

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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"SPELLING OUT" THE OFFICIAL DOCTRINE ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

It seems we never did "spell out" the details of how the 1974 decision on "D & R" should be applied in various cases. Result: There has been a grievous "watering down."

by Herbert W. Armstrong

THERE IS ONE great difference between the Law of God and the laws made by human government. God has given us His Law in the form of general principles to be applied in various cases, whereas in national laws, state laws, and city ordinances, MAN tries to make multiple thousands of laws, "spelling out" every little detail in a separate law.

It is made clear for us in the third chapter of II Corinthians: "God hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit:..." (Verse 6).

God's Law is given in one single word--"LOVE." God is Love. His Law is Love--that word sums up God's CHARACTER. The Law then is amplified into the two "Great Laws"--love toward God, and love toward neighbor. God amplifies it a little further in the Ten Commandments--the first four giving the broad principles of how to love God, and the last six how to love neighbor. But God intended us to understand the PRINCIPLE involved and apply it honestly.

Now it comes to my attention that many are finding "gray areas" in the D&R law. I will try to "spell out" a little further in a general way, and those who seek the WAY OF GOD instead of their own way will have, I hope, no difficulty in applying God's Law properly according to its intended spirit. Otherwise, those who try to reason around God's law to have their own way will stand condemned in the sight of God.

GOD DOES NOT COMPROMISE WITH OR WATER DOWN HIS LAW. Rather than that He GAVE His only begotten Son Jesus to pay the penalty of repented sin in our stead.

Two Major Categories

Actually what happened in 1974 was not a CHANGE in the Church's definition of God's Law, but the ADDITION of a second reason for divorce and remarriage we should have, but did not, see before--so now we have the TWO categories.

First, just as we understood it in the Church before, Jesus gave fornication (prior to marriage) as the grounds for nullifying a marriage. This

clearly was a form of fraud. When discovered (in nearly all cases) immediately after marriage, it simply meant God, knowing of this "fraud," had actually not bound the marriage--and what followed therefore was actually an annulment, not a divorce. However this did not apply in cases of marriage by unconverted people. God never bound them anyway--they were bound by man's law, and any divorce and/or remarriage would be according to man's civil law. But the Church would not apply this annulment if the couple had continued living together for a period of time. There could be other types of fraud--such as a marriage enforced at the point of a gun.

The second cause for divorce, affirmed by the Church through Christ's Apostle in 1974, was based on I Corinthians 7.

This matter of D&R was the biggest, most troublesome problem in the Church. One day my son Garner Ted came to me saying it did not appear to be a problem in the early church at all--according to the Book of Acts and Paul's Epistles. He asked why? Dr. Hoeh then added something to the problem, and we discovered this teaching in I Corinthians 7. We had been very familiar with I Corinthians 7 before, but had not recognized this D&R teaching in it.

Paul there speaks (verses 8-9) to the unmarried and widows. In verses 10-11 he speaks to the married. Beginning verse 12 he speaks to "the rest." If a converted man has a wife who is an unbeliever, causing trouble and disrupting the marriage because of the man's religion (NOTICE IT CAREFULLY), if she is pleased to live with him, he must not divorce her--he has NO GROUNDS for divorce and remarriage.

Likewise the woman in God's Church, if she has an unbelieving husband, and he is willing to live with her despite her religion, she shall not leave him.

But if the unbelieving one leaves--cuts off the marriage because of the Church member's religion--let him or her depart. ~~Now NOTICE THIS! The believing Church member is not given grounds for breaking off the marriage. It is only if the unbelieving one leaves--severs the marriage relationship--then and only then is the believer (Church member) no longer bound, and free to obtain a divorce.~~

I conceive of this occurring in at least two ways: 1) the believing Church member has been newly converted and the mate refuses to live with him or her because of the religion. 2) Both had been in the Church, but one falls away, turns bitter against the church, refuses to live as husband or wife with the still loyal member. In this case the embittered one, leaving the church, has become an unbeliever.

Now Paul gives an important REASON for the converted mate CONTINUING in the marriage IF the unbelieving one is willing. Notice verse 14: "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now they are holy."

"Sanctified" does NOT mean made sanctimonious or holy. "Sanctified" means "set apart" or put in a separate category.

To thoroughly understand this we need to go clear back to Adam and Eve. When God drove them out of the Garden of Eden and with sword-flaming

angels barred anyone from going back in--or having access to the tree of life (the HOLY SPIRIT)--God said, in effect, "You have made your decision. You have rebelled against me, denied me as your GOD, your Revealer of knowledge, your Ruler. Therefore I sentence you and the WORLD that shall be born from you to 6000 years of being CUT OFF from me--except for the VERY FEW I shall specially call into my service to prepare for the KINGDOM OF GOD."

Jesus confirmed this when He said: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..." (John 6:44).

Now the nation of ancient Israel was specially called by God the Father for a special purpose--even though they were still cut off from receiving the Holy Spirit.

But the unconverted mate is put in a special category--NOT CALLED NECESSARILY TO RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT, OR SPIRITUAL CONVERSION--but simply NOT CUT OFF from God. They are free to seek God, IF THEY WILL, and to become converted. They are placed in a special category, neither converted, or CALLED for God's special duty in conversion--but, on the other hand, NOT actually CUT OFF--not in the category Jesus spoke of, saying no such unbeliever CAN come to Jesus, except by special call to salvation by God the Father. They are free to SEEK GOD, and to SEEK conversion IF THEY WILL--not CUT OFF!

This same status applies to the children of the converted mate. They are neither CALLED to salvation, NOR cut off from God. They may be taught by the believing parent, and, reaching maturity, IF they will, to SEEK CONVERSION. They are free to seek it--no longer CUT OFF from Christ.

Notice verse 16: "For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?"

If the husband or wife who is IN the Church divorces the unbelieving non-member who is willing to continue the marriage, that Church member puts the unconverted mate in the CUT OFF category--whereas such non-member mate might have been saved for eternal life in God's Kingdom.

Now WHY--O WHY?--do professing members of God's Church seek to reason their way around God's plain teaching, and those in the Church who are NOT eligible for divorce seek to use human reason to TWIST these Scriptures into allowing a divorce and remarriage that GOD'S WORD DOES NOT ALLOW?

Yet many, professing to be converted members of God's Church, have done just that! Brethren, have I labored IN VAIN to open your minds to GOD'S GLORIOUS TRUTH, and yet you despise the Word of God, and twist a "gray area" situation by your own faulty reasons to HAVE YOUR OWN WAY, contrary to God's Word? Have I labored so long among you IN VAIN?

Some have falsely claimed theirs is a "borderline" case, and used their own selfish and erroneous REASON to enter into a D & R situation CONTRARY TO GOD'S WORD!

Even after the 1974 "D & R" ruling, my son Garner Ted Armstrong frowned upon "D & R" decisions made by the Church or its ministers. I am informed

that Wayne Cole and Ron Dart, in offices of Pastoral Administration, tried to avoid committing themselves in any such case.

In cases where a man and wife have been married for almost a quarter of a century, human reason has been used by church members to allow divorce, and both parties to remarry! In one case, the wife of nearly 25 years, who had actually "pursued" her husband prior to marriage, claimed she just didn't love him any more. Both she and her husband are now remarried!

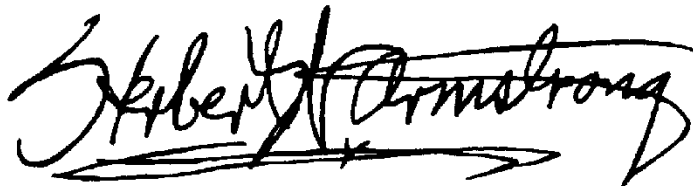
Such cases are a STENCH in the nostrils of a just GOD! They are a disgrace to a church calling itself GOD'S CHURCH! Such "liberal" decisions and actions SHALL NO LONGER BE TOLERATED in the Church of GOD, preparing now for Christ's second coming!

The matter of fornication or other "fraud" prior to marriage CANNOT BE USED AS GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE after the couple have gone on living together. Unless such fraud is acted on at once--as soon as discovered--IT IS NO GROUNDS for divorce and remarriage!

Jesus said plainly, "Whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery" (Matt. 5:32).

We are living in the LAST DAYS! Jesus Christ is COMING AGAIN--SOON! When He comes His Church shall have made herself READY for the one SUPREME MARRIAGE TO CHRIST! We are NOT yet ready! We are full of spiritual blemishes, spots and wrinkles. We have been allowing lust, coveting and serious SINS to invade this Church!

I am now calling on this Church to CLEAN UP!



CHRIST MOVES SWIFTLY

The living, active HEAD of this Church is Jesus Christ. Too many seem to have forgotten that. Eighteen months ago it seemed as if many of those active in the leadership of both Church and college had forgotten that. They seemed not to be conscious of the LIVING Christ's active presence in the Work. I was overseas most of the time.

But in the past 18 months Jesus Christ has moved swiftly to set His Church and college back on God's track!

TIME IS NOW GROWING SHORT!

It has seemed as if Christ has been holding back world events prophesied to happen leading into Christ's coming in TOTAL POWER as KING of kings and LORD of lords, ruling all nations. Jesus is coming again, not only as KING of kings and LORD of lords, ruling all nations. Jesus is coming again,

not only as GOVERNMENT RULER--but also as Director of ALL EDUCATION, all RELIGION, opening salvation to all then living on earth, and over the whole world's SOCIETY!

And TIME IS BECOMING SHORTER!

There is every indication that Christ will now SPEED UP world events that MUST take place before His coming--the "resurrection" of the medieval "Holy Roman Empire" in Europe--the capture by gentile forces of Jerusalem--the GREAT TRIBULATION--world war III, and finally ARMAGEDDON and Christ's COMING!

In Revelation 7 is the prophecy of God HOLDING UP--DELAYING--world events until the sealing of the 144,000 and the other innumerable multitude out of all nations.

But God says also: "For He will FINISH THE WORK, and CUT IT SHORT in righteousness: because A SHORT WORK will the Lord make upon the earth" (Rom. 9:28).

From now on, things may happen SUDDENLY, RAPIDLY, to finish the Work God has called us to do.

Where are we right NOW?

Christ, through His chosen apostle, has been moving swiftly to make HIS CHURCH READY for Christ's coming. But we are NOT YET READY! In Revelation 19:7, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready." But we are NOT YET ready!

In Ephesians 5:25-27: "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it... that he might present it to himself a GLORIOUS church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

But we still have spots and wrinkles and blemishes to clean out!

Now we have come to the time Ambassador College is starting its 33rd year. Most of the faculty will come to Tucson for a meeting with me on Tuesday of this week.

Several former area co-ordinators are arriving for a sabbatical term at the college.

Arrangements have finally been completed for the annual Ministerial Conference, which will be held in Tucson again this coming January 21, 22, and 23.

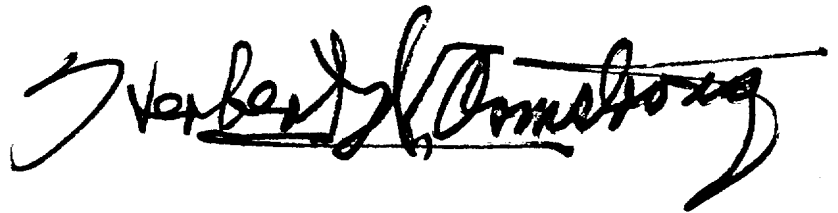
Mr. Rader is winding up his trip into China, making preparations for my visit with the leaders of the People's Republic of China next month. Until he returns I cannot decide whether the budget will allow all ministers, even local elders, to attend or not.

Plans have been progressing exceptionally well for my visit with top officials there next month.

Right now we are looking forward with great anticipation to the coming Feast of Tabernacles. The Festival Department has been hard at work making all plans since the end of last year's Feast. We are expecting it to be the GREATEST YEAR!

Through the Y.O.U. and the Y.E.S. organization new plans are being made for the children at the Feast, which I find extremely important and exciting. Plans are being laid to bring all family units together, and to initiate more active participation on the part of children than ever before.

Real important progress has been made during this past year in setting the Church and entire Work back solidly on GOD'S TRACK! The Church WILL be made ready for Christ's coming! God says so in Revelation 19:7!



MINISTER EXPRESSES GRATITUDE

(Editor's Note: Mr. Armstrong requested that the following letter, dated August 12, be reproduced in the Pastor General's Report.)

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I write this short letter to thank you for the recent and inspired changes in the ministry.

Mr. Armstrong, we are overwhelmed and greatly uplifted with your recent decisions in getting the church cleaned up. It is still so inspiring, we are still "walking on air"! Now we as church pastors can get to the business at hand of serving God's people without jealousy, competition, and political chicanery. NOW we have the unmistakable privilege of following your example, your lead, and your wisdom. I thank God we have you as our Pastor General. This is the keynote in nearly every sermon I preach and the brethren appreciate it.

Thank you for your faithfulness of over 50 years. Thank you for being our "father in the truth." Thank you for being so selfless that you lay down your life everyday. Thank you for travelling all over the world to proclaim the Gospel as you have been commissioned. May the Great God above sustain you until the return of His Holy Son, Jesus Christ.

WE ARE WITH YOU, Mr. Armstrong! We want you to know it. And we deeply appreciate the privilege to serve alongside you.

With Christian Love and Appreciation,
(Name withheld by Mr. Armstrong)

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

The month of August has been an encouraging month for everyone. Many letters have come in from ministers and church members alike expressing their joy and gratitude to see Mr. Armstrong take full control of the ministry and Church again.

The response in Pasadena to Mr. Armstrong's scheduled live address from Tucson via microwave telecast was most outstanding. About 3000 members filled the auditorium, and the gymnasium, and nine southland Churches were tied in by telephone hook up. Unfortunately, as sometimes happens with a live broadcast, a physical or technical difficulty required him to postpone the address one or two weeks. We are all anxiously waiting to see and hear from him in the near future.

The Member's Hotline has served a valuable purpose by keeping our members informed of important news involving the Work, particularly news concerning the attack against the Church by the state of California. In the future, the Member's Hotline will only be produced when there is very important or urgent news, instead of every week as it is now. On Sabbaths when there is no Member's Hotline, portions of the Pastor General's Report can be read to the congregation to keep them informed on general news or developments.

The money saved by not reproducing the Member's Hotline every week can be used for hall rental for weekly Bible studies in church areas where Bible studies are now non-existent. In John 21:15-17 Christ emphasized His desire that we keep the flock well fed.

Jude's exhortation in Jude 3 to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," was not without reason. Notice verse 4: "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

The same holds true today. There are those who would love to destroy God's Church and scatter His flock. We must not underestimate the enemy. We must, as God's ministers, "Be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine."

Christ's admonition to "feed my sheep" falls upon us! Mr. Armstrong wants every local congregation to be having weekly Bible studies. Smaller Bible studies in private homes can substitute until halls can be located. The Bible studies are extremely important tools in making God's Church ready for the soon return of Jesus Christ.

Stay close to God and remember always to pray for Mr. Armstrong. As the China trip draws near, pray even more earnestly for his health, success, and protection. Pray for God's guidance and protection for Mr. Rader as he makes advance preparations for these extremely important meetings with top officials of the Chinese government.

Your servant in Christ,
Joe Tkach

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Since there are no longer any area coordinators, the two top copies of the monthly church Pastor's Report should be sent in to Ministerial Services. One of these copies will be sent to the appropriate regional assistant. As in the past, the bottom copy should be retained by the local pastor.

--Joe Tkach

WATS TAPES RENAMED "PASTOR GENERAL'S HOTLINE"

Mr. Armstrong has renewed and renamed the WATS line messages in order to keep the members informed. Concerned that the ministry and brethren need to be updated, Mr. Armstrong will be making as many of the weekly or twice-weekly tapes as possible. He has asked his staff and others at Pasadena to fill in to keep the schedule regular. The tapes will be weekly until Mr. Bill Butler at Telephone Response can get the new schedule mailed to the ministry.

Starting August 21st, the new "Pastor General's Hotline" will give everyone the latest information in God's Work. It will save each church the added expense of duplicating the Member's Hotline every week. However, during crisis situations the Member's Hotline will still be distributed worldwide.

--Kevin Dean, Pastor General's Office

A.I.C.F. INSTRUMENTAL IN OPENING DOOR TO CHINA

Progress has been made in paving the way for Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's visit to the People's Republic of China in early September. Making advance arrangements for Mr. Armstrong is Mr. Stanley R. Rader, Executive Vice-President of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation. Reporting from Shanghai, Mr. Rader announced that "Protocol had been reached with the representatives of the Minister of Education that will ultimately lead to the purchase of books in excess of \$500,000, as well as training of teachers and students in the field of Library science."

Mr. Rader visited with officials at Peking University, Peking Teacher's University and the Peking National Library, as well as officials of the University of Nanking prior to his arrival in Shanghai. During his visit in Shanghai, Mr. Rader was received by officials of the Shanghai Library and Futean University in Shanghai. He will be returning to Peking for further consultation with Chinese officials.

A.C.L.U. JOINS IN DEFENSE OF WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California has decided to file an amicus curiae (friend-of-the-court) brief in support of the Church's battle against the state of California. The ACLU, together with the National Council of Churches and other groups, are determined to be heard in this benchmark case.

The announcement came during a public discussion of the Church's plight sponsored by the Pasadena-Altadena chapter of the ACLU yesterday, August 20.

The meeting was conducted by Mr. John Hutchison, long-time member of the ACLU and professor of religious history at Claremont Theological School. There was "vigorous internal debate" in the Southern California ACLU during discussions in its church/state committee and its legal committee meetings. Nevertheless, the ACLU's unanimous policy decision in this matter was reached, Mr. Hutchison said, because the state's action in the WCG case could well mean the end of religious freedom for all churches. Therefore the ACLU must defend the Worldwide Church's religious rights or any other church may be next on the list!

Mr. Hutchison stated the California Attorney General violated the Church's constitutional rights in its attempts to investigate the financial records of the Church. He noted that although the state professed an interest only in financial matters, not ecclesiastical ones, the seizure of some church financial records /as well as other confidential papers/ interfered with the Church's religious activities and First Amendment rights to religious freedom. "You cannot separate the raising of money from the proclamation of a religious message. In this case, our conclusion is that the Attorney General is in violation of the law and his violation of the law is a grave precedent for all of us."

--Pastor General's Report Staff

FESTIVAL TITHE ASSISTANCE

Preparations for this year's Festival are going quite well as we head into the last month of work before the Festival. We are beginning to round the corner and see a little daylight as we emerge from under the mountain of Festival applications, brochure preparation, Festival Tithe Assistance Requests, etc. Thank you for your enthusiastic help in preparing for the Feast in spite of the many unfortunate delays earlier in the year.

There is another area, however, in which we need your help! The problem is equitable distribution of Festival Tithe assistance to members. Many have contacted the Festival Office regarding such assistance for needy members in their areas. As the Church has grown and the amount of assistance has increased, this aspect of the Festival administration has become a significant factor in the annual Church budget. The amount required to assist hundreds of member families attending the Feast of Tabernacles is enormous!

Such a vast assistance program needs a basic policy (which has been in effect since 1977) and wholehearted cooperation between the field ministry, Festival Coordinators and the Festival Office if it is to succeed. Hopefully, our present policy is standing the test of time and is providing a fair and equitable distribution of the monies available for member assistance. Please remember, any suggestions which will improve our present program are always most appreciated!

Perhaps the most difficult question is what determination to make for a member family which simply has insufficient funds to attend. A key to determining such assistance is found in Deuteronomy 14:24-25. The implication in these verses is that when the way is too long, a family should attend the Festival "when the Lord hath blessed thee."

If a family has insufficient tithe in any one year, in most cases, they should remain at home, saving that year's tithe and plan to attend the

following year. An alternate to this plan is for the husband only to attend. In this way, important lessons, announcements and the spirit of the Festival may be brought home to the family so that they might not miss out entirely--yet, without great expense.

Another point to remember is that if a family has not been blessed with adequate Festival Tithe, perhaps this reflects a problem of some sort: questionable attitude, lack of steadfast obedience or proper approach in other areas of their lives. When this is the case, it would be wrong to override God's lack of blessing with Festival assistance.

Also, we cannot grant assistance to anyone requesting a transfer to a more distant site unless there is a unique situation or an emergency involved. This may sound like a hard or unsympathetic position, but we must be sure the Festival assistance goes to: (1) Those who fall within the spirit and intent of the Scriptures and (2) Those considered eligible in light of the needs of their brethren nationwide.

This can best be done in respect of needs nationally and internationally from a central office in Pasadena! But, from time to time, there has been a tendency to retain Festival funds in the local area. However, when this occurs, deserving individuals within the nationwide and international scope of the policy may be unnecessarily denied assistance.

Please help us in this matter. Encourage the members to send ALL of their Tithe of the Tithe and excess Festival Tithe to Tucson for equitable distribution on a nationwide basis.

Also, in some instances, local pastors do not face the issue with needy people at home and end up encouraging some to attend the Festival who cannot afford it! As there are numerous such cases nationwide, this additional, unbudgeted assistance could amount to tens of thousands of dollars. So, please note and announce that NO ONE should go to the Festival expecting to receive assistance once there. All legitimate requests within the limit of monies available will have been approved and provided for by the Festival Office before the Feast.

Certainly, it is never too late for an emergency! We want to help ALL who rightly qualify for assistance. However, we have found many requests for assistance do not lie within our policies or sound judgment. Therefore, families making such requests at the Festival sites will be advised to return home and not stay for the balance of the Feast. Assistance given at the Festival sites must be reserved for legitimate emergency cases.

Again, PLEASE do not view this as an unnecessarily harsh or strict approach, but try to see it in the light of a vast nationwide program. With so many hundreds of families involved, circumventing the assistance program could produce a serious deficit of funds before all Festival expenses are met.

Thank you for your cooperation in this delicate and most important responsibility. Again, if you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to write.

--Sherwin McMichael, Festival Office

PLEASE ANNOUNCE:

"INFLATION FIGHTER ANNOUNCEMENT"

The Festival Office has completed arrangements with the Hertz Corporation to secure SPECIAL CONVENTION DISCOUNTS for this year's Feast. All members requiring a rental car during the Feast may receive the 20% discount no matter where they may be spending the Feast in the United States.

A special I.D. number will be given to all those interested in this program. Simply give your name and address and the site or area where you will be renting the car, to your minister so he may then forward that information to the Festival Office. You will then be notified of your special I.D. number which you will use when making your Hertz rental car reservation and you will receive a 20% discount for a 15-day period beginning October 2nd through October 16th. Be sure to include your whole address and zip code as well as name of the city in which you intend picking up the car. In this way, you will be assured of an adequate selection.

PASTOR PLEASE NOTE:

Please compile this information and mail to the Festival Office C/O Budde Marino's attention, as soon as possible.

MORE "BANG FOR THE BUCK" ON PT NEWSSTANDS LOOKS PROMISING

In a previous report I had mentioned that a simple 1% increase in response to the newsstand PLAIN TRUTH program could save the Work \$20,000 per month. By this we mean we would need to distribute less magazines to maintain our present level of response. With this in mind, we will now be working much closer with you field ministers and the newsstand coordinators to help us increase that response and make us more cost effective.

Mr. John LaBissoniere, who has worked in PLAIN TRUTH and QUEST circulation in the past, has been appointed Newsstand Field Development Coordinator. His responsibilities include conducting market research here in Pasadena as well as in the field. He will also be working to develop a smoother running communications and organizational system to help serve you better. He will be visiting and working with local areas holding workshop type sessions in the months ahead.

Jack Bicket's department has just supplied us with some figures which may be of interest. An encouraging spin off from the PLAIN TRUTH renewal program has been the revitalizing of many co-workers and donors who no longer give us financial support. From January through June, 66% of the

donors and 55% of the co-workers who have resumed their financial support of the Work have done so through the PLAIN TRUTH renewal program. One thing this shows us is that the PLAIN TRUTH is still valued by these people and is something they feel worth supporting.

We want to encourage everyone of you to keep doing the best job you can with the newsstand program and also in marketing Mr. Armstrong's book, The Incredible Human Potential (which is going well, by the way). Thanks for your constant hard work and for your dedication and loyal support. We want you to realize that we do appreciate your efforts very much.

--Roger Lippross, Publishing Services

EDITORIAL SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. Armstrong has now edited and approved most of the copy for the October/November combined issue of the PT. We still have a few loose ends to tie up on that, otherwise it is basically complete in terms of copy. We are now working on December.

Mr. Armstrong had also ordered that his article "What is Man?" be reprinted. We are happy to report that we have already done so and we have some 20,000 copies in stock. It will be advertised in the PT.

I am now preparing lectures for the upcoming journalism class. We hope to have a good turnout again this semester--especially of those ministers who are in on sabbatical. This time it will be a two-semester class which will allow us to be somewhat more thorough in developing certain themes. We'll look forward to seeing some of you there!

--Brian Knowles

FOUNDATION PARTICIPATES IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS

(Editor's Note: Bernie Schnippert, a minister in God's Church working here in Pasadena, was invited to attend the recent Special Olympics held in Rochester, New York as a result of AICF involvement with the games. Here is his report.)

A.I.C.F. has completed another "good works" project aimed at letting our Christian light shine. In response to a request from the Director of the 1979 International Summer Special Olympic Games last year, the Foundation lent its resources to helping make the games a success. The Special Olympics -- held this year August 9 through 13--are a series of athletic events (track and field, swimming, etc.) held specifically so that the mentally handicapped (retarded) can know the thrill of participation in a sports event and personal achievement. The Olympics are presided over by Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver (Senator Ted Kennedy's sister) as a project of the well-known and respected Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation.

Specifically, the Ambassador Foundation was asked to sponsor 25 athletes with a modest donation, to run an article about the Olympics in Quest magazine (it appeared in the July/August, 1979 issue) and to produce their special 72-page souvenir program. Mr. Stanley Rader immediately saw the

advantages of participation in the Olympics, from both humanitarian and spiritual points of view, and gave the go-ahead.

The Foundation fulfilled these commitments with warm appreciation and sincere thanks from the Special Olympics officials. Mrs. Shriver herself specifically remarked that the program we produced was a "very nice gift" and "probably could not have been done" without the Ambassador Foundation (due to her very high standards for the program). Ambassador Foundation can count on having made good impressions and close friends high within the Kennedy Foundation as a result of this project. And certainly Christ must be well pleased that we were able to contribute our help to a meaningful event so important to many less fortunate young people and their families.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Southern India Tour

Mr. Kulasingam returned from a very successful tour from July 14 through July 22. The eight cities visited and their respective attendances were: Bangalore 25, Quilon 20, Coimbatore 20, Madurai 12, Cochin 22, Thiruchirapalli 21, Kottayam 20, Madras 52.

Mr. Kulasingam reported that those who attended the meetings have been in touch with the Work for seven or eight years. They asked questions in relation to their understanding of the truth concerning the future for their children, their marriages, homes, jobs, and who would bury them. He explained to them that a foundation was being laid and that in time the church would be established and able to help with such points.

Most of those in attendance were from Hindu homes (the native religion and philosophy of India). Four baptisms were performed and seven outlying Bible studies will be arranged in the near future.

Mr. Kulasingam went on to report: "This is the monsoon season for the south, yet the Great God made it possible for us to visit all these places without rain. We had sunshine all the way. Today the papers say that all the places we visited have heavy rains and in some areas floods. Even regarding the bill on 'Freedom of Religion,' God has intervened, and a new government is set up." (This so-called "Freedom of Religion" bill was a proposal to prevent converting Hindus to any other religion. It would have made it illegal to "proselyte").

Germany

July was an exhilarating month for the German-language-area ministers as far as future planning is concerned. Firstly, Mr. Armstrong's guidelines emphasizing the need to prepare the Church for Christ's return have given us an exciting focus for the rest of 1979 and the early 1980s. Secondly, planning the 1980 budget has helped us all to concentrate our thinking on the future here in the German-language areas, especially on the effects of our planned increase in PT subscriber levels on the ministry and the churches here.

To match our hopes for the coming year, the income for July was up 24% over last year, and our year-to-date income registers +10%. We also put 270

new subscribers on our list this month through unsolicited personal referrals of readers. The effectiveness of personal referrals will be exploited on a larger scale next year.

God also seems to be opening a door in East Germany. One of our young East German members, Joerg Harz, has applied for permission to leave the country to study at Ambassador College in Pasadena. So far his application has not been rejected, as is usually instantly the case, but has instead been forwarded on to higher administrative levels in East Berlin.

Joerg has been visited twice by government and police officials, who have interviewed him as to his reasons for wanting to study at Ambassador. They have told him that his chances of getting the necessary permission are fairly good, but that this would be a "first" for the country. Never before has a student of theology been allowed to leave East Germany to study 3 to 4 years in a noncommunist country. Please pray that Joerg may receive the necessary authorization to leave. Having an Ambassador-educated resident of East Germany, with automatic access to most countries of the Warsaw Pact, would be a key to future expansion in those areas.

Spanish Work

The Spanish language edition of the Plain Truth magazine--La PURA VERDAD --is presently sent to 72,447 subscribers in 73 countries worldwide. The number of subscribers is growing very rapidly and growth in Central and South America is severely stretching the resources of the Spanish Department under Regional Director, Mr. Walter Dickinson.

One fact that is not commonly realized is that the United States has the 5th largest Spanish-speaking population in the world behind Mexico, Spain, Argentina, and Columbia.

This year it has been further emphasized that the Spanish-speaking population in the U.S. has been largely untapped in reaching them with the message of the Gospel. On several occasions when campaigns have been scheduled in the U.S., a simultaneous translation into Spanish has been provided as well.

Recently two Plain Truth lecture series were conducted in the Miami-Hialeah area of Florida by Mr. Al Kersha, pastor of the Miami church. The theme for each lecture was "Formula for Global Crisis" and "Formula for Global Success" respectively. A simultaneous translation in Spanish was provided by Mr. Ronald Dopico, a Miami member.

A special invitation to 1376 Spanish-speaking subscribers to La PURA VERDAD was posted at the same time as the invitation to 2730 PT subscribers. Attendances were excellent with 101 new Spanish-speaking and 52 English-speaking people attending one or more of the lectures. One PURA VERDAD reader flew 180 miles from the island of Key West to attend both of the northside lectures.

Most PV readers who attended were subscribers who had started receiving the magazine through PV newsstand distribution, an effort which has been going on since January 1976. Miami and some nearby communities are 60-70% Spanish speaking, the majority of those being Cubans. Upwards of 750,000 Hispanics reside in this area.

Undoubtedly this service to our U.S. "PV" readers will be offered on similar occasions in other areas in the future. As a result many more Spanish-speaking U.S. citizens will hear personally of the message God has given us for these times, and will be better able to comprehend because they hear it in their own language.

--Compiled by Rod Matthews, International Office