

PASTOR'S REPORT



PUBLISHED BY THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. 2, NO. 14

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 24, 1978

Dear Fellow Ministers in Christ:

Greetings from Big Sandy! I am presently "inbetween Holy Days" on the Big Sandy campus tending to many details relative to the opening up of Ambassador College this autumn.

We particularly enjoyed our visit with the Youngstown-Akron area churches and a larger than expected crowd for the first Day of Unleavened Bread, including several hundred co-workers or donors who were visiting perhaps for the first time.

I was especially inspired to learn that in the Youngstown area and surrounding smaller cities like Warren, Ohio, and elsewhere we are dispensing 20,000 PLAIN TRUTHS in our newsstand campaign each month! This does not include the Cleveland, Akron-Canton area or any of the other larger cities, but is in the Youngstown area and its environs alone! I was inspired to walk into a little restaurant cafe just prior to my departure and see a big newsstand chocked full of PLAIN TRUTH magazines (though I think I would have been more inspired if it had already been empty).

All of us were very encouraged over the signs of positive growth and the definite foundation being laid for future growth in this part of the country--and hope and pray the same is true for all other parts!

In discussing the tremendous new developments in our educational arm of the church, I couldn't help but muse over the situation that developed in the early and middle 1960s on the Pasadena campus. Many of you will remember how we were elated over the fact that up to 30 and even 40 percent of our incoming freshmen in some given years came to Ambassador College already possessing a degree from another institution. Many of these men, even including Dr. Kuhn, Dr. Geis, David Wainwright (currently on a doctoral program) and many others, came to Ambassador College for a second undergraduate degree, when in fact it would have been much better if they could have come to a graduate level program and been pursuing a higher degree in their respective fields.

At long last, God has opened the door for precisely that kind of program! Now, with the development and expansion of a full-fledged graduate school of theology, with several important degree programs on the Pasadena campus, we have the opportunity to accept men of this caliber directly into the graduate school, leading to greater personal and professional involvement within the church itself, without what could be in fact a waste of time in spending years in a second undergraduate program!

I am positively excited beyond words at the cleanness of this new separation of the undergraduate program and the maintenance of our undergraduate college on the Big Sandy campus, the creation of a very

fine Graduate School of Theology on the campus in Pasadena, and the powerful new emphasis on church visibility, church growth, church programs and activities at the headquarters of the church in Pasadena.

We will be going to Montgomery, Alabama for the weekly Sabbath following the last Day of Unleavened Bread -- I plan to speak before the combined churches in the Big Sandy area on the last Holy Day and then will be returning to Pasadena by Monday.

With much love, in Jesus' name,
GARNER TED ARMSTRONG

CHURCH COORDINATING TEAM UPDATE One of the first areas to be studied by the Church Coordinating Team has been the sabbatical program. The obvious reason for this was the need to review the program's alignment in view of the college's undergraduate move to Texas.

In looking squarely at the program, several things stood out: 1) It was not a sabbatical (in regard to a seven-year cycle). At the present rate of 15 men being brought in every year from the U.S. field ministry, it would take 20 years to cycle a man through if the number of employed ministers remained constant; 2) There were various reasons men came in or were brought in. Not everyone came in primarily for the educational opportunity. Some moves were considered partly corrective. In other cases, certain men just wanted a change of pace; 3) The program was instrumental in causing numerous ministerial transfers because of the domino effect it began.

In response to these deficiencies, several recommendations were made: 1) Redefine the educational program to meet current church educational needs; 2) Discontinue the designation "sabbatical program" (since it really isn't); 3) Attempt to handle all ministerial problems, whether personal or administrative, in the field; 4) Attempt to limit long-range transfers through fewer transfers and transferring within a region whenever possible.

The Graduate School of Theology, which was announced in last week's Pastor's Report, was designed in response to some of the needs discussed. As seen from this end, the school is an exciting development since it allows us, for the first time in a number of years, to bring a number of associated elements into closer proximity.

Items yet to be discussed will be the Church Division budget which will need to be formulated in the next few weeks. Also to be discussed will be the criteria for ministerial transfers. As commercial moving costs rise, it becomes more necessary to insure that every move is truly needed. A review of the transfer requests of the last several years shows a trend toward men wanting to rotate churches more frequently. Ideally, the attitude a pastor should assume towards his pastorate is a willingness to remain with that church for a lifetime. With that frame of mind, a man is more likely to give himself entirely to that church. This doesn't mean ministers won't be transferred when necessary. However, the average minister has been in his current pastorate just over three years, and this tends to create instability within the local congregation.

--Ted Herlofson, Church Coordinating Team

PASADENA SPRING HOLY DAY ATTENDANCE We have just completed a very encouraging Passover and first Holy Day service in Pasadena. We had a record attendance for both the Passover and first Sabbath--2,545 took the

Passover while 3,535 were in attendance for the first Holy Day service. Both the Passover and the first Holy Day had more in attendance than we had anticipated. Actually, there were 500 more than expected at the Holy Day service. Every meeting place was totally filled; we had to place people in the Student Center at the last minute as there was no other seating available. We hurriedly set up audio from the Auditorium so these people could participate in the services.

This additional attendance of 500 people over the normal Sabbath service attendance (14% increase) is very encouraging to all of us here in Pasadena. But the reason for this type of increase is unknown to me at this point. Obviously, we had some visitors from other areas; but this couldn't account for all the increase. I highly suspect we are seeing at Headquarters a return of some of our members who had become INACTIVE. I sincerely hope this is the case, as I believe the first step toward increased church growth is to stop losing members and to win back some of those inactive members who have not dropped out because of bitterness, but rather as a result of losing interest in the Church. As they see the Church growing, I hope many more of these inactives will return to services.

--Steve Martin

GRADUATE SCHOOL FACULTY NAMED Just four months remain until the opening of Ambassador Graduate School of Theology and progress is rapidly being made. The full-time faculty of the school has now been appointed. Some part-time faculty members have also been named, and a few others are still being considered as finer points of the curriculum are developed.

One common denominator of the entire graduate school faculty is the fact that all members have accomplished their undergraduate work at Ambassador College in years past. Most of them are ordained ministers of the Worldwide Church of God with pastoral experience at headquarters as well as in the field. In addition, most of the men named are deeply involved in other areas of the Work which are also related to their fields of expertise.

All eleven full-time faculty members hold one or more graduate degrees including four who have doctorates and three who are doctoral candidates. Several others are currently pursuing doctoral programs in their areas of specialization.

The faculty members (in approximate alphabetical order) with their general subject areas are: David Albert and David Antion, counseling; Greg Albrecht, homiletics; Gunar Freibergs, church history; George Geis, human development; Lester Grabbe, New Testament studies; Brian Knowles, theological journalism; Robert Kuhn, systematic theology and church doctrine; Richard Linton and Arthur Mokarow, administration and leadership; Steve Martin, professional studies; Robert Oberlander, church educational programs; Richard Paige, Old Testament studies; and John Robinson and Les Stocker, theological journalism and mass communications.

Of those named, Brian Knowles, Steve Martin, Art Mokarow, and John Robinson will serve on a part-time basis due to their primary responsibilities in other areas of the Work.

--Les Stocker

APPLICATIONS FOR AMBASSADOR GRADUATE SCHOOL (Please announce to your congregations) Applications for August 1978 admission to Ambassador Graduate School of Theology are now available. Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree. The Graduate School is designed to serve two primary purposes: continued professional education for ordained ministers and advanced programs for individuals who have already completed an undergraduate education, have a church background, and are interested in more direct involvement in the church.

Some church members may be interested in developing skills that are important to the local congregation and other areas of direct service to the church. The Graduate School of Theology offers a Master of Arts degree in religious studies with areas of specialization in church leadership and development, marriage and family counseling, theological journalism, church educational programs, and youth ministry.

More complete information and applications can be obtained by writing to: Ambassador Graduate School of Theology, Pasadena, California, 91123
--George Geis, Theology Department Chairman

FUNERALS: ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO BE A LIGHT Since mentioning in church that I would be glad to help out at funerals of relatives or friends of members and prospective members, I have preached at three funerals.

Last week a friend of a PM died and the family had no one to turn to, so Gary Mayer told them "My minister would be glad to help." The family was so appreciative of the hope and encouragement contained in the sermon that after the funeral they mentioned that if they were ever in need of counseling they would contact us.

I asked Gary to offer the family (they are very poor) the \$35.00 the funeral director handed me. Instead, they insisted it go to the church.

As a suggestion, perhaps many of us can help fill an important need in the lives of non-member families and friends when the death of a loved one occurs. The truth we can present at such an event can offer much comfort and hope and harmonizes magnificently with our new thrust!

--Richard Frankel, Edison, New Jersey

AICF/CHURCH EXPOSURE THROUGH QUEST/78 A series of QUEST/78 presentations were made this week in the Los Angeles area to top corporate heads and other potential advertisers in Quest magazine. The presentation consisted of a luncheon, a talk, and sound synchronized slide show about the Ambassador Foundation, the Church's good works and Quest's upbeat approach to life's potentials. Those present showed they were surprised by the Foundation's activities and, of course, the Church was given more prominence in their eyes through this luncheon. It's interesting to note that by these Quest presentations we are able to attract top businessmen to hear our story who would not attend if the presentation was put on by the Church, but the Church still gets positive exposure which is giving us increasing credibility in their eyes.

--Roger Lippross, Publishing Services

THE "GIVE WAY" REALLY WORKS! For several months the Subscriber Development section of MPC has been offering literature to contributors with their donation receipts. This receipt program has proved to be one of

our most successful undertakings. Not only is this true in terms of free-will donations people send in, but also in terms of placing additional literature in their hands -- which can help lead to greater involvement.

However, in developing this receipt program we have also learned some very valuable lessons. Near the beginning of the year, we sent out a receipt mailing to a large group of contributors without offering any FREE literature. The result was that the receipt mailing didn't pay for itself. It cost \$1,528 to mail, but only brought in \$313.

Once again, the lesson we learned from this experiment reinforced the principle of the "give way" which Mr. Herbert Armstrong has repeatedly emphasized. It's a simple truth -- but one on which this very Work has been built -- that when we give, people will give in return: "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over" (Luke 6:38).

Mail & WATS Update: Both mail and phones were down this week compared to the exceptionally good week of April 14 (the best in the last 11 months). However, with the influx of holyday offerings to handle, MPC will more than stay busy. Thus far this year we have received 628,000 letters and 172,716 phone registries.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing

ON THE WORLD SCENE

PROPHECY LEAPS AHEAD IN EUROPE! Will President Carter's greatest accomplishment be the unwitting creation of a United German-led Europe, standing in opposition, if necessary, to the United States? Right now, it looks that way.

President Carter's failure to give a green-light to produce the neutron bomb -- a key element in NATO defense strategy against growing Soviet military might -- was the "last straw" to many European leaders, coming on the heels of his do-nothingness about the falling dollar, and decisions negatively affecting the Europeans over nuclear technology. A prevailing mood in Europe, therefore, is this: the Administration in Washington is incompetent and unreliable -- and now is the time for Europe to decide its own fate.

The respected magazine, Der Spiegel, reported that West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt sees Carter as "an unfathomable amateur who tries to stamp his private morals on world politics but in reality is incapable of fulfilling his role as leader of the West." Bonn's Defense Minister Genscher, who was in Washington pleading for the neutron weapon when Carter "decided to postpone a decision" on it, remarked that Mr. Carter is "a religious dreamer."

Opposition leader Franz Josef Strauss was, as expected, much more vocal in his reaction: "In my knowledge of American history this is the first time since World War II that an American President openly and perceptibly lay down before a Russian Czar," Strauss said. He used the German word "gekusch" for "lay down," meaning lying down like a dog at his master's feet.

The Germans are not the only ones reacting in anger to the puzzling figure now occupying 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. The French press almost unanimously condemned Carter's neutron bomb decision. The conservative daily L'Aurore ran the banner headline, "Carter gives in to Brezhnev" and the Washington correspondent of Le Figaro said Carter was dancing a "hesitation waltz."

Rumors are flying that the French government is considering the development of both the neutron bomb and the cruise missile -- another weapon which Mr. Carter has decided to restrict (partially) the development and deployment of, again in hopes for a more conciliatory Russian attitude on SALT. Some French officials are reminding their fellow Europeans that Charles de Gaulle was right after all in his warning that the U.S. would someday sacrifice European interests in its pursuit of what it perceives as its own interests in its superpower relationship with Russia.

Conservative British politicians and opinion shapers are also gravely concerned over developments in Washington. At a recent speech at Cornell University, former British Prime Minister Edward Heath said: "We in Europe will no longer be able to expect the United States to take action in any part of the world to put right something which we don't like. This is a new world into which we have moved. Europe must be prepared to make a greater contribution to the security of the Atlantic Alliance as a whole."

Leading Sunday Telegraph analyst Peregrine Worsthorne was devastating in his analysis of America's contemporary leadership: He labeled Mr. Carter a "lightweight" and a "fumbling amateur."

It was time, he said, for Europeans to realize they can no longer sleep happily at night "secure in the knowledge that a new breed of American professionals were in charge of the world." Europe's traditional mistrust of American leadership, the norm up until the second world war, must return!

"The United States has succeeded in arousing distrust about its leadership across the whole political spectrum in Western Europe," said Worsthorne, adding: "There is scarcely a name in the present American foreign policy set-up which commands respect, and several -- Andrew Young, for one -- which do the opposite. As for the President himself, nothing in his style or manner gives the slightest cause for confidence."

Worsthorne's conclusion: "So perhaps the pre-war generation was correct after all in refusing to rely on the United States. When even pro-American Europeans are compelled to reach this conclusion -- as increasingly they are -- then surely the time has come for something to be done about it. In fact, the obvious reaction, which may well be long overdue, is for Western Europe to look more and more to its own defenses and its own interests, if need be in defiance of the U.S. Such a world could well be intensely dangerous, but even this could be a blessing in disguise. Without the shelter of the American umbrella, Europe might once again find the will -- after decades of decadence -- to be true to its own destiny."

Conservative MP Julian Critchley, also writing in the Telegraph, added additional wrinkle to this remarkable story. American power is on the wane, he said, while Soviet might shows no bounds. Europe, he concludes, must unite in the face of this common enemy.

There was a great need for a "modern Bismark" in Europe, said Critchley, adding: "He, too, may well be German, for it is the Federal Republic which has become the most powerful nation within the Community. The Iron Chancellor was the architect of German unity in the 19th century; if the Common Market is ever to become a super-State and not just a supermarket, it will be the result of German leadership."

More on this trend, in greater detail, in coming issues of the Plain Truth and Worldwide News.

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau

LETTER COMMENTS

MPC is just beginning to receive reactions to the new live half-hour radio programs and the decision to move the undergraduate college to Big Sandy. This week's comments primarily concern these two items.

Half-hour Broadcasts

GTA back on radio for a half hour! Hooray! There is no one on earth like Mr. Armstrong. Thank God you're on.

-- Mr. & Mrs. Ray Bianchi (Tucson, AZ)

What a joy to hear the half-hour program again on radio these past two mornings. I hadn't realized how much we had missed them. Please keep them coming.

-- Jerry Arebalo (Paso Robles, CA)

We were thrilled to hear your first half-hour broadcast here in Tucson, Monday at 1 p.m. Your presentation was the best I ever heard, and I always (in years past) felt the broadcasts were excellent.

We notice that your conversion and maturity keep growing and affecting your broadcasts with more depth, understanding and meaning. Keep them coming, Ted! We pray God will give you the right words to say on each one. With God's help, we are with you 100%!

-- Chuck Gillette (Tucson, AZ)

Just a brief note to commend you on your new, halfhour broadcasts which I enjoy over WMAQ radio in Chicago. It is refreshing to hear the truth reverberating over an instrument too often used to cloud the sane. As an avid reader of The PLAIN TRUTH I realize the importance of your discourses, and only hope that soon many more Americans will listen to your voice.

--Robert Niedospial (Oak Lawn, IL)

We are now able to hear the WORLD TOMORROW program on KLAC in the Santa Barbara area for a full 30 minutes. Thanks for the daily spiritual food and inspiration.

-- C. W. Bailey (Santa Barbara, CA)

The Move to Texas

"Fantastic!" That's the general comment here in the Shreveport Church concerning the announcement that Ambassador College is moving to Big Sandy, Texas. We're with you 100%. In this and everything you're doing to make the Work more profitable in getting the Gospel to the world.

Mr. Armstrong, about two weeks ago when you were in Longview, Texas dining at the Canton Restaurant, you met a man from Shreveport, a dentist who is Jewish, and his family. He's my dentist. He was so delighted to meet you. He called me and told me about it. It's really great that you take time with strangers the way you do. You really made a good impression on him, but then guess that's a part of what "letting your light shine" is all about. The doctor kids with me and says if he ever leaves Judaism he'll join the Worldwide Church of God. Perhaps your meeting was more than a coincidence.

-- Mrs. Charles E. Morton (Shreveport, LA)

What terrific news that the church of God is going to be the Church of God now instead of Ambassador College! I am glad you have delegated college responsibilities to others and are getting about God's business of being a witness to the world. We need His Kingdom now-- let's get the Work done.

-- Mrs. J. Roy Grandbrois (Port Hueneme, CA)

It is very thrilling to hear about all the changes. The recent news regarding the reopening of the Big Sandy campus and that the Pasadena campus is to remain the Head Office of God's Work shows how God is continuing to lead His Church. We're sure these changes will enable both the Church and the college to function more effectively.

-- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Warden (Crete, IL)

Mr. Armstrong announced yesterday in Salem the very fine news concerning Ambassador College and Big Sandy, and the Church and Pasadena. That decision seems so right!

Heartwarming and exciting at the same time is the resurrection of the daily broadcast. The airwaves have been so silent as far as the good news is concerned.

-- Mrs. Glen Johnson (Lebanon, OR)