237; El Salvador, 1,451; Colombia, 3,259; Argentina, 1,200; Spain, 688; Paraguay, 142. The case of Paraguay is interesting in that until the placement of two small ads in the 90,000 circulation ABC COLOR newspaper, no advertising had ever been done in the landlocked nation of 3.2 million. Until recently, there were as many subscribers in that country receiving the German magazine (KLAR & WAHR) as the Spanish.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Greetings Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

Carol and I want to express our deep appreciation for being able to attend the second Ministerial Refreshing Program, session eight. The obvious oneness and singleness of purpose that is seen everywhere at Headquarters is very inspiring and encouraging.

The refresher staff did an excellent job! It is very apparent that God established this continuing program to promote unity, singleness of purpose, and deep devotion to God, God's Church, and His apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. Keep up the good work! God bless and guide all of us into His Kingdom.

J. Harold and Carol Lester

Greetings Mr. Tkach:

We've been home now for the past five days and are busy applying all the inspirational direction we received during the ninth refreshing session! We deeply appreciate Mr. Armstrong's overall direction in this second round of refreshing courses and your and your staff's tireless efforts in seeing to it that we were refreshed both spiritually and physically. We have been refreshed. Please convey our gratitude to all the instructors and their assistants. The unity of one spirit pervaded the campus and was contagious. God is now--more than ever before--surely leading us into all His truth.

Jerry and Mary Ann Aust

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

HUNTSVILLE, AL--LAWSON J. TUCK: God's people are more solidly behind His Apostle than ever. Many are re-examining their spiritual lives and growing as a result. Mr. Armstrong's example of zeal and driving himself is an inspiration to both young and old; it is an impetus to put more effort into their calling. Despite local high unemployment, God's people are being spared and continue to be blessed, which is quite evident to them. I want to extend my personal thanks to Mr. Tkach and the Ministerial Services team for their strong efforts to back up Mr. Armstrong. It is really encouraging to see the fruits increasing. PM requests are increasing here. As we have been told, if we please God we will be blessed.

WILMINGTON/LAUREL, DE--DAVID REGISTER: The brethren here have especially enjoyed Mr. Armstrong's taped sermons and have commented on how strong Mr. Armstrong has been on the telecast lately. I have also noticed these same comments from several PM's I have visited lately. A number of members in the Laurel area are having financial difficulties due to the depressed job market. However, attitudes remain excellent and the brethren really have their hearts behind Mr. Armstrong and God's Work.

CLEVELAND (EAST), OH--GUY L. ENGELBART: The economic situation continues to worsen here. We have about six men in the congregation out of work. They will probably have to move to get employment. I just read a report showing that Cleveland is one of the worst cities in the U.S.A. in which to live--from an economic and crime standpoint.

HARRISBURG, PA--JIM ROSENTHAL: The congregation enjoys seeing new faces. The Church at large seems to be in a time of comparative peace, but most do not appear to be taking it easy. Most of the brethren are taking a serious approach to their lives and this Work. An attitude of service is being expressed more and more lately.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATEPLAIN TRUTH Circulation Reaches 5,000,000 Mark!

Circulation for The PLAIN TRUTH has now surpassed the five million mark--highest in the history of the Work! Presently, the circulation is over 5,130,000 worldwide.

Update on Display Islands in New York City

We reported recently (PGR, May 25) that we were able to place a PLAIN TRUTH display island in the World Trade Center in New York City. This has proved so successful that we have had to increase the number of magazines allocated to the New York area. Also, it seems that what we are doing in New York has caught on with other advertisers. Our display islands use four literature racks, which is twice as many as everyone else. Now the company who rents us the display island has informed us that because of our example everyone now wants four racks and that they have run out of stock.

The following is a letter we received from a lady who picked up the magazine at another display island we have in Penn Station, New York City. These locations are proving to be excellent in reaching the New York business community.

It has been my great pleasure and surprise to read a couple of samples of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine, which I found in Penn Station, New York. I never thought I would be so engrossed when I first picked one up, but now I can't seem to put it down.

I have ordered my subscription already and also sent for some of the pamphlets you advertised. I also came across your invitation to join the Bible Correspondence Course. This is the first and only Bible course I have seen that is free of charge. I would greatly appreciate it if you could enroll me in this course. It is something that I have always wanted to do.

I have noticed that many people on the trains read your magazine. It truly is an eye-opener. Thank you for the opportunity to learn more about the Bible without any misconceived notions that most religions teach. I am very grateful.

Yours sincerely, F.V.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

FROM EDITORIAL SERVICESPost-feast WORLDWIDE NEWS Coverage

As the Feast of Tabernacles rapidly approaches, we would like to update you on our annual post-Feast WORLDWIDE NEWS coverage.

Because of the continued expansion of God's Festival, to adequately cover the Feast worldwide we have scheduled two WORLDWIDE NEWS post-Feast editions. The October 18 WORLDWIDE NEWS issue will include reports from U.S. and Canadian sites, with more photos than previous issues. The scheduled November 1 WN will feature the international sites.

Most festival coordinators should have received their Festival Information forms by now. Site coordinators (as noted on the form) in the United States and Canada need to return their completed forms on the Last Great Day (October 9). Please include a phone number where you can be reached the following week if verification is necessary. All other forms need to be airmailed within three days of the Last Great Day to allow time for inclusion in the November 1 international issue. International coordinators please note: give first and last names of speakers on the form. No initials please.

Please also note that we are not designating festival photographers outside the United States and Canada. Film and information mailed directly from Pasadena is often held up past the Feast. Film is better bought and mailed from the international site. If you international coordinators, where possible, could designate an official WORLDWIDE NEWS photographer at your site and have him airmail the unprocessed film to us as soon as possible (even during the Feast, if necessary), we would appreciate it. Please airmail the unprocessed film (we prefer Kodak Tri-X Pan black and white) to:

THE WORLDWIDE NEWS
ATTN: Festival Film
300 West Green Street
Pasadena, CA, 91129
U.S.A.

If necessary, in special cases, we can reimburse individual international photographers for film and mailing costs, but would appreciate it if this could be handled through your individual offices.

WN Special on Senior Citizens

Following these two festival issues of THE WORLDWIDE NEWS, we have scheduled a four-page section on senior citizens in God's Church. We hope you have found our sections on singles and how to cope with the international recession profitable in your congregations.

We would like to include up-to-date, inspiring accounts of how the older members of God's Church are faring in this confused, mixed-up world. Some have been called late in life under unusual circumstances, or have personal experiences worth sharing with the worldwide WN audience. If you are aware of individuals older than 60 that you feel should be included, please drop us a line or phone us at (213) 577-5777.

Thanks for your help! Have a joyous Feast.

--Dexter H. Faulkner, Editorial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Mr. Armstrong Visits the WATS Lines

On Sunday morning (August 29) Mr. Herbert Armstrong visited the Work's WATS line operation. This was the first time he observed the initial response to the telecast. He was able to see the phone activity during one of the busiest periods of the day.

Media Services videotaped Mr. Armstrong's reactions as phone calls in response to the telecast on seven television stations came in at the same time. You may see excerpts of this visit in the Feast film or as part of the telecast.

PLAIN TRUTH Comments From Around the World

As The PLAIN TRUTH circulation grows, increasing numbers of people are commenting on its impact on their lives. This week we are featuring comments about The PLAIN TRUTH from around the world.

Never in my life have I received a free subscription to a magazine like The PLAIN TRUTH. I want to thank you personally for this privilege that you are offering us. I'm taking all the advantage I can from your magazine. I have enjoyed reading the articles and sharing them with my peers. We also find time to watch your TV program.

C.D. (Iriga City, Philippines)

Since discovering The PLAIN TRUTH at a newsstand earlier this year, I have enjoyed reading the magazine and been challenged by its articles. Enclosed is a request for some more of your booklets. In addition, I would like to receive your Correspondence Course, if this is possible. It looks to be a good introduction to a full Bible study.

D.H. (Wellington, New Zealand)

I want to express my thanks to you today--for what?--for your publication, KLAR & WAHR. Your magazine is an enriching addition to today's German literature. In it, you address a particular circle of readers--people who can see the need to become activated by your articles.

It means a lot to me to express how thoroughly fulfilling I find your publication. Informing your readers in a style that is true-to-life and yet easily understood by anyone, you seem to condense into one word the very meaning of life. And for this, I once again express my thanks and wish you further success in all your future endeavors.

K.R. (West Berlin, West Germany)

Thank you very much for your magazine. It's very useful to me. I'm a teacher. My pupils need to talk about the problems addressed, because some of them are very close to them (e.g., alcoholism/divorced parents). The PLAIN TRUTH brings many answers and a lot of information about life. My pupils and I thank you very much.

Miss C.M. (Belgium)

Many, many thanks for The PLAIN TRUTH. Though the magazine is in the language "that God chose to speak today," I understood all the articles and features very well. Thank you for presenting all the controversies, facts and solutions so beautifully in plain, simple and interesting language.

P.S. (India)

Living in a semirural area I had never seen or heard of The PLAIN TRUTH. Then last year I went to stay with my niece. On a stall at the railway station were copies of The PLAIN TRUTH. Being an avid reader, and for years having looked for truth, I took a copy. On reading it, I was really impressed and so I sent my name and address to you. This is one of the most sensible things that I have done in my life.

J.M. (Hoxton Park, N.S.W., Australia)

I cannot express in mere words my gratitude to you and your staff for the great comfort and service your magazines and literature have rendered me. In times of trouble and confusion, they have served as great clarifiers to many problems. Once again, I thank you for what you have done for me and many others who read your literature.

A.V. (Rokeby, Tasmania, Australia)

Would you please remove my father's name from the computer mailing list. He has died. It was a great source of comfort to him to know the truth and God's plan in the months he was dying with cancer. He was not afraid of death and the future.

D.M. (Guelph, Ontario, Canada)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

JAPANESE ATTEMPT TO REWRITE HISTORY: ASIANS UNITE IN PROTEST

An attempt on the part of Japan's Education Ministry to force changes in textbooks dealing with Japanese actions in the Second World War has unleashed a tidal wave of protest throughout Asia. The governments of China and South Korea have officially protested the planned textbook revisions. Officials and news media in Taiwan, North Korea, Malaysia and Singapore have also voiced their concern.

The biggest storm of protest surrounds the new description of the old Imperial Army's activities in China in 1937 and afterward. Instead of labeling the army's actions as "shinryaku" (aggression) the Education Ministry ordered new textbooks to use the word "sinnya" (advance). One textbook author quoted a government official as explaining that "'shinryaku' gave the false impression of an evil act."

Older textbooks tell of some 200,000 Chinese being rounded up and shot during the infamous "rape of Nanking" in 1937. The latest account blames the Nanking slaughter on the resistance of Chinese troops. The Korean national uprising of 1919 against the harsh Japanese overlords (Japan took over the peninsula in 1905) is now glossed over as a "riot." The 700,000 Koreans put into forced labor camps during World War II are now said to have been "drafted."

The South Korean government has demanded that the textbook revisions be rescinded, and that it will "never drop" this demand. Chinese authorities in Peking are so furious that they are threatening to cancel the trip of Japanese Prime Minister Zeuko Suzuki to Peking later this month unless the revisions are amended. To underline their opposition, Chinese newspapers

and television re-released photographs and newsreel footage of Japanese military brutality committed in the 1930's and 40's. The papers also carried horrifying new reports of Japanese germ-warfare experiments in which 3,000 Chinese prisoners reportedly died.

Prime Minister Suzuki has announced that in the wake of the sea of protests he would approve changes to make the passages in the new books "more appropriate" to the wishes of Japan's neighbors. He will have a tough time of it, however, with Education Ministry officials who are described as "unrepentant and defiant."

Mr. Suzuki himself did little to calm Asian fears recently when he became the first post-war chief of government to pay official homage at the Shinto shrine dedicated to Japanese military dead. He and his entire cabinet led more than 7,000 guests in a service mourning the war dead, including those executed by allied occupation forces as war criminals.

For a background to these disturbing events in the Far East, first is this account from the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, August 12, 1982:

The question might be asked: Why has Japan suddenly decided on the need to rewrite history? In fact, the process has been under way for 30 years. But the current revisions are the most sweeping, and clumsy Japanese explanations of the need for such revisions have merely exacerbated foreign anger. A Japanese Cabinet member, for example, made a statement that the Japanese occupation of the Korean Peninsula was justified and even beneficial.

Essentially, Japan feels it is now a powerful, free nation that doesn't have to accept other countries' version of history. Over the past three decades, the Education Ministry, with powerful support from within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, has battled tirelessly for a "correct Japanese view" of the war, which it thought was ignored by the American occupation and then the left-wing-dominated teachers union (Nikkyoso)....

Japanese education over the past 30 years, in fact, has been a pitched battle between Nikkyoso and the Education Ministry, which the latter now feels it has won through the elimination of "biased textbooks...." Part of the government's motivation, it could be argued, is to promote national pride and patriotism and make possession of a strong defense force respectable again.

In the August 6, 1982 LOS ANGELES TIMES, syndicated columnist Ellen Goodman discusses that the dilemma now confronting Japan is one that many powers have had as they attempt to deal with the skeletons of their national history.

As of this fall, the Japanese will no longer have launched "invasions" in China, Southeast Asia and the Pacific. They will have "advanced." In the rape of Nanking, they will have no longer "killed and assaulted" 200,000 Chinese willfully but rather "in the midst of the confusion...."

To understand the impulse of the Japanese Education Ministry, just imagine the difficulty of teaching young children about the

brutality, the aggression, the wrong committed by the country that they are also expected to love. To understand the effect of these rewritings on Asians (an estimated 18 million of whom died in World War II), just imagine how we would respond if the Japanese began to teach their children that on Dec. 7, 1941, the Imperial Air Force "advanced" on Pearl Harbor.

The entire incident is in many ways a textbook case. It's a textbook case on the complicated role that history plays in our lives, our understanding of our world, country, families. It's a textbook case on the manipulation of history in the service of politics. What happened in Japan is not all that unusual. In some way or other, every culture--every country--struggles with its past. To this day, there are even heated arguments in the United States about whether our early history should be taught as national heroics, led by profiles in courage, or with a more earthy ambiguity.

The more uneasy we are about that past, the more tarnished it seems to us, the more trouble we have telling it to our children. The Japanese have subtly muted their own blame. The official Egyptian guide who led a group of friends to the Pyramids three years ago described how they were built by "volunteer labor." For generations we have had extraordinary difficulty in teaching children about the realities of slavery or the myths of cowboys and Indians....

But the national autobiography of aggression and guilt is subject to the most peculiar revisions. Germany doesn't rest any more easily on its recent past than does Japan. It took until 1962 for German schools to teach children about the death camps. Today there are new "historians" who assault those dead with grotesque rewrites of Nazi reality, calling the Holocaust a hoax.

It is as hard for nations as it is for parents to talk about their wrongs. They want respect from the young, and want to instill self-respect in the young. But we can't teach false pride. When we expunge guilt, pretend that it didn't happen, we are tainted by it, committing the ultimate assault on the victims.

Combined with hints now that some government officials want to "break the budget barrier" in military spending (until now set at one percent of Japan's GNP) one can see why Japan's neighbors are showing more concern than ever over Japan's future course.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau