

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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TO BE READ IN
ALL CHURCHES

by Herbert W. Armstrong

A P R O C L A M A T I O N

With the Treasurer, Mr. Leroy Neff, and other vitally-related department heads, I have just gone over and approved the budget for the calendar year 1983.

I am happy to report that the United States income for the year, as of November 30, 1982, was up 12.6% over November a year ago, and the year to date was 10.3% above last year.

However, we also have experienced a splendid growth in the work of the Church during the year, especially the past three months. PT circulation has greatly increased. Christ's true Gospel Message is going out in well over five million copies of the PT--reaching perhaps more than 30 MILLION people worldwide. This and other growth in the Church during the last half, and especially last quarter of the year, mean INCREASED OUTGO IN THE BUDGET FOR 1983.

I had wanted to give our loyal and devoted employees a salary increase, which we had not done for some time. Except for the top salaries, I approved an 8% across-the-board salary increase some weeks ago. This increases the 1983 budget by \$2 million for the year 1983. We have added many new TV and radio stations during the second half of the year. That and increased publishing and mailing costs for increased PT circulation automatically increase the 1983 budget by more than another \$2 million.

The very fact of a GROWING Work, reaching more and more people has made necessary other budgetary reductions for next year. In a time of national skyrocketing UNemployment, we find it imperative to add to that unemployment and lay off some employees, which we surely hate to have to do.

Even though our increased year's income is well above the inflationary or cost-of-living rise, the very success and GROWTH of God's Work mean budgetary CUTS for 1983. We have to tighten our belts. For three years now I have warned all our brethren we must from now on prepare to REDUCE OUR STANDARD OF LIVING!

My recent visits in Europe, from Spain on the west to Greece on the east, opened to me inside information that the prophesied resurrection of the "Holy Roman Empire" of the Middle Ages is now on the very verge of becoming REALITY. It will trigger the GREAT TRIBULATION! The MARK OF THE BEAST soon will be ENFORCED--and our brethren will be FORCED to work on the Sabbath and refrain from any work on Sunday or be PUT TO DEATH (Rev. 6:9-11). But if they do give up the Sabbath they shall suffer the last PLAGUES of GOD, and fail to enter God's Kingdom--instead ETERNAL DEATH! That is the test we are soon to face, individually and collectively. Will each of our brethren lay their lives on the line when this test comes--and it is coming soon?

During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln issued a solemn PROCLAMATION for a day of FASTING and PRAYER for the whole U.S.A.

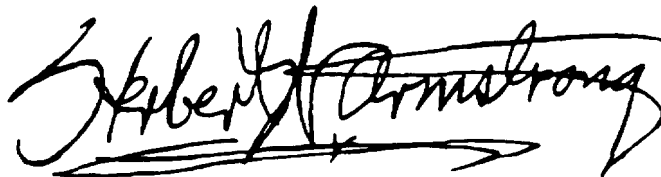
We now face the TEST OF OUR LIVES!

I believe the living Jesus Christ, HEAD of this Church, is directing it in and through me as his chosen apostle. And he now directs me to call a day of very SOLEMN FASTING AND PRAYER for Sabbath, January 1, 1983. Let us start this world's new year with a day of EXAMINING OURSELVES--of humbly seeking a closer, more personal and intimate association with our God and Maker. All ETERNITY for each of us is now at stake. I ask all to PRAY earnestly that God will show each wherein we are not as close to him and in his will as we should be. The prophet Joel spoke of this very time, saying, (Minister will please read Joel 1:14-15 and 2:12-13).

Let us put our whole hearts into it! Pray for the Work. Pray for the restraint of Satan in lawsuits against the Church. Pray for each other! And please pray for me as I will for all of you.

God has blessed us GREATLY. He will not leave or forsake us now. We must not forsake him.

With deep love, in Jesus' name,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herbert Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.