

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 6, NO. 16

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 20, 1984

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Recent Ordinations

Three ordinations took place in Pasadena during the afternoon service of the first holy day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, together with evangelists Joseph Tkach and Ellis La Ravia, elevated Mr. Richard Ames to evangelist rank. Then Mr. Ames joined them in ordaining Mr. Richard Rice to the same rank. Following these two ordinations, Mr. Robin Webber, associate pastor of the Auditorium P.M. congregation, was raised to pastor rank, with hands being laid on him by Mr. Armstrong and the four evangelists. Also that same day, Mr. Norman Smith ordained Mr. Jerold Aust to pastor rank during services in San Diego.

International News

From the British Office On March 21st, Mr. Colin Passmore, Managing Director of Ambassador Press Ltd., Radlett, hosted a celebration in honour of the 50th anniversary of The PLAIN TRUTH. Regional Director Frank Brown, Business Manager Francis Bergin, and all the staff involved in the publishing operation here were invited to a special buffet lunch at Ambassador Press.

Mr. Passmore presented two special plaques to Mr. Brown, one showing the 50th anniversary PT cover and the second the very first issue of The PLAIN TRUTH. In his speech Mr. Passmore commented on the friendly relationship that exists between the Church and Ambassador Press, and expressed his appreciation of the cooperation shown.

Mr. Michael Passmore, chairman of the Passmore Print Group, reaffirmed his appreciation of the "nice relationship" which exists. He congratulated the Church on its 50th anniversary and looked forward to the next 50 years.

Gold lapel badges representing the 50th anniversary PLAIN TRUTH were presented to both Messrs. Passmores, as well as a plaque engraved with a message of thanks from the staff of the Publishing Services departments in Pasadena and U.K. for the service provided by Ambassador Press.

In Elstree House, the new mini-computer has been installed, and terminals are being installed to give all key departments (including the Business Office, Festival Office and Publishing Services) the ability to perform their functions more efficiently. In addition, two micro-computers are now in use with software facilities for budgetary (spreadsheet) work, word processing, data storage and graphics. Other software can be added as required, giving the micros almost unlimited potential to assist the growing work of God's Church in this area.

PLAIN TRUTH circulation in the United Kingdom and Eire continues to grow, with subscriber circulation 38.1% up on this time last year. The number of co-workers on file is also up by an encouraging 17.3%. Even more en-

couraging is the increase in donors, up 28.4%. The year-to-date increase in mail income is 11%.

The recent series of advertisements in U.K. national papers, asking "What Next for Britain?" continue to draw a good response. The SUNDAY TIMES COLOUR SUPPLEMENT has drawn a 1.2% response to date, and READER'S DIGEST 1.1%. The most recent insertion in the OBSERVER COLOUR SUPPLEMENT at the beginning of March has drawn a 0.95% response. These response rates are remarkable and we feel that these advertisements do take the best approach to the British readership. Incidentally, on all but one of these advertisements the cost per response has been well under £2:00 (approximately \$2.90), which is extremely good "value for money."

Scandinavia: The ads in Scandinavia offering The PLAIN TRUTH in the Norwegian and English languages have brought a mixed response, with response levels to date ranging from 0.1 to 0.5%. However, responses do not arrive at Elstree House until, on the average, two weeks from the date the advertisement appears. Though it is early yet, we are confident that the Norwegian file will grow steadily throughout the coming weeks. Incidentally, it is interesting to note that 3% of the responses to the U.K. newsstand PLAIN TRUTH in February and March were requests for the Norwegian edition. Since the outlets are situated in the London Underground (subway), we have exposure to many nationalities, and receive requests for all language editions.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife Pam and I will long remember our experiences during the first week of Refresher III. The maturity and wisdom all the presenters exhibited was remarkable. The scheduling appeared carefully planned so as to get the most possible learning into a relatively short time.

This is our first time on campus since a brief visit in 1975. We found the dramatic change in spirit and attitude adding greatly to the joy of the learning experience. It is evident you are on the right track educationally too.

Our first day there stands out somewhat above the others since we once again were able to sit at the feet of God's Apostle who dug out and made palatable the godly principles we live by. We also deeply appreciate your words and the honor and respect shown each of us.

Warren and Pam Waian

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Please express our gratitude to all for the excellent Refreshing Program. Words cannot express, however, what a great blessing it is to be part of this great work and receive the training, guidance and encouragement God's people receive from the top down.

Marie and I were discussing what being a member of God's Church means to us. Certainly our marriage would not have been as happy as it is. God only knows what our children would have been like--

although I have an idea what they could have been, seeing how unhappy children in the world are. Blessing after blessing has come our way, not only in material things but especially in peace of mind and contentment, knowing how right God's way is.

If it were not for the men who were willing to teach us that way we would be like the rest of mankind. Men, especially like Mr. Armstrong, the prophets and apostles of old have led the way, having instructed and shown by example what true love of and faith in God is. That same spirit permeates and radiates from Headquarters. We hope we can carry that spirit to our own congregations, inspiring them as all of you have inspired us.

Arthur and Marie Docken

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Abundant Fruits of God's Church

God's Church has experienced sustained growth at high levels since 1979, when Mr. Armstrong began to put things back on track. For example, in 1983, 61.5 million publications were sent out in the United States, while just four years ago the total was about half of that (31 million).

Television coverage also expanded from 49 U.S. stations in 1979 to 201 by the end of 1983.

Other areas of God's Church have also increased steadily. The following figures show the average growth per year over the past four years:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Increase per Year Since 1979</u>
Mail Income	14%
GOOD NEWS Circulation	18%
Mail Received	19%
New Co-workers	24%
PLAIN TRUTH Circulation	32%
Correspondence Course Enrollments	41%
TV Response (letter and telephone)	114%

As we've mentioned before, this present year is on course to break all records once again. We thought you would be encouraged by this information, which shows the tremendous work God is doing through His Church.

Readers Enlightened About the Sabbath

As people read our literature, many come to understand the truth about God's Sabbath day. This profound new knowledge often stirs them to a deeper study of the subject. Some even begin to observe the Sabbath immediately in the best way they know how. Others are prompted to request more information through ministerial visits. Following are some of the letters we've received, which express reaction to discovering the truth about God's Sabbath.

I am writing to tell you how much I have appreciated your books concerning the Bible. I just finished WHICH DAY IS THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH? and I feel so enlightened I just want to run out and tell everybody. This book made so many things that were unclear, clear. I am so happy! I feel that your ministry is getting down to the bare facts and that's what the world needs.

C.L. (New York, NY)

I have just completed reading THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. To express my joy in this revelation is something in which my vocabulary limits me. All who read this book surely must have their eyes opened!... When my employer returns from a trip, I'm asking for Saturdays off so that I can keep God's Sabbath. I fear for my job, but if it's God's law, then so be it!

S.B. (Livermore, CA)

I have just finished reading WHICH DAY IS THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH? Needless to say it is a provoking and challenging booklet that faces the existing churches of the world with a truth that is contrary to their very doctrines; a truth that should deliver them, but may very well condemn them.

At this present time I believe that there is a separation taking place. The righteous are being called from out of the presence of the wicked. Please send a minister who will explain the obligations and/or the requirements to join the Worldwide Church of God and partake of fellowship with you.

J.D. (Jersey City, NJ)

After hearing you speak on television I sent for and have received THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, and have read it. When I got to the part about the Sabbath I was shocked. Sunday has always been "the Lord's day."

I went to see my priest to prove you wrong. I asked him what is the FIRST day of the week according to the Bible? He said, "Why SUNDAY, the Lord's day." I asked him, "Then which day is the Sabbath day?" He said, "Saturday is the Sabbath day." I asked him if Saturday was the seventh day of the week? He said, "Yes." I said to him, "Then why don't we worship on the Sabbath or Saturday as we are told in the Bible?"

He told me that was Old Testament law which was changed by Jesus in the New Testament. He told me that Jesus gave His apostle Peter the power to make changes and "whatever Peter changed on earth was also changed in heaven" and that at Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to the apostles, Peter changed the Lord's day from Saturday to Sunday. I have read Peter and could not find anything about him changing the Sabbath day from Saturday to Sunday. What I have read shows me that it has not been changed and is still the seventh day. I have started going to church on Saturday instead of Sunday and am going to see one of your ministers.

P.G. (Astoria, NY)

I just completed reading WHICH DAY IS THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH. I found it to be quite interesting and enlightening, as well as confusing. I would like to get back into the church to fellowship with other Christians, but now that I have found out that Sunday is the wrong day to worship the Lord, where do I go? Please let me know where there is a Christian church in my area that I can attend on the true Sabbath day. I would like a representative to come out and talk to me.

B.H. (Los Angeles, CA)

I am writing this letter to ask you for some advice. I am 14 years old and the son of Lutheran parents who believe strongly in their faith. I was confirmed in the faith last year, but since then I have been receiving The PLAIN TRUTH, The GOOD NEWS, and The AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE. I also have 25 booklets from Mr. Armstrong. From them I have learned about subjects like: baptism, the trinity, the Lord's Supper, the Sabbath, the feasts, "Christian" holidays, conversion, etc.

In the past two months I started keeping the Sabbath as best I could, as well as keeping the commandments. But I came into a problem. I can't keep the Passover or the Days of Unleavened Bread because my parents would never let me. Will God accept that? Also, what about communion and when I go to church on Sunday? Will God forgive me? Please write back and explain what I should do.

K.H. (Forest City, IL)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

CENTRAL AMERICA: AS CONGRESS DEBATES AND HESITATES, THE LOOMING DISASTER BUILDS

On April 14 President Reagan told the American public that he decided to send emergency aid to El Salvador without congressional approval because "we cannot turn our backs on this crisis at our doorstep" in Central America. Mr. Reagan, in his weekly radio address, said furthermore the recent congressional debate over U.S. policy in Central America "has ignored the most relevant facts." Central America, he added, "has become the stage for a bold attempt by the Soviet Union, Cuba and Nicaragua to install communism by force throughout this hemisphere."

In his radio speech, the president contended that El Salvador "has been the main target of Nicaragua's covert aggression." He added: "Despite promises to stop, the Sandinistas (Nicaraguan leaders) still train and direct terrorists in El Salvador and provide weapons and ammunition they use against the Salvadoran people. If it weren't for Nicaragua, El Salvador's problems would be manageable, and we could concentrate on economic and social improvements."

"What I've said today is not pleasant to hear," Mr. Reagan continued. "But it's important that you know Central America is vital to our interests and to our security. It not only contains the Panama Canal, it sits astride some of the most important sea lanes in the world, sea lanes in which a Soviet-Cuban naval force held combat maneuvers just this week."

Last week the House of Representatives scheduled a full debate on the issue of the CIA-backed plan of mining the harbors of Nicaragua. Presented over the "C-SPAN" government TV cable channel, the debate quickly elevated itself to the broader policy of what, if anything, the United States should do in the burgeoning Central America crisis. Those Congressmen on the left claimed that the U.S. "should not act as the Soviets or the Cubans act," that Washington should take the "high moral ground." (Those espousing the "high moral ground," generally speaking, are the same crowd of legislators who support government-funded abortion, ERA, gay rights and other liberal domestic policies.) Those on the right side of the aisle, such as the eloquent Henry Hyde of Illinois, vehemently argued that the U.S. must act forcefully, and soon, before utter disaster strikes. Central America, proclaimed Mr. Hyde (or one of his supporters), is destined to become "the crisis of the decade."

For Congressmen, Senators especially, to claim they didn't know about the mining operations, notes the WALL STREET JOURNAL in its April 17 lead article, is the height of hypocrisy. The Senate, including many anti-mining opponents, had just recently approved funds for "covert" operations against Nicaragua. They were told about, and didn't object to, the mining strategy--until it was made public. Then they ran scared. The JOURNAL opined:

What we have learned in the mining episode, unhappily, is that the...hypocrisies neatly capture the sense of the Congress. The collective judgment of Congress agrees that something must be done about Nicaragua.... But the Congress of the U.S. was spooked by a few newspaper stories revealing that the CIA was doing what every serious person in the world already knew it was doing. Now it threatens to come back and cut off the funds for all purposes, replacing the Monroe Doctrine with the Brezhnev Doctrine--that once a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship is established it cannot be challenged. And in justifying this in private, the congressmen will blame the American voters, despite all the elections in which voters preferred American strength to American weakness.

The result will be spreading turmoil in Central America, perhaps eventually including war with American participation, and growing doubts in all the world's trouble spots about America's role as a superpower. The Wrights and Moynihans of Congress [Representatives Jim Wright of Texas and Daniel P. Moynihan of New York] know this, which is why they are willing to spend millions of dollars. But they are not willing to spend a single ounce of courage.

The "Dear Comandante" Letter

The JOURNAL also blasted the "Dear Comandante" letter that ten congressmen had written to Comandante Daniel Ortega, head of Nicaragua's ruling Junta. The letter said, in part,

Dear Comandante: We address this letter to you in a spirit of hopefulness and good will. As Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, we regret the fact that better relations do not exist between the United States and your country. We have been, and remain, opposed to U.S. support for military action directed against the people or government of Nicaragua....

A decision on your part to...conduct truly free and open elections would significantly improve the prospect of better relations between our two countries.

Hopeful reasoning, that last paragraph. The divisive letter, of course, undercut President Reagan's entire policy (that of attempting to conduct action in Central America without committing U.S. troops directly). The appeal also ignores the fact that "it takes two to tango." Nicaraguan authorities have yet, for example, to remove that line in their national anthem which refers to the United States as the "enemy of mankind."

Foreign policy in the hands of a deliberation body, such as Congress, rather than being the responsibility of the executive branch, is a recipe for disaster. P.H. Terzian, an assistant editor of the LOS ANGELES TIMES, wrote in his newspaper's April 19 edition:

Does Congress have a creative role to play in foreign policy? Sometimes. Has it used its powers and resources to advance the national interest? Not really. It has habitually reduced foreign policy to the ingredients of partisan dispute or provincial concern....

Who can deny our luck that Franklin D. Roosevelt defied an isolationist Congress to prepare for the Axis threat and supply Britain in its hour of need? Now, such shadowy substances as international law and Third World approbation are invoked to protest Reagan's policies in Central America and the Caribbean....

We now know that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of the 1930s was obtuse, and that Secretary of State Dean Acheson was entitled to complain some years later that "what the executive brings is initiative, proposals for action; what the legislature brings is criticism, limitation, modification or veto."...

It is useful to remember that it was the Senate, not the President, that kept the United States out of the League of Nations.... The Senate response to Hitler was an affirmation of American neutrality.... And kicking itself in anger at the end of the Vietnam War, the Senate punished the innocent with the War Powers Resolution, thereby usurping the President's constitutional powers of military action.

In the April 13 LOS ANGELES TIMES, Michael Ledeen of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington D.C. took issue with those claiming the "high moral ground" in Central America:

Once again abstract moralism threatens to triumph over our national interests in Central America.... The Soviet-Cuban-Nicaraguan strategy in Central America is the same as that of Syria's President Hafez Assad in Lebanon. That is to continue fighting and hope that American will eventually fades. And just as in Lebanon--where every action of the Israeli or American armed forces was subjected to minute scrutiny while the actions of the PLO, Druze, Syrians and Shias received respectfully detached coverage--so in Central America: A foreign guerrilla force on Salvadoran soil is treated with respect (and even

admiration) by our journalists and members of Congress while our soldiers and Salvadoran and Honduran allies get the full force of our moral outrage.

If there is to be any hope for the democratic revolution in Central America, this moral confusion must stop. In our search for minute infractions on our side we have lost sight of the major sins committed by our enemies. It is they who have installed the totalitarian dictatorships in Cuba and Nicaragua while we are supporting the democratic revolution in El Salvador and a similar transition in Honduras....

We are indeed guilty of a moral failure in Central America, but it is not the one at which the moralists are currently pointing. It is rather the failure to plainly and fully commit ourselves to the triumph of democratic forces. We are prepared to bring all kinds of leverage to bear on the government of El Salvador to end the wanton killing by the death squads. This is entirely proper, just as it is proper that we should be willing to share our wealth with the people of Central America to alleviate hunger and misery.

But if the Cubans and Nicaraguans win the battle of El Salvador, then not only will hunger and misery continue--where has communism produced wealth and happiness for the masses?--but all hope of freedom...will die. And we shall sadly add another country to the list that has seen Iran fall to the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Nicaragua to the Sandinistas and Lebanon to the Syrians.

Mr. Ledeen's comments remind me of an interview I had with other officials of the CSIS last May (PGR, June 3, 1983). One of them, Mike Moodie said then that the budding crisis to America's south could become a big campaign issue in 1984 and that "Central America has the potential to rip us apart again."

The controversy over Central America, Mr. Moodie added, "feeds into European relations," and from two opposite angles. Leftists in Europe believe the U.S. is all wrong in its approach to Central America, whereas conservative Europeans wonder whether the U.S. any longer has the will to stand up to Communist inroads. Thus the Central America crisis has direct bearing on the growing trans-Atlantic estrangement between the U.S. and Western Europe. The April 13 WALL STREET JOURNAL editorialized:

Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick has been in Europe telling NATO allies that their "level of outrage far exceeds their level of information" about Central America. The only thing wrong with that statement is that it could apply almost equally well to the U.S. Congress, which doesn't have the excuse of distance. But the lecture seemed needed, nonetheless. When asked why the U.S. cared so much about Central America, Mrs. Kirkpatrick said to buy a globe.

The lecture was especially appropriate to France. President Francois Mitterrand...proposed to send mine sweepers to help...remove the mines laid by anti-Communist Nicaraguans with what was later learned to be the support of the CIA.... France and the

Netherlands also supported a U.N. resolution on Central America so one-sided the U.S. was forced to veto it....

As a Times of London editorial says, the belief that the U.S. and U.S.S.R. are equally menacing "has become pervasively fashionable among the so-called enlightened classes of Europe." One danger here is a split within NATO. "If the opinion that the U.S. is a lawless, reckless gunslinger spreads widely enough," Mrs. Kirkpatrick warns, "the alliance will simply collapse by mutual consent of distrust on the European side and disgust on the American side."

The greatest puzzle of all is how political leaders who recognize the Soviet threat to their own countries and who expect U.S. protection against that threat cannot see Soviet penetration into the Western Hemisphere as something that should concern them too.

Max Singer, a founder and former president of the Hudson Institute "think tank" wrote concerning the reality of Central America in a column in the April 6 LOS ANGELES TIMES. His description of the problem and its "cure" is one that the majority of the elected representatives of Congress, as well as leadership circles in Europe, recoil from.

While the countries of Central America are still poor and suffer unequal income distributions, the primary cause of the current conflict is not economic, social or political injustice. The current conflict results from an attempt by small groups of ideological extremists to take power--and to take it from successful pro-democratic revolutions. During the years between 1960 and the revolutions of 1979, average incomes in Nicaragua and El Salvador grew at about 2% per year. (This is the same rate at which U.S. incomes grew during our advance from poverty in the 1800s.)...

The extremists against whom the United States is fighting are not driven by the need to achieve social progress. They are fighting for sectarian power.... They have been effective not because of their popularity or because of the justice of their cause, but because they have massive and expert help from outside. Cuba, for example, has more than 10 times as many people in Nicaragua as we have in El Salvador.... So, while it is undoubtedly true that poverty is a significant fact in Central America, it is not what has produced, or what sustains, the current crisis and war....

Since the "hearts and minds" of the great majority of the people have already rejected [via elections] the guerrillas, despite the crimes of some government supporters and army officers, the only way to end the war in El Salvador is to defeat the guerrillas. The guerrillas must be defeated because they are murderous and unpopular; they present no just claim and cannot be satisfied except by total power.

The best way to prevent atrocities is to get the guerrillas to stop the fighting. Those who care about human rights in El Salvador should be telling the guerrillas to stop their unjust war, and undercutting their morale by telling them that they will

never achieve a political victory in the United States. When the guerrillas have been defeated, the great share of the killings will end automatically, and the government will be able to turn all its efforts to suppressing the small forces of the extreme right that have been able to operate under the cover of the war against the guerrillas.

A letter to the editor of the LOS ANGELES TIMES, also on April 6, challenged popular notions about the nature of revolutions.

A Times editorial on the voting in El Salvador (March 29), "'Democracy' and Killing," stated: "...The killing will stop only when negotiations start." The Times' belief in negotiations flies in the face of history. The killing will stop only when one side forces the other to give in by force of arms. The American Revolution and the Civil War are apt examples. Even to Salvadorans....

The ivory tower of Times editorial writers may be peaceful, but ...the great body of everyday Americans know in their hearts that what The Times urges us to accept as the only way to settle other peoples' civil wars will not work. Someone has to win. And when it affects America, we have to decide which side we want to win, tough as that may be.

If the American "side" loses, then loses again and again in one country after another, Marxist insurgents could be, as the former president of Nicaragua, Anastasio Somoza, predicted, "on the Rio Grande" in a few years time.

A recent CIA report predicted that if the Mexican government were to collapse, 20 million Mexicans would try to flee northwards within the first six months! Should that ever occur, Washington would be so compelled to defend the southern border of the U.S. that it would have little choice but to pull the scores of thousands of American troops out of Europe--forcing the Europeans to much more quickly develop a united military structure.

America will not win another war. Woody Hayes, the former head football coach at Ohio State, reportedly told one of his university classes in 1974: "The U.S. has been in 10 wars. We won the first eight, we tied one, then we lost one. Now, 8-1-1 is not a bad record, but I don't like the trend."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau