

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 2, NO. 33

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 15, 1980

TO ALL PASTORS OF CHURCHES

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

Feast Fever is mounting! Let's make this the greatest Festival in our time! Remember, it is the LARGEST annual convention of any kind held anywhere in the world. Nothing else on earth is like it.

Much of the time ancient Israel in Old Testament times neglected to keep it. Some elements of the Church continued to observe this Feast for some time after the first century--but it faded out and was not restored until the living Christ restored it through me in the present Philadelphia era of the Church. It was not kept by the Sardis era, nor is it to this day.

But, when Christ comes to RULE ALL NATIONS, it will be restored WORLDWIDE! (Zech. 14.) Those who refuse will find rainfall withheld, and if they still refuse, God's PLAGUES will be sent the following year!

But it is not just a commanded DUTY--it is a wonderful TIME OF JOY AND REJOICING!

This year, for the very first time, EVERY PASTOR OF A LOCAL CHURCH will have opportunity to speak at one of the Feast sites.

There will be many more sites this year, due to gasoline shortage for travel. That means somewhat smaller attendances at many sites. But I remember that, back at Belknap Springs in Oregon, in the first years of this Festival in modern times, with fewer than 100 in attendance it was a WONDERFUL Feast! Everyone got to know closely everyone else. It was more like a large family gathering. Most of all, CHRIST HIMSELF WAS THERE WITH US--IN SPIRIT!

So, be sure you who speak take it SERIOUSLY.

Jesus said, "Who then is a faithful and wise servant whom the Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat IN DUE SEASON? Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall make him ruler over all his goods" (Matt. 24:45-46).

In some past years I have noticed that some ministers have spoken on just any subject they themselves liked to speak on--with NO RELATION to the MEANING of the FEAST! In this Festival we are to be enjoying a fore-taste of the World Tomorrow--during the millennium, under the Government and the KINGDOM OF GOD.

So be sure your sermons are related to that joyous TIME. Give them "meat in due season!"

But I also have noticed in many Festivals, that sermons from some ministers of only Preaching Elder rank have been superbly OUTSTANDING and INSPIRING, with excellent instruction and content.

You fellows CAN DO IT! So pray over it fervently. Take it seriously. Put your whole heart into it. LIFT UP the spirits and the morale of God's people! We are drawing close to the END of this world, and to the COMPLETION of the Work God has called us to do. God bless you all. I pray for you all DAILY!

* * * * *

NO POLITICAL ELECTIONS IN THE
WORLD TOMORROW!

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

This was written August 14--last day of the Democratic National Convention. I had to think--after viewing on television both this and the Republican National Convention a month before--HOW DIFFERENT it will be in the World Tomorrow!

All three national Networks had their star and superstar newscasters covering these major conventions.

The convention halls were decorated in bright colors with red, white and blue predominating. The delegates wore loud color casual or sports attire, many with outlandish oversize hats. There were horns, sound-making instruments, beside the brass bands. There were whoop-and-holler demonstrations. There were thousands of balloons, like little children at play. There were many large signs and placards.

Each convention was quite a show!

And of course the usual politics were being played secretly in the usual smoke-filled hotel suites away from the convention halls--the jockeying for selfish advantage, political gain and coveting of power.

I am reminded of the answer given by Franz Joseph Strauss, often called "the Strong Man of Europe." He had spent the day visiting the Ambassador College campus, and was an evening dinner guest in my home.

It was a day or two after Richard M. Nixon had taken the oath of office after his first inauguration, January, 1969.

"What," asked a guest of Dr. Strauss, "do you think was going on in Mr. Nixon's mind as he was taking the oath of office?"

"How to be re-elected four years from now, of course," answered Herr Strauss without a second's hesitation.

On the Wednesday night before I wrote this, there had been considerable delay and nervous concern over what decision Edward Kennedy would make. He had lost the primary elections as a whole, had lost the open

floor fight to have delegates pledged to President Carter released and to throw the convention open. He had won the battle against the President on strategic platform planks. And now after a preweek political move to "dump Carter," the President had gone over the top on the first ballot. The President had not accepted without any personal reservation Mr. Kennedy's much-insisted on plank for spending 12 billion dollars immediately to ease unemployment. Mr. Carter got word to the convention he was for the same goal, but had personal reservations as to the Senator's method.

Would Senator Kennedy hold out, split the Party, or would he acquiesce for the sake of harmony and support Mr. Carter for re-election?

Just what, in these circumstances, was Mr. Kennedy thinking? Would German politician Dr. Strauss have said, "How Mr. Kennedy could be elected four years from now, of course"? Was the politician thinking of what is best for the PEOPLE, or what is best for his own fight to grab the throttle of greatest government power on earth? I won't answer that-- I can't read his mind.

There was one bit of humor on the CBS coverage of the Wednesday night convention show. The dry-speaking Andy Rooney was asked by Walter Cronkite if he had any comment on whether the President should stick with Vice President Mondale for re-election. (The V.P. nomination was to come before the convention on Thursday.)

Andy Rooney did.

"I think," he said soberly, "the President should select a Vice President with more color. Why not Ex-President Ford? He almost made the Vice-Presidential bid at the Republican convention. A Republican on the ticket as Mr. Carter's V.P. would at least add color.

"Or," he continued, "If Mr. Carter does not like that suggestion, how about putting brother Billy on the ticket--keep it in the family? That way Billy could make foreign connections officially. Or, I have still another suggestion--since the First Lady, Roselyn Carter is the President's chief confidante anyway, why not a husband-and-wife team? She's a good campaigner."

Many millions of dollars of taxpayers' money have been spent on political campaigns and these conventions to nominate candidates for the people to vote on. The conventions were big noisy shows. There was laughter, "having a time," shouting, confusion, anger, jubilation, pathos, emotion and even tears.

In all this campaigning to "GET" the office of POWER, one observer said, "Thank God, only ONE candidate can win."

That is the way GOVERNMENT is carried on in this world.

Six thousand years ago, the former super archangel Lucifer, having rebelled against the Government of God on earth, was slinking around as a serpent, now called Satan. God had just created the first HUMAN--in God's own image--with a potential of inheriting the THRONE OF THE EARTH.

From this man, Adam, God made a woman, Eve, to be his wife. Eve was all for a "Woman's Rights Amendment." She took the lead. The man, created

to be the head of the wife, succumbed to her leadership. She led him into Satan's way. Adam joined her in rebelling against the GOVERNMENT OF GOD--rejecting God as Revealer of basic knowledge and as Giver of eternal LIFE!

When the first man and woman REJECTED GOD and HIS GOVERNMENT, CUT THEMSELVES OFF from God and the gift of His Holy Spirit, God made their decision binding on all their progeny for 6,000 years--until Christ, the "Second Adam," should have come, qualified by overcoming Satan and Satan's way, and actually RESTORED the GOVERNMENT OF GOD. This shall happen now, very shortly. For we are right at the END of that 6,000 years of the DAY OF MAN under SATAN, and the DAY OF THE LORD is almost upon us!

So ALL HUMANITY--except the minutest FEW God has specially called to His service in preparation for that future world government, has been CUT OFF from God and HIS GOVERNMENT. Man has been left to form HIS OWN ideas of how he should be ruled.

Down through history, some peoples have submitted to the tyranny of DICTATORSHIPS and autocratic MONARCHIES. Some have swung to the center and called it "Democracy." Others to the extreme left, calling it COMMUNISM. Even there it is actually the autocratic dictatorial RULE of a central Politburo, in which one man--a Stalin, a Khrushchev, or a Brezhnev--dominates as real RULER.

Even in the Democratic National Convention, some individual delegates interviewed were fightingly for turning "still farther LEFT."

But through TV, the public has seen a sample of MAN-made government in our day.

The living Jesus Christ is soon now going to return, as KING of kings, to RULE ALL NATIONS with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

There will be no election campaigns. No multi-million dollar fund-raising campaigns--no political conventions. No politics, pulling the wool over the eyes of the people in the struggle for POWER!

No wars. No crime. No more broken families. No hospitals, for people will be divinely healed.

What will be the BIG DIFFERENCE, THEN?

The present world, though the world of humans doesn't realize it, is actually swayed and RULED by the invisible Satan--the former Lucifer who originally sat on the THRONE of the whole earth.

Backtrack a second, to the original Adam and Eve. In the Garden of Eden were the two symbolic trees--one the "tree of LIFE" symbolizing the Holy Spirit of God and gift of eternal life. The other, the tree of "the knowledge of good and evil," and this knowledge they--for all humanity--took to themselves.

Just one super-significant thing was wrong with that. They did not realize--and mankind does not know today--that man was made with a "human" spirit inside him. This spirit, not present in animals or any other

physical life form, imparts the power of intellect to the human brain. But man's KNOWLEDGE is confined to the physical and material.

Man's PROBLEMS, troubles, evils, are all SPIRITUAL in nature. Man was made to NEED a SECOND SPIRIT--the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD. This was freely offered that first Adam. But he rejected it--rejected GOD'S GOVERNMENT and GOD'S revealed spiritual knowledge. All humans have been born with only this one spirit, limiting human knowledge to the physical and material. Man, without the Holy Spirit of God, is NOT MENTALLY COMPLETE--actually "NOT ALL THERE!" Human consciousness is limited to the physical and material, yet all his problems are SPIRITUAL and beyond his comprehension!

NOT ONLY THIS!

Satan the Devil is REAL--he EXISTS--he is SUPER-POWERFUL--and he is "the PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR" (Eph. 2:2). He BROADCASTS! He surcharges the air with HIS ATTITUDE of selfishness, vanity, lust for power and greed, envy and jealousy, competition and strife, rebellion against GOD!

It is not only that mankind--our human LEADERS--are only "HALF THERE" mentally--Satan has begun injecting from infancy into every human his SELF-CENTERED ATTITUDE! All we humans grow up saturated with it. It has become HUMAN NATURE!

So it is not only a matter of what ISN'T IN OUR HUMAN MINDS--spiritual comprehension! It is a matter of WHAT IS IN HUMAN MINDS--what from infancy Satan has been injecting there--the SELF-CENTERED ATTITUDE--that of competition, getting the best of others, "GETTING" instead of "GIVING" --TAKING FROM OTHERS!

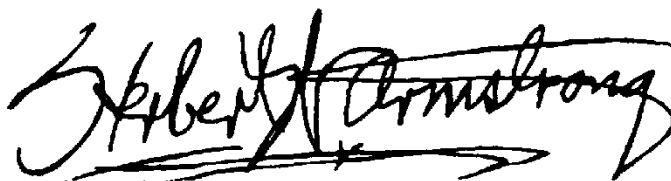
This writing was finished on Friday morning after the conclusion of the Democratic National Convention. Senator Kennedy did conciliate just far enough to go to the convention hall platform after President Carter's acceptance speech. But he was not smiling. He was sullen, plainly resentful. He coldly shook hands with the President--but no lifting of arms together in joyful smiles. I felt sorry for him. He had not gotten all he coveted--like a spoiled baby, who failed to take away a toy from another baby. Just as in all of us, Satan had injected that spirit of animosity in competition. He is only human. God's Spirit of LOVE was not in evidence. Neither is it in evidence in ANY of this world's leaders.

HOW DIFFERENT in the WORLD TOMORROW!

Satan will be GONE! Jesus CHRIST will be RULING! Ruling with, but under Him, will be truly converted saints then made IMMORTAL--filled with GOD'S Spirit of "LOVE"--immortal GOD BEINGS with no SELF-interest of coveting, but outflowing LOVE for the good, happiness, welfare and eternal salvation of all others!

Jesus taught us to pray, "THY KINGDOM COME--THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN."

We'd better be PRAYING!



Mr. Attorney General of California:

The battle lines are drawn!
Your office launched a State vs.
Church lawsuit—to test the strength,
power and the very existence of the
Constitution of the United States.

Appeared in the Los Angeles Times August 14, 1980

THIS, MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL, is a battle you can't win! Realize it or not, you have chosen to do battle against the living God! You have engaged in an unconstitutional fight to take over, own and operate (or destroy) God's Holy Church—to run it by the will of politicians instead of the will of God! God's Church *belongs to GOD*—and when you attack it you attack Almighty God!

The giant Goliath once challenged the people of God. The soon-to-be King David, then only a lad, said, "Who is this Philistine that he should defy the living God?" The giant lost that battle—and his life!

Our forefathers came to America to escape religious persecution from human government. They established a Constitution whose First Amendment guarantees the religious liberty they fled, fought and died to secure for us!

That Constitution shall stand inviolate! But even if we, as they, had to flee to other countries for a base from which to spread God's TRUTH, we would remove beyond your jurisdiction! There is NO WAY you can stop us!

This nation is becoming aware that your massive civil lawsuit actually is the first REAL TEST of the freedom of CHURCH against political encroachments of STATE! It is a battle to decide whether politicians of the STATE can take over, own and operate all CHURCHES according to political will instead of the WILL OF GOD!

It is a political onslaught to determine once and for all that the CHURCH of the living God may be governed by Him according as He directs through His chosen apostle, as revealed in His Word, the Holy Bible!



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

The GOVERNMENT OF GOD once existed over the earth—a fact unknown in the world today. It exists today in only one place in the world—in God's CHURCH!

The first created man, Adam, rejected that government OF and BY God FOR the people. Our first forefather chose government OF and BY the people. Unfortunately self-motivated political rule has developed—sometimes evil!

The GOVERNMENT OF GOD is government from the top down—from God, through Christ as living HEAD of His Church, and on the human level the apostle of Christ's choosing, then in administrative office, evangelists, pastors, preaching elders and teachers (Ephesians 4:11-12, I Corinthians 12:28). No prophets ever served in administrative capacity in the New Testament Church.

And as His chosen apostle, I say to you in the authority of Jesus Christ the POLITICAL STATE cannot and shall not take over, govern or administer the affairs of the Worldwide Church of God. By that authority, far transcending yours, Mr. Attorney General, this Church shall continue to operate, not by

the will of politicians, but by the will of the eternal God as revealed in His Word!

Your jurisdiction extends only to the boundary lines of the state of California. The jurisdiction of God's GOVERNMENT is limited to the voluntary assent of its baptized members worldwide.

Within the jurisdiction of human political government in all matters, aside from an attack to take over, own and operate God's Church, according to political will, our members are willingly subject to whatever government of man that has jurisdiction over us. We are respectable, God-fearing, law-abiding citizens in whatever country we live. We practice the law of outflowing love toward neighbor equal to self-concern. But our God is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5) who will not tolerate another usurping His rule! And in this case He will fight for us!

Mr. Attorney General, we are not in politics nor shall we be. But when your office assumed it was launching this supreme TEST CASE to test the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States you grossly underestimated God's Church! If your office assumed you were attacking a very small, weak, though a sufficiently established Church to serve as the first domino of a domino theory—that we would simply lie over and "cave in"—you must have known very little of us.

Those with us are far more powerful than any power seeking to destroy us! The Church of God is imbued with a STRENGTH greatly underestimated! God will give us the VICTORY!

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

If readers wish to know more about the true GOSPEL MESSAGE proclaimed by Jesus Christ, request, FREE, the eye-opening booklet, *Just What Do You Mean—KINGDOM OF GOD?*

Also you may receive FREE—no subscription price—*The Plain Truth*, a monthly magazine of UNDERSTANDING in full color. It has a worldwide circulation, in five languages, in excess of two million copies per month. There's no

follow-up nor request for money.

Write the Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, Calif., 91123, or call toll free, (800) 423-4444. In California call collect (213) 577-5225.

If you have some questions for the attorney general of the state of California, write to him, The Hon. George Deukmejian, California Attorney General, 555 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, Calif., 95814.

NEW YORK RADIO & TV INTERVIEWS INTRODUCE GOD'S CHURCH, ANNOUNCE GOSPEL

In the first week of August Mr. Rader was in New York state for several TV and radio interviews. They included the "Midday with Bill Boggs" show on WNEW-TV, the Candy Jones Show on radio station WMCA, and Channel 7's "Good Morning New York." In addition, Mr. Rader visited New Rochelle, where he was interviewed on the "Westchester Open Line" over WVOX radio.

These successful interviews were typical of many around the country where Mr. Rader has been representing the Worldwide Church of God, and explaining its confrontation with the California attorney general. The interviews quite often are variations on a talk show format where listeners can call in with their questions. This opens Mr. Rader to receive an extremely broad range of questions--most friendly, a few not so friendly--which he always faces squarely with spontaneity and candor.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong said in a November 1978 co-worker letter, "Even though God has called us out of the world, yet we must be IN it, and are commissioned to go TO it with Christ's gospel." And that is exactly what Mr. Rader is doing on behalf of Mr. Armstrong and the Work of God.

In every single interview there is at least one question--though usually many--from either the interviewer or a caller asking about the Church's teachings or Commission. And Mr. Rader, who has been at Mr. Armstrong's side during countless talks, speeches and sermons to world leaders and the public around the world, is well qualified to explain the Great Announcement.

Although these interviews are instrumental in informing the public of the danger of the California lawsuit to the constitutional freedoms of ALL churches, the lawsuit has become a vehicle with which to grab the interest of the casual listener. The really incredible story of the receivership invariably leads people to listen and learn about the worldwide Work and Church of the Living God, which they may not have heard of before.

One show host referred to Mr. Rader's book, Against the Gates of Hell, as certainly "not a frivolous book" and urged his listeners to get a copy. In fact, all the interviewers plugged the book repeatedly throughout their programs. This will be helpful as the book is just now going on sale in bookstores around the country. The book is another lively means by which we can explain what happened when the Church was assaulted by the state, and what the Worldwide Church of God is all about.

On the "Good Morning New York" show, Mr. Rader was asked a number of questions about "60 Minutes" and whether he thought Mike Wallace had come to do a hatchet job on him. Mr. Rader, taking advantage of the tremendous interest in the Church and related issues generated by the CBS story, clarified some of the gray areas of the 3 1/2 hour Mike Wallace interview which was virtually dismantled and reassembled in the CBS cutting rooms.

During the same talk show, Mr. Rader was asked a very interesting question by a caller. We will now quote the caller: "Good morning. My name is John Tuit. I'm the originator of the lawsuit, which is the subject of this program. My question to Mr. Rader is, why does he persist in putting forth the story that myself and the other relators were put up to

this by Garner Ted Armstrong, when in fact I was originator of this, and took this matter to my attorneys in Saddlebrook, New Jersey, the firm of Cohn and Lifland?"

Here was Mr. Rader's response: "I would say to Mr. Tuit, whom I have never met, that he'd better reread the transcript of the deposition that he gave in New Jersey last year when he indicated very clearly that he had been instigated to bring this suit through the efforts of Garner Ted Armstrong and his son, Mark." No further response was heard from this caller.

When asked about the traditional concepts of religious freedom on the Candy Jones show, Mr. Rader explained that the bottomline of all this is the role that government plays--or ought to play--in our society today, especially regarding the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution. He took the example of the Internal Revenue Service and the power it has to audit. In spite of this power, the IRS takes a very cautious approach because of the "preferred position" of churches. The IRS knows it cannot move in on a church as it might even move in against some other tax exempt charitable organization or business.

Then Mr. Rader pointed out how most states have followed the same criteria set forth in the Internal Revenue Code for their examination purposes. Following these IRS guidelines, states take care to respect the rights of churches with their first amendment protections. Mr. Rader stressed, "No one has ever said that under the guise of the First Amendment one could cloak a crime under the veil of that protection. We have never said that. No other responsible person would say it. What we have said is that there is a system of rules and procedures which must be applied very carefully, very intelligently, very sensitively by any governmental agency when they are looking into the affairs of the church, because the First Amendment gives the church a preferred position. That means, for example, in areas other than the Internal Revenue Service, that if you attack a church and you come afoul of that First Amendment, you must prove that what you are doing is constitutional."

So Mr. Rader went on to make the point that the burden of proof is on the aggressor--in this case the state. He said that now the California Attorney General is taking the public position that he does not agree with the way funds are spent by the Church. He has changed his tune and he now says that money is merely being "misused." But by whose opinion? Again, he claims it is his right and duty to determine what is "misuse"!

Perhaps the most unusual interview Mr. Rader has had to date was on the Bill Boggs show. Guests included an atheist, first amendment expert Dean Kelley of the National Council of Churches, and two IRS representatives. The discussion revolved around the separation of church and state, and tax laws pertaining to churches.

The atheist, a member of American Atheists, stood for complete separation of church and state. He proposed that this be accomplished by treating churches the same as other organizations and taxing them accordingly, as well as applying other governmental regulations. Mr. Rader pointed out the fallacy of this position, and explained how the State of California has already gone beyond the pale in claiming to own churches lock, stock

and barrel! Dean Kelley was very supportive of the position held by the Worldwide Church of God and made some fine remarks against the dangerous trend toward greater regulation of churches.

Toward the end of the program the IRS representatives came on the show, but on a separate stage (regulations did not permit them, they said, to be on the same stage with the others). They briefly discussed IRS law pertaining to churches and answered several questions from the audience present in the studio.

A frequently asked question is whether members are really asked to tithe as much as 30%. Mr. Rader replied that it was not true that members are requested to tithe 30% of their income. He said, "I myself tithe about 40% of my income, and have for a considerable period of time. But members are only required, under God's law, to tithe 10%. And then they save 10% themselves for their annual family vacation, which they attend in the fall --what we call the Feast of Tabernacles. And then every third year throughout their lifetimes, they will then donate another 10% for the indigent."

With so much talk about the receivership and the initial attack on the Church, Mr. Rader was asked to clarify the present state of the litigation and whether there is now a receiver in the Church. "No," Mr. Rader replied, "the receivership is, from a practical standpoint, not a matter of concern. [However,] it's a little bit like a sword of Damocles; that's a sword hanging over your head. But the receivership has been lifted and we have been operating our own affairs for almost a year and a half."

As the bizarre and improbable story of the lawsuit was related by Mr. Rader over radio WMCA, the show's hostess exclaimed: "I don't understand how a state can appoint a receiver to take possession of church property or records and then overtake and supervise operations until litigation has been concluded!"

"No one else can," replied Mr. Rader, "and that's one of the reasons that we were successful in getting other people [who are] interested in the First Amendment, and particularly freedom of religion, to rally to our efforts to thwart the attorney general's take over of the Church, bend it to its will or destroy it in the process. A very bizarre thing lies in the genesis of this case...."

"The attorney general actually did not begin the lawsuit," continued Mr. Rader. "There was a very abstruse section of the California Administrative Code which would permit, under a showing of the most remarkable circumstances, (which were not present here) a private person to get permission to sue in the attorney general's name. And so six former members went to a private lawyer who in turn convinced a deputy attorney general (not the attorney general, but a deputy attorney general), to permit him, the private lawyer, to bring an action in the name of the Attorney General. As soon as we put up a vigorous defense, that private attorney dropped by the wayside, the dissidents disappeared, and lo and behold the attorney general was left holding the bag and a tiger by the tail!"

One caller in New Rochelle alluded to "cults" and asked if God's Church was "truly Christian." Mr. Rader said yes, we are Christian but we can be differentiated from other churches by our beliefs. He explained we

have congregations around the world in nearly 100 nations with fully trained ministers in attendance. The services don't, he said, look unlike many protestant groups and that we are also "very, very normal people." He noted that we don't live in communes, but on the contrary, live in our communities with every intention of being a light to those around us. Concluding, Mr. Rader stated that it is therefore hard for anyone to say that we are "cultish."

While in New York, Mr. Rader was contacted at his hotel by a talk show host in Oklahoma City. Mr. Rader agreed to a telephone interview and it was a most memorable one. The host, John Dayle of KTOK radio, is a genuine down-to-earth sort of man with a ready knowledge of the Bible, but no sanctimonious airs. More of a listener than a talker, he gave Mr. Rader the floor for the better part of an hour to tell the story of the state's attack and to relate information about the Church's teachings.

Mr. Dayle was genuinely and deeply concerned about the treachery of the California attorney general and what his actions could portend for all religion. He urged his listeners to all go out and "buy Mr. Rader's book for your preacher and see that he reads it!"

* * * * *

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Hurricane "Allen": You may have wondered how our Caribbean brethren fared in the wake of hurricane "Allen" which badly hit the island nation of St. Lucia, then sideswiped Puerto Rico, Haiti and Jamaica.

Mr. Carlos Nieto, the minister from the neighboring island of Barbados, visited St. Lucia last week and reported that the coastal areas were badly hit, and severe damage was suffered by the banana and mango crops. As a result farmers can expect 8-12 months without income. Fortunately, the capital city of Castries was not hit as badly.

As far as our brethren are concerned, several lost the roofs of their homes and furniture was damaged by water. The feast site building was not damaged, but some water damage occurred which should be repaired by the time of the Feast.

God was indeed watching over his people--an inspiring example was left for everyone to see. In the village of Fond Assau, a frail little lady, who has been a member for many years, lived in a poorly-constructed house vulnerable to hurricanes. When the storm subsided, the whole village was a picture of devastation, but our member's house stood unscathed in the middle of ruins!

In Jamaica, the Runaway Bay feast site escaped serious damage and all our members are reported to be fine.

New Zealand Reports Continued Growth: July was another excellent month for income, achieving the second highest monthly income ever received by the office in New Zealand, surpassed only by June 1980! This was an increase of 26.2% over July last year, and the year-to-date increase in tithes and offerings is now running 31.7% ahead of 1979.

During the month Regional Director Bob Morton made a brief visit to Fiji, where he was able to hold a conference with our ministers from Fiji and Tonga, plus a member from Western Samoa.

The minister in Tonga, Tolu Ha'angana, reports that all the local representatives of churches sponsoring radio programs in Tonga were summoned to a meeting in late June. A number of them were given instructions about their programs and how they need to be improved. The WORLD TOMORROW program was cited as an excellent example of what a religious program should be! It was "highly recommended" because it is so educational to the public.

The Work in the Pacific Islands is growing very well, with the number of letters received so far this year totalling 143% more than for the same period last year! On the Sabbath while Mr. Morton was there, attendance in Suva totalled 58--an all-time record for that Church. While in Fiji, Mr. Morton approved additional advertising in Tonga, Fiji and Western Samoa.

This month plans were laid for a major advertising campaign later this year in which THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, along with a subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH, will be advertised nationwide via full-page, full-color ads in the two major circulation weekly magazines, full-color inserts in national daily newspapers, and a full-color householder card going to half a million homes throughout the nation.

In addition, Mr. Morton announced that the Work in New Zealand will hire two additional full-time ministers. These will be Mr. Bill Sidney, who for the last three years has been serving as a local church elder in Auckland, and Mr. Tolu Ha'angana, the local church elder in Tonga who is due to retire from his government post as Director of Agricultural Quarantine soon.

Summertime Not Slowing Work in Germany: Despite five weeks of virtually constant rain, God's people in Germany enjoyed several church socials. Among these was a Y.O.U. "Midsummer Night's Dance" on July 12th in the Bonn office. Over 60 young people from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Australia, and the United States danced into the wee hours of the morning.

On July 25th, Bonn office manager Mr. John Karlson and his family arrived back in Europe from the United States, where he had attended the Ministerial Refresher Program in Pasadena. He will be reporting on the Refresher Program to the German-language ministry during a miniconference scheduled for August 25th-26th in Bonn.

The month of July showed an upward trend with donation mail up 13% and the total mail up 188% over last year, inspite of many Germans being on summer vacation which normally tends to cause a sharp reduction in our incoming mail. Mail Income for the year to date was a 20.9% increase over July last year.

The condition of the German churches continues stable and highly supportive of God's Work and His apostle.

Offering Baskets Available for Local Churches

The Shipping and Receiving Department in Pasadena has been given 250 woven cane baskets suitable for collecting holy day offerings. We are making these available to any local church with a need. The baskets will be given out on a first come first served basis as long as the supply lasts.

The best method for ordering is to use the standard Ministerial Supply Request form, writing in "offering baskets" and the quantity needed. As usual, send the request to Ministerial Services and we will forward it to the Shipping and Receiving Department.

Comments About the Ministerial Refresher Course

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We are about to end our three weeks on the Refresher Program. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time here. It has been a real blessing to attend classes where everything has been cleared with you. We don't have to edit our notes and wonder whose side the teachers are on.

The atmosphere here at Ambassador College has improved tremendously since we were here on sabbatical in 1976-1977. I wish you could be here. You would be pleased.

This Refresher Program seems much more effective and enjoyable than the Sabbatical Program. The personnel are better now, of course, but the format also is conducive to learning. Even though it's only three weeks, I believe the wives participate more because there aren't the meals to fix and children to take care of, and we can walk to everything we need to attend. It will take weeks more to really absorb everything we have learned, but we should be in a good shape when we leave here.

When we finished our sabbatical, we had more questions than answers. Now, we have more answers than questions.

This has also been a really good atmosphere for getting to know our fellow ministers and wives. At large conferences, we see old friends and meet a few new people, but don't get to spend much time with them. Here, we have really gotten to know the others in the Refresher Program after spending eight hours a day with them in class, plus the time spent together at meals and social activities.

We would also like to express appreciation for the opportunity to get to know Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Tkach, Mr. Neff, Dr. Hoeh and other staff members who spent a lot of time with us, when they had opportunity. We certainly did enjoy that and the opportunity to visit in the homes of Mr. Helge, Mr. Rader, and Mr. Blackwell.

Thank you again, Mr. Armstrong, for this tremendous opportunity for growth. May every minister and his wife have an opportunity to be likewise refreshed, and may we all take the spirit of renewal back to God's congregations around the world.

Allan and Edna Barr

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We would like to say a big THANK YOU for the opportunity to go through the Refresher Program. It is a very exciting, informative, nourishing and positive program. We know without a doubt that God is guiding you. Man could not in a million years come up with the tremendous knowledge that God has given us through you!

There are so many areas of doctrine that you wrote about (and accurately so) many years ago that you now find yourself having to rewrite and/or put "back on the track."

As far as our instructors are concerned: Never have we seen so few give so much to so many in such a short period of time. They are to be commended for their loyalty to you and the Living Christ!

Curtis and Jannice May

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

It's hard to express in words the thrill of spending three jam-packed weeks at Pasadena for the Ministerial Refreshing Program--which has been a "breath of fresh air"! It has been the most beneficial time we have ever spent. It's also great to witness the unity, harmony, cooperation, and teamwork that is displayed throughout the campus and in every department. Once again it's a real joy to be on God's campus.

My wife and I have been tremendously inspired and recharged by all the classes. We deeply appreciated receiving the clear-cut instructions, doctrinal directives, updates, and helpful information. We are 101% behind you in every way and will do our part to uphold the Government of God in our specific area.

So thank you very, very much Mr. Armstrong for making this program possible. Thank you, Mr. Tkach, and all the staff for making our stay so enjoyable and profitable--to truly be refreshed in every way.

Terry and Jeanette Mattson

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

The Refresher Course has been extremely helpful in many ways. We have all felt the love of the instructors, our fellow ministers and wives.

The most outstanding thing is at last all are learning and speaking the same things from men who are truly dedicated.

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for making it all possible.

Karl and Gaylon Beyersdorfer

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Having completed two weeks of the Ministerial Refresher Program, my wife and I would like to express our appreciation for the program and for every thing you are doing in the Work. Everything we have seen has impressed us.

In my ten years in the ministry I have never felt or seen such a spirit of unity as currently exists. We feel more a part of the team than ever before and consider it a genuine privilege to serve with you in this Work.

The classes are exciting and informative. We appreciate what you, Mr. Armstrong, and those in Ministerial Services are doing to help us do our job better. My wife and I want to soak up as much as we can while here, considering it our responsibility to carry this information back to the local congregation.

In the last two years we have often heard you say that Jesus Christ is "putting the Church back on the right track." Our experience in this program is enabling us to more fully understand and appreciate this statement as we see the fruits of God's Spirit manifested.

Noel and Becky Hornor

Greetings Mr. Armstrong:

Jan and I wanted to convey to you our heartfelt thanks for the new Refresher Program for the ministry. Truly it is like a "breath of fresh air." We know this program is going to have a very positive effect upon the whole church when all of our ministers worldwide will be speaking and acting from the same guidelines.

We want you to know the staff has done an excellent job in conducting the program on your behalf. We also want to say a special thanks for permitting the wives to attend. This program has been a big boost for them as well.

Again we want you to know this program will be producing positive fruit in the years to come.

Dan Creed

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Here we are back at Ambassador College! Back to classes and fine fellowship. My wife and I are here for the second session of the Ministerial Refresher Course, and it is great! It is good to hear basic instruction on the Bible and to be regrounded on basic doctrines. Thank you for making this course possible. We feel that the entire ministry will benefit from this program.

Richard and Sally Parker

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

BOSTON, MA; PROVIDENCE, RI--JIM FRANKS: We really appreciated the visit to the Boston Providence church areas by Leon Walker and Robin Webber recently. A year ago when I moved into this area attitudes were very negative toward the Work and its leadership. But a refreshing change has taken place in the area over the past year. It was really good to hear so many people making positive comments about the film and about Mr. Armstrong in particular. We still have our problems, but most of the "bad apples" are gone and they have been more than replaced by all the new people who have begun attending in the past year--attendance is up over 30% in the two churches.

BUFFALO, NY--DANIEL J. BIERER: Members continue to grow in understanding of Mr. Armstrong's leadership and authority as well as the work and role of Mr. Rader. I have completed Mr. Rader's book and it is excellent!

Thank you very much for sending the speakers on the G-II. The message from Mr. Armstrong delivered by Dr. Kessler was uplifting and edifying. The brethren here really enjoyed the documentary because it gave them an eye-opening overview of the injustice to God's Work by the State of California. Thanks again!

MICHIGAN CITY, IN--RAND MILLICH: Many of the members were able to hear Mr. Rader in Chicago (Aug. 2). Every single one expressed their appreciation of the sermon he gave. They are impressed favorably with the way that God is using him.

MERIDEN, CT--LARRY WOOLDRIDGE: The Church here really appreciated the film "Church vs State." It was quite an eye opener and really contributes to the further stabilization of God's Church. Thanks again.

CONCORD, NH--DAN ROGERS: Recent G-II trips by Mr. Neff and Kevin Dean to Maine and New Hampshire brought an enthusiastic response from all the people here in northern New England. Everyone is still talking about how powerful, cogent, and inspiring the movie was.

CLEVELAND EAST, OH--GUY L. ENGLEBART: Everything is going well except for normal problems. All the brethren were eagerly looking forward to hearing from Mr. Armstrong via the telephone hookup and were sorry that it did not come through. They appreciated Mr. Blackwell's sermon, however. Hopefully, there will be another telephone hookup with Mr. Armstrong soon.

PITTSBURGH EAST, PA--DON J. LAWSON: Highlighter of month was phone sermon from Dean Blackwell.

BALTIMORE, MD--ROY DEMEREST: My wife and I have returned home excited and aroused by the Refresher Program. I hope it will become a regular requirement for the worldwide ministry.

MIAMI, FL--AL KERSHA: The average attendance the last couple of months has been noticeably higher. Attitudes seem noticeably

better. The brethren seem to be sinking their "roots" deeper into the Church. More people are talking about the end times and the imminency of the great tribulation. Overall, a positive and sober spirit exists in our area.

ELKHART, IN--RAND MILLICH: We continue to be getting new individuals who are interested in the Worldwide Church of God. Many have been reading the P.T. for years. Now they want to begin acting on what they know. This has been encouraging to the rest of the congregation.

PORTSMOUTH, OHIO--DAVE TREYBIG: Some friends of members starting to attend services. Growth at this time seems to be coming by word of mouth rather than through broadcast, PT Newsstands, etc. This month had highest monthly attendance ever. Small earthquake in this usually calm area set many to thinking of end time more fervently. No injuries or property damage to members. Much appreciation for Mr. Armstrong's Galatians tapes. Church loyal and growing.

MOBILE, AL--STEVEN D. MOODY: We have had consistently high attendance this month--showing a renewed zeal for learning and an increased awareness of the sobering times in which we are living.

We have had our first meeting in Biloxi as I write this. The attendance was overwhelming--186!! We had many visitors for we calculated only 100 possible people. We started with a lot of enthusiasm and appreciation for the new congregation.

MIDLAND, MI--GERALD WESTON: The youth have made excellent progress in the last year. They are becoming more responsive and respectful, and are really getting into activities on the Sabbath such as Bible studies and Bible games.

Weekly Letter Comments

The letters this week begin with gratitude to Mr. Armstrong from a couple who held fast to truth delivered by God's Apostle. Other comments show that the audiovisual presentations produced by Media Services are being enthusiastically received in the Churches; the new edition of THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY is again bearing fruit; and subscribers, co-workers and members alike tell us they are solidly behind Mr. Armstrong and God's Work despite the "60 Minutes" rerun of their program about the Church.

God's Apostle Laid the Foundation

Mr. Armstrong, we cannot find the words to adequately express the deep feelings and the great esteem with which we hold you in our hearts.

In the 1960s and early 70s it was your written articles in The PLAIN TRUTH, TOMORROW'S WORLD, and GOOD NEWS which led us faithfully into sound Biblical doctrine. When the troubles came in the 70s we remembered and held fast. We knew who was God's Apostle and your

articles gave us a good solid grounding in God's Word and we were not shaken from it. We feel fiercely loyal and protective towards you and are solidly behind you to the end. We love you very dearly and we just say "Thank You" with our whole heart. May God bless and keep you to the end.

--Bill & Aimi C., Surrey, U.K.

Audiovisual Presentations Create Excitement

We thank you so much for sending Mr. John Halford to Eugene with his crew that we might have the documentary on Haggai, as well as the slides showing the brethren in other lands. This truly was wonderful. The illustration of the book of Haggai was impressive and it made the words of the book clear.... I am reminded that a picture is worth a thousand words. I really hope that we can have much more of this form of teaching.

--Mrs. D.L. (Eugene, OR)

Just a few words of appreciation and gratitude to you (Mr. Armstrong) for allowing Mr. and Mrs. John Halford and their crew to visit our church here in Eugene. It really gave all of us a great feeling of being a part of this great Work. We thoroughly enjoyed the film on the other churches.

--Ruth M. (Springfield, OR)

Mr. Killebrew's presentation to the Tampa Church on the book of Haggai was very educational and gave us a better understanding of the book.

--Mrs. Kathleen F. (Seffner, FL)

"U.S. And Britain In Prophecy" Has Impact

We have just finished reading through once again the latest edition of THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. It is very inspiring to see and understand Israel's true identity and to know God's truth and to experience the good results of following God's true way.

--Ken & Donna R. (Austin, TX)

I gave my brother-in-law the book called THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. I told him to use a United States history book and the Bible together with it, as references. He did and said he really understands the book now.

--Frederick M. (Louisville, KY)

I have just read your book, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. I am very surprised that I have never heard or read anywhere, or from anybody, the interpretation of Bible prophecies the way you interpret them. For some reason I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that they are correct.

--R.D. (Bronx, NY)

We have just received the "old-new" book THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. And after reading only the introduction, it is exciting! Having grown up in the Church, many of these truths were taken for granted. Now, on our own and as second generation members, those truths hold a first love fascination and awe. God's truth is certainly living! Thank you sincerely for sharing it with us.

--Mr. & Mrs. Colin W. (Howard, SD)

Many See Through "60 MINUTES"

Mr. Armstrong, I saw 60 MINUTES rerunning the program they did some-time back about God's true Church. I missed the program the first time they ran it. Let me say this--this attack by Mike Wallace in no way, I repeat, in no way shakes my absolute confidence in you as Jesus Christ's one and only apostle (one sent). Not just minister but apostle! Also my confidence in Mr. Rader as your able assistant whom CHRIST has sent you. Would you do me a favor? Please convey that to Mr. Rader.

--Harry T. (Richmond, KY)

I just finished watching 60 MINUTES on television. I want to assure you, Mr. Armstrong, that my support is behind you as God's apostle and human leader of the Church. My prayers, tithes and offerings will always be in your support.

--Michael B. (Wichita, KS)

I am writing to offer my encouragement to you to carry on with the work for which God called you. I saw the last few minutes of the program about the Worldwide Church of God on 60 MINUTES. I am very disappointed with CBS for showing that program again. I do not believe that you or Mr. Rader have done anything wrong or illegal.

--Roger Y. (Richmond, VA)

I want you to know that I didn't pay any attention to that 60 MINUTES program I heard on Mr. Rader and the Church. I think you are a man sent from God.

--Mrs. Margaret S. (Louisville, KY)

We are thankful that you, Mr. Armstrong, have working with you a man that understands who you are and what God is doing. We plan to write to Mr. Stan Rader to thank him for defending the faith and for telling this nation on 60 MINUTES who you are.

--Mr. & Mrs. Carl D. (Fort Myers, FL)

Mr. Armstrong, let nothing discourage you--not any broadcast on T.V. or anything else. If God is for you, who can be against you?

--Mrs. Rilla M. (Fayetteville, NC)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

NOTICE TO ALL CHURCH PASTORS

Anyone needing information concerning Allen Haynes should contact either Vernon Hargrove at (317) 844-8535 or Charles Crain at (703) 928-1167.

--Ministerial Services

****TO BE ANNOUNCED IN ALL U.S. CHURCHES****

Second Tithe Assistance

All member second tithe assistance requests should be handled through the local pastors before the Feast of Tabernacles. Members should not go to the feast without sufficient funds expecting assistance at the festival site. Only limited funds for genuine emergencies will be available at festival locations, and then only with the local pastor's recommendation.

--Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

This has been a very busy summer for many of the faculty of Ambassador. Some members have been serving S.E.P. at Orr, and others have been teaching summer classes, or classes in Continuing Education here in Pasadena.

This Sunday, August 17th, there will be a Faculty Meeting, followed by a Faculty Dinner. The following Monday (18th) Orientation Week will begin for all of the students. It looks like we will have one of the best freshmen classes we have ever had. Total enrollment is expected to reach just under 500--with 450 resident students. The others are either married students, or are local students living with their parents at home.

During the summer we had about 30 students in Israel working at the "Jerusalem Dig," as we have come to call it. All went well with the students. Mr. Richard Paige was in charge of the students and reported that they set a good example while in Israel. All of the students are now back in Pasadena.

Also, just a few weeks ago, twelve (mostly students) were sent to Thailand to serve a six-month period as teachers of English and Western culture to the refugees now living in Thailand. Mr. John Halford will soon return from Thailand where he has been working with the students to make sure they are properly supervised, provided for, etc. He recently reported that all is going well with the students on the Thai Expedition.

About seventy Japanese students recently completed a three-week course of instruction at Ambassador. They were instructed in English, American history and culture. The Japanese students and their chaperons were all quite impressed with the Ambassador campus, with the students and the A.C. faculty.

During the summer 102 students were enrolled in summer classes here at Ambassador. In addition to this a number of Continuing Education classes were conducted for employees and local church members who wished to enroll in such classes.

The new 1980 Envoy is coming along very well. Mr. Dennis Robertson (Director of College Publications) and I have gone over the copy for the new Envoy, having scrutinized the page proofs from the publisher, and both of us think the 1980 Envoy will be quite a book. Mr. Armstrong told me it would be O.K. to sell the Envoy at the Feast of Tabernacles, as we have done in the past. [More important information about the 1980 Envoy appears in an article immediately following this update.]

The annual Faculty Reception will be held on Thursday evening, August 21, at 7:30 p.m. We all look forward to this gala occasion. It is one of the highlights of the year. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong could be in attendance at this Faculty Reception, but it doesn't look as though they will be able to make it.

Mr. Armstrong informed me today that he definitely intends to speak to the students during the coming college year--thinks he may speak to them via a special video hookup. We certainly hope so. This will both encourage and inspire the students as well as the faculty.

The following changes have been made in the curriculum for the 1980-81 college year. Mr. Armstrong has decided that both Music Appreciation (to be taught by Mr. Gerald Bieritz) and a typing course will be required of all students--except those who can pass a 40 w.p.m. typing test. Also, for the coeds, Mr. Armstrong has directed that Home Ec is to be required of all women students.

And in order to further strengthen the curriculum, Principles of Living and Marriage and the family will be a two-semester course instead of just one semester as in the recent past. This increased emphasis on marriage and the family, and on proper understanding of the principles governing a happy courtship and marriage will better enable the students to fulfill their God-ordained roles in life.

I am sure all of you will greatly look forward to seeing the 1980 Feast Show which Mr. Ross Jutsum, Director of the A.C. Band and the Young Ambassadors, has put together for the soon-coming Feast of Tabernacles. Mr. Armstrong has already seen the show, and liked it very much. I am sure you ministers, your wives and children will also enjoy this show very much during the Feast.

I am happy to report that all is coming along very well with Ambassador College. Ambassador is back on the track. Now, we want to pick up speed as we continue down the track which Mr. Armstrong has set for us. We must gain momentum, and make sure that we are properly training the future leaders of the Work of God and of His Church through this instrument--the West Point of God's Church.

We appreciate very much the input which you ministers give relative to Ambassador--especially your evaluations of prospective students--and pray that all of you will continue to be very positive toward the College. Thanks again for your steadfast, dedicated and loyal support of God's College. We hope you will be happy with the fruit of Ambassador College --as more and more students who have been taught God's way join many of you in God's human harvest field.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

1980 ENVOY TO BE READY FOR FEAST

Last year Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong authorized the publication of a 1980 Envoy. The book has been completed and is due back from the publishers around September 1. Shipments will be sent to Feast sites in the U.S. and Canada since Mr. Armstrong has agreed that the Envoy should be made available to the brethren at this year's Feast of Tabernacles.

The 1980 Envoy is the largest single-campus book we have ever published, since previous large editions included the three campuses. This year there are 224 pages in all, with almost 60% of the book in full color.

The 1980 Envoy is special this year in three ways: (1) Our cover is the most original one ever designed for an Envoy, featuring a landmark that has become synonymous with Ambassador College; (2) three different paper stocks were used to emphasize the three main divisions of the book (all of the highest quality); and (3) not only have we covered Ambassador and its various activities, but a special 48-page section has been dedicated to covering God's Work worldwide, including Mr. Armstrong's travels, world offices (pictures of directors in each area and office personnel), the Work in Pasadena (the major departments with pictures of personnel), the Feast of Tabernacles, and a map of the world showing various church locations, festival sites, and world offices.

It is truly one of the best Envoys we have ever produced!

You may wish to inform your congregations that we hope to have the new Envoy ready for distribution at the Feast sites. It will cost \$15.00 per copy, and Mr. Armstrong has said it is O.K. to pay for this out of second tithe. Some time during the Feast of Tabernacles, information will be provided telling how and where the brethren can procure a copy of the new 1980 Envoy. Because of the shortness of time, we plan to have the publisher ship a certain number of Envoys directly to each feast site in the U.S. and Canada.

We believe you will all be pleased with the 1980 Envoy--and may wish to give a copy of it to a friend or relative. We think you will find the new 48-page "focus on the Worldwide Work of God" section especially interesting and informative. And we will appreciate your comments and suggestions so we can make future Envoys even better.

--Raymond F. McNair and
Dennis Robertson,
Director of A.C. Publications

MR. ARMSTRONG'S "MNC" LETTER DRAWS RECORD RESPONSE!

In our last update for the Pastor General's Report, we mentioned the marvelous response that has been coming in for THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY--as a result of Mr. Herbert Armstrong's recent co-worker/member letter and semi-annual letter which offered the book.

The good news is continuing. We again have a record response from another one of Mr. Armstrong's letters. In this case it is the "Make New Co-Worker" (MNC) letter which is sent to people who indicate an interest in supporting the Work of God as full-fledged co-workers. (Following the approved and established policy of Mr. Armstrong, we send this letter only after a subscriber has made two voluntary contributions in a six-month period).

The latest MNC letter from Mr. Armstrong has produced the highest donation rate we've seen from these letters. During the past four years the MNC letters averaged 39 people responding to become new co-workers per 1000 letters mailed. However, the current MNC letter generated 112 new co-workers per 1,000 letters mailed. This was nearly triple the previous average!

We believe that this dramatic increase in the number of people wanting to support God's Church is another positive indication of the turnaround that is taking place in God's Work.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

NEW P.T. PROMOTIONAL METHOD BEING TESTED

We are currently testing an important and potentially very effective new promotional method through a company called "Supermarket Communications Systems," which distributes promotional pieces for other magazines such as U.S. News, Time, Money and others.

Beginning July 1, 1980, we began distribution of PLAIN TRUTH promotional flyers in supermarkets in California, Massachusetts, and Ohio on what is called "Good Neighbor Bulletin Boards" located at the store entrances. Each large and colorful bulletin board has enough space for approximately 25 different advertising brochures.

We are already witnessing an excellent response from this promotional method; and if the cost effectiveness proves satisfactory, we will consider expansion into more supermarkets in many new localities throughout the United States. We'll certainly keep you informed of progress and developments in this new distribution program.

--Publishing Services

ON THE WORLD SCENEREPORT FROM SOUTH AMERICA, CONCLUSION: BRAZIL--TROUBLED BUT DETERMINED GIANT CONTEMPLATES "COMMON MARKET" FOR SOUTH AMERICA

Perhaps the best introduction to Brazil is to land first at Sao Paulo, its major industrial urban complex in the southeast. Mr. Speaks and I flew there from Buenos Aires. No guidebook can possibly prepare you for the impact of the enormous size of this city, with its estimated 10 million

people and another 5 million in the suburban areas. That makes Sao Paulo the largest city in South America and second in population to Mexico City in the Western Hemisphere. Brazil's census later this year will undoubtedly uncover even more people in this industrial megalopolis of 43,000 manufacturing enterprises (and it is still the heart of the coffee-growing region).

Brazil's mushrooming population now stands unofficially at 123 million, placing it sixth in the world (after China, India, U.S.S.R., U.S.A., and Indonesia). Brazil's land mass--larger than the original 48 U.S. states--makes it the fifth largest country in the world.

Traffic congestion in Sao Paulo (Portuguese for Saint Paul) is incredibly heavy, though it does flow. Nearly all the cabs are VW "bugs" (with the right front seat removed to facilitate passenger ingress). Because of all of the Brazilian-made VW's of all types, traffic is not only heavy but noisy. And the sights of Sao Paulo equal the sounds. No matter where one stands in this city of many hills, the view of the horizon is always the same--an unbroken panorama of pastel-colored concrete; an endless sweep of 10-15-story buildings, commercial and residential.

Sao Paulo has a hurried tempo about it, unlike Rio de Janeiro, where the pace is more relaxed, no doubt due to Rio's incalculably beautiful scenery (site of some of the world's greatest beaches). Yet the hustle and bustle of Sao Paulo masks, for the casual visitor, the extremely precarious state of Brazil's economy.

Boom Plays Out

The years 1968-74 were Brazil's boom years--until OPEC lowered another kind of boom--sharply accelerated oil prices. As a result, Brazil is now saddled with a \$52 billion dollar foreign debt, with little hope of ever paying it off, only "rolling it over." U.S. banks are up to the lower eyelids in financing Brazil's debt--over \$13 billion dollars worth of it (Citibank alone is out \$3 billion, a sum equal to its entire stockholders' equity. Chase Manhattan is similarly exposed).

The major problem, of course, is oil, the one resource the giant country seriously lacks. It presently imports about 84% of its requirements, most of it from Iraq. Yet, unlike the United States, Brazil is actively doing what it can to increase its own production, diversify its foreign sources of supply, enforce conservation and--most importantly of all--to substitute homegrown, renewable plant-based fuels for fossil fuels.

In Brasilia, the 20-year-old inland capital of Brazil, we had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Cesar Cals, the Minister of Mines and Energy, perhaps the most important cabinet post after the Minister of Finance.

In a fast-paced 45-minute session, the energetic Senor Cals outlined for us, without notes at hand, the complexities of Brazil's energy dilemma and how his government is dealing with it. First of all, there is an ambitious hydroelectric program underway, including the construction of the world's largest power dam at Itaipu on the Parana River (jointly constructed with Paraguay). Nuclear power production is being pushed hard, without regard to reservations from Washington concerning plutonium

reprocessing. Increased output from coal, wood, peat, shale, oil, "biomass"--every conceivable resource angle is being pursued in order to slash oil imports now running at a million barrels a day.

The most important program is the one most visible to the public: the increased use of alcohol as a passenger car fuel. The alcohol is derived from wood, sugar cane and soon, manioc, a cassava which can be grown in Brazil's abundant marginal savannah brushlands, which are not conducive for cultivation of other edibles.

Senor Cals told us that this year, hopefully 250,000 cars (Brazil has the world's seventh largest automotive industry) will be produced whose engines run only on alcohol. Already there are 70,000 such cars. Everywhere one sees cars and vans (usually operated by state agencies) which have signs on them, MOTIVADO A ALCOOL--propelled by alcohol. Every station operated by Petrobras, the national petroleum refiner, contains two kinds of pumps: The green pump dispenses a mixture of 80% petroleum, 20% alcohol; the white pump, 100% alcohol. No pumps contain pure petroleum. The alcohol fuel gives 20% less fuel efficiency, but costs (because of a subsidy) 30% less. (But Petrobras officials in Rio told us of an efficiency breakthrough process developed only a week earlier.)

Brazil might probably never become completely import-free, but it is making strides to redress its perilous imbalance.

Talk of South American "Common Market"

Partly because of its energy dilemma, Brazil is coming out of its self-imposed isolation in Latin America. It is cooperating with other nations in the Hemisphere to an extent thought impossible years ago. Brazil hopes to purchase more petroleum from Venezuela, a neighbor that curiously has so much of the one resource Brazil lacks. Just before our trip, President Lopes Portillo of Mexico paid an official state visit to Brasilia. Increased oil imports from Mexico are now in the offing.

Most important of all, however, is the sudden blossoming of relations between Brazil and Argentina, the two nations of the continent which have long been at odds with each other--competitors for influence and power in South America. In May President Figueiredo of Brazil traveled to Buenos Aires--the first visit by a Brazilian head of state there in 40 years! He and President Videla of Argentina signed a series of accords, including one on the sharing of nuclear technology (intended to show that in their nuclear development they will not be rivals).

These agreements, according to a joint statement, provide for the "integration of the two economies" (they largely complement each other rather than compete) and--note this: the development of a "truly effective Latin American common market."

Such talk of South American integration is not new; it surfaces every decade or so. But this time, it has a certain ring of determination about it. Says William Giandoni, the Copley News Service Latin American writer:

"There is new talk of a 'United States of South America'.... Clearly Figueiredo is thinking in terms of eventual continental integration and, what is more, Gen. Videla and many of the farsighted men around him appear to have a similar objective in mind...."

"What Argentina has in abundance--oil, natural gas and wheat, Brazil lacks. What Brazil has--advanced technology, industrial capacity and certain farm products, Argentina could use...."

Giandoni then points out another important factor in the "glue" beginning to bind the two powers: "What links Brazil and Argentina, particularly at this time, is a growing fear that they can no longer rely on the United States to defend the Western world."

Together, these two countries could bring South America as a whole into a key relationship with the world-encompassing economic Babylonish system prophesied in the eighteenth chapter of Revelation.

POSTSCRIPT: Since we were scheduled to be in Rio over a weekend, Mr. Walker asked us to meet on the Sabbath with the four ladies who are church members in that city, which we gladly did. Four other individuals, three women and one man (the husband of one) who are also very interested in the church, showed up too. Incidentally, it was through the efforts of one of the ladies, Mrs. Deborah Rodrigues and her husband, that we were able to meet with Minister Cals. Mr. Rodrigues is a retired general who knows the "powers that be" in Brasilia. (In another pleasant surprise, an individual from the government's Public Relations office was placed exclusively at our service for the two days we were there.) Regarding the "littlest of the little flock" in Rio, it is to be hoped that as the Work grows in South America, especially in neighboring Argentina and Chile, the needs of these scattered members can be met more frequently.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau