

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

From Bonn, West Germany November was a record-breaking month for advertising responses in the German-speaking areas, due to the advertising campaign started in October. For this month alone 37,344 new subscribers were added to the KLAR & WAHR subscription list--which is more than the total number we added in all of 1980! So far, our Fall advertising campaign has brought in a total of 77,734 responses for The PLAIN TRUTH in six language editions. Of this total, 67,000 were requests for the German-language edition.

By the end of November, the weekly news magazine DER SPIEGEL brought in a total of 10,313 responses. However, the best results came from the READER'S DIGEST magazine DAS BESTE in Germany and Switzerland. The total number of responses was 24,334.

Incoming mail for the month of November was up 75% over November of last year, and up 26% year to date over 1982. This is mainly due to the excellent advertising responses. Mail income for this month increased 25.6% over last November, and for the year to date the increase is 4.4%.

At the end of November Mr. Frank Schnee and Mr. John Karlson traveled to Czechoslovakia for meetings regarding preparations for the 1984 Feast of Tabernacles in Brno. As with this past Feast, we will be able to accept 260 people, 160 to 180 of whom will come from overseas. Mr. Karlson mentioned that God has really held the door wide open so that our East German brethren can have a chance to experience the Feast the way God intended. He also noted that the Czechoslovakian officials had said that through our keeping the Feast in Brno we have had a very positive impact on those we come in contact with. They also said that there is no other convention like ours and are desirous of our people coming over for the Feast.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

FROM MAIL PROCESSING

TV Audience Shaken by Programs About Nuclear War

The recent television movie "The Day After" had a tremendous impact on the viewing audience, making them plainly aware of the terrifying results a nuclear war would have. Man's helplessness in the face of such a calamity was clear from the panel discussion following the movie.

Mr. Armstrong keenly recognized the confusion and despair among the panel and used this theme in the telecast, "Can Mankind Survive Nuclear War?" shown December 17 and 18. Thousands responded to the program and many commented about nuclear war and the dangerous age in which we live. People are fearful and concerned, yet they find hope and reassurance in Mr. Armstrong's confident explanations of Biblical prophecy. Following are some of the comments received:

It seems to me that only God can solve the problems of nuclear war and Mr. Armstrong is very good at bringing that out. No one else, including all those people at the nuclear conference, seems to realize that.

A.F. (East Meadow, NY)

Your weekly program is great; your voice is truly proclaiming God's true words. I try never to miss it. When they showed "The Day After" on another network, everyone I know had fear when they saw it. But it was nothing compared to your program, which showed a real nuclear explosion.

T.S. (Babylon, NY)

The topic "The Day After" caught my eye because I missed the original movie. The program was very good. I would like to get back into a study of prophecy since the Bible does say Christ will come as a thief in the night! I was very much absorbed by the program.

J.W. (Tulsa, OK)

Mr. Armstrong really awakens something in you to get to thinking deeply--not in fear, but to face reality. Most people don't like to face reality because they're afraid of it. Mr. Armstrong wasn't out to frighten people, but his message really gets you to thinking more seriously about life.

L.N. (Oakland, CA)

I do not know if it was just a coincidence or the will of God that you came on with the program "The Great Tribulation" (Satan's wrath on mankind) right after the terrible movie "The Day After" was over.

Anyway, I only wished that all the millions of people who watched this horror movie would have tuned into your "WORLD TOMORROW" program in order to get the real message about this disaster. Maybe then they would tune in more often and get a real understanding of what is actually ahead of us, if we--nationally speaking as well as individually--do not repent and turn around to go the right way.

G.H. (Woodridge, NJ)

I watched most of the movie "The Day After" before I had to prepare for work. I thought that it needed even more punch to wake our nation to the reality of our times. Thankfully we have a living God at hand to hear and help us.

The sad thing is that our nation does not want to listen to why it shall happen and how to prevent it in our age. People are blind to the real truth of Christ now.... The people at work know my belief and although they want no part of it, they still feel me out as to what is to come.

D.G. (Waterloo, IA)

Last night I watched "The Day After" and listened to much of the comments. There were several things that made me mad. First, they didn't show it as bad as it would be. Second, (at least in

the Washington, D.C. area) one of the commercials was one of Satan's ministers telling people to call for a way out. Third, the "experts" kept telling people they had to try to do what they could to make sure such a war never happened, but they couldn't tell the people what to do!

You (Mr. Armstrong) have been telling them for years! But nobody had the guts to tell all those concerned, worried and hopeless people to turn to the living God and keep His laws that it may be well with them.

J.F. (Winchester, VA)

I believe that if they would make a movie about your book, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, it would have a much more startling national effect than did the movie "The Day After," and it would be much more to the nation's benefit.

R.D. (Avon Lake, OH)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

JESSE JACKSON: A "DRIVEN MAN" RUNNING HARD FOR WORLD'S TOP ELECTED POST

"You can't argue with success," replied President Ronald Reagan to a question about the private mission of Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson to Syria to free captured U.S. Navy airman Lt. Robert Goodman, Jr. For the energetic, ambitious Jackson, a 42-year-old black Baptist minister and civil rights leader, the mission was a feather in his cap. He can now point to his success in the field of foreign policy, an area his detractors claimed he was short on. Jackson himself put his personal diplomacy on the level of presidential breakthroughs of the past, such as Richard Nixon's historic visit to China in 1972.

It is almost certain, however, that it was not Jackson's persuasive talking in his private conversation with Syria's President Assad that resulted in Goodman's release. The shrewd Syrian leader is not talked into or out of anything. Assad saw that it was to Syria's advantage to release the captured airman to someone who publicly dissented from the U.S. Administration policy on the Middle East. (Jackson said he told Assad that there was a growing groundswell of American public opinion to pull U.S. troops out of Lebanon, and that by releasing Lt. Goodman, Syria could encourage this process further.) That Jackson further dissents from the official government line on key issues is indicated by the fact that while he was in Syria, his wife went (again) to Nicaragua and, while there, publicly praised the country's Marxist leaders. Here is how the WALL STREET JOURNAL of January 4, 1984 viewed the Jackson mission:

President Assad of Syria apparently decided that it suited his own political needs to release a black hostage to a man seeking Ronald Reagan's job. With Western press cameras whirring, the Syrian no doubt hoped to boost Mr. Jackson's status with American voters and maybe subtract a little from Mr. Reagan. As Mr. Jackson has been sympathetic to various Arab causes, President Assad could gain a little extra mileage from this exercise in manipulating the internal politics of the U.S.

This is not intended as a criticism of Mr. Jackson. A politician is entitled to attempt any honorable feat of derring-do that will help get votes....

While Mr. Jackson was in Damascus cashing in on his good relations with the Arabs, his wife, Jackie Jackson, was making use of the American free speech franchise in Nicaragua. Traveling with a group of women that included former Congresswoman Bella Abzug, Mrs. Jackson gave the communists who run Nicaragua a friendly pat. "My presence in Nicaragua is to raise the consciousness of the American people and to make them recognize the struggle here for peace and free self-determination," said she of a regime exercising self-determination by turning the country over to Cuba and the Soviet Union.

If there is a danger it is that Mr. Jackson's campaign will use Lt. Goodman's release as an excuse to portray the U.S. as the bad guy in the Middle East and the world generally.

The same issue of the JOURNAL had an interesting background piece on Mr. Jackson. This information might be of special interest to those of you who do not live in the United States and are generally unfamiliar with the background of this rising political star:

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a self-described "prophet on a political mission," likes to set himself above mere politicians. Actually, as his Syrian triumph demonstrates anew, he possesses an uncanny political instinct for the main chance, the big score....

What drives Jesse Jackson is a haunting fear of rejection, a fear that seemingly persists despite his public triumphs. It is the unifying theme of this black man's supercharged presidential campaign, which seeks to forge a "coalition of the rejected" among blacks, Hispanics and the downtrodden. Recently, in the midst of an impassioned speech that held his audience spellbound, Mr. Jackson turned startlingly personal, opening a doorway to reveal this fear--and a central part of his character. "When I was in my mother's belly," he told his Los Angeles audience, "(I had) no father to give me a name." When he was a child, he added, "they called me bastard and rejected me."

These days the crowds cheer. Even before his success in Syria, the polls showed that the 42-year-old Baptist minister had, almost overnight, jumped into third place in the eight-man contest for the Democratic nomination. Yet a part of him remains in the Greenville, S.C., of the 1940s--a boy bumping up against the daily humiliations of the segregated South, living in one house with his mother and her husband while painfully aware that his biological father lived next door. "Humiliation--that's really the fuel that pushes Jesse," says his half-brother, Noah Robinson. "He has this insatiable need to prove he's the best."

This driven man is easily the most eloquent candidate, of either party, in the contest.... "I grew up living in the occupied zone," he says, speaking of the white-dominated South of the 1940s. "My experience in life has been that one must struggle to

turn adversity to advantage. One way to overcome your oppressor is to outdistance him."

But at other times, he plays down that childhood, particularly his bittersweet family life. "There was pain there, but it didn't leave scar tissues," he says. "I was adopted--but I was never orphaned." Mr. Jackson has often spoken of the circumstances of his birth. His mother is the former Helen Burns, who was then an unmarried high-school student; his father is Noah Louis Robinson, a married man who lived next door. His last name comes from Charles Henry Jackson, who married his mother when Jesse was two, and later adopted him formally. But Mr. Robinson, his wife and family continued to live next door during Jesse's growing-up years. When the boy discovered the truth, the pain cut deep....

Out of this childhood came a fierce drive to excel. Jesse Jackson was an honor student, student-body president and first-string quarterback at North Carolina A&T State University. By 1963, with the civil-rights struggle building toward a climax, he was leading demonstrations against segregated restaurants and theaters.

The U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, in its December 19, 1983 issue, analyzed the Jackson phenomenon, in particular the spellbinding oratory that grips his wildly-cheering audiences.

The 42-year-old civil-rights leader and Baptist minister... already is assured of going into the history books for mounting the first serious bid by a black for the Presidency. Yet Jackson is out to make more than a symbolic run for the White House. He portrays his candidacy as an almost holy crusade to focus attention on the needs of what he calls an ignored "rainbow coalition" of minorities, the poor, women and elderly--a "mission to lift the boats stuck on the bottom."...

For Democratic leaders, the good news of the Jackson challenge is a potential harvest of as many as 3 million new black voters. The bad news is that he could split the party with his demands, or leave blacks even more frustrated and politically apathetic than before if his run is as short-lived as many predict....

For blacks, many count on Jackson's candidacy--spawned amid the deafening roars of "Run, Jesse, Run"--to force all candidates to pay more attention to the needs of minorities and to blaze the way for a generation of black candidates at all levels of government....

People find it nearly impossible to be indifferent to Jackson, a stylishly dressed figure of 6 feet 2 inches and 200 pounds who looks more like a movie star than a clergyman-politician. Admirers see him as handsome, witty, articulate and sincere. Detractors reject him just as vigorously as arrogant, ruthless, unpredictable and egotistic....

Even opponents admit that he may be the most spellbinding orator around--not excepting President Reagan. He electrifies blacks--

and alarms some whites--by declaring of the nation's establishment: "We picked their cotton. We cooked their food. We nursed their babies. Now we can run their cities. We can run their states. We will run the country."

Offering himself as a messenger of change, Jackson hypnotizes crowds by chanting in the rhythm of the pulpit: "If you want someone to feed the hungry, here am I. Send me! If you want someone to clothe the naked, here am I. Send me! If you want someone who can pull this nation together--black, white, brown, old, young--here am I. Send me!"

Audiences come to their feet cheering when Jackson talks of leading a drive "from the slave ship to the championship, from the guttermost to the uttermost, from the outhouse to the courthouse and from the statehouse to the White House."...

In 1971, Jackson founded a black self-help group called People United to Save Humanity, or Operation PUSH--later changed to People United to Serve Humanity. He stumped the country urging young blacks to stay in school, study hard and help improve the lot of their people. His cry of "I am somebody!" captivated pupils in city after city. As president of Operation PUSH--a \$52,000-a-year post from which he is now on leave--Jackson used the threat of boycotts to win "economic trade agreements" from such companies as Coca-Cola [and] Heublein...that pledged more jobs and business opportunities for blacks.... Operation PUSH has been accused of wasting federal funds and has been audited at least eight times by government accountants. A government spokesman says no fraud was found. In dispute is the spending of 2 million of 5 million dollars in federal grants.

THE NEW YORK TIMES magazine, in its November 27, 1983 edition notes that the Jackson campaign is capitalizing on the perception among black voters that the Reagan Administration, in emphasizing economic development in private industry and trying to reduce the role played by the government, is somehow antithetic to black interests. In politics, perception often counts more than reality.

More than any other segment of American society, blacks feel, rightly or wrongly, that they have been singled out by an Administration with little understanding of or sympathy for their plight. Many of them believe they have borne the brunt of its drive to reduce the budget and the Federal role in governing the country. They also believe that President Reagan and his Administration are hostile to their interests....

Jesse Jackson is riding the crest of this wave of black political activity. The message of his candidacy and of the voter-registration drive generally is clear and urgent: Get rid of Reagan. In the process, blacks hope to help return the Senate to Democratic control, strengthen the Democratic majority in the House, elect more blacks as mayors, judges and state legislators, and support white liberals and moderates....

Many blacks have serious problems with Jackson, and they boil down to mistrust. Some leaders and many middle-class blacks see

Jackson as an egotistical publicity seeker and self-promoter, even a demagogue. Many believe Jackson's effort will unnecessarily divide the black community....

Jackson's penchant for unpredictable behavior can have an alienating effect. His trip to Europe last summer was, for many, an irritating example. In London, he announced an impromptu plan for a petition drive for 100 million signatures calling for South Africa to end apartheid. When pressed about who would organize and pay for such a drive, he suggested the peace movement, a suggestion promptly rejected by some of its leaders. In the Netherlands, he undiplomatically repeated to the press his conversation with Queen Beatrix. In West Berlin, he failed to show up for breakfast with the Lord Mayor.

Columnist Si Frumkin of the Los Angeles Jewish daily newspaper, ISRAEL TODAY (Nov. 18, 1983 edition), objected to what he said was the "neo-racist" mentality represented by the Jackson campaign.

The thing that seems to be forgotten is that the laws ending discrimination and the opinions that upheld these laws were passed by whites.... Now Jesse Jackson is running for President.... He doesn't even attempt to imply that he would be the President of all Americans, no, he wants more power for the Blacks, the Hispanics, the Orientals, and lately, the Arab-Americans. His rhetoric is frighteningly similar to that used by the Southern segregationists in the bad old days when they defended the...inviolability of segregated lunch counters.... History passed them by; it is no longer politically profitable to be a racist, unless, of course, like Jackson and his ilk you are a neo-racist, the "good kind" of racist, a racist on behalf of his people and his race.

The August 22, 1983 issue of TIME magazine had Jesse Jackson on its cover, with the title, "Seeking Votes and Clout--a New Black Drive for Political Power." The article showed the potential impact on the 1984 campaign of Jesse Jackson's voter registration drive. He may not be the ultimate recipient of these votes, but the Democratic party certainly will be.

If black voter participation increases 25% by the time of the general election, Reagan could lose eight states that he won in 1980--Alabama, Arkansas, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee--even if he should get the same percentage of white votes he did then. In Alabama, for example, where Reagan won by 17,462 votes, there were 272,390 unregistered blacks. Even in New York there are 900,000 unregistered blacks (55% of those eligible), more than five times as many as Reagan's 1980 margin of victory there.

Jesse Jackson is given virtually no chance of gaining the top spot on the 1984 Democratic ticket. Still, nearly all political analysts believe that the charismatic candidate will have an important role to play in the '84 election campaign. His shadow over the Democratic convention in San Francisco this summer is lengthening. There is even a discernable movement afoot to have him considered for the vice-presidential slot on the ticket.

The high-risk gamble that Jackson undertook in Syria paid off handsomely in incredible amounts of free television newstime exposure. He eclipsed normal coverage of his Democratic opponents, leaving them begrudgingly complementing him on his venture. When he appeared at the White House with Lt. Goodman to receive thanks from President Reagan, it looked like he was campaigning from the Rose Garden, not Mr. Reagan. Long known as a "media bug" he played the media to the hilt, granting one exclusive interview after another. One reporter who had been covering the stale campaign of John Glenn, an unexciting personality, asked to be transferred to the Jackson campaign. It was, he said like "going from boredom to rock 'n' roll."

One of Jackson's supporters, a minister from Massachusetts, said that "in this year's campaign, the fervor factor is going to be important." Many of Jackson's top advisors are clergymen, especially black Baptist ministers. Increasingly, Jackson is shaping his campaign as a moral crusade. Europeans only thought they had seen the end to U.S. morality-in-politics with the defeat of President Jimmy Carter in 1980.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau