

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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STATE SENATORS MOVE TO CLIP ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CLAIMED AUTHORITY

California state senators have sent a strong message to state Attorney General George Deukmejian saying, in effect, that he has taken too much to himself in his intrusion upon churches! Thursday, May 15, the state senators voted on and passed Senator Petris' Bill (No. 1493) by the overwhelming margin of 21-1!! This bill is designed to remove all civil power from the Attorney General which he would like to exercise over churches (and has already in the case of the Worldwide Church of God and others).

This positive development demonstrates that the legislators are beginning to grasp the seriousness of the Attorney General's claimed right of sweeping and absolute supervisory power over Churches. Mr. Helge, our own Church attorney, was in Sacramento this week along with other concerned representatives of churches and civil rights groups, including Brent Barnhart, ACLU representative in Sacramento.

The Bill is still not out of the woods until it is also passed in the other California legislative house, the Assembly, and signed by the governor. We will keep our readers posted on developments.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Important Announcement About THIRD TITHE

(***TO BE READ IN ALL CHURCHES***)

Many individuals have asked, "Just How Should Third Tithe Be Given?" This inquiry is being sincerely made by the brethren responding to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's leadership as Christ directs His apostle in setting the Church back on the "right track."

The custom of some over the recent years has been to divide what would be a full tithe into partial increments to be paid over a three-year span of time. This unscriptural practice was authorized and given approval without Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's knowledge or consent.

Men, given the opportunity to assist and support Mr. Armstrong, tampered with God's righteous law and in their minds seemingly lifted a "heavy burden" from the shoulders of the people. Meantime, so as to perpetuate a "poor fund," a system of prorated giving was devised. Is this God's ordained way of giving? Absolutely not!! Proverbs 14:12 plainly states, "There is a way which seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Man's best intentions fall short of the glory of God's plan--and simply miss the mark! God plainly directs us in Deuteronomy

12:32, "Whatsoever thing I command you, observe to do it; you shall not add thereto, or diminish from it."

God's method of determining how to give third tithe is recorded in Deuteronomy 14:28. "At the end of three years, you shall bring forth all the tithe of your increase the same year, and shall lay it up within your gates." Does this verse sound as if God grants us the option to tithe, the means to determine how much to give, or when it should be rendered? Of course not!! A tithe means just that, 10% of the whole. And to be given the same year.

Finally, God says you shall bring forth this tithe, but not for our detriment--it is for our good. I John 5:3 tells us, "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome. The law of tithing requires an element of faith on our part. That God is our Provider--and is there to make up the difference--if not to bless us above and beyond. Prorating a tithe over a period of time diminishes God's role in our life. It is a matter of cause and effect. To the degree you follow God's law, is the degree you will be blessed. Would you wish for God to prorate His blessings and love towards you? As man would reason, tithing does not compute--but as those who have put God to the test know--the blessings certainly do add up.

New Procedure for Using WATS Lines

Due to increasing pressures of media response on the WATS lines into MPC (800-423-4444), we need to change the procedure of ministers calling Pasadena. The new procedure will be for you to call the WATS line through the college switchboard. This number, 800-423-4464, is the one that many of you have used for a long time.

Other than asking who you want to talk to or what you want to talk about, the switchboard will not take messages. Their new procedure will be to ask you to give them your number and hang up. They will then immediately call you back on an outbound line as soon as one is available (usually immediately). At that point they will ring the desired department. By using this procedure you can be transferred to any department on campus.

We think you will like this new procedure a lot better. It will allow you more freedom of access to the departments on campus. And it will be better for media responses because there have been times when the ministerial usage of the lines has shut out any calls from people responding to an advertisement.

The Pastor General's Hotline tapes will still be available through the media response WATS number, but are being reduced to a once-a-week frequency, beginning the first week of June.

Remember--when you call for a department on campus, use the 800-423-4464 number.

News From Canada

The continuing decline in U.S. foreign relations seems to be provoking Plain Truth readers and radio program listeners into considerable activity in Canada. And so the focus on prophecy in our various media outlets is producing fruit. Requests for the "Four Hosemen" series of booklets and

The U.S. and Britain in Prophecy have increased significantly over the past several weeks.

New doors continue to open to God's Work in Canada. The past month brought three additional T.V. stations for The World Tomorrow. The program in Saskatoon and Swift Current is to begin in May and the major Toronto network, Global, beginning in September. (It is said that if Canada should develop a third nationwide T.V. network, Global would be the most likely contender).

An offer to display newsstand issues of The PLAIN TRUTH in hotels in Ontario came through in April. This will be effective from June through September in the "Golden Horseshoe" area.

The organization responsible for this distribution recently succeeded in placing La Pure Verite and The PLAIN TRUTH in 92 major supermarkets in Quebec, a breakthrough in that market. PLAIN TRUTH and La Pure Verite subscriptions are approaching 200,000, the goal for mid-1980. Latest statistics show the following:

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Subscription</u>	<u>Newsstand</u>
The PLAIN TRUTH	142,789	350,000 (bimonthly)
La PURA VERITE	49,534	50,000 (monthly)
The GOOD NEWS	9,809	----

God's blessing continues to be evident in so many ways, not the least of which is the financial area. Income for April shows a 19% increase and Holy Day offerings for Unleavened Bread 26% ahead of last year, giving a year-to-date increase of 20%.

Update From New Zealand/South Pacific Area

The big activity in New Zealand during April was the distribution of over a half million householder cards to letterboxes throughout the nation. Most of the cards were delivered by church members who enjoy this annual opportunity to get involved in helping the Work get done. This year's householder card advertises The PLAIN TRUTH magazine and also offers a copy of our new booklet, "Bring Back the Family." The same week a large advertisement was run in some of New Zealand's leading newspapers and magazines. By the end of the month over 2400 householder cards had been returned with hundreds more coming in the mail every day.

The Passover and Unleavened Bread festival season at the beginning of the month was very encouraging and inspiring. Total attendance for the Passover was 557--an 11.4% increase over last year. The average nationwide attendance for the two holydays was 891--an increase of 19.6% over 1979. The combined offering for the two days showed an increase of 35.5%.

With recent Church growth three new churches have been established, bringing the total number of congregations in that part of the world to seventeen. Two of the new churches are in the Auckland area, and in June a new Church will begin in Rotorua. These new Church locations will help cut down travelling time and expense for many of our members.

One piece of sad news is that the Fijian Broadcasting Service has cancelled The World Tomorrow broadcast each Sunday over their six stations. Apparently, the SDA's applied for time for their "Voice of Prophecy"

program and were turned down. They then complained about the fact that we were sold time for our broadcast, and the result was inevitable. An attempt will be made to have the decision reviewed, however, and we certainly hope and pray it can be aired again.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

WHEELING, WV--LYALL JOHNSTON: Church attendance took a sharp upturn this month. Some outlying elderly members returning after winter. This month has also seen more than usual new contacts. Mates of members (2-3) also expressing desire for baptism. God's Spirit is obviously moving to bring into His Church a whole new group of converts. These people have normally had past contact through literature of friends or relatives.

MADISONVILLE, KY--VICTOR KUBIK: Had a death of a 27-year-old girl. As a result of the funeral sermon two of her sisters attend Church now because our Church makes the most sense about life after death.

BOWLING GREEN, KY--KENT FENTRESS: Attitudes are improving week by week. Attendance is up. High of 160. A new desire to come to services.

BELLE VERNON, PA--DAVID M. JOHNSON: As was mentioned by others in the Pastor General's Report, we seemed to get an influx of renewed interest from older PM's as well as some solid commitment from more recent contacts. We baptized eight prior to Passover. I can't cite any particular thing as proof, but there seems to be a definite improvement in attitudes and dedication among the Church members. You can just sense a change.

We have had three or four cases of people who have had wrong attitudes for a long time, and they finally seem to be getting on top of the situation. Many people stated that the Passover this year seemed to be even more special than usual. There seems to be a very genuine effort to do right things and not just refrain from doing anything wrong. The fence-sitters seem to be falling off their perch and most of them are falling in the right direction.

DETROIT EAST, MI--EARL H. WILLIAMS: We had a very successful Bible lecture --reached 90 new people in two days. Approximately 30 of these people are now attending regular Sabbath services! The brethren are excited over the new growth. However, many of the brethren are being laid off from their jobs due to the slump in the auto industry.

JACKSON, MS--BOB PEOPLES: Our people in the main are remaining stable and loyal. As in every area, it's becoming more expensive to drive to Church --am looking for a Church in my northern area. Members are positive about Mr. Armstrong's upcoming trips.

LOUISVILLE, KY--RAY A. MEYER: Good participation in Church activities, many good comments about the Holy Day season and related activities.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

NEWSSTAND PT WITNESS ENHANCED

We are very pleased that once again we are now able to print and distribute a 32-page Newsstand PLAIN TRUTH instead of the 16-page version which we have been producing for over a year now. This new 32-page PLAIN TRUTH is compatible with 32 pages of our 48-page subscription copy, so the cost of production is comparatively low.

We feel that the 32-page newsstand PLAIN TRUTH is going to give us better response in the form of new readers added to our circulation list. In addition to the new names on the file who will receive a magazine regularly through the mail, we must be aware of the cumulative effect of the tremendous witness accomplished by the 650,000 newsstand magazines that are picked up each month. Some of these readers who take a copy each month off the rack apparently prefer not to have their names on our mailing list, while others are the passing one-time reader. But the effectiveness of this witness is further enhanced when the magazines find their way into people's homes to be read by others in the family and friends.

This latter aspect of the witness is often overlooked because we tend only to be concerned about tangible results in the form of percentage returns. That's why we are pleased about the increase in size of the Newsstand PT to 32-pages, with its promise of being an ever greater witness!

--Publishing Services

CLARIFICATION FROM THE MAIL PROCESSING CENTER

With regard to the IMPORTANT NOTICE we issued in the May 9th Pastor General's Report, there may be some misunderstanding as to where to send your baptism, inactive, or disfellowship information cards. To clarify that notice, these cards should continue to be sent to Ministerial Services as usual where they keep certain statistical information, and then forward them to Mail Processing for the actual updating of the individual record. We would like to encourage you to send your cards to Ministerial Services SOONER so they can send them to Mail Processing SOONER.

IMPORTANT: Please send all of these information cards to Ministerial Services according to established procedures. They will then transfer them to us.

Thanks so much for your help in this matter.

OVER 18 MILLION BOOKLETS IN 10 YEARS!

We all know that the Work is having an impact in the world, but at times it's staggering just to realize how many pieces of literature are being disseminated abroad. Truthfully, the "seed" of God's Word is being spread far and wide!

Recently MPC did a study of the number of booklets which have been sent out through the computer during the last ten years (September 6, 1970 to December 31, 1979). We thought it would be interesting for you to see a few highlights from the study in this issue of the Pastor General's Report.

A total of 18,715,430 booklets were sent via the computer from 1970 to 1979--an average of two million per year!

Or, over 38,000 booklets mailed every week!

The peak year for booklets mailed was 1973 with 3,620,198 going out; the low year was 1972 with 1,251,499 booklets mailed.

The booklets offered by God's Work have covered the gamut of human life, dealing especially with the most important subjects affecting man's existence: the truth about death and the resurrection, the fact that man is not an immortal soul, why God has created man on the earth, how marriage is a type of what God is doing in His own spiritual family, the real meaning of marriage, how the Law of God relates to man, the laws of success, why the problems of this world exist, what Bible prophecy has to say about man's society and its future, the truth about sex and the family, how to prove that God exists, the powerful laws of God relating to finance, etc.

As you know, the list of topics covered by the literature from God's Work could go on and on. We deeply believe that God has inspired Mr. Herbert Armstrong to guide the development of the wide range of literature which we now have to offer.

The value of the booklets and articles available to our readers cannot be overestimated. Literally thousands and thousands of people every month are helped and benefited by what all of us are a part of!

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

MAIL COMMENTS

Topics in this week's mail comments section include responses to the February 25th WORLDWIDE NEWS article by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, "God Commands That We Avoid Certain Ones!", and a sampling of letters from readers who are amazed that the Church gives high quality literature away, free of charge.

--Mail Processing Center

Members Appreciate Mr. Armstrong's Instruction

I read your article where you said "God Commands That We Avoid Certain Ones!" Well, for quite a while I did write to a couple that has gone out of God's Church. But then I picked up that paper and right on the first page in big print there was "God Commands That We Avoid Certain Ones." I read that and told myself that was for me, and a warning to me.

--M.C. (TX)

Thank you so much for writing "God Commands That We Avoid Certain Ones!" in the February 25 issue of The WORLDWIDE NEWS. It was very timely and much needed.

There has been a tendency in the Church to rationalize that we should remain "friendly" with these dissidents who were once members

of God's Church, but apparently hate everything it stands for with a white-hot passion. I'm glad you spelled out in no uncertain terms what the Bible says about the matter. We're without excuse if we continue to "fellowship" with these unbelievers.

--Mark M. (Pocatello, ID)

I was saddened as I carefully read your article, "God Commands That We Avoid Certain Ones!" in the February 25 WORLDWIDE NEWS, and pondered the departure of many fine members, whose action continues to dumbfound me! We can never afford to underestimate the power of Satan.

--Keith C. (St. Joseph, MO)

Your front page article, "God Commands That We Avoid Certain Ones!" is very timely and we hope it will be very effective. For some time my wife and I have been concerned about the fact that some of our brethren and friends have been seeing or listening to not only disfellowshipped ministers and brethren, but also to ministers of other religions. Thank you for adding more authority to this critical problem's solution.

--Mr. & Mrs. John C. (Inglewood, CA)

Puzzled Over Free Literature

I've not been able to convince my neighbors here that I receive The PLAIN TRUTH and any booklet I order free of charge. They feel certain that sooner or later I'll be sent a bill. I've been reading The PLAIN TRUTH and other booklets for over a year and have yet to receive a bill, but I do receive offers of new booklets as they become available.

--Edward H. (Akron, OH)

I have been receiving literature from you on a regular basis for 17 years and you have never asked for any money for anything that you have sent me. I don't think any other organization can make this statement.

--Melvin J. (Goodlettsville, TN)

I have played the piano and organ for over 25 years at my church, a Reorganized Latter-Day Saints Church I joined in 1912. For 68 years have been a member but pay \$12.00 for the church newspaper and read The PLAIN TRUTH free. I can't bring myself to change [churches] but wonder at your generosity and feel ashamed I can't pay you for The PLAIN TRUTH. I read every word you print and wonder that you are so helpful. I would truly miss The PLAIN TRUTH and your literature. I do admire you and hope you never forget me. I sure think your fruits are wonderful. I'm trying to figure it out.

--Mrs. F.V. (Coral, MI)

Recently my grandmother had written to another well-known radio preacher. I noticed his stress on soliciting for donations...I'm simply asking how you keep your ministry going. You have nothing to sell, only give. You don't ask for support but you surely must need it. You rely on faith to keep your ministry going. Freely giving to the public messages that are priceless and can't be paid for.

--Gregory T. (Bay Shore, NY)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

CANADA'S HOUR OF CRISIS: On Tuesday, May 20, voters in Quebec go to the polls to determine whether or not they want their leaders to take the first step toward independence of their province--and the splitting up of a federated Canada. "South of the border"--in the United States--Americans are generally asleep to the crisis. The news media have left them in almost total ignorance.

By the time most of you read this, the results will be known. But at the moment, the "Yes" forces in the referendum fight--those supporting the rather hazy concept of a "sovereign association" of an independent Quebec to the rest of Canada--are slightly behind. The race remains too close to call, however, because of a large segment of undecided voters.

The referendum was called by the ruling separatist-minded party of Quebec, the Parti Quebecois. Technically the referendum only seeks voter approval of a mandate for the PQ to enter into a negotiation with federal Canada over the terms of political independence for Quebec (the sovereign part) coupled with a common-market style economic link (the association part) with the remainder of Canada. The PQ promises a second referendum later, after negotiations, on independence itself.

The cleverly worded referendum has worked to the PQ's advantage in that the "Qui" (Yes) forces will garner a considerable protest vote--those who still favor a continued Canadian federation rather than independence, but want to "shock" Ottawa into realigning Canada into a union more favorable to Quebec's interests. Of course, diehard PQ separatists will take any and all Yes votes, regardless of motive.

Leading the "Yes" forces is Quebec Premier Rene Levesque. A former TV commentator (the one-time "Walter Cronkite" of French Canada), Levesque knows how to get maximum exposure from the media. Understandably, the "Yes" forces jumped out to an early advantage in the short five-week campaign.

The "No" forces stumbled through the first couple of weeks. Their spokesman is Claude Ryan, head of the Quebec provincial Liberty Party. Ryan is the exact opposite of Leversque, definitely anti-charismatic. Though subject to outbursts of anger, Ryan, a former prominent newspaper editor, has tried to appeal to reason rather than emotion. He and his supporters have been trying to show how costly independence would be to a sovereign Quebec (loss of federal transfer payments, much higher cost of oil to name only two factors). Will reason win out?--or is the pull of nationalism--at-any-cost too strong?

The "No" forces had a built-in disadvantage from the outset. Campaigning for a negative vote isn't easy. Ryan also has had to try to convince wary Quebecois that a "No" vote would not mean business-as-usual with Ottawa. Then too, the "No's" couldn't depend too much on outside "English" help, lest that be considered "interference." Nevertheless the "No's" have apparently closed the gap and then some, over the 35-day battle. They were helped a few days ago by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau who delivered what some considered to be one of his most impassioned speeches ever in Montreal.

Whichever way the referendum turns out--"Oui" or "Non"--little good will come of it.

If "Yes" wins, it will only lead to an impasse, because no one in English-speaking Canada has a mandate to negotiate "sovereignty-association" with Quebec. In fact, both federal officials and leading premiers of Western Canada have most emphatically said they won't do such a thing. Quebec is a net beneficiary in its economic relationships with the rest of Canada. "No united Canada, no preferential treatment for Quebec" is the widespread mood. Alberta for one, is not likely to continue selling low-price subsidized oil to those no longer part of the federation. Thus, the very idea of "sovereign association" seems flawed from the beginning.

On the other hand, if "No" is victorious, especially just by a whisper, it could only lead to frustration and eventually violence. As an English-speaking farmer in the Eastern Townships of Quebec said, "If some group wants a country, there's no limit to what they'll do to get it." Certainly, a defeated PQ would place the blame on the 30% anglophone (English-speaking) minority of Quebec, who most certainly will vote overwhelmingly in the negative. Levesque has already referred to the anglophones as "Westmount Rhodesians" (Westmount is the primary anglophone district in Montreal)--a snide comparison to white Rhodesians who, like the English in Quebec, dominate the economy.

Thus, there is the making of ugly civil strife. Canada could be faced with its own minority-within-a-minority problem such as in Ireland. (Catholics being a minority in Northern Ireland whereas Protestants comprise a minority within Ireland as a whole, and thus culturally ally themselves with the majority in the British Isles.) Quebec is not just a "French place"--just as not all Canada is English-speaking.

Thus May 20 is a critical day in Canada's history. It could be the beginning of the end for Canada--or, as independent minded Quebecois see it, the beginning of their much cherished nation. There is no doubt that momentum is on the side of the PQ supporters. Referendum victory or not, Quebec is very likely on an irreversible course toward independence. Psychologically, the edge must go toward the independentiste. Said the columnist in the Montreal Gazette: "Passion for Canada, the kind of passion that is easily aroused here for Quebec, is not very evident here or elsewhere...Ardent Canadians deplore the lack of commitment to Canada in Quebec. But ardent Canadians are not that easy to find in the rest of the country either."

The eventual impact upon the United States of a severed Canada will be enormous--economically and even militarily. A future PLAIN TRUTH article will examine this crisis further.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau