

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

**** TO BE READ IN ALL CHURCHES ****

Taxes and the Christian's Duty

From time to time around the United States, and in other countries where it is possible, certain citizens have followed tax evasion schemes in an effort to keep from paying taxes. These schemes may include declaring oneself a trust, declaring oneself a church, declaring that money has no value and therefore should not be taxed, among others.

God's Church is commanded by Jesus Christ to "render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's" (Matt. 22:21). The Apostle Paul reiterated this same teaching in Romans 13:1, 5-7. Jesus set us an example by paying taxes (Matt. 17:24-27). Not only are we to pay our taxes, we are also commanded to pray for world leaders so we can live a peaceful life and proclaim the Gospel without persecution (I Tim. 2:1-3).

Taking advantage of all lawfully authorized deductions is proper! However, to devise plans, schemes and fabricate facts in order to evade paying of taxes that are lawfully due is both illegal and a SIN! Such blatant illegal activity has no place in the Body of Christ. Paying taxes to the government is not contrary to God's Word. Christ has called us to be lights and examples to the world by obeying God's Word, which includes paying our taxes.

Therefore, it has been deemed that under the present time and circumstances, anyone who teaches or advocates among Church brethren that they should not pay their taxes will be causing division.

Anyone who has questions regarding this announcement should talk to his pastor.

Recent Ordination

Mr. John Dobritch, pastor of the Belle Vernon and Washington, Pennsylvania Churches, was raised to the rank of preaching elder on May 19 during services in Belle Vernon. Hands were laid on Mr. Dobritch by Mr. Don Lawson, pastor of the congregations in Pittsburgh, Beaver Valley and McKeesport.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I want to express our thanks to you, your staff and the many instructors who made our stay during the Refreshing Program (the third session) so enjoyable and profitable. This was our first Refreshing Program and in retrospect we wish we could have attended the previous two programs!

It has been nine years since we graduated from college and in that time we've seen many changes in the Church. After spending two weeks in Pasadena, we both were encouraged and excited to see the sincerity, the enthusiasm and serving attitudes among the ministry and the brethren. On several occasions we had the chance to be with old friends and the good fruits of Mr. Armstrong's leadership and the faithful service rendered by the ministry was evident in them. We hope a lot of it rubbed off on us!

Thanks also to Mr. Green and his staff. I made a special effort to test all his food and his meals were excellent. In fact, I can still see some of the "fruits" of his labors around my waist.

Guy and Jennifer Swenson

Comments From Monthly Church ReportsFrom the United States

GREEN BAY, WI--D. FIEDLER: Several tornadoes ripped through this area. One went just behind our house. It killed one woman and reduced a barn and several homes to kindling wood. Forty cows just disappeared into thin air. They still have not been found, even after a week. Thankfully none of the brethren sustained any property damage.

LAUREL, DE--D. REGISTER: We had a dramatic miracle here this month when one of the long-time members, who works in construction, accidentally fell 30 feet from a skylight window in a roof. He landed, head first, on a cement floor. His son, who witnessed the accident while on the same job, ran to his father and found him unconscious with little or no heartbeat. His son and wife called for an anointing and by the time I got to the hospital, God had already intervened! The member was conscious and X-rays revealed he had no broken bones or major injuries. He suffered only a few scratches and a slight headache for a couple of days. We know that God miraculously intervened in preserving his life!

LONDON, KY--DENNIS DIEHL: A local man who is a state congressman and minister led a church drive to oust the PT from our best spot. Having had enough of this, we confronted him firmly but politely, reminding him of the first amendment and his congressional responsibilities. We also asked him not to mix his politics and

ministry, and confuse the two. He apologized and called to have the newsstand reinstated. "Politicians" seem eager to please!

NEW BERN, NC--JOHN MOSKEL: After three successive visits, I finally invited a minister to local Sabbath services. He had read through Lesson 10 of the Bible correspondence course and realized that he really didn't have God's Holy Spirit. He and his family came to services and then attended services both holy days during the Days of Unleavened Bread (that's quite an achievement for anyone who is brand new to God's Church). He had previously pastored a Protestant congregation and realized that Sunday was the wrong day. He knew about the Sabbath when he first attended, but not much about the holy days. After the first Sabbath service, his wife remarked to mine, "The one thing that impresses me most about this church is the teen-agers. They are dressed so neat and clean, and their conversation is really wholesome."

GRAND RAPIDS, MI--BILL MILLER: PM activity continues to maintain a steady pace. A few are now attending services and are about ready for baptism. Hard trials of health and personal problems persist, but the brethren continue to endure and grow stronger because of them. The attitude of the members is inspiring as they learn to trust in God to take care of them. Numerous young adults brought up in the Church are seeking baptism counseling. Satan is active, but is losing numerous battles here.

WACO, TX--HAROLD LESTER: PM activity is increasing but most have only begun to prove God's truth. Many of them will no doubt come along in time, but at the present they are looking for a church to attend. The trend is encouraging to the brethren and ministry in Waco.

GREAT FALLS, MT--DAN WHITE: The Y.O.U. and Y.E.S. activities have really brought the children into the mainstream of the Church and their parents with them. Several nonmember mates have begun to attend the socials with their families, thus bringing nearly all of the families involved closer together.

MOBILE, AL--STEVEN MOODY: I had two people tell me they wished their third tithe years could be extended beyond the Feast of Tabernacles because they were doing so well. Most of the unemployed have found jobs or are receiving aid for schooling they are taking, which gives them income.

GARDEN GROVE, CA--TERRY MATTSON: Mr. Waterhouse's visit was the highlight of the month, giving us all a better picture of our destiny in the great Family of God. Many have remarked how much they appreciated having "a hands on" opportunity in helping to do the work of the Church. The brethren are very enthusiastic about being able to serve on the WATS line Sabbath mornings. Also more and more are becoming involved in the PT Newsstand Distribution Program. It's certainly a joy to be able to serve so many dedicated and loyal Church members!

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGHoly Day Offering Reports for the U.S.

With Pentecost fast approaching, we would once again like to remind each church pastor of the importance of phoning in preliminary holy day offering reports promptly. As you know, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Neff, Mr. Tkach, our accountants, and others need to have this information as soon as possible.

Please call first thing Monday morning, June 11. You may use our regular WATS number (800) 423-4444. Those in Alaska or Hawaii should call (818) 304-6111 collect.

We would also like to extend our hearty thanks for your cooperation in reporting the offerings for the Days of Unleavened Bread. Nearly all of the information was furnished on time, which enabled us to make our reports on schedule.

Readers and Viewers Inspired to Study Their Bibles

It is encouraging to read letters from readers and viewers who have taken Mr. Armstrong's advice to "blow the dust off of their Bibles" and begin to understand God's Word. Using "The WORLD TOMORROW" program and our literature as guides, many are having their eyes opened to the truth. The following comments from letters describe some of their reactions:

Your teaching and beautiful literature have given me much wisdom. Now I read my Bible daily and put God first in my life. Before I do anything, I ask for guidance from Him. Every week night, I turn on my radio to hear the program, and watch it on TV Sunday evenings. The program is so impressive. I read the scriptures later. Now that God is in our home, my daughter has started reading her Bible daily. God sent you to us and changed our lives.

G.B. (Stamford, CT)

I am excited, fascinated, and fired up by The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. When I read it along with the Bible, the words come alive. The PLAIN TRUTH encourages me to study the Bible instead of just reading it. Your articles are always informative, timely and educational. I've learned so much just reading your magazine and referring back to the Bible. Somewhere in the New Testament it says, "Those who observe the commandments and teach others to do so, shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven." The PLAIN TRUTH magazine is the greatest!

J.B. (Los Angeles, CA)

Your free publications and Sunday program have helped us to strengthen our faith and Christian beliefs. We are gaining unlimited knowledge from the Holy Bible--which your publications have helped us to understand more of. When so many churches teach muffled versions of the Word of God, it's difficult for one to comprehend what God intends us to know. The fact that you say, "Don't take someone's word; don't take my word; read it for yourself," has helped us to open the pages to the most important Book of our lives.

L. & B.B. (Columbus, OH)

I've been receiving and studying much of your literature for the past six months. I must confess, never have I been so excited and compelled to search the Scriptures to justify your revelations. You have truly been blessed by God. By your fruits I know you speak the truth.

R.M. (Lebanon, IL)

I have been listening to you on the radio every night and on TV every week for three or four months. (I used to work at night but I lost my job.) Before this time, I would go months without reading the Bible but now I can't go a day without reading it. I have learned more about the Bible in this short time than in the last 20 years (I'm 30). Thanks to you, Mr. Armstrong, I know at last what the Bible is really about. You have opened my eyes to the real meaning.

A.V. (Elizabethton, TN)

When anyone begins to understand the Bible, he knows how few preachers God actually has. Jesus Christ states this knowledge is only given to the called ones. When anyone realizes what good God has in store for him, he searches the Bible daily. The more time he puts in studying the Bible, the more he receives as to how he can receive the good things God has in store for him.

C.M. (Cliford, MS)

I watch your program often and would very much like a copy of THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY and The PLAIN TRUTH. You are right; it's time I dusted off my Bible and started to read it, and this will be a start. You are a good man and we all need you.

Mrs. W.C. (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE RACE FACTOR IN CAMPAIGN '84; JESSE JACKSON'S AMAZING WORLDVIEW; THE TRAGEDY OF THE OPEN BORDER

Political polls in the U.S. presently indicate a sizable lead for President Ronald Reagan. Should things go from bad to worse in the Persian Gulf however, and the U.S. becomes more deeply enmeshed, this lead could vanish.

Former President Richard Nixon has predicted a victory in the November election for Mr. Reagan. However, he claims it could be a fairly close race, assuming Walter Mondale is selected by the Democrats at their July convention. Part of the reason why the race could be close is because of the three million or so new voters enlisted for the Democrats by Jesse Jackson. The major reason the two other remaining Democratic contenders have not criticized Jackson for his often flamboyant rhetoric is because they don't want to lose this huge new ballot-box force Jackson has garnered.

The three Democratic contenders have also campaigned heavily for the Hispanic vote in the American Southwest. Surprisingly, Jackson nearly won the endorsement of the Mexican American Political Association. The three contenders all oppose the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration reform bill, presently tied up in the House of Representatives. (Mr. Mondale specifically asked

House Speaker Tip O'Neill to postpone action on it until after the June 5 primary in California, a state with a large population of Hispanic-surnamed voters.) The Simpson-Mazzoli bill would try to get a handle on the massive illegal alien problem--last year there were from two to four million illegal border crossings, plus a million apprehensions along the border. It would penalize employers for hiring illegal aliens, but provide for the importation of seasonal agricultural workers from Mexico (similar to the old Bracero program) plus amnesty for those illegals resident in the U.S. for five years or longer. Even this "sweetener" is opposed by some Hispanic leaders who claim that legally-resident Hispanics would, by their very appearance, be discriminated against in employment. Feelings of Latin dignidad (dignity) are very much tied up in this emotional issue.

Certainly one of the most explosive issues so far in the 1984 political campaign in the United States has been the outrageously outspoken remarks attributed to one of the leading public supporters of Jesse Jackson. The person in question is Louis Farrakhan, a fiery 50-year-old Black Muslim minister. He is head of the 10,000-member Nation of Islam. This figure however, belies his influence, which is much greater because of a weekly nationwide radio program.

Mr. Farrakhan came to national attention a few weeks ago, when a black WASHINGTON POST reporter, Milton Coleman, reported that Mr. Jackson had used the word "Hymie" to refer to Jews and "Hymietown" to New York City. In his radio broadcast, Mr. Farrakhan called the reporter "Judas" and said, "One day soon we will punish you with death." He said some Jews sought to harm Mr. Jackson, and in the same program called Adolf Hitler a "very great man," albeit "wickedly great."

Jesse Jackson disavowed Mr. Farrakhan's words. But he has refused to denounce the man or renounce his political support. He even said, "Minister Farrakhan has a very high batting average for fighting for good."

It turns out that Mr. Farrakhan's remarks were nothing new. He has "a long history" of threatening reporters and others, according to NBC News. Among reported incidents, Mr. Farrakhan's remarks once convinced a witness not to testify at a murder trial in Washington, the network said. As reported in a May 23 UPI dispatch:

In 1974, Nation of Islam member James Price and six other members were charged in the killings of seven members of a rival sect in Washington, D.C. Price, who became a government witness, listened to Farrakhan's weekly broadcast on a car radio as he was being driven to the courthouse.

"Let this be a warning to those of you who would be used as an instrument of a wicked government.... Today there are younger men and women rising up who have no forgiveness in them for traitors and stool pigeons. And they will execute you as soon as your identity is known," Farrakhan was quoted in the broadcast. Price refused to testify and was killed by two of his co-defendants and a third black muslim seven months later at Philadelphia's Holmsburg Prison. No link between them and Farrakhan has been discovered.

Another background report on Louis Farrakhan appeared in the April 17 NEW YORK TIMES:

Mr. Farrakhan's language has always been fiery. He has referred to whites as "devils" and criticized blacks and whites who favored integration. He has reserved some of his most scathing language for such black organizations as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, as well as Jews.

The 50-year-old son of a Baptist minister, Mr. Farrakhan was born Louis Wolcott, and has been a Black Muslim since the 1950s when, as a calypso singer in Boston, he was recruited into the Nation of Islam by its best-known leader, Malcom X. He took the name Louis X and later changed that to Louis Farrakhan. Following Mr. Muhammad's death in 1975, his son, W. Deen Muhammad, renounced the black supremacy and separatist teachings of his father and transformed the organization, now called the American Muslim Mission, into an orthodox religious entity. Mr. Farrakhan left with a band of followers to establish his own Nation of Islam to continue Elijah Muhammad's teachings....

Last February, Mayor Marion S. Berry Jr. of Washington proclaimed "Louis Farrakhan Day" and at a youth rally introduced him as "one of the single most significant spokespersons for the dispossessed and the downtrodden." Mr. Farrakhan's message is that blacks have been in bondage in America and that whites have oppressed blacks for 400 years. He says whites have deliberately kept blacks divided, bereft of any knowledge of their African heritage and "mentally, economically and politically dead."

New information from Mr. Farrakhan's March 11 speech, in which he threatened the WASHINGTON POST reporter, has now come out. In it, he also predicted--almost incited, it would appear--race wars a couple of years down the road. Here is a UPI report from May 26:

Black Muslim minister Louis Farrakhan...is predicting cataclysmic race wars led by street gang "warriors," it was reported Saturday. During the broadcast portion of a March 11 speech, Farrakhan called Adolf Hitler a "very great man" and made an implied threat to a WASHINGTON POST reporter...the CHICAGO TRIBUNE reported.

The TRIBUNE, which recently obtained a tape recording of the entire speech, said Farrakhan went on to describe street gang members as "born warriors for true liberation (who are) awaiting the voice of the Messiah." Farrakhan said urban street gangs "are going to play a very important part in supporting and defending the black community." He told the group he expects race wars to break out by 1986, the TRIBUNE said.

Although his spokesmen say Farrakhan bears no malice toward whites, in a nonbroadcast portion of the March 11 speech, the religious leader warned: "We were born to settle the score. Some of the whites are going to live; maybe a few, quite a few. But (God) doesn't want them living with us. He has called us out for His glory, and He doesn't want us mixing ourselves up with the slavemaster's children whose time of doom has arrived."

Jesse Jackson's Radical Worldview

Jesse Jackson has clearly emerged as the most outspoken candidate on the Democratic ticket. The former lieutenant to Martin Luther King is well known for his advocacy of more political power for minorities, the poor and women in America (his so-called "rainbow coalition"). Few people, however, realize how radical Mr. Jackson's views are regarding foreign affairs and what he foresees as America's future role in the world. A good indication of this emerged in his Memorial Day trip to Mexico. (Significantly, President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico did not accede Jackson's request for a meeting.) While there he sharply criticized President Reagan's "manifest destiny" and "gunboat diplomacy" with regard to Central America. He also repeated his desire to travel soon to Nicaragua (whose leaders, he has said, are on the "right side of history") and also Cuba. He said that he had been inspired to lead a nonviolent peace demonstration somewhere along the U.S.-Mexico border on the Fourth of July. "We must march to our common border," he said, "and stretch out our hands to each other."

As Jackson, increasingly labeled a "power broker," gains leverage in the Democratic Party, he will undoubtedly push it further to the left. Here are excerpts from an article in the April 1984 COMMENTARY magazine entitled "Jesse Jackson, the Blacks & American Foreign Policy," written by Arch Puddington:

Jackson's ideas about foreign policy are often described as embodying a "Third World approach" to international affairs. He has criticized his Democratic presidential rivals for holding a "Europecentric" attitude while ignoring or minimizing the needs of the underdeveloped countries, and he has condemned Americans in general for harboring feelings of "arrogance and contempt" for the impoverished nations of the Third World....

He favors normalization of relations with the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua and a cut-off of aid to the government of El Salvador. He calls for the imposition of trade sanctions on South Africa.... In addition, he advocates massive increases in the amount of foreign aid given African countries, and the elimination of special conditions--such as a country's support for U.S. positions in the United Nations--which the Reagan administration has attached to our assistance programs....

Looked at collectively, these positions are not especially unusual.... Where Jackson does diverge, however, is in his statements regarding the underlying values of American involvement in world affairs.... Jackson has referred to the Reagan administration as a "repressive regime" and asserted, at a meeting of representatives of the Organization of African Unity at the UN, that "Third World nations are being raped and robbed of valuable raw materials" in the service of a coming nuclear holocaust. Jackson, born and raised in Greenville, South Carolina, refers to himself as having grown up as a "Third World resident in the first world," and of having been "born in occupied territory, having lived for all of my developing years under apartheid."

Jackson also makes repeated references to America's "obsession with Communism," an affliction from which he most certainly does

not suffer. He has, for example, described the Berlin Wall as "a monument to a crisis in communications which has caused so much pain to so many people," a remark which betrays his entire attitude toward East-West relations. While Jackson cannot bring himself to acknowledge the Wall as a concrete symbol of Communist oppression, he does not hesitate to make the most sweeping attacks on the United States as a bastion of militarism and racism. His reaction to the invasion of Grenada is particularly revealing. Americans, he declared, "should feel a sense of outrage and disgrace" over the action, which "must be seen as... gunboat and big-stick diplomacy, manifest destiny, militant adventurism, and racial insensitivity."...

The history of Jackson's participation in the Middle East debate bears close examination.... In 1979... Jackson led a delegation on a mission to the Middle East.... While the trip is mainly remembered for Jackson's embrace of Yasir Arafat and his warm words of praise for the PLO, other less publicized utterances provide a clearer insight into his beliefs, style, and strategy.

For example, when Prime Minister Begin declined to meet with Jackson on the ground that the American had made anti-Semitic remarks, Jackson responded that this represented "a racist decision based on skin color."... It was during the same trip, however, that Jackson, following a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, observed that: "The suffering [of the Jews during the Holocaust] is atrocious, but really not unique to human history," and added "Genocide should not be allowed to happen to anyone, not even the Palestinians."...

Another reason to treat Jackson's foreign-policy views seriously has to do with the degree to which they reflect the dominant attitudes among black elected officials and those blacks who think and write about the question of what America's world role should be.

Here the most compelling evidence was the near-unanimous disapproval of the invasion of Grenada.... The Congressional Black Caucus without dissent approved a statement denouncing the intervention, a position which was subsequently reaffirmed after a meeting with Prime Minister Eugenia Charles of Dominica, a strong supporter of the invasion.... Representative Gus Savage declared himself "angry and in agony over our country," and charged that the invasion was at least in part racially motivated.... To Representative Ronald Dellums, Grenada represented "nothing less than a crime against humanity executed by people who deserve to be condemned as war criminals."...

Five caucus members... were among seven Democratic Congressmen to sponsor a measure to impeach President Reagan on the grounds that the invasion violated the Constitution.... Moreover, Conyers and Savage reportedly bolted in fury from the meeting with Prime Minister Charles; subsequently, speaking from the floor of Congress, Savage referred to Charles [a black woman] as "this puppet of our President" who "represents Aunt Jemima-ism."...

To be sure, not all black elected officials, civil-rights leaders, writers, and academics shared the predominant posture. Norman Hill, president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, pointed out that "the black population of the island has welcomed the American and Caribbean troops as liberators.... [Nevertheless] many black foreign-policy specialists and activists display a decided preference for revolutionary, "socialist," and anti-Western regimes in the Third World. For them, a Maurice Bishop is preferable to a Eugenia Charles; in all likelihood a Fidel Castro is preferable to an Edward Seaga. (At least one prominent black political figure, Boston's Mel King, has stated a preference for Castro over Ronald Reagan because, in his view, Castro cares more about poor people.)...

Given the near certainty that blacks will become an increasingly influential force in American political life, this attitude represents a serious obstacle to the refashioning of a national consensus around a policy aimed at the spread of democracy and the restraint of Soviet expansionism.

America's "Open Border" Sows Seeds of Future Disaster

The possible radicalization of the black community is proceeding apace with the steady influx of Hispanic illegal aliens, especially in America's Southwest. One of America's most perceptive columnists, Georgie Anne Geyer of the UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE, puts this mushrooming problem into perspective, in a syndicated column on May 8:

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.... Everybody talks about it, usually quietly or in whispers. People "know" that the balance in this unusually lovely American city--until now a harmonious mixture of Old South, Old Texas and Old Mexico, with its charming riverfront--has changed. They "know" that the city population has now passed over to about 54 percent Mexican-Americans and Hispanic illegal aliens in place of the harmonious old Anglo-Mexican mixture. But no one takes polls, no one confronts it, no one deals with it. It's easier that way--or it still seems to be.

People suspect that something is different underneath.... They know that an even greater deluge of illegal immigrants is coming. They know there is heavy communist political organizing in Las Piedras on the border. They know that northern Mexico is in anarchist chaos and that the American border is a shameless open sieve, laughed at by the world. But no one wants to come to grips with it.

Then you put on top of this the demagoguery of the Democrats campaigning down here these past few days. Gary Hart, who should know better, gave a rabble-rousing speech in Harlingen, saying "I...do not intend, as president, to support immigration legislation that discriminates against Mexican-Americans. There will be no Simpson-Mazzoli Bill or anything like it until we have absolute protection and guarantees for the Mexican-American community." His answer to the incredible problem? "The real solution for the immigration problem will not occur until the Mexican economy turns back up."...

Developing the Mexican economy? Yes, that certainly is the answer (not to speak of population control and national responsibility on Mexico's part), but the fact is that Mexico is in a stage of economic collapse. Just to stay where it is now in the next 10 years would be an extraordinary development. Meanwhile, by the year 2000 its wildly uncontrolled and splintering population will go from 60 to 120 million--up from 60 million today.

The United States has about five years left before the population imbalance in the entire Southwest will be so tilted toward the illegal aliens that there will be no possibility of passing any legislation at all.... Within 20 years, this illegal community will begin organizing politically, demanding rights even as they refuse to become citizens. (Mexicans have the lowest rate of naturalization of any ethnic group; they look at the Southwest as still part of Mexico.) They will be led by self-styled caudillos and gangs. The rule of law will pass with the idea of American citizenship. If the Marxist civil wars in Central America are not contained, we will see a hemorrhage of Central Americans, many of them carrying with them extremist, Marxist and irredentist ideologies.

Meanwhile, the United States is paralyzed, divided between the greedy right of the big ranchers who like the cheap labor, and the foolish left of the Harts, who believe in a utopian borderless world where everyone lives as brothers.... Is it not odd that the candidates...have obviously not read any history books and found what happens to countries that lose--or in this case, throw away--their core ethic?

One wonders indeed about the passage in Lamentations 5:1-2--"Remember, O Lord, what has come upon us; Look, and behold our reproach! Our inheritance has been turned over to aliens, And our houses to foreigners" (RAV).

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau