

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

From the Dutch Office Although unemployment in The Netherlands remains at an all-time high, thousands of Dutch people are leaving for extended vacations either in Holland or elsewhere in Europe. Therefore our advertising program has stopped for the summer months.

Messrs. Bram de Bree and Johan Wilms attended a very profitable and inspiring four-day editorial/publishing conference at Elstree House (location of the Work's London offices) concerning German, English, Italian and Dutch publications.

In the month of June final contract preparations were made for the new Dutch-language Feast site in Hoogeveen. The previous site where the Feast was held for eight years had become too small. There is a story as to how we got the new site.

While we were looking for other accommodations in Holland and Belgium, one of our members of the Zwolle congregation came in contact with the management of a very fine and modern theater, "De Tamboer," in Hoogeveen. The theater, seating 650, contained the exact facilities needed for the Church with plenty of good hotel, motel and bungalow accommodations in the area. Although the management was interested in letting us use the building, one major problem existed. For the past 20 years the city of Hoogeveen has been sponsoring a well-known regional trade fair taking place the last two weeks of September--the time of the Feast this year. "De Tamboer" was an integral part of this fair since one of the exhibitors had already taken option on the building for the entire time of the fair.

Meanwhile, the other available accommodations in Holland and Belgium didn't prove to be suitable for the Church. We were stuck. If God wanted to put His name at Hoogeveen for the Feast we certainly needed His help.

At about the time our Zwolle member made contact with "De Tamboer" in Hoogeveen, rumors began to circulate that the entire fair would be moved. We would be given use of the entire building, the management told us. We were told to wait three weeks.

Three weeks passed and nothing happened. Just at this time Messrs. de Bree and Wilms had a meeting with the management of "De Tamboer" to reestablish contact and explain our program. We were given to understand that they liked us and that we could use the entire building for the eight-day period except for the trade fair option. We were told to wait another ten days, so we waited. Exactly ten days after our meeting the news came that we were given use of the building for the Feast. The management of the trade fair couldn't agree amongst themselves about the dates and finally decided for the first time in 20 years to postpone the fair by one month!

Not only are the facilities in Hooegeveen the best compared to what we had seen elsewhere, the rental costs are also considerably less. While discussing the contract for 1983 the management also gave us the option for use of the building in 1984.

Did God cause a well-known regional trade fair to reschedule in order to provide the right Feast site for His people in this part of the world? We happen to think so.

New Zealand Report Despite a continuing wage freeze in New Zealand, Christ blessed His Work here with a very fine 25.5% increase in income over June last year. The year-to-date figure halfway through 1983 stands at a solid 18.3%.

At this point, our PLAIN TRUTH circulation is running at about the same level as last year. GOOD NEWS circulation is currently up by 100% over the same time last year, with over 1,000 new GOOD NEWS subscribers having been added so far this year. YOUTH 83 circulation is also up by 100% over the same time last year--over 1,500 YOUTH 83 subscribers have been added in the last 12 months.

The BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE has been advertised heavily lately, and we've added almost 2,000 new students this year. The quality and depth of the material covered in the course has given rise to many fine, positive comments.

June saw our first ad in READER'S DIGEST in ten years. Responses to READER'S DIGEST ads back in the 1960s were the primary factor leading to the opening of the Auckland Office in 1968. We are pleased to again be using a medium which contributed so greatly in building God's Work in this part of the world. Three hundred sixty-one responses came in during the month, and more will continue to be received for some time into the future. When these responses are added to the responses for newsstands and various other promotions, over 1,000 new ad responses were received during June--all representing brand new PLAIN TRUTH subscribers.

French Area Progress La PURE VERITE subscription list has passed 150,000 for an historic high of 151,169 subscribers. In the six months from January to June 1983, we've added 38,041 new people to the worldwide French and French Canadian files.

Our most successful source of attracting new people has been magazine or newspaper inserts, accounting for 26% of all the new adds. The magazine in which a glossy stitch-in flyer was used to our best advantage was VALEURS ACTUELLES, a weekly review read by the business community. With the majority of the response now received, we've had six percent of the VALEURS ACTUELLES readers write in for a PV subscription!

The next most important source of new adds was the blow-in or stitch-in cards inserted in copies of La PURE VERITE addressed to subscribers. These accounted for 16% of our new adds. The space advertising response percentage, including the French versions of READER'S DIGEST, is 13%. Newsstands brought in 11% of the total while radio and TV, mostly Radio Luxembourg and RTL TV in Belgium, contributed 10%. The remaining 24% came from miscellaneous sources, with special note to be made of several fair booth-type operations at several exhibitions in the Paris and Rouen areas.

La PURE VERITE subscribers are scattered in 153 countries and/or territories throughout the world. Incredible as it may sound to Western ears, one of the fairly common questions asked by our African readers is about polygamy. We are currently reworking our material on this timeless topic!

Nine Ambassador students arrived in Paris June 9 for a seven-week experience in French-speaking Europe. From the exciting city lights of Paris to medieval castles in Lyon, the students have been learning of the charms, richness and friendliness found in France and Switzerland. What wine! What cheese! Formidable! Of course there is also the work experience. Several of the students are working on small French farms, helping to set up an SEP camp near Strasbourg or taking care of children. One of the students wrote us, "This voyage is truly for me the realization of a childhood dream. I've always wanted to go to Europe, but I never thought I would do it. And now I'm here. Thank you! It's truly an unforgettable experience."

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Tkach and staff:

I don't want to be rote, but thanks for having us in for the Refreshing Program. Being a local church elder I have not had the privilege to attend Ambassador College. It is as if some void has been filled now.

If I were to be asked what impressed me the most, it would be very difficult to answer in a few words. I do want to mention the fact that sitting in class with ministers and wives from places such as Australia, Zambia, England and the Philippines, I realized as I never could before that this is truly a "worldwide" work. It has made my prayers for the Work and fellow ministers all over the globe much more effective!

Browsing through the ENVOY sure can't compare with strolling through the grounds of the College. The peace and harmony there is like no other place I have ever been. Another observation I had was that even though we were the nineteenth session, the approach which all the instructors had was as if we were among the first. We hope to be able to attend the next Refreshing Program.

Bob and Carol Thurlow

Dear Mr. Tkach and Refreshing Program Team:

It was a real joy to be a part of the second Ministerial Refreshing Program. The present two-week length seems ideal to provide an abundance of valuable material, but not so long that it becomes too much to assimilate.

The feeling of rapport within session nineteen was great! We can now have a deeper concern and affection for our fellow ministry worldwide. It is very encouraging to see how strongly God's Spirit is working at Headquarters. The attitude of service to each other and to God's people is everywhere. Every department we had contact with exuded this approach.

Thank you so much for such an uplifting experience. Every aspect of the program seemed to be organized perfectly--from the tours

we were given to the banquets and entertainment. God has led Mr. Armstrong to strengthen all of us in establishing this program. We anxiously await MRP III.

Fran and Elfie Ricchi

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Our belated but very sincere thanks to you and your staff for a very profitable second Refreshing Programme. We have benefited immensely from the lecture material covered, the contact with leading men at Pasadena and the time spent with fellow ministers and wives from around the world. We realize how much work must go into the planning of these sessions and are grateful to all concerned for their efforts, including those who organized the Mail Processing tour.

Please pass on our thanks to Mr. Armstrong for the two hours he gave us. It was very inspiring and moving. His obvious love and concern is very heartwarming.

Ross and Gaye Beath

Mr. Tkach:

Andrea and I would like to express our appreciation for being in on the eighteenth session of the Refreshing Program. We believe the information we received was most vital. We came away with a renewed sense of purpose and guidelines for helping the brethren.

The instructors seemed more dedicated than ever to hold up the arms of Mr. Armstrong and hold fast to the doctrines set in the Church by Jesus Christ. Having a number of ministers in from the international areas helps us to realize this is a worldwide work, yet we all speak the same thing. We look forward to returning for Refreshing Program III.

Roger and Andrea West

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

GLENDALE, CA--RON LAUGHLAND: The spirit of unity from Pasadena is influencing the Glendale Church more and more. Because of its close proximity to Headquarters Churches, Glendale is heavily influenced by "what's happening at Headquarters." It's truly inspiring to see that unity in action and not just in words. As Mr. Armstrong speaks, so it is. I just wish that all the ministry could work this close to Pasadena and see the sincere unity displayed by the leadership there. I thank God every day for the leaders He has placed over His Work.

KINGSPORT, TN--GEORGE ELKINS: We deeply appreciate Mr. Armstrong's getting us back on the track and the resulting growth God has poured out on His Work over these past four years. All of us are tremendously inspired by the doors God has opened for God's Apostle and the Gospel!

WILMINGTON, DE--DAVE REGISTER: We had a recent miracle here which involved one of our Church members. She was making her rounds delivering PLAIN TRUTHS to local outlets and taking a

covered dish to her sick mother's house one afternoon when her car was struck from behind while stopped at a traffic signal. She was hit by a large delivery truck traveling above the speed limit. To make a long story short, her car was totaled! However, the member walked away from the accident with only two small scratches! Also of interest is the fact that even though both seats were pushed forward to the dashboard, the covered dish for her mother and several PLAIN TRUTH boxes were not damaged in the least!

MT. VERNON, IL--HAROLD SMITH: I very much appreciated the thrust of "A Worldwide Work" at the Refreshing Program. It is all too easy to get so caught up in the local area's problems that you don't think enough about the BIG PICTURE of the Work.

CHAMPAIGN, IL--RANDY HOLM: The brethren were sobered and inspired by Mr. Waterhouse's message. I heard many comments also on the dedication and loyalty it takes for a man to live and eat on the road 50 weeks a year to bring God's message and represent Mr. Armstrong to all the local congregations.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena campus)

On Monday, July 18th, 90 Japanese students from Bunkyo College in Tokyo arrived on campus here, accompanied by seven adult leaders--instructors and chaperones. They will be spending three weeks in an intensive study of English, and will also study American history and culture. While at Ambassador they will visit many sites in and around the Los Angeles area. This group is the largest we have ever hosted on campus here at Pasadena. Previous groups numbered about 70 each.

Ten students, plus Mr. and Mrs. Steve Pelfrey and Mr. Ralph Levy, a member of the AC Pasadena faculty, are now busy studying Chinese at Peking University. The following message was recently sent to Mr. John Halford at Pasadena by Mr. Steve Pelfrey in Peking:

We are all comfortably settled in after our first week of classes. Accommodations are spartan but nice. People at the University here are very friendly and eager to please us.

Our Chinese course is rigorous. Everyone is working very hard and there is little spare time. We are in good hands with Dr. Liu. Everyone is well.

In the last PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT Mr. Hogberg covered Dr. Otto von Habsburg's recent visit to the Southern California area, including his address to the faculty, students, and employees. The ministers and their wives attending the Ministerial Refreshing Program were also privileged to attend his most interesting lecture on the urgent need for a united Europe.

We here at Headquarters hope all of you are having a very profitable as well as enjoyable summer. It surely does seem as though this summer is whizzing by quickly. Before long, we will have about 150 new students on campus for the beginning of the 1983-84 College year!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGWork's Progress in U.S. Solid for First Six Months of 1983

Key indicators for God's Work in the United States show that the high levels of growth achieved during 1982 have basically been maintained thus far in 1983. Statistics in most categories are either keeping up with or slightly behind last year's record pace:

- As of June 1983, a total of 1,784,555 pieces of mail have been received. This is just 2.7% less than the same period last year. The total U.S. count since 1934 stands at 49.6 million. Based on the daily average mail count, the 50 millionth letter to the Work should arrive in mid-August.
- Total WATS calls for the first six months of this year number 320,438--about 1,200 less than last year's January-June count.
- Over 32 million publications have been mailed in 1983 in the U.S., including magazines, booklets, letters, etc. This is a 24% increase over the first six months of 1982 and an all-time record.
- The average number of responses to Mr. Armstrong's monthly letters this year is 17.4% higher than last year, and the average income from each letter rose 18.5%.
- Over 551,900 new names were added to the Work's files in the first six months. Although this is 28% fewer than last year, it is still the second highest year-to-date count in the history of the Work.
- Over 113,000 new students enrolled in the BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE. This was also an all-time record for six months and more than double last year's January-June number.

Members and Co-workers Respond to SEP Building Needs

Many members and co-workers have responded enthusiastically to Mr. Armstrong's request for help for the SEP building program. In fact, the stated goal of \$50,000 was reached and surpassed after only seven days! Contributors ranged from former campers and their appreciative parents to co-workers who were hearing about the camp at Orr for the first time. Following are some of their comments.

This check is in response to the Work's need for additional funds to help out at SEP. I hope this small contribution will help. I'll never forget what SEP did for me and how it helped me to grow. Any chance I have to make it possible for some other teen to attend is counted as a blessing.

C.G. (Virgilina, VA)

My daughter went to camp for two years and later was a counselor. I can't begin to tell you what a balanced person she is today be-

cause of her training at camp and college. Thank you for letting us know of SEP's needs and I hope my contribution helps.

H.S. (Franklin Park, IL)

Here's ten dollars for those youth camps I read about in your letter. I hope you get a good response, and I hope the kids get the equipment.

A.V. (Sandia Park, NM)

Here is a small offering my children are sending in for the Orr Summer Camp Fund. They are too young to attend now (ages 7, 5, 3, and 3 months) but they want to see other children benefit. Thank you for this summer program.

D.T. (Mabton, WA)

I have just received your recent letter in regards to the need for supplies and equipment at the SEP camp. I am enclosing a check to help toward that need. I wish it could be for much more than it is! The youth in the Church really need the opportunity of right living that they are given at SEP. Thank you for being so willing to provide it for them!

F.M. (Chittenden, VT)

I know my donation is small but I'd like to help in whatever way I can. I know God has inspired this camp and wants it to be Ambassador quality. I was blessed and can really appreciate the camp because I went to the second session in 1981. Being a camper was a blast! It goes deeper than that--it's being with people who all believe and follow God's way of life. I guess you could almost call it a mini-feast! I really enjoyed the opportunity to learn in the Bible studies and from the fine examples of the students.

Thank you ever so much for making my and others' memories of camp possible. And a special thanks for serving the teenagers of God's Church. Your outgoing concern is greatly appreciated.

D.L. (Kauntze, TX)

It is always good to get your letters. There is always so much information in them and a show of concern for all. Your concern for the youth that you mentioned in your last letter really hit home. I'll enclose a check which I hope will help in this cause.

E.H. (Scotch Plains, NJ)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center