

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL.1, NO.13

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 7, 1979

PREPARE TO GREATLY REDUCE YOUR STANDARD OF LIVING

by Herbert W. Armstrong

I am in the process of finishing an article under the above headline, for the January PLAIN TRUTH. Are you ministers keeping your congregations aware of the crescendo of world troubles now speeding up the prophecies relating to this END time?

As I write, this Monday morning, the latest world news concerns the invasion by a mob of students in Iran of the U.S. Embassy, taking and holding as hostages dozens of staff members of the American Embassy in Tehran. They demand that the Shah be returned to Iran for trial. The students stormed the Embassy Marine guards, apparently blindfolding and handcuffing the U.S. members of the Embassy.

The Shah, as I suppose you know, is in a New York hospital for a gallbladder and cancer operation and treatment. He has been granted only temporary admission to the U.S. until completion of this medical treatment.

But this is only today's latest of a growing storm of world troubles and evils. The past few days the big news was the hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees starving to death and dying of diseases trying to flee into Thailand. The Cambodian officials had been turning a deaf ear to appeals to allow shipment of food and medicines into Cambodia to relieve this holocaust, which may rival that of the Jews ordered by Hitler during World War II.

This horror in Cambodia appears to be a prelude, or forerunner, of the "four horsemen" of Revelation--false and evil religion, war, famine and starvation, disease and death.

In recent months the world has been plagued with uprisings and violence in the Middle East, continued violence in North Ireland, civil wars and violent disturbances in South America, beside recent disturbances and violence in Africa.

Perhaps most significant of all is the emergence of the new Polish Pope, suddenly appearing as the world's only outstanding and great leader. There are no more Teddy Roosevelts, FDRs, Winston Churchills, or Stalins. I sent Gene Hogberg east to cover the pope's arrival in Boston, and his visits to New York, Des Moines, Chicago and Washington D.C. His article, a masterpiece of journalistic reporting, will appear in the December PLAIN TRUTH. Be sure to read it.

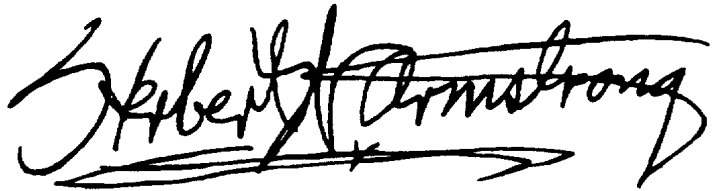
It seems apparent that beginning about 15 years ago God held up and slowed down the developments of world events toward the final prophesied restoration of the medieval "Holy Roman Empire," the Great Tribulation ("The time of Jacob's--British-American--trouble as well as overall world trouble), the time of "miracles" by the "false prophet," enforcement of the "mark of the beast," and final "Armageddon," ending with the coming of the glorified Christ to RULE ALL NATIONS!

In Revelation 7 is an example of God's actually holding up prophesied events UNTIL something He wants done is accomplished. Then again, the time is soon to come when "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).

We may well expect the Lord Jesus Christ to now SPEED UP events, and bring His Work to a speedy end.

This is ALL THE MORE REASON why we need to WAKE UP to the signs of the times, and redouble our time on our knees, our searching our own souls, our spirit of repentance toward GOD, and increasing FAITH in Jesus Christ!

SOUND THIS ALARM in deadly earnest in your sermons before your congregations! We are the one and only true CHURCH OF GOD--the soon-to-be "BRIDE OF CHRIST." And when He comes WE MUST BE READY--but we are not YET ready! Yet we are now making good progress! KEEP IT UP!



MANY QUESTIONS ADDRESSED AT EMPLOYEE/STUDENT FORUM

During a question and answer session in the Auditorium yesterday, November 6, Mr. Stanley Rader updated our employees and students on many interesting and significant developments in the Work and our battle with the State of California. It was the first such forum since June 15. Since a wide range of topics were discussed and since installments of the entire transcript of the forum are to appear in upcoming issues of the Worldwide News, we will highlight only those items of immediate importance and interest to you and the brethren.

China Plans Firming Up

Mr. Rader will be leaving again for the far east this week where he will confer with the Chinese embassy in Japan over the final arrangements and the schedule for the China trip in December. It is hoped that the official trip will take place somewhere around the third of December.

In answer to a question about what invitations we might have in eastern Europe, Mr. Rader acknowledged that Mr. Armstrong is holding invitations from several in that part of the world. These include Poland, Rumania

and Bulgaria. He mentioned that perhaps Hungary could also be visited. Although we have these and other invitations for official visits, such as several nations in Africa, Mr. Armstrong has felt the need to set priorities which simply don't allow the time to accept all invitations.

Catholic Church Comes to our Aid!

Attorneys for the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles (the Archdiocese consisting of three counties in Southern California) have written a letter to the California Supreme Court seated in San Francisco. The attorneys urged in strongest terms that the high court grant a hearing in the Worldwide Church case as soon as possible. Mr. Rader read a copy of the letter at the forum and announced that in addition to the Catholic Church coming to the fore, there are as many as 14 other major and minor groups and institutions who are gravely concerned about the California Attorney General's extraordinary abuse of governmental power. These groups want to be able to file "Amicus Curiae" briefs with the Supreme Court in support of the Church. (A copy of the letter from the Archbishop's attorneys is reproduced later in this report.)

Mr. Rader noted that the combined number of people represented by the Catholics and the National Council of Churches (which represents most of the Protestant groups) could well be over 150 million people in the United States! He went on to say that there are yet other groups that for one reason or another have not come in at this time, but nonetheless have worked hand in hand with us in other efforts to this end.

Commenting further on the Archbishop's letter, Mr. Rader said, "But the Catholics coming in on our side, I think is a very important thing. They are, organizationally speaking, the one organization engaged in religious activities which compares most with us in terms of hierarchical structure and the like. There is no doubt that there is a figure at the head of that church who has the power and authority. There is a curia but it is an advisory group, and there is a body of cardinals but they don't have any so-called power that would be available in a congregationalist group. And the fact that they have now come in resoundingly on our side in the battle with the state is quite important."

Why Support of Other Groups Means So Much

It was explained that the court system is so tied to the political processes that unless you have a way of letting those in decision-making positions know and understand that there is broad concern and interest in what has happened to us, there is really little impetus on the part of the courts to judiciously weigh our case. It is very easy for a court to simply "bend" under the will of the state. This "rule of convenience," Mr. Rader pointed out, was eloquently identified by the famous Supreme Court justice Oliver Wendell Holmes.

This broad support where so many stand up to be counted, is very important to our case, noted Mr. Rader. He went on to explain, "These people are not lining up on our side on a question of doctrine. They are not saying 'We believe the Worldwide Church of God is right in what it believes and what is practices.' Not at all. But they are saying 'We want the right to continue to practice our religious faith as we have understood the Constitution gives us the right to.'"

So Where's the Media?

As the case begins to turn around in our favor, where is the media coverage? Commenting on this, Mr. Rader observed: "What I find interesting is the media had asked five to six months ago, 'What other groups are with you? What other groups are interested in what has occurred?' when I was saying we were in the vanguard. I said, 'Well, I'm not going to tell you what groups we are talking with, but we are in contact with most of them and they are concerned.'

"The media, some of the very same media that asked those questions, have received copies of all of this correspondence from the major religious groups, but they have not printed very much. You see the media does not want to admit that they jumped in quickly on the wrong side. They don't want to give us the big story now which indicates that all these other groups around the country, in essence, are very, very much concerned about what the state of California did...but now I see no effort on the part of the media to come forward and to let us know they are aware that what we said early in this battle is true--that we were standing in the vanguard carrying on the fight for other religious groups until they got themselves organized and knew what was happening--were able to separate the facts from the fiction, the allegations from the facts, and so on."

But Why FIGHT the Lawsuit?

Some wonder why we fight the lawsuit, doing battle with a state official in a secular arena. Good question. Here's the answer in Mr. Rader's own words: "If a lawsuit is filed and you don't defend it then you lose it by default, in which case this Church and all of its property and all of us would then become wards of the state. And all of this property would become state property. The state would be running and controlling the World-wide Church of God which is a spiritual body..."

"We are suing the state in just more or less a defense posture. We are asking for relief from the federal court. The state obviously has a system in the lower courts which pretty much is going to play the game according to the rules laid down by the Attorney General. So we have gone into the federal court where we are better able to get a hearing on the very issues we are talking about.

"So at the same time we are seeking injunctive relief we are also seeking damages. But it is, for all practical purposes, a counter suit or a cross complaint or counter claim. In other words, we didn't start the action. We are just defending ourselves. In the process of defending ourselves we have to use all of those weapons at our disposal. Otherwise, in essence, we are rolling over and playing dead. We wouldn't have gone out and attacked the state otherwise. It is all defensive."

Of Money and Lawyers

It naturally follows that some would ask if the legal battles are draining the Work financially. In answer to this question, Mr. Rader pointed out that "The income has been up and we are very thankful for that just as Church attendance has been up. And what the members around the country have given by way of special offerings for the legal costs and the normal increase, we have managed to handle that burden.

"Of course it is a burden. If we had the same income and we could spend it elsewhere, it would be helpful. But we haven't had to cut back on any programs anywhere because of that. That doesn't mean some time down the line it wouldn't be different. But at the present moment we have not had to curtail anything because of legal costs. The members have responded to the needs."

Why Church Attorneys Advised Mr. Rader to be Silent

Mr. Rader explained again how in April when he first appeared for his deposition he was willing to answer questions by the Attorney General, but as a member, officer and director of the institutions he needed assurance that by his talking he would not inadvertently waive the rights of Mr. Armstrong, other individuals or the institutions. Our attorneys asked for that assurance, but the state refused! "They really didn't want my information," said Mr. Rader. "If they did they would have said 'Yes.' What they wanted was to have the right to ask the question. And they wanted to be able to enforce that right by compelling us to answer--even if what they were asking wasn't relevant to the lawsuit and wouldn't help it." And so by answering we might have waived our constitutional rights before a court.

Below is a copy of the exact exchange between the church's attorneys, Messers. Marshall Morgan and Allan Browne, and the Deputy Attorney General, Lauren Brainard, as taken from the official transcript:

MR. MORGAN: Let me ask a question. Could we have an agreement that none of the questions or their answers will constitute a waiver insofar as any defendant is concerned regarding the First Amendment rights or, let's say, the Constitutional rights of any of the parties?

MR. BRAINARD: I am not quite sure what you refer to as Constitutional rights.

MR. MORGAN: I am talking about the First Amendment, the right of privacy, all the Constitutional rights that we have raised now.

In other words, we don't want at sometime, if some questions are answered here, you to say, "Well, that constitutes a waiver."

MR. BROWNE: Off the record for just a minute. (Discussion off the record.)

MR. MORGAN: Why don't we go back on the record. Let me see if I can state this the way that I mean it.

What I am asking for is an agreement or stipulation with Mr. Brainard that any responses made by the witness here today will not be a waiver of the Constitutional rights of any of the defendants, nor will the Attorney General claim that it is a waiver of any of the Constitutional rights of any of the defendants.

MR. BRAINARD: I cannot so stipulate.

MR. MORGAN: Why not?

MR. BRAINARD: I am not going to argue with you. I am just not going to stipulate.

Attorney General Becoming Desperate

"The state is not going to let go that easily," commented Mr. Rader. "It has an attorney general who has made a political, as well as a legal error and a moral error. And he now is hearing from people who measure into the millions and they also vote!

"He is a 'political animal;' all he is concerned about is his career. That is first and foremost. He will make any sacrifice to protect his career. Any sacrifice. He will sacrifice anybody and anything. And right now he is doing everything in his power-- which is considerable because he has the power of the state behind him-- doing everything he can to enlist aid from people and other agencies to try to pull himself up by his bootstraps.

"And he will stoop to any limit--there is nothing that will deter him in his efforts to vindicate himself at the present moment. Even after ten months of being unable to justify his conduct or to prove any of the allegations in his complaint. And he will do everything, including a very strong effort to elicit false testimony!...

"So we see the thing turning /toward our favor/, but by the same token, Mr. Helge and I and the various lawyers representing the Church and working with us so closely are not kidding ourselves: we are dealing with very desperate people. They are very desperate now.

"The Attorney General is a very desperate man. And he feels beleaguered at the present time--with all his 3000 lawyers who are paid from the public tax rolls. He feels beleaguered because he has not been able to prove any of his allegations. He hasn't even been able to justify to any of these other /religious, etc./ groups anything he has done in terms of paramount, compelling or overwhelming state interest.

"And now he is on the defensive. And when a person is so desperate he can become more irresponsible rather than less irresponsible. So we just feel that we should be mindful of that."

Why the Attorney General Opposes Our Writs

"The Attorney General has alot of power because he represents the state. We haven't gotten a break of any kind out of the Los Angeles Superior Court. I mean, they just simply run roughshod over us. They don't pay any attention to what we say. They don't pay any attention to the Constitution. They say, for all practical purposes, there is no First Amendment. And therefore any way that he can get the courts, which are more subject to his control, to help him, he is going to try to exercise that leverage he has.

"If the state were not so afraid of the Supreme Court hearing the case they wouldn't oppose our writs asking for a Supreme Court hearing. They would say, 'Oh, we are so sure we are right we want the Supreme Court to hear it also.' But they fight tooth and nail on that issue: the farther they get away from the Superior Court the less leverage they have--and they can't stand that, they can't take that risk.

"But in Federal Court the Attorney General doesn't have that leverage. We have also been working since January with the Department of Justice in Washington D.C. feeding them information daily, weekly, hoping that they

will soon intervene in our behalf against the State of California. Within the next couple of weeks we hope to have a formal complaint filed with the Department of Justice asking them to come in and investigate the conduct of the state which is in violation of our civil rights.

"So you can see we are not standing alone any more. Everything that I've stated to you since January--everything Mr. Helge has stated--everything we have told the press about our position--is stated here in their letter by the attorneys for the Roman Catholic Church. We haven't failed to agree on any one point.

"Our position from the beginning has been that everything the state has done is unconstitutional, 'void ab initio' from the first act, illegal and unlawful. And so egregiously wrong that a court must step in now--not wait--and put it back where it belongs. The state has enough to take care of without trying to take over the Church or other churches.

"So we feel with this pressure being brought to bear on the Attorney General and, of course on the court itself, as well as the other petitions of a similar nature from the other groups I mentioned, and that are referred to in here, that we have a very good chance now of having this thing heard in San Francisco at the California Supreme Court at an early date.

"I'd be very surprised--as would almost everybody--if the court did not grant the hearing. And if they grant the hearing we are very confident that the court will rule in our favor--which, in essence, is against the state. Because what we are asking the court to tell the state is to leave our property, leave our Church, and to carry on its affairs in a proper way."

UPCOMING KEY DATES IN OUR LEGAL BATTLE

November 26

On this day we will have motions heard in Federal District Court asking permission to amend our lawsuit (see footnote) and at the same time to stay all discovery in the state lawsuit. If we do not succeed on either one of those points we will then go up to the federal appeals court (as we did on October 21 on the matter of Mr. Rader's deposition) and seek the same relief there.

November 30

On this day the Supreme Court of California will decide whether it will grant a hearing at this time. If so, a date will be set for that hearing some time in the future. It will also decide whether to grant a stay of any further discovery pending the hearing.

Note: You will recall that the lawsuit we filed in Federal District Court in January of this year was asking the federal court to order the State of California to stop trampling on our rights and to award the church damages.

The Church's attorneys are also seeking a "stay of discovery" because just as a bell cannot be "unrung" once it has sounded, so also we will not have the privacy and other rights intact as constitutionally guaranteed to churches if the state is permitted to violate them in pre-trial questioning and requests for documents.

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October 29, 1979

Supreme Court of the State
of California
4250 State Building
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Herbert W. Armstrong v. Superior Court,
2nd Civil No. 57303;
Worldwide Church of God v. Superior Court,
2nd Civil No. 57291;
Worldwide Church of God v. Superior Court,
2nd Civil No. 57294;
Worldwide Church of God v. Superior Court,
2nd Civil No. 57445;
Helge v. Superior Court,
2nd Civil No. 57290.

To the Honorable Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the
California Supreme Court:

On behalf of our client the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, a corporation sole, organized and operating under the laws of the State of California, we are addressing the Court to urge that petitions for hearing in the above-entitled proceedings be granted.

Statement of Interest

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, a corporation sole, is the officially designated entity of the Roman Catholic Church in the area encompassed by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, consisting of the counties of Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara. As such, together with many other churches and religious organizations, it is vitally concerned with the subject litigation and particularly with the position assumed by the Attorney General of the State of California in justification of the position and actions taken by him in this litigation. We submit that a more complete departure from the long established constitutional principles and tradition of religious freedom can scarcely be imagined.

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Associate Justices

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Statement of Support

As clearly disclosed by the pleadings and record, the Attorney General specifically asserts that all Churches in California hold their assets in trust for the benefit of the general public, that no Church has any proprietary interest in any of its property or assets and no private rights with respect thereto, that Church officials are mere Trustees serving at the sufferance of the Courts and that all Churches are in fact wards of the Court and as such, their property, affairs and conduct are completely subject to supervision and control by the State. In brief, the Attorney General claims that, despite constitutional restrictions, the religious nature of a Church does not limit or restrict the power of control and supervision which he claims to possess over secular charitable organizations.

It must not be overlooked that this action is directed against the Church itself, not merely against other individual or secular defendants. The relief demanded is substantially directed against the Church; a complete accounting by the Church of its affairs for the past 5 years, appointment of a receivership to take complete control of all property, books and records of the Church, and the replacement of Church officials as determined by the Court. It is important to note that the complaint herein does not purport to allege wrongful acts by the Church, per se, but rather (almost entirely upon information and belief) alleges wrongful acts by various individual defendants, with alleged damage or loss suffered therefrom by the Church or its members.

Certainly it is not our position that wrongful or fraudulent actions of the type charged against the individual defendants should be disregarded. However, other adequate remedies are available against the individual defendants if appropriate. Basically this is an intra-Church controversy and involvement of the Attorney General can only be justified by his above described assertion of unlimited powers of supervision and control of charitable organizations without limitation because of the involvement of religion.

In this matter, the Attorney General has elected the type of action to be filed, the scope of the relief to be demanded, and the defendants to be charged; the basis of justification is clearly and specifically stated. In so doing, the Attorney General has raised constitution issues of serious magnitude. It seems almost pointless to ponder the extent of permissibility of entanglement of Church and State, despite the care with which such matters have been treated by innumerable courts, when faced with the virtually

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unlimited assertions of governmental right of supervision and control herein claimed by the Attorney General.

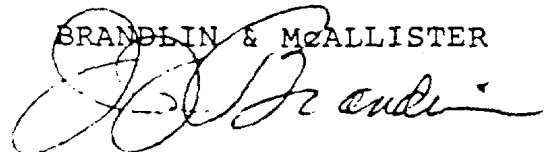
This basic issue is the focal point of our concern, and surely that of all persons and organizations interested in religious freedom. The basic issue is squarely before the Court. If, as we sincerely contend, the actions of the Attorney General involve an unconstitutional abuse of the power of government, the discovery orders here involved, together with the entire action, must fail.

This basic issue can and should be determined at this time. We respectfully submit that the Attorney General has now placed this Court in a position where failure to address this issue can be interpreted as at least indirect support of the position asserted by the State. Indeed this approach has already surfaced. (cf: Attorney General Response to the Petition for Hearing and Application for Stay, proceeding 57303, page 2). Until determined, this issue can be expected to reappear again and again, both in the subject action and in inevitable litigation involving other Churches, as clearly indicated by the diversity of the organizations formally requesting that these petitions be heard and the intensity of their views as expressed.

We respectfully urge that the Court grant these petitions in order that this crucial issue, and others presented, may be given urgently needed consideration, in which event we expect to request permission to file a brief as Amicus Curiae in support of the petitions.

Sincerely yours,

BRANDLIN & McALLISTER



J. J. BRANDLIN

Attorneys for The Roman Catholic
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JJB:bb
Encls.

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October 29, 1979

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* * * * *

POPE ELUDES CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL?

(Editor's Note: Here is a tongue-in-cheek letter chock full of the kind of irony that brings a chuckle and makes its point vividly. It appeared in the Pasadena Star-News of October 30, and is reprinted by permission of the newspaper and Mr. Anderson, a member who actually lives in Alcoa, Tennessee.)

Pope in same boat

Did you notice that Pope John Paul II discreetly avoided the State of California on his recent visit to the "land of the free and the home of the brave?"

Being the knowledgeable man that he is, he probably wanted to avoid being subpoenaed by the Attorney General's Office, being called on the carpet and answering to the California courts for his recent actions.

A portion of the monies contributed to the Catholic Church by Californians (a tiny percentage of the world's Catholics) is being used to finance the pope's going to various countries, preaching to large and small groups of people and meeting with governmental and other leaders in these countries.

Because Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, leader of the California-based Worldwide Church of God, has been doing these same things, the State of California has tried to take over the affairs of the church, replace its leader with a receiver from another religious persuasion, and dictate to the church what is and is not theological in nature.

Obviously, the well informed pope took counsel, considered the risks and decided not to step between the "flaming fiery furnace" of the State Attorney General's Office and the "den of lions" posing as a court system.

Had he gone to California, he might likely have been incarcerated and replaced by a non-Catholic receiver.

ENOCH LEE ANDERSON JR.
Pasadena

INPUT REQUESTED BY MEDIAVideo Tapes of Mr. Armstrong's Feast Address

We have received requests from foreign areas, as well as from local people who attended foreign feast sites, to view Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's October 13 address in Tucson. However, the cost of transferring and sending one film copy to the following areas for distribution would amount to about \$12,000:

England/Norway
 Germany/Holland/Denmark
 Australia/Southern Asia
 Philippines/South Pacific
 South Africa/Kenya, etc.
 Canada
 French Work
 Spanish Work
 Alaska, Hawaii

We would like to receive input from the above-listed areas concerning the use of 3/4-inch or Betamax cassettes. In most foreign areas cassette machines are available that can play back either 525-line NTSC or 625-line PAL standard tapes. The question is: Is such equipment available in your area for rental? We would like to avoid the substantial costs of transfer from video tape to film and film distribution, as well as the time required for the transfer process.

If you have the capability of using 3/4-inch cassettes or Betamax with the 525-line NTSC system and want the tape, please inform the Television Department as soon as possible.

Radio and Television Coverage Survey

A nationwide survey form regarding radio and television coverage has been mailed to all U.S. Church Pastors at the request of Mr. Henry Cornwall. Please complete the survey form as soon as possible and return it to the Media Services Department, Pasadena, for processing. If you have any questions concerning the form, please feel free to call Dan Kelenske at (213) 577-5399.

--John Lundberg, Media Division

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Here in the United States the most cost effective method we've used in years for acquiring new readers to the Plain Truth is Direct Mail. We recently mailed out 120,000 colorful direct mail packages to 12 separate purchased lists. These country-wide mailing lists were purchased from such magazines as Prevention, Changing Times, Mother Earth News, Organic Gardening and Saturday Evening Post. The initial results are very encouraging. More on that when we get the final results.

--Roger Lippross

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

News from the United Kingdom and Ireland is of a very rewarding and uplifting Feast of Tabernacles. At the three sites in the United Kingdom and at Kenmare in Ireland, the 4022 brethren attending (up 5% over 1978) gave an offering that was up 22% over last year. This followed an Atonement figure of +28% and Trumpets of +29%!

In September the largest month's mail income in the history of the Work in Britain was received bringing the year-to-date figure to +23%.

Other good news was the ordination of the first local church elder in Scandinavia--Mr. Detrick Zernichow--at the feast in Denmark. Mr. Zernichow lives in Oslo, Norway and will now be of even greater assistance to the Scandinavian churches, pastored by Mr. Peter Shenton from England.

--Rod Matthews, International Office

MAIL COMMENTS

We are beginning to receive many encouraging letters of congratulations and support over the ordinations of three new evangelists to Christ's ministry. Here are a few representative comments from the initial reaction.

In addition we are including several letters showing how God has recently protected His people from accidents and natural disasters. And finally we have a few interesting letters from children.

--Mail Processing Center

Comments About Recent Ordinations

I wanted to write you a short note to let you know how much my wife and I were excited about hearing that you had recently ordained Mr. Rader, Mr. LaRavia and Mr. Tkach as evangelists. We were genuinely happy and thankful that God had inspired you to make this decision. We both feel that they were long overdue for recognition in this area. Thank you for allowing God to work through you as He has these many years--our prayers are with you and those who have the privilege of working with you. This is indeed "Good News." Thank you for sharing it with us.

--Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Holladay (Concord, NH)

We did want to respond to the announcement you made concerning the ordinations. To us this is just one more master stroke to prove how God is directing this Work through you, Mr. Armstrong. Truly God looks on the heart and not the outward appearance. Since Judas was replaced because of his defection it seems more than fitting that we see those evangelists who have done likewise to be also replaced. And replaced by men who have proved under the most severe trial this Church of the Living God has gone through in recent history, that they are indeed faithful.

Mr. Rader of the three has obviously had the most visibility and probably the least expected (by men) to have received this additional responsibility, but also, he is the man who has fought hardest to preserve and defend God's Church and God's Apostle. No one but no one can accuse Mr. Rader for working toward this end. God continues to look on the heart and see what no man can see. It is obvious to us God has revealed to you what He has seen in the hearts of Messrs. LaRavia, Rader and Tkach.

We rejoice!

Thank you once again for providing us with such inspiring leadership through Christ.

--Mr. & Mrs. Lyall Johnston (St. Clairsville, OH)

We just heard the fantastic news of the ordinations of Mr. Tkach, Mr. LaRavia and Mr. Rader. We pray for you and Mr. Rader daily in the forefront of this battle. It is great to hear that Mr. Rader now has an extra portion of God's Spirit to help him in this battle against the state, which is really a battle against Satan.

--Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Meyer (Moore, OK)

God's Protection For His People

A great "miracle" happened a few months ago when 13-year-old Danny was with the local Y.O.U. group on a camping trip in the mountains. It was very successful, but on the last a.m., Danny slipped off some rocks and fell into a whirlpool under a waterfall. As everyone watched and he didn't come up, the minister took a log to try and reach him, but the current sucked him in also. They both thought the end had come! But God intervened mercifully, and both were saved in great condition. No one could see how they were alive today.

--Mrs. Eloise Whitley (Elmira, NY)

We just this week survived through Hurricane Frederic. In towns and neighborhoods around us the damage was horrible. And electricity has been off for days. But here we sit in our undamaged mobile home with electricity that never went off. Our freezer is full of vegetables that we are not worried about ruining.

Our neighbors were also blessed of God (is it because we and the Cal Lawson's are living God's way?) because their electricity is on and there was no damage reported (to amount to anything) in our vicinity. This is indeed another proof that God's way of life is the best way.

--Julia Kirkland (Lumberton, MS)

Letters From Children and Teenagers

I am ten years old and I watch your program. I like the answers you give. They answer just about all my questions.

--Cathy L. Crump (Hampton, VA)

Thank you for your letter concerning my donation. I am only eight years old but my father read your letter to me. I will send you some more when I get it.

--Jeremiah Williams (Oakland, CA)

I have seen a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. I am 12 years old and I am asking you to send me it because I want to know more about Christ. I want to know if Saturday is the Sabbath day."

--Karen Roberts (New Boston, TX)

As a teenager in today's troubled world, I know as well as anyone the exasperating struggle against sin. Pressures arise every day for me to rebel against God and it gets harder and harder to withstand that pressure. Then, a letter arrives or a parcel is delivered from Pasadena, California, and my spirits are lifted almost before I open the seal and read the contents inside. There is new joy with every letter, new inspiration, new hope. Please continue the good work. Keep inspiring my life.

--Joseph Browning, Jr. (Charleston, WV)

Here is my first tithe for the year. I have been saving it since last Feast of Tabernacles. I am nine years old, in the fourth grade. I feel very privileged to be able to share in this manner in God's Work as my mother does.

--Alice Virtue (Bellmawr, NJ)

Would you please send me the Correspondence Course. I am a rotten kid.

--Youngster, (Hackleburg, AL)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE U.S. TAKES A POUNDING: "America is the great devil which gathers all the other devils around it." With these words--the epitome of global anti-Americanism--Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini endorsed the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Iran by militant Moslem students. Held hostage inside, under threat of death, were 60 Americans, men and women, some blindfolded with their hands tied. As of this moment the issue is still unresolved, the U.S. refusing to give in to the students' major demand--the repatriation of the Shah of Iran who languishes in a New York hospital, suffering from cancer. The militants want the Shah tried for treason in their revolutionary courts, apparently desiring the pleasure of putting him to death before his disease does.

President Carter, almost from the onset of the crisis, publicly foreswore the use of military means to secure the safety of the American hostages, choosing instead a "diplomatic solution" to their plight. By removing such a threat (however remote) he thus limited his own negotiating leverage.

While the United States attempted to remain "cool" during the crisis, news sources in Europe showed little restraint. London's Daily Telegraph, for example, called Khomeini, who gave tacit approval to the Embassy seizure, a "stupid, vindictive--some would say vicious--old man."

The French newspaper Le Monde condemned the Embassy seizure. "All revolutions engender some abuses, but one must admit that the Iranian Revolution is in the process of breaking all the records," Le Monde said. "The taking hostage of American diplomats, with the barely veiled approval of the government, is an alarming act, perfectly condemnable and contrary to all international practice."

Les Echos, another French newspaper, described the Iranian ultimatum as "blackmail" and said Khomainsi had institutionalized "terrorist" tactics "as a tool in negotiations between nations."

West Germany's Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung condemned the Embassy seizure as a "barbarian act" but also chided the Carter Administration for allowing Khomainsi to "humiliate" the United States. "He (Khomainsi) can do this unpunished," the newspaper said, "as the Carter government neither has the will nor the strength to launch a military operation to rescue the hostages."

The West German press was by far the most outspoken in calling for action, not "diplomacy." Another German newspaper, the Sueddeutsche Zeitung even went so far as to suggest that Iran should be invaded, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomainsi overthrown and the country put under joint big power occupation. Specifically, the generally liberal Munich daily suggested that "the three powers (Britain, the U.S. and the Soviet Union) could jointly occupy Iran." No mention of Germany's NATO forces being included--but a milestone German recommendation nevertheless.

Follows Cuban Retreat

The sordid Iranian affair amounts to the second big slap in the face for Uncle Sam in a month's time. In early October President Carter acquiesced to the Soviets over the presence in Cuba of their 3,000-man armed brigade. The President had initially said he would not accept the "status quo" in Cuba, but ended up doing precisely that. Mr. Brezhnev, in a much stronger position than his predecessor, Nikita Khrushchev, in 1962, would not budge an inch.

The Monroe Doctrine--once the cornerstone of U.S. foreign relations--lies as dead as a doornail. President Monroe, in his famous message to Congress in 1823 said that, with regard to independent Western Hemisphere countries: "...we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them, or controlling in any other manner their destiny, by any European power, in any other light than as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition towards the United States."

Many have thought that Monroe's "doctrine" was directed mainly toward the colonial powers of Western Europe (Spain, France and England.) However, the initial thrust was against Russia. Reports Latin American historian Donald M. Dozer: "This principle was intended to thwart the territorial pretensions of the Russian Czar Alexander I along the northwest coast of the North American continent. A specific warning to this effect had already been pointedly communicated by Secretary of State John Quincy Adams to the Czar's government, and in Monroe's message it was broadened into a general principle."

Now the Russians, in an armed force, have been permitted to remain stationed in the Western Hemisphere, ninety miles from U.S. shores.

Europe Concerned

American weakness, in Cuba, Iran and elsewhere, is having its effect upon America's allies, specifically West Germany.

The newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine, quoted earlier, also had some pointed remarks about U.S. inaction during the Cuban crisis. In one editorial, its editors said: "The presence of an operational military unit of one world power before the door of the other nuclear power remains a strategic matter of explosive force...SALT is no longer involved. What is involved is the credibility of American foreign policy and the effectiveness of Washington's strategy. There is reason for uneasiness."

In another editorial, just before Washington backed down, the Frankfurt daily remarked:

"The European allies are following with growing uneasiness the reaction of the White House to the Soviet challenge in Cuba. Arrogance, indeed scorn on the one side, Moscow's insistence upon its own interpretation of the strategic situation; on the other side, a lack of plans, confusion and helplessness on the part of the Americans. Before the battle really begins, the President already seems to have no arrow left in his quiver. The American government is carrying on a verbal strategy. Carter says he does not want to tolerate the status quo--that is, the presence of the 'Brigade'...But he excluded any sort of military pressure. He considers a blockade useless. He also knows that certain economic reprisals such as stopping the export of wheat to Russia cannot be used as a political measure in the year before the elections, out of consideration for the Middle Western farmers. But he has to do something, otherwise America stands before the world as a paper tiger...The Europeans await deeds from their strongest ally, for their destiny and that of the Americans cannot be separated."

Now, a month later, in Iran, America looks even more helpless--and stands to lose vital oil imports as well.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau