

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

Mr. Armstrong's Recent Trip to England

Mr. Armstrong returned to Pasadena Tuesday, May 17, after a very busy and successful trip to England. Although more details of the trip will follow in the next WORLDWIDE NEWS, we thought we would give you a brief sketch of events.

The first event of Mr. Armstrong's recent trip occurred on Tuesday, May 10. It was a reception and luncheon held in his honor at St. Antony's College at Oxford University. Mr. Armstrong addressed a group of the world's top scholars. Despite all their education, they really didn't understand God's knowledge, although they heard a message that did make for some thought-provoking questions! St. Antony's is a graduate school at Oxford with 134 students from various parts of the world. The Ambassador Foundation is sponsoring a fellowship there in which top professors from China come for one-year study programs. Not only the faculty of this college, but most of the graduate students help give lectures to the undergraduate colleges that make up Oxford.

The annual board meeting of the Church was held on Friday, followed by a pleasant luncheon.

Leopold de Rothschild had set up three events for friends of the Royal College of Music. The first was to be a tour of the College with a trip to Althorp to visit Earl Spencer, father of Princess Diana. Since it was scheduled for the Sabbath, Mr. Armstrong declined. Instead, he toured the College on Thursday, and Mr. Armstrong spoke to the combined London churches on the Sabbath. He emphasized the fact that this is not God's world and the need for more of God's Holy Spirit to prepare us for the new world. Church services ended in time for us to drive to Althorp for tea and the visit with Earl Spencer. He proved to be a very cordial host.

The second event on Mr. Rothschild's program was a tour of Woburn Abbey, Home of the Duke of Bedford. We were greeted by his son, the Marquess of Tavistock and his wife the Marchioness. The luncheon and tour of the palacial residence was enchanting. Some of you may recall the salt cellars (knights on horseback) on the formal table at the Social Center when having dinner with Mr. Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong pointed out the originals at the Abbey from which the copies were made.

The last and most important event was the tour of the Rothschild estate at Exbury with not only the Rothschild family, but also Prince Charles and Princess Diana. The rhododendrons and azaleas were spectacular in the world famous Exbury Gardens.

At the buffet dinner, Mr. Armstrong was able to meet with both the Prince and Princess of Wales. It was the first time he had met the Princess. She proved to be very pleasant and living up to her many respon-

sibilities. She had discussed previously with Messrs. La Ravia and Dean the fact that she was only 21 years old, and people expected her to have the experience that her 34-year-old husband had. She had had to learn to relate to older people, as "all her husband's friends are over 50."

Mr. Armstrong returned to Pasadena on Tuesday afternoon.

--Aaron Dean

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

**** TO BE ANNOUNCED ****

International Feast Sites at Capacity

The Feast sites at Vieux Fort, St. Lucia and Praz-sur-Arly, France have reached capacity and no further transfers can be accepted.

International News

News of the Work in Canada During the first few months of the year, Church attendance is up 5.1%. New visit requests are running 8.8% above the same period of a year ago, and baptisms continue to be on the positive side with a plus 43% for the first part of the year.

Despite all the positive news coming out of Wall Street, Canada's unemployment picture is still bleak. The government paid out twice as much in unemployment insurance in April 1983 as it did in April one year ago. The high unemployment in the nation is reflected in God's Church. We undoubtedly have more unemployed members than at any other point in the history of God's Work in Canada. This high unemployment is reflected in the income figures for 1983. April saw an increase of 9.4%, bringing the year-to-date figures to a plus 12.6%. Although lower than we would like to see, this is still a very encouraging increase when one considers the employment picture.

In a recent meeting with Baker Lovick (our advertising agency), plans for the remainder of the year were reviewed. A policy of uniform renewing was adopted whereby March of each year will be the date all radio and television contracts expire. It is hoped that this will put us in a stronger bargaining position with the radio and TV stations. The major advertising campaigns this year will revolve around ads we will place in READER'S DIGEST. There is the possibility of another newspaper insert campaign later in the year if funds are available.

We are presently awaiting the outcome of a pilot "World Tomorrow" TV program in Quebec, using French subtitles. It is currently being done in France and Belgium and we hope it will be acceptable in Quebec. There are those in the advertising industry who feel the atmosphere in Quebec is not conducive to the concept. We watch and pray.

Mr. George Lee, pastor of the Barrie, Ontario Church, recently held two PLAIN TRUTH lectures with excellent results. Out of a total audience of

74 attending the first lecture, 43 were new people. His second lecture was attended by 88, of which 39 were new people.

Report From New Zealand March and April were reasonably good months for mail, 6,511 and 6,585 letters being received each month respectively. Major factors in the incoming mail are some fine responses being received from ongoing PLAIN TRUTH and YOUTH 83 renewals. The insert card in the May PLAIN TRUTH has also proved more effective than usual, with just under 1,000 responses coming during April.

After many months of fine income increases, there was a slowing in income during March and April. Over the past year or so, the number of co-workers has leveled off, although there has been a small increase in the number of donors. As the month of April ended, concern over income trends prompted Regional Director Peter Nathan to call on the brethren here to pray and fast for God's Work.

Last year our average PLAIN TRUTH circulation (subscriber and newsstand editions combined) leapt almost 100% higher than that of the previous highest year ever (1981). We're now looking forward to seeing the fruits of this vastly increased coverage in terms of new growth in donations, visit requests, etc., in upcoming months.

April's mail began to give a welcome indication of potential growth of this type! We received a very encouraging number of letters from people expressing a deep interest in God's Work, and voicing a desire to contribute and become more involved in it. Another promising indicator is the number of new visits conducted by the ministers here--up 71.4% over the first four months of 1982.

Starting May 1st, "The World Tomorrow" broadcast began airing on Radio Otago, centered in Dunedin, and its repeater stations (Radio Otago Central) in Wanaka and Alexandra. Negotiations for two other major stations are also currently in progress.

From Bonn, West Germany Brethren from the German-speaking area of God's Work gathered in five separate festival locations on April 4th for the last day of Unleavened Bread. The holy day offering for this year showed a 13.5% increase over the offering taken up last year.

On April 11th, Regional Director Frank Schnee flew to Pasadena with two top men from the Czechoslovakian government travel agency CEDOK, which works with us in arranging our Feast of Tabernacles in Brno. One of the men, Mr. Gebert, is the new director in charge of conventions in Czechoslovakia and was able to visit the Ambassador College campuses in Pasadena and Big Sandy. He was very impressed with both campuses. The second man, Dr. Macourek, is the department manager under Mr. Gebert and has visited Ambassador College before. During their trip they heard the good news that the Brno feast site is filled to capacity this year. This was encouraging news for them. Mr. Schnee commented that "keeping the feast in Czechoslovakia opens the door for us to be a light behind the Iron Curtain."

At the same time that Mr. Schnee and his Czechoslovakian guests were in Pasadena, Office Manager John Karlson and Mr. Helmut Meier flew to Pasadena to discuss installation of our Datapoint computer, so that we can be compatible with Pasadena's Data Processing Center. Mr. Helmut Meier is a

deacon in the Darmstadt Church and will be the man doing our computer programming. Plans are set for our computer to be installed in June, an event we all are anticipating.

The office staff this month was involved with planning and production for the soon-coming advertising campaign. Flyers and cards were printed and delivered to the various media. When our advertising gets under way in May, we will experience a dramatic increase in incoming mail.

The total incoming mail for this month was down 33% over April of 1982, simply because advertising starts later this year. However, our regular mail increased 13% and donation mail increase 27% over last year. The mail income for the month to date increased 9.9%. For the year to date it increased 23.9%.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Noteworthy Trends in the Work's 50th Year

This Pentecost will be the 50th since the Philadelphia era of God's Church began in 1934. In this 50th year, we are continuing to see outstanding growth in the U.S. and around the world. For example:

- More than five million pieces of literature including magazines, letters, booklets, etc., have been sent out each month since January of this year. This is an all-time record.
- Nearly 500,000 new names have been added to the U.S. files since the beginning of the year. This is the second highest count in the Work's history--surpassed only by last year's record number.
- More than 250,000 WATS calls have been received, which is a new year-to-date record.
- Nearly 100,000 new students have been enrolled in the AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE. This is already the highest number added in all but three previous years.
- Thousands of new people are beginning to support the Work financially. In the past four months, co-workers have increased 21 percent over the same time last year.

A number of interesting coincidences are also occurring in this 50th year. The Work will soon receive its 50 millionth letter. Fifty million PLAIN TRUTH magazines will be read worldwide in 1983. The grand total of all copies in the history of God's Work will reach 500 million!

Outpouring of Love and Support for Mr. Armstrong

Members and co-workers have responded overwhelmingly to Mr. Armstrong's latest co-worker letter. After only 12 days, 23 percent of members and 15 percent of all co-workers have written in. This is one of the highest responses in the past four years. They have assured him of their love, support and prayers during his present trial. Many have expressed faith that God will give victory to His Church. Following are just a few of the letters received.

We love you so much! We know God will help you out in the current trials, because he has helped and protected you so many times before.

Also, you are a prime example of doing God's Work so faithfully, never becoming "weary of well doing"! Everything you do produces such good fruit and peace because you obey the royal law of our great God! We know it will require God's kingdom on earth to enable the rest of humanity to realize this. We are in back of you 100%, Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. & Mrs. W.P. (Wichita, KS)

In spite of everything you go through, you keep uplifting and encouraging us! Thank you. Your attitude inspires us and we in turn are strengthened and united behind you ever more closely. I shall continue to pray about this situation and the ultimate triumph.

A.D. (Cornelius, OR)

Sorry to hear about the problems you are having. It seems that Satan is trying to get at us all these days. Everyone I talk to is having some kind of trial. I am sure we will win in the end if we stay faithful. God said He would never leave us or forsake us. I believe what He says, and I know you do too. Keep up the good work and stay well. We are all behind you 100%.

V.D. (Kingsport, TN)

Thank you for setting us an example of zeal and dedication in your service to God and to us in the Church. We pray that the persecution brought against you will be short-lived and that you can devote your full energy to God's Work.

R.O. (Cornelius, OR)

I'm increasing my prayers even more for you after receiving your last letter. I felt I just had to write and tell you I'm behind you and I don't care, because it's not important what this legal mess is about. Please take courage. I feel that the Church as a whole is behind you all the way.

Mrs. M.B. (Merrit Is., FL)

We were glad to get the latest co-worker letter. It's so wonderful the loving way you keep us, your family, informed of God's Work. We thank you so very much. Our prayers are for you always, and we are going to fast and pray more and get our hearts in the Work more. We thank you again. We love you so much.

Mr. & Mrs. C.P. (Oviedo, FL)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

SOLZHENITSYN SPEAKS OUT (AGAIN); CHARACTERLESS AMERICA (AND BRITAIN); WHAT ONE WEST GERMAN THINKS HIS COUNTRY SHOULD DO

In a recent "On the World Scene" article (April 1, 1983) we quoted excerpts of speeches from Alexander Solzhenitsyn. TIME magazine, in its May 23, 1983 issue gives some insight into Solzhenitsyn's most recent address in

London after receiving this year's Templeton Foundation Prize--religion's equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize. Here are excerpts:

"The entire 20th century is being sucked into the vortex of atheism and self-destruction," the stern speaker warned his hushed audience. "We can only reach with determination for the warm hand of God, which we have so rashly and self-confidently pushed away.... There is nothing else to cling to in the landslide."

The man at the lectern in London's Guildhall last week was author Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who received this year's \$170,000 Templeton Foundation Prize for Progress in Religion. The award, inaugurated in 1972 by U.S. mutual fund Wizard John M. Templeton, cited the Nobel-Prize-winning Soviet exile as a "pioneer in the renaissance of religion in atheist nations" and a "living symbol of the continuing vitality of the Orthodox tradition of spirituality."

Solzhenitsyn's address was an extension of his last major public statement, the 1978 commencement speech at Harvard University, in which he assailed the West for its materialism, spiritual vapidity and timidity in the face of Communism. Last week the author said that Western secularism has been gaining force since the late Middle Ages and that this "gradual sapping of strength from within" is perhaps a more dangerous threat to faith than violent attack from outside, as under Communist rule.

Although he did not mention him by name, Solzhenitsyn sharply attacked Protestant Evangelist Billy Graham, last year's Templeton prizewinner, for "his deplorable statement that he had not noticed the persecution of religion in the U.S.S.R." during a visit last year. Solzhenitsyn also accused the World Council of Churches for seeming "to care more for the success of revolutionary movements in the Third World" than for denouncing religious persecution in the U.S.S.R.

The Templeton award ceremony was held earlier at Buckingham Palace, where Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth II's husband, presented the Soviet author with a scroll, a \$170,000 check and the Templeton medal. John M. Templeton, an American Presbyterian philanthropist, established the award 11 years ago to stimulate spiritual progress and religious knowledge. A panel of five judges representing the world's major faiths chooses the winners. United Press International (UPI) added these comments on Solzhenitsyn's address in a May 11, 1983 dispatch from London:

In the Soviet bloc, hatred of religion is a principal driving force of communism, Solzhenitsyn said, and the West is in decline because the meaning of life is reduced to the pursuit of happiness.... Reviewing the history of the Russian revolution, Solzhenitsyn said, "The world had never before known a godlessness as organized, militarized and tenaciously malevolent as that preached by Marxism. Hatred of God is the principal driving force (of Marxist philosophy), more fundamental than all their political and economic pretensions...."

Solzhenitsyn also was critical of the West's abandonment of fundamental values in favor of easy options. "The meaning of life in the West ceased to stand for anything more lofty than the pursuit of 'happiness,'" Solzhenitsyn said. "The concepts of good and evil have been ridiculed for several centuries...they have been replaced by political or class considerations of short-lived value."

Associated Press (AP) added other points Solzhenitsyn made in a post-speech news conference, especially concerning naive "peace movements" in the Western world.

Exiled Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn said Wednesday that anti-nuclear protesters in the West are blind to a threat from the Soviet Union and don't know the difference between good and evil.

He said the late English philosopher Bertrand Russell was wrong when he suggested it was better to be red than dead. "Just as lobsters are thrown into boiling water and gradually turn red, so under Communism some die immediately and some take a little longer," the Nobel prize winner, exiled in 1974, said in a rare meeting with reporters.

Accusing young disarmament campaigners of having their "eyes bound" about the Soviet government and lacking any concept of "absolute good and absolute evil," Solzhenitsyn said: "They are against any kind of struggle at all. They just want to give up altogether. They feel their carefree existence will go on forever. They believe Bertrand Russell that it's better to be red than dead. But here even Bertrand Russell was mentally lacking; he saw an alternative where there is none, because to be red means to become dead gradually."

Russell, who died in 1970 at age 98, helped inspire the nuclear protest movement and said in 1958 that "if the Communists conquered the world, it would be very unpleasant for a while but not forever." Some characterized the remark as a "better red than dead" outlook. In a two-hour news conference at Claridge's Hotel, conducted through a Russian interpreter, Solzhenitsyn alleged that "Soviet means and money" were involved in the organization of anti-nuclear demonstrations. "I don't want to say that all of them have been bought, bribed or lack conscience," but Western protesters are being used, he claimed.

Solzhenitsyn criticized Western governments, newspapers, the Nobel prize committee, Amnesty International and the non-communist world for what he called their failure to confront communism. He...ridiculed the "hundreds of professors and journalists" who talk about "hawks and doves" in the Kremlin.... Solzhenitsyn said that in 1919, Russian revolutionary Vladimir I. Lenin "proclaimed a death sentence to the West, and this sentence has never been rescinded." [Reuters news service added that Solzhenitsyn said: "You have been living here under a death sentence for the last 65 years but you fail to understand this."]

Finally, here are a few excerpts from Solzhenitsyn's speech at the Guild-hall, as reported in the May 11 TIMES of London:

Dostoevsky warned that "great events could come upon us and catch us intellectually unprepared." That is precisely what has happened. And he predicted that "the world will be saved only after it has been possessed by the demon of evil." Whether it really will be saved we shall have to wait and see.... But it has already come to pass that the demon of evil, like a whirlwind, triumphantly circles all five continents of the earth.

...The West is ineluctably slipping toward the abyss.... Atheist teachers in the West are bringing up a younger generation in a spirit of hate for their own society. Incitements to hatred are coming to characterize today's free world.

It seems more and more apparent that...the noose on the neck of mankind draws tighter and more hopeless with every passing decade, and there seems to be no way out for anyone--neither nuclear, nor political, nor economic, nor ecological.... Our life consists not in the pursuit of material success but in the quest of worthy spiritual growth.

The Debasing of Character in the Western World

This world's criminologists, having long since discarded the Bible for any guidance in their postulations, have come up with one theory after another to try to explain the root causes of crime. The fashionable explanation for some time, of course, is that crime is caused by shortcomings in society, such as poverty or injustice. Individual responsibility--character--gets short shrift these days. But by coincidence, two social scientists have recently arrived at somewhat similar conclusions about the social climate's effect on crime. Those conclusions, notes Reo M. Christenson writing in the May 4 WALL STREET JOURNAL, won't be welcomed in many quarters. Here are excerpts from this lengthy article entitled "When Crime Declined for a Century--and Why":

Writing in the Winter 1983 issue of THE PUBLIC INTEREST, Harvard's James Q. Wilson suggests that America's declining public concern with "character training" over the past 60 years may have played a significant part in our recent high crime rates. Recalling the "exceptionally high and sustained levels of crime characteristic of the emerging cities of the 1830s and 1840s," he describes the many-pronged effort, beginning around 1840, to deal with the problem by promoting character development. Wilson believes the resurgent churches, alarmed by the crime wave and the high rate of alcohol consumption (10 gallons per person per year in 1829), played an important part by stressing the importance of self-control. But he adds that "popular literature emphasized the values of thrift, order, industriousness, sobriety, the mastery of passions..." and sought to inculcate the young with a regard for their "duties and obligations."

(Although Prof. Wilson does not mention it, this was also the period in which the McGUFFEY READERS, stressing moral principles and self-discipline, were being widely adopted by the public

schools.) Not surprisingly, crime began to abate; it remained only a moderate problem for about a century. In the 1920s, dramatic cultural changes began. The temperance movement became discredited and conservative religion lost ground. Prof. Wilson also notes that from 1890 to 1910, about one-third of the articles about child rearing in the LADIES HOME JOURNAL, THE WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION and GOOD HOUSEKEEPING dealt with character development and the importance of the mother's character. In 1920, only 3% had this focus. By 1930, "personality development" was the dominant theme of the women's magazines.

In more recent years, cultural emphasis has focused upon self-expression, spontaneity, tolerance, individualism and personal freedom. Rights, not duties, receive primary attention. As for the public schools, they have sharply downgraded character training.

Some Americans have responded constructively to this social milieu, but for many it released destructive impulses that otherwise might have been held in check. Crime rose steeply in the 1960s and has remained at alarming levels ever since.

An English scholar, Christie Davies, analyzed crime trends in Britain during a comparable period. Writing in the Winter 1983 issue of POLICY REVIEW, Mr. Davies observes that Britain's high rates of crime in the mid-19th century diminished thereafter and remained very low until recent years. Then crime began soaring, along with "aggressive hooliganism" at sports contests, drug usage, drunkenness and illegitimacy.

What accounts for this strikingly parallel pattern of anti-social behavior in Britain? Mr. Davies says that following the earlier crime wave, the dominant "Victorian elite" imbued all social classes with the conviction that each individual was morally responsible for his behavior. This elite, aided by the religious influence of John Wesley and Methodism, "diffused (certain moral) issues throughout society." These included the importance of "honesty, industry, willingness, conscientiousness, punctuality, sobriety and a sense of responsibility." (Mr. Davies also credits the modern British police force and universal schooling with helping reduce crime.)

But as the Victorian moral crusade faded, the belief became fashionable that society, rather than the individual, was responsible for crime. This led to preoccupation with public remedies for the consequences of individual misbehavior, rather than with moral attitudes which contribute to crime. The upshot was a major increase in crime despite the fact that economic conditions had improved and the welfare state had largely eliminated poverty.

If these writers are correct, this would call for a reexamination of the cultural factors which, in the large, condition the moral attitudes of the young. Currently, school teachers are fiercely resistant to pressures for doing more about character development (an "unprofessional" assignment).

More important, we should recognize that the entertainment industry probably has a greater moral impact on the young than any institution but the home. And that industry has been at war with many of the values and attitudes which apparently reduced crime in Britain and the U.S. from the mid-19th to the mid-20th centuries.

The above reminds one of a statement attributed to U.S. Chief Justice Warren Burger, as reported in U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, May 31, 1982: "We have virtually eliminated from public schools and higher education any effort to teach values."

Some Germans Beginning to See Need for Own Defense

Following up on our report two weeks ago regarding the pro-nuclear freeze position of the American Roman Catholic bishops, the cartoonist, Benson, of the ARIZONA REPUBLIC depicted Chairman Yuri Andropov and President Reagan engaged in a chess game.

"I move my pawn," said Mr. Andropov, to which the President replied anxiously: "Hold it. That's my bishop!" Mr. Andropov responded: "Same thing."

The growing nuclear freeze campaign, now joined by the bishops, along with America's inaction in the face of an open Soviet challenge in Central America, is bound to have an impact upon U.S. allies overseas, who rely on American military power to protect them.

Today I received a letter from a man in Bonn, West Germany, Mr. Erick Sontag. I met Mr. Sontag two or three years ago. He stopped in to see me in my office while on a tour of the United States. He is an avid reader of the PLAIN TRUTH. Mr. Sontag is an expert in Soviet propaganda techniques and operates a small museum in Bonn where he exhibits posters and other propaganda material.

From reading his letter, Mr. Sontag, who is a staunch believer in democracy and admires the United States very much, is beginning to question the value of America's protection for his country. He sent me a copy of a telegram he sent to the House of Representatives in the U.S. Capitol. (He mentions at the bottom the names of those he sent copies to: Genscher [Bonn Foreign Minister], Jack Anderson [U.S. columnist], Hogberg and Weckbachmara [of Germany's Springer Press].)

The copy of the telegram to the congressmen read as follows: "IF YOU CANNOT BOX YOUR WAY OUT OF PAPERBAG NICARAGUA AND YOUR BISHOPS FREEZE NUKES, WEST GERMANS BETTER GET OUR NUCLEAR DETERRENT FROM ISRAEL, SAME MONEY."

The last two words are a bit vague, I realize, but Mr. Sontag's frustration is nevertheless clear. He penciled an additional note on the telegram copy he sent me: "May sound crazy, but reflects changing attitudes of even the conservatives here."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau