

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Death of Philippine Local Elder

It is with deep sadness and regret that we announce the accidental death of Philippine local elder Mario Dulguime.

Mr. Dulguime, his wife Zenaida and their two daughters, Marianne--10, and Elizabeth 9, had just completed a year in Pasadena where both he and Mrs. Dulguime had attended Ambassador College as part of a training program to assist the Philippine ministry. Their daughters attended Imperial School.

Mr. Dulguime, his family and the other Filipino minister in Pasadena this year, Mr. Rey Taniajura and his family, were spending their last weeks in the U.S. doing some traveling before returning to the Philippines.

Their vehicle left the road and overturned near Gallup, New Mexico. Mr. Dulguime was thrown from the car and killed instantly. Miraculously no one else was seriously injured, even though Elizabeth was also thrown out.

Mr. Dulguime was an only child. He had previously been a lawyer in Davao City in southern Philippines, having been ordained a minister on October 6th, 1979. He served in the Tagum, Monkayo and Manikling Church areas in the Philippines prior to attending Ambassador College.

Our love and prayers are with his wife and family. Funeral services will be held in the Philippines.

Ministerial and Spokesman Club Supply Requests

Many ministers are beginning to get into the habit of telephoning in routine orders for ministerial and Spokesman Club supplies rather than mailing the written form. This is causing our Shipping Department a considerable problem.

The supply system utilizes part-time help and is geared to written requests rather than telephone orders. We could, of course, provide telephone request service, but only at a substantial increase in cost to the Work. We feel that the increased cost is not justified. It really takes one about as much time to make a telephone call as it would to fill out a form and mail it. On this end, it is far more efficient and accurate to process a written form than to take orders over the telephone.

So please do not call in routine orders by telephone. Use the printed form. In emergency situations, we will process telephone orders, but we must keep them to a minimum.

International News

Australian Update Two significant breakthroughs occurred this month. Jesus Christ opened the doors of two new television stations for broadcasting

"The World Tomorrow" programme, making it possible for God's Work in Australia to now reach 88% of the nation's population!

WIN4, the only television station broadcasting from Wollongong, New South Wales, has agreed to air the telecast each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. This time slot is the one most requested by sponsors on Sunday mornings and is just prior to their very popular Sunday morning current affairs programme.

WIN4 controls the fourth largest regional linkup in Australia and its signal reaches south into Central Victoria, west as far as Canberra, and north into the southern suburbs of Sydney. In many areas, it is the only TV station people can tune into. We are scheduled to commence on WIN4 on May 15th.

Immediately following WIN4's acceptance of the telecast, the management of NBN3 in Newcastle contacted us offering time for Mr. Armstrong's telecast each Sunday. This offer was accepted and airing of the programme will begin in late May.

With the addition of these two new stations, we are now broadcasting on eight of the top ten television markets in Australia. It brings our total number of TV stations carrying "The World Tomorrow" to 21, with another 26 relaying it via linkup. We are also currently negotiating with several of these stations for better times in areas where we already have coverage.

In the April, 1983 issue of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine, blow-in cards offering Australian subscribers THE AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE were inserted. To date over 1,000 readers have returned the cards requesting the course and responses are still coming in. By the end of April our CORRESPONDENCE COURSE circulation in Australia had risen to 4,287--a 186% increase over the same month last year.

During April we processed 16,970 items of mail and mailed out over 50,000 letters and envelopes containing the Church's publications. Mail received is registering a two percent increase year-to-date, and outgoing mail is up by a significant 80.4%. The increase in interest in the Church's publications is partly due to the success of the ongoing renewal programme instituted two years ago. A high percentage of our readers are renewing their subscriptions and those not interested are dropping out. This "hard core" of interested readers is responding to the literature advertisements in The PLAIN TRUTH and is requesting a significantly higher number of booklets, articles and CORRESPONDENCE COURSE lessons.

Income for the month registered only a small increase--up 1.5% over April, 1982. Our year-to-date increase in income now stands at 11%.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We returned safe and sound to our congregations after attending session #17 of the Ministerial Refreshing Program.

It is with deepest, heartfelt gratitude that we send this letter to you and all those who contributed to the continuing success of this program. All of us were treated so thoughtfully. You make

us all feel like we are appreciated and you inspire us to want to live up to the high calling we have been given.

With everyone on the Headquarters team faithfully following and looking to the leadership of Mr. Armstrong, we noticed a widespread feeling of security and purpose. When a family is run lovingly and responsibly from the top down there is a secure sense of well-being and unity that is unmistakable and very inspiring to behold (Prov. 29:2).

We personally feel that the Refreshing Program is far more effective than the large conferences that brought all the ministry together at one time. With the small groups that come to each Refreshing Program we can more easily get to know many of our fellow ministers who were just names to us before. In our apartment, we stayed with ministerial couples from the Philippines, South Africa and Australia. The fellowship we were able to share with them has helped us greatly to understand the needs and accomplishments of God's Church around the world. Combined with Mr. Rod Matthew's presentation, this personal contact makes us feel closer to our brethren even though we are separated by continents and oceans.

Please thank Mr. Armstrong for his personal talk to us all, and for approving this invaluable program. We love him more and feel closer to him than ever before. Now we will take all this information and inspiration and really "feed the flock."

Marc and Lisa Segall

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

GARDEN GROVE, CA--TERRY P. MATTSON: The average Sabbath attendance has been up. Brethren are really excited over the powerful, hard-hitting telecasts by Mr. Armstrong. Everyone has been deeply concerned about Mr. Armstrong's eyesight and are praying that God will grant him the strength and health to finish the work set before him.

CARLIN, NE--JIM CHAPMAN: This group is very tuned into Mr. Armstrong's trips, telecasts, letters and comments. They solidly support, and are good examples of, the Church in their communities.

BOSTON, MA--JIM FRANKS: Everything is very positive. The number of new visit requests has increased substantially this spring. Everyone is praying for Mr. Armstrong and the legal situation. The brethren are genuinely supportive of Mr. Armstrong and love him very much.

BROOKLYN, NY--EARL WILLIAMS: The Brooklyn Church continues to grow at a tremendous rate. It has grown by 20% in one year! This month witnessed another record attendance. PM activity continues strong--10 new people started attending services this month and it seems that all of them will continue. The brethren are also inspired by the new PT Supermarket Program.

VICTORIA/HOUSTON (WEST), TX--DENNIS VAN DEVENTER: The spirit of determination to make changes at the personal level is shared by most everyone in the Victoria Church. There is a good volume of new visits and PM activity in the Houston West area due to newsstands and the telecast. Also, we have a growing number of people wanting to counsel for baptism. Members are encouraged by Mr. Armstrong's recent trips and are asking about tapes of his sermons in which he tells more about his trips and plans for the Work.

FINDLAY, OH--JIM HAEFFELE: The brethren found the PT lectures very uplifting. They participated in meeting and getting to know many new people--32 in Lima, Ohio. The quality of interest and friendliness of these people were very encouraging. The new people are very impressed with the strength of Mr. Armstrong on TV, the caliber of articles in the PT and the thorough Biblical understanding in our booklets.

WHEELING, WV-CAMBRIDGE, OH--R. SHORTY FUESSEL: We have had a few new PMS to visit in Wheeling and hopefully the Church will soon see an additional influx of new members. At present there seems to be a good number of individuals who were reared in the Church, yet during the liberal years had departed, that are now returning, desiring to get their lives straightened out and are asking for baptism. In Cambridge, the people seem to be undergoing a real change of attitude which is deepening their commitment to God as well as to their brothers and sisters in God's Church.

MANHATTAN, NY--FRANK McCRADY: Newsstand developments are forcing responsibility on the whole Church. Are we busy! Thank God He has provided key people to carry the job through. Leadership is showing where we did not see it before!

CHICAGO (SOUTH), IL--ALLAN BARR: PT Newsstand Program continues to grow. We are in three commuter stations. PM activity is very high. Members are 100% behind Mr. Armstrong.

PORTSMOUTH, OH--DAVID TREYBIG: The Bible study that Mr. Waterhouse gave generated much enthusiasm for God's way of life. The brethren always appreciate hearing from him. Please convey our thanks to Mr. Armstrong for his approval of Mr. Waterhouse's trips.

ROANOKE, VA--ROBERT PERSKY: After Mr. Gerald Waterhouse's visit, the excitement and enthusiasm in the church seemed to literally double. Everyone is very excited about the Work, current events, and overcoming to become the Bride of Christ.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Appreciation for the Personal Correspondence Department

From the beginning of the Philadelphia era of God's Church, Mr. Armstrong has felt it a vital part of his calling to respond to people's needs and questions by personal letter. This he and Mrs. Loma Armstrong did faithfully for many years. Hundreds of people were greatly helped and encouraged.

As the Work grew in scope, and Mr. Armstrong's responsibilities multiplied, he had to delegate much of the letter answering duties to others. Today, Mr. Armstrong has a small and dedicated staff of trained writers who carry on this tradition in exactly the same way he established it almost 50 years ago.

Last year, the Personal Correspondence Department sent out over 22,000 personal replies to readers' letters.

The following letters, received in response to personal replies from the Personal Correspondence Department, show how this service is appreciated. It is especially heartwarming to read how God has intervened in the lives of these people.

Thank you so much for your letter of February 3 with the reprints encouraging me about picking up and going forward after the death of my daughter. I cried all the way through your letter, not from sadness, but from comfort that you would have taken your time among the thousands of letters you must receive to care enough to add the personal words of hope along with the articles. It made me thank God and love Him more.

B.A. (Augusta, GA)

I hope this note will find you all OK. I owe it to you to take time out to tell you that my young daughter is doing great. I received your heart-touching letter. I thank Almighty God and all of you for your prayers. I know that God answers prayer. Thank you for being concerned. I am glad to have real friends like you.

C.A. (Wiergate, TX)

Thank you sincerely for your nice letter of encouragement. I appreciate your enclosure. I can see that you are a very understanding person.

I have no words to express my gratitude for the literature you sent me regarding the dead; my grief and sorrow are alleviated. The article "We Shall be Changed" is excellent. Thank you.

A.C. (Flushing, NY)

Thank you so much for the letter we received from your Personal Correspondence Department. It was a real blessing to us. That was the Lord speaking to us through you and your staff. My wife is getting another extension on her unemployment check and I am going to start drawing Supplemental Security Income. We certainly are thankful for that. It is so silly to worry about money problems when you have the Lord to take them to and let Him handle.

J.K. (Dayton, TN)

You are absolutely right about suicide being a mistake. My parents are back together again. Without your prayers and God it might not have worked out so well. In the enclosures you sent along with the helpful letter, it says "You were meant to be happy." It says that the Creator does not desire mankind to live an empty, depressed or unhappy life.

Teen-ager (Kentucky)

I'd like to thank you for writing and sending me the prayer cloth to use for my healing. God sure did heal me! Most of my arthritis is gone and my heart is better too. I can breathe easier now and sleep well, too. I feel lots better and thank God for answered prayers.

S.T. (Netty, WV)

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your thoughtfulness in sending me a letter and literature. It was so uplifting and really helped me with my "ailing" attitude. Thanks to all of your prayers and, of course, God's hand, we were able to sell our house. We are now in our new home. Thank you so very much for your kindness. I never truly understood the meaning of love until I entered God's true Church.

P.V. (Virginia Beach, VA)

I want to thank the Personal Correspondence Department and all others who prayed for my brother who has cancer. His condition has improved a great deal since I requested you people at Headquarters to pray for his recovery.

L.S. (Roanoke, VA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

WORLDWIDE WEATHER CRISIS: MILLIONS FACE STARVATION "CRAZY WEATHER--What on Earth is Happening?" ran the headline on the cover of the May 13, 1983 issue of ASIaweek magazine. The feature article detailed upset weather conditions all around the world, especially in the Pacific rim countries. The authors speculated that much of the turmoil may be caused by the mysterious "El Nino" phenomenon, an inexplicable reverse flow of warm water currents in the mid-Pacific, as well as stepped-up volcanic activity.

Regardless of the causes, 1983 has indeed been disastrous in climatic upheavals and their looming impact on world food supplies. So far, we have witnessed searing droughts in Australia and much of Africa; floods in Western Europe; a California coastline battered by storms and high tides; a topsy-turvy winter all across the United States followed by freak spring-time storms.

The biggest impact at the moment is being experienced in Africa and India where, unlike in Australia, saving rains are yet to come. Some meteorologists, in fact, feel normal weather may yet be years away--which means millions of people could starve in the meantime.

Nations on the brink of famine are turning to traditional food exporters for emergency grain supplies. Yet Australia is hard pressed to meet export obligations and South Africa, an unpublicized supplier of food to many black African nations, will be a net importer this year. Irony of ironies, the biggest exporter of all, the United States, is faced with current unmanageable surpluses. To alleviate this problem the government has instituted a risky program to curtail grain production this year. Some experts believe the "PIK" program (for Payment-in-Kind, under which farmers take land out of production, and are credited with comparable value in stored surpluses) could result in a severe cutback in food available for foreign sales in the immediate years ahead.

Africa: Bread a Status Symbol

Here is a rundown of the current weather/food production crisis--certainly a fulfillment of Matthew 24:7--"And there will be famines...." First of all, from the May 9, 1983 issue of NEWSWEEK:

Once again Africa is caught in a lethal drought. Unlike its predecessor a decade ago, the tragedy that is now sweeping Africa is not confined to a narrow band of arid nations. This time it runs from Mauritania in the west to Ethiopia in the east, from Chad in the north to the Cape of Good Hope. Nearly every country in Africa is affected....

For a continent already losing the battle to feed itself, the result is nothing short of catastrophic.... Few African governments are capable of dealing with the drought. They are hampered by corruption, incompetence, high birth rates, a failure to learn from the past or lack of money. Already, observes one harassed U.N. relief worker, "bread has become a status symbol in many parts of Africa."

Black Africa is not alone in facing the drought. This time almost all of South Africa is affected as well. This is an ominous development since South Africa--so despised politically in the world--has nevertheless been a food lifeline to several black African countries. Without its exports, the lives of millions of Africans are in peril.

South Africa is now in the grips of its worst drought in 50 years--some say for 200 years. Agricultural production has already been devastated. Production of corn (called "mealies" in Africa) has been slashed from 12 million tons to four million tons. Worse yet, the rainy season has now passed, with the country now facing its traditionally dry Southern Hemisphere winter.

In South Africa's rural black homelands, some doctors have warned that there could be widespread deaths from malnutrition and accompanying diseases such as typhoid, cholera and measles.

The government of neighboring Botswana has already proclaimed a drought emergency.

Not only agriculture but industry as well is impacted. In Johannesburg, details have been disclosed of an emergency 32.5 million dollar plan to reverse the flow of the Vaal River, one of four major rivers in South Africa, to keep major power stations and the vital Sasol oil-from-coal plants functioning.

The State-owned Electricity Supply Commission has warned that without sufficient water, massive power cuts can be expected this winter. Some of the country's gold mines, which are the biggest consumers of electricity, might have to cut production substantially.

The situation is nearly as bad in the rest of the continent, continued the NEWSWEEK article quoted above.

Zimbabwe's corn crop last year was but a third of that of 1980. Thousands of cattle in Matabeleland have been slaughtered for

lack of fodder. In Mozambique, the once-mighty Limpopo River is so low that sea water from the Indian Ocean has penetrated upstream, spoiling arable land....

Just why Africa faces periodic droughts is unknown. The experts can only say that the droughts tend to be cyclical.... Some scientists have noted a relationship between rainfall patterns and sunspot activity, but they cannot yet explain it. By following the sunspots, however, they believe they can forecast an end to the drought--in two to seven years. Sadly, for Africa, that will not be soon enough.

India's Unprecedented Emergency

Sixteen years ago, the nation of India faced an extreme food shortage. For weeks, an endless procession of freighters and tankers converted to grain haulage sailed from the United States to India. This oceanic pipeline rescued the Indian people from starvation.

The crisis of 1967 abated. Since then, the monsoons have generally been good. New "wonder grains" have enabled India to build up nationwide grain surpluses.

But now, India, especially in its southern states, is in the throes of a new drought. Fresh water is in desperately short supply. Only the country's reservoir of food surpluses--which can't last long--is keeping famine away.

How many people face immediate peril? So many that one wonders why the impending crisis in India is not already screaming headline news around the world. Even the headline in the April 6 DAILY TELEGRAPH of London seemed too small for the story:

More than 100 million people in the South Indian peninsula face dehydration and diseases during the next two months because of lack of fresh drinking water. And most of the population of the drought-stricken southern States will have to be fed with grain from the central food buffer.

The agony of the south could well be prolonged. Some Indian meteorological scientists predict a seven-year dry spell....

The problem of potable water has become particularly acute in the rural heartlands where municipal supplies do not exist. All of the smaller rain-fed rivers have dried up and the water table in the wells has fallen low. Only a crash programme, possibly with the help of the Indian Army or the import from northern India of drills and hand pumps, can stave off a major disaster in south India.

On the west coast, the sea has invaded the dry river beds and the normal flow of some streams has been reversed, with nothing but sea water for 23 miles inland. Millions of villagers in Kerala have to trudge miles for a few buckets of water.

An earlier TELEGRAPH account reported that the main hopes of averting famine in the state of Tamil Nadu hang by the slender chance that the south-west monsoon, due in June, might be better than last year.

Unpublicized Political Causes

Reports coming into our News Bureau tell of other looming tragedies, such as the worst drought in living memory in the southern Philippines, and a 10-month long drought in nearby Indonesia which is threatening up to one million people with famine.

The severe drought in much of the Southern Hemisphere underscores once again the horrible imbalance in world food production and consumption. Much of the world's population is precariously dependent upon a shrinking number of food (principally grain) exporter nations such as the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Argentina. (Observe how many are Israelite countries!) When some of these critical countries are affected by drought--look out, world! Over 100 nations depend to one degree or another upon just one producer--the United States--for grain supplies!

One of the first casualties of the headlong rush to political independence in the post-colonial world was agriculture. New leaders in one emerging nation after another concentrated on showy industrial projects such as steel mills, while ignoring the agricultural sector. Mistreated farmers were often forced to sell their produce to government agencies for little more--sometimes even less--than the cost of production in order to keep prices low for the emerging urban classes. The farmer, in effect, was exploited to "buy" social peace with the teeming millions in big cities. This policy only depopulated rural areas more, driving disheartened farm families into the cities, or rather into hovel-like shanty towns around them.

These shortsighted "development" policies are now bearing bitter fruit. The world is now less able than ever, because of faulty political decisions as much as anything else, to struggle through cyclical bad weather periods.

Meteorologists are now predicting, for some regions, up to seven years of drought--an interesting number, reflecting upon events in Egypt recorded in the Book of Genesis. Sadly there have been few, if any, "Josephs" who have laid in store during the good years in order to ride out the bad ones.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau