

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

From the Spanish Department A total of 1,453 new people attended PURA VERDAD subscriber lectures presented during the month of June in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Venezuela and Guatemala!

The first series of lectures, conducted by Mr. Herbert Cisneros, was held June 11 and 12 in San Jose, Costa Rica at the Hotel Costa Rica. Attendance was 293 and 257 respectively, with a total of 358 new people attending one or both meetings. On the first night 35 people were left standing, as the hotel ran out of chairs. One hundred and one people requested personal visits, and 152 individuals indicated that they wanted to attend more meetings sponsored by the Church. Two hundred and twenty-four copies of the book EL INCREIBLE POTENCIAL HUMANO were distributed. The 358 new people represented 18% of the number of PV readers invited--an extremely high percentage!

Mr. Cisneros started the second lecture series in his home town of San Salvador on June 18 at the Hotel Camino Real. He was overwhelmed by the gargantuan crowd that attended the first meeting--488 people, with over 50 people turned away because they couldn't get in the conference room. Mr. Cisneros reported that the room was absolutely packed to the extreme, which created a great amount of heat, putting a strain on the air conditioning system. People from all levels of society were represented, from the most humble campesino to doctors, lawyers, several military officers and even a very high-ranking government official. Several PV readers traveled for six hours from the city of San Miguel, a journey which took them through territory of frequent guerrilla activity.

In all, 563 new people attended one or both of the lectures, representing 23% of those who were invited (an all-time record), with 50 requesting visits and 187 desiring to attend future meetings. Mr. Cisneros said that over 90 people were very desirous of attending Church services. He was truly shaken and inspired by the fantastic response from his native land. He commented wryly that "attendance was held down" for the second meeting because of the observance of Father's Day.

One week later, on June 25 and 26, Mr. Cisneros gave two lectures in the Hotel Camino Real in Guatemala City, where attendance was 295 and 326 respectively, with a total of 416 new people. Some 191 requested to attend more meetings and 36 wanted a ministerial visit. Of those in attendance, three young men from a nearby hospital came 14 blocks to the first meeting, propelling themselves in wheelchairs! Also, several people traveled nine hours from the Atlantic port of Puerto Barrios to hear God's minister. After the second meeting Mr. Cisneros held a "30-minute" question-and-answer session which lasted ninety minutes--280 of the 326 in attendance stayed for this part of the presentation.

On these same days, in the oil-rich, "devalued" Venezuelan capital, Mr. Pablo Gonzalez conducted two lectures for PV readers in that area with excellent results. A total of 116 new people attended one or both meetings in the Caracas Hilton conference room. Mr. Gonzalez said that attendance was held down due to a national holiday, resulting in the absence of hundreds of thousands of vacationing "caraquenos" from the capital. The current economic crisis gripping Venezuela in the wake of the devaluation of the bolivar to 40% of its previous value has seemed to sober the average citizen and was a key item of conversation, said Mr. Gonzalez. He felt that the group was of very high quality, evidenced by the serious biblical and doctrinal questions posed by the audience. He stated that as many as 15 of the attendees were already advanced enough to come to the monthly services he conducts in Caracas, and that four people were near baptism.

Both ministers commented that God is providing a harvest for the Church through these assemblages, as well as an opportunity to witness to many hundreds of people from all levels of society.

So far in 1983, a total of over 2,200 new people have attended PV subscriber lectures in seven cities in six countries. Also, lectures are scheduled for Bahia Blanca and Buenos Aires, Argentina (July 22-23 and 29-30, respectively), and arrangements are being made to hold lectures in Bogota and Medellin, Colombia; Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, Honduras; New York City; Temuco, Chile; Lima, Peru; several cities in Mexico, and possibly five or more additional locations. Please pray for the continued success of these meetings, and for the protection and inspiration of God's ministers as they travel to, organize and make these presentations.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Our loving greetings to you from Malaysia! We thank God that He made it possible for my wife and me to have one year of training at Ambassador College in preparation for the full-time ministry in Malaysia. We have gained a good foundation of knowledge through the theology classes. By interacting with students, faculty, fellow ministers and brethren, I have come to a deeper understanding of God's Work at the Headquarters Church.

We're very inspired by your leadership and your total dedication to fulfilling God's Commission of feeding the flock and preaching the Gospel to all the nations. You have set us an illustrious example to follow.

We deeply appreciated the Ministerial Refreshing Program we attended, and the important teachings you delivered to us. Certainly we have learned much through the Refreshing Program.

Our prayers are with you that you will have vigorous health and spiritual strength to complete what God had commissioned you to do, and may God's Kingdom be established on earth soon.

Yong Chin Gee and Yuet Siam

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I wanted to thank you and all your staff for the very enjoyable and profitable Refreshing Program that we just attended. We certainly enjoyed all that the program has to offer--the classes, fellowship, the change of pace, not to mention the pleasure of being on campus and at Headquarters. The spirit of service was very evident and was certainly a joy to behold. We will strive now to put into practice the information that was given to us. Please convey our thanks to everyone involved, especially Mr. Armstrong, for making this program possible.

Tom and Louana Tullis

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

GREENVILLE, SC--RON JAMESON: The sermon tape from Mr. Herbert Armstrong was powerful and very much appreciated. It helps the ministry and the congregation to hear from Mr. Armstrong on a regular basis.

BOISE, ID--JEFF MCGOWAN: It was really great to receive a tape from Mr. Armstrong again. There was so much in it along with the subject of make-up. Please encourage him to make more. It really helps all of us. Most of the brethren are doing well. Some are starting to make substantial progress on long-term, chronic spiritual problems. I attribute that to supporting the authority of God in Mr. Armstrong's office, and then preaching the Word with all authority and the guaranteed results as revealed in Jeremiah 23:22,29.

ALBANY, OR--DAVID MILLS: The entire Albany Church was very excited about the five baptisms this month. People were very supportive of the public Bible lectures. Even though the turnout was low, the interest of those few new ones who did attend was very strong. Overall attitude of the Church is very good and supportive of Mr. Armstrong and God's Work.

HARRISON, AR--TOM BLACKWELL: Attitudes are good. Brethren are 100% behind Mr. Armstrong. New PM activity has been down the past couple of months. Y.O.U. members thoroughly enjoyed the district track meet and the special Sabbath services.

ST. LOUIS (A.M.), MO--ROBERT SPENCE: The members have really become very warm and friendly. Having a hall where we do not have to quickly leave after services fosters the fellowshiping Christians should have.

SANTA FE, NM--WALTER M. DICKINSON: The people newly baptized in the Church are really serious in their approach to prayer, Bible study and service. It is very reassuring to see their attitude of humility and service.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK--ARNOLD CLAUSON: We appreciate the added media coverage in the area. It's the first time in several years we've had daily radio. Hopefully it will begin to bear fruit soon.

ROLLA, MO--JOE E. DOBSON: The PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS have been so inspiring and helpful with topics that are really needed for spiritual growth. Keep up the good work!

BISMARCK, ND--DAN CREED: For the day of Pentecost, we had a little problem with our building being canceled a few days before. But things worked out. We were able to get a last-minute replacement that worked out fine. The caretaker of the building complimented the people over and over about how they worked together in setting up tables and chairs. He stated that he had never seen such a group of people that worked together so well. He asked that we come back often.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

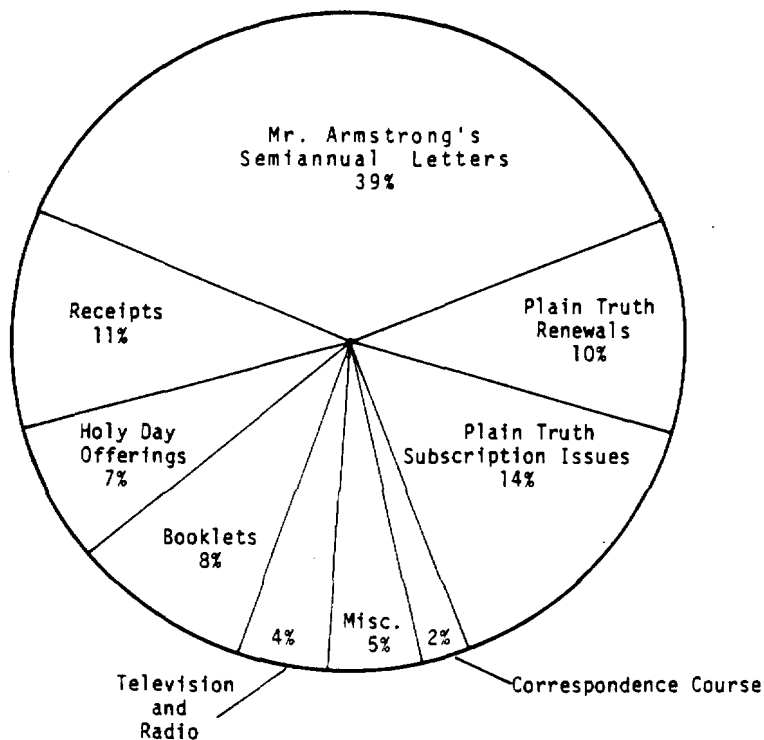
UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

New Co-worker Sources

In the past year, some 21,000 people have become new co-workers in the United States. According to the standards set by Mr. Armstrong, a person becomes a co-worker by making two donations within six months.

The major source of new co-workers has been Mr. Armstrong's letters. Nearly 40% have resulted from the semiannual letters alone. Other letters, included in PLAIN TRUTH renewals and annual receipts, have also been significant factors. The following pie chart gives all sources for new co-workers:

KNOWN DONATION SOURCES OF 20,859 NEW U.S. CO-WORKERS
May 1, 1982 - June 27, 1983



Help Sought for Family Problems Is Increasing

The Personal Correspondence Department has been handling a growing number of letters describing problems within families. A great deal of misunderstanding, selfishness, hostility and even violence is reported. For many, the family unit is unstable and disintegrating. A few examples from recent letters include the following: an alcoholic son threatening and abusing his mother; a wife and her children leaving the home because of her husband's frequent abuse; another wife who lives in fear of her hot-tempered mate who is a frustrated, disabled veteran; and a woman who has been plagued with loneliness since a divorce.

Many people also ask questions about childrearing. Some want to know how to become better parents, asking for any literature we have that could help them with their children.

In all such instances, our PC writers take a personal interest in each individual and offer hope, encouragement and appropriate literature. However, it is clear from these letters that God's Kingdom is sorely needed as the ultimate solution to the escalating personal and family problems in the world today.

Comments on the Semiannual Letter

Thousands of subscribers have responded to Mr. Armstrong's latest semi-annual letter, expressing support and appreciation for the help they have received through this Work. A number of new subscribers were particularly interested in how The PLAIN TRUTH came to be. Others, who wondered just how the Work is supported, were happy to have the co-worker policy explained. As a result, many now want to become co-workers in this great Work. Following are some of the letters received:

Thanks very much for your personal letter. It was very informative, because I have always wondered how you got started and how long you were involved in this ministry. I have been a subscriber for nearly three years and I find your magazine, The PLAIN TRUTH, very knowledgeable and interesting. I am happy to receive it. I also enjoy your Sunday morning program on TV, and I will be happy to receive the books indicated on the enclosed card.

T.M. (Charleston, SC)

Unfortunately I belong to the very low income class of people--hardly enough to live on, just surviving. That is the reason why I never dared to ask you for any of your booklets, for I am not able to make any contribution to your good work. After receiving the letter from The PLAIN TRUTH today, I understand that Mr. Armstrong means what he says and therefore I dare to ask you to please send me some of your wonderful and unique literature.

J.K. (Phoenix, AZ)

For once I can receive Christian literature without being pressured into sending "X" amount of dollars. Because you follow the principle of "freely received, freely given" I plan to become a co-worker with Christ and with you.

When I received my first copy of The PLAIN TRUTH, I'd only intended to thumb through the pages. Soon, I was enraptured and read the entire magazine before retiring. I could understand it!

G.F. (Gary, IN)

Thank you for the letter you sent me last month. I'm always glad to know that the church is still progressing and that you are still traveling and spreading the Gospel to the world. We are praying for you as you pray for us in this war-torn world.

W.S. (Memphis, TN)

Thank you for your letter dated May 27, 1983. I received it today. This is your first letter to me and mine to you. The PLAIN TRUTH is just what it says it is. A friend living in Miami asked you to send me this most informative magazine and I am enjoying the issues I have received. I pass them around to friends.

As does everything, a religious program requires financial assistance. I am happy that I can join with other subscribers in lending a hand even though my contribution will, of necessity, be small. So please accept this check as a token of my appreciation.

M.H. (Atlanta, GA)

Your letter of May 27 from Pasadena is a whole sermon in itself for those who will listen! The PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS are just great and I have enjoyed most of your booklets as well. The message on your TV program last Sunday surely "told it as it is!" More power to you!

V.L. (Nashua, NH)

It made me very happy to receive your letter containing the historical facts of the early beginning of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. I am proud to be a new subscriber.

I am a Christian and a member of the...Church in my city. I enjoy attending worship service at my church, but when I am at home with my PLAIN TRUTH magazines and the other books that I have received since becoming a subscriber, it seems I understand life and the troubles of the times much better. Just reading them gives me extra courage and strength to carry on.

F.P. (Memphis, TN)

I was deeply grateful to receive your recent letter. Your description of the dream you had in 1927 was most inspiring. I thank God for allowing me the wonderful privilege of having a part in His great Work. God has really used you to make known His great plan and purpose. The PLAIN TRUTH magazine is clear and understandable. It brings us understanding of life's problems--personal, family, group, national and worldwide. I have learned over the years since I have been a part of this great Work of God, that giving is the best way to do things.

G.G. (Girard, OH)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE**SPECIAL REPORT**

OTTO VON HABSBERG: MAN WITH A MISSION One would be fairly safe in saying that Otto von Habsburg has a clearer grasp of international affairs than any other politician alive today. And, of course, Dr. Habsburg is no mean politician. He is the head of the 600-year-old House of Habsburg, one of the most prestigious royal families in European history. Although no longer a claimant to the Austrian throne, Dr. Habsburg is nevertheless active daily in the political field. Since 1979 he has been a delegate to the European Parliament, representing a large area of Bavaria in West Germany. He travels widely, speaks often and writes (he has 24 books to his credit) as much as time permits.

Basic Theme: Europe Must Unite

The breadth and depth of Dr. Habsburg's insight into current events, backed up by a solid historical foundation, was much in evidence in his recent appearances in Southern California. In an address given to the faculty, students and employees of Ambassador College, in an interview with staff members of The PLAIN TRUTH, in a speech before the prestigious Los Angeles World Affairs Council and in conversations with this writer and others, the energetic 70-year-old Dr. Habsburg hammered home one theme time and again: The need for the nations of Europe to unite in order to be prepared for unprecedented dangers in the near future.

The goal of a peaceful, powerful and united Europe colors nearly everything he writes and says--almost preaches--in his dynamic, fast-tempo speeches (at which he uses no notes). In fact, as one biographer wrote about this amazing man: "He lives only for the cause that sustains him."

The most serious danger confronting the free nations of Europe, in Dr. Habsburg's view, is that of a Soviet Union which is powerful militarily but which faces grave and potentially-destabilizing crises in its economy and internal ethnic makeup. The initiative-stifling bureaucratic structure of the Soviet Union and its Eastern European satellites virtually guarantees that the Communist world will fall further behind the Western world in the advanced technological age.

The Soviet Union can't feed itself, despite the fact that 50% of its citizens still work on the farm. In Czarist days, Russia was the world's number one food exporter. Now, it is the number one food importer. Poland, a prosperous country in pre-Communist days, is today in economic shambles. So are Romania and other satellites. Dr. Habsburg considers the basic law of economics today to be: "Whenever socialism enters the economy, productivity ceases and misery begins."

The economic plight of the East Bloc is so great, stresses Dr. Habsburg, that Comecon (the Soviet-led Communist trading combine) now owes the democratic industrialized countries 82 billion dollars--"a sum which can never be repaid in human history."

The Soviets, he adds, also face an unprecedented internal threat from the rapid population growth of non-Slavic races inside the U.S.S.R., especially the Moslem Turkic people. Ethnic Russians already comprise less than half

of the total population. More than half of all children born in the U.S.S.R. in 1978 were children of Islamic parents--despite the fact that Moslems comprise only about one-fifth of the population. In the year 2000, it is estimated that there will be 120 million Moslems inside the Soviet Union--people perhaps ripe to the influence of radical Moslem ideas from Iran and elsewhere.

The danger to Western Europe from the deteriorating conditions to the East, believes Dr. Habsburg, is that some future Soviet leader may decide to use Russia's military advantage in a drive westward to capture Western resources before problems become intolerable at home. "A policy which should prevent this overreaction on the part of the Soviet is the paramount task of our times in general politics," says Dr. Habsburg.

The West Is Naive

Many people in the West, stresses Dr. Habsburg, are deluded--some self-deluded--as to Communist intentions. Moscow still preaches, as did communism's founder Lenin, the doctrine of world revolution, which amounts to nothing less than "a permanent declaration of war against all the nations which are not under the hegemonial rule of the Soviet Union." The Soviet Union, he adds, "has one of the most honest governments in the world. They say to us day after day what they want to do with us." Peace in Europe and the world can therefore be preserved, Dr. Habsburg maintains, "only by absolute realism" regarding the Soviet challenge--a realism backed up with sufficient military strength so that no aggression is possible.

In this light, the philosophy behind the so-called peace movements, he says, is based on "utter unrealism." The "Greens" in West Germany and their counterparts elsewhere "have not learned anything from history." No one has ever achieved peace through disarmament "because those who know history know perfectly well that armament is not the cause of evil, but the consequence of evil. Armament is like the fever to the disease." ("Nations disarm automatically when political problems are dissolved," he added at another point.)

The Second World War was a prime example of unrealistic weakness, especially on the part of the British and the French, in the face of Nazi Germany's preparation for war. "Without the miserable, weak-kneed policies of the West, and the active complicity of the Soviet Union," Dr. Habsburg maintains, Hitler could not have struck. "Peace through weakness has never been achieved, never in the whole human history."

European Self-defense

Realism further dictates, says Dr. Habsburg, that Europeans do more for themselves in the way of defense, a policy long advocated by Bavaria's governor, Franz Josef Strauss (a name that pops up frequently in conversations with Dr. Habsburg). But a common defense for Europe, he admits, as well as a common currency, presupposes political unity. "You can't have a money or an army without a government, and therefore we need a political authority."

Europe's greatest error in its postwar relationship with the United States, he believes, has been to let the U.S. carry the lion's share of the Western Alliance defense burden. "Let's not forget, Western Europe is superior

to the United States in population, [and is] the second economic power in the world. It is just not logical that the Americans should be standing on guard for Europe at the place where the Europeans could count [on] themselves."

Greater European defense measures, in the mind of Dr. Habsburg at least, doesn't mean a parting of the ways between Europe and the United States. "We are reliable partners for the United States," he told the audience in the Ambassador Auditorium. "You can trust your allies across the Atlantic," he said to those gathered at the L.A. World Affairs Council dinner meeting.

Decolonize Europe Too!

One factor distinguishes Dr. Habsburg from most of the others in Europe pushing for a united Europe: His outspoken desire to "roll back" the Soviet empire in Europe so that the captive nations in the East can also play a vital role in the continent's future.

Since the February 1945 Yalta agreement establishing the postwar spheres of interest in Europe, one-third of the continent has lain under Soviet domination. Since that time, Dr. Habsburg stresses in every speech, the continents of Africa and Asia have been decolonized--but not Europe.

"Let us not forget," he told an audience in London just prior to coming to Pasadena, "that one of the tasks of Europe will be to [provide] the homeland for all Europeans. That is to have the courage of saying very clearly that for us decolonization should not stop in Africa and Asia; that Europe too has a right to be decolonized. That is our responsibility towards those nations that are just as much Europeans as we are."

In the European Parliament, Dr. Habsburg has acted as a sort of unofficial representative of those nations still shut up behind the Iron Curtain. He told the World Affairs Council that he won't rest his efforts until the Eastern European countries also have the right of self-determination. He is also looking beyond the next significant step in European unification--the introduction of a common European passport on January 1, 1985--to prospects for the establishment of a common European citizenship. In this manner, those countries not yet a part of the European Community, even in the East, would be more attracted to it, and have a hope for the future.

Dr. Habsburg has also been active inside the European Parliament advancing the cause of the three small Baltic nations--Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania--forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union at the outset of World War II. In an interview for The PLAIN TRUTH, he told me: "Despite enormous campaigns of extermination and russification, the Baltics are still resisting with a remarkable courage and I think we owe it to them to work for their decolonization, because if there ever was colonialism in the [truest] sense of the word...it is what is happening in the Baltic states."

Religion a Major Key

Dr. Habsburg, a devout Roman Catholic, is well-known for advocating a strong religious role in any future United Europe. One of his better-known books is a biography of Charles V, the Habsburg ruler who was crowned Holy Roman Emperor in 1520. Charles V fought hard to maintain the spiritual unity of Europe, then threatened by the revolt of Martin Luther.

Under the old Holy Roman Empire, wrote Dr. Habsburg in this book, the continent was held together by the "twin disciplines" of "Christian morality and supra-national commonwealth"--in other words, church and state, as represented in the persons of the pope and the emperor. This structure broke down and culminated in what he terms "the triumphant period of godlessness" in the nineteenth century. Now, however, scientists, he maintains, are coming increasingly to believe in the existence of a personal Creator God: "We are in a turning development towards a very great religious age."

This religious upsurge, he believes, will have a great impact upon society and politics. As he said, near the conclusion of his address in the Ambassador Auditorium: "The religious foundation of a society is the only real and lasting foundation [a] society may have. This is the basic fact which even some people who individually are nonreligious would have to admit if they read objectively history, the rise and the fall of empires and of societies. And so the last answer to the future of your country, as to the future of my continent of Europe, will be whether we are able to return truly and fully again to the roots of our greatness. Because let us not forget if we take Christianity out of the European, or at that of the American development, there is nothing left. The soul is gone. And without the soul, the economically and politically most potent body is condemned to die."

By referring to the "roots of our greatness" Dr. Habsburg seems to be echoing recent pleas by Pope John Paul II, most notably his appeal in Spain last year for Europeans to "revive your roots." Interestingly, both men have a specific focus on Eastern Europe--the Pope because he is a Pole, Dr. Habsburg since Hungary and Czechoslovakia were once part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire (he speaks fluent Hungarian, Czech and five other languages as well).

Yet each man arrives at the same conclusion from his own perspective; the pope a religious one, Dr. Habsburg a secular one, from the point of view of the political scientist that he is (he holds a doctorate in the subject from the University of Louvain in Belgium). To him, religion is obviously the essential "glue," to hold a politically-united Europe together. (Dr. Habsburg did not comment freely on the pope's recent activities, but did mention that he met, not long ago, with John Paul II for 45 minutes.)

Unity: Sooner Than Expected

As far as Dr. Habsburg is concerned, the process of European unification is already irreversible. He said in London that "we are well beyond the point of no return...we have not yet arrived at the other shore, but we can't go back." He implied in Pasadena that he may not be around to see its culmination, but predicted confidently (in Los Angeles) that "we are condemned to success and we will succeed."

After Dr. Habsburg finished his address in the Auditorium, Mr. Armstrong had some concluding comments. He looked at the European unity time-frame differently. European unity, he said, may come "perhaps more suddenly than the architects of the coming Europe themselves even realize."

Dr. Herman Hoeh also had a fitting comment on another occasion, regarding Dr. Habsburg, who is certainly a, if not the, leading architect of the Europe of the future: "An architect does not always know to what purpose others might put his building."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau