

## Five records fall in December in response to Church's message

By Michael A. Snyder

PASADENA — "It's certain that new response records are now producing the busiest month in Mail Processing history," said evangelist Richard Rice, director of the Church's Mail Processing Center (MPC).

Five records fell during the first two weeks of December, including a record for weekend telephone response of 26,020 calls; one million telephone calls received in a year; six million letters received since Jan. 1; and more than 150,000 pieces of mail received over a single weekend (Dec. 7 and 8).

### Overtime

"We're going to have to reinforce, strengthen and push forward to keep pace with the amount of response we are now receiving," the evangelist said in an interview with *The Worldwide News* Dec. 9.

"We have nearly 650,000 pieces of mail on hand to process. Additional part-time employees have been added to the staff, and the regular employees are working overtime to quickly reduce the workload," Mr. Rice said.

The *World Tomorrow* program *The Plain Truth About Christmas*, which aired Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, broke the record set one week earlier, with 26,020 calls.

"The program about Christmas has always pulled very well," Mr. Rice said. "However, the record weekend nearly doubled the previous year's response for the same program, when it pulled 13,101 calls."

The Dec. 7 and 8 weekend telephone response was 17,835 calls, the 10th highest in MPC history.

"The year-to-date average of 14,100 calls per week is now higher

than the all-time record set previously in 1984," Mr. Rice said.

### Six million letters

"So far this year we have received six million letters — more than one million over last year's total," the evangelist continued.

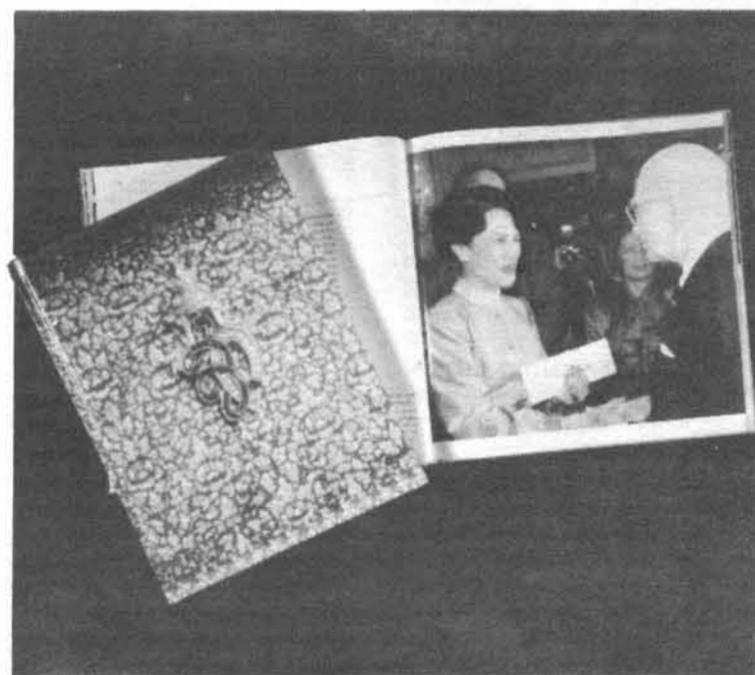
"By the end of this week [Dec. 13] we will have also added more than two million new people to address files in 1985. This, too, is another record," he said.

Calls received in the telephone response areas in Pasadena and Big Sandy topped the one million mark Dec. 2. This includes calls for literature, Church information and ministerial visits besides response from

the *World Tomorrow* program.

The Church received more than 150,000 pieces of mail from the Pasadena Post Office Dec. 9, breaking the weekend record by more than 55,000 pieces.

Mr. Rice said that about three fourths of the mail was response from Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong's Nov. 11 semi-annual letter to *Plain Truth* subscribers. Other sources include the Nov. 25 co-worker letter from Mr. Armstrong; co-workers responding to a booklet offer for *The Bible — Superstition or God's Authority? ... and Can You Prove It?* and *Plain Truth* and *Good News* subscription renewals.



**THAI BOOKS** — Two books published in Thailand about the visit of Queen Sirikit to the United States feature text and photographs of the Queen's visit to Pasadena Ambassador College in March.

## Thai books chronicle Queen's visit to AC

PASADENA — Two Thai-language books chronicle Queen Sirikit's March visit to the Ambassador College campus here, according to Aaron K. Dean, executive aide to Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong and a vice president of the Ambassador Foundation.

The books, *Royal Moon Rising Over America* and *SUPPORT in USA 1985* are sold in bookstores in Thailand and feature photographs taken by the Thai royal photographer who accompanied the Queen. More than a third of each book covers the Queen's visit to Ambassador College, with several full-color photos of the Queen and Mr. Armstrong.

The books trace the Queen's tour through Palm Beach, Fla., Washington, D.C., New York, N.Y., and the greater Los Angeles, Calif., area. Photos of the visit include the

Queen with President Ronald Reagan; Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary-general of the United Nations; and Henry Kissinger, former U.S. secretary of state.

*Royal Moon Rising Over America* recounts a conversation between the Queen, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Dean during a tour of the campus. The author, one of the Queen's ladies-in-waiting, wrote: "I cannot find words to express this," the Queen said to Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Dean. "It is not surprising that this college has received three awards [for the most beautiful campus]."

"And first of all, which may be the most important value here, is that you produce incredible people — people with good qualities," the Queen continued.

"Because of the beautiful surroundings, Her Majesty expressed

again that 'this Ambassador College is beautiful like heaven,' the book continued.

When the author asked Lady Suwaree, one of the Queen's aides, what the Queen's favorite part of the U.S. tour was, she answered: "In my opinion I think that Her Majesty's highest pleasure was with Ambassador College, because she mentioned it so often."

Continuing her description of the college, Lady Suwaree said, "The important thing is they have compassion and good heart. They are always ready to help others with gladness of heart. We can see that clearly."

"For example, during the exhibition [of Thai artifacts] it didn't matter what we lacked. When we asked them, they just went to get it for us with a happy face. This kindness was not just for us only. I heard that they are like this all of the time."

Lady Suwaree said that Ambassador College trains students to be

"worthy to be part of humankind. They learn how to live their lives in the best way."

"If there were a lot of people like this, we would have a better world," she said.

Mr. Dean said, "I think we have to understand that these visits have more impact than most realize. We didn't have any knowledge that these books were being produced until Jeff Caudle, the Ambassador Foundation's representative in Thailand, saw them in a Thai bookstore."

"People receive a strong witness of our example in living God's way of life when they come here," Mr. Dean said. "They can readily see the fruits of living the way of 'give' as opposed to the way the vast majority of people live."

Copies of *Royal Moon Rising Over America* and *SUPPORT in USA 1985* were distributed to regional directors at the Nov. 18 to 21 regional directors conference here.

## Church income rising, reports Church treasurer

By Leroy Neff

PASADENA — The November increase in income for the Worldwide Church of God was 11.7 percent, and the year-to-date increase is 10.5 percent. This is still below budget, but it is an encouraging trend.

*Evangelist Leroy Neff is treasurer of the Worldwide Church of God.*

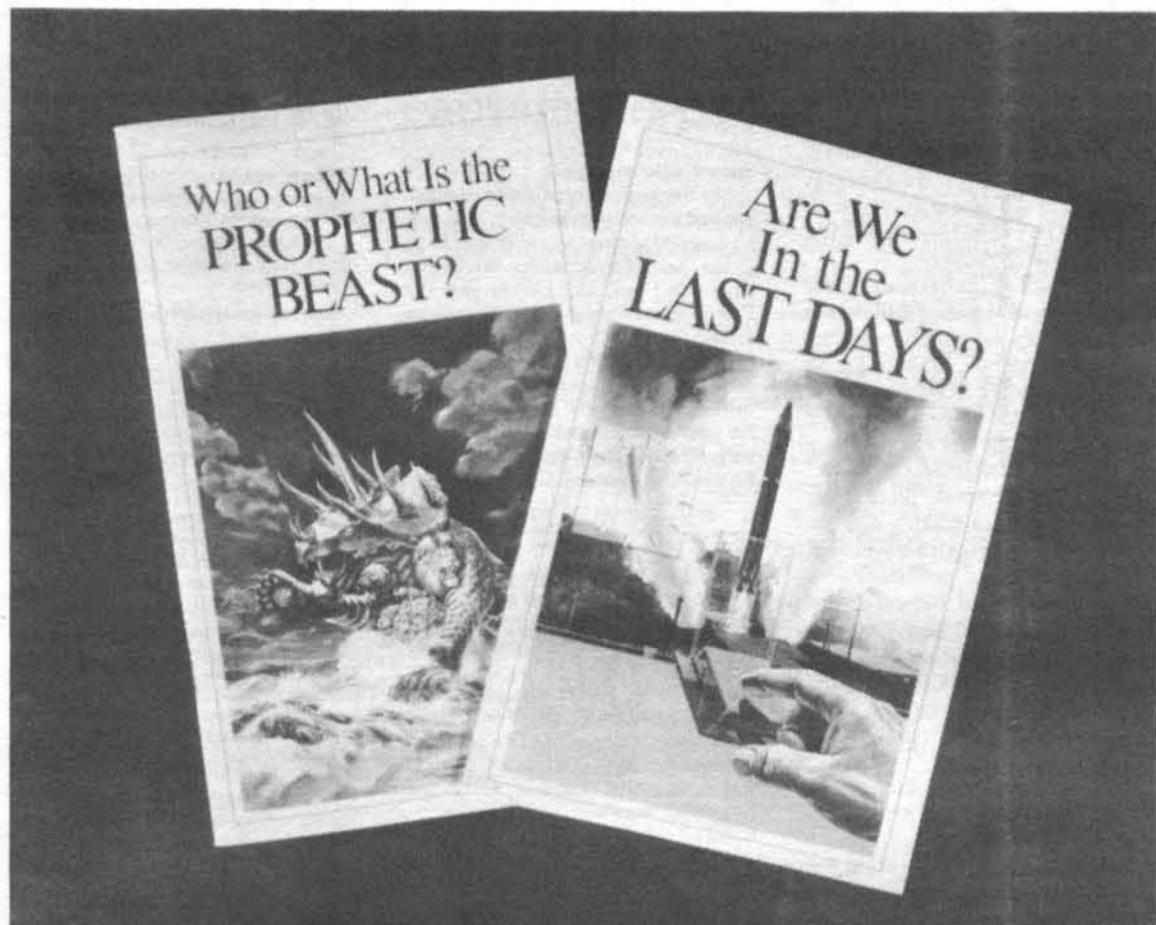
In early November we did not know the actual increase for the final Holy Day offering. It was uncertain because excess Festival tithe was included in the offering this year. The amount of increase for that Holy Day offering was almost equal to the amount of excess Festival tithe the previous year.

Current figures show that the combined Holy Day offerings and Festival contributions are 5.3 percent more than last year, which is

almost 7 percent less than budget. This should be a fairly accurate comparison of the change in 1985 for these contributions.

You have probably read in Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong's member and co-worker letters about decisions made necessary because of lower than expected income. These decisions resulted in reducing the number of pages in *The Plain Truth* and lowering the circulation of the newsstand issues for a while. Also a number of less effective television stations have been canceled.

These changes, plus a no-increase budget for nearly all departments, made cash-flow projections positive for 1986. They also indicate a return to January, 1985, reserve levels by the end of 1986. We hope that income will increase enough so that reserves can again be sufficient during the months of plenty to carry us through the lean months, much like Joseph did in Egypt.



**NEW LITERATURE** — Two booklets, *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* and *Are We in the Last Days?*, written by Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong, will be sent automatically to English-speaking heads of households in December, according to evangelist Richard Rice, director of the Church's Mail Processing Center (MPC).

# European unification: three men to watch

PASADENA — The arrival of another year is a good time to take stock of the progress toward European unity. For New Year's Day has been a significant one in the history of the European Economic Community, or Common Market.

The EEC was launched Jan. 1, 1958, with charter members France, Italy, West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

Jan. 1, 1973, witnessed the trade bloc's first expansion, when Britain, Ireland and Denmark took up membership. Eight years later, to the day, Greece joined up.

And now, Jan. 1, 1986, the Common Market expands again, this time to 12 members, with the addition of Spain and Portugal.

To prepare themselves for the enlarged Community, as well as to try to set longer-range guidelines, the heads of state of the 12 nations met for a summit conference in Luxembourg in early December.

The leaders agreed on a package of modest but significant measures. The agreement, however, fell short of the grandiose "relaunching of Europe" called for at their meeting in Milan, Italy, in June.

Once again, it was some of the northern European members who objected most strongly to key proposals and watered down the deci-

sions that were reached.

Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers said that "there is no point in talking further to the Danes if they insist on blocking everything here." And Britain, he said, showed an "enormous reluctance . . . to accept European Community institutions. In fact the British see European institutions more as a threat than as a protection."

Such reluctance is not displayed by the Spanish.

"When 1,000 Spanish bureaucrats descend on EEC headquarters to take up their new jobs," reported David White in the June 8 issue of London's *Financial Times*, "they will be rolling back 400 years of history."

"The Spanish have been in Brussels before. Exactly four centuries ago the city was under the control of Spain's armies. The Spanish Crown was the most powerful force in Christendom, and the invincible Armada had not yet been sent.

"From then on, however, a Spain in decline has let Europe pass it by . . . [but] today, there is nobody in the EEC quite as gung-ho about Europe as the Spanish."

## Role of Juan Carlos I

Many attribute the changed mood in Spain — a constitutional

democracy for only 10 years — to the steady presence of its 47-year-old monarch, King Juan Carlos I.

In an interview in the Portuguese weekly newspaper *Tempo* Aug. 9, Spain's ex-minister of foreign affairs, Sen. Fernando Moran (who

In a speech upon accepting the prize in Aachen (or Aix-la-Chapelle), West Germany, Charlemagne's old capital, Juan Carlos traced the history of Europe's age-old quest for unity. "Over the centuries," he said, "the resurrection of the Roman Empire under Ger-

ous monarchies "strengthened the recognition . . . [of belonging] to a common reality."

## Habsburg's hope for Europe

When one thinks of royal authority over a conglomeration of peoples, tongues and religions in the heart of Europe, what should come to mind is the 700-year-old Habsburg dynasty, which ruled over the middle and latter stages of the Holy Roman Empire and finally the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

In this light, one must keep abreast of another energetic individual, a person who, despite his 73 years (he does not look his age) is a tireless exponent of a United Europe. We refer to Otto von Habsburg, son of the last Austro-Hungarian emperor and a member of the European Parliament.

A *Plain Truth* reader responded to points raised in the article "What Is a West German," which appeared in the September issue. This reader, from Innsbruck, Austria, reacted to statements of officials in Europe who appealed to the age-old dream of a United Europe.

He wrote: "The son of our Emperor Charles is working for a free Europe. He has the privilege to be (See UNIFICATION, page 7)

## WORLDWATCH

By Gene H. Hogberg



captained Spain's team in the EEC negotiations) emphasized the behind-the-scenes role played by Juan Carlos. "There was constitutional support by the Crown," said Sen. Moran, who added that "His Majesty, the King has an enormous prestige in all the world, and specifically in Europe."

What is little known about the Spanish monarch is his active interest in the cause of European unity. In May, 1982, Juan Carlos received the Charlemagne Prize, an annual award presented to the public figure who most advances the cause of European unity.

manic, and of course Christian, signs is the political dream."

Split by languages and national rivalries, it is the "Christian heritage" and the "remembrance of Rome" that have provided the essentials of unity, Juan Carlos added. But he stressed another often overlooked point. "The monarchies have been a factor of unification," he said. Through personal connections and even intermarriages, Europe's vari-

## European Diary

By John Ross Schroeder



## Erosion of Britain

BOREHAMWOOD, England — Few who live here would deny that Britain is a green and pleasant land. The ancient hedgerows mark the landscape with clarity and distinction. God gave Britons a wonderful natural heritage.

Journalist Paul Johnson surveyed the British social scene in 1983. He found "a steep decline in public and private moral standards." Environmental decline often goes hand in hand with moral decline (see Genesis 3:17-18). The British environment is under siege.

The past 30 or 40 years have been the most destructive. In 1946, 500,000 miles of carefully cultivated hedgerows graced the land-

scape of England and Wales. Now in some British counties, up to 80 percent of the hedgerows have been destroyed — mostly by the farmers — to produce higher mountains of surplus grain and beef.

Brian Jackman wrote in the Aug. 11 *Sunday Times Magazine*: "For the past 40 years farmers have been urged to grow more and more food. Aided by technical innovation and generous government improvement grants, dramatic increases in output have been achieved." Perhaps the intention was right, but it has brought environmental destruction and unwanted surpluses.

Christopher Brasher asked in the Aug. 25 *Observer*: "Should we blame the farmer for all this? No, it is we as a society who have made the rules. It is we, the voting taxpayers, (See EROSION, page 7)

## Letters TO THE EDITOR

### Second-tithe assistance

My family and I would like to thank you and the brethren so much. This year we received second tithe assistance to go to the Feast of Tabernacles. We had an enjoyable Feast, and I know that the Father is Great, because we have extra second tithe which we are sending back to the Church this year. Our Father takes what you have and gives it an increase. This widow thanks all of you for your kindness and love and obedience. Without these things it would not be possible to attend God's Feast.

Name withheld  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Thanks to God, you, and those who contributed excess second tithes, I just observed the greatest Festival ever! It was my twenty-sixth. Sometimes we wonder how it could get any better, but our Heavenly Father always outdoes Himself. And truly this Festival was fantastic in every way. The sermons, sermonettes, song services — all of it was so inspiring. The love, unity, and fellowship were out of this world!

Name withheld  
Dawson, Tex.

I wish to tell you of my thankfulness for the most wonderful year of my life, in that I have been led to God's true Church. Never in the world have I known such a people as this — who truly care about me and offer assistance will- (See LETTERS, page 7)



## Just one more thing

By Dexter H. Faulkner

## Note of encouragement

In the Sept. 17 *Worldwide News*, I published a "Just One More Thing" column titled "Do You Have It Made?" I mentioned that some close friends of mine had been disfellowshipped, and I reminded readers of the need to be constantly vigilant about using God's Spirit to grow and overcome. Otherwise we can put ourselves in danger of dying spiritually.

Judging from the surprising letters I received in response to that column, I need to explain a couple of often-misunderstood points — and add a word of special encouragement.

The disfellowshipped person is like someone who has stumbled into quicksand. He was, along with many companions (symbolically, others in the Church), traveling through a swamp (spiritually, this world). He was *in* the swamp, but was not to become part of it! He should have realized the danger he was in and taken precautions to walk only on the most solid ground he could find.

Instead, he got off the solid ground. Perhaps he grew tired of watching carefully. Perhaps something — a personal sin, for instance — distracted him. Maybe he listened to the insidious but seductive voices of any of hundreds of enemies of God's Church.

He wandered onto unstable ground — and then found himself sinking in the quicksand, his eternal spiritual life in danger! He cut himself off from the rest of his companions (the Church).

His companions (symbolically, the rest of the Church, led by the ministry under Jesus Christ) saw his deadly predicament and became alarmed. The ministry was forced to warn the other brethren to stay away from the quicksand victim and the area he was in, lest they be dragged under by the same satanic trap into which he fell.

### Hope for the disfellowshipped

Of course, if the now-disfellow-

shipped member rivets his attention on avoiding spiritual death and wants to regain solid ground again, to rejoin the other members in the Church, the ministry may be able to throw him a rope, figuratively, and help pull him out. Christ will not give up on anyone who sincerely wants to overcome and qualify for the Kingdom of God.

A person who finds himself in this condition — and some such may be reading this article — is not hostile to God and God's Church. If he sincerely repents, he can be restored to full membership and fellowship with God's people, and he can still be born into God's Kingdom at the return of Jesus Christ.

There is something other members, too, can do to help disfellowshipped people pull themselves back in! We can and should pray to God on their behalf!

### Two types

One disfellowshipped member wrote me and said that disfellowshipped members actually fall into two categories — those who are hostile to God's Church and those who are striving to repent.

He commented: "I think all too often, the [latter group], striving to be repentant people, are forgotten about . . . I believe we're all lumped together as outcasts, I believe some of us are striving to change our lives so that one day we can again be privileged to be a member of God's Church."

The apostle Jude instructed faithful Christians to be concerned with brethren caught in the deadly quicksand of personal sins, worldly temptations and satanic influence: "And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh" (Jude 23).

Paul wrote: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the

spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:1-2).

Of disfellowshipped people, Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong has written: "We should PRAY for such former members. Jesus said to pray even for our enemies. I do pray for all such. I pray God will BLESS THEM — with whatever He in His supreme wisdom knows is BEST FOR THEM — even though that may be severe PUNISHMENT!"

### Punishment in love

"God punishes every son whom He loves. God's punishment is NEVER REVENGE or desire to hurt and enjoy their suffering. It is always CORRECTIVE! It is for the purpose of HELPING them — of BLESSING them! God still does it in LOVE for the one punished!"

We all need to share this same love that God Himself expresses toward all those He calls.

Perhaps some of us aren't as conscious of this responsibility as we should be, especially as it relates to those disfellowshipped. Jesus Christ would like to reclaim them (Luke 15:10). Mr. Armstrong prays for them. We all should express God's love toward them, as Paul said of the repentant sinner in Corinth (II Corinthians 2:8). We do this through prayer.

We are now in the homestretch of the final lap of this near 2,000-year Christian race, lunging forward toward the finish line. It's time for all of us, in whatever situation we find ourselves, to stop playing games and make our calling and election sure (II Peter 1:10).

Hostile ex-members, think about the choice you are making and ask God for the humility to admit that you are wrong.

Disfellowshipped but repentant brethren, take heart that your disfellowshippment is an act of God's merciful government to help you; strive with all your being to overcome and make your life what God wants it to be.

Faithful members, follow where Jesus Christ leads and stay away from the quicksand. Pray fervently for every aspect of God's work, for Mr. Armstrong, the ministry and all your brethren, including those disfellowshipped, who can still repent and be saved if they wake up.

Everybody, "pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17). The end of the age is at hand!

# Farthest regional office keeps close contact with Pasadena

By Thomas C. Hanson

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — When Pasadena employees arrive at their offices at 8 a.m., Pacific Standard Time (PST), South African employees, 10 time zones to the east, have gone home for the day at 6 p.m.

At a distance of 10,165 miles, the South African Regional Office is the farthest regional office from Pasadena.

Roy McCarthy, 61, a pastor-rank minister, has served as South African regional director since 1978. A native of South Africa, he grew up in Ceres, less than 200 miles from Cape Town. Dr. McCarthy was regional director of the Church in Dutch-speaking areas from 1970 to 1978.

Most members are untouched directly by the racial unrest in South Africa, Dr. McCarthy said. For whites living in cities, the violence is mainly only evident in the newspapers. However, they are aware that the near future could be grim.

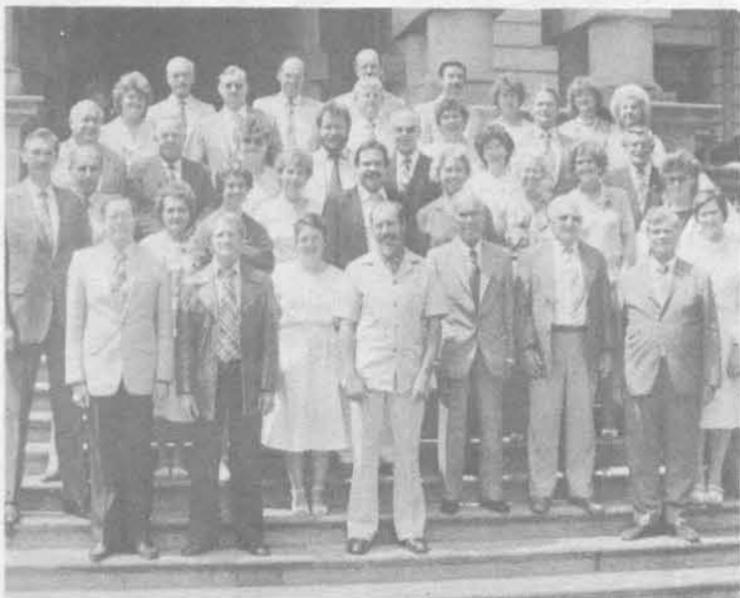
A depressed economy for the past three years is reflected in lower Church income. This is mainly from lack of salary increases for tithing payers and retrenchment. Unemployment is becoming a serious problem, Dr. McCarthy said. Tithes are not tax deductible.

The Church should not be affected by disinvestment, Dr. McCarthy said, except for those members who work for firms that depend on foreign funding. Disinvestment is the policy of some countries and private businesses to withdraw investments from South Africa to protest racial policies here.

Dr. McCarthy asked for prayers for members in Zimbabwe and South Africa. Political unrest and intimidation are problems in Zimbabwe. The Shona tribe, which dominates the government, outnumbered the Ndebele 4 to 1. The



**REGIONAL OFFICE** — Pictured is the building that houses the Church's Cape Town, South Africa, Office.



**'63 MEMBERS** — Brethren who kept the Fall Holy Days in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1963, gather after 1985 Festival services in Durban, South Africa. Attendance in 1985 at Feast sites administered by the Church's South African Office was 3,112. [Photo by Thomas C. Hanson]

Shonas want the Ndebeles to become part of the major party. Some members feel pressure when political canvassers show up at their doors and ask them to produce their party membership card.

"God's people are being protected both in Zimbabwe and here. None have suffered physical, bodily harm. There's been some minor physical damage to property," Dr. McCarthy said.

According to John Bartholomew, pastor of the Durban, South Africa, church, the greatest trial for the young men in South Africa is the military draft. In lieu of military service the men must perform six years of community service. There are 22 or 23 men in the Church in this category.

### Area served

The Cape Town Office, with 14 employees, administers the Church's work in South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia (South-West Africa), Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The only door open for preaching the Gospel in southern Africa is *The Plain Truth*, Dr. McCarthy said. The magazine is printed here and in Harare, Zimbabwe.

"According to the South African Broadcasting constitution . . . radio and television are not available at all. We can get on to very small, peripheral radio stations, but in the past the response has been negligible."

Though almost halfway around the world from Pasadena, the South African Office maintains close contact by telephone and telex with evangelist Joseph Tkach Sr., director of Church Administration; the Data Processing Center; the international mail center of the Mail Processing Center; and the Editorial and Publishing departments.

Filmed pages of *The Plain Truth* are sent to South Africa from the Publishing Department for printing. Copies of Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong's member and co-worker letters are sent to the office for printing and distribution in the region.

### Early history

The Church in South Africa traces its beginnings to Dec. 19, 1960, when 19 people were baptized by evangelists Raymond McNair and Roderick Meredith, who flew to South Africa from Pasadena.

Evangelist Gerald Waterhouse opened an office in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1963 and conducted the first official Church service in March, with 33 present. Most early members came into the

Church after hearing *The World Tomorrow* on Radio Lourenco Marques in Mozambique.

Attendance has grown to the point where more than 3,000 attended 1985 Festival services at six Feast sites administered by the regional office.

### Pastor general's visits

Mr. Armstrong has visited South Africa four times, first in May, 1976, and most recently in November, 1982. During these trips he met then-Prime Minister John Vorster and then-President Nicolaas Diederichs, the late King Sobhuza II of Swaziland, gave *Plain Truth* Bible lectures, addressed civic clubs and spoke to brethren at services.

During a trip here in March and April, 1977, he addressed the Turnhalle, the constitutional conference of Namibia (South-West Africa) and spoke to the parliament of Transkei.

### Office employees

Bryan Mathie is business manager. Mr. Mathie, a local elder, said that the current poor exchange rate means that imports billed in dollars cost 2½ times what they did 18 months ago.

Peter Hawkins, a local elder, supervises the mailing of literature and is distribution manager for the



**REGIONAL DIRECTOR** — Roy McCarthy, shown in his Cape Town, South Africa, office, serves as regional director for the Church in southern Africa. Dr. McCarthy and his wife, Tine, have served brethren in southern Africa since 1978. [Photo by Thomas C. Hanson]

*Plain Truth* magazine.

Terence Browning, a local elder, handles personal correspondence. Mr. Browning answers 70 to 80 letters a month from southern Africa. Geoff Sykes is the mail reader.

Trevor Weber updates the subscription file with assistance from Heidi Powell. Betty Hancock is

the office receptionist.

### What the future holds

Concerning the racial unrest in South Africa, Robert Klynsmith told the Johannesburg Central congregation that they must live by faith and keep their minds fixed on the Kingdom. "It's not going to get any better," he said.

## Alone, but 'never bored'

# Member uses *WN* for prayer list

By Thomas C. Hanson

PRETORIA, South Africa — You can hardly mention a minister that Jeanette van Rensburg, 63, a Church member here, is not aware of.

Mrs. van Rensburg uses *The Worldwide News* to keep a detailed prayer list of the ministers and where they serve. She organizes the list by state or country and cuts out maps to add to the list. She writes down what to pray about in each area.

She began her prayer list using the ministerial pictorial published by the Church in 1982. She updates that list whenever a minister is mentioned in *The Worldwide News*.

Mrs. van Rensburg lives in the administrative capital of South Africa, almost in the shadow of the Union Buildings, which house offices of government officials including State President P.W. Botha.

Her first contact with the Church was in 1957, when her mother, Miemie Victor, now 92, gave her a *Plain Truth*. She was baptized on the former Ambassador College campus in Bricket Wood, England, July 12, 1962, by evangelist Raymond McNair, and Robin Jones, now pastor of the Southampton, England, church.

Her mother was baptized by evangelist Gerald Waterhouse, then director of the South African Office.

(According to Mrs. van Rensburg, the surname Victor appears among the Dutch who came to what is now Cape Town, South Africa, in 1652, with Jan van Riebeeck, to establish a victualing station for Dutch ships en route to or from Java, in what is now Indonesia.)

There was no church in Pretoria in 1962, so Mrs. van Rensburg traveled by bus or train to Johannesburg for services. She has kept 23 Feasts, including the 1985 Feast in Durban, South Africa.

She was born on a farm in the district of Frankfort in the Orange Free State, one of four provinces in

the Republic of South Africa. The oldest child in her family, she has three brothers and three sisters.

Mrs. van Rensburg, the former Jeanette Victor, married Peter van Rensburg, Dec. 19, 1955. Mr. van

Rensburg died in 1983 at the age of 65.

Keeping track of and praying for the ministers "makes me feel part of the Church. I'm alone, but I'm never bored," she said.



**ACTIVE MEMBER** — Jeanette van Rensburg, a member who attends the Pretoria, South Africa, church, uses *The Worldwide News* to maintain a detailed prayer list of the ministers and where they serve. [Photo by Thomas C. Hanson]

# ACCENT ON THE LOCAL CHURCH



**QUARTER CENTURY** — Original Sacramento, Calif., Church members attend the church's 25th anniversary celebration Oct. 26. The church was raised up by evangelist Ronald Kelly (right of cake) in 1960.

## Teens camp, perform, splash on water slide

A father and son camp-out for **DES MOINES** and **OTTUMWA**, Iowa, brethren took place Oct. 19 and 20.

Forty people attended the activity, which began Saturday evening, Oct. 19, at Red Haw Lake in Chariton, Iowa. After the camp was set up and meals were prepared, the group gathered around a camp fire to hear instruction on canoe safety by Sue Stream.

Sunday morning each father and son cooked breakfast together. They rented canoes and fished on the lake. A ranger spoke to the group about how God's creation adapts for the winter.

Next the group went to the Rodney Stream acreage for target practice. A deputy from the Lucas County Sheriff's Department talked about gun safety and described standard police equipment. The older boys practiced trap shooting, and younger ones shot pellet guns.

Fatherless boys attended the activity with men from their churches.

More than 200 attended the **YOU** regional talent contest for the **PORTLAND, Ore.**, and **TACOMA** and **SPOKANE, Wash.**, areas, which took place in Spokane Nov. 2.

Melvin Dahlgren, pastor of the Tacoma and Olympia, Wash., churches and **YOU** regional coordinator, was master of ceremonies and awarded plaques and prizes to winners.

First place in the senior division

went to Eddie LeBarron, 15, of the Portland East church. He performed a piano solo. Second place went to Jane Hanson, 17, of the Spokane church for her saxophone solo.

Joel Hilliker, 13, of the Bremerton, Wash., church placed first in

the junior division with a piano solo.

Twelve teens from the **BRADFORD, England**, church, accompanied by parents, swam and used the water slides at the Richard Dunn Sports Centre Nov. 2.

*Judy Rhodes, Rod Hall and Stuart Powell.*

## Singles, seniors share event

A seniors and singles activity for **BRISBANE NORTH** and **SOUTH** and **CABOOLTURE**, Australia, brethren took place on Coochie Island, Australia, Nov. 10.

The island is one of 365 in Moreton Bay. One hundred fifty people live on the island, which is accessible only by ferry.

The group of 76 seniors and 30 singles took minibus tours, swam, rode bicycles and walked on beaches and grounds. A Scandinavian meal was served at noon at the Aminya Gardens restaurant.

Eric Noad and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Clune organized the activity. Rodney Dean, pastor of the Brisbane North and Caboolture churches, and John McLean, pastor of the Brisbane South church, and their families attended the activity.

About 30 singles and two married couples from the **WASHINGTON, D.C.**, church attended a potluck at the home of Bill Cooley in Landover, Md., after services Nov. 9. After the meal the group danced or watched movies on a

videocassette recorder.

Sunday, Nov. 10, singles from Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey and Washington gathered from noon to 5 p.m. for a dance and buffet dinner in a ballroom of the Dulles Marriott Hotel in Virginia.

Twenty-three Golden Ambassadors from the **BREMERTON, Wash.**, church had a potluck brunch Sept. 8 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Al George. Shortened cable spoons, painted and covered with tablecloths, served as tables.

After the brunch Dave Baker, a deacon, led the group on a tour of the new wastewater plant where he is project manager.

*Daphne Affleck and Ronald Ion, Dorothy Johnson and Evelyn Crouse.*

## Church marks 25th year

Brethren in the **SACRAMENTO, Calif.**, church celebrated the 25th anniversary of that congregation Oct. 26.

More than 100 people attended the first service conducted two weeks after the Feast of Tabernacles in 1960 by Ronald Kelly, now an evangelist and senior writer for the *Plain Truth* magazine. Mr. Kelly pastored the church for 1½ years.

Twenty-fifth anniversary services took place in the Roseville Theater. Joel Lillengreen, pastor of the Waukesha and Kenosha, Wis., churches, gave the first message on revealing the mystery of God. Mr. Lillengreen was pastor of the Sacramento church for nine years. Mr. Kelly spoke about the history of the Sacramento church and on living lessons from Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong's life.

Three hundred twenty attended a gala banquet and dance, coordinated by Lawrence Neff, church pastor, and Harold Williams, a local church elder, which took place at the Holiday Inn Holiday after services. Mr. Neff introduced several speakers, who commented on the congregation's history, including Mr. Kelly; Mr. Lillengreen; James Chapman, pastor of the Reno and Carlin, Nev., churches; and Dan Cook, an area member.

A taped message from Marc Segall, pastor of the Greenwood and Jackson, Miss., churches, was played. Letters were read from David Orban, pastor of the Pittsburgh, Beaver Valley and McKeesport, Pa., churches; Thomas Lapacka, pastor of the Basel and

Zurich, Switzerland, and Stuttgart, West Germany, churches; and William Swanson, pastor of the Montvale, N.J., and Middletown, N.Y., churches.

Then an anniversary cake baked by Nancy Curtis was cut. A dance continued until midnight.

Other ministers attending the event were Delfino Sandoval, associate pastor of the Sacramento church; Glen White, pastor of the Fresno and Visalia, Calif., churches; and Dudley Trone, a Sacramento local church elder. *Roger Tointon.*

## Texans assemble for activity

The **VICTORIA, Tex.**, church was host to about 100 Houston, Tex., West brethren for services Nov. 9.

Services began at 3 p.m. After a performance by the Houston West choir, Harold Treybig, a local church elder, gave the sermonette, and Kenneth Giese, pastor of the Houston West and Victoria churches, gave the sermon.

After services brethren ate a buffet meal and watched a movie. Popcorn and drinks were served.

Aaron Migl, a deacon in the Victoria church, coordinated the social. *Bud Sanders.*

## 'PT' lectures conducted

Seventy-two new people attended two *Plain Truth* lectures in **VANCOUVER, B.C.**, Oct. 20 and 27.

Thomas Ecker, pastor of the Vancouver church, spoke Oct. 20 to 60 people. He explained how God's system of education, business and industry, organized labor, science and technology, and religion differ from man's system.

Oct. 27 Joel King, assistant pas-

tor of the Vancouver church, spoke about world conditions in light of Bible prophecy.

David Cheperdak, a ministerial trainee in the Vancouver church, organized the lectures, displayed Church literature and acted as master of ceremonies.

The Vancouver church chorale, directed by Al Neighbor, sang before and after each lecture. *Joel King.*



**GUN SAFETY** — A sheriff's deputy demonstrates proper use of firearms during a father and son camp-out Oct. 20 for the Des Moines and Ottumwa, Iowa, churches. [Photo by Sue Stream]



## MAINTENANCE RECEPTION

Top photo: Edward Tolleson (left), Plant Maintenance Department manager, presents a gift on behalf of the department to Fred and Marie Robertson Nov. 7. Mr. Robertson, 83, retired after 15 years of service as campus locksmith. He was appointed locksmith by Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong in 1970. Right photo: Speaking to about 60 employees who gathered to honor him and Mrs. Robertson, Mr. Robertson recounts his experiences as a Church employee since 1965. (See *Worldwide News*, Dec. 27, 1982.) [Photos by Michael Snyder]



# IRON SHARPENS IRON

## Facing life's greatest defeat: Have you surrendered to God?

By Ronald A. Lohr

Ironic as it may sound, life's greatest defeat is the first step toward life's greatest victory!

Ronald A. Lohr pastors the Peoria and Macomb, Ill., churches.

The defeat is our surrender to God and repentance from sin. The victory is our birth into God's Kingdom, to which true repentance leads (II Corinthians 7:10).

As Christians we need to remember that conversion does not occur all at once. Repentance is a continual process of turning from our way of life to God's way of life. Like Paul, we must "die daily" (I Corinthians 15:31), constantly putting our old selves to death and seeking to be more like God.

But what a struggle it is — and what an ignominious defeat! Do some of us tend to forget the absolute need for daily repentance? The stakes are life and death. This is a battle we must lose before we can ever win!

Total, unconditional surrender is a vital part of the real repentance required for ultimate victory.

### Paul's experience

Paul (Saul) was a well-educated, brilliant man with an impressive background (Philippians 3:5-6). But he categorized all his lofty past as "dung" (verses 7-8)! He knew he was useless to God until something special occurred. What happened to Paul that gave him a new lease on life and made the useless useful?

Paul had to lose a great battle. That battle is described in Acts 9. After zealously persecuting the early Church, Paul, on his way to Damascus, came in direct contact with a power much greater than himself. "Suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (verses 3-4).

This was a bitter pill for the arrogant Saul to swallow. In all his intelligence and training, he was yet useless to God.

"And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest" (verse 5). Physically, Paul was struck blind, but spiritually, his eyes were opened for the first time. This intense experience, accompanied by fasting, led to the opening of Paul's mind. He finally saw the truth about himself. Read this graphic example of Paul's surrender — his conversion — for yourself (Acts 9:1-22, 22:1-21).

### Mr. Armstrong's example

How about a modern example of spiritual surrender? God's apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, has described how he had to "eat crow" spiritually and go through an agonizing battle with God. Thankfully, he lost! In his autobiography he writes of this traumatic yet vital time in his life:

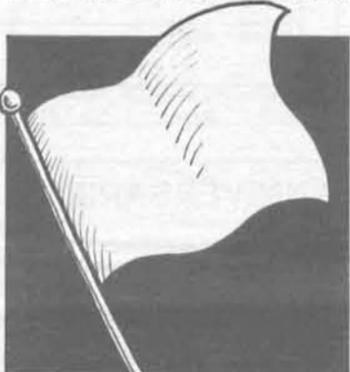
"Now came the greatest inner battle of my life . . .

"I saw plainly what a decision was before me. To accept this truth meant to throw in my lot for life with a class of people I had always

looked on as inferior. I learned later that God looks on the heart, and these humble people were the real salt of the earth. But I was then still looking on the outward appearance. It meant being cut off completely and forever from all to which I had aspired. It meant a total crushing of vanity. It meant a total change of life!

"I counted the cost!

"But then, I had been beaten down. I had been humiliated. I had



Artwork by Monte Wolverton

been broken in spirit, frustrated. I had come to look on this formerly esteemed self as a failure. I now took another good look at myself.

"And I acknowledged: 'I'm nothing but a burned-out old hunk of junk.' . . .

"Finally, in desperation, I threw myself on God's mercy. I said to God that I knew, now, that I was nothing but a failure, a burned-out hunk of junk. My life was worth nothing more to me.

"I said to God if He could have any use whatsoever for such a worthless dreg of humanity who had fallen all the way down in failure and disillusionment, that He could have my life; I knew it was worthless, but if He could do anything with it, He could have it — I was willing to give this worthless self to Him — I wanted to accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior!

"I meant it! It was the toughest battle I ever fought. It was a battle for life. I lost that battle, as I had been recently losing all battles. I realized Jesus Christ had bought and paid for my life. I gave in. I surrendered, unconditionally. I told Christ He could have what was left of me! I didn't think I was worth saving! . . .

"Jesus said, 'Whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.' I then and there gave up my life — not knowing that this was the only way to really find it!"

### Have you surrendered?

What about you? Have you surrendered? Have you lost that battle? Has God conquered you, or are you still squirming — perhaps running — to keep your old ways and be your own boss? Eventually, you will be thoroughly conquered or you will cease to exist! You have to lose before you can win.

Do you still repent daily? Are you still fully conscious of your continual need for God's mercy and direction in your life?

You can't repent on your own, of course. Some have tried to "work up repentance" — and it has led to false conversion and no promise of the Holy Spirit, the earnest (or down payment) of eternal life.

Either God is working with you or He is not. If He is, here is what you must continually be aware of and do:

(1) *Know God is real.* If you are truly converted, God is the central, dynamic (and a literal) force in your life.

(2) *Know the Bible is inspired.* Believe and do what you find revealed there. Don't ignore it or decide that parts of it don't really apply to you.

(3) *Establish a stronger relationship with the true God through daily prayer and Bible study.*

(4) *Pray for the gift of repentance.* You cannot work it up. Only God can help you see human nature for what it is (Romans 2:4, II Timothy 2:25).

(5) *Prove all things; hold fast that which is good* (I Thessalonians 5:21). The Greek word for "prove" means "put to the test." Prove by putting into action what God reveals in His Word.

(6) *Pray for correction.* Pray that God will show you reality. This is a healthy, constructive suggestion

### Milestones in Church's work

**Dec. 24, 1959** — The Church opens an office in North Sydney, Australia.

**December, 1974** — Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong is the first visitor from abroad to meet officially with Japan's new prime minister, Takeo Miki.

**Dec. 4, 1974** — For the first time, a single letter is sent to everyone involved in the Church's work — both Church members and co-workers.

**Dec. 17, 1979** — Mayor Teddy Kollek arranges a special inauguration of Liberty Bell Garden in Jerusalem to honor Mr. Armstrong's role in making the facility possible.

**December, 1981** — Richard F. Ames, Pasadena Ambassador College director of admissions, announces that more than 1,600 applications have been requested for admission to Ambassador College in Pasadena or Big Sandy. The college will be able to accept about 250 new students for the 1982-83 academic year.

**Dec. 4, 1984** — The Church's annual mail income tops \$100 million in the United States for the first time.

you need not fear, since we are talking about the true God of love who wants to give you His Kingdom (Jeremiah 10:23-24).

(7) *Seek spiritual counsel.* Cooperate with the ministry God has provided as shepherds for His people. Don't be afraid to ask for help with problems and for advice in making decisions (Hebrews 13:17).

This surrender God desires is a positive move that will draw you closer to fulfilling the very purpose for your existence. God is calling

you to an exciting, challenging, abundant life for all eternity (John 10:10).

You are in a battle. Before repentance, you are your own — mostly. But when you truly give your life to God — a process that goes on daily — your life becomes worthwhile, and you are on the road to achieving your incredible human potential. You will win the ultimate victory (Philippians 1:6).

But you have to lose before you can win!

## Neglect can quench the Spirit

By Rodney Reynolds

Is the Holy Spirit burning brightly in your life? If not, the reason could be simple neglect.

Rodney Reynolds is a local church elder in the Poplar Bluff, Mo., church.

On the Day of Pentecost, A.D. 31, the Holy Spirit of God was given to the New Testament Church. But the Church was warned that they could lose the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote, "Quench not the Spirit" (I Thessalonians 5:19). But in spite of the warning, many of them did eventually quench the Spirit, and a virtually impenetrable spiritual darkness settled over the world.

Could the same thing happen in our age? Can you quench the Spirit? Yes! An example from the Old Testament will illustrate.

### Keep the fire burning

One way to extinguish a fire is to rob it of fuel and let it burn itself out. According to the Old Testament law of burnt offerings, the priests were not to allow the fire of the altar to go out (Leviticus 6:12-13).

To keep the fire going, the priests had to be attentive. They had to put wood on it daily, and they had to make sure nothing happened to cause the fire to go out.

The same kind of constant attention and daily effort is required to keep the light of the Holy Spirit alive in your own heart and mind. A fire left to itself will eventually go out. And, true to human nature, Israel's priests did eventually fail in their duty, and the fire went out.

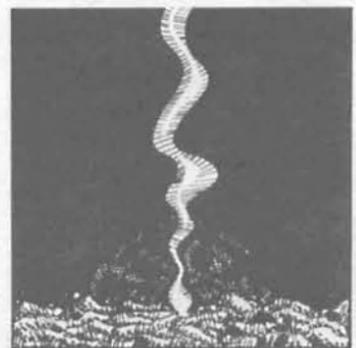
One of the surest ways to kill the Holy Spirit is through simple neglect. Neglect the Spirit, and it will first become dormant. It will eventually go out altogether. If you are to keep the Spirit alive and active, producing light like a fire, you must work at it, just as the priests had to

work at keeping the fire burning on the altar.

The two most important keys to keeping the fire of the Holy Spirit alive are prayer and Bible study. Too often, many fail to put forth the constant effort in prayer and Bible study to grow spiritually.

### Importance of prayer

Why is prayer important to the maintenance of God's Spirit? It is in prayer that you develop the close personal relationship with God that makes His Spirit a power in your life. It is in prayer that you repent



Artwork by Monte Wolverton

before God, and repentance is a prerequisite to having and maintaining the gift of God's Spirit (Proverbs 1:23; Psalms 51:2-3, 10-11).

It is in prayer that you labor for the physical and spiritual well-being of others. Paul spoke to the Colossians about Epaphras, who was "always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God" (Colossians 4:12).

It is in prayer that you make supplication to God for those things you need, including His Spirit. In short, prayer is essential to your spiritual vitality. You cannot retain God's Spirit without it. Unless you pray, and pray often, you will quench God's Spirit.

Wholehearted, humble, faithful, frequent prayer will lead to God's

Spirit burning brightly in your heart and mind.

### Study and obey God's Word

The second key to keeping the light of God's Spirit burning in your life is the study of His Word.

How well do you understand God's Word? How much time do you spend studying it? What attitude do you take toward study?

David said God desires truth in our inward parts (Psalm 51:6). The source of truth is God's Word (John 17:17). You should approach Bible study, then, as a seeker of truth. Jesus said that he who seeks shall find (Matthew 7:7-11).

Just two verses after Paul told us not to quench the Spirit, he wrote, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thessalonians 5:21). It doesn't take any effort to be deceived. It does take effort, however, to prove the truth.

You alone are ultimately responsible for your beliefs (Romans 14:12). God will have no one in His Kingdom who is not deeply convicted of His truth. We are chosen for salvation "through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth" (II Thessalonians 2:13).

God inspired the Scriptures, and through them He teaches us the way of salvation (II Timothy 3:14-17). The Word of God and God's Spirit are inseparably linked. Jesus Christ said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). God's Spirit abides in us to the extent that His Word abides in us and we obey it (John 14:23, Acts 5:32). God's Word will abide in you if you study it diligently every day (Acts 17:11).

There is danger in neglecting prayer and Bible study. They are vital to nurturing the Holy Spirit — the only source of eternal life. "Neglect not the gift that is in thee," Paul warned (I Timothy 4:14). And, "Stir up the gift of God" (II Timothy 1:6).



# Unification

(Continued from page 2)

the legitimate heir of the crown of the Holy Empire . . . My dream is: our Polish Pope John Paul II would coronate, in Aix-la-Chapelle, Otto von Habsburg, elected in a democratic way by representatives of all states of Europe as electors for the first monarch of this free Europe."

Interestingly enough, in his 1958 book *The Social Order of Tomorrow* (Oswald Wolff, Ltd., London), Dr. Habsburg talked about that ancient crown of Europe and how a future European head of state might be elected:

"Now we do possess a European symbol which belongs to all nations equally. This is the Crown of the Holy Roman Empire, which embodies the tradition of Charlemagne, the ruler of a united occident."

The question of a European head of state, Dr. Habsburg wrote, "is an especially difficult one, because it could lead not merely to political but also to national rivalries . . . In this sense, the solution must be essentially 'monarchical,' though it need not be so either in form or in name . . .

"The head of State would, therefore, have to be elected . . . It would seem best to select . . . [as members of the electoral body] the heads of the various national states, presidents as well as monarchs . . . Like the great Electors of the Holy Roman Empire, they would, as far as is humanly possible, guarantee the independence and stability of the highest office in the State.

"This is a modern version of the ancient and yet always contemporary idea of a great occidental empire. The exact title of the European head of State is a secondary matter by comparison. The substance is

more important than the form."

## Watch Strauss too

It is significant that Christ's apostle in the end-time work of God has met, in each case on more than one occasion, with both King Juan Carlos I and Otto von Habsburg, individuals of royal European lineage who may yet have vital roles to play on the world scene.

Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong has also met with another individual who is still active politically, waiting it would seem, for a future office to match his formidable talents and energies — Bavaria's Minister-President Franz Josef Strauss. Mr. Strauss, commented a British journalist, "is that large and important national politician without a large and important job."

Just how important Mr. Strauss is viewed by his peers was revealed at his extraordinary 70th birthday celebration this past September, which lasted 10 days. World and national leaders paid him homage. Gold and silver coins were struck in his honor.

Twenty years ago, Mr. Strauss wrote his book *The Grand Design*, which amounted to a reasoned plea for a United Europe. Conversely, not long ago, a former top British official stressed that from London's point of view "there will be no grand design [and] no abolition of national foreign policies" among the Common Market nations.

Britain will not be in the ultimate United Europe in place just before the close of this age. But other key nations on the Continent will. Continue to watch the activities of the real unity shapers: King Juan Carlos I, Otto von Habsburg and Franz Josef Strauss.

# Erosion

(Continued from page 2)

who buy in all the surplus wheat and barley and put it into store . . . The mountains of grain and beef and of dairy products grow higher every year and our countryside becomes poorer and poorer in the diversity of life and landscape."

Ponds, footpaths, wetlands, moorlands and meadows have all suffered the same fate as the hedgerows. Losses are 50 percent or worse.

British television personality David Attenborough said, "The situation is now desperate." But desperate situations are not always perceived by the public. Many fear the irrational rather than the actual — and real threats to humanity's well-being go virtually unnoticed.

Wrote Jim Crace in the March 10 *Sunday Telegraph Magazine*: "A survey conducted by the *Sunday Telegraph Magazine* in seven selected localities indicates that only a small proportion of British people consider pollution of the environment to be a significant problem. Most — including those living in the centre of large industrial towns — regard their immediate environment as being clean and healthy."

Continuing in the *Sunday Telegraph Magazine* account: "It is true," said Steve Billecliffe, director of an environmental pressure group, "that some control legislation in the fifties had made the air better to breathe. But what we've got instead is decaying sewage systems, acid rain, asbestos, lead dust, noise and stress. There is a nitrogen time-bomb percolating into our water supplies from fertilisers."

Let's shift to high ground. Mr. Jackman reported in the Aug. 11 *Sunday Times Magazine*: "Upland Britain is a dying world."

Allenheads, England, is a microcosm of the problem. At 1,350 feet, it is uncommonly beautiful, but the reality, according to Mr. Jackman, is this, "Allenheads is a dying village, its serenity an illusion behind which stalk the familiar spectres of life today in upland Britain: neglect, depopulation and the withering away of essential public services . . . on the fells above, forestry plantations have been clear-felled, leaving a graveyard of bleached stumps and eroded hillsides."

But he explained: "All over Britain, from Bodmin Moor in the far south-west to the rainswept summits of the Scottish Highlands, the story is the same . . . decades of neglect and misuse have taken their toll."

The hill farmer is both perpetrator and victim. He is forced to overstock to put bread on the table. Overstocking produces overgrazing. Overgrazing produces erosion.

From the uplands we travel to the lowlands. Cornwall is also suffering from environmental degradation. Woodlands and hedgerows are disappearing. The Red River "flows with iron oxide and not much else," according to the Sept. 1 *Observer*. Cornwall's landscape is in danger.

What about the beaches? Geoffrey Lean, environmental correspondent for *The Observer*, wrote Sept. 1, "Britain's beaches are fast disappearing into the sea — a vanishing act accelerated by this year's sodden summer."

Erosion is partly natural. But here's the conundrum. People obstruct supplies of sand from getting to the beaches. They want holiday towns and houses. But there is a price.

Mr. Lean continued: "The sand for many British beaches comes from eroding cliffs. When the seaside towns were built a century ago residents were determined not to lose their homes and gardens. They insisted that their local councils build sea walls to stop the cliffs eroding. That deprived the beaches of their sand."

Thirty percent of British sewage is disposed of at sea. The July-August issue of *Europe-84* reported that "standards for clean beaches laid down by the European Commission are not yet being applied in nearly half the coastal resorts in England and Wales." Their message is: "Clean up your act."

But pollution is not only a British problem, it's a human problem. Man was given in Genesis the responsibility of managing the environment. And there are enough examples in the Pentateuch to provide the basis for wise resource and environmental management.

Man has failed, but God will not. Soon He will remake this earth like the Garden of Eden.

# Letters TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 2)

ingly, without my asking. I'm speaking of the second tithe assistance I have received. I wouldn't have been able to attend the Feast this year if not for the Church paying for my room here, and it is very comfortable for myself and my two girls.

Name withheld  
Monor, Ga.

☆☆☆

## Grateful reader

It was with great surprise and joy that I received in the mail a copy of *The Worldwide News*. I want to express to you my deepest thanks for this.

My words could, perhaps, seem exaggerated, but I believe that we as members truly love the Church. And your edifying news reports are an extremely valuable source of comfort for those of us who cannot personally participate in Church activities.

I thank God that there are people like you who, in the midst of your intense work, find time to respond to a brother who lives far away. This way of love is seen reflected throughout the pages of *The Worldwide News*, which show the activities (involving an enormous amount of responsibility) of my loved ones (as I call Church members) . . .

Please, whenever possible, keep in mind that in this corner of the earth the Church newspaper is for this one member a valuable gift and another source of inspiration and knowledge of the work of God.

Ruben Gerardo  
Cochabamba, Bolivia

☆☆☆

## Third-tithe blessings

I just wanted to share with you my experiences of my first third tithe year, which I started at Passover in April. Bearing in mind that it is only August now, I have received unbelievable (almost) blessings.

I started out with some trepidation at first. I needn't have feared! Within short

order I received a tax rebate for nearly \$300 — then because of my employer's large profit made in the 1984 financial year, they paid all staff a \$500 special payment plus one week's basic pay, which amounted to nearly \$600 — after tax.

Since then I received a \$20,000 property settlement thrust on me and because of it I may be able to buy my own home later this year. Because of this my mortgage policy was returned to me and when I checked the surrender value today I found it was \$371.

The Eternal has surely opened the windows of heaven for me!

Name Withheld

☆☆☆

## Members leave favorable impression

We at The Zoo were delighted to have the Worldwide Church of God conference in the Pensacola [Fla.] area.

The Zoo had the pleasure of hosting many of your members who visited our facilities during their free time. I must say, we were most impressed with your membership; we have not seen a nicer group of adults and a better behaved group of children since The Zoo's opening in May of 1984. I assure you, this is no small compliment as we have had over 170,000 visitors. The congenial group representing the Worldwide Church of God was one that warrants recognition.

Pat Quinn  
President/Director,  
The Zoo  
Gulf Breeze, Fla.

During our recent stay at a motel for the Feast of Tabernacles, our family and a friend rented rooms side by side. Well, our friend had problems with the key unlocking her motel room, so we checked out her lock and found our key worked in her door also. We asked the manager of the motel about this and were told that a few weeks prior someone stole the keys to all the motel units.

The manager told us a locksmith was called in to fit the doors with new locks but didn't leave enough keys. She told us she gave us a master key and said she wasn't worried because she trusted everyone staying at the motel. She said, "You're all from the Church!" Talk about trust!

Mr. and Mrs. William P. Fox  
Hazelton, Pa.

# Elder dies after illness

PASADENA — Michael A. Hechel, 44, a preaching elder, died in Summerville, S.C., Nov. 25, according to evangelist Joseph Tkach Sr., director of Church Administration.

"We were saddened to learn of Mr. Hechel's death," the evangelist said. "Mr. Hechel had been ill for several months and had entered the hospital about a week before his death."

Mr. Hechel served as pastor of the Charleston, S.C., and Savannah, Ga., churches before his illness. He was ordained a local elder in April, 1967, and was raised in rank to preaching elder in 1968 by evangelist Leslie McCullough, deputy chancellor of Big Sandy Ambassador College.

Mr. Hechel also served churches in Eugene, Medford and Klamath Falls, Ore., and Toledo and Findlay, Ohio.

A native of Wisconsin, Mr. Hechel was a 1966 graduate of the Texas campus of Ambassador College.

Mr. Hechel is survived by his wife, Kay, and their three children, Dana, 18, Debra, 17, and David, 15.



MICHAEL A. HECHEL

Mr. Tkach asked that brethren remember the Hechel family in their prayers.

Robert Persky, pastor of the Charleston and Savannah churches, conducted Mr. Hechel's funeral Nov. 27.

# Watermelon Harvest

STORY FOR YOUNG READERS  
By Shirley King Johnson

Barking happily, Major romped along the edge of the watermelon patch at the end of a cornfield. Grandfather had decided that today the melons were ready to start being harvested. Jim helped out by carrying the smaller ones to the pickup truck, and Grandfather selected the large ones to handle. Back and forth they trudged from field to pickup. Major joined in, frolicking along first beside Jim, and then beside Grandfather.

After a while Major's mind wandered and he sniffed at a scent of rabbit that was quite stale. Distracted as he

was, he misjudged the distance of Jim's long steps, and his legs tangled in Jim's right tennis shoe. Jim stumbled over the beagle and fell to the ground with a surprised exclamation. Splat! went the watermelon as it hit the ground. Major managed to make a fancy leap sideways to avoid being bonked by the melon.

"Are you OK, Jim?" Grandfather asked, turning from the pickup and hurrying to where Jim was scrambling to his feet.

"Sure, I'm OK," Jim replied, his eyes anxious as he looked up into his grandfather's face. How angry would Grandfather be? "I'm sorry, Grandfather. It was an accident."

Grandfather's arm went around Jim's shoulders. "You and Major just got tangled up. No problem, honey. In

fact, I'm getting kind of thirsty and the heart of that melon smells sweet as candy." Bending down, Grandfather picked up a broken piece of melon. "Let's take a break."

Jim and Grandfather took the melon pieces to the shade of the pickup and as they ate they watched cliff swallows wheeling above the bridge that spanned Seven-Mile Creek. Major licked at the rinds they laid beside him.

"This takes me back to the days when I was a little sprout like you, James," Grandfather said. "My brothers and I were carrying watermelons in from our patch. I had to show off a little and I picked up one that was a mite too large and it was wet and slippery from the dew. I dropped it kerplunk on the ground. My brothers ran

up to the house and told my mother and she came out of the house with them. I was sure scared I'd get my bottom warmed. But do you know what?"

Jim's eyes studied Grandfather's face. "What?"

"My mother brought out a bread knife and sliced up that big melon and we all sat down and enjoyed a feast in the warm sun. When we were through she smiled at me and said, 'Just don't drop any more.' And you can be sure I was careful after that."

Reaching into an overall pocket, he drew out a handkerchief and wiped his hands. "Yessiree," he said. "It's like my mother told me, 'When life hands you a lemon — make lemonade.'"

Major looked up from his juicy rind, wagged his tail and smiled.

# NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

## UPDATE

PASADENA — God's Church is planning a direct-mail campaign in Italy for late January or early February, 1986, according to **David Hulme**, director of Media Purchasing.

"The mailing, which will offer a free one-year subscription to *La Pura Verita*, the Italian version of *The Plain Truth*, will go to about 100,000 households," Mr. Hulme said.

Circulation of *La Pura Verita* is about 80,000. The campaign is expected to add between 4,000 and 5,000 new subscribers, Mr. Hulme said.

☆☆☆

PASADENA — *Youth 85* now goes to 230,000 people in 138 countries and territories, according to **Dexter H. Faulkner**, managing editor of the Church's publications.

"The *Youth* magazine continues to have a greater positive impact than many brethren realize," Mr. Faulkner said.

"The magazine provides a unique view of God's way of life that we find both youths and adults appreciate," he said. "It is fulfilling Mr. [Herbert] Armstrong's original vision that it be a kind of 'junior' *Plain Truth*, reaching young people with the Gospel message."

"We recently received a letter from a librarian of a Baptist school in Louisiana asking for 150 copies of the magazine," Mr. Faulkner said. "She said the magazines would be used for the students' Bible classes."

☆☆☆

PASADENA — Additional airing times for the *World Tomorrow* television program on superstations WOR and WTBS are proving to be "remarkably effective," said **David Hulme**, director of Media Purchasing.

"WOR, which originates in New York [N.Y.], now airs the program at 11:30 a.m., Eastern Standard Time [EST], as well as the old time of 11 p.m., EST," Mr. Hulme said. "The new time has already surpassed the old time as No. 1 in the country, drawing as many as 1,800 responses for a single airing."

Mr. Hulme explained that the new 1 a.m., EST, Monday airing on WTBS appears at 10 p.m. on the West Coast because of the time difference.

"The old time of 6:30 a.m., EST, Sunday morning still ranks in the top 10, but it too has been surpassed," he said. "The new time is consistently drawing the third or fourth highest response [of stations airing *The World Tomorrow*] in the country each weekend. It has drawn as many as 1,400 calls for a single airing."

Mr. Hulme said several stations are showing more favor toward the program, even "offering to air the program for less money."

"Doors continue to be opened for the program to go on more powerful stations at better times," Mr. Hulme said. "Often the stations are coming to us with offers to clear time for *The World Tomorrow* rather than us going to them."

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PASADENA — Church Administration released the following ordinations:

**Steven T. Elliott**, a local elder in the Washington, D.C., and Front Royal, Va., churches, was ordained a preaching elder on the Feast of Trumpets, Sept. 16.

**Thomas Smith**, pastor of the Helena and Great Falls, Mont., churches, was ordained a preaching elder during the Feast of Tabernacles, Oct. 5.

**Gorgonio de Guia**, a deacon in the Catbalogan, Philippines, church, was ordained a local church elder during the Feast of Tabernacles, Oct. 3.

**Angel Padron**, a deacon in the Laoag, Philippines, church, was ordained a local church elder during the Feast of Tabernacles, Oct. 3.

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PASADENA — *La Pura Verdad* (Spanish *Plain Truth*) lectures took place in Guatemala City, Guatemala; San Salvador, El Salvador; and Guadalajara and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico; in November and December, according to the Spanish Department here.

**Herbert Cisneros**, pastor of the Guatemala City and San Salvador churches, conducted the lectures in Guatemala City Nov. 9 and 10. One hundred sixty-five new people attended.

Mr. Cisneros spent 2½ hours answering questions after the second lecture, and more than 40 people expressed interest in attending follow-up lectures.

Ninety-eight new people attended *PV* lectures conducted by Mr. Cisneros in San Salvador Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

Invitations were sent to smaller groups than last year. This allows more personal contact and makes it easier to find a suitable meeting place.

Mr. Cisneros said that six to eight weekend Bible studies were planned to follow the lectures. He also reported that conditions in El Salvador were better than in many months. Brethren are safe and have jobs. "We appreciate the prayers of brethren worldwide," he said.

*PV* lectures conducted by **Pablo Dimakis**, pastor of the Guadalajara and Tepic, Mexico, churches, took place in Guadalajara Nov. 23 and 30. One hundred eighty-six new people attended.

Mr. Dimakis reported that more than half of the group was middle or upper-middle class, and they were enthusiastic, with many questions. He invited several to attend services.

Thirty-six new people attended *PV* lectures conducted by **Gilberto Marin**, pastor of the Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua, Mexico, churches, in Ciudad Juarez Nov. 23 and 30.

Lectures were scheduled for Mexico City, Mexico, in November, but the hotel where they were to take place has been closed since the earthquake there Sept. 19.

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PASADENA — Church Administration here released the following itinerary for evangelist **Gerard Waterhouse**.

Jan. 2, Savannah, Ga.; Jan. 4, Jacksonville, Gainesville and Ocala, Fla., combined Sabbath services; Jan. 7, Orlando, Fla.; Jan. 8, Cocoa, Fla.

Jan. 9, Port St. Lucie, Fla.; Jan. 11, Miami and Fort Lauderdale, Fla., combined Sabbath services; Jan. 12, Fort Myers, Fla.; Jan. 13, Sarasota, Fla.; Jan. 15, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Jan. 16, Tampa, Fla.; Jan. 18,

### YES Notebooks Available

PASADENA — As announced at the Feast of Tabernacles, notebooks for a year's supply of Youth Educational Services (YES) lessons and assignments are available for purchase. Those who didn't purchase them at the Feast, or those who desire additional ones may purchase them from Pasadena.

Youth Opportunities United (YOU) suggests that several families order together since bulk shipping is cheaper than individual shipping. Prices are as follows: one to nine notebooks, \$5 each, 10 to 19, \$4 each, and 20 or more, \$3.50 each. (The price increase is for shipping charges.)

Please mail your check or money order (payable to Ambassador College) to:

YES Notebooks  
Ambassador College  
Box 441  
Pasadena, Calif., 91102

Please include the number of notebooks you want and the address where they should be shipped.

Lakeland, Fla., Sabbath services; Jan. 22, Lake Charles, La.; Jan. 23, Beaumont, Tex.; Jan. 25, Houston, Tex., North, East and West, combined Sabbath services.

Jan. 26, Waco, Tex.; Jan. 27, Austin, Tex.; Jan. 28, Victoria, Tex.; Jan. 29, Corpus Christi, Tex.; Jan. 30, Harlingen, Tex.

Feb. 1, San Antonio East and West, and Uvalde, Tex., combined Sabbath services; Feb. 8, San Angelo and Abilene, Tex., combined Sabbath services; Feb. 15, El Paso, Tex., and Las Cruces, N.M., combined Sabbath services.

Feb. 16, Tucson and Sierra Vista, Ariz.; Feb. 17, Phoenix, Ariz., East and West; Feb. 18, Prescott, Ariz.; Feb. 19, Flagstaff, Ariz.; Feb. 20,

Kingman, Ariz.; and Feb. 21, Las Vegas, Nev.

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PASADENA — The Ambassador Chorale performed excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* followed by the Fred Waring arrangement of "God Bless America," for the Tournament of Roses President's Breakfast Dec. 11, according to **John D. Schroeder**, director of the Ambassador Chorale. The performance took place in the Hilton Hotel in Pasadena.

The audience included **Frederick D. Johnson**, president of the Tournament of Roses, the Rose queen and her court, and 450 leading citizens of Pasadena, according to **William Mason**, chorale president.

## INTERNATIONAL DESK

A WORLD VIEW FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

PASADENA — Evangelist **Dibar Apartian**, regional director for French-speaking areas, is scheduled to deliver five public Bible lectures in Haiti, Guadeloupe and Martinique Jan. 22 to Feb. 1.

"We would appreciate brethren praying for the success of these lectures, particularly the work we will be doing in Haiti," Mr. Apartian said.

The evangelist will be accompanied to Haiti by **John Halford**, a pastor-rank minister who serves in the Media Services Department; and **Gilbert Carbonnel**, pastor of

the Pointe-a-Pitre and Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe, and Port-au-Prince, Haiti, churches.

"Mr. Halford knows the Haitian brethren very well, and Mr. Carbonnel visits there once a month," Mr. Apartian said.

"We receive a tremendous amount of mail from Haiti. We really need a full-time minister working there. I hope that these lectures will bear much fruit so we will be able to soon send a minister to feed the flock full-time in Haiti," the evangelist said.

The work of God's Church in the

Portuguese language is expanding, according to evangelist **Leon Walker**, regional director for Spanish-speaking areas.

The two main countries where Portuguese is spoken are Brazil and Portugal. Brazil is the sixth-largest nation, with a population of more than 135 million. Portugal has a population of more than 10 million.

*What Is the True Gospel?* was the first piece of Church literature in Portuguese. It was published in 1980. "Since then we have printed five of the basic booklets and 10 reprint articles," said **Keith Speaks**, circulation director for *La Pura Verdad* (Spanish *Plain Truth*).

Portuguese language advertisements have appeared in the Brazilian edition of *Reader's Digest*, and an ad offering the Portuguese version of *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?* is scheduled to run in the January edition (see photo below).

"We received 1,146 requests so far for the Portuguese version of *The Seven Laws of Success* from a *Reader's Digest* ad that ran last June," Mr. Speaks said. "About 65 to 70 percent request the Spanish *Plain Truth*."

"The Church has a combined circulation of 8,700 in six languages of *The Plain Truth* in Brazil and Portugal," he continued. "About 54 percent of that number subscribe to the Spanish *Plain Truth*."

According to Mr. Walker, the Spanish Department hopes to have six more booklets and reprints in 1986.

The Spanish Department sends out eight to 10 sermons in Portuguese on audiocassettes annually to scattered brethren living in Portugal and Brazil.

Seventeen members live in Brazil, and seven live in Portugal.

## O CASAMENTO - Destinado a desaparecer?

SEM PREÇO SEM COMPROMISSO

SEM PREÇO SIM!

PORTUGUESE AD — The above ad offering the Portuguese version of *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?* is scheduled to appear in the January issue of *Reader's Digest* in Brazil. [Photo by Warren Watson]

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