

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL.6, NO.30

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JULY 27, 1984

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Recent Ordination

On July 24, the final banquet of the seventh Ministerial Refreshing Program ended joyfully with one ordination. Mr. Dennis Johnson, who serves as the associate pastor in the Glendale and Reseda, California Churches, was raised to the rank of preaching elder.

Update for U.S. Ministers Who Own Their Homes

U.S. ministers who are living in homes they have owned (or had a contract to purchase) prior to January 3, 1983 have been given another year to include mortgage interest and property tax as an itemized deduction on their income tax return. The Tax Reform Act of 1984 has made provision to continue the deductibility of these items until January 1, 1986.

This means your "double deduction" benefit is available through the 1985 tax year. Even though your mortgage interest and property tax is paid with your housing allowance (which is exempt from income tax), you can still list these expenses as itemized deductions on your tax return. This effectively excludes another substantial portion of your income from income tax.

Those ministers who purchased homes after January 2, 1983 are not eligible for this benefit even during the current tax year. For them the benefit was terminated on June 30, 1983.

International News

Canadian Update "Second class mail permit pending" now appears on the Canadian PLAIN TRUTH magazine, reflecting the status of our application for this new postage rate. Canada Post wrote us late May asking for more details and assured us that they would continue processing our application when they received our reply. A reply was mailed to them late June containing pertinent information about our organization, plus evidence that The PLAIN TRUTH generates much revenue for the Post Office. Now we continue to wait and hope that approval will come in the near future.

The decision was made for England to print their own newsstand copies of The PLAIN TRUTH each month and Canada will simply reimburse them the expense upon receipt of invoices. This is much better for Britain and also saves the Canadian Office the cost of freighting the magazines to England.

The WATS line this year has seen a 30% increase in responses over last year. Canadians are still slow to call in, nevertheless we are slowly but surely picking up more requests from this source. Incoming mail for June was up by 49.3% over June 1983. Outgoing mail was down due to last year's mailing out of the semi-annual letter at this time.

June's income was up 4.8% over June 1983, bringing our year-to-date increase down to 13.6%. There was one less income day in June this year than in 1983, which contributed to the lower increase. However, we are still running ahead of budget and finances are in a healthy position.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you and all the ministry and teachers at Headquarters for the third Ministerial Refreshing Program. The presentations were powerful and their impact dramatic. It is material sorely needed by our local churches and by the world.

Thank you as well for the display of teamwork and harmony. We do appreciate your example.

We will now strive to follow your fine leadership in our areas so that the brethren will also grow and profit.

Norm and Kay Strayer

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I want to express my appreciation to you, Mr. Tkach and the entire staff for their labor and service of love for us in the Refreshing Program. This third series showed me continual growth in understanding the human needs God's Church is here to address in helping those God calls toward eternal life. It is not enough to cry "sin"; it is imperative to offer spiritual aid for healing.

God's Spirit continues to lead you and the Church as a whole into a greater depth of understanding God's will and mind; each successive Refresher reflects God's power at work to bring us into greater harmony with Him. Thank you for your active service in all aspects of the Church and ministry and permission for me to be a part.

Jim Lichtenstein

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Please convey our gratitude to Mr. Armstrong for our time in Pasadena during the current MRP. Thank you also to Mr. Armstrong and all the staff for the dynamic and inspiring presentations.

As the information is presented to the congregations in sermons and Bible studies, there have been many positive comments of appreciation from the members. There was such a wealth of knowledge and material presented that two months later only the tip of the iceberg has been presented to the local congregations.

The process of digesting the whole experience is a very enjoyable one indeed.

Lyall and Wynn Johnston

Comments From Monthly Church ReportsFrom the United States

AMARILLO, TX--JAMES O'BRIEN: Our YOU is having terrific results! One of the girls confessed to her mother that during some family trials this past year the only thing that kept her from quitting

school and running away from home was the YOU meetings. YES classes have caught the kids on fire.

FT. COLLINS, CO--CHUCK ZIMMERMAN: We have had a few move here for work from other church areas over the last year. The majority made sound decisions based on ministerial advice, showing that the information printed in the PGR is being used and that there appears to be unity in this area.

KANSAS CITY (NORTH), MO--BRUCE GORE: I have noticed that those in my area who are having spiritual problems also never attend Bible study. We have put stronger emphasis on this midweek picker upper. People have been very responsive to the topical study of the book of Proverbs.

YANKTON, SD--GEORGE AFFELDT: The weather was the big factor of the month--most of eastern South Dakota was flooded. The fourth Sabbath most members were unable to get to services. Many of the farmers won't get a crop this year.

GRAND RAPIDS, MN--STAN McNIEL: A five-year-old girl whose home is near the Mississippi River fell into the river on a cold day. A neighbor lady had a sudden impulse to hang her clothes on the line, rather than use her clothes dryer as normal, even though it was cold and windy outside. As soon as she went outside, she heard our member's daughter splash into the river. It is almost certain she would not have made it out of the icy cold river without the neighbor's help. The neighbor still wonders why she had such an unusual and insistent urge to hang out her clothes. Our members continue to be grateful for God's protection, especially as part of His blessing of our children.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Mail Monitor Program Progress Report

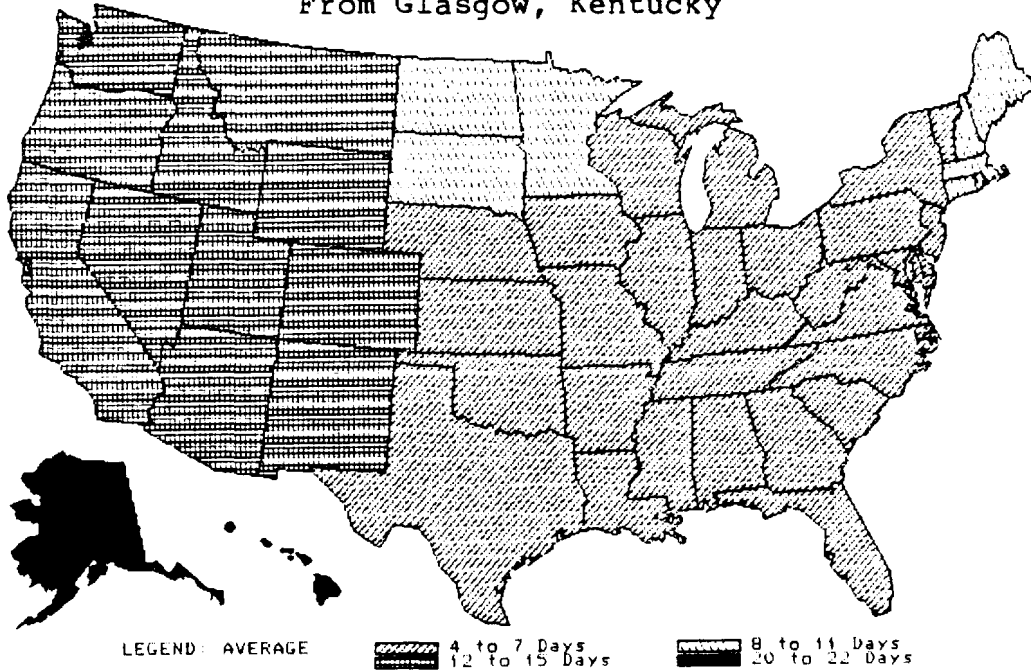
Once again we would like to give you an update on the progress of our mail monitor program, which relies on information furnished by more than 200 members scattered across the United States. Since its inception three years ago, it has provided many benefits to various departments in God's Church.

Publishing Services, for example, has been using the results to fine-tune its printing and mailing schedules for The PLAIN TRUTH and The GOOD NEWS. The program also acts as a regular "quality control" check for our publications. This has become more important since much literature is now printed and mailed by outside firms.

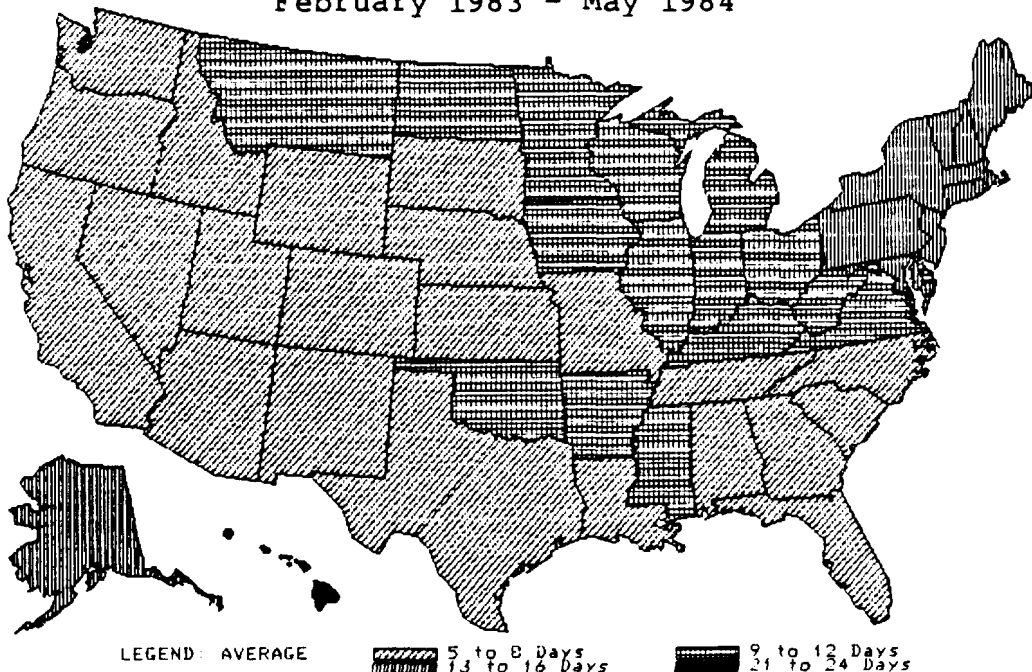
In addition, mail monitor reports have confirmed that, in general, the U.S. Postal Service gives speedy and accurate delivery of our mail.

The following maps show average delivery time, state by state, for The PLAIN TRUTH (mailed from Glasgow, Kentucky) and The GOOD NEWS (mailed from Pasadena). It should be noted that although The PLAIN TRUTH takes several days longer to reach most western states, these copies are mailed first. Thus most of the nation receives the magazine at about the same time.

AVERAGE PLAIN TRUTH DELIVERY TIME IN 1984
Via U.S. Post Office Gateway Service
From Glasgow, Kentucky



AVERAGE DELIVERY TIME FOR THE GOOD NEWS
From Pasadena, California
February 1983 - May 1984



Second Consecutive 10,000 Plus Weekend Response to Telecast

The telecast "Ascent to Greatness" (aired July 21-22) received an exceptional 10,167 calls--the second highest response for any summer weekend ever! This closely matches the previous weekend's total of 10,105 calls.

The call volume would have been even higher, but the telecast was preempted by the British Open Golf Tournament and pre-Olympic specials on 11 TV stations.

The enthusiasm inspired by this program was reflected not only in the number of calls but also in callers' comments and their eagerness to receive the offered literature, THE UNITED STATES & BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. Following are a few examples:

I've called in before, but this time the program was exceptional! To truly find our roots and to be able to find them in the Bible will be so interesting! Mr. Armstrong is exceptional! I can't wait for the book THE UNITED STATES & BRITAIN IN PROPHECY to reach me so I can go through it with my Bible! Thank you and thank God for the work He is doing!

S.B. (New Windsor, MO)

I admire Mr. Armstrong because he is most sensible. I sat there glued to the TV until he was finished speaking. I heard something about this (United States and Britain being Israel) about 15 years ago, but he is the first person that bothered to teach on the subject. I appreciate his explanation of our times.

L.K. (Decatur, GA)

It was very interesting. I didn't expect that on television--the lost ten tribes. I've been studying a little about it, but I did not expect to see it over the airwaves.

J.C. (New Jersey)

I've been watching Mr. Armstrong for a long time and realize that what he says is right. He speaks with such conviction that he convinces you! Also, the way he talks is different. Most preachers on TV say "I think" or "believe," but Mr. Armstrong says "The Bible says." There are no ifs, ands or buts!

R.J. (Port Angeles, WA)

God's Church Helps the Handicapped

A certain number of our subscribers and listeners are chronically ill, handicapped or disabled. Many are on fixed incomes as well. They derive special help and comfort from Mr. Armstrong's programs and appreciate our free literature. Following are some of their letters:

I hope you don't mind my ordering so much literature. I am totally disabled, confined to bed and wheelchair. Discovering your educational material on Christ and the Kingdom of God has been real therapy for me, especially since I used to be so active. Thank you and may God bless you.

A.P. (Albuquerque, NM)

I have listened to the broadcast for over thirty years but had not called because I was paralyzed. I only learned to speak two years ago--this enabled me to call in. I really enjoy the program and look forward to reading the booklets.

(Name not available)

I'm sorry that I'm so late in renewing The PLAIN TRUTH. I've been quite ill and in two different hospitals. I'm feeling better now but am slow mentally. My next door neighbor takes good care of me and reads The PLAIN TRUTH to me. We both enjoy it! Thank you.

E.C. (Jeffersonville, IN)

Thank you very much for The PLAIN TRUTH. I am 71 years old, and suffering with arthritis, high blood pressure and a failing heart, so I can't get out very much. Your program on Sundays is my church. Your magazines and books are my comfort. God bless you. I pray for you every day.

J.K. (Brighton, MI)

My husband and I never miss your program. You are tops with the Word of God; we love your teachings. My husband has been crippled since birth so your program means so much to him.

Mr. & Mrs. A.S. (Tuckasegee, NC)

Many thanks for the renewal subscription of that wonderful magazine The PLAIN TRUTH. I read it from cover to cover every month and it is one bright spot in these ten years I have spent here at the V.A. Medical Center.

I always share it with a number of others, on the condition that it be returned to me as I enjoy rereading it, especially Mr. Armstrong's "Personal" column. That is always a highlight in interest and edification. Most sincere thanks for the splendid magazine and the many booklets you have been so kind and gracious to send me and my fellow outpatients.

W.G. (Telford, TN)

I have been hospitalized and am mostly a shut-in. It is very hard to believe that any organization could care so much as to send such a wonderful publication free of charge. I'm a 68-year-old widow living on Social Security. I'm deaf and reading material is very important to me. I'm also a Christian and desire your prayers. I have found that you do not have to hear through ears to feel the presence of God or to feel the music within one's heart.

L.C. (Gadsden, AL)

As a blind person, I don't have access to many of the helps and Bible study aids available to others. (I am lucky to have a Braille Bible.) I must depend very heavily on repetitive learning. Through the tapes sent out by you, I have read and reread all of the basic articles put out by the Church.

I have found that this repetition has grounded me in the scriptures in such a way that it would be hard to shake me loose. I'm not saying I couldn't be shaken loose, but I feel that repetition will make that process more difficult. Besides, God repeats things and if it's good enough for Him, it's definitely good enough for me!

P.K. (Jacksonville, FL)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY; GENDER GAPS (TWO OF THEM) The presidential campaign is "gettin' serious" in the United States, leading up to the most pivotal election in many years. After the Democratic convention in San Francisco, in which he was the focus of many personal attacks, President Reagan has come out swinging. Here is a report from the July 26 ASSOCIATED PRESS:

A combative President Reagan, proclaiming "the election year has begun,"...complained that the Democrats were casting him as the villain in a monster movie. "In 1980, they tried to make me 'Reagan the Barbarian.' This year, it looks like the sequel is 'Reagan the Destroyer,'" he said. "Do you get the feeling--I do --that they don't like me very much?" he asked in remarks prepared for delivery at a rally in a wealthy Republican enclave 12 miles north of Atlanta.

On the second leg of a trip designed to grab the political spotlight away from Democrats, the president also issued a fresh appeal to conservative Democrats to leave a party he contended has become too liberal for mainstream Americans.

"Yours has been a great party," the president declared. "I was a Democrat too, and I supported and campaigned for Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman because they were for a strong America, a fair and decent America that would not shrink from its responsibilities in the world.... But I think the current leadership of the Democratic party...went all the way to San Francisco and then turned left," he contended. "And they went so far left, they have left the mainstream."...

"Four years ago, a tyrant held our diplomats hostage," he declared. "Four years ago, our defense had deteriorated.... Four years ago, the Soviets took the free nation of Afghanistan for their own. American prestige seemed like a memory. Well, four years later America is a very different place. And the Democrats keep saying it's my fault.... Well, they've talked me into it. I'll take the blame," he concluded.

At the Democratic convention, much attention was paid by the media to the admittedly rousing speeches delivered by Governor Mario Cuomo of New York and Jesse Jackson. There was precious little commentary on the full nature of the content of their addresses, probably because most members of the media fundamentally agreed with what was said. It took columnist Patrick Buchanan (WASHINGTON TIMES, July 20) to dissect what these two up-and-coming powers of the Democratic Party really said.

Listening to the harangues at this convention, it is easy to understand why Democrats object vehemently to President Reagan's depiction of the Soviet Union as the "focus of evil in the world today." To this convention assembled, the focus of evil today is occupying the Oval Office....

Consider Mario Cuomo's passionate polemic against Mr. Reagan, which unleashed a pent-up river of enthusiasm from party and press alike. Under Ronald Reagan, Mr. Cuomo declared, America

has been deliberately divided into...two separate nations, "into the lucky and the left out; into the royalty and the rabble." Moreover, "our very existence" as a nation is threatened by "a macho intransigence that refuses to make intelligent attempts to discuss the possibility of nuclear holocaust with our enemy."...

Mr. Cuomo's remarks...could have been lifted from...Izvestia [the Soviet government newspaper]. Where is the truth in all this? It is the Soviets, not President Reagan, who "refuse" to talk arms control.... As for Governor [Cuomo's] view of America, how does he explain that, in 18 months, 7 million new jobs have been created, that more Americans are working than ever before, or that real income for families is rising for the first time in a decade?...

The party of JFK doesn't exist anymore.... If someone off-handedly referred to America's armed force as the "great arsenal of democracy," as FDR customarily did, he would be hooted off the podium....

But the Republican Party had best beware. This convention may be out of touch with the Democrats nationally, utterly out of touch with the American people. But Governor Cuomo's savage indictment was in tune with the thinking of the predominant press in that hall. They loved it. Some journalists wept; and others echo the statement of David Brinkley, "After covering 17 political conventions, I don't think I've ever heard a better speech. It was beautifully written and delivered."

The president's most dangerous adversaries this fall will not be the people attending this convention, but the people covering it. Fundamentally, they agree with Mario Cuomo.

The Democratic strategy is now to appear to move into the moderate mainstream of American politics (where, indeed, Mr. Mondale is more comfortable). Big-spending programs will be downplayed; Mondale will talk tough on defense, foreign policy. Mr. Reagan, for his part, will try to remind the voters of the Carter-Mondale reign. The big focus of attention from both sides will be America's large and growing block of voters who call themselves independents--about 27% of the electorate.

It could very well be that the Democrats may let their outspoken vice presidential candidate, Geraldine Ferraro, do more of the talking. This would be a clever move, since President Reagan must be careful, his aides tell him, not to take on Ms. Ferraro by name, out of danger of unnecessarily offending women, who may outnumber men this year by nine million voters.

How important is the so-called Ferraro factor? It's too early to tell. As Patrick Buchanan said, the key role may actually be played by the press, who, on so-called "women's issues" always tends to present the views of hard-core feminist groups such as N.O.W. (National Organization of Women), which has only 200,000 members, as being somehow representative of the attitudes of the majority of women in America.

While Ms. Ferraro does not personally represent the extremist wing of the feminist movement, TIME magazine (July 23) admitted nevertheless that "her

feminism is quite strong. Indeed, it is her deepest conviction." Her marriage to Brooklyn-born real estate developer John Zaccaro (24 years, 3 children) is also quite "modern"--even to the point where she has retained her maiden name, out of respect to her mother, she says. Mr. Zaccaro, said TIME:

has adapted to a self-effacing role as the proud and supportive husband of a very modern woman.... If his wife actually became Vice President, Zaccaro says, he would remain in Queens and concentrate on his business, rather than move to Washington. Says he: "She does her thing and I do mine."

Also in the same issue of TIME, Ms. Ferraro was asked:

"One thing you're up against, surely, is the old-fashioned notion that a woman's role is to help the man. Will the stereotype of woman as helpmate complicate your candidacy?"

Ms. Ferraro answered, in part:

"Why should it? Walter Mondale sees the vice presidency as he experienced the office himself. He redefined the vice presidency [in the Carter administration].... The job will not be redefined again because I'm a female. I ain't going to be any helpmate."

Democratic campaign strategists have already drafted guidelines to political campaign etiquette for Mr. Mondale and Ms. Ferraro to follow in public. The aim, reports the July 30 U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, is to

avoid offending either traditionalists or feminists by insuring that Ferraro does not appear overly aggressive or subordinate to Mondale. Among the new rules: No hugging or kissing. Walk side by side to avoid a question of who goes first.

The candidacy of Ms. Ferraro highlights one other growing trend in America. As the July 23 issue of NEWSWEEK put it, "American women have emerged as a powerful and rebellious political force." Both major political parties are showing, this year, that they recognize this trend is here to stay. Almost half of the delegates to the Democratic convention in San Francisco were women. Nearly that many female delegates (44%) will be at the Republican convention in Dallas in August.

More than 10,000 women hold elected offices across the country. Political experts emphasize that the emergence of women in politics is the logical end result of the wholesale entrance of women into the work force since the Second World War.

The feminization of American politics has led to the so-called "gender gap," whereby a widening percentage of women are said to be opposed to Mr. Reagan, his party and policies. But the gender gap extends in another direction as well. While one poll after Ms. Ferraro's selection showed that a plurality of women--49% to 41%--prefer Mondale-Ferraro, the same survey found men favoring Mr. Reagan 58% to 36%. A leading expert on American political attitudes, Kevin Phillips, analyzed this two-way gap in the July 22 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

Comparative statistics like these should properly refocus national attention to what we can plausibly characterize as the "feminization" of the Democratic Party. It's not just a question of feminist issues, but of perceived Democratic overattention to gay issues, of late-1970s insistence on holding up giant dams to save rare fish, of unwillingness to crack down on crime, of tremulousness with respect to the application of U.S. military power...and of general U.S. international helplessness, affirmed so vividly by the 1979-80 Carter Administration handling of the Iranian hostages crisis. A large majority of American men reject these postures, and they identify with Reagan's reassertion of more masculine values and tougher diplomacy.

Morton Kondracke, executive editor of the NEW REPUBLIC, took the Democrats to task, in particular for granting homosexuals officially recognized status. He commented in the LOS ANGELES TIMES of July 18:

This year the Democrats have not only declared themselves opposed to discrimination against gays, which is appropriate, but have accorded them official status, guaranteed them representation on all party committees and given them a chance to grow in power within the party. Tacitly, but without any formal debate, the Democrats are backing the gay movement's goal of acceptance of homosexuality as a fully appropriate life style....

This is a reversal of policy from four years ago, when the Rules Committee laughed out of the hall an attempt to accord "outreach group"--that is, affirmative-action--status to gays and lesbians. In a riotous moment at the rules session of the 1980 convention, Massachusetts House Speaker Tommy McGee, a gruff Irish pol of the old school, demanded to know whether the resolution on the floor "means we don't only not keep 'em out, but we have to go lookin' for 'em?" He was informed that this was correct. "Then how about ax murderers?" McGee shouted. "How about child molesters? Do we have to go lookin' for them, too?"...

This year, however, the same resolution passed the Rules Committee without dissent and was adopted by the convention on Monday. The change requires that state parties "develop and submit party outreach programs...including recruitment, education and training" in order to achieve full participation by "lesbians and gay men" in the delegate-selection process.

Steadily, the prophecy of Isaiah 3:9 and 12 is coming to pass: "And they declare their sin as Sodom; they do not hide it.... As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them" (RAV).

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau