

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

****TO BE READ TO ALL CONGREGATIONS****

Family Togetherness at the Feast of Tabernacles

Throughout the year family members of God's Church tend to become separated by the demands of jobs, schools, and other daily responsibilities and activities. But God's Feast of Tabernacles is a time for families to draw closer together as we worship Him.

Accordingly, it would seem only natural for parents and their children to want to sit together in services as they listen to God's ministers preach from His Word. Parents should therefore take the lead in making sure that their teens and younger children sit with them.

Of course, it would be fine for the teens or younger children to sit with their friends occasionally, provided that the parents of the friends are also there. However, unsupervised teens should not sit together in groups, as this takes away from their attention to the messages and prevents family togetherness. Other problems have resulted from this practice in the past--problems which parents and teens should be striving to avoid this year by sitting together.

When we come before God as a family, He will bless us individually and as a family. This is because worshipping God in this way glorifies the One who created family life for a great purpose. Let's do everything we can during this festival season to draw our families closer together!

Pasadena Feast Music

Brass instrument players keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in Pasadena are requested to bring their instruments with them (if they play them well) to form a brass choir to accompany some of the special music. Please call John D. Schroeder (213) 577-5525 if you can serve in this way.

Accounting Department Schedule

The Accounting Department will be closing for the period September 25 through October 11. If there are any payments that need to be paid before the Feast break, Accounting must be notified by Wednesday, September 22nd. If you have any hall rental vouchers, etc. that need to be paid before the Feast which aren't already in the mail, please rush them in!

Questions and Answers

Question: Since gambling is wrong, should we also avoid raffles as a Church fund-raising activity? If so, what about buying a raffle ticket as an individual, such as when a Boy Scout wants to sell you one?

Answer: Raffles are a form of gambling and are not to be used to raise money for various Church activities.

If some charitable organization in the world requests a contribution for a good cause and has a raffle as part of its fund-raising activities, a member could contribute unless he has a conscience problem. Most who give do not expect to win the raffle, but simply donate to help the cause. However, Mr. Armstrong does not want raffles or other forms of chance involving money as fund-raising activities in God's Church.

This does not mean, however, that it would be wrong to have a door prize drawing, when the only cost involved is for the price of admission.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Greetings and love from the Jerry Aust family here in San Diego. We have just completed the ninth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. It was very uplifting, unifying and stabilizing. We are deeply appreciative of your establishment of and supervision over it. The fruits of God's Spirit permeated this session and were contagious, moving us to strive for perfection.

Thank you so much for yielding yourself to Jesus Christ in so many, many ways. We will strive to keep up with you, although I have a suspicion there aren't enough hours in a day for that. Please keep on keeping on. You are a great inspiration to us all. Our prayers are with you.

Jerry and Mary Ann Aust

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Please express my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Armstrong and his assistants at Headquarters for sponsoring the Ministerial Refreshing Program II. It was particularly helpful to me in that it crystalized what is expected from the Church pastors. When one can see clearly what his goals and assignments are, he can better organize his life and throw out non-essential matters that take away from really producing in the way that Mr. Armstrong wishes.

I deeply appreciated all the presentations which depicted the growth of God's Work--they were overwhelming! The lectures also were very inspiring. I was able to pick up at least one sermon or Bible study idea from each one.

Finally, the Spirit of God is so evident now in Pasadena--it is so gratifying to realize that now at Headquarters we have servants rather than "executives." God now has His servants who

carry out His way in a spirit of love and cooperation. What is being done at Headquarters sets us an example out in the field and we surely want to do our best to follow what is being taught and done.

Vince and Carol Szymkowiak

Dear Mr. Tkach:

The Ministerial Refreshing Program--according to its very appropriate name--was extremely refreshing. Thanks to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, you, the other ministers and staff members who brought such instructive and inspiring lectures combined with question-and-answer periods. The program brought into focus how our heavenly Father works through His Church government, inspiring His apostle, Mr. Herbert Armstrong, with new spiritual material year by year--material for the knowledge, understanding, wisdom and growth of His whole Church.

To me the most inspiring and refreshing statement made was when Mr. Armstrong, just finishing his ninetieth year, said, "I have learned more in the last year than I have learned any other year of my life, and more important the things that I have learned in the past year." Thankfully, through Mr. Armstrong God is gradually letting us and our congregations learn those "more important ...things."

It is also inspiring to witness God's government getting "back on the track" at Headquarters. With God's help, I as a field pastor hope to relay that refreshing experience to the local congregation. Again, thanks to all of you who are working with the Refreshing Program.

Hal W. Baird, Jr.

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Our deepest appreciation to Mr. Armstrong, you and the other members of the Headquarters team who designed such a very positive and inspirational programme for all of us who attended the most recent Ministerial Refreshing Programme. As a local Church elder who never dreamed he would ever have been given such an invaluable opportunity, I now sincerely hope that as a result of the programme--of having been taught and encouraged by Mr. Armstrong and the others at Headquarters--I shall be better able to assist the pastor and the other ministers of this area more effectively.

Trevor and DeHavilland Brown

Minister's Wife Expresses Gratitude

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I was deeply inspired and moved by your latest tape sent out to the Church. It is so obvious that God is working mightily in you --urging us to wake up. You are waking me up!

My husband is a minister. I want you to know that we are in dead earnest in our desire to serve in restoring God's Kingdom and His Way to this earth. We really believe in it.

We love you as a dear father and never cease praying for you. Keep up the wonderful example. We thank you for it, and we are following!

Alexandra Engle, Auckland, New Zealand

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

Recently, during Mr. Armstrong's remarks in his Orientation Forum for the students, he said, "We're going to make this the best year that Ambassador College has had in its 35 years of history!"

Thus far the College has had a very fine beginning. The freshmen class seems to be the best in many years. These students, in the main, appear very alert, neatly groomed and seem "raring to go." We are certainly looking forward to our best year, and this will become a reality if we keep looking to Almighty God for His continual blessings and guidance.

The composition of the present student body is as follows: We have 424 returning students, five readmitted students and 144 new students--making a total of 573 matriculated students (i.e. those enrolled in the degree program). Of this number 510 are single, on-campus students. This means that we have 63 married students, employees and others who are living off campus.

In addition to the 573 matriculated students, we have 59 non-matriculated students who are taking only one or two classes. This includes certain employees, wives of students, ministers, etc. If we add the 573 (that is 510 on-campus students plus the 63 off-campus married students) to the 59 non-matriculated students, this gives us a grand total of 632 students now enrolled in Ambassador!

Thus far we have had some very fine student forums. Mr. Armstrong took the first forum, I took the second, Mr. Greg Albrecht (Dean of Students) took the third, and then Dr. David Albert (Acting Director of Admissions) gave the forum this week. We are trying to give "meaty" forums which will really feed the students--inspiring them to apply themselves diligently while attending A.C.

My wife and I are scheduled to spend the Feast of Trumpets with Mr. and Mrs. Roger West and the brethren in Tupelo, Mississippi. We look forward to visiting with Mr. and Mrs. West, and always appreciate the opportunity to meet many of our brethren. And I am always happy to take good news from Headquarters to the local Churches when I am privileged to go out on these annual holy days.

A number of other faculty members who are ministers will also be going out to some of the Churches for Trumpets. This gives them more opportunities to preach--something which most of the ministers in the College don't get to do too often. We do, however, have the wonderful opportunity of working daily with the students--teaching, admonishing, counseling, encouraging. We are very happy to be able to work with these young people--these "diamonds in the rough." They are very precious in our sight, as indeed they are in God's sight.

May God continue to inspire all of you ministers as you serve His people--as you continue holding up the hands of God's apostle in your local areas.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

FROM PUBLISHING SERVICES

Use of "Tip-ons" to Maximize Radio/TV Cost Effectiveness

One of the most effective methods to help maximize the dollars spent for the World Tomorrow broadcast/telecast in your local Church area is to use the radio/TV "tips-ons" available through The PLAIN TRUTH Newsstand Office. ("Tip-ons" are small advertisements which can be attached to the front cover of newsstand magazines distributed in your area. See your NEWSSTAND COORDINATOR'S MANUAL for details.) For those areas where the broadcast/telecast are now available, you may begin ordering your "tip-ons" now.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

NEVER BEFORE UNDERSTOOD--Number Two Booklet This Year

Mr. Armstrong's booklet, NEVER BEFORE UNDERSTOOD--WHY HUMANITY CANNOT SOLVE ITS EVILS, is second among the Work's most requested booklets this year. In the first eight months, more than 273,000 copies were sent out in the United States.

One-fourth of New Subscribers Request U.S. Book

THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY continues to be the most-requested piece of literature. To date this year 420,000 copies of the U.S. book have been mailed in the United States. An interesting note to this is the fact that 25% of all brand new subscribers this year have requested THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY.

500 Volunteers to Answer WATS Calls During the Feast

Once again we are making plans to man the WATS lines with volunteers during the Feast of Tabernacles. Approximately 500 brethren attending the Feast in Pasadena have volunteered to answer phone calls during the time our regular employees are gone. Each volunteer will serve five to six hours on the WATS lines during the Feast.

Last year, volunteers answered 25,000 calls. We expect to receive 30,000 phone calls this year--most of which will be in response to the telecast. Without the help of dedicated volunteers, it would be impossible to take all these calls.

God's Message of Hope Bearing Fruit

As the only message of true hope goes out through Mr. Armstrong's letters, radio broadcasts and telecasts, as well as articles in The PLAIN TRUTH, people continue to respond to this good news. They recognize that we are indeed in the last days of man's society, and are yearning for the new age just ahead of us, as the following letters clearly illustrate.

Many thanks for the recent newsletter of July 16. It is great to read what is actually happening in our fast deteriorating world today. It is most evident that the end is fast approaching. May God hear our prayers and save us. May He also bless you for the wonderful work you do.

H.S. (Paso Robles, CA)

I received the latest issue of The PLAIN TRUTH and found it very inspiring--especially the article about nuclear war. It gives a lot of hope in the face of the horrors that will occur, despite the best efforts to control the "nuclear genie" that science has let out of the bottle.

Your TV program on this subject was deeply moving. I really pray for you and this great Work of God for speaking out and preaching the message of hope in a world where no hope exists.

G.G. (Girard, OH)

I agree with you that this is the end time. There are many things happening such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, crime, etc. The world is so full of hatred and violence, with neighbors hating one another. I will be so glad to see this old world die away and a new world born with Jesus Christ here to set things right.

N.D. (Frederick, OK)

I read your semiannual letter and do understand that we are living in troublesome times. So many of our young people have gone astray. They are on drugs or alcohol. The Bible is true and we are near the close of this age. Your message is a warning to everyone that will heed it.

L.S. (Coweta, OK)

Thank you for your recent letter warning us of the perilous times we are actually living in now. I believe all you say and write on the subject. All signs seem to point to the end of this era and the return of our King--Jesus.

Ms. A.M. (Brooklyn, NY)

In this world of Babylonian confusion, it is rather refreshing to receive a magazine like The PLAIN TRUTH. I pray to the most merciful Almighty God to bring this great mess--the so-called intelligent civilization mankind as created in this twentieth century--to a final climactic end, so long as it fits His great master plan.

S.K. (Burbank, CA)

Thank you so much for your recent coworker letter. The information you gave us is vital, in that it shows us how earnestly and often we should pray for you and God's Work. The events seem to be rushing along at an accelerated speed compared to even one year ago. Each day brings us nearer the culmination in Christ's return.

Mrs. S.E. (Cleveland, TX)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENESTALEMATE IN THE MIDDLE EAST; ANOTHER CALL FOR EUROPE TO UNITE

The P.L.O. is out of Beirut, but a settlement of the Palestinian problem is further away than ever. Attempting to capitalize on the momentum of changed conditions in the Middle East, President Reagan floated a new peace plan last week, one essentially calling for Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank under the authority of Jordan (which exercised rulership in the region from 1948 to 1967). A separate Palestinian state was not called for. Mr. Reagan is thus trying to bring more moderate Jordan into the "peace process." And the U.S. President wouldn't mind undercutting support for the hard-line policies of Prime Minister Begin both in Israel and among Jewish Americans.

Mr. Reagan's plan, though heartily endorsed throughout the western world, has gotten nowhere in the two areas that really count--Israel and the Arab world.

On Wednesday, September 8, the Israeli Knesset voted 50 to 36 to endorse the Begin cabinet's earlier rejection of the U.S. proposal. Mr. Begin himself all but said that Israel, far from granting Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, would eventually incorporate the region, in fact if not in name. He thundered a blunt challenge to Mr. Reagan: "If someone tried to take Judea and Samaria from us, we will tell him: Judea and Samaria are for the Jewish people for all generations."

The Arab countries, meeting at the same time in a summit in Fez, Morocco, were working on their own peace proposal. Said to be a spinoff of the Reagan plan, it actually bore little resemblance to it, calling for Israel to withdraw from all post-1967 territories, and for the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. The Arab plan only implicitly recognized Israel's right to exist, by calling for international guarantees "of all borders in the region."

Obviously the Arab plan is a no-go from the start. And a feisty Israeli government, swollen with confidence due to the war's result and public opinion polls showing almost unchallenged support among the voters, heaped scorn on the President's plan, refusing to reject it in the more polite terminology of diplomacy.

Despite Mr. Begin's strong support at the moment, not a few in Israel fear that their country is being isolated more than ever from its chief supporter, the United States. Reports the LOS ANGELES TIMES of September 9, 1982:

Former Police Minister Shlomo Hillel of the Labor Party said the opposition grouping has doubts about parts of Reagan's plan but objects to the way the Cabinet immediately slammed the door on the President, whom he called "one of the few righteous leaders who was steadfast in his support of Israel."

"Where is the wisdom? Where is the political responsibility, or at least some minimal degree of sophistication?" Hillel demanded. "With your own hands, you made the Arab League countries...seem more rational, wiser and more responsible than the Israeli government."

"The government's stubbornness and her unwillingness to discuss possible compromise...will lead us to a dead-end situation resulting in war and Israel's total isolation," Hillel said.

Israel, moreover, has next to no support in Western Europe. Even President Mitterrand of France, an early supporter, turned against Israel during the Lebanon crisis. Mitterrand described Israel's actions in Lebanon as similar to those committed by the Nazis in the countries which they occupied.

Given the shrinking influence of the U.S. over the region's new "Goliath"--Israel--one can certainly see the desire of a yet-future United Europe to impose peace in the Middle East, a "peace" much to the detriment of Israel (Psalm 83 and Daniel 11:41-43).

King Juan Carlos of Spain Calls for a United States of Europe

A recent event in Europe escaped the attention of most of the world's news media. Last May 20, King Juan Carlos of Spain was awarded the Charlemagne Prize in a ceremony in Aachen, West Germany (Charlemagne's old capital). This award is given annually to the public figure most advancing the cause of European unity. The King was the first royal recipient of the prize. Earlier winners have included Winston Churchill, Jean Monnet, Robert Schumann and Konrad Adenauer.

In accepting the prize King Juan Carlos traced, in the present tense, the development of Europe and its need for unity. He placed great stress on the role of Europe's monarchies. Here are key excerpts of his address, translated from a German text:

Europe becomes historic reality due to one of the most far reaching developments in the Middle Ages: The division of the Mediterranean basin--the cradle of the culture of antiquity--because of the invasion of Islam in the seventh and the beginning of the eighth century. The Mediterranean is no longer the "Mare Nostrum" (our sea); it is being divided into the sea of the Christians and that of the Muslim. The Christian shores see themselves isolated from Africa which the Ptolomes, Philon or Saint Augustine Hellenized, Romanized and Christianized.

From this beginning, the hour of its birth, Europe is going to develop both Roman and German. A Romania, splintered by invasions united itself with a Germania, which together with her unifies itself into a carrier of common history.

Over the centuries the resurrection of the Roman Empire under clearly Germanic, and of course Christian, signs is the political dream: the Holy Roman Empire of Germanic Nation. But what is really being created is something else: Europe.

The great Karl [Karlder Grosse or Charlemagne] is in 800 A.D. the impetus for laying the foundation stone in this famous town for the European community, which has so often quarrelled and fought itself, yet has always bound back together again.

Despite splintering, private interests, rivalries and power struggles, the European elements have nevertheless functioned as

factors of unity and approaches: the Christian heritage, the remembrance of Rome and its unity, its universal language as the carrier of culture and liturgy, the Roman law and the sense for authority beyond force, the striving for individual freedom and personal loyalty was the Germanic contribution from the Middle Ages.

To this latinized Europe now comes that other one, the Greek and Byzantine, which is to be found mainly among the Slavic peoples and which has separated itself often from the remaining part because of theological or political division, but is viewed, nevertheless, by all genuine Europeans as an integral part.

In the course of European history, the monarchies have been a factor of unification. They have not only mastered the dissolution of the smallest powers, but have also established personal connections among the people represented by their kings. And through marriages among the members of ruling families, bonds have been woven between countries which were separated from each other by language, race and customs; they strengthened the recognition to be a unit and to belong to a common reality.

The monarchies are the creators of "les grands corps que sont les nations [the large body which is the nations]", as Descartes, the progressive thinker of modern Europe formulated it; and if you look at it more closely, they have put brakes on and limited the destructive and uncivil spirit of nationalism.

In that famous book with the title, "The Revolt of the Masses," the unifying of Europe had been proposed as the only solution for Europe's problems as early as 1930--a super nation which had to be raised up--a United States of Europe. And this impulse has not been lost in my country.

The relatively young King Juan Carlos just might have a significant part to play in Europe, and might inspire a greater role by Europe's present monarchies as well as those buried below the surface awaiting a resurrection.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau