

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 11, 1984

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

To Our Local Church Elders: THANK YOU!

The Days of Unleavened Bread witnessed another milestone for the Church of God. There are now over 600 local church elders serving the Church worldwide!

We feel this is an appropriate time to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to you local church elders for freely giving of your time and energy in serving God's Church. Mr. Armstrong and we at Ministerial Services realize this service has often required considerable sacrifice from you and your families. Though not always acknowledged, your work has not gone unnoticed.

Over the years you have set a sterling example that the members have been able to follow and learn from. Your teaching, visiting, anointing and counseling, as well as your counsel, have made an invaluable contribution to the administration of the local churches. Thank you again for your willing service and loyalty!

In the difficult years ahead, your stability and continued service will be more important to the Church than ever before. Remain close to God and keep up the good work. Though we offer you our heartfelt thanks now, the ultimate reward for your labor of love is in the hands of Jesus Christ, the spiritual head of the Church!

1984 Canadian Ministerial Transfers

Following is a list of ministerial transfers scheduled to take place in Canada this summer. All are pastors of churches unless otherwise indicated.

<u>Minister</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Trevor Cherry	Evansburg	Calgary (South) (assoc.)
Neil Earle	Calgary (North & South)	Toronto (East & West)
Rob Elliott	Toronto (West) (assoc.)	Winnipeg (West) (assoc.)
Phil Hopwood	Vancouver (M.T.)	Red Deer/Wetaskiwin (M.T.)
Paul Linehan	Winnipeg (West) (assoc.)	Toronto (East & West) (assoc.)
Graemme Marshall	Toowoomba, Kingaroy, Miles, Warwick, Australia	Calgary (North & South)
Richard Pinelli	Toronto (East & West)	Kansas City (East), MO

<u>Minister</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Alan Redmond	Calgary (South) (assoc.)	Evansburg
Terry Roth	Prince Albert, Tisdale	St. John's
David Sheridan	St. John's	Prince Albert, Tisdale
John Stryker	Winnipeg (West), Morden, Canada; Williams, MN (asst.)	Victoria/Courtenay (asst.)

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

Mr. Felix Perez is disfellowshipped. He is approximately 25-30 years old, a Caucasian, and is from the Big Sandy, Texas area. He claims to be heading for New York, and then on to Europe. In the event he should appear in your area, it is imperative that you immediately contact Mr. H. Burk McNair at the Big Sandy Church Office for more detailed information regarding Mr. Perez's situation. The phone number is (214) 636-4781. Church rules regarding disfellowshipped members should be stringently enforced in Mr. Perez's case. (This notice is not to be read to your congregations.)

International News

From the Dutch Area The Dutch language brethren enjoyed a wonderful and inspiring Feast of Unleavened Bread under clear blue skies. Although the spring-like weather was exceptionally nice with pleasant temperatures, attendance at Passover and the holy days was down from last year due to a severe flu plaguing this country. Up to 75% of the nation has been affected. Many of the brethren were bedridden for several days, some for a week or more.

Passover was held in four different locations while for the first and last holy days combined services were held just outside of the city of Utrecht. Attendance at the Passover was 198, and the highest attendance on the holy days was 327. The total combined offering for both holy days resulted in an 11.4% increase over last year. This is a great blessing to the Church here. God has indeed blessed the small group of people He has called, even while the local economic picture is far from rosy.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, Mr. Andre de Vos from the Antwerp church was ordained a deacon. Also during the days of Unleavened Bread the office move took place. The Dutch language regional office has now moved officially to a new building in the city of Nieuwegein, seven miles outside of Utrecht. The new mailing address is: Ambassador College, P.O. Box 444, 3430 AK Nieuwegein, The Netherlands. Phone: (3402) 39922.

We are now occupying one wing on the second floor of a new four-story building with a floor area about 150% more than our previous facilities.

Although we are still doing our work out of cardboard boxes as we get organized, we already are experiencing the pleasant, spacious environment. This is a boost to the morale of our staff and another blessing in the operations of God's Church in the Netherlands.

From New Zealand God inspired His people in this part of the world to respond magnificently to His apostle's member letter requesting a generous offering at the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The attendance on the first day was 1232, with the total offering up 73%. On the last day 1156 attended and the total offering was up 52.4%.

In the South Island, the churches were able to take advantage of public holidays and combine for the weekly Sabbath and the last day of Unleavened Bread, in conjunction with their first ever Family Weekend. All church areas rejoiced in a very uplifting festival season.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MEDIA PURCHASING UPDATE

The following new stations and time or station upgrades have been contracted in the past few weeks.

<u>Market</u>		<u>Effective Date</u>
Omaha, NE KETV	Station change Channel 7, Sunday, 8 a.m.	June 3
Davenport, IA/ Rock Island, IL WQAD	Time change Channel 8, Sunday, 8:30 a.m.	April 22
Boise, ID KBCI	Time change Channel 2, Sunday, 9 a.m.	April 29
Abilene/Sweetwater, TX KTXS	New station Channel 12, Sunday, 7:15 a.m.	May 13
Dothan, AL WTVY	New station Channel 4, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.	May 13
Alexandria, LA KLAX	New station Channel 31, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.	May 6
Salisbury, DE WMDT	New station Channel 47, Sunday, 11 a.m.	May 13
Meridian, MS WTOK	New station Channel 11, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.	May 13
Greenwood/Greenville, MS WABG	New station Channel 6, Sunday, 7 a.m.	April 29
San Angelo, TX KLST	New station Channel 8, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.	May 13
St. Louis, MO KSDK	New station Channel 5, Sunday, 9 a.m.	April 29

All of these new opportunities will be promoted in TV GUIDE and TV sections of some local newspapers beginning late May and early June.

You may also be interested in the latest TV audience surveys from the ratings agency, Arbitron.

Ranked by number of stations:

<u>Nov.</u> <u>1983</u> <u>Rank</u>	<u>Feb.</u> <u>1984</u> <u>Rank</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Nov.</u> <u>1983</u>	<u>Feb.</u> <u>1984</u>	<u>#</u> <u>Change</u>
1	1	Jimmy Swaggart	261	266	5
3	2	Oral Roberts	216	216	0
2	3	Jerry Falwell	229	212	(17)
4	4	Robert Schuller	186	192	6
6	5	THE WORLD TOMORROW	177	178	1
5	6	Day of Discovery	178	177	(1)
7	7	Jim Bakker	170	172	2

Ranked by percentage of TV households covered:

<u>Nov.</u> <u>1983</u> <u>Rank</u>	<u>Feb.</u> <u>1984</u> <u>Rank</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Nov.</u> <u>1983</u>	<u>Feb.</u> <u>1984</u>	<u>%</u> <u>Diff.</u>
1	1	Oral Roberts	99.1	99.1	0
2	2	Jimmy Swaggart	96.8	97.9	1.1
3	3	Robert Schuller	95.5	95.8	.3
4	4	THE WORLD TOMORROW	94.6	95.5	.9
5	5	Day of Discovery	92.2	92.2	0
6	6	Jerry Falwell	91.4	89.6	(1.8)
8	7	Jim Bakker	83.9	84.2	.3

Ranked by audience (thousands):

<u>Nov.</u> <u>1983</u> <u>Rank</u>	<u>Feb.</u> <u>1984</u> <u>Rank</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Nov.</u> <u>1983</u>	<u>Feb.</u> <u>1984</u>	<u>%</u> <u>Change</u>
1	1	Jimmy Swaggart	2,000	2,189	9.5
2	2	Robert Schuller	1,765	1,796	1.8
3	3	Oral Roberts	1,563	1,627	4.1
4	4	Day of Discovery	940	892	(5.4)
5	5	Jerry Falwell	903	878	(2.8)
6	6	Rex Humbard	789	838	6.2
7	7	THE WORLD TOMORROW	774	802	3.6

The improvements made between November '83 and February '84 (the ratings period) reflect our continuing efforts to upgrade coverage and audience. These improvements came at a time when six of the top fourteen religious programs either lost markets or made no changes. Similar improvements should show in the May survey period, since we have added seven more markets in the past few weeks, as well as improved times.

By the way, I should mention that actual numbers of people watching any television program are based on extrapolations drawn from a very small sample. These audience numbers are, therefore, in our opinion open to question. Frankly, the number of telephone responses received in Pasadena on an average weekend seems to indicate a much larger audience than Arbitron reports.

--David Hulme, Director of Media Purchasing

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

We are rapidly approaching the exciting end of the 1983-84 college year! God has blessed the College with another year of continued growth, unity and progress. We began the year with about 640 students--including married students, a very few off-campus older students, and part-time students. We now have about 630 students enrolled in the College.

Graduation exercises are scheduled for Wednesday, May 16th for Big Sandy and for Friday, May 18th for Pasadena. Dr. Herman L. Hoeh will give the commencement address at both campuses, since Mr. Armstrong will be away on a trip at that time. We at Pasadena expect to graduate 173 seniors this year, and 133 will graduate from Big Sandy's two-year program. I haven't yet seen a tally of just how many graduating seniors will be employed in various areas of God's worldwide Church, but over 70 of last year's seniors were employed after graduation.

Again, for the coming summer, the College is sending students to China, Israel (the Jerusalem Dig), Jordan, Thailand, France, Germany, Mexico, Britain, and Canada. And quite a number of students will get to serve at the S.E.P. at Orr, Big Sandy, Scotland, and in other areas of the world. What a fantastic opportunity many of our students will have!

I wish all of you could have seen the performances given by the "Little Ambassadors of Shanghai" in the Ambassador Auditorium on Friday, May 4th, and again on Saturday night, May 5th. They were simply fantastic! A number of us had several meetings with the 27 Little Ambassadors and the adults who accompanied the troupe to the U.S. From here, the Little Ambassadors went to San Francisco to give another performance, then on to Washington D.C. where they are scheduled to perform in the Kennedy Center and at the White House. (A feature story on the Little Ambassadors will appear in the May 21 WORLDWIDE NEWS.)

And I must not overlook mentioning that previous to that interesting event at Ambassador Auditorium, the combined chorales of the Big Sandy and Pasadena campuses did two magnificent performances of Handel's "Messiah," accompanied by the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. Members of the Pasadena Church Choir also joined the two chorales to assist in the presentation. We who were privileged to attend both of the performances (we had both a Saturday night and a Sunday afternoon performance during the days of Unleavened Bread) will not soon forget them.

On Tuesday, May 8th, the students and faculty of Ambassador College were privileged to hear Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong speak at the last Forum of the college year. Among points made in his address, he admonished the students to remember, as they go out into different parts of the world, that we are to be examples--true lights to the world. He stressed the fact that though

we are to be in the world, we are not of the world. We were all very appreciative of the fact that Mr. Armstrong took the time to speak to the College, even though he has a very busy and heavy schedule.

Once again, it is quite a pleasure to have the present group of ministers and wives attending the Ministerial Refreshing Program. They continue to mention how inspired and refreshed they are to once more be at Headquarters to hear from the men whom God has set to speak to them, and, of course, to hear God's apostle speak to them.

I wish to take this opportunity to say "Thanks!" to all of you ministers for spending more time to really think through the Ministerial Evaluations of college applicants. It looks as though we will have another very fine group of freshmen students enrolled both at Pasadena and Big Sandy.

Not long ago, Mr. Les McCullough, Dr. Don Ward and Mr. Larry Salyer were here from Big Sandy to select a number of students from some of the applications sent to Pasadena. We are appreciative of the fact that you ministers are doing a very fine job in helping the young people in your areas to have a very positive outlook toward entering Ambassador.

You might remind the young people in your areas that the wonderful education which they can receive at Ambassador is a fantastic "bargain" at just over \$4,000 per year, whereas it now costs about \$8,500 per year at the average private college in the U.S.!

We ask your continued prayers on behalf of God's apostle, the Founder and Chancellor of Ambassador, and also on behalf of the others of us in College Administration who assist him in keeping Ambassador College on track. Also, please continue to keep all of the faculty and students of Ambassador in your prayers. Thanks very much for your support of God's College!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

PLAIN TRUTH Circulation Reaches Seven Million!

Worldwide circulation for The PLAIN TRUTH will top the seven million mark with the combined July/August issue. This issue will be mailed to over four million subscribers worldwide. In addition, nearly three million copies will be distributed on newsstands.

So far, 1984 is a record growth year in the United States. The number of new subscribers added through April is 65% higher than for the first four months last year. In the month of April over 173,000 new people were added, setting a record for the highest number of new people ever added during one month.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

Y.O.U./Y.E.S. UPDATE

Summer Education Program Acceptances Clarified

The S.E.P. camps scheduled for this summer are Orr, Minnesota, Big Sandy, Texas and Scotland. We have received record numbers of Camper and Camper II applications, however, the selection process was delayed because of a new

computerized system. Priority has been given to 15, 16, 17 and 18 year olds who have never attended before. If you have any questions regarding the acceptance process, please call the Y.O.U. Office.

IMPORTANT: With our computerized acceptance program in operation this year, many S.E.P. applicants have received both acceptance and rejection letters. This is due to the fact that these applicants applied to be a camper and for a worker/camper II position. Because a teen-ager may not be a camper and worker/camper II at the same time, applicants for both categories have been issued the appropriate letter for each application submitted.

ALL CAMPER APPLICANTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED ACCEPTANCE LETTERS ARE ACCEPTED AS CAMPERS. If they also received a rejection letter, it applies to their worker/camper II application.

ALL WORKER/CAMPER II APPLICANTS WHO RECEIVED ACCEPTANCE LETTERS ARE ACCEPTED AS WORKER/CAMPER IIs. If they also received a rejection letter, it applies to their camper application.

If further questions arise, please direct them to the Y.O.U. Office in Pasadena.

Y.E.S. Bible Memory Being Revised

Bible Memory for the Y.E.S. lessons is currently being revised and new memory work will appear beginning with revised Lesson 1, scheduled to be mailed this August. Until then, please use discretion in the amount of Bible Memory being required. Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience the current memory work may have caused.

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

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Record Number of New Names Added in First Four Months

A remarkable record total of 899,505 new names were added to our files from January through April of this year. This is equal to the number of people added to the files in the first 30 years!

The leading source of new PT subscribers was subscription cards from newsstand issues, particularly the February "Golden Anniversary" issue.

The growth of all language editions in international areas is also on the rise. Currently, for every two new subscribers added in the U.S., one subscriber is added by international offices. The subscription lists for some areas have doubled since last year.

Members Express Concern and Appreciation for Mr. Dwight Armstrong

Hundreds of Church members have sent cards and letters to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong expressing concern for his brother Dwight Armstrong. They said they would fervently pray about his health problems. Many also mentioned how meaningful and inspiring his hymns have been to them. Following are just a few of the letters received:

Thank you for letting us know of your brother's illness--my prayers are for you both at this most difficult time. He has indeed given us so much beauty and joy through his music. What a great honor our Father has given him, that he should have the opportunity and talent to add the music to His beloved Psalms.

W.E. (Norfolk, VA)

I just wrote a letter to your brother Dwight Armstrong, thanking him and telling him how much I enjoy singing the Psalms he so wonderfully put to music. I really love to sing and over these past nine years in God's Church I have really become familiar with many of the songs in my Bible Hymnal.

A.C. (Montpelier, VT)

Thank you for letting us know how ill your brother, Mr. Dwight Armstrong, is so that we could write to him. My husband and I met him about 16 years ago at the Feast of Tabernacles in Squaw Valley. We told him then how much we loved the music that God had inspired him to write.

I wrote and told him again a few days ago. We are praying for God to take away his pain and his cancer, and that we are looking forward to meeting him again in the resurrection--in God's Kingdom.

Mr. & Mrs. E.V. (Farmersville, CA)

I am so glad you wrote about your brother Dwight. I have enjoyed and appreciated his music for so many years. For the past three years I have had the privilege of being pianist for our local church, so I have been practicing through all the hymns in the book every week. The more I play them, the more I appreciate the quality of the music. I look forward to additional hymns he has composed. I was pleased to have an opportunity to send him a card and note of appreciation. His contribution to the Church and Sabbath services is of inestimable value.

E.T. (The Dalles, OR)

Your letter, telling about your brother and your illness, arrived today. I am so glad you let us know about him--I have often wondered where he lived, etc. And I feel as if the psalm-hymns he has made so familiar are a part of my mind! Often one will pop into my head, and I find myself humming it. He has a great gift.

E.W. (Orange, NJ)

It was truly shocking to hear the news of the illness of Mr. Dwight Armstrong. He has provided an added beauty to the Sabbath day due to his God-given talent.

Mr. & Mrs. A.W. (Dallas, GA)

In your last letter you told us about your brother Dwight. As one of the pianists here in Sacramento, all I can say is it's such a delight playing the music he has written--helping us to sing the very songs David and the congregation of Israel sang.

But even more, I'm in the process of writing a Cantata about the Plan of God--and I know firsthand the tedious, hard work involved in writing the notes--getting the timing just right and all the accents as they are needed so that others can reproduce the music by voice or instrument as it should be. Truly, he is an inspiration to the whole Church--joyously as you are! I will write him gladly.

S.M. (Rancho Cordova, CA)

I was saddened to hear of your brother's condition in your last letter. I know that he will be rewarded for all of his unselfish years of work and the beautifully inspiring music he has contributed in praise of God and His works. I am going to write to Mr. Dwight Armstrong to thank him personally for his service to God and the enrichment of our Christian lives. I pray that God will greatly bless him now in the time he has left in this life with peace, joy, physical comfort and freedom from pain, and the abundant love and concern of family and brethren.

Thank you for bringing this need to our attention. I look forward to meeting Mr. Dwight Armstrong someday, if not in this life, then surely in God's Kingdom!

J.H. (Stanford, MT)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMY; HOW THE TUBE UNDERMINES EAST GERMANY; THE POPE'S "UNIVERSAL MISSION"

The world is indeed changing. A new global economy is arising, an interesting development in light of what is portrayed in the eighteenth chapter of Revelation. The nations of Europe are still groping around, hoping to find their "niche" in this new order of things, according to John Naisbitt, writing in the April 22, 1984 SUNDAY TIMES of London. Mr. Naisbitt, an American, is the author of a book entitled MEGATRENDS.

Europe is like a great dinosaur waiting for the weather to get better. It won't. Things are not going to get better. Things are going to get different. What is happening in the United States is instructive.... Capital and energies going into artificially propping up the old industrial economies diminish the possibilities and opportunities of creating new economies. We are becoming a global economy--not merely more trade among 150 or so countries, but shifting from trade among nations to a single economy. As part of this shift to a truly global economic village, the entire planet is re-sorting who is going to make what, a redistribution of labour and production.

As part of this process, all developed countries are de-industrializing, or rather, being de-industrialized as Third World countries increasingly take up (i.e. beat us at) the old industrial tasks. By the year 2000, less than 16 years away, as much as 30% of the world's manufactured goods will be manufactured in the Third World: in South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Brazil, Mexico, etc.

Europe hasn't really faced this. Japan understands it well and has been moving out of steel, petrochemicals, textiles, and ship-building and has even faced the inevitability of having to get out of the car manufacturing business. In the United States... there is widespread recognition that smokestack America is an economy of the past.... It is not too much to say that the United States is...[shifting] from an economy that rested on the motor car to an economy that rests on the computer....

The U.S. will continue to do some manufacturing, but what it does manufacture will be done with information-computers, including robots--rather than with labour. Blue-collar jobs in the workforce are now down to about 15%. That figure will drop to below 10% by the end of the 1980s, and by the end of the 1990s it could be as low as 3 or 4% (the same percentage of the U.S.'s workforce in agriculture today).

But stand by for a long shake-out period in the new economy. Many thousands of computer companies, software companies and cable companies will go bust during the 1980s.... To see this we have only to recall what happened in the U.S. during the first half of the century when we started to build automobiles. We created more than 2,300 automobile manufacturing companies. There was a long shake-out period and we finally ended up with four or five....

The United States is today an economy of entrepreneurs. More new companies are being started than ever before in American history.... The last time there was such an entrepreneurial flowering was the last time we changed economies--from an agricultural to an industrial economy. Now, as we shift from an industrial economy to an information economy, we are seeing this incredible explosion of entrepreneurial activity....

For America, Japan and Europe the trick for the 1980s in the new global economy is to find the market niches--and to enter into joint ventures where appropriate. What is Europe waiting for?... Europe's relative decline in the global marketplace is probably inevitable, but there are many strong market niches to be chased after--instead of continuing to turn decaying smokestack industries into very expensive employment programmes.... The countries of Europe have no choice but to compete in the global economy. The question is whether they will go after market niches where they can compete, or sink to third-, fourth- and fifth-rate economic powers. The first step is to realize that things are not going to get better or worse, but different.

Stuart Auerbach writing in the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE of April 23, 1984, observes that in the new global economic interrelationship, America's eyes increasingly are focused on Asia and away from Europe.

Analysts of U.S. trade patterns with the Far East say the U.S. switch from Europe to the trans-Pacific route is as historic as the shift almost 500 years ago, when the focus of world trade moved from the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean as European nations vied for the New World's riches.... The director of

Asian-Pacific Affairs for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Oakley Johnson, agrees. "America's orientation is moving away from Europe toward Asia. The future of the United States is in the Pacific," he said recently....

That sea change in trade flows...has, moreover, increased feelings of what is now described as "Europessimism" as Washington's European allies see themselves cast aside by the United States in favor of the dynamic economies of the East.

This feeling that Washington is abandoning the old Atlantic Alliance has been intensified by what appears in Europe to be a pro-Asia tilt in the Reagan administration.... Mr. Reagan lauded the Pacific rim in a major foreign policy speech in mid-April. "I see America and our Pacific neighbors as nations of the future, going forward together in a mighty enterprise to build dynamic growth economies and a safer world," he said....

The Commerce Department figures tell the story. In 1979, trade between the United States and Western Europe was \$1.1 billion greater than trade between the United States and the Pacific basin nations of Asia. The switch took place the very next year, as Asian trade jumped ahead of trade with Europe by \$2 billion. By 1983, the difference had leapt to \$28.9 billion....

John Zysman, a political scientist who directs the Berkeley Roundtable on the International Economy at the University of California, Berkeley, warned that U.S. policy and industries must learn to deal with the "state-centered capitalism" of the Pacific [in such countries as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore].

"The rise of Asia means that traditional ways of looking at trade and industry are wrong. You are not talking about a placid way of trading, you are talking about winners and losers," he said.... "If we respond, our leadership will continue, but if not, we will face a decline that will be traumatic for ourselves and the world," he added.

East & West Germany: Television's Magnetic Pull

The relations between the two parts of Germany continue to deepen, albeit not without difficulties. The recent flood of immigrants to the West has rather suddenly slowed down. According to the West German news magazine DER SPIEGEL, a group of leading East Germans has protested the new emigration policy of East German Communist Party leader, Erich Honecker. It said that Prime Minister Willi Stoph appealed last month to Soviet leaders to intervene, saying that granting East Germans permission to leave endangered the nation's stability. Mr. Stoph's own niece, along with her husband and children, were perhaps the most celebrated immigrants.

Nevertheless, the pull between the two Germanys appears to be an almost magnetic attraction. On a day-in-day-out basis, no country in the Communist world is so influenced by Western society as is East Germany. Simply put, West German television, according to TV GUIDE (April 28, 1984) has pretty much softened up the "other Germany":

Without even trying, the daily broadcasts of West Germany's autonomous state-supported television stations have made East Germany the best informed society in the Communist world, and subtly weaned its citizens away from their loyalty to the Marxist-Leninist state.... About 90 percent of the population [watch West German TV]. Only in the northeastern and southeastern extremities of the German Democratic Republic is reception difficult. East Germans mockingly call these "the dead corners" or "the valley of those who know nothing." The state has systematically recruited border guards from these regions, regarding their locals as more naive and politically more reliable--not likely to hop over the Wall.

In a drab, spartan society, West German television has become an essential component of what in the West would be called "the quality of life."... Ordinary East Germans have given themselves enthusiastically to buying better sets, taller aerials and costly devices that allow West German color to be received by East German sets. (Some new East German color sets receive both systems.) The best East German color television receiver runs to five times a worker's average monthly wages. In black and white, or color, DALLAS, THE DENVER CLAN (as DYNASTY is called) and THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO are big hits in the East. So, too, are West German commercials, which feed the appetites of a budding consumer society....

Lately, the regime has found that even high-ranking functionaries are reluctant to accept jobs in the "dead corners." "People say it's like being sent to Africa," jokes a teenager at a rock concert in East Berlin. This has produced by far the most extraordinary capitulation. Tentatively, East Germany has now started to put cable-TV into "the valley of those who know nothing."...

In the last year, it has become clear that the East Germans are determined to upgrade their own programming to make it more competitive. The amount of mind-numbing Communist propaganda has been cut and, in prime time, the East Germans are running high-quality Western films and film festivals featuring a particular actor or actress. "Ten Marilyn Monroe movies in sequence, then 10 with Romy Schneider, then 10 with Brigitte Bardot," explains a producer in West Berlin. "All decadent capitalist stuff."...

Knowing that a majority of East Germans watch the two main West German television news programs at 7 and 8 p.m., the East Germans squeeze their own news show in at 7:30, hoping to draw a few people to their turgid reports on the comings and goings of Eastern Bloc bigwigs and laudatory claims about productivity gains in tractor factories. Obscure African revolutionaries loom large in the imagination of those condemned to watch East German news....

East Germans aren't about to revolt against a tough regime that keeps them locked behind a wall. But many live in a state of rebellion against their own TV. At a West German transit center for East German refugees north of Frankfurt, a chunky truck driver from Magdeburg recounts scornfully how an East German pro-

gram called THE BLACK CHANNEL rails at the supposed failings of capitalism. "Any time any of us used to hear THE BLACK CHANNEL," relates the East German truck driver, "we would have a race to the TV to see who could turn it off first."

As the Pope Takes His 21st Foreign Trip...

"A new Era of Papal Diplomacy" is the way the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE heralded the last globe-trotting trip by Pope John Paul II, this time to Asia. According to the author, Dan Schanche (of the LOS ANGELES TIMES SERVICE), the current pontiff has become "a truly universal pope":

As Pope John Paul II embarked Wednesday on his 21st papal trip abroad, some church scholars say his often-criticized foreign travel has wrought an epochal change in the development of the Roman Catholic Church, one that no future pontiff can likely put aside. "After 19½ centuries he has catapulted the church out of Rome and out of Italy," said an approving churchman who only a year ago was sharply critical of what he saw then as the pontiff's dangerous and costly globetrotting.

John Paul left Wednesday on an 11-day journey to South Korea, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Thailand. His route took him westward around the world, beginning with a brief meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska, with President Ronald Reagan, who was en route home from China. In all, the pope will cover more than 24,000 miles (38,700 kilometers), visit 11 places in five countries, celebrate nine Masses and deliver 40 speeches. This is a more demanding schedule and in some respects as exhausting and controversial as his trip to Central America and Haiti 14 months ago.

At that time a number of clerics here criticized the pope's seeming wanderlust, many because the travel appeared to distract him from urgent administrative matters.... Today there are fewer critics. Many churchmen agree that this is because they now understand why the pontiff is compelled to visit far-off places and what the church gains from having such a peripatetic pope.

"He is going where the ferment is, where the church still means something and is going somewhere, growing," said a church scholar, a former critic of papal travel. "Christianity has lost much of its vitality in the traditional Catholic heartland of Italy and the rest of Europe, but it is a vital, going concern in places like Africa, Latin America and Asia, even in countries where Christians are small minorities." He pointed out that the church was growing more rapidly in Asia and Africa than in any of the Western countries, citing India, which the pope has not yet visited, as having more Roman Catholics than both Irelands.

A Vatican diplomat who has watched John Paul develop in the past five and one-half years into what he called "a truly universal pope," said: "I think he sees America and Europe as having taken the wrong turn, with both capitalist and Marxist materialism stultifying religion, while the Third World, even forgotten places like New Guinea and the Solomons, represents the new front line of the church."

Although the recognition has come late that the pontiff sees his job as that of a personal, hands-on pastor to the world, a senior cleric noted wryly that the church had plenty of warning. "His first words after his election on Oct. 16, 1978, were of his universal mission," he said.

Another priest, a church historian and theologian, drew a parallel between what he believed John Paul was accomplishing today and what St. Peter accomplished when he brought Christianity to Rome in the earliest days of the church.... "I think John Paul believes the time has come to recapitulate Peter's mission, to personally reach out to the ends of the earth and away from the parochialism that has come to characterize Rome. He is moving away from the Roman Catholic Church as an Italian and European concern and sees its great future in the Koreas of this world."

On a more personal level, the pope is said by some Vatican clerics to have become increasingly aware of the strength of his own personality, an almost charismatic quality that has made him perhaps the most recognized leader now living. A Jesuit scholar said, "...He has credibility because he is not identified with the power blocs. He has become a third voice for the Third World, and he gains even more credibility when he goes to non-Catholic countries."

John Paul recently ordered sweeping changes in the Vatican hierarchy. To free himself from the administrative detail and political squabbles that have overwhelmed many popes, he delegated the power to rule over Vatican City to Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, 69, the secretary of state. The move was designed largely to give John Paul more time and freedom to deal with the world outside Rome, according to Vatican sources.

Thus the Pope's "universal mission" ties in perfectly well with the Vatican's reduced ties to the Italian state as reflected in the new concordat between the two (PGR, March 2, 1984).

The Pope's next major trip is scheduled for September, this time to Canada, where he will make twelve stops in as many days, coast-to-coast.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau