

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 5, NO. 32

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 12, 1983

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

August 10, 1983

July has been a repeat of June, as far as year-to-date income is concerned. We ended both months with a 12.5% increase. For the month of July only, we had a 13.3% increase. This was a little lower than June, which was a plus 16%. The trend, then, is down slightly, but not enough to lower the year-to-date figure.

Even though this is not as much increase as we had years ago, it is still a healthy increase that we should appreciate and thank God for. The percentage numbers are lower than they were 15 or more years ago, but the dollar increase is much greater. A yearly one percent change now represents almost one million dollars!

We are now preparing for the large expenses necessary for festival assistance, which will be going out in a few weeks. Messrs. Tkach and John Anderson have been reviewing the many requests for assistance. This year we are expecting to pay out 23% more than last year. Thankfully, the faithfulness and generosity of some have made it possible for others to attend the Feast and to have their needs taken care of, who otherwise would have to stay home.

Until next month, au revoir.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Philippine Semiannual Report After eleven long months of the worst drought in living memory, rain began to trickle into the southern island of Mindanao. But throughout the rest of the country, the summer was extended considerably. June usually commences the monsoon rains and the typhoons. But not until late July have three typhoons drenched the northern island of Luzon. The second struck just south of Manila leaving in its path uprooted trees, broken light poles and some dead. Some of the brethren suffered crop losses, but their situation is not critical.

In spite of the upset weather, the Work of God in the Philippines is pushing on. Church attendance in June was up to 2,933--an increase of 11.4% over June 1982. Bible study attendance was up by 14.7% (2,778) over the same period last year.

Reports from our Financial Services area here show a tremendous 25.5% overall increase in income for the first half of the year! This, along with the following figures from Mail Processing, are a pleasing indication of the success of Mr. Armstrong's visit here January 29th.

Due to blow-in cards in The PLAIN TRUTH, advertisement responses increased more than 100%! Responses kept pouring in despite the cancellation of the

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**** TO BE ANNOUNCED ****

1984 Festival Housing Arrangements

Even though the Feast of Tabernacles is still weeks away, much planning for next year's Festival has already taken place. One critical factor is housing. Because of the following reasons, we are requesting that all members wait until next spring when the Festival Planner is distributed to make housing reservations for 1984.

1. The sites are not yet firm. Almost any site could be changed.
2. We have no way to guarantee that all transfers will be approved.
3. All housing at each site must be negotiated by the Festival Coordinator between now and next year. Negotiating for better prices is impossible if available housing is already partially filled by members.
4. Finally, those transferring to popular sites such as St. Petersburg and booking their housing early make it much more difficult for those assigned to the site to find housing.

So again--you should wait until the spring Festival Planner is distributed to make your 1984 Festival housing arrangements. Your cooperation in this area will help make a better Feast for everyone!

Taping of Services at the Feast

As explained in the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT of July 23, 1982, sermons or other parts of services should not be taped by the members for their personal use. The same policy applies at the Feast of Tabernacles. Please do not plan to take your tape recorder to the Feast to tape the sermons, as this will not be permitted. Those who are unable to attend may request to borrow sermon tapes from their pastors after the Feast.

Taking Pets to the Feast

For many years the Church has discouraged members from taking their pets with them to the Feast. (The obvious exception would be seeing-eye dogs or those trained to aid the deaf.) If you cannot make arrangements to leave your pets with a friend, in a kennel, or at home, then you must arrange in advance with your hotel or motel to have pets in your room. However, any damage or other problems caused by the pets must be your responsibility. In no way can the Church be involved or held responsible.

--Festival Office

International News (Continued from page 1)

blow-in cards beginning with the March issue. Circulation as of June was 120,000--up 143.9% over June last year.

TV/radio response (a total of 2,238) was also up by 32%. "The WORLD TOMORROW" radio broadcast was canceled in March. Then additional telecast time was arranged for on Saturdays on GMA (one of two TV networks in the Philippines). This has brought almost as many responses within five months as did the radio program within the past year!

Donation mail increased 45%. We find that more donors and co-workers are sending in donations. Adding this to the regular mail received, the total incoming mail year to date is up to 115,500, or a 40% increase. Total outgoing mail is also up by almost 12%.

During the first half of the year 22 PLAIN TRUTH lectures were conducted, with a total attendance of 2,023. This was a 4.3% response to invitations sent out. Between now and the Feast of Tabernacles, six more lectures are scheduled.

Spanish Department Update PURA VERDAD Bible lectures were conducted in two Argentine cities on July 22-23 and 29-30 by Mr. Alberto Sousa, pastor of the Ezeiza congregation. The first two lectures took place in Bahia Blanca, where a total of 66 new people attended, representing nearly 9% of those invited. Six individuals requested personal visits and two or three expressed interest in attending Sabbath services. Those in attendance had many biblical questions. Mr. Sousa spent three hours after the second meeting answering queries submitted by the enthusiastic, mostly middle-class audience!

One week later, Mr. Sousa went to Buenos Aires to present lectures at the Hotel Crillon, located in the heart of the Argentine capital. A total of 289 new people attended one or both of the lectures, representing a 10.5% turnout! Some 88 individuals requested literature, 55 the Bible Correspondence Course, 12 a personal visit, and 42 asked to attend future Bible studies.

Mr. Sousa was very enthused about the fine turnout, which was 30-40% greater than expected, and was impressed by the quality of comments and questions posed by those in attendance. He is currently arranging a time and location for future Bible studies in Buenos Aires to accommodate the PV readers, as well as other prospective members in that area. The Ezeiza Church is located about 90 minutes from the center of Buenos Aires.

Other PV Bible lectures are planned for Bogota, Colombia (Aug. 28-29 and Sept. 4-5), Tegucigalpa, Honduras (Sept. 3-4), San Pedro Sula, Honduras (Sept. 10-11) and New York City (Nov. 5-6).

As of early August, PV circulation broke a previous record set in late December, 1982! A total of 197,144 subscribers exceeded the old mark by 2,262. This growth has gone against the planned decrease in circulation (to adhere to budgetary constraints) which was to be in the 150,000 range at this time. Virtually no promotion has been done since last January (apart from READER'S DIGEST ads), yet higher than anticipated renewal rates and other significant factors have kept circulation high. (One key factor

worth mentioning is that response from last year's promotional efforts, which ended before last year's Feast, continued to be received until April.) During the first seven months, a total of 51,152 new subscribers have been added--29% less than the period last year.

Circulation has risen markedly this year in Mexico, Argentina and Spain. The number of PV subscribers in Argentina has just passed 20,000. Spain's circulation stands at an all-time high of 14,639.

Six new students from Latin America will enter Ambassador College this fall--three from Puerto Rico, two from Mexico, and one from Colombia. This is the largest contingent of new Spanish-speaking students ever. There are now twelve A.C. students in Pasadena from five Spanish-speaking countries.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I have been looking forward to writing this letter of appreciation for three years! We have just completed our first experience at a Ministerial Refreshing Program. We both agree the two weeks on the Pasadena campus did much more than refresh. We were most inspired by the beauty and peace, the tremendous hospitality and the spirit of unity everywhere we went.

It was great to see friends from years gone by and to meet new ones. The scope of God's worldwide Work was made more clear to us through the classes, tours and the warm fellowship with the men and their wives doing the work in Africa, Australia, England, the Philippines and Switzerland.

THANK YOU, sir, and EACH one of those who took part in the extraordinary effort of instructing, correcting and directing us to be of one mind. THANK YOU for the increased joy, hope and excitement we now have to better do our part in God's great Work. We treasure what we received and eagerly await the next Refreshing Program.

Tom and Pam Smith

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thanks for the opportunity to attend the Ministerial Refreshing Program. It showed the many positive fruits of uniting behind you and applying the way of God.

Sitting through the program was like watching several skilled artists working in unity to produce a beautiful painting. Along with the BIG picture, many details were added to make it even more vivid and picturesque. Such a picture is of great value. Now the challenge is to apply what we have heard and convey this treasure of truth to God's people.

George Kackos

Dear Messrs. Armstrong and Tkach:

Please accept this note of thanks and deep appreciation for the unique opportunity you have given me in attending the June, 1983

Ministerial Refreshing Program. The lectures were penetrating, convicting, inspiring and challenging. It was the first time in my life I have been able to listen to many longtime ministers who themselves were trained and are loyal to Mr. Armstrong. What a blessing to hear from them and especially to hear from God's Apostle, being immersed in that treasure of wisdom, knowledge and sincerity. Now I can better serve God's people with these resources back home.

The beautiful campus of God's college is awe-inspiring, overflowing with an abundance of smiles, friendly greetings and conversations from ministers, students and employees. But on top of all these things unity was evident during the sessions--everyone speaking the same thing in all aspects of the Work. It all points to one source, one direction and that truly God and Christ are with you at Headquarters. We praise God for this and give our sincere thanks to you both as well.

Felipe Casing

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I would like once again to thank Mr. Armstrong and those assisting him for providing the immensely edifying and inspiring Refreshing Program just concluded. More so than ever, the unity of mind and direction which God's Spirit has put into His Headquarters team was obvious for all to see. Each instructor, without exception, helped greatly to inspire us toward the goals of preaching the Gospel and preparing the Bride. It seemed as though each presentation might have begun with a similar title: "The way of give as applied to child rearing; the way of give as applied to church sports programs, etc." It was obvious that the instructors have deeply internalized the meaning of the two trees and brought it out as it applied to each area.

The tours through Mail Processing and TV Production were highlights of the program. At times it seemed that the power and unity which exuded from each person working in these areas would overwhelm us. I'd especially like to thank you and your staff for all the effort put into enabling us to be better teachers and leaders. I'm eagerly looking forward to MRP III.

Michael Grovak

Mr. Tkach:

Nonceba and I wish to thank you for the opportunity we had in attending the recent Ministerial Refreshing Program. We deeply appreciate Mr. Armstrong's concern for God's people in getting us ready for Christ's return. This program is a priceless effort to equip us to be of more effective service to our local congregations to achieve that objective. It is very beneficial!

It was also very inspiring to be at Headquarters to experience the unity, love, loyalty and dedication that was so evident everywhere we went! This is very inspiring indeed. You have no idea what this does to boost those of us from the far-flung international areas. We can now back Mr. Armstrong more effec-

tively and with renewed strength, after you and the entire team involved in the program "declared unto us all the counsel of God" from His Apostle. Thank you very much for a memorable and a highly profitable experience.

Petros and Nonceba Manzingana

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Please convey our thanks to all those who have a part in making the Refreshing Program possible, especially Mr. Herbert Armstrong for taking his time to give us a class and a Bible study through which God poured out valuable truth which we had never before understood. We love Mr. Armstrong, and he is in our prayers daily as God's chief instrument on earth. Our prayers are with you all as the Work of God is accomplished.

Steve and Carol Schantz

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the United States

BISMARCK, ND--DAN CREED: It was sure good to see Mr. Armstrong at Orr and hear him again. It is always encouraging and uplifting to be around Mr. Armstrong. The brethren really appreciated hearing the recent tape from him. They appreciate his leadership and the fact that he is there to keep us on track.

SPRINGFIELD, MO--GEORGE MEEKER: Members were moved by Mr. Armstrong's tape but concerned by his remark that he may not be with us much longer. We all feel a very strong need for his leadership in the Church.

BRAINERD, MN--STANLEY McNIEL: Members appreciate Mr. Armstrong's loving correction and direction. The sermon on hungering and thirsting for righteousness was excellent. I'm continuing to stress the need for us to draw closer to God and yield to Him to regain the power of the Ephesian era, as Mr. Armstrong mentioned earlier this year.

FT. WAYNE, IN--DARRIS McNEELY: Brethren responded very favorably to Mr. Armstrong's tape on make-up. It seems that many are finally seeing the spiritual aspect of the problem. People are beginning to realize that they must remove the spiritual make-up as well as the physical.

COEUR D'ALENE, ID--ROGER FOSTER: Members really appreciated Mr. Armstrong's recent sermon, "Hunger for Righteousness." I felt that it was the clearest explanation he has ever given showing that God's laws must be applied according to the principle.

JONESBORO, AR--CLYDE KILOUGH: Thanks to Mr. Armstrong so much for the tape and the further clarification on make-up. That sermon alone will be a springboard for several additional sermons as it was really much more broad than the subjects of smoking and make-up. We as a Church really need to hear it again.

GADSDEN, AL--STEPHEN R. SMITH: Members seem to be in a very positive attitude. Many comments of appreciation were heard in regard to Mr. Armstrong's sermon on "Hunger for Righteousness."

CLARKSVILLE, TN--KENT FENTRESS: Mr. Armstrong's tape was the best I've heard. God has truly used the advertising knowledge of Mr. Armstrong to condense the truth. Terms like "cause and effect," "get and give" and now "life style" have taught me a lot. Thanks.

KALAMAZOO, MI--LAMBERT GREER: Mr. Armstrong's tape was well received, although make-up was not a problem to my knowledge. However, a couple of members have had problems with smoking and were helped by Mr. Armstrong's examples in that area.

EAU CLAIRE, WI--BILL JAHNS: Attitudes are very good in Eau Claire. Make-up is not a serious problem in the area and the brethren are truly behind Mr. Armstrong. The worst problem in the area concerns the employment situation. Many continue to have problems finding employment.

PORTLAND (WEST), OR--DAN FRICKE: Everyone was excited about Mr. Armstrong's tape on "Hunger for Righteousness." An occasional message from Mr. Armstrong is certainly beneficial for the churches. It seems this year that Feast organization and planning has gone more smoothly than ever before. Thanks go to those who have set up the streamlined procedure we are now using.

From Australia

BUNDABERG, QLD--TERRENCE VILLIERS: A very successful Public Bible Lecture at Bundaberg started the month of June off well. Response was about 4%, and most stayed to talk long afterwards. Two have been attending services since. At the end of the month we were uplifted by Mr. Morton's visit--his message and the showing of the S.E.P. film. Many commented that they now began to appreciate what S.E.P. is all about.

WODONGA, VIC--BRUCE DEAN: We have begun a major programme of promoting The PLAIN TRUTH and Mr. Armstrong's books. We have most members involved in phoning waiting rooms to find outlets for the PT. We will also approach libraries to take the PT and Mr. Armstrong's books--THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL, MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX, UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY and THE WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW.

GIPPSLAND, VIC--PETER WHITTING: Since our Public Bible Lectures in April, two families are continuing to fellowship and attend services. They are very good prospective members. Between the two families we have nine new people attending services regularly. Mr. Herbert Armstrong's message was enthusiastically received.

EMERALD/CLERMONT, QLD--BRIAN ORCHARD: The members have expressed enthusiasm regarding the developments in the Work. Despite hard economic times due to unseasonal weather, they appear cheerful and optimistic.

BRISBANE (SOUTH), QLD--JOHN McLEAN: Five prospective members have begun attending services this month. This new growth is certainly encouraging to everyone.

From South Africa

PIETERMARITZBURG--ROBERT KLYNSMITH: Brethren are very enthusiastic about new doors opening up for the Work in Southern Africa, especially READER'S DIGEST and direct mail. There appears to be a renewed commitment amongst God's people in praying for and supporting the Work as well as Mr. Armstrong. Members were inspired by his two recent video broadcasts on Revelation. They commented on Mr. Armstrong's continued dynamism and clarity of mind.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Semiannual Letter Helps Boost U.S. Co-worker Count

The U.S. co-worker count has now reached 46,000--the highest total since 1979. In July, 1,568 subscribers became new co-workers. Approximately one-third of this new group was added as a result of Mr. Armstrong's recent semiannual letter. (You may recall that this particular letter explained what a co-worker is and how God's Work is financed.) Since July's count represented only the beginning responses to the semiannual, we expect to add an even higher number of new co-workers in August.

Although co-workers are added to our growing list as a result of other programs, Mr. Armstrong's personal letters continue to be the number one source.

New Co-workers Honored to Be Part of God's Work

When a subscriber or listener becomes a co-worker (by contributing two or more times within a six-month period), he receives a letter of welcome and introduction from Mr. Armstrong. Many graciously respond to this letter, saying they are both thrilled and honored to have a part in this end-time Work. Following are some typical responses:

I received your letter several days ago informing me that my name is being placed on your special "co-worker" mailing list, and that I will be receiving a special letter from you every month. I consider this an honor and am proud to have a part in this Work as a co-worker with Christ in helping to bring God's Word around the world.

Also I want you to know that I am increasing the amount of tithes and offerings in response to your letter. I want you to know once again I am very proud and happy to be a "co-worker" with Christ, in God's Work.

T.G. (New Haven, CT)

Thank you for designating me as a co-worker in the Great Commission. I'm honored to be part of your generous Work and organization. You know the difference between good and evil--you do good and expose evil.

R.W. (Wilkes Barre, PA)

The most remarkable trademark of the Worldwide Church of God is its ability to make each individual feel like a personal friend. I just received a personal letter from Mr. Armstrong. I am deeply honored and grateful in having been put on your personal mailing list. I don't have adequate words to express my thanks for all of your wonderful literature. I pray for your continued success.

R.A. (New York, NY)

Thank you for placing my name on your special "co-worker" mailing list. I do want to be a fellow worker with Jesus Christ. I will be looking forward to the special letter from you about once a month. Mr. Armstrong, thank you so much for welcoming me to the growing family of God's co-workers. I will pray for the Work.

F.P. (Beckville, TX)

I wish to express my greatest appreciation for letting me know that my name is being placed on your special co-worker mailing list. I am happy to help to the best of my ability. I would be very grateful for the special letters that will be sent, because I would like to know much more about The PLAIN TRUTH organization and work behind the scenes.

A.H. (Edenton, NC)

I received your letter from your "office in the sky" and the letter that accompanied it. I graciously accept the privilege of becoming one of Christ's co-workers. You are correct in believing that I want to have a part in this Work.

May I add that in all of my 72 years of life I have never heard of anything like this ministry--feeding hungry sheep (like me) spiritual knowledge, printing and sending out millions of magazines and books, radio, television and your worldwide travels. The price? Absolutely nothing!

I thank you for your letter; it's a privilege to be called a fellow worker with Jesus Christ! I knew when I read the first issue of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine that I had found, at last, what I had searched for all of my adult life.

R.A. (Los Angeles, CA)

You made me feel ten feet tall when you said that I could be part of God's team with you!

Mrs. S.R. (Bowling Green, KY)

Thank you for considering me as a co-worker. I know my meager donation cannot in itself do much--it's just a widow's mite. But I also know God can multiply and use it to His benefit and glory. I'm so happy and thankful to Him that He led me to pay attention to your messages. Like you say, we're all in the learning state, and when God shows us His way through another, we have to give heed and unlearn some of our old ways if we are to grow and be like Him.

Mrs. G.H. (Silvis, IL)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

KADAFI ESCAPES HIS BOX; OMINOUS TIMING IN CENTRAL AMERICA Libya's ever-dangerous Muamar Kadafi (spellings of his names vary in English) is once again trying to expand his empire. He has intervened with troops and air power in Chad, Libya's neighbor to the south. Chad is vast in size, arid, underpopulated and riven with about 200 ethnic groups, roughly divided into Arabs in the north and black Christians and animists in the south. Hence, forever ripe for meddling.

Kadafi, by moving into Chad, could put pressure on the Sudan as well as Egypt, two countries he has blood feuds with.

The United States has reacted rather swiftly to this latest of Kadafi forays. An aircraft carrier group has moved close to Libya's Mediterranean coast; AWACS surveillance planes and F-15 jets are on standby in the Sudan; military aid, including anti-aircraft missiles has been flown into the Chadian capital of N'Djamena.

The French have come to Chad's assistance, but not to the same degree as the conservative governments of the past have done. Socialist President Mitterrand and his cabinet are more "Third World" oriented, less likely to intervene in Africa, even to protect ex-colonial members of the French community. Mitterrand could only muster 180 non-combat logistical support troops for Chad duty.

The wily Kadafi, of course, knows about the French reluctance. When Mitterrand came to power in 1981, he said he would curtail France's "interventionist policy" in Africa. During the election campaign he had referred to former President Giscard d'Estaing as a "pyromaniac fireman."

Worldwide Troublemaker

Almost everywhere in the world a revolution is underway, Kadafi's hand is in it to some degree. Here is a report about the mercurial Kadafi's activities from an August 9 Associated Press release:

ROME--Moammar Khadafy, who the United States thought was back "in his box where he belongs," is once again accused of whipping up trouble for his neighbors, this time in Chad. Since the Libyan colonel took power in 1969, he has been accused of sponsoring revolution, terrorism and wars around the globe....

If there is a constant in Khadafy's behavior, it is his dream of filling the shoes of the late Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser as idol of the Arab masses. Nasser, who ruled Egypt from 1954 until his death in 1970, first brought about a unity of Arab nations with the United Arab Republic in 1958 that joined Egypt and Syria under his presidency. The union collapsed three years later, but it is a dream kept alive by Khadafy, who has tried--and failed--to engineer mergers with Egypt, Tunisia, Chad, Niger, Mali, Sudan, Algeria and Syria. Khadafy tried to prop up the brutal regime of Uganda's Idi Amin, a Moslem convert.

Another setback for the 40-year-old son of a desert herdsman has been his repeated attempts to gain the leadership of the Organi-

zation of African Unity. An OAU meeting scheduled last year in the Libyan capital of Tripoli--which was to elect Khadafy chairman--was canceled because of Arab disunity.

One consistent thread in Khadafy's actions has been his feud with the United States. Two years ago, the Reagan administration accused Khadafy of sending a "hit squad" to stalk Reagan, and Washington asked all Americans working in Libya to leave the country.

U.S. and Libyan forces have had numerous encounters. The worst came in 1981 when two U.S. Navy fighters downed two Libyan planes that opened fire on the American aircraft over the Gulf of Sidra --waters which are claimed by Libya but which the United States said are international.

American spy planes were used last year when it was feared Khadafy was planning to invade the Sudan, Chad's next-door neighbor. After Khadafy's forces backed down, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said that, "at least for the moment, Khadafy is back in his box where he belongs."

Khadafy's provocative maneuvers and wildly shifting alliances have frustrated his proclaimed goals of Arab and African unity. Once friendly Egypt is now an enemy, and the two nations fought a brief war in 1977. Saudi Arabia and Libya broke and then resumed relations, but not before the Saudi press branded Khadafy a "nit-wit."...

The flamboyant Khadafy, trained at England's prestigious Sandhurst military academy, hasn't confined his interest to Arab and African nations. The United States has charged him with being one of the principal financiers of international terrorism. Khadafy said he opposed terrorism but supported what he called "national liberation movements."

From his desert North African nation, Khadafy has poured millions of dollars into the cause, supporting a Moslem separatist movement as far away as the Philippines. British diplomatic sources said Britain once intercepted a shipment of Libyan arms for the Irish Republican Army, which is fighting to drive the British from Northern Ireland. Earlier this year, two members of the American Indian Movement won Khadafy's backing for the movement's treaty claims.

Government officials in Latin America allege that Libya is supplying weapons to Colombia's M-19 guerrillas and that Nicaraguans, Salvadoran rebels and leftists from other countries in the region make frequent trips to Libya for military training. In April, Brazil seized four Libyan planes loaded with arms believed headed for leftist guerrillas in Central America.

Khadafy is also making government leaders uneasy by spending money on four tiny nations in the eastern Caribbean. Operating out of leftist-ruled Grenada, Khadafy has been accused of promoting unrest in St. Lucia, Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda by

funding leftist opposition groups and providing terrorist training....

Western diplomats say Khadafy has two aims in Chad: a government that will support...his revolutionary aims and recognize Libya's 1973 seizure of the Aozou strip, a 45,000-square-mile area believed to be rich in uranium and other minerals.

We must continue to watch the two "terrible K's" in the world--Kadafi and Iran's Khomeini. Of the two, the latter is probably the more dangerous. As Otto von Habsburg said, the Shiite Muslims periodically erupt and they are now, he said, in a "Mount St. Helens stage." If Iran defeats Iraq, look out. Radical Islam could overturn much of the Persian Gulf states. Daniel 11:40 could indicate a Middle East bloc infused with a jihad mentality clashing with a Europe interestingly united by Catholicism--a modern-day Crusades-Moslem world conflict.

U.S. Troops Go Into Honduras on August 6

And now an important update on the U.S. military involvement in Central America. As we reported in the July 29 "On The World Scene," U.S. ground exercises in Honduras were, according to a report in the LOS ANGELES TIMES, to begin on August 1. This turned out not to be correct.

At the time of the July 29 report, the situation was extremely fluid with regard to the timing of the operation. To summarize, "Big Pine II" was initially planned as a year-end follow-up to the smaller "Big Pine" exercises of this past February, involving about 1,600 troops. In May, intelligence showed increased Soviet and Cuban involvement in the region, so the decision was made in President Reagan's National Security Council to greatly accelerate the timing and scope of "Big Pine II."

About the time I saw reference to the lone and incorrect August 1 date, Pentagon sources were also stating that "Big Pine II," involving about 4,000 troops, would begin "about August 12." Then, suddenly, with no advance warning, the first contingent of Air Force personnel arrived at Tegucigalpa's international airport on August 5. A LOS ANGELES TIMES reporter said "there was no explanation of their early arrival." Then came the announcement on Saturday, August 6, that, as of that day, "Big Pine II" --now upgraded to 5,000 troops--had officially begun.

Significantly, August 6, 1983 and the two other dates mentioned in my July 29 article--Hiroshima, August 6, 1945 and the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, August 5, 1964 (authorizing the beginning of U.S. military action in Vietnam)--all are on the same date on the Hebrew calendar, the 27th of Ab, and are all exactly 19 years apart. The month of Ab, incidentally, is considered an unfortunate one in biblical history. Both the first and second temples were destroyed in the month of Ab. Obviously God is showing that dark days are indeed ahead for America.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau