

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

January 6, 1983

We now have the complete financial information for 1982. It has been a trying year because we did not receive as much income as we expected. Early in the year we were heading toward depleting all of our cash reserves and going in the "red." You probably realize that we do not have provisions now for operating in the "red." Even though we were able to do this by routinely borrowing each year prior to 1979, we do not wish to do that now. Being on a cash rather than on a credit basis is better for corporations and individuals.

It became necessary to greatly limit expenses, and in the middle of the year we had to delete all the "variances" or budget funds which had not been spent. This may not seem like a drastic measure, but it was, as some department heads can well attest.

In spite of all our efforts, we still spent about one-third million dollars more for the year than we received. With mail and holy day income of \$85 million, a third of a million is not very much. Hopefully, we have a little better handle on things for 1983 and will be able to recover this small loss to cash reserves. The new budget is more stringent than last year, and we will watch things more carefully, especially at the beginning of the year.

I hope my report does not sound too negative, because we did have a very fine income year, considering the United States economic situation; and much was accomplished. As you know, we were able to expand considerably in radio and television and to publish much more than the previous year. We were also able to pay all of our bills, give a cost-of-living increase to most employees, and contribute several million dollars to our international offices.

We had a very good December with 20% more income than last year. This brought up the year's percentage figure to 11.4% more than 1981. The income figures break down as follows: 11.9% more in general contributions, 14.3% more in festival contributions (excess second tithe and tithe of the tithe), 9.9% more in church assistance (third tithe), 0.3% more for the building fund, and 9.7% more in holy day offerings.

I am pleased to announce that Arthur Andersen & Co. will provide a combined worldwide audit of the Work for 1982, in addition to the U.S. audit. They already are at work on this audit. I believe that an audit by such a well-known and established multinational firm helps protect us from false accusations.

In a few more weeks we hope to again have a combined financial report of income and expenditures in the WORLDWIDE NEWS for God's worldwide Work. We are now in the process of compiling this information.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESInternational News

French Department Report During the period December 16th to 19th, Mr. Dibar Apartian was in Montreal where he conducted meetings with all Canadian French-speaking ministers, deacons and wives in which important decisions were made for the 1983 Feast of Tabernacles. On the Sabbath, Mr. Apartian preached during both the morning and the afternoon services to a total of 601 persons.

A week later, accompanied by Mr. John Halford, Mr. Apartian visited the island of Haiti for two days. While there he spoke at length with the membership. God's Church in Haiti is on solid ground. As for conditions in the country itself, things are not so positive as inflation and joblessness are at an all-time high.

Geneva office manager Mr. Bernard Andrist's recent tour of Africa went well. He conducted a number of Bible studies in French-speaking areas, which greatly encouraged our scattered brethren. Two more people were baptized in Zaire where there are 45 presently attending services.

Mr. Olivier Carion recently toured the regions of Metz, Thionville and St. Avold in northern France, where we have experienced the greatest growth since the beginning of 1982. The major reason for this growth is that people there are able to receive "The World Tomorrow" telecast from Luxembourg, just to the north.

Ten people have become very interested as a result of Mr. Jean Carion's last two visiting tours in the Liege, Belgium area. Some of them are now going to the expense of traveling to Brussels each week for Sabbath services. Mr. Carion wrote, "On Friday, December 17th we had an additional 20 new people at Liege for Bible study, including a Catholic priest, who got his money's worth. My subject was the soul and heaven. During the question period he cited the passage in Luke 20:38 without directly referring to it and it gave me great pleasure to answer him."

Mr. Frank Schnee visited the Brussels Church last month and gave an excellent sermon together with much news of the German phase of God's Work. The members were very encouraged to see that God's Church and His ministry around the world all "speak the same thing."

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I would like to thank you and the Headquarters ministers and staff for the opportunity of attending the twelfth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. We feel that as a recently ordained minister and wife we are especially blessed to be able to come to Headquarters and be taught and directed by God's Apostle and many longtime ministers who were themselves trained directly by you. What a blessing to be able to draw upon that wealth of wisdom and experience!

One session that I would like to comment on briefly is the question and answer session at the end of the program. Seven evangelists answered questions turned in by the ministers throughout the session. Question after question was answered and commented on by several evangelists with total agreement and harmony. What an inspiration to see all seven evangelists "...perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment"! It was a beautiful example for all of us.

Thank you very much for providing this valuable refreshing program and for your many years of dedicated service to Christ and the Church. Our prayers are with you daily.

Doug and Rosa Peitz

Dear Messrs. Armstrong and Tkach:

Words can't express the deep appreciation for being allowed to attend the twelfth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program.

We could shout for joy for being refreshed from God's Word and for the inspiration, instruction, correction and edification that we received. We thank you and everyone who served tirelessly and selflessly to make this a high point in our lives. We thank God who is working mightily through you, Mr. Armstrong, and others to make this a highly successful two weeks.

The beauty of God's campus, the happy smiling faces of the students, faculty, and other workers made highly evident the manifestation of God's Holy Spirit and the teaching and adherence to God's laws. It was truly a rewarding experience to be at Headquarters to get a glimpse of the world tomorrow.

Gene and Catherine Koch

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Pat and I want to thank you for the opportunity of increasing our knowledge of the Bible and God's government in the Church during our participation in the eleventh session of the second Ministerial Refreshing Program.

It was most reassuring to see the loyalty, friendship and love that is radiating from everyone with whom we came in contact at Headquarters.

We certainly want to thank Mr. Armstrong for allowing the local elders and their wives this very special opportunity to learn how to serve the brethren, to support the church pastor, and to know without any reservations that God's Work is back "on track."

Edwin and Pat Carr, Jr.

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Now that we have returned from the second Refreshing Program, we wanted to convey to you, Mr. Armstrong and all the staff at Pasadena our thanks for making it a success.

Even though our "ends" had to endure many hours of class, the review, new knowledge and spiritual stimulation was well worth it. Meeting old and new friends in the ministry also added to our enjoyment. When one considers that every full-time minister and many who aren't full-time have an opportunity to attend these refreshing programs, it is easy to see why the unity and cooperation in the Work is increasing. We will look forward to coming back in a year or two to MRP III.

Mike and Sandy Swagerty

Thanks for Special Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Just a few words from my wife and myself to relate our deep appreciation for making possible the "Sunday only" Ministerial Refreshing Program. We are very blessed to be in the Southern California area near Headquarters so that we can take part in this great program.

We wish to thank you and all the individuals we had as instructors in person for giving us your time on Sunday. We, too, acknowledge the need for all to speak the same thing; and for us to hear God's Word explained and expounded "live," and to be able to then ask questions was a real blessing indeed.

We never tire of learning, and hope we'll do better in giving because of the greater depth of knowledge we have received.

Mel and Pat Williams

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

GREENSBORO, NC--DAN ROGERS: God's Church here is growing tremendously unified in the face of severe health and economic trials. Many have told me they've never seen so much love and unity in the Church as now. All were sobered by Mr. Armstrong's recent letter and are very much looking forward to a better world to come after today's trials and evils.

WHEELING, WV--R. A. FUESSEL: Members are strong spiritually--becoming more anxious for God's Kingdom as this present world rapidly goes down and out. Mr. Armstrong's recent letter moved everyone. Members sense that time is very short and that present suffering isn't worthy to be compared to the reward ahead for the faithful.

KENOSHA, WI--FELIX HEIMBERG: People's spirits were stirred by Mr. Armstrong's letter of November 22. In light of economic and other trends in society, some are being extra cautious with regard to major decisions such as the purchase of a home.

GAINESVILLE, FL--ALLEN BULLOCK: PM activity is increasing in this area. Five baptisms this month. Also, more brethren are moving into the area from churches up north. Sabbath service attendance is filling the entire hall.

PHOENIX, AR--MARK CARDONA: Our number of PMS has gone off the scale--I received seven letters in one day! Now it's hustle to contact and visit them. Mr. Armstrong's efforts through the telecast here are really producing results!

POPLAR BLUFFS, MO--CLYDE KILOUGH: A two-year-old girl went through 10 days of seizures averaging one an hour. Doctors at St. Louis Children's Hospital could find no cause. After I asked members to fast and pray fervently, she began to improve, and has now recovered with no apparent damage. She had over 200 seizures--most of them nearly a minute long, and still no cause is understood.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

TV Response for 1982 Sets All-time Record!

Mr. Armstrong's message had considerable impact on the viewing audience in 1982. Last year 484,526 people responded to "The World Tomorrow" television program in the United States--a new all-time record. This outstanding response surpasses the previous mark set in 1975. About 80% of the viewers responded by phone and the other 20% by letter.

A Reminder About Annual Receipts (U.S. Only)

We plan to mail annual receipts for 1982 on January 20-21. They will be sent by first class mail and should be received nationwide by the first week in February. Since some members may wonder why they are not mailed sooner, we thought it would be helpful to explain.

All donations postmarked by December 31, 1982 are credited on the annual receipts for that year. Because year-end delays in mail delivery are common, it may take until the second week of January to receive all such contributions. Another few days are then required to record them in our computer files. This extra time helps ensure that all individuals' donation records are as complete and accurate as possible before the annual receipts are mailed.

We would also like to mention that this receipt is for the contributor's personal records; the IRS does not require it to be included with tax returns. Those wishing to file returns before receiving the receipt can do so using their own financial records.

TV Audience Greatly Impressed by Auditorium Special

Mr. Armstrong's telecast featuring the Ambassador Auditorium and College chorale was aired in late November and again this past January 1-2 weekend. This program brought an unusually high number of comments. Viewers were very impressed with the grandeur and beauty of the Auditorium. Many requested pictures of the building and several inquired about the concert series. Below are some of the letter and phone comments received:

Words fail me to express how impressed I was with the beauty and quality of our great House for God. I want to express the feeling

of pride to be called a member of the Worldwide Church of God--an organization that upholds God's truth.

Mrs. E.F. (Mobile, AL)

Seeing the auditorium and hearing the glorious music was a welcome treat. It is really a wonderful service to the community to share the building with the performing artists that have been there.

Mrs. L.M. (Bellevue, WA)

The chorus was so beautiful it sent chills up and down my spine! I would like to come to Pasadena to tour the auditorium.

R.W. (Augusta, GA)

Please convey my congratulations to Ambassador College. The program was interesting and educational. Ambassador Auditorium is a beautiful building. I feel it must be one of the greatest structures in the world. I hope to visit it sometime.

R.J. (Baltimore, MD)

The most recent telecast about the Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena was very, very nice. I have never written Pasadena about my satisfaction with a program but I feel compelled to do so this time. The telecasts are interesting and involve lectures zooming in on specific topics and I never miss one. However, this program was special...including not only a lecture but also singers, sights, sounds and color.

E.C. (Dover, NH)

I was much impressed with the grandeur and excellent taste in architecture, furnishings, landscape, etc., of Ambassador College as shown on TV on November 21. I hope someday soon I will be privileged to walk on the campus and then I'll drink in and absorb all its splendor and beauty in person.

Mrs. L.O. (Jones, MI)

Ambassador Auditorium is one of the seven wonders of the world!

H.R. (Pascagoula, MS)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center