

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 8, NO. 6

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 7, 1986

Dear Fellow Ministers,

By now most of you have seen the first broadcast of "The World Tomorrow" featuring David Hulme. We were pleased to see the same strong response we had been receiving for the past several months carry right over for the new program. The first program "What Will the Future Bring?" offered the new booklet "Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?" and brought in 19,332 calls for the weekend. Mr. Rice reported that this total is 31% above the 1985 average, and is the ninth highest response ever!

This excellent response demonstrates a smooth transition from Mr. Herbert Armstrong's programs to the new telecasts with little or no reduction in the viewing audience. I think you will enjoy reading some of the viewers comments in Mr. Rice's section of this issue of the "Pastor General's Report."

I'm sure most of you have been aware of the turmoil in the little island nation of Haiti over the past few weeks, resulting last weekend in the closure of the international airport in Port-au-Prince and reports (false at that time) of the overthrow of the Duvalier government. But you were probably not aware that Mr. Dibar Apartian had just arrived there for Public Bible Lectures to our "Plain Truth" readers. Mr. Gilbert Carbonnel, pastor of the churches in Guadeloupe, had accompanied him. Here in Pasadena, we were praying earnestly for their safety, as well as for the safety of all God's people in Haiti. We received word on Monday morning that everyone was safe and Mr. Apartian had been able to get the last seat on the last plane out before the airport was closed. His report on the trip follows in this issue. Please remember the brethren in Haiti during this time of trial and uncertainty for them. (And remember in prayer our brethren in the Philippines. Violence in connection with the February 6 election is already being reported as I write.)

I want to extend a special thank you to all who so generously and wholeheartedly contributed your local activity funds to God's Work contributed by United States and Canadian congregations, which was of great help in shoring up reserves for the difficult period. Thank you deeply for your generosity and dedication to this great Work of the living God!

Finally, as I wrote last week, God's Church must be a praying Church. Stir up God's

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people to draw closer to Him. Let your sermons, Bible studies and personal counselings reflect a wholehearted, convicted, deeply committed attitude toward God, His Church, His Work and His government. Remember that your example is paramount to leading God's people properly and effectively. God has made you a shepherd of His flock. That is an awesome responsibility. Walk humbly with Him, so you can be the kind of loving and responsible shepherd He wants! And pray for me.

In Christian love,

*Joseph W. Tkach*

P.S. The special tribute issue of "The Worldwide News" will be an excellent quality commemorative you will really appreciate. You should be receiving it within the next one to two weeks.

FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

1984 "PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT" INDEX; HYMNAL RECORD FORMS;  
INTERNATIONAL NEWS -- Philippines, Spanish

**1984 "Pastor General's Report" Index** Enclosed in the envelope is an alphabetical index to the 1984 issues of the "Pastor General's Report." It primarily covers topics which we feel you will need to refer to from time to time. We recommend that you staple this index to the back of your January 4, 1985 "Pastor General's Report" so you will have it in a standard place of reference. [We will not be preparing indexes for "On the World Scene" for those years prior to 1985.]

International News

**From Dibar Apartian** My trip was both profitable and surprising.

In Fort-de-France, Martinique, at the first public conference, there were 106 new people who seemed very interested.

Sunday morning was the second public conference in Fort-de-France, and this one was even more successful than the first: 125 new people were present.

In Martinique, we are still very well known, despite the fact that our radio program has been discontinued on Radio Caribbean for some time now. We are currently on two or three small independent FM stations, and even though the reception is limited, the programs are producing fruit.

Wednesday morning at the airport, when I was leaving Martinique for Guadeloupe, I happened to run into Mr. Garon, one of the directors of Radio Caribbean! He asked me why our program was no longer on the air:

"Your voice woke up the entire island every morning, with your appeal for righteousness and decency," he told me!

Thursday evening, in Guadeloupe, we broke all records. The conference was set for 7:00 p.m., and even though the bus service here ends at 8:00 p.m., 186 new people attended! Mr. Carbonnel told me when I arrived that several others had called who would have been there if not for the transportation problems.

The next evening, realizing what a problem transportation was for the people, we expected a smaller turn-out. Besides this, there was a carnival taking place this same evening in the same building, causing a lot of racket! Those who had come could not even enter the building!

At the last minute, the youths in the Church made posters saying: "Conference of Mr. Dibar Apartian," to direct the people. We had to delay the conference for another half-hour, but despite all this, a total of 122 new people were in attendance--and that is remarkable!

Friday morning, Mr. Carbonnel and I left for Haiti. We had already heard on the radio the evening before that the situation was deteriorating on the "Pearl of the West Indies." All the same, Mr. Halford was supposed to be there already, and I could not stay back and abandon him in this moment of crisis! It was not until I arrived in Haiti that I learned that he, as well as the employees at the office in Pasadena and several other ministers, had tried to contact me in Guadeloupe to tell me to cancel my trip to Haiti! Mr. Halford himself was in Miami and could not continue on to Haiti.

Arriving in Port-au-Prince, Mr. Carbonnel and I instantly felt the tension in the air. First of all, the usual Haitians were not on the airfield watching the airplanes. Instead, there were armed guards.

Mr. Jove and Mr. Franklin told me that we would not be able to hold the public conference and that I should turn around and leave the island as soon as possible. But how would I find an airplane leaving Haiti! The airport was still open, but most of the flights were canceled; there were only two flights to Miami, and both were booked solid.

After waiting an hour in the stand-by line, I was told at the very last minute that there was still one free seat in an "Air Haiti" plane, which was 45 minutes late in taking off. So I was finally able to leave the island, where the situation is still uncertain and dangerous.

"And what became of Mr. Carbonnel, whom I had to leave in Haiti?" you ask. I was able to telephone him Sunday night. He told me that they had assembled privately for the Sabbath, and that things seemed calm for the moment. The theatre where I was to hold the public conference had been closed for three days, like all the other public establishments. All the same, Mr. Carbonnel had gone there Saturday night, just in case anybody had shown up. To his great surprise, there were more than 100 people waiting...of course, they all understood the situation and returned to their homes!

--Joseph W. Tkach, Pastor General

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

X This year our budget has been set at 7% more than 1985. January ended with an increase--7.7% above that of the first month of 1985. At this point, then, we are slightly ahead of the projected budget. If this trend continues, or improves, we should be able to restore bank balances to the levels of a year ago, and possibly even improve them considerably.

As a result of the death of Mr. Armstrong, we are watching the financial trends on a daily basis. In a time of transition like this it is difficult to know exactly how financial affairs will be affected. We hope that people who have not been taking appropriate spiritual action in their lives will now begin to wake up and make positive changes. Mr. Tkach has reminded us so often recently of Mr. Armstrong's statement that when our ways please God, He will bless us.

Please pray that God will give us the financial increase needed so that the Gospel can go out in ever-greater power.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM EDITORIAL SERVICES

"WORLDWIDE NEWS" TRIBUTE; "PLAIN TRUTH" APPRECIATED DOWN UNDER;  
"YOUTH 86" UPDATE; YES LESSON UPDATE

X **"Worldwide News" Tribute** The special tribute issue of "The Worldwide News" is becoming more special all the time. Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach now plans to send that edition out to all co-workers as a special gift with his February member and co-worker letter.

We have upgraded the paper from newsprint to a higher quality coated stock, and plans are to send it out along with the letter from Mr. Tkach in a plastic wrapping. This will delay the printing and mailing of that issue a few days.

We feel everyone will enjoy the historical photographs and behind-the-scenes reminiscences written by Mr. Tkach and other long-time associates of Mr. Armstrong. We're just sorry that space didn't permit more of these articles. Many of you have your own personal stories to tell as well, I'm sure.

Since the funeral more tributes and condolences have come in from dignitaries around the world. We also plan to run as many of those as possible in that issue.

X **"Plain Truth" Appreciated Down Under** Mr. Bob Morton sent us a letter to the editor that appeared in THE AUSTRALIAN January 7. THE AUSTRALIAN, Mr. Morton says, is the only newspaper in Australia considered to be a real national daily. "Could someone please tell me why the press and media of this country cannot notify us about important international news affecting Japan, Australia's major trading partner. For example, I have discovered from "The Plain Truth" and THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW that Japan has a huge budget deficit (far larger than any other industrialised nation) and is facing serious financial difficulties." -- Owen Carwardine, Burleigh Waters, Qld., Australia.

"The Plain Truth," along with fulfilling its commission, appears to be filling an important gap in news coverage in that area of the world.

**"Youth 86" Update** We're receiving so many good articles from teenage readers for the "Reader By-Line" section that we're planning to start using more than one when possible. The teens have many positive, helpful stories and ideas they want to share. Some touching and helpful articles about preventing teen suicide are scheduled for the April issue.

The article "Are You Sure Everybody's Doing It?" has been bringing in a lot of mail. Many readers explain that they've learned the hard way the negative effects of premarital sex. Today's young people, sexually sophisticated as they are, seem very naive about the effects of going the way of the world. Many of them need and want guidelines.

To those of you who have shown some talent and interest in writing, "Youth 86" does need articles on some of the basic spiritual subjects. Articles need to be interestingly written and show why and how the subject relates to teens.

If you have an article idea, please write me, explaining what you have in mind and how you would grab the readers' interest. We'll let you know if we need something on the subject and provide further guidelines.

Important to remember when writing for "Youth 86" is that we want to promote family unity and point young people to their parents, all the while keeping in mind that about 90 percent of our readers' parents aren't in the Church.

**YES Lesson Update** Student enrollment in the youth Bible lessons is at an all-time high. U.S. enrollment is about 21,000--17 percent of those are non-Church youths. Including international enrollment, we have about 30,000 students now.

--Dexter H. Faulkner, Editorial Services

#### UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

TRIBUTE TO MR. ARMSTRONG BREAKS 100,000; NEW TELECAST BRINGS 19,332 CALLS; GOOD GROWTH CONTINUES; COMMENTS ABOUT MR. ARMSTRONG

**Tribute to Mr. Armstrong Breaks 100,000** We are pleased to report that responses to this special telecast have now passed 100,000. Since the program was initially aired, calls have continued to come in at a steady pace. For example, an additional 4,000 viewers called this weekend (February 1-2) to request MYSTERY OF THE AGES. Most of these callers were doing double duty--they were responding to Mr. Hulme's program, but also asking for Mr. Armstrong's book because they were unable to get through on the previous weekend. (A small number also came from stations which showed the special telecast one week later.)

Incidentally, over 7,000 letter responses to "Tribute to Mr. Armstrong" have been received. This brings the combined total to over 107,000.

**New Telecast Brings 19,332 Calls** Mr. David Hulme's stimulating inaugural telecast "What Will the Future Bring?" brought in 19,332 calls on February 1-2. This total is 31 percent above the 1985 weekend average. Only eight other telecasts have produced higher responses.

This fine response seems to indicate a smooth transition from Mr. Armstrong's programs to the new telecasts, with no reduction in the viewing audience.

Many offered favorable comments about Mr. Hulme and his presentation. The viewing audience clearly recognized that he gave the same dynamic message from the Bible as Mr. Armstrong did.

Here are a few comments:

I was well pleased with how he [Mr. Hulme] said things and what he said. I am glad he is following the same philosophy and teachings as Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Address unavailable

I only saw Mr. Armstrong a few times, but I really enjoyed today's program. He did an excellent job. He talks like Mr. Armstrong did when he was younger.

Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Armstrong was wise to have Mr. Hulme do the program. I didn't feel very good after his death--almost like the world was coming to an end--but after hearing Mr. Hulme, I feel much better. I always watched Mr. Armstrong--I'd sooner miss breakfast than miss watching him. And I'm going to keep watching Mr. Hulme.

Stanfield, North Carolina

I have been watching the program for years and was used to seeing Mr. Armstrong. This is the first time I've ever called in. It's a transitional thing for me, but it seems to be a smooth transformation.

Prior Lake, Minnesota

**Good Growth Continues** After a record-breaking 1985, God's Work has continued to increase at an outstanding pace during the first month of this year. The following table compares year-to-date mail and phone calls (U.S. only) with the same period last year:

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Mail Received	396,174	513,964	29.7%
WATS TV Response	58,146	155,000	144.5%
Total WATS Calls	76,758	187,646	166.6%
New Names Added to File	169,353	224,736	32.7%

**Comments About Mr. Armstrong** Many thousands of letters and phone calls paying tribute to Mr. Armstrong have come from members, co-workers, viewers and subscribers. Most commented how much his work and personal example have meant to them. Many included messages of encouragement to Mr. Tkach, assuring him they would continue supporting God's Work under the new administration.

Following are just a few of the many comments we've received:

"It was so nice to see that Mr. Armstrong lived such a full life and worked right up until the last day of his life. I have never known anyone like him."

"He was a great man--one out of a billion!"

"It was something very special when he spoke--different from all the rest of religious programs."

"Mr. Armstrong was my best friend--through the television."

"I am so bereaved with his passing. We loved him to pieces--our whole family did. His life was fabulous."

"It's great that the program will continue because you guys are doing a super job."

"I've been a follower of Mr. Armstrong for 20 years or more, and I'm very sad he has died. But I'm very pleased he has named a successor. I can't pronounce his name yet, but I wish him God's blessing, and I hope that he will do the television program."

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

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