

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 4, NO. 44

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 19, 1982

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Use of Ambassador College Seal

Several ministers have inquired about using the Ambassador College seal for local fund-raising projects, such as name badges, buttons, pins, neckties, etc.

The Ambassador College seal is reserved only for use on official College (and with permission) Church publications, equipment or materials. Other uses of the seal could compromise our trademark. Therefore, the Ambassador College seal should not be reproduced for use in any private, personal or local project.

However, it is permissible to use the seal for local announcement bulletins and for decoration for the front of the speaker's lecturn for Church services. Any other proposed use of the seal should be discussed with Ministerial Services before it is implemented.

International News

From the Australian Office Almighty God once again inspired a most outstanding and memorable Feast of Tabernacles for 1982. Five thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight of God's people gathered at eight Feast sites located throughout Australia and Asian countries. Feast sites and registration figures are as follows:

AUSTRALIA	Adelaide	1,806
	Canberra	880
	Perth	482
	Port Macquarie	2,075
BURMA	Kya In	65
MALAYSIA	Port Dickson	332
SOLOMON ISLANDS	Honiara	47
SRI LANKA	Bentota	201
	TOTAL	<u>5,888</u>

Because of the time difference, Mr. Armstrong's first message was received in Australia during the early hours of the next day via satellite, and recorded on video tape. Copies of Mr. Armstrong's message were then rushed to the Feast sites. Seeing Mr. Armstrong on video and hearing his timely message was clearly one of the outstanding highlights of the Feast.

In the Asian area, the audio portion of Mr. Armstrong's message was picked up at Port Dickson and Bentota via telephone hookup. Unfortunately, due to remoteness and technical difficulties, Mr. Armstrong's message was not able to be recorded for the brethren in Burma and the Solomon Islands. Copies of Mr. Armstrong's first message on cassette have since been sent to our brethren in these areas.

God's protection and intervention were evident at many of the Feast sites. For example, at Port Macquarie, Australia, for some days prior to the Feast, the area experienced cyclonic weather with heavy winds, rain and some hail. However, on the afternoon just prior to the opening night service, weather conditions rapidly cleared and the brethren there enjoyed good weather throughout the Feast. Then, on the evening at the close of the Last Great Day, the weather underwent another noticeable change. Once again heavy rain began to fall, so much so that by the following Monday serious flooding had occurred in that area of the country, cutting off many of the access roads. Fortunately, all the brethren had left for home soon after the Feast and no one was affected by the flood waters.

We were grateful for the opportunity to hear sermons at the Feast from guest speakers Mr. Bill Winner and Mr. Dexter Faulkner. Both Mr. Winner and Mr. Faulkner served here during the pioneering years of God's Work in Australia, so the opportunity for many of the members to renew their acquaintance with them was most appreciated.

While the offering in Australia for the first annual Holy Day of the Feast was down slightly from the previous year, the offering on the Last Great Day rose by an excellent 27.1%. Taking an average for the two Holy Days during the eight-day period, the brethren in Australia contributed a 13.6% increase in offerings.

Since returning from the Feast, the office staff has been very busy catching up on the backlog of mail, processing a total of 16,986 letters for the month. This is slightly less than the number of letters received in October last year. The slight decrease is due mainly to our reduced newsstand programme necessitated by spiraling costs and the continuing economic recession in this country. However, the newsstand programme continues to be one of our most effective tools in placing The PLAIN TRUTH into the hands of new readers, adding an average of over 1,300 new subscribers to the mailing list each month.

This past month the last few responses to Mr. Armstrong's June 1982 semi-annual letter offering THE WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW and THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, were received from Australian subscribers. Altogether, a total of 11,511 readers (15.8% of the mailing list) requested the literature offered by Mr. Armstrong, and 584 of these subscribers contributed \$15,720 in donations.

Because of the distances involved, final results for this semiannual letter from Asian countries will not be available for several months yet.

New Zealand A lull in incoming mail during October has enabled us to catch up on office work after a stupendous Feast of Tabernacles. Just over 2,700 pieces of mail were received, the smallest monthly count for some years. However, this will undoubtedly turn out to be "the lull before the storm," with Mr. Armstrong's latest semiannual letter as well as a large quantity

of renewals due to be mailed early in November. Over 7,500 responses have now come in from the July semiannual, a return of 20%.

Economic conditions in New Zealand are very tough at present, with a year-long wage and price freeze having recently been imposed by the government. September's income showed an excellent increase of 20.5%, but October's income was 3.8% down from last October. Income for the year to date is now running at 12.5% increase over last year.

New visit requests are coming in very well nationwide. The number of new visits made by the ministry this year is 25% higher than last year.

An exciting opportunity for New Zealand brethren after this year's Feast was to hear Mr. Herbert Armstrong's voice coming out loud and clear over the airwaves in this country once again. The broadcast is being aired weekly on four stations, and responses to it have begun to come in.

In addition, the brethren are now looking forward very much to Mr. Gerald Waterhouse's visit in mid-November.

German Office Report In October the Feast of Tabernacles dominated Church activities. On opening night, October 1, a total of 900 brethren attended in Bonndorf, West Germany and in Brno, Czechoslovakia. Also among those present were 262 transfers from overseas who celebrated this year's Feast with their German-speaking brethren.

Guest speakers, inspiring sermons and exciting activities made the 1982 Feast of Tabernacles a truly profitable and memorable event for all.

Despite the economic pressures on brethren here, the Feast offerings totaled 12.4% more than last year, although attendance figures had only slightly increased.

From October 13 to 17, Mr. John Halford and his family visited the Bonn office. During his two week fact-finding trip through Europe before and after the Feast, he toured such cities as Vienna, Munich, Berlin, Bonn, Trier and Luxembourg, among others. During the Feast he spoke in Brno and saw some major cities and sites in Czechoslovakia. In Bonn he and his wife viewed a live congressional debate in the German "Bundestag" (Parliament), escorted by Mrs. Helene Hennig, wife of PLAIN TRUTH photographer, Mr. Alfred Hennig.

From October 16 to 18 the Deputy Chancellor of Ambassador College in Pasadena, Mr. Raymond McNair and his wife Eve, also visited the Bonn office. On Sabbath, October 17, Mr. McNair gave an inspiring sermon on the "origin and destiny" of nations, relating many colorful impressions of his recent tour through Europe.

Also visiting the office just after the Feast was editorial staff and Ambassador College faculty member, Mr. Keith Stump, and his family.

During the month of October mail increased over last year in all areas except in Media. Regular mail showed a 76% increase over 1981, donation mail increased 58%. Only media or white mail showed a slump compared to last year. The cause is simply the later starting date for our major fall advertising. This fall we are planning a major flyer advertising campaign in

Germany, Austria and Switzerland. More than one million flyers will be distributed in five major magazines and newspapers. We hope to add 25,000 new subscribers to our file, bringing the total of new subscribers added in 1982 up to 80,000.

This month mail income increased dramatically due to large offerings sent in. Our mail income for the month to date reached +50.8%. For the year to date total income now stands at +36.9%.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

ROANOKE, VA--ROBERT PERSKY: The brethren love having Mr. Armstrong on TV each Sunday. His presentation is so gripping and so inspiring from start to finish. The brethren in Roanoke have never been so excited and dedicated toward the Work as they are now. They see the Gospel going out with POWER. Sabbath services and Bible studies are like a beehive of activity with talk about Mr. Armstrong's travels and letters. Major world events are truly waking up the people as Mr. Armstrong has mentioned in his latest letter.

BUFFALO (NORTH), NY--DAVE PACK: People are thrilled here about bigger media impact in the area. The growth in the Work worldwide has everyone speculating on which doors will open next for Mr. Armstrong and the Work.

BEAVER VALLEY, PA--DON J. LAWSON: Everything is going very well. People are very much a part of the Work and are constantly asking about Mr. Armstrong and Headquarters.

ALEXANDRIA, LA--BRISCOE ELLETT II: Surely do miss Mr. Armstrong's Bible study tapes. Maybe he can produce some more? Am really enjoying the ever-increasing quality of the GN. Many new people are writing in from an area that is on the fringe of media coverage. Wish we had some in this area to spur growth.

MICHIGAN CITY/ELKHART, IN--RAND MILLICH: Many members have commented about the outstanding articles in the GN and YOUTH 82. There have also been comments about how much stronger the messages have been in the publications and in the sermons this past year. Attitudes seem very much in harmony with the direction of God's Church.

In Elkhart, several of the teens had difficulty in getting time off for the Feast. In addition, some have been pressured to break the Sabbath in order to play in school sports. So far, all of the teens involved have chosen to follow God.

LAKE CRYSTAL/MINNEAPOLIS (SOUTH), MN--VICTOR KUBIK: We are getting excellent numbers of new people writing for The PLAIN TRUTH as a result of watching one of the two weekend telecasts. Several new PMs are beginning to attend services.

On the Sabbath of September 25th, an elderly blind lady collapsed during the sermonette. She had no pulse and we thought she was dead. She was anointed and came to. She stayed on through the

Bible study that followed. She also traveled to Minneapolis for the Day of Atonement.

MIDLAND, MI--GERALD WESTON: We had a dramatic intervention from God in this area just before the Feast. A woman escaped serious injury when a two gallon can of gasoline ignited in her hands, spilling gas and flames on her. In spite of becoming a flaming torch, she managed to run 30 feet to a door where she disposed of the flaming can. Her clothes were burned off, some hair was singed, her fingernails were burned back to the quick. She looked like she had a slight sunburn, but no serious burns--only a few very small blisters that disappeared in a day or two. It was truly remarkable!

COLUMBUS (PM), OH--ROBERT DICK: General attitude in the Church is one of involvement. People want to participate and be active in Church activities. Spokesman Club response was high enough to create two clubs for the first time in over 10 years!

SCOTTSBLUFF, NE--CHUCK ZIMMERMAN: Many here have been in their third tithe year. Generally all have been blessed. Their businesses are succeeding and families seem more responsive and sensitive.

KALISPELL, MT--BILL QUILLEN: Holy Day offerings held up very well and indicated the members are being blessed in spite of the economic slow down.

HAZARD, KY--WARREN HEATON III: Despite extremely high unemployment in this area, God has blessed with employment those who are faithful to Him. I feel God's people here are holding up quite well because of the promises of God. People outside, in comparison, have no hope. In one small county (Harlan), 13 people have committed suicide since March--seven last week!

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

Postal Center Completes Largest Letter Mailing in Work's History

Mr. Armstrong's recent semiannual letter was mailed to 1,758,313 U.S. PLAIN TRUTH subscribers, including coworkers and members. This makes it the largest letter mailing in this present era of God's Work.

Obtaining enough envelopes for the entire mailing appeared an impossible task due to a September strike among envelope companies. Also, the high volume of political mailings just prior to the midterm U.S. elections had absorbed most of what was available. But after prayer and much diligent searching, several suppliers were found and the needed envelopes arrived just in time.

Later this month over 250,000 more letters--in English, French and Spanish --will be prepared and shipped from Pasadena. This will mean that a total of over 2,000,000 copies of Mr. Armstrong's letter will have gone out--a new all-time record!

Postage Rates Rolled Back--Work Saves Over \$100,000!

In this day of inflation and ever-spiraling costs, we are happy to report that God's Work has benefitted substantially from a decrease in postal rates. Last July 28 the nonprofit bulk mail rates were lowered due to a special subsidy voted by the U.S. Congress. As a result, the rate for a piece of mail dropped from 5.9 to 4.9 cents.

Since July, over five million pieces of mail have been sent from Pasadena and three issues of The PLAIN TRUTH have been mailed at the lower rates. The total savings to the Work has amounted to over \$100,000. The nonprofit rate is expected to increase in December, but in the meantime God's Work in the second half of 1982 has received this unexpected blessing.

Gratitude Expressed for God's Blessings

In view of Mr. Armstrong's recent exhortations to be thankful for God's blessings, we are featuring letter comments which show that many members and coworkers are indeed grateful to be a part of God's true Church and Work, as well as for His blessings.

About three years ago, God in His love led me to The PLAIN TRUTH. A year and a half later, I started attending Sabbath services. Yesterday, I was baptized. Thank you for your hard work and efforts to make the Gospel known. I want to write of all the changes that have taken place in my life as a result of learning God's Truth, but my eyes tear up. All I can say is, thank you, dear Mr. Armstrong, and may the great God of this universe continue to guide all of us as the time draws nearer to the return of His Son.

Mrs. S.R. (Orlando, FL)

My husband and I were recently baptized. It is beyond words how we feel being a part of God's Church and His Work. We thank God every day for calling us and giving us the most precious gift ever to exist.

Mr. & Mrs. T.N. (Jacksonville, AL)

Thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for the benefit of your years of research and Bible study under Jesus Christ. We are like the late laborers in the field who received the same pay as those who labored all day. Thank you for leading the Worldwide Church of God--we are especially privileged to be members.

Mr. & Mrs. C.A. (Gobles, MI)

I am very thankful for your articles in The PLAIN TRUTH and YOUTH 82 magazines. I am soon going to be thirteen years old and can hardly wait to be in Y.O.U. I am very thankful that I am in the Worldwide Church of God. I am very sure that there is nothing like it. I can remember seven years ago when I was not in the Church. The only children I saw that were my age or close to it, were my relatives and the only time I saw them was once a year. The friends I made back then have either stopped going to Church or moved away. But the new people kept coming. I have more friends now than I have ever had in my life.

I know that this Church is truly the real Church of God. I have eight brothers and three sisters and thank God for them all, but most of all I thank God for being in the Worldwide Church of God.

K.S. (Pine River, MN)

I received the prayer cloth you sent and did what the letter instructed. I am so grateful for your prayers. When I first wrote to you, I was almost blind, but since then God healed my eyes and I can now see better than ever before. I am so grateful and am increasing my offering this month, for I feel I should do more for God.

Mrs. C.H.--a Coworker (Gainesville, GA)

We have been truly blessed this year in our farming which at present is our supplemental income. God has protected our crops from heavy windstorms, hail and damaging rains. Crops within only a mile of us have been totally destroyed. God's power certainly is evident. Not only did He protect the crops, He also increased their production. Our grain harvest has almost doubled from last year! Because of God's great mercy and blessings we have a good profit on which to tithe. So in giving God our thanks, we return what is His to you and ask you to use it as our great God directs. We are ever behind you in this great Work.

Mr. & Mrs. C.W. (Howard, SD)

One of the greatest blessings I have had, personally, is not to have to be in the cruel, Satanic world losing a battle trying to make a living. I can be a homemaker, fulfilling the duties of a wife. My heart is full of thanksgiving for this job, for which every woman was created. My husband and I realize God has put us side by side. We work together and are thankful for each other.

Mr. & Mrs. B.M. (Tucson, AZ)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center