

PASTOR'S REPORT

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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 11, 1979

INTRODUCTION TO MR. ARMSTRONG'S LATEST LETTER

(Editor's Note: Mr. Herbert Armstrong requested that the first two paragraphs of his latest letter to members and Co-Workers dated June 8, be reproduced in this Pastor's Report.)

Dear Brethren and
Co-Workers with Christ:

I'm in flight, just out of Bangor, Maine, where we cleared immigration and customs. We had a very successful trip to Morocco and Tunis in north-western Africa. I had never been to either Morocco or Tunisia before. At Tunis I not only met many VIPs, including ambassadors from other countries, but many high in the government.

We met and picked up some of my "Japanese sons"--members of the Japanese Diet--at Paris, had a visit with the Prime Minister at Rabat, Morocco, and in Tunis. There was a large banquet in my honor at Tunis, at a resort hotel on the Mediterranean shore. Congressman Yamashita, leader of the Japanese party, and the Japanese Ambassador spoke briefly, with interpreters, and I gave them the GOOD NEWS of the coming Kingdom of God, as the world's ONLY--and SURE--HOPE!

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FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from HOT Pasadena! Perhaps you have heard, but we are having record temperatures out here for this time of year--with 104° registered in Pasadena yesterday, and it only got down to about 70° last night. We are all fine here and things continue to go forward in unity and productivity.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong returned back to the U.S. Friday from his successful trip to Morocco and Tunisia. I talked to him on the phone last night and he was in good spirits and had many plans for the future.

From all reports received, we had excellent Pentecost meetings around the world. I was in Kansas City where we had a total of 1,267 people and a fine offering. I was able to conduct a 3½ hour luncheon meeting with the local ministers and their wives and was pleased with their warmth and loyal response. Upon returning, everyone here at Pasadena was very enthusiastic at the fine sermons received over the Pentecost weekend and the offerings here locally were very good. The total Pentecost offering for the U.S. was up almost 11% over last year. And Frank Brown just called from Britain and said the Pentecost offering for the British churches was up 20% and the year-to-date income for all of Britain was up 20%! This is really GREAT--and indicates that God may be preparing circumstances for

us to reach the British people more powerfully than ever in the months and years to come. I am sure many of the other overseas areas had fine offerings also and we will be reporting them as they come in.

Locally, one sad and yet happy note is that Mrs. Annie Mann died this Sunday morning about 5:00 a.m. As perhaps most of you ministers and wives know, Mrs. Mann was a true "pioneer" in the Work and in Ambassador College. She was the long-time "house mother" to many of our own wives, sisters, and/or daughters and added a great deal to their lives--and the lives of many of us men as well.

She was a sparky, hard-working and very zealous and loyal member of God's Church to the very end. It is sad for us because we will certainly miss her love and her example of dedication and loyalty. But, for her, it is a blessing considering that death comes to all, that God gave her 93 wonderful years of accomplishment and joy and that she was able to contribute so much to His Work and His college almost up to the end of her very active life.

Let us remember to HONOR all such fine examples of outstanding service and loyalty such as Mrs. Annie Mann!

Of a far more ominous nature is the news--which many of you know--that Wayne Cole and the dissidents have been "dredging up" from the past all kinds of old reports, letters and memos which they can find which in any way make the Work look "bad," appear to be contradictory, etc. This, coupled with various reasonings and accusations based on this out-dated information, is being sent out to many of you ministers.

I am sure that most of you are intelligent and mature enough to see through the twisted fabric of various bits and pieces of truth mixed with half-truth, lies mixed with speculation which are woven together in a distorted manner to make Mr. Armstrong and God's Work look bad. If any of you have sincere questions about this material--not only for your own sake but to be able to answer others--please drop me a line about the specific point and I will try to see that we make a genuine answer to you and we will NOT try to judge you or hold this inquiry against you in any way. For I know that as fast as we put down one error, unfounded rumor or story, the dissidents seem to throw more "dust in the air" through additional rumors, wild stories, or perverted accusations--all the more dangerous because they often do contain a bit of truth here and there which lends credence to their overall accusations and "points" which are usually totally untrue.

Let's always keep in mind the BIG PICTURE and how God has used--and continues to use powerfully--His servant of some 52 years, Herbert W. Armstrong. And let's realize anew that all over this earth there are literally tens of thousands of faithful brethren whose lives have been turned to God and His way through Mr. Armstrong and this very Work. Note that God is continuing to bless and USE His Work worldwide to preach the Gospel of the coming Kingdom of God based on His law and loyalty to His Government.

Fellow ministers and wives, while I am at it, let me extend a sincere note of thanks to all of you who are faithful and loyal. You know who you are. You have borne the heat of the battle and are continuing to prove yourselves to God, and to the servants who have been entrusted with leadership in His Work at this time. You do deserve our heartfelt thanks and gratitude!

As the apostle Paul said of those elders who served well in the full-time Work of his day, you deserve "double honor"--and I am sure that many of your brethren realize this and do honor you, pray for you and encourage you. But I do want you to know that Mr. Armstrong and all of us out here on the "P.A.D. team" do appreciate the fact that the vast majority of God's ministers, worldwide, are so warm, so dedicated, so loyal and so Christian!

In Malachi 3:16-18, God speaks of those who truly fear Him and honor His name. And He says: "And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my JEWELS; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him" (verse 17).

I am absolutely sure that many of you fine dedicated ministers and wives will be among the leading "jewels" that God will spare from the great tribulation soon to occur. For you daily prove to Him that you are not "looking" for an excuse to get your feelings hurt, to turn aside to to cause sorrow and division within the very body of Jesus Christ. Rather, through often unsung loyalty and service, you are establishing the FACT in God's record book that you will remain faithful to Him and His Government no matter what.

Thank you for the fine example so many of you set.

With Christian love,



Roderick C. Meredith

MR. ARMSTRONG CONFERS WITH HEADS OF STATE

(Editor's Note: Following is the essence of an official Church news release given to the press Thursday, June 6.)

The Prime Minister of Tunisia, Mr. Hedi Nour, received Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Mr. Stanley R. Rader and Mr. Tokuo Yamashita at noon, June 5th in the Palace at the Casbah in Tunis.

Mr. Armstrong, Pastor General of the Worldwide Church of God and founder of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation and Mr. Yamashita, a senior member of the Japanese Diet, discussed at length a proposed project of triangular cooperation between the government and people of Tunisia, the United States and Japan in the domain of nutrition. The meeting was also attended by the Minister of Planning as well as the Chief of Staff of the Cabinet of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Armstrong explained the Church's long interest in improving nutritional values everywhere, including various agricultural projects and studies that had been carried on for many years under the auspices of Ambassador College in Texas. Mr. Dale Schurter, a minister of the Worldwide Church of God and former head of the Ambassador College agricultural program at Big Sandy, met with Mr. Armstrong prior to his departure for Tunisia to discuss current developments with him in this very important field.

Wednesday, June 6, 1979, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Yamashita were the speakers, as well as Mr. Rader and the Japanese Ambassador to Tunisia, at a dinner in honor of Mr. Armstrong and the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation. The Minister of Culture, the Minister of Planning, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Social Welfare and the Minister of Foreign Affairs were all present, as well as Ambassadors from Saudia Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Italy, Romania and Morocco.

Mr. Armstrong, in speaking for some thirty minutes, explained the purposes of the Church and the Great Commission. He announced that world peace would be established in the world tomorrow with the government of God under the laws of God.

Mr. Rader in describing the Foundation stated that the Foundation had been blessed with four kinds of resources--spiritual resources, human resources, physical resources, and financial resources. Whenever the resources of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation are equal to the needs of a particular country, and those needs have been manifested by the proper representatives of a particular country, a new project for the Foundation will commence. For the moment the Foundation will work closely in the future with the National Institute of Nutrition in Tunis.

Mr. Armstrong arrived in Tunisia after meeting with the Prime Minister of Morocco in Rabat several days earlier, at which time he and Mr. Rader discussed problems in the field of social welfare with the Moroccan Prime Minister.

CHURCH'S LEGAL BATTLE CONTINUES ON NUMEROUS FRONTS

Although the Church's legal battle with the state of California is not now directly interfering with the day-to-day operations of the Work of God, and we are no longer seeing the bold newspaper headlines of the past several months which were especially in evidence in Southern California, the Church is still involved in considerable activity in the courts.

The Church presently has four appeals in the appellate courts, two petitions for hearings in the California Supreme Court and a petition for a hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court. Each of these legal actions involve different aspects of the overall case. The Church's attorneys consider each of them absolutely necessary to protect the rights and freedoms of the Worldwide Church of God which are guaranteed by the Constitution.

These appeals and petitions are in addition to a flurry of other legal activities which transpire almost daily (deposition of witnesses, obtaining of documents and various other motions before the judges, etc.). Thus, while there is no clanging of literal weapons and armor, there is a very real clashing of wills and cross-purposes as the Church's attorneys wage an unrelenting battle with the Deputy Attorneys General to keep the state out of Church affairs.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Mr. Dibar Apartian returned a few days ago excited and encouraged after a visit to Quebec, Canada for the Pentecost weekend. He reported a record attendance of 141 at the combined Quebec City/Trois Riviere church service on Sabbath, June second. A number of the brethren drove nearly 200 miles to hear him.

On the day of Pentecost 752 (another record attendance) heard him speak before the combined Montreal (French and English) and Sherbrooke churches. (This time it was the English-speaking brethren who listened to a simultaneous translation through headphones). So many people were delighted to see Mr. Apartian again. It was four years ago that he went there to conduct a public appearance meeting, and 40 people came into the church from that meeting. Those brethren were thrilled to shake his hand again, this time as members of the church. He was particularly encouraged by the enthusiasm, attitude and support of the membership and ministry in that area.

Solomon Islands

We have seven members in the Solomon Islands (northeast of Australia, in the Western Pacific). Five live in Honiara, the capital city on the island of Guadalcanal. Those members there have arranged to locally pay for a series of advertisements in the local weekly newspaper, the News Drum (circulation under 3,000). The advertisements offer the PT and various booklets and are supplied from the Australian office.

To date, 46 responses have been received in the Australian office, but in the future a local P.O. Box will be used, which should increase the response rate considerably.

At first the newspaper was reluctant to publish the advertisement as there is regular resistance from a local church group which does not want any "outside" religions to have influence in the country. They issued a statement warning people away from requesting religious publications offered from outside the country. However, the local members are delighted that the paper, even though it reserves the right to reject any advertising it doesn't want to publish and despite the opposition, has printed them and has signed a contract to do so for 52 successive issues.

The World Tomorrow broadcast was also being aired on Radio Solomon Islands, but has been cancelled recently by the station. Soon after independence in the Solomon Islands, a new board was appointed to administer the local radio station. One of their first rulings was that no further paid religious broadcasts of any type would be accepted. They did indicate that this ruling may be modified in the future and in such a case would let their former clients know. The members are hoping this will eventually happen, but in the meantime, the PT subscription list is still increasing (from the present 350) as a result of the advertisements and personal referrals.

--Compiled by Rod Matthews, International Office

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM DEVELOPED FOR MR. ARMSTRONG'S BOOK

Most religious books published commercially in the United States, are distributed through the various Christian booksellers associations. Unfortunately, The Incredible Human Potential has been refused entry into this private distribution system because parts of the book are not complimentary to the "Christian" churches that back and support these associations. This gives all of us another opportunity to overcome an obstacle which hinders distribution of this book and its message.

We have worked out our own distribution system but we need each Pastor's support to ensure that things go smoothly. This is the program: we have

designed and manufactured a small display box which holds six books, to be placed on a counter or tabletop. The box has a glossy promotional card which carries a photograph of Mr. Herbert Armstrong and advertising copy. The card slides behind the books. We have also assembled a small sales kit to go along with this package.

One obvious outlet for these books is where the PLAIN TRUTH newsstand program is already in operation, i.e. supermarkets and stores that have our racks on display. We are therefore asking each of our 300 newsstand coordinators to try to get these books placed in as many of our newsstand outlets as possible. The book sells for \$8.95, but we are giving the store owner or manager a 50% reduction in price. We will also be sending out a specially printed card designed to fit onto the PLAIN TRUTH rack to advertise The Incredible Human Potential. Special stickers will be added to these cards to show The Incredible Human Potential is available "in this store."

We need your help, Pastors, to encourage and promote this program with your newsstand coordinators. We are sending them a letter and a sales kit next week and we are asking you to please follow up with each of your coordinators. Your personal involvement will ensure a more successful program.

--Roger Lippross, Publishing

CAMPAIGN LITERATURE BRINGING IN GOOD RESPONSE

Thanks to the generous cooperation of the Personal Appearance staff (which is under the direction of Mr. Sherwin McMichael), Subscriber Development working in conjunction with them, was able to insert a literature card with the special personal appearance invitations sent to PLAIN TRUTH subscribers. These special letters advertised the upcoming evangelistic campaigns and invited the subscribers to attend. Our cards offered a popular booklet which tied in with the theme of the campaigns: Are We Living In The Last Days?

Personal Appearance letters were first sent to San Antonio subscribers, and as of June 1, the number of people responding to the booklet card has reached the 10.0% level. A pretty good response! Responses from other Campaign cards are: Denver, 8.2%; Pasadena, 9.1%; Seattle, 8.8%.

The San Antonio card has had more time to bring in its higher 10% response. We antitipate that as the days go by, the other campaign cards will also bring in responses of 10% or higher because Are We Living In The Last Days? is a booklet with a dynamic message, and many people are interested in understanding the times they live in, world events, prophecy, and what it all means.

We look forward to being able to offer timely and appropriate literature to other campaign audiences in the future. Tied in with the inspiring and moving messages given by God's ministers, these booklets can add to each campaign's impact--and help motivate more PLAIN TRUTH subscribers to see where and how God is working in the world today!

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR SPANISH-SPEAKING PT READERS

¡Saludos del departamento hispano! As you might have noticed in the May 21 edition of the Worldwide News, the Pasadena evangelistic campaign, conducted by Mr. Meredith, had a sizeable number of La PURA VERDAD (Spanish PT) readers in attendance. One of those invited will probably be baptized within a few days! Several PV readers were also present at the San Antonio meetings. We will also be inviting the local PV readership to the Dallas campaign and to a two-night Bible lecture series to be given by Mr. Al Kersha in Miami, Florida.

Please carefully consider inviting PV readers to any studies or lectures you might be planning, as we have great concentrations of readers in many U.S. areas, as well as pockets of subscribers in several European nations.

If you are planning any PT Bible lectures within the next 6 to 8 months and would like to know more about inviting La PURA VERDAD readers, please write or call Keith Speaks in the Spanish Department at Pasadena as soon as possible and he will give you further information.

--Walter Dickinson

FESTIVAL OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDS TUCSON TRIBUTE

Budde J. Marino, director of Public Relations for the Festival Office in Pasadena, was one of 250 persons attending a tribute dinner last week for Martha Vito, executive director of the Tucson Visitor's and Convention Bureau.

It was through the work of Mrs. Vito and her staff, combined with the efforts of the Festival Department, which brought the observance of the Feast of Tabernacles to Tucson in 1973.

"Martha," Mr. Marino said, "has been instrumental in maintaining the most positive continuing relationship between the Church and both the city management and business community of Tucson.

"An excellent example of her professionalism," Mr. Marino added, "was in January when her entire staff was made available to help secure housing and convention facilities for close to 1,000 ministers and wives attending the ministerial conference. The overwhelming task was accomplished in an unheard-of three and one-half days from first notice to fruition."

Mrs. Vito deserved our recognition and show of appreciation for her extraordinary service to God's Church. We considered it a privilege to be invited to participate in a tribute to this very fine lady.

--Festival Office

NEWS SUMMARY

WORLDWIDE EDITION

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NEW "INTRODUCTORY PT" READY FOR MAILING

Roger Lippross, Director of Publishing, announced that the new introductory version of The Plain Truth is ready for distribution. The Work has used this vehicle at times in the past, but it ceased to be produced since before the PT tabloid. The "introductory PT" is part of a carefully planned program of readership follow-up service for new subscribers and is the result of the coordinated efforts of several different departments--Mail Processing, PT Editorial and Publishing. The goal and purpose is to "introduce them to us as an organization and hopefully answer some of their questions about what's behind The Plain Truth," said Roger Lippross in the June 4th Pastor's Report.

Each new subscriber will begin with this special undated edition of the P.T. The second issue they receive will be the regular subscription issue. Mr. Lippross pointed out that the introductory P.T. will enable us to give new subscribers a prompter response from the time a subscription is requested. "We hope to cut the lead time down (before we mail it out to a new reader) from 4-6 weeks to 7-10 days," said Mr. Lippross.

STILL NOT TOO LATE FOR S.E.P.

Applications from 525 campers have been received as of June 4th. This raises the percentage to 80% full for both sessions. Any youth still interested in attending the Church's Summer Education Program in Orr, Minnesota should apply as soon as possible. Applications will be accepted until 100% capacity is reached for each session.

Any correspondence regarding S.E.P. from this date forward should be directed to the S.E.P. office at Box 231, Orr, Minnesota, 55771. Phone: (218) 757-3211.

Mike Blackwell of Y.O.U. reported that 150 young people will experience camp as a result of the scholarship fund. Speaking for the entire staff, and certainly for the young people involved, he said, "Again, we deeply appreciate the generosity of those members who contributed to the scholarship fund to make this possible." He said that contributions would still be accepted to help others on a waiting list.