

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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OCTOBER 14, 1983

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

October 12, 1983

Greetings from Pasadena. I hope all of you had an inspiring and fabulous Feast, wherever you were. Except for some sickness on my part, my wife and I had an outstanding Feast in Australia, where we visited three sites. We also visited the office there, as well as those in New Zealand and the Philippines. I had the opportunity to speak to the Auckland and Manila area churches as well. Even though our brethren were warm and friendly in all places, the Filipino brethren just couldn't be beat! We were pleased to have this first opportunity to visit the churches and offices in that part of the world.

Regarding the current financial picture of the Work, let me first say that the months of September and October are hard to compare with other years. The feasts do not occur at the same time each year according to the Roman year, and our financial data are, of necessity, related to that calendar. When we compare either month alone with a different year, the numbers will probably be distorted to one extreme or another. When both months are compared to the same period for a different year, a clearer picture of the trend is evident.

By itself, September was a terrible month, but income reports show we have started off October with a bang, even though the Mail Processing Center is several days behind. Overall, the trend is a good one, but we will not know for sure how good until the end of the month.

We do have preliminary figures on the holy day offerings for the year. They stand at about a plus 10.6% for the year. However, that figure may change slightly, depending on late mail-in offerings.

Even though my report is quite nebulous for now, the next report should bring everything into focus.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Instructions on Requesting Guest Speakers for U.S. Churches

Many church pastors have misunderstood how and when they should go about requesting a guest speaker for their church. Some have invited guest speakers for Y.O.U. events, for church socials, for tenth, fifteenth, and twentieth anniversaries, or for a Sabbath when two, three or more churches will be combining for whatever reason.

A little simple arithmetic will show how hopeless it would be to try to fill all these requests. With 42 Y.O.U. districts, there are 84 district week-ends per year. There are potentially 42 more track meets and 42 more talent contests, not to mention basketball and volleyball. Additionally, in our 404 U.S. churches there are combined church socials or events of every sort, not counting church anniversaries. (For specific policies regarding

church anniversaries, please refer to the February 4, 1983 PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT.) You can see that we simply cannot budget for sending guest speakers to these kinds of activities.

However, we will continue to budget for guest speakers for holy days as we have in the past. Holy days are, of course, much more special and appropriate times for visits, giving our brethren, as well as you ministers, a special boost to hear from Pasadena. We will continue to send out guest speakers on the first and last days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, and the Feast of Trumpets.

From time to time, due to special circumstances, we may send a guest on days other than these holy days. Also, Mr. Armstrong makes trips to various U.S. and Canadian churches. Please do not expect to have a holy day guest if your church has already been visited by Mr. Armstrong or another guest speaker--until all other U.S. churches have been visited. In this way, all churches will have a reasonable opportunity to hear from a visiting minister.

However, if you do have a special need or there are extenuating circumstances, please feel free to request a guest speaker. We will consider all such requests in light of the budget and other factors. Your request should be made in writing directly to Ministerial Services, not, as many have been doing, to the specific person you would like to visit your area. You should not personally invite anyone to come to your church to speak. (This does not include the normal bordering church visits you men work out from time to time among yourselves in your own local church areas, of course.)

In conclusion, if you do desire a guest speaker for a particular upcoming holy day, feel free to make that known. Often there are many factors that would make one time better than another. We will, as always, try to send a holy day guest speaker at the time most suitable and convenient to you and the other churches with which you may wish to combine. (Although, please realize, this is not always possible.) Once you have had a guest speaker, please remember that it could be a year or more before all other U.S. churches have had a guest speaker and your area has another turn. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

Year-end Tax Review

With the Feast now over, the end of the year rapidly approaches. It is time now to start putting your tax records in order for the tax return that will need to be filed early next year.

We want to remind you of a couple of the many items that you will need to consider in preparing your return. First, you should be sure to review your housing allowance to be certain that what you have set aside is the appropriate amount. Any amount that has been set aside and not spent during the year must be declared as income. On the other hand, any amount that was spent but not previously set aside cannot now be deducted. If you are in this situation, you may want to consider filing an updated Ministerial Housing Allowance form.

The other thing that you need to plan for is your expense records for both the monthly ministerial and second tithe allotments. Any unused allotment should be returned. Please make separate checks for second tithe funds and for the monthly allotment.

Regarding the monthly allotment, when your allotment check is mailed, it is sent in advance of projected expenses. At the end of the year, the total of all allotment checks will be added to your W-2 form as income. Unless you can sufficiently justify to the IRS the business expenses that match the expense allotments sent you, you will end up having to pay tax on it.

The allotment check is only to be used for Church business expenses. If you have received more expense money than you actually spent, you should return the excess to the Church. If you find that your allotment has exceeded your expense by a large amount, you may need to consider reducing the allotment. If you want to do this, please include a note to that effect with the check when you send it.

We need to receive any reimbursement checks by the middle of December in order to credit the amount to your W-2 statement. If we don't have it by then we can't be sure the necessary processing will get done. In that case, your W-2 statement would not reflect the returned money, and you would have to pay income tax on that amount. You will need to estimate your expense needs for the rest of the year to know how much to return.

International News

Report From Our British Office Although the year-to-date increase in mail in Britain and Ireland is just 2.2%, mail income is up 20% over 1982, and the month-to-date increase is 18%. This is due, in part, to a significant increase in co-workers (up 18.9% over 1982) and donors (up 10.2%).

PLAIN TRUTH circulation is holding well in this area at around 88,000 (up 19% over 1982) after reaching a peak of 92,000 earlier in the year. Circulation is sustained by a good response to our blow-in subscription card and newsstands.

Following editorial meetings at Elstree House in June, final approval was given by Mr. Armstrong for the launch of the seventh language edition of The PLAIN TRUTH! Mr. Armstrong has asked that the special 50th anniversary issue (February 1984) be the launch issue for the Norwegian PT, which can also be generally understood by the Swedish and Danish peoples. This means we have to get things moving even faster than we thought, but naturally it will be wonderful to launch the seventh language edition on the 50th anniversary as worldwide circulation approaches seven million!

Mr. Roy Ostensen, who has for some time been working voluntarily from home as part of our translation group of Norwegian members, was recently appointed as the Norwegian editor, and will take up the post in mid-October. It is intended that he will do much of the translating and editing work.

God's Work in the U.K. would like to express gratitude to God's Work in Canada for supplying all our newsstand copies since the April issue. The quantity was increased from 50,000 to 75,000 with the July/August issue, and these extra copies were used to increase the London distribution to 45,000; Birmingham and Manchester to around 7,000 each; and to open new outlets in Glasgow.

Initially, we experienced some resistance in Glasgow. We planned to reopen outlets used in the seventies in a well-known chain of stores. Our first

contact there was very negative and said he felt the magazine would be "explosive" since he saw Glasgow as a "divided city" and religion had played a part in the division.

Messrs. David Gunn and Tony Goudie flew up to see the Group News Manager with which the Church had dealt in the seventies. But even before they arrived, the door that had closed was amazingly reopened! This manager informed them that the "problems" had been a mistake, and we were welcome to open up in any of their stores in Britain.

We are following a policy of keeping our outlets in major city centres and airports where we get maximum turnover, exposure and control. When local shops are used as outlets we find that the area tends to be saturated quickly and response falls. The centres in which we concentrate our distribution have both regular and non-regular traffic, and we have found that the response rates have remained stable, averaging between 2.5% and 3%. Further new centres are being considered for the future.

New Zealand Update August, which is traditionally a very high income month for God's Work here, ended with the highest income ever received in New Zealand. The figure was an increase of 19.1% over last August, bringing the year-to-date figure to 17.2%.

The brethren in New Zealand were asked to pray about a gradual but constant decrease in numbers of co-workers and donors. We're happy to say that this trend has now been reversed, and there has been a steady increase in both co-workers and donors over the past six months. We now have 1,635 donors (up 5.5% over last year), with 507 of these having been added this year--an increase of 16.3% over the number added in the corresponding part of last year. Co-workers now number 728 (11.8% over last year), with 238 having been added so far this year--a fine increase of 73.7% over the number added in the first eight months of 1982.

Another encouraging factor is the continuing good influx of new visit requests--up 20.3% over the first eight months of last year.

Indonesian Report (From Australian Office) In early August, minister Bill Sidney, accompanied by John Curry from the Australian regional office, traveled to Indonesia to meet with our members there, as well as several others who had requested personal contact with the Church.

God's Work in Indonesia is still very small, with just six members throughout the predominantly Moslem country of 145 million people. However, interest is growing and Messrs. Sidney and Curry met with several people who expressed a strong desire to know more of God's truth.

They traveled to the three main islands of Java, Sumatra, and Kalimantan, and baptized an elderly man in the north Sumatra city of Permantang Siantar. He is a retired school teacher, and of the Batak tribe which, until the end of the last century, had the habit of killing and eating Christian missionaries. Today many of the people are outwardly Christian but they still retain many of their pagan religious customs. One of these is the drinking of blood, a practice reminiscent of the problem facing Gentile Christians in the early New Testament Church.

Another man visited during the trip was a retired one-star general of the Indonesian police force. Until his retirement several years ago, he had

been in charge of police investigations throughout the entire country. He began receiving The PLAIN TRUTH in 1956, and he mentioned how the principles explained in the magazine had been very helpful to him in his police work.

Our scattered members in Indonesia are visited once each year and they are able to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in Malaysia. They also receive sermon tapes from Australia on a regular basis. Despite their isolation from other members of God's Church and lack of regular Church services, they continue to remain solidly loyal to God's Work and Mr. Armstrong.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I want to thank you so much for making the Refreshing Program available to all local church elders. As farming is our living, we debated whether to take the time out of a busy season and the money it would take for us to make such a trip, but after only one day, we knew it was well worth it and of great benefit to us. We were able to attend the last session and learned so much from you and all the dedicated men who so diligently taught us each day.

It had been ten years since we had been to Pasadena and believe me, there was such a difference in the atmosphere of the campus. This time smiles and friendliness prevailed. We were treated royally. We were not only spiritually fed, but physically fed as well. God's Church is back on the track and we are thankful that we have the opportunity to be a part of it. We now feel we can better serve our brethren in the local church area. Thank you again.

Lyle and Faye Campbell

Mr. Joe Tkach:

I do want to thank you and all at Headquarters for all the work that went into making the twenty-first session of the Refreshing Program a success. It was certainly enjoyable being at God's college again--seeing the peace and harmony, meeting old friends, and making new ones. The two weeks there were certainly a wonderful learning experience. I do feel "refreshed" and loaded with much useful information to give to God's people.

David Carley

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Though in the midst of moving to another church area when we came to Pasadena, Sandee and I found the two weeks to be truly refreshing, encouraging, helpful, and even relaxing.

It is hard to adequately thank you and the rest of the team at Headquarters for all that you give to us when we are there. The fine example of service, concern, and, above all, the support for Mr. Armstrong which all of you show reflects your willingness to submit to God, His government, His Spirit.

Garvin and Sandee Greene

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

PITTSBURGH, PA--DON LAWSON: The Church here is growing spiritually. It seems that most everyone feels the urgency of the times. We are also growing in attendance and new PMs. People are more aware and stirred to back Mr. Armstrong and get the work done.

PARKERSBURG, WV--STEVE BOTHA: There are two continuing positive factors: 1) new PMs are solid and highly motivated; 2) former Y.O.U. members continue to stay with the Church. Several are now seeking to be baptized. God is certainly blessing the Y.O.U. program and is calling these young people.

LUBBOCK, TX--KEITH WALDEN: Many young people are coming along toward baptism. They see the fruits of this way of life in their parents and others.

FLORENCE, AL--LAWSON TUCK: This area is not experiencing much numerical growth at this time, yet the people are solidly behind Mr. Armstrong and Headquarters. Many are working diligently on the PT newsstand program and are really making an effort to serve.

GRAND RAPIDS, MI--BILL MILLER: Media coverage--including two TV stations and a radio station--has members excited. Adding sixteen stores through the S.C.S. was a big boost to the area, raising our newsstand PT allotment from 9,000 to potentially 12,000. Members are anxious to do whatever they can to do the Work!

PROVIDENCE, RI--JIM FRANKS: We have now baptized 30 people between the two churches this calendar year. The new supermarket program for the PT is much appreciated! Our numbers will be increasing from 10,000 to 25,000 in Providence alone!

BANNING-GLENDORA-SAN BERNARDINO, CA--JAMES PEOPLES: Mr. Armstrong's taped sermons always have a very, very favorable impact on the local congregations. Many comment on how dramatically God is involved in all that Mr. Armstrong does and what an obvious miracle from God it is that he is able to continue at the pace and under the pressure he endures. They are impressed with his unflagging enthusiasm and determination to carry on, and his obvious care and concern for us all.

VICTORIA, TX--DENNIS VAN DEVENTER: God has really extended His protection to His people in this area during the recent hurricane. While so many others lost lives and homes, we were spared. Mr. Armstrong's tapes came at a very good time for this area.

KENOSHA, WI--FELIX HEIMBERG: Mr. Armstrong's recent letter, coupled with Mr. Waterhouse's visit, has had a profoundly positive impact on the membership, especially in terms of grasping the "big picture."

Y.O.U. UPDATEY.O.U. National Essay Contest

It's time for the 1983 National Essay Contest! Essays of the past have given us a great deal of insight into the youth of God's Church. Last year we had a tremendous response and look forward to an even greater one this year.

The title for this year's essay will be, "What I Think I Will Be Doing in the Millennium." Again this year, there will be junior and senior divisions. Prizes for the junior division will be: first place--\$50, second place--\$25, third place--\$10; with \$100, \$50, and \$25 being given to the first, second and third place winners in the senior division. As usual, the essays must be typewritten, no longer than three pages doublespaced, and must be postmarked no later than December 31, 1983. Results of the contest will be announced around the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Please refer to the Y.O.U. Manual for more details. You may call the Y.O.U. Office if you have any questions.

--Kevin O. Dean, Y.O.U.

FROM MEDIA SERVICES

**** TO BE ANNOUNCED ****

Young Ambassadors Videotapes

For those who missed picking up a Young Ambassadors Festival Videotape Order Form at the Feast, one will be available in the upcoming October 24 WORLDWIDE NEWS. Just clip it out and send it in. This will be your last chance to order Young Ambassadors videotapes. Forms sent in must be postmarked no later than November 25, 1983.

--Larry Omasta, Media Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

Everything has returned to normal here on campus since we have returned from the Feast. We have had many, many reports from various students, faculty and members in general who had a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles. Many thought it was "the best ever!"

My wife and I certainly enjoyed the Feast very much. We spent the first part of the Feast at Sacramento, California. This was the first year that the Feast of Tabernacles was held in Sacramento and it proved to be a very fine feast site. Mr. Joel Lillengreen did a very fine job as Festival Director. For the last half of the Feast, my wife and I were in Spokane, Washington. We have used this feast site for several years. All went well there, and Mr. Roger Foster also did a fine job as Festival Director in that area. Eve and I appreciated the opportunity to visit with many of you ministers and your wives while at Sacramento and Spokane.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

EDITORIAL SERVICES UPDATENorwegian PT to Begin in February

Beginning with the 50th anniversary issue of The PLAIN TRUTH in February, 1984, the seventh language edition of the magazine will be instituted. The Norwegian PLAIN TRUTH, Den ENKLE SANNHET, will be coordinated from our offices in Borehamwood, England, by regional director Frank Brown and David Gunn, PLAIN TRUTH circulation manager there. Mr. Brown and Mr. Gunn also oversee the printing of the British, German, Dutch and Italian editions of The PLAIN TRUTH. The other two languages are French and Spanish.

After the expanded special February issue, the Norwegian PLAIN TRUTH's second issue will appear in April when it will be integrated into the regular monthly PLAIN TRUTH schedule.

--Dexter H. Faulkner, Editorial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGFeast Volunteers Serve on the WATS Lines

Four hundred brethren attending the Feast of Tabernacles in Pasadena took the opportunity to serve on the Work's Wide Area Telephone Service (WATS). They answered 29,006 phone calls, most of which were in response to "The WORLD TOMORROW" program.

The volunteers were from countries around the world: Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa, France, England, the Caribbean, Canada, and the United States. Their enthusiasm, zeal, and cooperation exemplified the spirit of teamwork and unity that prevailed throughout the Feast.

Mail Count Soars During Feast

Now that the Feast of Tabernacles is over, Mail Processing employees are busy tackling the mountain of mail that arrived during the festival break. Some 500,000 pieces accumulated! This is substantially more than in previous years. With many employees putting in overtime, we expect to be caught up with most of the backlog in three to four weeks.

Some Delays in Visit Requests Anticipated

Because the office was closed for the Feast and we received a higher amount of mail than usual, we expect some of the ministerial visit requests to be delayed. Top priority will be given to these requests, but they may be two or three weeks old by the time they reach you. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Young Ambassadors Impress TV Audience

Many people called or wrote to say how inspired they were by Mr. Armstrong's September 10-11 telecast featuring the Young Ambassadors. They were impressed by the high quality of the performance, the beautiful campus grounds, and the example of the students. A few remarked that the program helped give them a foretaste of the Millennium. Following are some of the comments we received:

I have been watching the program for ten years and have never seen a better show. It was just wonderful tonight! I was so impressed with the students, the singing, the beautiful colors and those lovely campuses. It was such a difference from the regular program and so different from what we see on TV.

I pray that Mr. Armstrong may live for many more years! Please tell him how much I appreciate a program like the one tonight. Soothing and peaceful and reminiscent of better years--not like what we see in the world today.

J.P. (New Jersey)

I thought today's program with the Young Ambassadors was outstanding. I enjoy quality and feel the program showed quality in the photography, music and education. I would like to see the campus again on the program.

E.N. (Virginia)

I wanted to write and tell you how great the telecasts on TV have been lately. They have been very encouraging and I learn more and more every time. Two of my fellow co-workers this past Sunday watched your program with me which featured segments from last year's Feast show. They were interested and enjoyed the show as far as I could see.

I attend college at Northern Kentucky University and I can definitely tell a big difference between the students at Ambassador and my college campus. People on my campus have no purpose and are very unhappy in some cases. At times it depresses me to see people who have no hope. Someday I hope I'll have the privilege to attend Ambassador and see exactly what true education is really like.

T.C. (Highland Heights, KY)

Seeing the Young Ambassadors Sunday on TV (and having the blessing of my unconverted husband watching with me) was so exciting. My heart felt like it would soon take off just like the hot air balloon. What an uplifting show.

Seeing you working as the song "You'll Never Walk Alone" was sung brought tears. I guess we would all like to tell you again and again that very thing. We love and appreciate your many sacrifices. You are such an example for us to follow. We just say "thanks" again for your dedication and service.

Mrs. V.J. (Endicott, WA)

I am writing to express our thanks to you for your television program every Sunday, and especially to tell you how much we enjoyed today's program with the Young Ambassadors singing around the Big Sandy and Pasadena campuses. It was so beautiful it brought tears to my eyes. As I was watching it came to mind how it did picture a small part of the world tomorrow.

B. & N.W. (Superior, WI)

Two of my three children and I just finished watching "The WORLD TOMORROW" program, featuring the Young Ambassadors. They sat

transfixed through the entire program. My daughter remarked how "good" they are. Toward the end, my five-year-old son said, "I hope it's not going to be over soon!"

When the program was over, we talked a little about what it will be like when Christ returns--something they were quite interested in after seeing the beautiful scenery at the Ambassador Colleges. Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for the excellent visual aid to use in teaching my young children about God's plan!

V.M. (Toledo, OH)

The program of September 10, 1983 was different and entertaining. The vocal "You'll Never Walk Alone" by the Young Ambassadors had me on my feet and singing along. Thank you for such a good weekly program and the many publications I have received.

E.H. (Philadelphia, PA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

Editor's Note: No PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT was produced for the week ending October 7.