

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT



TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

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FOUNDATION AND CHURCH RECEIVING VALUABLE PUBLICITY

The Ambassador International Cultural Foundation has been getting some tremendously positive news coverage over recent months due totally to QUEST magazine articles published in recent issues. Examples of this are numerous; in fact, they run into the thousands!

In the past four months, 1,200 radio stations across the United States had news features about QUEST articles such as the "Greening of the Future," "How to Survive a Plane Crash," and "The Good Machines."

Associated Press picked up some of the articles and carried them on their "news features" network. Newspapers with a combined circulation of over 25 million ran whole articles or sections of articles in recent months. QUEST and the Ambassador Foundation are always given copy rights and credit. This type of unsolicited positive publicity is impossible to buy even if we could bear the estimated 3-4 million dollars it would have cost us over the last six months.

The publicity is, of course, ongoing. Every month the Foundation gets positive coverage in the media. You may remember that during the early months of the receivership the only positive publicity in the media that the Church received was from its sponsorship of QUEST and AICF.

A top New York advertising man mentioned to us recently that the gradual effect of this type of public relations is invaluable, and will prove to be so in the future.

--Publishing Services

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Pastor's Report Comments

TOPEKA, KS--JAMES WELLS: The Church in Topeka is in good spirits overall. There was a very good response here to Mr. Armstrong's China trip and tapes of it. The brethren also enjoyed hearing from Mr. Dean Blackwell when he got to come here this month. Recent baptisms have encouraged people too.

HOUSTON EAST, TX--HAL BAIRD: Overall, attitudes seem on a positive note. Mr. Herbert Armstrong's Romans 6-8 tape was well received by the brethren --content-wise as well as his strong enthusiastic voice and presentation.

HARRISON, AR--TOM BLACKWELL: People enjoy hearing Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's tapes and are solidly behind Mr. Armstrong. They like new thrust in Biblical format on GN and PT.

SAN JOSE, CA--JUDD KIRK: Things are going very well. I am pleased to see that there is an increasing amount of involvement and participation in Church activities and functions. I consider that somewhat of a barometer of the overall condition of the Church.

GARDEN GROVE, CA--DOUG HORCHAK: Most brethren are reacting very positively to the leadership of Mr. Armstrong and the ministry. A few "hung up" on Church government. Momentum of Church being on the "right track" is picking up--and positive attitudes and involvement in activities is increasing.

HAYS, KS--BILL FREELAND: Church attendance has been somewhat low because of bad weather. The bulk of the members are enthusiastic and solid. Some of the members have asked if it might be possible to obtain Mr. Armstrong's Bible studies on Galatians.

WICHITA, KS--JEROLD AUST: The brethren here are excited about Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's super-involvement with his broadcasting and telecasts. This is almost too good to be true! God's Church is beginning an offensive posture and doing so through Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. We are grateful!

FAYETTEVILLE, AR--JOHN ELLIOTT: Suddenly, we are having a small burst of PM's and baptisms of long time PM's! This month has been quite a contrast to past months and I feel it has a lot to do with the new fitness of body. We are finally back in a respectable enough shape for God's new babes to grow in.

FORT SMITH, AR--JOHN ELLIOTT: Here too, PM's and baptisms of PM's (from years ago) seem to be coming all at once. The members are deeply grateful in Fayetteville and Fort Smith for the way God is actively directing and inspiring His Church and its leaders. The past teachings and administrations almost completely dissolved the two churches of once over 200 each. The deep lessons from that have been learned well here, and will never be repeated, with God's help.

EUGENE, OR--LARRY WALKER: The opportunity for live hookup for Mr. Armstrong's anniversary sermon was an exciting experience! We also had an outstanding response with respect to percentage of attendance.

GREELEY, CO--CHUCK ZIMMERMAN: End-time events and prophecy nearing fulfillment really have the congregation checking on themselves. Passover attitude seems to be coming early this year.

BISMARCK, ND--DAN CREED: We have had several fantastic healings since the Feast. This past month we had another miracle take place when a newborn baby of one of our members developed a liver problem a few days after birth. I anointed the child and almost immediately the blood count began to change. If the child had not changed overnight, the doctors were planning to give the child a complete blood transfusion.

MINOT, ND--DAN CREED: Everyone is really enjoying Mr. Armstrong's taped sermons and Bible studies. Please keep them coming as they keep us in tune with headquarters.

DICKINSON, ND--DAN CREED: Some are beginning to attend Church again that had dropped out before. That's a great sign!

MILWAUKEE SOUTH, WI--MICHAEL HANISKO: PM activity is slow, but the attitude of the brethren in Milwaukee seems to be very positive and very much in support of the current direction of the Work.

Church Member Reports on Conditions in Lebanon

Our English office received a very interesting letter (dated February 17, 1980) from a member living in Beirut, Lebanon, who also works for a United Nations Agency there. In light of the continuing unstable conditions in the Middle East, we are including his letter to update our readers:

Life in Lebanon has proved far too restricting, and I am anxious to move as quickly as possible. It is not quite as dangerous here as the international media would have us believe, but the tension and potential for a sudden resumption of widespread violence is ever present. The country (and the area in general) is a human time bomb, and this impression strikes you immediately on arrival. The city of Beirut is, effectively, split between "Christians" in the east and Moslems (and leftists) in the west, where most of the foreign and diplomatic community reside. The division is guarded by Syrian peace-keeping troops although the Lebanese army, which is slowly being rebuilt, will increasingly replace them (i.e. where politically acceptable). The sheer volume of weapons at all levels from individual homes upwards is simply staggering, and makes any real attempt to defuse the crisis almost doomed to failure before it begins. The war is in essence merely held up and in a rearming period. The sad truth is that it is a classic no-win, no-lose situation which can only be resolved by the return of Christ.

Life on a day-to-day basis is, however, remarkably normal appearing with a few obvious signs of disruption--once you get used to armed road blocks and the occasional crackle of machine gun fire in the night, and occasional rockets and explosions. The Lebanese themselves seem unbelievably free of the usual postwar syndrome. Business and corruption are booming at record levels and, as if all too aware of the temporary nature of life, the Lebanese are enjoying themselves.

Working for the United Nations has been a sad, eye-opening experience. Far from being an agency for true international development, it is a cumbersome, highly-politicized international bureaucracy which spends a fair amount of time just maintaining appearances. The Economic Commission for Western Asia may not be typical, but I suspect it is. Dominated by Arabs, the organization seems more concerned with internal organizational politics than the professional jobs of promoting economic development in the region. We are scheduled to move to Baghdad, Iraq, June of this year, but I am seriously questioning the wisdom of continuing to work in these circumstances--you can imagine the enormous delays involved in moving a U.N. agency from one country to another and the inevitable lapse in work output. I am therefore not at all sure where I shall be moving to next or exactly when.

Although it is certainly interesting to be living close to the center of future (immediate, looking at the turn of events) world upheavals, I feel we would prefer to observe these developments from a relatively safer distance, hence your offer of prayers on our behalf would be very welcome. Thanks again for having us in your thoughts.

Don't Forget the CAMEROON, Please

The following note has been received from Mr. Ray Clore, our local church elder in Yaounde, Cameroon:

We are still not legally recognized here in Cameroon even though we have been trying, as a church, for over five years to obtain recognition. With recognition we would have immediate access to six radio stations broadcasting in French and English that could reach over 50 million persons in this and surrounding countries. Please remember us in your prayers.

You will recall that until the church obtains official registration, no assemblies are permitted and the 65 baptized members (both French and English speaking) cannot attend services or meet together officially.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

THE 1980 FESTIVAL BROCHURE

As Mr. Armstrong stated in his latest co-worker letter, the August Good News will serve as this year's Festival brochure, and the Editorial Services Department, in cooperation with the Printing Services area, is already at work to produce the finest issue possible. We are planning an expanded version of the GN for August, and will devote a full 52 pages entirely to the Feast of Tabernacles--its background, its meaning and how to make the most of it spiritually and physically. This Good News will be printed on fine, heavy paper and will include several indepth articles as well as a large number of full-color photographs and illustrations. This edition should become a collector's item, and will help make the 1980 Feast of Tabernacles more meaningful and enjoyable for all members and co-workers.

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

LETTER COMMENTS

This week's report features several inspiring accounts from people who have experienced miraculous healings. Also included is a sampling of comments about four of the Work's popular booklets.

Response has also been very positive to the Sermon Summary Program, with over 430,000 requests coming in over the past two years. (Sermon Summaries are actual sermons that have been printed in a condensed four-page format.) Representative comments from those benefited by these sermon summaries are also included in this report.

--Mail Processing Center

Recent Miraculous Healings

Just two weeks after our first church service we were told that surgery was needed by my wife to correct a rupture or a swollen gland in the groin area of her body. Well, the doctor discovered an advanced stage of a rare cancer. It was a slow growing cancer, but grow it would even with treatments.

I could write much about the feelings we had after hearing that news. The cold empty feeling...was just too great for me. I felt like I was the one that was dying. I say this because I was able, with God's help, to cope with or accept my problems but I could not accept this for my wife.

While my wife was in the hospital...our church elder, Mr. Weldon Wallick, anointed and prayed for healing. Yesterday we got the results from...the final exams. The doctor just looked at my wife in amazement and told her, "Nothing! We can't find a trace of it! It's gone! I don't believe it! Only God could have done this! I just knew you were different when I first met you!"

--Norman R. Ardeeser (Winter Haven, FL)

We would like to thank you and your congregation for the prayers offered for our son John. He has just had a second checkup and is doing very well. Our doctor said medically there was not much to be done for his brain injury. Ninety percent of the people in his condition die. He said only God could have healed him and left him in such perfect condition.

--Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Butler

Thank you for your prayers on Ronald Utt's behalf. Two tendons and a nerve bundle in his wrist were severed. His wrist has healed way ahead of the schedule the doctor set for it, which pleased the doctor to no end (he is a hand specialist). Also, his hand is back to its original strength which also has immensely surprised the doctor.

--Mr. & Mrs. R. R. Utt (Paramount, CA)

This is to thank you for the anointed cloth and prayers. I was healed and am now able to walk and take care of myself without any human aid. I am so thankful for this blessing. And I am amazed at the prompt reply (from God) to a request for healing.

--Mrs. Annette Whipple (Crawford, NE)

Response to Booklets

I am a 20-year-old, nonbaptized member of God's Church. [Editor's note: baptized since this letter.] My parents are baptized and have been members for 21 years. Never before in my life have I understood the purpose of my life until now. I read your booklet, WHY WERE YOU BORN?, and it opened up a light for my living. I am very zealous to learn God's truth because, finally, I understand God's purpose in life.

--Brian Spurgeon (Pasadena, CA)

I'm studying the booklet, WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING IN THE NEXT LIFE. Oh how I want to work with Christ and all God's family whenever the Kingdom is restored to this earth. It is my earnest prayer that each of us in the Church will be stirred to renewed zeal and run more than ever to win the prize!

--Mrs. Morris Owings (Sylacauga, AL)

I just finished reading your booklet entitled, THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE. I found it absolutely enthralling. I just could not put it down. It opened my eyes to many verses that were totally baffling to me and answered many questions.

--Debra Jones (Cincinnati, OH)

I have read your booklet, YOUR BEST INVESTMENT, along with the verses from the Bible and have come to an understanding of tithing. I have also discussed tithing with my husband, who has not yet been able to read your booklet, and we would both like you to use our tithe for the Work of God.

--Mr. & Mrs. Gary Lutz (Gibsonia, PA)

Sermon Summaries Bear Good Fruit

I have some comments about your Sermon Summaries. I am a full-time soldier at Ft. Lewis. Your sermons have helped me with Bible studies and are encouraging during depressing times. The valuable teachings of these sermons are handy and understandable. Please continue to send me these sermons.

--James Bryant (Ft. Lewis, WA)

The two Sermon Summaries, WHAT IS YOUR FOUNDATION? by Burk McNair, and DOES GOD RESPECT YOUR EFFORT? by Michael Swagerty, were wonderful messages. I must say these make you realize that God is still on His Throne and he is watching and waiting for us to call on Him.

--Mrs. Jack L. Hopkins (Strawn, TX)

Thank you for the wonderful Sermon Summaries. I use them on the Sabbath. They are indeed food for thought and medicine for my mind. I am not a church member (yet). I am studying, researching and am truly reaping the many benefits.

--Rogers Mungin (Sumter, SC)

I am very grateful for the Sermon Summaries that you've been sending. They are concise, applicable, but most of all inspiring. I hope that you plan to continue this service. The Sermon Summaries really pick me up in the mid-week slump (between Sabbaths). They are all so good that as I look over them I can't decide which is best!

--Karen Childers (Goldsboro, NC)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

AMERICA HELD HOSTAGE: For five months now American citizens have been held captive in the U.S. embassy in Teheran, Iran. Every effort to secure their peaceful release has failed. The Ayatollah Khomeini--the only real power in Iran--has squelched every "breakthrough" to a negotiated settlement with savage denunciations of U.S. foreign policy.

The latest episode in the crisis is an "offer" on the part of Iran's "moderate" President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr promising not release of the captives, but merely their transfer into government hands from the militants in return for a U.S. pledge not to make "any propaganda, any claim, any speeches or any provocations over the hostages until the Parliament is formed and makes a decision.

Even the Los Angeles Times, hardly noted for hard-hitting editorials, remarked: "This effort to order the conduct of American policy is so outrageous that the best response would be for the Carter Administration simply to ignore it." Nevertheless, the next day, the White House responded that it would "continue to be restrained in our words and actions."

Previous efforts to win freedom for the kidnapped Americans, said the Times, have not done a visible iota of good, "nor is there any reason to think that an Iranian president who has proved consistently incapable of delivering on his solemn promises will be able to do so in the future if only there is one more American concession, one more example of self-abnegation, one more retreat from honor and principle.

"Meet my condition, says Bani-Sadr, do nothing and say nothing about Iran until the end of June and maybe--just maybe--the hostages will eventually have an easier time of it.... Bani-Sadr is worried about his political survival. The United States has more important things to be concerned with. National self-respect is one of them."

Amazingly, President Carter hailed Bani-Sadr's flimsy offer as "a positive step," enough for him to once again postpone levelling further economic sanctions against the Iranian government.

Perhaps the biggest paradox in the Iranian crisis is the continuing popularity of Mr. Carter (although he might reap the whirlwind by election time if there is no solution).

Political scientist Hans J. Morgenthau, in an essay written for the Los Angeles Times, March 30, noted what he called "the apparent paradox of President Carter emerging from the primaries as almost unbeatable for the Democratic nomination while the United States under his leadership has suffered a string of humiliating defeats in its relations with other nations. The most spectacular of these defeats is, of course, the continuing captivity of 50 American hostages in Iran.

"By forswearing from the outset any form of violence in response to this outrage committed by a third-rate power against, allegedly, the most powerful nation on earth, Carter deprived himself of any serious leverage against Iran. Thus the United States is helpless in a situation that in another period of American history would have called for swift action settling the issue even at the risk of some American lives.

"Nevertheless, the President, by putting the emphasis on saving 50 American lives by peaceful means, struck a sympathetic chord in American public opinion. Carter did what President Woodrow Wilson was alleged to have done before: 'He kept us out of war.' And Carter did so without abandoning what appears to be the most visible and sentimental American objective: saving 50 American lives. It did not occur to public opinion or to Carter that American foreign policy has a duty not only to 50 hostages, but also to the nation whose life and fortunes might be jeopardized by the actions or inactions of the President."

Most Americans don't realize it, but the entire American nation is symbolically being held hostage. And there is more still to the symbolism. It may not be mere coincidence that there are fifty American citizens now in captivity in a foreign land. They represent, as it were, one captive for each state in the union!

The ongoing hostage crisis, therefore, is a grim forecast of the horrendous national captivity to come (Ps. 106:40-48).