



Contact

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WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD IN THE PHILIPPINES

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MANILA, PHILIPPINES

JUNE 1974

THOUSANDS ATTEND MR. ARMSTRONG'S CAMPAIGN

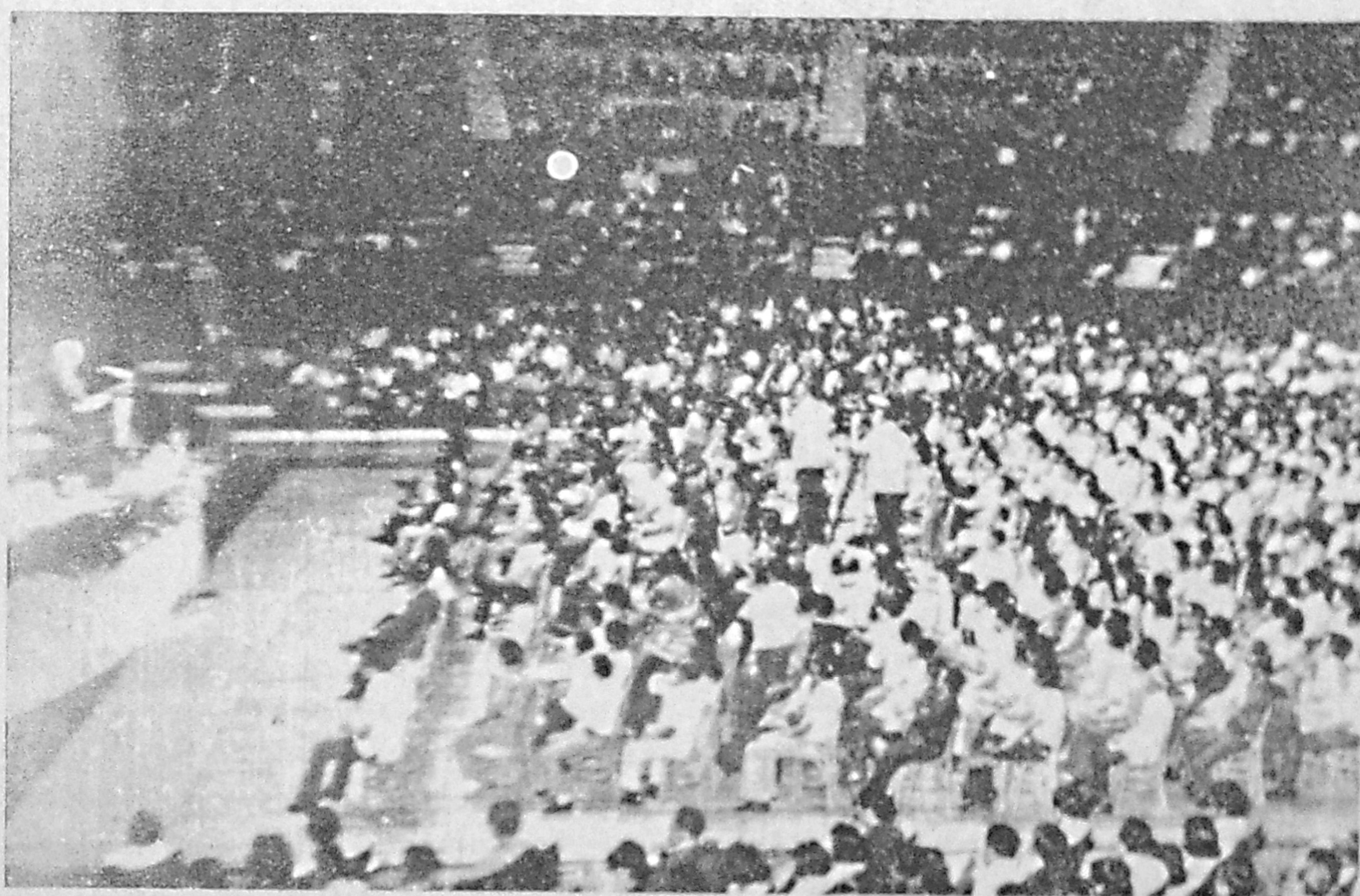
LARGE AUDIENCE INCLUDE DISTINGUISHED PERSONALITIES

A total of approximately fourteen thousand five hundred interested listeners attended the three-night campaign of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong at the Araneta Coliseum last May 17, 18 and 19.

Prominent personalities which included among others the mother of the President of the Philippines, Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos, came to hear Mr. Armstrong speak on the "missing dimension in modern living."

Other distinguished guests were Secretary Estefania Aldaba-Lim of the Department of Social Welfare, Dr. Emmanuel Angeles of the Angeles University, and Dr. Santiago de la Cruz of the University of the East.

Speaking for one hour each night, Mr. Armstrong addressed the audience with a strong Bible-oriented message. After having been introduced to the audience by Mr. Osamu Gotoh, he began his lecture the first night with a description of the state of the world today which he said is characterized by poverty, violence, population explosion, marriage failures and the overthrow of governments. He noted that in almost every case



MANILA CAMPAIGN - A portion of the crowd that flocked to the Araneta Coliseum to hear Mr. Armstrong in his series of lectures, May 17 - 19, is seen above. Photo was taken from the right side of the stage. Mr. Armstrong can be seen at the stage far left.

the government in places that he had visited had already been overthrown. He cited as examples the countries of Chile, Thailand, Greece and Ethiopia.

Then beginning from the book of Genesis, he expounded on the act of creation of the first man and woman and their rejection of God's law and government. He made it clear to the audience the reason why there is "world crisis." The cause, he said, is actually the people themselves who insist on liv-

ing the "Get" way -- the way of greed, jealousy, envy and vanity -- instead of the "Give" way.

On Saturday night, he explained the fact that God's government was established here on earth long before man was created, and why it was taken away. Considerable time was also devoted to explaining the origin of the devil, his rebellion against God and the aftermath of that rebellion which is revealed in the
(turn to page 7)

Personal

From

John Robinson

Greetings brethren! The office is returning to normalcy after a hectic work schedule preceding Mr. Armstrong's personal appearance campaign. The campaign was a great success as many of you will know by now. I won't go into the details here as there are a couple of articles in this issue describing it and both the Worldwide News and the Good News will carry full coverage. Right now we are preparing a follow-up letter letting those who attended know about some of our literature and also informing them of special lectures to be held later.

Successful Conference

The ministerial conference in Pasadena was very successful. About 600 ministers and elders attended making it the largest conference in the history of the Church. My wife and I arrived there on May 3 and were guests of Mr & Mrs. McCullough in their home. Mr. John Robinson, Managing Editor of the Worldwide News (and the brother-in-law of the McCulloughs) also stayed with the McCulloughs. This gave us a chance to get to know him. I might mention at this point that Mr. and Mrs. Robinson will be coming to Baguio for the Feast of Tabernacles this year. As many of you already know, my wife and I will be in England for the Feast after visiting with our parents in Belfast. Andrew of course will be with us.

The schedule for the conference was hectic. So many things had to be covered as this was a working conference and workshops

and doctrinal forums were arranged so all the ministers could have their say. The opening day, Monday May 6, saw the dedication of the new auditorium by Mr. Herbert Armstrong, with Garner Tea by his side. Brethren, I wish all of you could see personally the very fine and beautiful auditorium God has provided for the headquarters area. I won't try to describe it because it would be so inadequate. I believe a film is being made by our crew and will be available to the churches later in the year. We can all look forward to seeing that sometime in the future.

After the dedication Mr. Armstrong gave the monumental decision on the change in the understanding of marriage and divorce. This was followed by a technical and biblical explanation by Dr. Dorothy and Dr. Hoeh. You will be hearing more about this later.

All systems were go after that! Starting time was 8:00 a.m. and the workshops continued all the way through until 5:40 pm. with an hour and half break for lunch. The sabbath was never more welcome that week.

On sabbath Mr. Tea Armstrong spoke about world conditions and the need to be keeping our eyes on the commission we have to fulfill. (Mr. Herbert Armstrong had already left for the Philippines Wednesday.) The auditorium was packed full and the college gymnasium was also used to house the brethren. The sermon was piped there from the auditorium.

Gave a "Commercial"

The previous day, Friday, the International Division, along with other divisions of the Work, gave its report. Each regional director had just eight minutes to give a

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run-down of his area. After I had spoken my bit about the Philippines I finished with a commercial. Here is what I said: "Wanted - one elder for tropical island assignment. Guaranteed year-round sunshine and fresh fruit with occasional typhoons for added excitement. Must have pioneering spirit and dedication. Apply International Division or see me personally." I put this amusing "ad" in to liven up the speech and as expected I got some laughter. But I was being serious because we do need a minister for the Visayan area.

Well, imagine my surprise when no less than five elders approached me afterwards interested in coming to the Philippines!

Personal From ... cont'd.

I really didn't expect any one to respond! The first one I thought was the very man we needed. He had lived as a teen-ager in Iloilo with his parents and had attended the University there. He loved the people very much and was very keen to return. However, at present (he told me afterwards), his wife wasn't too keen on the move. They have only been married one year but he told me to keep him in mind if we ever needed someone in a year or two.

Good Prospect

After talking to the others one man stood out as the best choice. My wife and I talked to him and his wife at length explaining about the way of life he would live in Cebu. We wanted to be sure they knew it would be totally different from the United States. This man is already a preaching elder and has pastored a church in the eastern part of the United States for four years. He is a graduate of the Bricket Wood campus having come over from the U.S.A. as an exchange student. He and his wife are American by nationality. So-- before I left I told Mr. McCullough that if it could be worked out we would like this man to come and serve God's people in the Visayas.

You may be wondering why I have not mentioned his name. This is because it is by no means definite that he will come. Many things have to be worked out yet and budget-wise it might not be feasible. We are right now waiting to hear the final decision from the International Division. If all goes well you brethren in the Visayas will have your own

pastor taking care of Cebu and Iloilo churches possibly meeting every other sabbath and visiting throughout the area. He would live in Cebu City as that is more central in covering the area which will include Leyte. If this works out we will then have the entire country reasonably well covered. Mr. Ortiguero in Urdaneta and looking after Northern Luzon; Mr. Raduban and myself in the Manila area and Southern Luzon area; Mr. Mirto in Bicol (working out of Manila); Mr. Benitez in Mindanao.

My wife and I had to leave the conference early in order to get back to Manila in time for the campaign. However, we only missed one day consisting of two workshops and the final summing up by Mr. Ted Armstrong. In the weeks ahead we will be hearing some of the things which came out of this conference.

Mr. Ortiguero was able to join the conference two days after it started and enjoyed it very much. It has been about six years since he was in Pasadena. He flew home with us.

Last sabbath Mr. Guy L. Ames visited Manila on his way home to Singapore. He was keen to see Mr. Armstrong's campaign. After one night's stay with us he departed early Sunday morning very anxious to see his wife and family after being away almost three weeks.

I had better bring this to a close now or I'll be taking up all the CONTACT! All of us here in Manila are looking forward to stimulating growth as a result of the campaign. I would just like to thank all who worked so hard to make it a success, not just the office staff, but those of you in the Church who assisted. Special thanks are due to Mr. Mirto, Mr. Ben Ortiguero,

Poetry

TALENTS

I may not know how to sing,

But you taught me how to make a joyful noise.

I may not know how to write perfect poems,

But you taught me how to make fervent prayers.

I may not know how to write novels,

But you taught me how to read your words.

I may not be beautiful,

But you taught me how to smile and enjoy others.

I may not know how to dance,

But you gave me courage to try to do it.

I may not know how to express myself fluently,

But you taught me how to speak sincerely.

I may be dull,

But you opened my mind to the right goals and ways of life.

I may be weak and often commit mistakes,

But you taught me how to produce and bear fruits.

I may sometimes forget and fail,

But you taught me how to repent and go on.

I may not know so many things,

But you made me desire to learn everything.

I may have nothing, and I am nothing,

But Lord, 'Thank You for the TALENTS.

ELVIRA R. CUEVAS

and Mr. Napoleon Acebron who bore the brunt of the responsibility. I'm sure they lost some sleep and maybe added a few gray hairs. They are probably more "mature" as a result.

DATELINE-MANILA**MR. H.W. ARMSTRONG'S DIARY OF ACTIVITIES, MAY 11-20**

By Napoleon P. Acebron

(It was a rare privilege to come into close contact with the activities of Mr. H.W. Armstrong while he was here for the May Campaign. These activities were just too exciting to be kept to ourselves. So we are sharing them with you.)

Saturday, May 11 - At 7 a.m. Mr. Mirto, Mr. Ben Ortiguero and I went to Hyatt to welcome the TV-Crew headed by Mr. Tonny van der Leeden. At 12:30 Mr. Gotoh and Mr. Mirto talked over the phone at the GSP -- informing Mr. Mirto of Mr. Armstrong's definite arrival. Mr. Armstrong and party arrived at 2:30. A VIP Press Conference followed. He was welcomed by leading educators, among them Dr. Emmanuel Angeles, Executive Vice President of Angeles University. At 3:10 the entourage was officially escorted to the GSP for the Service where Mr. Armstrong personally announced the new understanding God has given on divorce and remarriage. At 7 p.m. Mr. Gotoh hosted for us a dinner at the Hyatt Regency including Mr. & Mrs. J. Raduban.

Sunday, May 12 - At 12 noon Mr. Armstrong spoke at a luncheon before the Knights of Columbus and Daughters of Isabela with 200 present. Then at 5p.m. Vice President Fernando Lopez tendered a fantastic Barrio Fiesta for Mr. Armstrong at his residence at Victoria Valley, Antipolo, Rizal. For the first part the Pacifica Dance Troupe presented Philippine folk dances. After dinner, they presented Polynesian dances. Mr. Armstrong was

well received by the Vice President and Mrs. Marikit Lopez as well as by Supreme Court Chief Justice Querube Makalintal. There was a touch of royalty in the reception. Overall the evening was just an experience we will never forget.

Monday, May 13 - At 10 a.m. Hon. Ramon Bagatsing, Mayor of the City of Manila, warmly received Mr. Armstrong and presented him with the symbolic key to the City. Then at 12 we rushed to a Luncheon Press Conference at the Manila Hilton attended by media people. The film "Herbert Armstrong - The Man and His Works" was shown. After luncheon question-and-answer followed. One man asked if Mr. Armstrong was against a local group using the name Worldwide Church of God, Inc. in Isabela. Mr. Rader handled the question very well. He said we are not against any local group. We merely protect our official name which is duly registered at the

Security and Exchange Commission. This particular day was highlighted by a dinner with the mother of the President, Doña Josefa Edralin Marcos, at a private banquet room of Hyatt Regency. Atty. and Mrs. Cañeba were with the party of Mrs. Marcos. Many educational subjects were brought out and the evening was just great.

Tuesday, May 14 - At 8:30 a.m. an impressive entourage of leading educators set for Angeles City. At 10 a.m. the convocation started and Mr. Armstrong was conferred a doctorate degree, honoris causa. He was deeply moved. He remarked here he was employing people with degrees at Ambassador Colleges and yet he himself without a degree. Too bad he said it took him this long to earn one. Then at 12 a luncheon took place hosted by University officials. Then he hurried back to Manila for a TV interview right in his own room arranged by Mr. Mirto. Then at 7 he was invited to a dinner by Mrs. Rosario Olivares, President and Gen. Manager of the TIMES JOURNAL. A very profitable dinner. Mrs. (Please turn to page 10)



Above photo shows Pres. Marcos delighted over the June-July copy of the Plain Truth which featured him on the cover. Photo was taken May 17 when Mr. Armstrong paid a courtesy call on the President in the presence of almost all cabinet members. (Malacañang photo)

DATELINE - MANILA...cont'd.

Olivares offered the services of the JOURNAL as a gesture of gratitude for the kind and warm reception accorded her by Mr. C. Wayne Cole, our Publishing Director of Ambasciol Press Pasadena when she visited the campus sometime last year. The next day we got a good write-up in her newspaper.

Wednesday, May 15 - At 12 noon Mr. Armstrong was invited to speak before the Kiwanis Club of Manila. Club President Antonio Laforteza presented Dr. Armstrong a plaque of appreciation for being a world peace crusader. From the Manila Hilton the motorcade went to the University of the East where he was received very warmly by the faculty and student body headed by Pres. Santiago de la Cruz. A tea party followed and a special convocation where he was able to talk to a large crowd. Then we rushed to Chan. 13 where he and Mr. Rader and Mr. Gotoh waited and sweated it out for a 30-min. public affair interview hosted by Mr. Ed Tiptong. Then at 7 p.m. he had another private dinner while viewing his TV interview.

Thursday, May 16 - Mr. Armstrong had a private luncheon with Public Information Secretary Francisco Tatad. Then in the evening at 7 he was invited to a dinner by the officials of the Greater Manila Jaycees at the Coral Room, Manila Hilton.

Friday, May 17 - The much awaited came. First day of the Campaign! But first he paid a courtesy call on Pres. Marcos at

Malacañang Palace with majority of the cabinet members present. They exchanged greetings and souvenirs. Mr. Armstrong gave Pres. Marcos a copy of our ENVOY, an advance copy of JUNE-JULY PT which pleased the President a great deal and a copy of the Autobiography. Pres. Marcos in turn presented Mr. Armstrong copies of his books: TODAY'S REVOLUTION: DEMOCRACY and NOTES on the NEW SOCIETY of the PHILIPPINES. And he introduced his cabinet to Mr. Armstrong amidst the splendor of the mirror hall. It was there that Mr. Armstrong ordered rush for a barong tagalog after seeing all the cabinet members in that formal attire. Overall the meeting was friendly and impressive. Then 7 p.m. came -- 1st night of the campaign. Dr. Santiago de la Cruz introduced Mr. Armstrong before a large crowd at the Araneta Coliseum. Many prominent people attended: foremost was the mother of the President who was allowed by the President to attend all three evenings. After the campaign another private dinner took place.

Saturday, May 18 - Because she was impressed with what Mr. Armstrong said the previous night, a daughter of a diplomat from Peking went to the Hyatt at 9 a.m. and offered her services in bringing that same message to her own people. She speaks many languages and owns a chain of businesses here and abroad. At 1:30 Mr. Armstrong and party attended the services at GSP in barong tagalog! He spoke to an overflowing crowd of brethren and outsiders. Present was Mr. Guy L. Ames, Director of SEAsian Division of God's Work based in Singapore. Then Mr. Armstrong rested for the 2nd night of the campaign. This time Mr.

MESSRS. ADAIR, ORTIGUERO RETURN FROM CONFERENCE

Mr. and Mrs. Colin Adair and Mr. Pedro Ortiguero returned to Manila last May 16, Thursday, from a very successful Ministerial Conference held in Pasadena, California.

They planed in a day earlier than expected in order to catch up with the opening of the Personal Campaign of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

For more details of the recently concluded conference please read the Personal from the Editor on page 2. (RST)

Rader introduced him to a larger audience. Mrs. Josefa Marcos was present.

Sunday, May 19 - The final big day! Mr. Armstrong just rested preparing his notes. At 7 p.m. he waited for Mrs. Marcos at VIP entrance. Then he was presented a Recognition award by the International Academy of Leadership. Thru Mrs. Marcos the same organization presented a gift - a lovely portrait of Pres. Marcos and Mrs. Imelda Marcos. Then he expounded a little more on the master plan of God - this time to a capacity audience estimated to be between 5 to 6 thousand.

Monday, May 20 - At 8:30 a.m. Mr. Tonny Vander Leeden and his crew left for Hong Kong. Mr. Rader and Mr. Gotoh rushed to Chan. 13 for a 30-min. public affairs interview. Then the two rushed to Malacañang to say goodbye and thank you to Doña Josefa Edralin Marcos who faithfully attended all 3 nights. And finally at 11:30 a.m. Mr. Armstrong and party departed for Bangkok. ●

IMPRESSIONS ON THE CAMPAIGN

FROM AN USHERS VIEWPOINT

by Carol Layug

It's all over but the hangover! I regret that it is through. Ushering for the campaign was a test not only on diplomacy and tact but also on the sturdiness of our biceps. I think we passed both and I guess our smiles were contagious enough for people to smile back. In fact, some were too confident to greet us first and say "Hi." Even the guards noticed our unusual pep -- "ganadong-ganado."

It was quite tough to deal with some people like two would-be trouble makers who insisted on taking Mrs. Marcos' seat nearest Mr. Armstrong so they could ask him personally later whether or not their tithes were received. Another guy took a VIP seat and told the startled usher "I'm REVEREND so-and-so." Some crank wanted to deliver his own speech thinking Mr. Armstrong's lecture might be too short. Still a few interested (or nosy?) fellows wanted to know "if there's a church behind this, more or less," if we came from the States, if we hold regular meetings and where, and if it is possible for someone to speak before their association of Bible students. Two dope pushers were reported to have been seen in the general admissions area, thankfully not in the act! Most of all, how would you tell a parent sitting right behind Mr. Adair to stop his children (one of whom actually did wet the floor) from making noise?

On the first night a serious-looking young man

walked right up toward Josie, Evelyn and myself and shook our hands earnestly (almost like a Church member's handshake). He wanted to know where Mr. Armstrong stays because he wanted to speak to him. A lady begged to get Mr. Armstrong's autograph on her ticket while three women attempted to kiss his hands when brought before him. An elderly woman wished an Ambassador College were established in the Philippines. I had a glimpse of some people taking notes very conveniently working as a team. One turned to the verses mentioned in the Bibles with them, (WOW!) while the others jotted them down. One man handed in a piece of paper on which everyone thought was a Bible question. It read: "Sir, I would like to apply for a job in Pasadena, what shall I do?"

But as there was an attentive audience, including some nuns, so there were also those who were only "half-there." Some curious passersby (I suppose they were) walked in the hall but walked out again as soon as they heard the Messiah as background music -- "too religious." Turning my eyes around I saw a couple cuddling close to each other -- their idea of outgoing concern ("love?")--Hmmm... wonder if they got anything at all from the lecture. A man brought the whole family along thinking it was an entertainment program to his dismay. They left in haste! A couple or two expressed disgust when the lecture started a little past 7. "I thought this is American time," they jeered.

There were more people on the third night and that was when we were

A VIEW FROM THE AUDIENCE

By Daniel Maghirang

The Personal Appearance Campaign of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong held at the Araneta Coliseum last May 17, 18, and 19 was really thrilling and inspiring not only to the members of God's Church but most especially to the Filipino people. It gave them such awesome and tremendous truth never heard before in their entire lifetime and filled their lives with hope as well as fear. Hope because they now see a better and happy world to come instead of the confused and evil world in which we live. Fear because they are now responsible for the precious truths they received which we are sure were clearly embedded in their thoughts and really made their ears tingle. It made them realize more than ever that the only solution to their problems lies in God's hands.

The messages delivered by Mr. Armstrong were really forceful, plain and emphatic. He pulled no punches, hit the nail on the head with greater impact and cried aloud and spared not. Some people started leaving before the (Please turn to next page)

"tiredes" of all. I also ushered a lady to the comfort room the first night. Both of us got lost!! Next time there's a campaign (Mr. GTA!?) (I wish) I know where to find it and I hope this time the vendor at the Coliseum won't accuse us of usurping the job of the Araneta ushers. "Who hired you guys?" she sounded sorry for them. ●

THOUSANDS ATTEND continued

second verse of the first chapter of Genesis.

On the final night of his lectures he spoke on the subject of the Holy Spirit and how it can be received by an individual. Further, he also discussed the spirit in man and the difference between the human mind and an animal brain. This subject was also discussed by him the previous night.

Finally he told the audience that the only way by which universal peace and prosperity could prevail is through the establishment of God's Kingdom here on earth.

Noticeable throughout the lectures was the remarkable quietness of the audience which is indicative that they were following closely what Mr. Armstrong said. There were a few who left the hall while he was speaking but these were very inconspicuous.

A presentation of awards to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Garner Ted Armstrong by the International Academy for Leadership highlighted the concluding night of the campaign. The same institution also donated several books to Ambassador College.

Pasadena in coordination with a local advertising agency handled mostly the organization and management of the campaign. The local church in Manila, however, provided the manpower needed in ushering and in distributing the brochures and literature to the audience.

Church members composed of fifteen men and twenty-five women, attired in striking red and white uniforms did most of the ushering and distributing of the literature.

A VIEW FROM THE AUDIENCE... cont'd.

lectures were over -- maybe disgusted, offended or just plain uninterested. But they were only the few. The vast majority really stuck it out till the messages were over. They were very attentive, well-behaved and occasionally cracked in laughter whenever Mr. Gotoh, the Overseas Campaign Director, spoke some funny things.

Attendance during the three successive nights was good although the Coliseum was filled to only one-half or one-third its usual capacity. Nevertheless, seeing such a large audience was in itself a great spectacle. Adding color to the campaign were the presence of ushers and usherettes clad in white and red uniforms, the television crew from Ambassador College (the entire campaign was televised), and the beautiful flowers on the stage. The

The recently concluded campaign of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was just the beginning of a series of similar lectures planned to be held in major capitals and cities of the world.

Mr. Stanley Rader legal counsel of Ambassador College and the Church, disclosed the future campaign plans of Mr. Armstrong. Already an invitation was extended by Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia to Mr. Armstrong to conduct a campaign in Addis Ababa immediately after the Feast of Tabernacles this year.

December of this year a campaign is also scheduled in Saigon. A similar campaign is also planned to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in January of 1975. (Rey Taniajura)

campaign was highlighted by the attendance of distinguished officials of both the government and private sector and the presentation of various awards and citations to Mr. Armstrong as well as to his son Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong. These awards further strengthened Mr. Armstrong's credibility in the eyes of government leaders and made people more aware of the significance and importance of this work -- a crusade for sanity, peace, hope and happiness.

The fruits of this campaign are yet to be seen. All of us for sure are anticipating with eagerness seeing new faces attending our services and knowing more about God's Work here below. But one thing is sure. As Mr. Armstrong has stated, nobody can shake his fist in front of our Creator and claim he has not been warned. As far as the Philippines is concerned, the gospel has already been preached. All systems now really are go, as regard the first commission which is a vital part of the Work. The success of the Manila Campaign could very well prove to be the stepping stone toward more successful campaigns in the future and toward more harvest of precious souls. This success was really God's doing and direction. All the credit, glory and honor belong to Him. ☉

MINISTER'S TELEPHONE

We have one more telephone number which you can contact if you wish to get in touch with one more of God's servants.

JOSE F. RADUBAN
...86-41-65

Personalities

OUR "MAN" IN MINDANAO

By P. R. Melendez

"I had no dream of becoming a minister in this Church. I know that Sardis ministers are far behind in education in comparison to the Worldwide Church of God ministers. It was just a miracle that I came to be ordained."

These remarks came from a surprised Mr. Encardio Benitez, who was ordained in Manila in November last year as a local elder -- our first in Mindanao. He had come through the infamous bumpy roads from Don Carlos, Bukidnon to Cagayan de Oro, and from there by plane to Manila not knowing what was to take place.

Background no Obstacle

Being born to a lowly peasant couple in Pinamungajan, Cebu, Mr. Benitez only had little formal schooling. Yet this did not prove to be unsurmountable hindrance to his natural desire to improve himself.

"I was not able to attend college. Though it was my desire, my parents couldn't afford to finance me. But," said Mr. Benitez, "this obstacle didn't dampen my desire to learn more. I became interested in reading books at home. I read books of attorneys, books of doctors and poetry, histories and lives of great men, their sacrifices and success."

This diligence of Mr. Benitez was to serve him in good stead in his latter years as a family man and as minister of the Church of God.

A Conscientious Provider

Towards the end of the

Japanese-American war, in the mid 40's, Mr. Benitez married a Boholana girl named Fidela Nene. "We studied about child bearing and we got ten living children," he quipped.

To provide food, clothing and education for such a large family is not an easy job, as any average Filipino breadwinner can testify. "I sleep late and wake up early in order to supply my family the things they need. Our marriage started from nothing, but through hard labor we came to possess land and carabaos," said Mr. Benitez.

And the secret of his success? Besides his diligence and hard work Mr. Benitez attributes all to living faith in God.

How he came to have such faith also reveals how he finally came in contact with the "Philadelphia" era of God's true Church.

Finding Truth in Sardis Church

"The roads in marriage are bumpy -- mixed with hardship and abundance, sickness and death," Mr. Benitez related. "This caused us to seek God. That's how we began to be interested in religions. The Seventh-day Adventist church was our stepping stone to know partly about the Bible and the sabbath. But I was not baptized in that church because I heard that there is no such name in the Bible."

At this point a certain Mr. Sausal, already affiliated with what we have referred to as the "Sardis" era of God's Church

(Rev. 3:1-6), encouraged him to study the doctrines of the Church of God. With his wife he undertook this study and began attending their services.

In due time, after being convicted of the truth, he and his wife were baptized. A year later he was chosen as local elder in that Church. Then through the fruits shown in his life, he became an "evangelist" preaching before the public and visiting churches with the top men in the church.

Finds More Truth in Philadelphia Church

It was during one of his visits to a Church of God in Bukidnon in 1973, that Mr. Benitez met Mr. Pedro Ortiguero carrying a new message. (As explained in the "Personalities" column of March 1974, Mr. Ortiguero had come out of the Sardis Church and had become affiliated with the Philadelphia Church, under Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's leadership.)

The brethren in Bukidnon were saying that Mr. Armstrong was teaching more truth than were their own leaders. From Mr. Ortiguero they heard such new doctrines as the proper keeping of God's Feast Days and God's government in the Church.

Like the Bereans, however, Mr. Benitez did not just accept the new teachings without a diligent searching of the Bible "day and night" to prove whether what Mr. Ortiguero taught were true.

Needless to say, Mr. Benitez' searching ended in surrendering his life to God's rule in the Philadelphia Church of God. After twelve years as a minister in the Sardis Church, he was willing now to become just a member "working hard to support the Church and not the Church to support me," as he puts it.

Personalities continued

Transition as "Leader"

With no minister stationed in Mindanao, however, it was necessary that there be leaders for these several Sardis Congregations which wanted to affiliate with the Worldwide Church of God. Quite naturally, the former ministers of these congregations were designated as the "leaders" who were answerable to our minister in charge in the Manila head office.

For close to a decade Mr. Benitez faithfully served as the leader for the Kiara congregation, until his ordination as local elder last year. Weathering the onslaught of droughts, warring Ilagas, Moslem and other elements, as well as internal strife from false brethren the Kiara Church has grown under Mr. Benitez' leadership. Perhaps not in number (from up in the near thousand mark in the early 60's down to just between 200-300 now), but certainly in spiritual vigor.

Full Acceptance

Understandably, the brethren in Mindanao rejoice over Mr. Benitez' ordination. They consider it a full acceptance of their congregation into the Worldwide Church of God.

Besides pastoring the Church in Kiara and Don Carlos, Mr. Benitez also oversees the northwestern sector of Mindanao. As described in his field report (April 1974 CONTACT) this job calls for his visiting with members and prospective members in Bukidnon, Misamis, Lanao, and Zamboanga provinces. In the future Mr. Benitez hopes to write more re-

BUSINESS TALK

By Medardo Maninang

Among the important things each of us should know about are the three different categories of income received by our office. A knowledge of these three will help us understand their uses and their degree of importance to the Work.

The three categories are as follows: (1) operating income, (2) welfare and emergency income, and (3) allocation and miscellaneous income.

The operating income is derived from the tithes and offerings of both the members and the co-workers plus the Holy Day offerings received during the seven annual Holy Days. This income is used specifically for the spreading of the Gospel which is the main operation of the Work. This is the reason why it is called the operating income.

As its name implies, the welfare and emergency income is obtained from the third tithe and emergency fund. It serves as a financial help to the widows, the fatherless and the needy.

The allocation and miscellaneous income comes from Pasadena, known to us as the headquarters assistance for the Philippine Work. It is added to the local operating income since the Philippine office is not a self-supporting Work yet.

Of these three the operating income is the most important. It is the one that we always watch very closely. The determining factor whether the Work is going to expand or not.

ports about his Church area for CONTACT. ●

The basis whether there is an increase or decrease. Whether we are going to dip into our reserves or not.

Calculating the projected income this year, we see that we must receive at least 17.35% more than what we received last year to cope with the corresponding expenses.

At the moment, it is heartening that at the end of the first quarter of the year we had an 18.52% increase in operating income. And the first four months showed an even greater increase of 19.58%. However, one disturbing thing is the only slight increase in the last two Holy Day offerings. Overall we only had a 2.47% increase whereas the projected increase for HDO is 40%. Although this is understandable because of a big offering of one member last year, nevertheless this figure makes us a bit apprehensive. It shows only one thing: it must go up. Otherwise it would pull down the increase of the overall projected income.

On the other hand we should be glad that there is one very timely event that happened very recently. That was the "Personal Appearance Campaign" of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. This might bring more people in contact with the Work. We hope that quite a number of them will become co-workers. Perhaps even members sooner or later. The point here is that the more co-workers the better for our operating income.

During this time when our countrymen are receiving the last warning message it is but natural that the Work spend more money. And it is during this time that more co-workers and donors are needed. They will surely help in generating more operating income for the main function of the Work. ●

MR. MIRTO RECOUNTS SOME EXPERIENCES DURING THEIR NORTHEAST ASIA TOUR

EDITOR'S NOTE: As was promised to you last month Mr. Pacifico Mirto, Marketing Manager for the Northeast Asia Region who accompanied Mr. Adair in the recently concluded baptizing and visiting tour of the region, is giving his account of the trip. Since our readers have already a background of the event (if not, read Mr. Adair's Personal in the May CONTACT), Mr. Mirto starts his account when he was ready to board his flight at the beginning of his trip and ends his account when he finally met with Mr. Adair.

We know you'll enjoy his colorful experiences.

I sat there alone in the passenger's waiting lounge of the Manila International Airport, half-excited, half apprehensive. At last, after all the trials and tribulations of going through the travel clearances--after having been turned down twice by the travel committee--after some gnashing of teeth for seven days because the world stopped to celebrate the "holy" week, at last, I was on my way. But as I looked at my itinerary again I could not help but entertain fears of becoming a Filipino struggle in any one of those Asian countries we planned to visit. You see, just about the only sure booking in that schedule was the PAL flight out of the Philippines. The rest were on "request" status which meant "maybe we might just accommodate you."

But I consoled myself with the thought that at least I wouldn't land in Japan in the middle of the

transport strike. My objective was to rendezvous with Mr. Adair in Osaka, Japan and synchronize my schedule with his for the rest of the tour.

Language Barrier Problems

Now I know why Mr. Adair dreads to travel alone in this part of the world. You can't talk to people because of the language barrier. I tried my best "Chinese-sounding" English in Taipei but it was frustrating to see one blank look after another. Fortunately, the PAL girl (a Chinese) spoke perfect English and helped me out with my bookings for Osaka.

I had to connect flights in Taipei to get to Osaka (Japan) and I was booked on the 7:30 p.m. Cathay-Pacific flight. But when I saw that a Korean airlines plane was leaving for Osaka three hours earlier, I decided to switch flights. It went along all right since the airline people all speak English (thankfully) and I was booked on that flight.

No Visa, No Flight

We were all set to board the Korean Airlines plane when suddenly a man came rushing off and stopped the passengers from boarding. I couldn't believe it. They were looking for me. They said (as far as I could make out) I couldn't go to Osaka without a Japanese visa. I replied I was only a transient because I was going to Pusan, Korea and therefore do not need a Japanese visa.

So they asked if I had a Korean visa. I said no. I did not get one in Mani-

la because the Korean Embassy told me there was no need to have one since I would be staying in Korea for less than five days. I showed them my itinerary but they wouldn't believe me. The Korean Airlines wouldn't take a chance.

Remember, we were still at the Taipei airport. Finally he offered to book me direct to Korea instead because he said definitely I couldn't take this flight to Osaka. I had only one chance. Go downtown, get a Korean visa and come back in time for the Cathay-Pacific flight I was originally booked on. To get a Korean visa, I needed to go to the Korean Embassy in Taipei. To get to the embassy I had to get out of the airport. To get out of the airport I had to use my Chinese visa. Fortunately, I had one but it was not intended for this time but for the return trip. Still I had no choice. Lugging my baggage I rushed out of the airport, into a waiting taxi and in my best Chinese-intoned English directed the man to the Korean Embassy. It was no use. He couldn't understand me. So I rushed back to the counter of the Tourist Bureau and asked the Chinese girl there who fortunately spoke enough English and wrote "Korean embassy" in Chinese. As an afterthought I had her write "airport" on another piece of paper to make sure I got back to the airport. Then I remembered the money. I've got to pay the man in Chinese money. So I went to the airport bank and changed five US dollars into hundreds of Chinese dollars. I got my Korean visa in 40 minutes flat. (Normally it should take one day) I got into a taxi and showed him the Chinese characters supposed to mean "airport." And gave him a jet take-off sign. We made it. I rushed to

WANTED

Here's your chance to serve the brethren not only in the Philippines but also throughout the Northeast Asia region.

CONTACT needs young men and women who have the skill and desire to serve voluntarily as:

- * regular typists
- * proofreaders
- * artists

Requirements:

- . must be around the Manila Church area;
- . must be able at least to spare time after office hours;
- . but the most important requirement is that he or she must have the desire to serve the brethren through the newsletter. Without this element, there's little chance one could help well. Because we are in need and have been looking for young men and women who, aside from having the necessary qualifications, have also the dedication to serve; on whom we could count to be around when we need them. Will you be the one?

Also needed:

NEWS REPORTERS for Manila Church area who:

- . are good in written English
- . must be able to write articles well
- . can be counted upon to write news reports of all activities in the Manila area every month.

PROVINCIAL CORRESPONDENTS

We need at least one regular correspondent each for Urdaneta, Cebu, Naga, Kiara - Don Carlos and other areas. We

need these provincial correspondents to keep our readers abreast of all the news and interesting happenings in the different areas regu-

MR. MIRTO RECOUNTS

... continued.

the Cathay-Pacific counter booked on the 7:30 flight to Osaka (somehow my original space reservation was still there) and collapsed with relief on one of the soft passenger lounge seats, and waited for take-off.

Osaka, Here I Come

At 9:30 in the evening, the airport in Osaka did not look very welcome. It was cold and dimly lit. Going through the usual checks, I was informed that our connecting flight (Japan Airlines) the following day for Korea was cancelled. There was a new strike. Without any scheduled connecting flight to another country, I lost my status as a transient, and therefore I needed to have a Japanese visa to land in Japan. Otherwise they said, I had to go back to Taipeh. Go back to Taipeh? Not without a fight, I thought. The Japanese were very helpful and courteous, and I didn't think that they'd insist on sending me out of Japan. Anyway, we talked and talked and when nothing else could be said word came from the Cathay-Pacific man that 'one JAL flight was allowed to proceed--and I was booked on it. (Later, Mr. Adair, whose flight was cancelled as well, was also booked on this flight). I was a transient again! I thanked the man in the best Japanese-sounding English I could.

larly.

Don't lose this opportunity to get involved. Get in CONTACT! Write the Editor now. - (BM) ●

Contact With Mr. Adair Made

As I was leaving the airport, which was virtually deserted, a message came from Mr. Adair. This was incredible. You see, Mr. Adair did not know when I was coming in and on which flight -- or whether I was coming in at all. It was a shot in the dark when he called the Osaka Cathay-Pacific from Tokyo right at closing time while the man helping me out was right there. And I did not know where Mr. Adair was. All I knew was he was in northern Japan when the strike began. Anyway, the message was reassuring. Now, I knew where to reach him in Tokyo.

Outside the airport, I looked for a taxi. Just then a mean-looking, stocky Japanese, in a black suit complete with gloves and necktie, came to me and spoke in gruff Japanese. For a while I was half expecting him to go into a karate stance. I wondered, would God hold it against me if I gave him a Kung Fu blow? But after a few sparring words I discovered that he was a taxi driver!

After about three tries and a frustrating language problem with the hotel telephone operator, I was able to get hold of Mr. Adair in Tokyo at around 11:30 at night. By 10:00 a.m. the following day we were exchanging news in my hotel room. Mr. Adair came from Tokyo to Osaka by bullet train which travels at 200 kilometers per hour. Rendezvous was complete right on schedule.

At this point, Mr. Adair's account of the tour covers mine as well since we were able to synchronize flights, hotels, and activities, throughout the rest of the trip.

Next issue (hopefully) I will write a brief article on my evaluations regarding problems and opportunities in this area relative to the Work. ●

excerpts from the Worldwide News

By Edmond D. Macaraeg

Vol. II, No. 3

Feb. 4, 1974

REPORTS FROM THE GERMAN WORK

Two new churches are being started on a monthly basis in West Germany. One will be in Stuttgart and the other in Hannover. The older churches are in Düsseldorf, Hamburg, and Frankfurt. Salzburg in Austria and Zürich in Switzerland are also served by the German Work.

IF PYRAMID WERE BUILT TODAY

Engineers throughout South Africa were recently asked to bid on constructing a duplicate of Egypt's ancient Great Pyramid.

Though no such project is actually planned the implications are interesting. This would require 2.3 million stone blocks weighing from 2-1/2 to 30 tons a piece. It would cover 13 acres (about 6 hectares) and tower 480 feet.

Some engineers estimate that if they could position 10 blocks a day it would take 630 years to lay all the blocks!

However, by using two giant overhead traveling gantries, contractors could place one block every 15 minutes. Working 10 hours a day, seven days a week, the pyramid would be completed in 80 years! This was the lowest bid.

Gert van Zyl, contract manager for a large financing institution who bid at \$720 million set completion date for 2174 A.D. -- about 200 years from now!

The Encyclopaedia Bri-

tannica states, "According to Herodotus, the road for the conveyance of building material from the river to the plateau on which the Pyramid stands took 10 years to construct, while the Pyramid itself took another 20 years and demanded the labor of 100,000 men."

Dr. Herman L. Hoeh of Ambassador College also pointed out that Herodotus stated that in those 20 years, the people worked only during the three months each year when the Nile overflowed, when they would have been otherwise idle. Actual construction time therefore was only five working years!

Has modern man progressed beyond the capacity of engineers living in the time of the construction of the ancient pyramid?

Evolutionists answer with a unanimous yes, but the Great Pyramid at Giza seems to prove otherwise.

NIAGARA FALLS FOR F.T. '74

Niagara Falls, New York has been approved as the newest site for the Feast of Tabernacles, according to Mr. Bill McDowell, Festival Director.

The selection was the culmination of efforts to secure an additional Festival site in the eastern U. S. to relieve pressure on other sites and take on annual growth.

However, Niagara Falls is available for 1974 only. Another body has booked it already up to 1976. It is increasingly difficult to find convention centers. Also they have to be contracted for at least two years in advance!

BRICKET WOOD REPORTS GROWTH FOR 1973

The mailing department, processing British and European mail received 318,590 letters and card representing a 73% increase over 1972.

A main factor was the growth in newsstand distribution which started at 160,000 and ended with 227,000.

Copies sent to public libraries increased to 16,700 by December. Excluding newsstand responses, 11,000 new subscribers were added to the PT mailing list. The Correspondence Course (CC) enrollment for the year added up to a total of 3,556 -- about 70 per week.

A 60% increase in mail was recorded for Africa, with 26,859 to the PT mailing list; while 637 were added to the CC giving a 14% increase over 1972. There has been remarkable increase in visit requests since Mr. Harold Jackson's (director of the Black African Work) latest tour. Already, 180 people were scheduled for the coming tour.

Total PT circulation for Black Africa stands at 62,000. Ghana and Nigeria ranks highest with a 23,500 and 29,000 circulation respectively.

The Indian section reported 18% increase over 1972, despite the magazine being sent out only every other month. The number of CC students rose sharply to 2,074 or a 51% increase.

SIGNS OF EYE TROUBLE

According to the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, some signs of trouble in children are: complaints of eyes itching, burning or feeling scratchy; dizziness, headaches or nausea following close eye work; and blurred or double vision. Also, a child may cover one eye, tilt head or thrust head forward, blink more than usual, stumble over small objects, hold book close to eyes, or be unable to see distant things clearly.

This preschooler's eye (Please turn to next page)

Worldwide News excerpts... cont'd.

test can be obtained by writing the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, 79 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016

Vol. II, No. 4
Feb. 18, 1974

CONDITIONS AFFECTING CARIBBEAN WORK

"Conditions are much better now than they were just 18 months ago. We are not being attacked by the press in Barbados," reports Mr. Clarence Bass, our Caribbean Regional Director. Our ministers can visit freely as tourists, and the church is now meeting every Sabbath since Mr. Carlos Nieto was employed by the Work. A recent Sabbath saw 236 attending.

In Trinidad, Mr. Lenno Deyalsingh continues to conduct Sabbath services on an every-other-week basis until the government gives permission for Mr. Roland Sampson, a local elder now living in Miami, Florida to move to Trinidad, which has 85 members and 150 prospective members. The government promised to answer our request Nov. 1 last year but until now they have not acted on our inquiries.

Regular weekly Sabbath Services in Nassau were started on Jan. 5 by Mr. Kingsley Mather, a local elder.

Because of the oil problem, the government restricted sending money out of the country. Therefore members cannot send their money to HQ. What is being done now is that money in Barbados is used to pay for the local WI broadcast and work there.

RADIO BROADCASTING

Last month, we featured

the Booklet Department. Here now is a little insight into the Radio Broadcasting Department at Headquarters.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong made the first World Tomorrow broadcast at 10:00 A.M., Jan. 7, 1934 on a 100-watt radio station in Eugene Oregon. The early programs were recorded and played on discs.

In 1953, we started broadcasting outside the US on Radio Luxembourg. In 1955, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong started undertaking more of the actual broadcasting.

Presently, Mr. Frank Inglis is the director of the Radio Production Department — working directly under Mr. Norman Smith, now Vice-President for the Media Division.

Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong's very heavy schedule prevents him from making regular daily radio programs. What the Department does is to edit the sound track of the television programs and prepare a master tape from it for the radio broadcast.

Garland Snuffer supervises the U.S. section of radio production while Jerry Horton supervises the Foreign Section. Tapes must all be at the specified playing time of 29 minutes and 30 seconds.

The closing address of these tapes should fit the address of the foreign office which is to receive the program.

AUSTRALIA ADDS THREE F. T. SITES

In addition to the present Feasts sites which are Blackheath and Adelaide, three new ones are being added. They are Miami Beach in Queensland, Hobart in Tasmania, and Emu Point in Western Australia.

FROM THE PERSONALS COLUMN

"Dear Brethren! I need

your prayers. One year ago I was told I have diabetes and also the start of a cataract in each eye. I do not take medication. I would appreciate your prayers. Thank you. -- Mrs. Carol J. Wahlen (Norma), from the Milwaukee church.

* * * * *

FAMILY RECOUNTS TORNADO RIDE

In December of 1972, Mr. Jim Plunkett (a member in Fort Worth, Texas), his wife and two daughters were traveling home in their car attempting to outrun the tornado which was broadcast to hit their area.

Suddenly, through the thunderstorm, they saw the great black funnel-like twister coming from behind them. He speeded up, but almost instantly they felt the right rear end of their car begin to rise! They were sucked completely off the ground and the front end came up as the vehicle leveled out. They were inside the tornado with the car slowly spinning counterclockwise. Dirty water engulfed the auto. Looking down, his wife saw a roof suddenly appear. They prayed silently and fervently.

Miraculously and almost immediately the car began to settle and was gently laid down back on the road. But the tornado left the car speeding backwards at 40 miles per hour! Mr. Plunkett was able to stop the wildly careening car just in time before it was about to smash into a house.

They saw several people who had obviously seen the whole thing staring wide-eyed and open-mouthed at them.

Miraculously, not even one of them had a bruise. The car had no damage except for a few chips of paint.

MANILA NEWS

CHILDREN TOUR WILDLIFE PARK

By Max Fabricante and
Carol Layug

An educational and fun-filled trip to the National Parks and Wildlife in Quezon City in the morning of May 12 was the latest of the Imperial Children's Club activities for this year.

Twenty-one members accompanied by a few adults enjoyed seeing the scenery as well as the animals in the park.

Among the sights the children enjoyed were the monkey-eating eagle and other varieties of eagles, a Malayan bear, a reindeer and some Philippine deer, beautifully colored parrots, live tortoises, a family of monkeys, and peacocks one of which had its tail feathers spread while going around a timid peahen.

After eating their own snacks, the children enjoyed and thrilled themselves in the tree shaded playground as they all filled the see-saws, the swings, the slides and others.

Mr. Manubay also took shots of the children and treated them there with popsicles and peanuts.

The members were carefully attended to by Carol Layug, Teta Valmonte, Joe Potueco as they assisted Rose Laxamana and Max Fabricante, clubmasters of the girls and boys, respectively. The whole activity, which started 8:30 in the morning ended before noon and also before the children's spark and enthusiasm could begin to ebb. ●

ANGELES UNIVERSITY CONFERS DOCTORATE ON MR. ARMSTRONG

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong recognized by high ranking educators in the Philippines as an eminent American lecturer, educator and publisher, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities by the Angeles University in Angeles City last May 14.

Mrs. Barbara Y. Angeles, President of the University, Dr. Emmanuel Angeles, Executive President and Dr. Norberto de Ramos were present during the investiture.

A luncheon in honor of the awardee was also hosted by the officials of the

University.

Meanwhile, Mr. Armstrong was also a recipient of a plaque of appreciation presented to him by the University of the East, in a recent convocation held at the University of the East Auditorium. Mr. Armstrong who was also the guest speaker spoke on the missing dimension in modern living.

Top university officials led by UE Chairman of the Board Francisco Dalupan and UE President Santiago de la Cruz attended the awarding ceremonies. (RST) ●

12 SPOKESMEN TO GRADUATE DURING COMBINED "LADIES' NIGHT"

by Daniel de Leon

Exciting drama in the lives of six outspoken "Spokesmen" will be unfolded on June 9 at the Josephine's Restaurant at Cubao, Quezon City when the Manila "A" and "B" Spokesman Clubs hold their second joint Ladies' Night for the year 1974.

The speakers who were all volunteers, will tell a real dramatic story that occurred in their lives. As the Spokesmen will relive part of their lives the speaking session promises to be an exciting and gripping one.

Except for the theme -- "Drama In Real Life" -- and the presence of the fairer sex, the night will be typical of a regular club session. A new and different atmosphere, however, is expected to permeate the whole night. The Ladies' Night will also be highlighted by a graduation ceremony.

Twelve members -- after having completed the required twelve speeches in

the club--will receive their certificates during the ceremony. For this select group, it will be an extra special night. After many years and months of "toil and work, sweat and tears," they can say at last--"I have finished the course!"

Some 150 persons are expected to attend this last meeting for the club year. The members of both clubs have been preparing for this annual event for the past several months in terms of money, time and effort. The multi-faceted preparations for the Ladies' Night entailed many hours of discussion and meetings.

Three committees were formed to thresh out the details of the forthcoming affair and to weed out possible snags and problems.

With the planning and effort that went into it, a most enjoyable Ladies' Night is in the offing. ●

PROVINCIAL NEWS

FIRST BIBLE STUDY IN KIDAPAWAN

by Eleazar V. Flores

March 31, Carmen, North Cotabato. -- For the first time in the Philadelphia era of God's Church, a Bible study was successfully conducted last March 30 in Kidapawan, the progressive capital town of the newly-reorganized province of North Cotabato. Conducted by Mr. Antonio Ilustrisimo, the appointed leader of God's people in Davao del Sur and the four Cotabato provinces, it was attended by five persons (including the author), all baptized members from North Cotabato. The locale for the Bible study was the residence of Mr. Gaspar Ruffinos, incidentally, is the only Church member (as yet) in that town.

The topic for the Bible study was "What Are We Called For," and Mr. Ilustrisimo thoroughly explained in detail the reasons why we have been called into the Church at this time.

The above-mentioned Bible study is only the first of a newly-scheduled monthly Bible studies to be held every last Sabbath of the month in Kidapawan at the same locale.

Hopefully, the attendance in the succeeding Bible studies will gradually increase. ●

A "HAPPENING" IN ILOILO

by Severo C. Caligan, Jr.

Last May 2 an affair was held here in Iloilo

City that was attended by members residing in the city. Actually, the affair was something of a mystery to us at the start. All we knew was that it was some sort of a celebration.

It all started when Mr. Roberto N. Gopez, one of our members, invited us to have supper with him in his house. When pressed further for details, he told us jokingly that it was a birthday celebration. We knew he was only kidding. It turned out to be more than a birthday celebration. It was, in fact, the 12th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Gopez. We were not aware of that until we arrived at his residence. It was only then that we found out that this was no ordinary affair.

True, it was a simple affair. No sumptuous banquet. No ostentatious trimmings. And most of the well wishers were the brethren themselves. But even then, the celebration turned out to be memorable in many ways.

To the members, it was a happening: this was so far the first of its kind to be celebrated here with the brethren in attendance -- a novelty of some sort, no doubt. And with the fine, delectable foods that Mrs. Lota G. Gopez prepared for us, together with the greetings and the conviviality and the drinks, it was indeed more than just an ordinary happening.

After 12 years of a happy marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Gopez can count their blessings -- four lovely children: Antoniette, Bernadette, Claudette and Dianette.

Incidentally, their 12th anniversary is also called "silk" anniversary. We know that silk -- by its very nature -- is smooth, fine and lustrous. The married life of Mr. and Mrs. Gopez seems to reflect all these qualities. ●

SUCCESSFUL FEAST OBSERVED IN TAGUM

By Mario S. Dulguime

Tagum, the capital town of... is just 57 kms. north, from the heart of Davao City. In this burgeoning community of sixty thousand people, where business, education and culture flourish, only 16 people were called out to have a part in God's Worldwide Work today. Others who attend the regular sabbath services in Tagum are coming from the city of Davao and other towns of this province.

The recently concluded feast was a tremendous success. With inspiring messages, friendly fellowship, outing, hiking, which drew us closer to wildlife and nature, socials and some games, the one week Holy Day of God offered a total enjoyment among the members and a brief relaxation from the outside world.

Forty-nine people observed the Passover. In the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, eighty-eight people attended. The "night much to be remembered" was observed in houses of brethren with two or three families attending. During the last day of the Feast, eighty-nine people came. It was really a very enjoyable feast and one that will long linger in the minds of the brethren. Indeed, much fellowship resulted in pleasant memories of the Feast here in Tagum. Brethren are once again looking forward to another feast.

Together with the "Young Ambassadors Club", plans were already laid out for active participations in the forthcoming "Feast of Tabernacles", which promises to be an outstanding one. ●

A FIERY TRIAL FOR A SCATTERED MEMBER'S FAMILY

By Bien Macaraeg, Jr.

It was about 4 o'clock in the afternoon of April 18, 1974 -- just a few days after the Days of Unleavened Bread when a fiery trial -- literally-- struck home to a scattered member's family at Barrio Ferrol, Odiongan, Romblon.

Mr. Bernardo Soledad, together with his wife and four teen-age daughters, left their home to go somewhere. To their dismay, grief and unbelief, they came back to find their home gone up in smoke -- completely razed to the ground! They weren't able to rescue a single item of belongings. They were left with only the clothes on their backs. It must have been such a heart-rending experience for Mr. and Mrs. Soledad and their children! Only someone who has gone through that very same experience could really feel what they felt at that time!

To give you brethren a personal account of the story, we print below a letter of Mr. Soledad addressed to Mr. Adair. It was written just hours after the incident. His letter reads:

"I am writing to you to inform you of the tragic calamity that happened to us. Our house including all our belongings was burned up and turned to ashes at about 4 o'clock this afternoon. We could hardly believe it!

"At the moment, we have nothing left. Nobody was able to help because we were all out and the house was locked. We arrived home late and found everything, including our second tithe, turned to ashes.

We only found a few coins left.

"Sir, kindly help us pray that we could bear this trial. Please send us admonitions that will strengthen our faith. Also help us overcome the ensuing 'famine of the word' by sending us any booklet, magazine and Bible lessons available in our office. All our reading materials were burned including our Bibles, hymnals and all pictures which are our souvenir from every Festival.

Bible, Clothing, Others Needed

"Sir, if you have an extra Bible kindly send us one. We need your help very badly. We have no food, clothing nor shelter of our own. I can hardly stand my children's situation and disappointment because all their belongings were also gone. At the moment we are temporarily quartered in my grandmother's house. Some of our friends and neighbors lent us their mats, pillows and cooking utensils. Some relatives gave us rice. So whatever help you can give us will all be received with deep gratitude and very much appreciated."

Since the Office received this letter and their telegrams weeks ago, the Church has already tried to help them in some way. One minister gave away his wife's Bible to them. We sent them new copies of our literature and a box of used clothing. Mr. Adair also sent them quite a large amount from the Emergency Fund to help them get started. (This

is one obvious example where and when your offerings and donations to the Emergency or Love Fund are put to good work. Keep giving!!)

Call to Help Start Life Again

But quite obviously, the help sent them isn't enough. The things they have received might be still small compared to what they have lost. They have to start life again and build from the ruins. It's not easy. In fact their recent letters show that they're really finding it difficult. They are our brethren and it is primarily our responsibility to help them.

There have been many accounts in the past from different areas throughout the world where a member suffers some "misfortune" and the brethren rush in to help. The Philadelphia era of God's Church has always been known for its brotherly love to one another.

We would like to encourage you, if you are able, to send to them anything you feel will help. The best and most convenient maybe would be cash money. But if you don't have that anything in kind might do. If you wish you can also channel your help through the Office and we will take care of sending it to them.

You can be sure that your help will be gratefully received and will be of great help, encouragement and comfort to them.

(We have received more recent letters from them and they seem to be in very fine spirits, trusting God and having strong faith in Him even though at their writing, they haven't yet received the Church's help to them. They take constant inspiration from the reverse which says "All things work together for good...")

BELIEVE IT NOT

GETTING TO KNOW YOU AND ME

In lieu of the regular Believe It Not cartoon, we have here some very interesting "parables" coming from one of our members in Iloilo. Whether you will believe it or not we surely believe that they would "tickle" you to laughter.

-Ed.

By Lili M. Acosta

"The instability of my life led me to the search for the meaning and purpose in life, till I found them through the pages of the Plain Truth," sighed Joselina A. Medina when asked to comment on how God led her to the truth.

Born and reared in Manila, Joie as she is fondly called is the fifth from the eldest in a brood of nine girls and five boys. Her parents hail from Nueva Ecija and are engaged in the business of manufacturing infant's wear. She stays with them at their Quezon City residence.

One would picture Joie as a young, reserved, soft-spoken personality. She seems to move slowly but surely. She has what you call a modern touch in the way she dons her black shaggy hair, the way she carries herself, in her choice of things and what's more her sartorial taste. She stays healthy in her five feet three inches stature.

most effective opening to start a sermon than this--

A preacher of a certain church took his place in the pulpit and said: "Today I am preaching on the 29th chapter of Matthew. But first -- how many here have read it?"

Almost every hand in that congregation went up.

"Ah, then, you are the people who need this sermon," the preacher remarked. "There is no 29th chapter of Matthew. My sermon is about 'Liars.'"

Though she claims to be nobody's favorite during her childhood days, she grew up to be the closest to her parents. "And the one they are most proud of. They trust me more than anyone else," she confided.

A well-read and well-minded lass, Joie's personality is reflected on her interest in seeing cultural and educational shows. Dabbles in drawing; devours informative books like home decor and places of interests; studies Nippongo; digs clipping useful newspaper materials and articles; she goes for basketball and breathing exercises; prefers simple foods, raw vegetables and lychees. Her eyes delight in the colors green and purple. On the musical side of things, Ferante and Teicher, the Ray Conniff Singers top her list. She spares time on the sewing machine remodelling old clothes and tutors her younger brothers to school.

A scholar in her own right, Joie is at present a Commerce senior at the Lyceum of the Philippines majoring in "figures." Had it not been for a number of interruptions, she could have earned a college diploma some time ago. However, these intermissions were instrumental to her discovery of the truth. Quite in a mental quandary, she quit her Architectural course in 1970. Desirous of becoming a student at Ambassador College, she embarked on a trip there on the invitation of an auntie who resides in Pennsylvania. Consequently, we still have Joie here with us today.

The most momentous event in her life: June 10, 1973. The day she had her old self "buried" and vowed to live a Christian life thereafter.

Would you like to know her favorite scripture? Why not turn your Bible to Proverbs 3:27!

Have you heard about the story of a preacher who was then quoting Matthew 10:8 in his sermon and who got a little mixed up? Matthew 10:8 has to do with healing the sick, raising the dead, and casting out devils. This preacher got lost in the verse and said instead: The Bible admonishes us to cast out the sick -- and heal the dead -- and raise the devil."

And here is the case of one visiting minister who was invited to preach in another congregation. A hat was passed around that assembly to take up an offering for that visiting minister. A sort of a compensation for his labor.

In due time the hat was returned to the front. It was given to the visiting minister. But alas - the hat did not contain even a single coin. It was completely empty. The preacher made efforts to shake it intentionally -- even inverting it. And in mocked tones, he prayed loudly: "I thank thee that I got my hat back from this assembly."

Where can you find a

(S. C. Caligan, Jr.)

Letters
TO THE EDITOR

GENERAL COMMENTS

I wish to congratulate the "brains" behind our local paper "Contact" which is just about what we needed. The articles and write-ups are usually of great interest and done with finesse and expertise comparable to professional writers. It is balanced in reading matter and what's more, all the reading fun is for free which makes it truly unique and wonderful.

Rudolfo Aguila
Roxas, Palawan

Would you include me as one of your subscribers of your CONTACT newsletter. I like the articles such as Believe It Not, Out of Contact and others.

Diana Sotomil
Sta. Barbara, Iloilo

*Okay, you're on the list. We're glad that you enjoy our humor sections. By the way, we do welcome contributions to these sections from our readers.

PT, GN INDEX SUGGESTED

I think it would be of great help if a listing of major PT and GN articles grouped according to the year and month they were published could be made and published as a column in the CONTACT. This may start from 1973 then back to as far as possible. With these, various past articles on Christian living could easily be found in the old issues by old and new members alike without leafing through old issues one by one especial-

"What we need these days is a shortage shortage."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MANILA: JUNE CALENDAR

1,8,15, - Regular SERVICES
22,29 every SABBATH

ly when one is searching for articles on specific topics of interest.

Maxzix Fabricante
Makati, Rizal

FROM JAPAN!

Many thanks for the several copies of "Contact" which I received. It makes me feel as belonging to somewhere but at the same time I also feel lonely because everybody is so far away. I was very surprised to read how well-organized everything is and how big a field of interest all the brethren there are covering -- arranging outings, concerts, theaters, parties for children, games, sports, etc. I am so sorry that there is nothing similar in Japan and probably never will be in this age. Sticking to this thought, I am wondering whether there is another lady in a similar situation (married to an unconverted mate, with children, isolated and not being able to attend any services) among the brethren in the Northeast Asian Area, who would be interested in exchanging ideas, experiences and problems.

Mrs. Catherine Okano
Kohokudai Danchi 7-41-307
Abiko-Shi
Chiba-Ken, Japan

*Mrs. Okano was the lady baptized by Mr. Adair in his recent Northeast Asian trip last April. (See May Contact). We certainly encourage anyone who is interested in corresponding with her, to do so! ●

5, 19 - Regular BIBLE STUDY 7 PM, GSP Auditorium

9 - JOINT SPOKESMAN CLUB LADIES' NIGHT

16 - SOCIALS for 55-and-over age group

23, 30 - FOLLOW-UP BIBLE STUDY for Mr. HWA's Campaign

SERVICES IN THE PROVINCES:

URDANETA - Services every Sabbath. Bacag Resthouse Shed, Bacag, Villasis, Pang.

CEBU CITY - 10 AM July 27, LUYM Bldg. (12th Floor)

ILOILO CITY - 9:30 AM June 29 and August 31, River Queen Hotel Conference Rm.

NAGA CITY - 10 AM June 22 and August 24, Lindez Hotel

WEDDING

April 2 - Mr. Benjamin Arendain (son of Mr-s. Nemesio Arendain of Tagum, Davao del Norte) and Miss Cesaria Cabrera (daughter of Mr-s. Florentino Cabrera of Maragatas, Davao Or.).

BIRTH

VILMA DAGANGON, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Constancio Dagangon. Lupon, Davao Or., Feb. 15 -- 6 lbs.

OLD TW ISSUES

We have a few dozen past issues of the former "Tomorrow's World Magazine" which we want to dispose of. (This magazine was published and circulated from 1969 to 1972. Now, its function is replaced by the Good News Magazine.) If you are interested to obtain some copies, just write us. ●