

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

THE PASTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP HEADQUARTERS INFORMED

Frequently we are confronted with significant problems or situations of importance in the local Churches that were not reported to Ministerial Services through the church pastors, but rather came to us by some unofficial means.

Unofficial reports can create problems for us in at least four different ways. First, it hinders us in keeping Mr. Armstrong properly informed. Second, it often results in a problem being thrust upon us without the advantage of being appropriately briefed and prepared ahead of time. Third, unofficial reports often are inaccurate and frequently cast unjustified criticism on those of you in the field ministry. Fourth, it indicates the likelihood that various items we should be appraised of are never reported either officially or unofficially.

When situations develop involving potential legal problems, former members, doctrinal or administrative questions, etc., they should be reported to us promptly and in writing. Local elders and associate pastors should inform their pastors of such, who in turn should write it up and send it to Joe Tkach in care of Ministerial Services.

We realize it takes more time to prepare a written report; however, having the information on paper makes a report much easier to present to Mr. Armstrong. Also, a written report avoids the potential problem of distortion as information is relayed verbally from one person to the next.

Let's all be sure we are fulfilling our responsibilities to see that all significant matters are promptly and properly reported.

International News

From West Germany At the beginning of July, Regional Director Frank Schnee and his wife flew to Pasadena for Mr. Armstrong's meeting with European Parliament member Dr. Otto von Habsburg. During this trip, Mr. Schnee also had the opportunity of meeting with Mr. Leroy Neff regarding finances, with Mr. Raymond McNair regarding students interested in the German-speaking area, and with Mr. David Hulme concerning advertising.

The students participating in the German summer program returned to the United States this month after a very successful and eventful 10 weeks in Germany and Austria. Mr. Schnee commented that the program will definitely be continued and that all our goals were reached in developing manpower for the German-speaking area.

Local elder Winfried Fritz, his wife and two daughters flew to Pasadena where Mr. Fritz will be studying at Ambassador College for two semesters. Mr. Fritz, originally from Austria, had been in charge of the finance department in Bonn, as well as serving in the local Churches. After their stay in Pasadena, the Fritzs will return to Austria where Mr. Fritz will pastor the Churches in Austria and Bavaria. Mr. Alfred Hellemann, who had been serving the Austrian area, has now moved to Bonn to give much needed help with personal correspondence and to help with the Churches at Bonn, Dusseldorf and Darmstadt. In the meantime, Austria will be served both from Bonn and by local elder Helmut Kaserer.

In July the mail increased some 25% over July of 1982, mainly due to the continuing response to the spring advertising campaign. This has brought 33,798 responses thus far or 0.66% of the total circulation of 5,120,000 which are reached through our advertising. In July, preparations got underway for the fall advertising campaign, to begin on October 1 and continue until the end of November in some 17 different outlets in West Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

The semi-annual letter, stapled into the July/August issue of KLAR & WAHR, also brought an increased response over the semi-annual of September 1982, although many people go on vacation in July. A 21% increase in response to the semi-annual was received, although the subscriber list only increased 14% over September 1982. Several new booklets that were offered in the semi-annual letter, as well as in KLAR & WAHR, helped to increase the response. New booklets generally generate a greater response.

In July the mail income was down 2.4% over July 1982, but the year-to-date mail income was up 17.3% over last year.

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

Rosemary Knudson has indicated that she may try to attend services in the North or South Dakota or Minnesota Churches. She is disfellowshipped. Please call Mr. Dan Creed if you need further information. (This notice is not to be announced to your congregations.)

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thanks very much for the opportunity to attend the Ministerial Refreshing Program. There is no doubt at all that God has inspired you to set this program in His Church for the edification not only of Christ's ministry, but also for all the congregations. I feel this is one of the best things that has happened to us and I thank God daily for His direction of His Church through you.

I feel a greater depth of spiritual maturity is being added each time we participate in the Refresher. We are looking forward to the next Refresher already!

Randy Holm

Dear Mr. Tkach:

As a local elder employed here in Pasadena may I say a heartfelt and sincere thank you for allowing us "locals" to be in on the Refreshing Program. I have read many fine and eloquent letters over the past years in the PGR thanking you for the programs, so I will not try to match such masters of the written word.

For Anthea and myself it was an inspiring educational program. To call the program a refresher just does not do it justice! This program confirmed again the spirit of unity and dedicated loyalty to God's Work shown by you and the team. The whole experience will help my wife and me to be better servants to this Work and our local congregation in Glendora.

Roger and Anthea Lippross

Mr. Tkach:

Dorothy and I want to express our deep gratitude to yourself and to the whole staff at Headquarters. We have been able to tell the Churches we serve about the unity and harmony we found--together with the obvious warmth of welcome and the humility of all those who sought to serve us. We both found this humility a humbling experience. The Church members find it encouraging that we are able to bring home only positive comments about the Headquarters of God's great Work.

We have been encouraged to redouble our efforts to serve the brethren and the Church. We came back from the twentieth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program truly spiritually refreshed, with plenty of material still to digest.

Our thanks, of course, extend to Mr. Armstrong for supporting, encouraging, participating in and overseeing the Refreshing Programme. The knowledge that all we heard has the backing of God's Apostle gives a deep sense of security to us and to the Church who hear from us.

Barney and Dorothy Dowson

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Thank you! As a local elder and his wife, we certainly did appreciate the twentieth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program from beginning to end. Staying on campus was an exciting first for us, and the accommodations and food were excellent. We could not have attended the program if we had not been provided free room and board.

The classes and beauty of the campus were indeed refreshing. We had prayed that God would 1) teach us and give us understanding, 2) correct us in love, and 3) inspire us so that we could come home to our local area and help the brethren even more. He answered our prayers and the two weeks there were indeed abundant.

We were taught at the feet of Mr. Armstrong and many evangelists --literally, as we sat on the front row! The smiling faces, the attitude of service, everyone behind Mr. Armstrong as God's Apostle, and all of you who taught us with much preparation beforehand, will long be a wonderful memory and part of our daily prayers and conversation.

Stan and Jean Denzinger

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Joan and I don't want any more time to go by without expressing our deep appreciation for the Ministerial Refreshing Program. We realize much work, time and thought must have gone into each presentation. We thank Mr. Armstrong, you and all the men involved for a job well done. We both learned so much. It's always good to step back and see our jobs from a new perspective. It gives us more zeal and enthusiasm to go forward and accomplish as much as possible in the time we have left. We were very impressed with the prayerful attitude of service of the Headquarters team.

Thank you for your continued love and service to us in the field ministry. We pray for you daily.

Jim and Joan Tuck

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the Philippines

SAN FERNANDO--ROBERTO GOPEZ: We were again privileged to hear Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's taped message on his uncompromising stand on things which are against the principle of God's law. It reminded us to always view God's law in its spiritual intent in order for us to continue to grow spiritually and be close to God.

QUEZON CITY--REY TANIAJURA: Members are asking good Bible questions in the Bible studies. The Church appears to be growing in the area of fellowship with one another, especially before and after services. Many stay long after services to fellowship. There seems to be life and enthusiasm in this Church.

DAVAO CITY--BIENVENIDO MACARAEG: I held the follow-up Bible study for those who attended the PLAIN TRUTH Bible Lecture. Out of 150 that I had written, 36 showed up (24%) and displayed great interest in the study. I discussed the subject of "law and grace." I announced to them that that will be the last time we will invite them. If they are truly interested, they should now take the initiative of asking for further instruction. After the study, 26 of them asked that they be given more. They really seem to be hungering for it!

One other interesting thing happened. I wrote the people to come at 9:30 and many did. We asked the hotel personnel if we could tune in their color TV in the lounge to "The WORLD TOMORROW" program over Channel 7 at 9:30 which they gladly obliged. As a result, those who came to attend the Bible study heard Mr. Armstrong preach a strong message before the study!

OZAMIS--VICTOR LIM: On my way to Tubod from Ozamis, I took a public bus. En route we saw some 20 people milling around a bridge. The bus driver stopped when it was learned that there was a headless human body underneath the bridge. The passengers of the bus went out to see the corpse. I never bothered to see the horrible sight. People who are executed by the rebels are usually abusive and unrighteous men: men who are drunkards, adulterers, thieves, swindlers, gossipers, etc. So as long as one is living a righteous life there is nothing to fear.

BAYOMBONG--PEDRO ORTIGUERO: My visits this time were problems of hunger. Poor brethren who waited for the planting season for their subsistence so they can plant and be hired in the fields do not have money to buy food. Those who have stored little food until planting and harvesting seasons are worrying that after July there will be no more food. There are now some rains in my area, but not heavy enough to quench the thirsty land. Rivers don't have much water yet for irrigation. It is still very hot and everywhere green leaves are drying up. Some of our brethren, especially children, are suffering from flu and measles. However, brethren are striving hard.

AGOO--JERRY ORTIGUERO: Farmers on the lowlands are getting worried because of the lack of rain. Last year about this time, many farmers were already almost finished planting rice. But this time the fields are still quite dry and the rice seedlings just sprouted are beginning to dry.

LAOAG CITY--JERRY ORTIGUERO: Though it is beginning to rain here in Northern Luzon, there is still not enough water to make the rice paddies cultivatable. I noticed along the highway in Ilocos Sur and Norte that thousands of hectares of rice fields are not yet even ready for planting for lack of water. People are beginning to worry about a possible year of famine and real hardship in 1984.

SANTIAGO--PEDRO ORTIGUERO: Many of the brethren are really suffering here. There is not enough rain yet for farming. The National Irrigation Administration personnel have said that if there is not enough rain, only some portions of the farm land in Isabela will be given or allowed water. Please pray for us.

ROXAS--PEDRO ORTIGUERO: This week there was a light rain in some parts of Isabela. We hope this is the beginning of more rain. However, it is still very hot--100 degrees Fahrenheit. Some of the brethren who are farmers are worrying whether they will have enough rice for August. Those who do not farm but hire themselves out in the field are suffering much. We have 11 families who do not have permanent work. I bought them rice which they need very badly. Our poor brethren are willing to work.

ZAMBOANGA CITY--VICTOR LIM: Twenty-nine new people showed up for the follow-up Bible study out of 143 who said they were interested. That's a clear 20% response. Some said the figure would have been higher had it not rained that morning. That is because many from Basilan island didn't go because of rough seas due to the weather.

DAGUPAN CITY--JERRY ORTIGUERO: Typhoon Bebeng affected our Sabbath attendance, but thankfully none of the brethren suffered any serious damage from the typhoon. Some of the brethren had some fruit trees (bananas and papayas) uprooted by the strong winds.

NAGA CITY--MEDARDO MANINANG: Members and their families were all OK healthwise after typhoon Bebeng unleashed its destructive force in the area. However, almost everyone suffered damage one way or another. Many houses of members were partly destroyed. Among the farmers, the majority suffered too. One farmer whose rice was about to yield grains was totally wiped out. Same with the corn of another member. Also, most of the fruit trees (including bananas and papayas) were affected. Hardest hit are the coconut trees. They were just beginning to bear fruit after recovering from another typhoon almost two years ago. I encouraged the members to rely even more on God for their daily sustenance, emphasizing to them that God can bless them in many ways, provided they do their part.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

It is very good to see the hustle and bustle of college activity on the Pasadena campus. It is once again a beehive of activity.

Last week Mr. Armstrong spoke to the Ambassador College faculty, giving us general instruction and encouragement. He also went over some of the main points which we faculty members should bear in mind as we observe and later select those students who will go on into the four-year program, after receiving their two-year degrees in either the Associate of Arts or the Associate of Science programs.

Mr. Armstrong also thoroughly enjoyed himself as he attended a faculty dinner in the Student Center which began shortly after the faculty meeting at which he had previously spoken.

Then, on Wednesday, August 24th, Mr. Armstrong spoke at the orientation forum, at which all students and faculty members were in attendance. He gave a brief history of education and admonished the students to really work at digging from this "gold mine" of God's College.

Thus far, the College has really gotten off to a very good start. We have slightly more than 500 single students living on campus, and a few older students are living off campus. (Each of these older students who lives off campus has to first receive permission from the College Administration to make sure that they are either living with their parents, with a stable family, etc.) We also have 61 married students who are enrolled in the various degree programs (A.A., A.S., or B.A.). And we have 76 "special students" (ministers, wives of ministers, certain employees, etc.) who are taking one or two classes. All told, we have 678 students in attendance at Ambassador this semester!

The A.C. student body is quite international in flavor. All together, 30 different countries and territories are now represented in the student

body, excluding the U.S. This cosmopolitan flavor is in many ways both interesting and enriching to all of the students. It is good to see how others from different parts of the world live and think. The different cultures represented by the thirty different areas give the students more of an international outlook. About one third (31%) of all A.C. students at Pasadena are international students. Here is a list of the countries and territories which are now represented at Ambassador College in Pasadena:

Australia	Guyana	Puerto Rico
Austria	Haiti	South Africa
Barbados	Iran	Sri Lanka
Bermuda	Italy	Switzerland
Britain	Jamaica	Tanzania
Cameroon	Mexico	Thailand
Canada	Netherlands	Tonga
Colombia	New Zealand	Trinidad
Denmark	Nigeria	Vietnam
France	Philippines	West Germany

Yesterday, we received a few advance copies of the new ENVOY which is scheduled to be distributed at the Feast of Tabernacles. (The price will be \$25.) This deluxe edition of the ENVOY is being offered to all the ministers and members, but at present we do not plan to offer the next three editions of the ENVOY to the ministry or the membership of the Church. Mr. Armstrong thought that due to the cost and time necessary to produce a deluxe edition available to the entire Church, it would be best to produce one every fourth year. Thus much less expensive editions of the ENVOY for 1984, 1985, and 1986 will be produced and distributed only to the students of both campuses, members of the Faculty, the College Administration, Council of Elders, Directors of overseas offices and a few others.

My wife and I are planning to be in Springfield, Rolla, and Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, during the Feast of Trumpets and Sabbath following. We are to be in Corpus Christi, Texas for the Day of Atonement. (My oldest son, Bruce David, will be married in Corpus Christi right after Atonement, and asked me to officiate at his wedding.) Then we will return to Pasadena for a couple of days before leaving for the Feast of Tabernacles. We are certainly looking forward to this coming Feast, and I'm sure that all of you will also be looking forward to the fellowship and fun with God's people during this exciting season of the year!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

FROM MAIL PROCESSING

How Ministers of Other Churches Use Our Publications

Among the many readers and subscribers to our publications are ministers from various denominations. Many of them write in and tell us how much they have been helped, enlightened and inspired by Mr. Armstrong's teachings. Some incorporate the truths they have learned into their sermons or classes or assign the literature as reading material. A few have even encouraged members of their congregations to become regular subscribers! Following are some of the comments we have received:

Thank you for the unique PLAIN TRUTH magazine which has been coming into our home for many years. It is, as you have designated

it, "a magazine of understanding." I read other religious and secular magazines regularly for inspiration, information and enlightenment, but they fail to enlarge my understanding. When The PLAIN TRUTH arrives, I lay all other reading material aside and read it from cover to cover because I know I am reading the truth from you and your fact-finding editors.

(Americus, GA)

I am a preacher and am running short of sermon material. I find subjects for preaching in Mr. Armstrong's material. Keep up the good work!

(Mount Vernon, IL)

I teach Sunday school and love your booklets. I get approval from the pastor first, then teach the kids. I xerox some of the material and give it as required reading. The pastor also teaches the church some of what he learns from the booklets.

(Suitland, MD)

I heard about The PLAIN TRUTH from my priest. He is asking his whole congregation to subscribe to your magazine.

(West Point, VA)

I have just started to read your PLAIN TRUTH magazine. It's so interesting and inspiring. There are so many things in the Bible that are hard for me to understand, but I'm sure all will be made clear as I listen to Mr. Armstrong and read his literature. I pass my copies on to my pastor who is also a college professor. He is very pleased and shares them with his students. God bless you all and I hope you will carry on your good work for many more years.

(Dorchester, MA)

Our minister is basing his sermons on your Bible Correspondence Course. Could you send me lessons 1-4 to bring me up to date? The minister suggests we read the lessons before the sermon.

(Port Huron, MI)

The program shocked me today. I haven't been paying much attention before, but today I listened to the whole sermon. It seems I've believed the opposite. I've been a minister for over 30 years. It's kind of frightening to realize what I have been teaching may have been wrong.

(Milwaukee, WI)

I am a youth minister at my church and have found your magazine to be very helpful, insightful and understandable. Your messages have been transferred from the printed page to individuals through word and deed.

This is a pretty critical time for our young people and I believe they would all benefit from subscribing to your magazine (they are 17 to 20 years of age). I know that the message and love of God, through your magazine, will greatly enrich their spiritual lives.

(Cambria Heights, NY)

I'm a Baptist, but I just love you guys. I teach a Bible class and use lots of your literature in teaching my classes--I tell them who it's from, too!

I'm a deacon and the head of finances and know how much these pamphlets and things can cost, so I've been sending you donations.

Mr. Armstrong speaks the truth and makes it easy for everyone to understand and that's important. He also doesn't ask for money--that's another great thing. He makes it possible for everyone to receive the literature and that's spreading the Gospel for sure! Mr. Armstrong is doing a great job and he'll be rewarded one day.

(Orlando, FL)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE "BIG DROUGHT" DEEPENS; THE THREAT OF FAMINE TO MODERN SOCIETY The heat now bearing down hard across much of America's heartland continues to be severe, causing cities to swelter and farms to fail. So much damage has been done to croplands that already this year's drought has surpassed previous dry spells such as in 1980 and 1974 and even the drought of the mid '50s. It is without a doubt the most serious drought since the 1931-1936 "Dust Bowl" days of the Great Depression. And, who knows, this might be only the first year of a prolonged dry spell!

One of the most ironic twists of the current drought, which descended so quickly in the country--as if the "heavenly faucets" were abruptly turned off--is that it follows the most favorable soil moisture conditions in 50 years!

Our first article, entitled "1983 Drought Second Only to Dust Bowl Years," moved across our UPI teletype on August 29:

As this summer's sizzling heat drags on and crops wither for lack of rain, the drought has officially become the second worst in this century. With even hardy mesquite trees dying in West Texas, where it is drier than at any time since records were begun in 1892, the drought of 1983 is taking its place as the worst since the great Depression's "Dust Bowl" years.

Henry Thornton, 60, of Potomac, Ill., drove through devastated southeast Illinois last week as part of a statewide project to estimate crops and reported field after field destroyed by lack of rain. "We've had some dry years in the past--'54, '59, '66, '74, and '80," Thornton said, "but as far as being widespread, you have to go back to '36 to see it this bad."

The drought is especially bad because it has hit so hard in Iowa and Illinois, the No. 1 and No. 2 corn-producing states. They often escape droughts that more frequently hit the Great Plains.

In Washington, Norton Strommen, Chief Meteorologist for the Agriculture Department, concluded this year's crop moisture index

data are "probably approaching the 1930s in some ways, depending on how you juggle the figures." With the moisture index, zero signifies normal soil moisture. By mid-August, Georgia was at minus 4.5, east central Kansas and northeast Oklahoma were minus 4, southeastern Iowa was minus 3.4 and southwestern Illinois was minus 3.5. But no areas rate as low in soil moisture as the minus 5 and 6 levels at the end of the 1931-1936 Great Depression drought, Strommen said in an interview.

This year's drought began in early July with the most favorable soil moisture conditions in 50 years, and the winter wheat crop developed record yields before the drought began. In addition, Strommen said, the nation had record supplies of grain left over from past bountiful crops, and crops and grasses covering farmland prevented the dust clouds that characterized the Depression's drought.

Drought is not the only factor reducing the harvest of corn, a key livestock feed. This year, in response to depressed farm prices and large supplies, the Reagan administration launched the largest acreage cutback in history. [The "PIK" (Payment-in-Kind) program has been somewhat of a blessing in that considerable acreage has been allowed to lie fallow reducing the likelihood of a Dust Bowl, at least up until now.] An August 11 crop report pegged the corn harvest at 38 percent smaller than last year. But it will be even smaller because bad weather has persisted. The soybean crop, which is not part of the acreage cutback, is off at least 19 percent.

The LOS ANGELES TIMES of August 30, 1983, in an article datelined from Chicago, also examined the drought's expanding impact--now afflicting 28 U.S. states:

...Across the United States, farmers and ranchers are suffering heavy losses from the heat wave and drought of 1983, losses so great that agricultural economists are predicting that consumer food prices will rise between 5% and 8% in the next year....

Across the Texas rangeland ranchers are fighting to save their cattle by mounting "pear-burning" posses--using torches to burn the spines off cactus plants so cattle can eat them for moisture.

In Illinois, Gov. James R. Thompson Monday called this a "disastrous growing season" and "one of the worst years in memory" as he appealed for federal assistance in a letter to U.S. Agriculture Secretary John R. Block, an Illinois farmer himself. Block was scheduled to meet here Friday with governors and agriculture officials from 28 severely drought-stricken states.

In Indiana, Gov. Robert D. Orr called the drought a "devastating economic blow" when he declared an agricultural emergency last week and predicted that farmers in his state alone will suffer losses exceeding \$1 billion....

According to the Agriculture Department, formal requests for disaster assistance have been filed by Ohio, North Carolina and

Indiana, and additional claims are being considered in Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Iowa, where worried farmers rallied 2,500 strong last week to hear Republican Rep. James Leach call the drought "the worst disaster of our generation...."

Excruciating heat has not been the only weather factor bringing grief across the nation, which has witnessed a season fraught with such extremes as hurricanes and 100-degree-plus temperatures occurring simultaneously only a few states apart.

In Texas, [ironically lashed by] heavy rains from Hurricane Alicia, western portions of the state are experiencing the worst drought since the 1950s.... "Farmers are literally going out of business, shutting it down, liquidating," said Doug Zabel, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Agriculture. "It's beyond just a handful of farmers suffering economic damage. We're at the point where the drought is doing serious ecological damage that is going to take years to repair."

One rancher told a Texas agriculture official that he knew what rain looked like, but he has a 3-year-old daughter he hoped would get to see it someday.

Martin Abel, senior vice president of Schnittker Associates, a private economic agricultural forecasting firm, said the drought covers a bigger area and is longer lasting than either of the most recent droughts of 1980 and 1974.

In view of what could be the beginning of a prolonged dry spell, one wonders whether U.S. officials exulted too soon when, on August 26, the Soviet Union signed a long-term grain deal with the U.S. under which Moscow is to purchase \$10 billion worth of American wheat or corn over the next five years. Washington had been restricting agricultural sales to the U.S.S.R. as a result of Soviet behavior in Afghanistan and Poland. But President Reagan bowed to pressure from U.S. farmers to increase sales under a guaranteed contract in order to reduce surpluses and drive up farm prices.

Surpluses can be drained rather quickly, however, as a result of bad weather. The U.S. corn crop this year will be only 4.7 billion bushels, slightly over half of last year's record 8.4 billion bushel harvest. With the record 3.4 billion bushel surplus left from the previous two years, there still is expected to be a reserve of 1.5 billion bushels after export commitments and domestic needs. But what if next year is bad...and the next?

Significantly, the Soviets, bargaining hard, came off with what could be a dangerous--to the U.S.--guarantee. Tired of on-again, off-again access to the U.S. market, they obtained a pledge from the U.S. not to embargo its shipments during the five-year term of the pact. One wonders whether this provision also would prevail should the U.S. be faced with the prospect of domestic shortages. Which comes first, export obligations or domestic needs? Here, anyway, is how the August 26 LOS ANGELES TIMES expressed the guarantee given to the Soviets:

In an important concession on the American side, the agreement states that the U.S. government "shall not exercise any discre-

tionary authority available to it under United States law to control exports of commodities purchased for supply to the U.S.S.R." in accordance with tonnages set out in Article 1 of the agreement. This would appear to rule out any further grain-trade sanctions against the Soviet Union until the agreement expires in 1988....

After four poor harvests in a row, the Soviet Union now is reaping what appears to be its best grain harvest since 1978, estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 200 million tons. U.S. officials still expect the Soviets to import about 30 million tons this year, however, partly to replenish what are thought to be seriously depleted state reserves.

Could we thus begin to see the fulfillment of Deuteronomy 28:33: "A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor...?"

Famine Can Strike--Quickly!

When one thinks of famine and pestilence, especially in connection with the ravages of war, the mind often turns to the scourges of the Middle Ages or perhaps the aftermath of great and long-riding conflicts in Europe during the 1600s. But modern society, too, is vulnerable--perhaps many times more so--to the sudden and cataclysmic onset of famine. Just why is explained in an article in the August 19 issue of the TIMES of London entitled, "Famine, the Forgotten Enemy."

Though the linkage between war and hunger is well established, there is a tendency to forget how much starvation can contribute to the horrors that arise from a conflict. We remember the damage and death resulting from high-level bombing of cities during the Second World War to a far greater extent than the deaths caused by shortage of food. Of course, this can be partly explained by the fact that in Britain we did not suffer from shortages to the extent that real hunger resulted and that in the United States and Canada food supply was never a problem.

This state of affairs did not apply to other countries.... The siege of Leningrad, which lasted for some 900 days, resulted in a shortage of food such as no other industrialized city has ever experienced. More than half the population is thought to have perished from hunger. Equally, we tend to forget that the last winter of the Second World War led to such shortages of food in The Netherlands that only a few months before the liberation there was doubt whether the Dutch population would survive at all....

Even these events pale beside the great Bengal famine of 1942, which arose out of the disruption to supplies of food from countries farther east, notably Thailand and Burma, as a direct consequence of the global conflict. Twenty million people are supposed to have perished from hunger in Bengal. Nearly the same total died in the Soviet Union as a result of direct enemy action, yet the devastation in Bengal is barely remembered outside the Indian subcontinent.

During this century methods of agricultural production in the industrialized world have been changing rapidly, largely because of a substantial increase in mechanized methods.... The genetic potential of crops has also increased, the application of appropriate levels of fertilizers and pesticides has become routine and the cultivation of land and harvesting of crops takes place at the optimum time because of new machinery....

Livestock production has undergone a similar revolution. Cattle, pigs and poultry are now housed in heated and ventilated buildings with piped water and mechanized feeding. Vastly improved methods of hygiene, together with vaccines and medicines, control the most significant disease problems. Automated manure disposal, machine milking and automatic egg collection contribute to the low levels of labour required for livestock husbandry. All these systems depend on regular, uninterrupted supplies of electricity, liquid fuel and gas, and water.

While these changes have been taking place, a revolution has occurred in food distribution.... We now have a complex chain of food processing organizations, transferring farm produce from the countryside to a largely urban population. Food processing and distribution have become complex activities, heavily dependent on techniques such as pasteurization, freezing, freeze-drying and the application of chemical additives for preservation.

However, the effect of these changes has been to increase sharply the vulnerability of the food production supply chain. There are three critically essential inputs to the modern agricultural system: fossil fuels, electricity and water. A disruption to the availability of any, even for a few days, would have serious consequences. There are just not enough people available to milk cows by hand. Equally, if the electricity fails there will be no way to save the bulk of the milk produced. In the absence of water and ventilation, poultry in battery cages and broiler houses would have to be killed. Without fossil fuels it would become extremely difficult to distribute food....

Even if we totally ignore the nuclear dimension, well-directed attacks on power stations, water treatment plants, spare parts depots and fertilizer factories could completely disrupt our [Great Britain's] agricultural system, reducing production by perhaps four-fifths. The same would apply elsewhere in the industrialized world. The action of an enemy need not be directed even to food production centres, because power stations, distribution and transport networks and fuel depots would be natural targets in any conflict.

One should not ignore the possible effects of such a breakdown in the food distribution system on ordered behaviour. The possibility of a situation arising in which food was available only to a limited or to a selected part of the population would lead to wide-scale civil disorder. One may equally imagine the effects of hunger on the population of a nation which possesses nuclear weapons but does not wish to use them. If the inhabitants of Leningrad had known of such a major weapon they would eventually

have used it, no matter how greatly this offended their moral principles. Hunger is a powerful force.

Thus, as we head toward the completion of the 50th year of this era of God's Work, the impending calamity for Britain and the United States, proclaimed for so long by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, draws even nearer. Perhaps it is no coincidence that God's end-time warning message began, in early 1934, right in the heart of that previous great drought (and economic depression).

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau