

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 22, 1980

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY PASSES PETRIS BILL!

Senator Petris' bill, SB 1493, has just been passed [August 21] by the Assembly by a wide majority. Therefore, to date, the bill has been successfully heard, argued and passed by the entire Senate, the entire Assembly, and three subcommittees.

The bill, because it was slightly amended after the Senate hearing last May, must return to the Senate and then to Governor Brown's office for signature or veto.

At this point of time, however, regardless of what the final outcome of the bill might be due to gross misrepresentations of law and fact by the attorney general and his political cronies, one undeniable fact will forever remain cast in concrete. That is the fact that in spite of a virtual onslaught by the attorney general to stop the bill to date, and grossly false charges of wrongdoing against all churches as well as an attempt to create a real hysteria of fears against religionists, the bill has gotten through all the forums mentioned.

In other words, the California legislature has truly expressed not only its concern but its fear of the unbridled and irresponsible conduct being taken by the attorney general's office. This, mind you, even over the attorney general's constant recrimination that churches are stealing millions of dollars each year from the public and the interjection of possibly another Jonestown by religionists.

Therefore, our position that Deukmejian is deceitful and dangerous has been confirmed, in effect, by the California legislature.

As we have expressed in the past many times, we do not know if the Petris bill will in fact benefit the Church and its pending litigation. Its wording or its legal effect may not have this result. Mr. Rader and I, at least, individually, were behind the bill, however, if for no other reason than that it would protect other churches in the future. We are convinced that the protection of their religious freedoms would also be to the benefit of our proclaiming the Gospel because the constitutional right of religious freedom is not divided. In other words, there is not one provision for one church and another provision for another church and a third for us. There is only one guarantee for religious freedom. That guarantee of religious freedom is "our" right, one that belongs to all of us. When you suppress the right of any one church you are in fact suppressing the right of all churches.

We want the bill to pass, but if it does not, the attorney general will never be able to erase the stigma that the entire California legislature has viewed his conduct as reprehensible, irresponsible and a threat to religious freedoms.

--Ralph K. Helge, Legal Office

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LEARNS MORE ABOUT GOD'S CHURCH

Mr. Stanley Rader was once again invited to the state capital of California by leading television and radio stations. Partially due to the interest generated by the Church's full-page ads appearing in major newspapers around the country, many talk show hosts are extremely interested in interviewing Mr. Rader on their programs.

Tuesday, August 19th, things started off with a bang as he was interviewed for two hours on a call-in radio show conducted by a relatively hostile radio commentator in Sacramento. She constantly tried to put Mr. Rader in difficult and awkward situations, but to no avail. For every loaded question she would ask him, Mr. Rader would turn it around and use it to our advantage. She didn't want to give him the opportunity, but he made the opportunity to talk about the good works of the Church and labeled as "absolute foolishness" the efforts of those who were trying to dig up dirt about us and misrepresent us. As those of us in the studio audience watched, we shook our heads with admiration in that despite her caustic and discourteous remarks towards Mr. Rader, he remained composed, friendly and polite.

That evening opportunities continued to present themselves. The ABC affiliate, KOVR-TV, asked Mr. Rader to be the sole guest on their half-hour long program entitled, "State Capital." Capital correspondent, John Iander started the telecast by highlighting Mr. Armstrong's latest full-page ads. He asked Mr. Rader what the attorney general of the state is trying to prove. Mr. Rader answered, "He is trying to show that he is the self-styled abiter of all churches in this state. He is trying to set a dangerous precedent for other bureaucrats and politicians to follow."

Asked about his role with Mr. Armstrong and this fight for the preservation of religious liberty he replied, "The Worldwide Church of God has been spearheading the drive to protect all of our vital First Amendment freedoms. Mr. Armstrong is the razor-sharp point on the head of that spear, and the rest of us back him up. All together, we form a very viable tool in the hands of Jesus Christ. Christ is working through His Apostle. Mr. Armstrong is sort of like the commander-in-chief, and I am his chief-of-staff carrying out his orders and helping him direct this Godly offensive." Mr. Rader went on to say, "Remember, we are not on the defensive, we are on the offensive in using this opportunity like the Apostle Paul did to show the world that God directs and rules His Church, not Caesar." This program will air twice during the following week and has a potential viewing audience of six million people!

His next stop was the only 10:00 p.m. hour-long news program in northern California. KPXL-TV, the west coast's most extensive UHF station, which is picked up by cable T.V. companies in 16 states, featured Mr. Rader as their special guest. Anchorman Pete Wilson and producer Bob Cook (the former press secretary for George Deukmejian) asked Mr. Rader why the Church doesn't just turn everything over and prove we are innocent. Mr. Rader gently corrected them and at the same time reminded them, "Let's never forget that the laws of this land make it powerfully clear that it is not our burden to prove our innocence when we are criminally accused by a so-called public defender. It is his job, and the state's responsibility, to prove that their allegations are true. We are innocent until

Mr. Attorney General of California:

Are you enforcing, or breaking, the law by persecuting the Church of the living GOD?

A GAIN I ASK, *HOW* are you justifying the surprise massive armed attack against the Church of the living God?

You contend all churches are charitable trusts and that they ought to be owned, controlled and managed by your office! And *WHY?* To protect, you contend, the handling of public funds.

This STATE AGAINST CHURCH battle launched by your office has mushroomed to national concern. The Worldwide Church of God defends the constitutional rights of all churches—with their welcome legal aid—in this struggle for religious freedom!

You, Mr. Attorney General, do not make the laws. They are made in our country by the Congress and various state legislatures. You were elected to office, and sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to enforce the law in the state of California.

The First Amendment to the Constitution protects the church from the state, saying no law shall be made concerning religion or the free exercise thereof. The Worldwide Church of God has violated no law. You have been unable to charge it with any lawbreaking. Are you, then, arrogating to yourself the lawmaking prerogative?

It's time we clarify the whole question. It's time the PEOPLE you are sworn to protect understand what you are doing!

Just what is a charitable trust? And what, contrariwise, is a church?

The Church, says the Holy Bible, is the spiritual "Body of Christ." It is that Body of "called out ones" who are the begotten children of the Holy God. They are called by God out of the secular world—a spiritual organism, not a secular organization.

Jesus Christ is the designated Head of the Church. He said, "I will build my Church." Its purpose and function is dual. 1) Jesus commanded its apostles, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel." 2) He commanded, "Feed my sheep." Feed members spiritual food.

How is the Church of God financed? As God has directed, by the tithes and freewill (unsolicited) offerings of God's people. The Worldwide Church of God never solicits the public for contributions. It handles only God's money—not the public's money. And it reports regularly to those giving God's money on how and for what it is expended.

Let me here reveal some of the inner workings and organized procedures of this Church—unique among all churches or institutions in the world. You, Mr. Attorney General, should have done your homework and familiarized yourself with these facts before your office launched this unconstitutional persecution!

Notice carefully. The Worldwide Church of God is neither a charitable trust nor a small "cult" as you apparently assumed.

First, how do we carry out the Great Commission—go to all the world with Christ's Message?

Beginning January, 1934, our *World Tomorrow* radio program went on the air, then weekly. By 1942 it became daily. In all these years it has never ceased. By the decade of the '60s we used more wattage of radio power than any program on earth. Beginning 1965, the program went on television coast to coast. This became the largest allocation on the annual budget.

Beginning February, 1934, we began publication of what has become one of the world's finest mass-circulation magazines, *The Plain Truth*, a magazine of understanding. It is free to the



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

public—no subscription price, carries no advertising, full color, in five languages, circulation over two million monthly. This unique magazine covers the real meaning behind world news, human interest subjects, human and world problems viewed from the biblical approach. It sparkles with dynamic human interest. A subscription is offered the public *free*, but only on request.

We send, tuition free, but only on request, a monthly Bible Correspondence Course, currently with 50,000 enrolled students. Exams are required and graded at regular intervals.

Besides this we offer the public, free, without follow-up request for contributions, multiple millions of copies of booklets, books and other attractive literature.

Finally, we carry the Gospel Message into the world by PERSONAL EVANGELISM. Ordained evangelists have conducted public lectures in many cities in the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, nations in Africa, Asia and elsewhere around the world.

Last of all, and least in expenditure on our annual budget of any operation or department, have been my personal tours proclaiming Christ's Message into many parts of the world. I have held personal lectures before large public audiences in many countries. I have conferred with privately, on their personal invitation, many kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers and other top echelon officials of many nations. I have received highest honors from such nations as Japan, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, the Philippines, Lebanon, Thailand, Nepal, Ethiopia, South Africa, Costa Rica, Chile, India, the People's Republic of China and others.

These missions, commanded by Jesus Christ, are what you have denounced as "siphoning off millions of dollars every year" for the personal account of myself and Stanley R. Rader who has accompanied me. Yet this Gospel function was allocated the smallest amount on our annual budget!

How Carry Out the Second Church Function—Feeding the Flock?

We have hundreds of local congregations all over the world, pastored by ordained ministers. These are unique in that 98 percent to 100 percent of members attend regular weekly Sabbath services. Our ministers hold, besides, week-night Bible studies.

We issue weekly from Pasadena headquarters a *Pastor General's Report* for all ministers. It contains up-to-the-minute news of Church activities. Ministers pass much of this on to their congregations.

Next, we issue for all members biweekly a tabloid newspaper, *The Worldwide News*. This regularly informs members on Church activities and how God's money is being spent. Also news of local congregations and personal news concerning members.

Still further, we publish for all members a monthly full-color magazine, *The Good News*. This magazine contains articles teaching the ways of Christian living, good neighborliness, spiritual food from the Bible. It "feeds the flock" in print.

Finally, as one division of the Mail Processing Department, is the Personal Correspondence Service. Here ordained ministers answer thousands of personal letters from both members and the public, answering biblical questions and giving personal counsel.

For These Dual Functions, How Organized?

In the Church (I Corinthians 12) are spiritual gifts imparted by God's Holy Spirit for the various administrations and operations God has set in these spiritual offices: apostles, evangelists, pastors, teachers, elders. They are not elected but chosen by Christ. The government in the Church of God is theocratic and hierarchical, from God, through Christ through His chosen apostle and on down, as established by Jesus Christ and the New Testament. The living Christ is Head of the Church.

Training for Service

The Worldwide Church of God maintains its own educational institutions—both on the college level and elementary. Ambassador College has been founded on three campuses—Pasadena, Texas and England. We have maintained elementary and secondary schools on all three campuses for children of members.

These liberal arts colleges, with theological majors, were founded to train ministers and other personnel. The campus in Pasadena was founded in 1947, in England in 1960 and in Texas in 1964. When needed personnel provided from the English and Texas campuses became adequate, they were closed, but the Pasadena campus continues.

When Jesus Christ first founded the Church of God, He personally taught and trained the original apostles. Thereafter ministers and needed personnel were trained by apostles. In Old Testament times, the prophet Elijah had organized three colleges, called "Sons of the Prophets."

The Worldwide Church of God is utterly unique, even among churches. It is the present generation of the SAME CHURCH. Jesus Christ founded A.D. 31, with all operations and organization continuing as outlined in the Bible. True, we do some things other churches do not and refrain from some things others do. But we neither proselyte nor compete. We hold only love for all. And we wage this defense for ALL churches!

But, Mr. Attorney General, in the present persecution you have attacked the living God and His Church.

I have explained above what this Church really is, its purposes and functions, how organized and operated.

Now, contrariwise, WHAT IS A PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST? It is a secular firm or organization formed by legal agreement in which confidence is placed for the handling of PUBLIC CONTRIBUTED MONEY. We have none of the factors that compose a charitable trust.

We handle only God's money for God's commanded purposes, freely and voluntarily given by God's people for the purposes for which it is expended.

You're sworn duty, Mr. Attorney General, is to enforce THE LAW—not break the law contrary to the Constitution by persecuting churches whose liberties and rights are guaranteed by the First Amendment!

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

Appeared in the Los Angeles Times August 22, 1980

If the reader would care to examine any of the publications mentioned above, a sample copy will be sent gratis upon request—no follow-up. You may also receive a sample copy or subscription (no subscription price) of *The Plain Truth* magazine upon request.

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.

proven guilty. And, after 20 months of intensive effort the attorney general can find nothing to substantiate his wild and unfounded charges."

Mr. Rader's comments, which also included a complete description of the Church's commission and compliance with its Biblical responsibilities, were so informative that the producers of the show allowed the interview, which was supposed to be just 10 minutes in duration, to stretch over to 15 minutes. Obviously, they felt this topic and this Church are as the T.V. industry calls it, "catchy material."

So did the ABC live television program that follows AM America called "Morning Scene." Hosted by gregarious and entertaining Chet Castleman, this is one of northern California's most popular variety interview shows, and the only one that allows its listening audience to call in questions during the show, much like the format of the Phil Donahue Show. As with the two previous T.V. interviews, Mr. Rader's book, Against the Gates of Hell, was publicized and zoomed in on by the camera. Mr. Castleman asked Mr. Rader many interesting questions concerning the Church and the history of our legal battle with the state.

Mr. Rader entertained as well as educated the potential four million viewing audience with a clever analogy. As he had done the night before, he characterized the battle as, "phase one, the part we call the 'Big Lie' phase. Now, we are into phase two, which we call the 'Shootout' phase. It's just like the movie, 'Shoot-out at O.K. Corral,' or 'Gunfight at O.K. Corral,' and even more like the story of David and Goliath. Here in the middle of this valley, we have Christ's Apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong against Goliath, the attorney general. The armies of both sides are viewing from the hilltops surrounding the valley. They all know that the battle has boiled down to this incredible confrontation, and Christ's Apostle shall prevail and overcome not only Goliath, but also the dragon that is behind him."

The station was going to run a five-minute review of the movie, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," but since Mr. Rader's interview was going so well and generating such interest, they decided to cancel the review and thus lengthen Mr. Rader's interview time. Mr. Castleman didn't have time to open up the show to phone calls and questions, so he invited Mr. Rader to return in October as his principle guest for an even longer 40-minute interview. Other guests on the show that morning, and the night before, were so impressed by the Church's efforts and Mr. Rader's answers that they busily quizzed executive assistant, John Kineston, backstage about the details of our case and the worldwide work that the Church is doing. They all asked for copies of Mr. Rader's book, and two of the T.V. newsmen asked to receive The PLAIN TRUTH magazine in their homes!

In less than a two-day period of time, two hours of radio coverage and over an hour of television time was virtually given to the Church and to Mr. Rader, to proclaim the good news announcement of God's Work, and "set the record straight" about the teachings, goals and priorities of the Worldwide Church of God. If we had to purchase this time it might be virtually impossible. If we could, it would cost the Church multiple thousands of dollars. And so as a positive benefit, which is an unexpected by-product of the attack against the Work of God, the name and

works of God's Church are fast becoming common knowledge throughout this area and in large communities around the nation. God is truly opening more doors that "no man can shut."

--Marc Segall, pastor for
Chico, California

BIG SANDY HOSTS MR. RADER DURING EAST TEXAS MEDIA BLITZ

Last week Mr. Rader was in Big Sandy and Tyler, Texas as well as Shreveport, Louisiana for a number of media interviews, after which he spoke to combined Sabbath services in Big Sandy. He was accompanied by Mrs. Rader, Mr. John Kineston and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kotora.

Thursday, August 14th, began with a morning press conference at the college campus. Four television stations, three radio stations and three area newspapers were represented. Some of the media came from as far away as Shreveport.

In the press conference Mr. Rader explained the background of the legal battle in California. He gave the media insights into the real issues which are at stake--that the religious freedoms of everyone in the United States are being threatened if adverse decisions were to flow from the courts as a result of this case.

Mr. Rader also told the press of the Church's plans to file a massive civil rights suit in federal court against the California attorney general in about 30 days. He told the reporters that this legal action would be a landmark first amendment case concerning separation of church and state. Major and minor denominations will be standing along side us in this suit.

In response to a reporter's question about the college facility at Big Sandy, Mr. Rader said that the Church is considering the feasibility of reopening the property as a base for a number of functions such as recreational and youth programs, and a retirement center for the elderly. A 90-day study is currently in progress to consider various possibilities.

Later the same day, Mr. Rader was interviewed by radio station KOA of Denver, Colorado through a telephone hookup. Then immediately following that he went to television station KLTN in Tyler where he was interviewed live at 5 p.m. by Joan Hallmark. She asked some very direct questions such as "Don't members have the right to know where the money goes?" (Mr. Rader fielded the questions openly and directly, enabling viewers to get a "feel" for the Church which has been in the news so much.) He answered, "Well, they do know where the money goes. We do account to the members and Mr. Armstrong, of course, feels he's accountable to God." Then focusing on the lawsuit he said, "The [legal] issue is whether we are a public trust and therefore accountable to the attorney general of the State of California."

Mr. Rader also answered some questions about the "60 Minutes" program, pointing out how his 3 1/2 hour interview came to an abrupt stop when Mike Wallace played a doctored tape recording of Mr. Armstrong in private

conversation over the telephone. This outrageous invasion of Mr. Armstrong's privacy not only was done by a former member out of gross disrespect for Mr. Armstrong, but was also "in contravention of a penal code section of the California law code."

Then Mr. Rader gave another insight into the whole affair with Mike Wallace. "As a matter of fact, Wallace made representations to me which included the fact that before anything was aired he would give me a chance to review it. Not so that I could take out whatever editorial product he had involved himself in, but so that I could object to any particular footage that was used in a manner inconsistent with what the story line was supposed to be. He broke that representation and, as I think I have told the press [at the press conference this morning], when we bring our suit against him, it will include such actions as misrepresentation and fraud and things of that nature."

In an interview in Shreveport Friday the 15th, Mr. Rader had the opportunity to rehearse circumstances surrounding the litigation in California. He explained how he had to round up the support of the churches which we now have at our side. He went from one group and denomination to another, explaining what was really happening to us in California until it became obvious to them that all religions were in danger. This certainly took a great deal of hard work, but it was worth it. Now Mr. Rader is updating the ministry and the brethren in various parts of the country, and at the same time using every opportunity presented by the media to tell our story to the public.

Friday night Mr. Rader spoke to the ministry at a dinner. The next day Sabbath services were held in the college "Field House." Over 2500 were in attendance, filling up the gym to overflowing. Some 200-300 had to sit in the Student Dining Hall. Members came from Shreveport, Texarkana, Dallas and Fort Worth to meet with the brethren from Big Sandy and Tyler.

Mr. Rader told the brethren that there was a great deal of public confusion about the Church. The Attorney General had tried to take advantage of that fact, as well as the emotional impact carried by the word "cult" in the aftermath of the Jonestown tragedy. He explained, "We are now beginning to let people know what kind of church we really are. And this has helped us a great deal. We have really gone, in the minds of the major denominations, from the minor leagues to the major leagues overnight...they now understand us because we've taken the effort to explain ourselves to them and they have even come to give us a begrudging respect for not only what we are as a group of people, a spiritual organism, but also for our doctrine which they now realize is very hard to refute--they would rather not get into a debate." And so the public at large is beginning to know about us!

The nature of politics and bureaucracies were also explained by Mr. Rader. Power is very often a primary motive. "Show me a politician and I will show you a man who wants more power," he said. "That's what we mean about the establishment becoming more and more entrenched. And show me a bureaucrat who has a little bit of turf and I will show you a bureaucrat who wants more turf."

He said that many bureaucrats receive some kind of satisfaction from increasing the power that they personally wield, and that this requires effort directed at taking away the power and independence of someone else.

This is how it works: "It's like a pie. [There are] only so many pieces in a pie. And some power has been reserved to the people. The rest of the power has been reserved to the government. Every time one more piece of the pie goes to the government, it is one less piece for the people. It is not like money that can be printed more of by the government. There's a limited amount [of power]--just so much to go around. And when they take away [power] from the people and transfer [it] to the government, the people are left poorer indeed."

Mr. Rader was very personable and gave many interesting and much appreciated insights into his own calling and conversion, plus his relationship over the years with Mr. Armstrong. He referred to Mr. Armstrong as having a "one track mind" regarding his determination to get the Church of God cleaned up. He also referred to Mr. Armstrong as being like a glacier. "It just keeps moving. It is an irresistible force." By this analogy he illustrated Mr. Armstrong's resolve to finish the Work God has given him to do, and how futile it is for the attorney general, or anyone else, to attempt to stand in the way.

During his message to the brethren, Mr. Rader recounted how Mr. Armstrong came to regret delegating too much power and authority to some under him. Power and authority was too heady for them. They would simply not do what they were told. Conversely, Mr. Rader pointed out "All you have to do is to do things the way Mr. Armstrong wants them done, and to do what he asks be done because he believes that is what Jesus Christ wants him to do."

Mr. Armstrong's chief assistant closed on the note that the burning issues today are justice and freedom. As these flicker in an uncertain manner, God's Work is sounding the alarm. The brethren were very grateful to become better acquainted with Mr. Rader and those with him--all very approachable people who are helping to hold up Mr. Armstrong's arms in defending God's Church and finishing the Work.

--Compiled partly from notes
taken by Jim Lee, associate
pastor for Big Sandy

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Canadian Update: The summer months usually produce a slowdown in mail activity in Canada. In fact, it seems once the days get longer and the temperature rises barely above freezing in many areas, the population takes to the great outdoors! With the significant gains of the past six months, however, the cumulative figures for God's Work in Canada remain exciting. Combined English and French monthly mail statistics show an increase of 168.1% over last year's figures. Regular mail is up 55.6% and ad response 1125.7%!

The Canadian newsstand program's effectiveness is currently being assessed by the office there and some economies in the Fall are being planned. Beginning with the October issue, the newsstand magazine will be produced

monthly once again, with 32 pages, and printed at Donnellys in Glasgow, Kentucky. This change in printing facilities will also involve the regular Canadian subscription PLAIN TRUTH, beginning with the September issue. Considerable savings will be effected by these moves and hopefully an increase in newsstand response levels. There will be an increase too in church member involvement in the program, which will be announced in the next few weeks.

July income for Canada finished at a plus 24%, giving a year-to-date increase of 22%.

News From the United Kingdom: PLAIN TRUTH circulation has grown substantially over the past few months. Once again over 100,000 copies per month are being sent to the entire area served from Radlett, with over 60,000 of these within the U.K. and Eire. This represents a 69% increase for the U.K., a 97% increase for Scandinavia and a 28% increase for Europe and the Middle East over July 1979. 100,000 magazines is a level which has not been achieved since 1975, so hopefully this level can be maintained and built upon.

Even though new subscribers are continually added at an encouraging rate via advertising, direct mail, exhibitions and leaflets, the file is also regularly "pruned" through the renewal program. This process retains readers with a genuinely keen level of interest, which ensures every magazine is used to the greatest advantage.

In July, God blessed the Work in the U.K. with the highest income ever in a single month. The percentage of increase was 47% over the same period last year, giving an overall year-to-date increase of 36%! And this is during a time when Britain is going through a serious recession along with the rest of the world, and the threats of unemployment and short-time working are always on the news. However, inflation has fallen for the first time in many months--now standing at 16 1/2%--and the high value of the pound (which gives the UK income greater spending power) is still being buoyed upwards by the flow of North Sea oil.

Tapes of Mr. Armstrong's Books Available to Blind

The books by Mr. Armstrong, The Incredible Human Potential, and Tomorrow, What It Will Be Like are available to the blind and physically handicapped through the "Recordings for the Blind" in New York. Anyone who is legally blind or disabled can request these tapes from this company. We believe that Mr. Armstrong's new book will also be able to be recorded on tape as soon as it is made available. The address is as follows:

RECORDINGS FOR THE BLIND
215 East 59th St.
New York, N.Y. 10022

Hard-of-Hearing Equipment

We need to make a change in the methods of handling hard-of-hearing headsets. Instead of being stored at the church meeting place, or being carried to and fro by a deacon, headsets should be "checked out" to each member needing one.

This will work much as a library loans books. The Church will still own the headsets, but the individual members will now be responsible for keeping track of the equipment. Amplifiers and leads will still be provided, but the members will need to bring their headsets to services every week for themselves.

The brethren will also need to bring the headset they have checked out from the Church to whatever feast site they plan to attend. This will help feast planning by helping reduce the duplication involved. We must emphasize, however, that only the Telex headsets may be plugged into the hard-of-hearing lines at the feast. Any others will not fit the amplification system. There will be a few headsets at each site for any unforeseen need.

Since the members will now be responsible for their own headsets, they must also become responsible for breakage and abnormal wear. If the equipment receives proper care, it will last for years. Any abnormal wear or abuse may, at the discretion of the pastor, be the responsibility of the member. Hopefully emphasizing each person's responsibility will lessen this problem.

If anyone has any questions or problems about how to administer this program, call Glenn Nice at Ministerial Services.

Appreciation for the Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

When I first was told that we were coming in on the new Refreshing Program, I asked "Why so soon after sabbatical?" That question is thoroughly answered: this program so far surpasses the sabbatical that there is no comparison!

There are simply no adjectives that touch the impact the program has had on my wife and myself. Our whole desire is to put it into practice--to really start to do our part, and more. Without reservation, this session has been a spiritual high point for us.

The biggest single concept has been the reality that God is leading the program through you, and that what is said has come from and been approved by you personally. That is tremendous--and we thank both God and you for it! We truly appreciate your diligence and energetic pursuit of God's Great Commission to you and the Church. We are 100% behind you in it.

One final thought. Just yesterday we viewed the Festival Film--it was really beautiful. But one thing really struck me--literally to tears of anger--that you have not been able to be here now for over 20 months. On the very campus that God built for His Church through you--that a group of men have been able to prevent your return to this beautiful oasis! I now pray daily for your return--in triumph!

May God continue to bless and strengthen you--we love you and pray for you daily.

Mark and Jana Cardona

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I have found the Ministerial Refreshing Program most REFRESHING!

I for one deeply appreciate the straight, frank answers that are coming down from you through these lectures. Particularly helpful to me have been the lectures on interracial marriage and dating, divorce and remarriage, demons, baptism and disfellowship.

However, the lectures such as the ones on current events and prophecy have been fascinating.

Thank you very much for this fine program, and we want you to know that our prayers are always with you.

Brian and Bobbie Hoyt

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I are very grateful to you and the Living God for the privilege of being in Pasadena for the second session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program.

Six years ago I finished a sabbatical (in 1973-1974) which was filled with an atmosphere of negativism, cynicism, intellectualism and liberalization of God's truth. During these last three weeks it has been so refreshing to receive positive, unifying ministerial instruction. The reality of teamwork and unity is now apparent at Pasadena. This is due to the Ministerial Services Team's concern that we all speak according to your direction and guidance rather than our own.

For fifteen years, Cherie and I have heard the approach of many leaders, and now former ministers, who have spoken their own "smooth words of wisdom." They did not evidence conscientious concern for pleasing God's Apostle while doing God's service. This is the only way for all of us in the ministry to go. We must speak the same thing. The Refresher Program is the avenue of instruction that will enable unity to increase and multiply as we support you as the spearhead to finish the Work.

Gerald and Cherie Witte

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We have just seen and had a part in some more of the good fruit of putting the Work back on the right track. The Refresher Program was great--much better than anticipated. It thrilled us to see the unity in the ministry and the loyalty of your team at Pasadena. We'll do all we can to convey that spirit to our local area. We can definitely see God's guiding hand in every step of what you are doing to get all of us ready for God's Kingdom. Thank you for the opportunity to get better tuned in and rejuvenated.

Ken and Elaine Mattson

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

What a blessing it is to be able to participate in the Ministerial Refreshing Program. The men and their wives have been so cooperative, so willing to participate in each activity and so thankful to be a part of the class, that their wholesome attitude actually helps inspire the teaching.

God's Spirit is obviously leading the way in bolstering the unity in the ministry and setting His Church back on the right track.

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for instituting the Ministerial Refreshing Program. It is very inspiring for each of us on the staff here in Pasadena who have the opportunity to participate.

Jim Snook

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

This summer has had special significance to my wife and me, as we have just observed our tenth wedding anniversary, as well as marked the completion of ten years of service in the Work of God's ministry. We feel there could not possibly have been a more appropriate way in which to commemorate this ten-year milestone in our lives than to have had the wonderful privilege to be here at Ambassador to participate in the Ministerial Refreshing Program. We wish to thank you, as well as so many others, for making this program possible.

Truly, we have been "refreshed"! Of all the ministerial meetings and conferences of the past ten years, the present Ministerial Refreshing Program is certainly the most positive, unifying, and uplifting. Doctrinally, it has been a solidifying experience. My wife and I feel even more firmly grounded in the truths and teachings of God's Church and God's Apostle.

As we prepare to return to our church area, we are aware of a renewed dedication and enthusiasm for the great Work of God, as well as a renewed realization of the sobering responsibility we have for those whom Jesus Christ and you, as God's Apostle, have entrusted to us.

We pray for you always, and we want to thank you so much for your prayers in our behalf.

Al and Suzanne Kersha

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I are thrilled God has called us to "hold your arms up" as His chosen Apostle. We can most clearly see that God has inspired you to institute these three-week refresher courses, and "refreshing" they are! Not only in the most beneficial lectures, but in the uplifting conversation and beautiful surroundings. These classes will have a tremendous impact on the local congregations in developing oneness worldwide.

There is a noticeable positive and converted spirit about the ministers, staff, and students.

Thank you for your perspiration and inspiration. And thank you for getting us all back on the right track. We need you, pray for you, and love you as a father. God bless and sustain you.

Warren and Marti Heaton III

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Not only the words spoken during the lectures, but the spirit and intensity have made much clearer to us the awesome responsibility we as local pastors have as ambassadors for Christ and Mr. Armstrong. We feel more necessary and needed as a part of the team.

Oneness!! This is what my wife and I feel. Oneness in thrust, doctrine and fellowship; oneness in enthusiasm to help prepare God's chosen people to become born sons of God; and oneness of all of us "holding up the arms" of Mr. Armstrong and all on his team.

Warren and Marti Heaton III

Pastor Expresses Special Thanks to Mr. Armstrong

My wife and I want to write and tell you we love you very much and appreciate your faithfulness and dedication to God all these years. We appreciate deeply the knowledge of God's way of life, which has been revealed through you and handed to us on a silver platter.

We also want to thank you for taking the time to encourage us in the June 27th Pastor General's Report in the section, "Special to Ministers and Wives." It means a great deal to us.

We hope you realize we loyally support you, Mr. Rader, Mr. Tkach and all those on the Pasadena team. We are thankful for our part in God's Work and desire to serve in any way possible.

--L. Jim Tuck, Huntsville/Florence, AL.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

CHICO, CA--MARC SEGALL: Having been at the campus on July 4-8, I can now say "firsthand" that there truly is a spirit of cooperation, peace and impartiality at the Work's offices in Pasadena. We had always believed the reports emanating from Pasadena over the last 12 months that there was now more of an uplifting family atmosphere there. But now, having been there with my wife, and remembering how it was before, we can attest to the absolute validity of this. The barriers, the whispering, the politicking, the partiality were nowhere to be found. A renewed respect for Christ's leader, Mr. Armstrong, and a first-love zeal to conduct the Work God's way was very evident.

SHREVEPORT, LA--BILL BRADFORD: We notice increasing expression of support for Mr. Armstrong, and support for the Church in its legal battle with the State of California. People are eager to hear news from the Pastor General's Report, especially anything Mr. Armstrong may write.

I received Mr. Rader's book this week. I only planned to glance through it and read it later when I had more time. I ended up reading the whole book. It is as gripping and exciting as any action novel; in fact better, because it is the truth. Please convey our deepest thanks for his book.

PORTLAND NORTH, OR--RICHARD D. DUNCAN: The Church really appreciated seeing the documentary and hearing from Mr. Rader personally. His dedication and loyalty to Mr. Armstrong and the Work of God were very apparent. Mr. Rader's faith and positive remarks left the members uplifted and inspired.

PORTLAND EAST, OR--JIM HAEFFELE: The brethren really appreciated Mr. Rader's visit to Portland with the documentary film and his address on the legal situation in the Work. They have come to appreciate how God is using his talents to aid His Work at this time.

We're very impressed with Mr. Armstrong's ads in the L.A. Times. All the brethren love to see a real fighting spirit and they're proud, in a right sense, to be a part of what Christ is doing through Mr. Armstrong.

PORTLAND WEST, OR--DAN FRICKE: The Church continues to grow in stability and expectation as Mr. Armstrong emphasizes the nearness of the end. Mr. Rader's visit gave people much more insight to him as a person and left the people greatly inspired.

COLUMBIA, MO--RICHARD RAND: Baptisms are up 133% so far this year. Of course, the base is small but it's so encouraging to grow again! Mr. Rader's book was so interesting I read it in a week and I am a slow reader. I also enjoyed the interesting anecdotes about Rubinstein, having just read his new book, My Many Years.

LAS VEGAS, NV--BERNIE SCHNIPPERT: Attitudes good. People trying to get their lives in order for the coming end of this age. I love Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's ads regarding the Attorney General.

VICTORIA, TX--DENNIS VAN DEVENTER: The Putnam radio interview of Mr. Rader was very effective and helpful. It was very well received, and we look forward to more such tapes whenever possible. The membership here is very loyal to Mr. Armstrong, and they are becoming better acquainted with Mr. Rader now through the Pastor General's Report, WN, and such things as this interview tape. They were quite impressed.

Thanks for the fine support and leadership given through the Pastor General's Report and the special tapes which make for special Bible Study presentations. These are a real help to the local pastor in directing the members toward strong meat and toward the leadership God has given us.

SANTA BARBARA, CA--LES MCCOLM: Everyone really appreciated the tape of the interview with George Putnam and Mr. Rader. Some were almost cheering when Mr. Putnam got angry with the irate callers.

HARLINGEN, TX--DENNIS VAN DEVENTER: The members are very supportive and enthusiastic. The films we had for Bible Study were really effective and inspiring. The members are loyally behind God's Apostle and His Work, and as a whole they stand ready to serve in any way possible. It's a pleasure to serve these people.

FORT SMITH, AR--JOHN R. ELLIOTT: We're all watching world events closely and appreciate Mr. Armstrong's interpretations of them as they happen. Gene Hogberg's writings are a continual help. Keep up the good work!!

I have been seeing a growing delineation between the hot and the cold in the churches here. As the church brethren work at preparing themselves even harder now for the return of Christ, the "deadwood" in our midst is clearly settling out in many cases.

OAKLAND, CA--CARLTON SMITH: Mr. Rader's visit on the 29th was the highlight of the month. There were many comments afterwards as to how great his message was.

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA--LES MCCOLM: Everyone really enjoyed and profited from the tapes we played at Bible Studies this month. Seems they answered a lot of questions as to what the public thinks of God's Church.

PUEBLO, CO--CLINT ZIMMERMAN: Good attendance at the Denver meeting and good attitudes also. People were disappointed that Mr. Armstrong was prevented from speaking but were complimentary of Mr. Blackwell's sermon.

BISMARCK, ND--DAN CREED: Circumstances are really coming to bear more and more demonstrating those who are really deeply converted and those who are playing games with being in the Church. It seems that pressures are making those who aren't fully committed to their calling to finally drop out.

GLENDALE, CA--RON LAUGHLAND: Christ, through Mr. Armstrong, in giving the Church a sense of direction and unity, has brought about a calming and strong feeling of togetherness.

Members Grateful for Truth From God's Apostle

On Sabbath my wife and I sat through four hours of some of the most inspiring information that we hadn't heard since our early college days at Ambassador College. We want to personally thank you Mr. Armstrong for the God-given wisdom in seeing fit to send Mr. Waterhouse down to speak to us.

I think that we had to admit to ourselves and repent of the fact that we, too, have been affected by the de-emphasizing of a number of Biblical truths which you as God's Apostle, and ministers such as Mr. Waterhouse, have continued to preach down through the years. I know that Carol and I look forward now to the future with even more enthusiasm and a renewed, more positive attitude than ever before.

We remember you in our prayers and thank God continually for the inspiration He has given you.

--Ted and Carol Mann, (Perth, W. Australia)

Mr. Armstrong, I want you to know that we love you very much, and are grateful to our God for sending you to us, to teach us of His ways. I'm very happy to be a member of God's true Church.

Thank you very much for being so dedicated to God and His Church. I find everything you write very helpful to me and am grateful to you for your most precious time to teach us of God. I, too, know you are God's Apostle and count myself very blessed that God has placed me in His Church.

I do daily pray for your health and guidance and the protection of our Creator, and to continue keeping me in His Church. I thank God for you and all those who follow you as you follow Christ. We thank you very much for getting us back on the track to our God, and for all your help and love.

--Betty Parker and Family

Weekly Letter Comments

This week's comments from parents and youths relate to the Y.O.U. and S.E.P. programs. The young people appreciated the unique opportunities and true values and Y.O.U. provided them. And Mr. Armstrong's visit to each S.E.P. session highlighted an exciting summer for the campers. Other letters show how God continues to intervene for those who trust in and claim His promises of healing.

Youth Programs Appreciated

I am 17 and attend Church in Omaha, Nebraska. I am president of our Y.O.U. chapter. With your guidance (Mr. Armstrong), Y.O.U. has taken on a new meaning. The program is centered around helping others and developing character. Y.O.U. has helped many of our teens to understand God's plan for His people. We have a weekly Y.O.U. Bible study which is very important.

God's Church under your guidance gives me the strength and hope to live a happy life knowing that someday soon God will put an end to the evils of this world and set up His Kingdom.

--Scott Thomas (Omaha, NE)

This is my last summer as a Y.O.U. member. I just want to thank you very much for the Y.O.U. program. Because of it I have been able to do many things I would never have had the opportunity to do otherwise. I only hope I have given as much as I could to it, but I know it has given me much more. Thank you so much!

--Becky Dayhoff (Fort Meyers, FL)

I wish to express to you personally my thanks and happiness for the opportunities I am about to encounter. I have been picked as one of the four participants in the 1980-81 Y.O.U. Exchange Program. Thank you for both the existence of such a program as this and for making the funds available for it.

I am very excited about the whole idea of visiting another country and experiencing another culture. Thank you so much (Mr. Armstrong) for your interest and concern for God's youth and all of the Y.O.U. programs.

--Jeff Dowd (Hamilton, OH)

I constantly marvel at the many improvements in the Work of God. I just received the news that Y.O.U. will have a different emphasis, allowing the Spirit of God to be expressed more frequently. Taking away competition among the brethren and young people will eliminate one more of Satan's tools that he uses so effectively in this world. At the same time the right spirit will be acknowledged and stimulated among the youth of God's Church.

--Nilo Azerdo (Pasadena, CA)

I can't express how grateful I am for the opportunity to serve God's Work and His youth by being a counselor here at God's S.E.P. summer camp! You can be sure that we all here are supporting God's government with you (Mr. Armstrong) as its physical head and Apostle under Jesus Christ. God's Spirit is truly working here to make it the best camp ever. I really feel that God is working through you more than ever to fulfill the prophecy of Malachi 4:6. Young hearts truly are being turned to their fathers here at S.E.P. I would also like to thank you for sending some of the field ministers to the camp. It has added the maturity that was lacking.

--David J. Meyers (Pasadena, CA)

My two sons recently returned from summer camp and we want to thank you so much for coming to talk to the campers. It was the highlight of the whole session for my sons. I've been with the Church and listening to you since 1951 and haven't been that close to see you, so they are ahead of me.

--Mrs. Erwen Case (Nucla, CO)

Our daughter just arrived home from camp. Your visit to Orr meant a lot to her, and being able to shake your hand is something she will never forget. Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for caring for our children.

--Mrs. Sherry Bassinger (Post, TX)

I have been attending God's Church for nine years. Recently I graduated from high school and realized that this world is backwards. It is sure being destroyed by man. It has never appeared so plain as right now--but I have to keep on living in this world, or specifically in the U.S. where the teenagers smoke marijuana and have no sense of values whatsoever. I am grateful to God for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this great Work. I can surely find peace of mind right here in the U.S., in the midst of all the confusion that Satan has stirred up.

--Alice Richardson (Brown Summit, NC)

God's Promise of Healing Being Fulfilled

We have great news! Amina, my eight-year-old daughter, who had a brain problem, is completely healed thanks to God through anointing and prayers. She is well without drugs, medicines or operations. God is truly kind and wonderful and has again come to our aid.

--Mrs. Sandra Pope (Bronx, NY)

My husband and I have been married for 17 years and have never been able to have children. We went through many tests but in the end we were told that nothing could be done. It really hit us hard as we had such a hope and have always wanted children. We knew that God was our healer. I was anointed three or four years ago and a little later my husband was anointed also. We left it in God's hands.

Recently I went to the doctor for a general checkup as I have been feeling very tired. To our surprise and total shock I am now five months pregnant! I am feeling great and we are so happy.

--Mrs. Fred Rabe (Fresno, CA)

When I had tuberculosis and was confined to the hospital, the local minister came in and anointed me. I am healed now and out of the hospital. Later I had a blood clot and was waiting to die. Our minister came in again, anointed me and the doctor just shook his head when God healed me, and said "I don't understand it!"

--J.M. Manos Sr. (Chillicothe, OH)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

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

Festival Housing Deposits Required

Reports are coming into the Festival Office from the motel/hotel owners at our Festival sites stating that many of our members have made reservations with them, but have not yet sent in the required room deposits. Therefore, the motels are giving us fair warning that the rooms will be released unless the proper deposits are received.

--Festival Office

****TO BE ANNOUNCED IN ALL CHURCHES****

Space Still Available at Czech Feast Site

Please announce in your church this coming Sabbath that we still need about 30 people to keep the Feast of Tabernacles this year at Karlsbad in Czechoslovakia. If these 30 beds should remain unused we would have to pay for them anyway. If you would like to help keep this Feast open for our brethren there, please write by Air Mail to: Frank Schnee, Ambassador College, Poppelsdorfer Allee 53, 5300 Bonn, West Germany, or telephone Bonn 218061, or write to Rod Matthews, Ambassador College, 300 West Green Street, Pasadena, California 91123.

--Frank Schnee, Regional
Director for Germany

UNIQUE NEW P.T. PROMOTIONAL DISPLAY TESTED

Each month over two million Chicago area commuters pass through the Chicago Northwestern Railroad Station. Now, as of the past week, they are being exposed to a unique new PLAIN TRUTH promotional display.

Through a company called Transportation Displays, Inc., we have rented a glass enclosed, fully illuminated display island showcase to advertise The PLAIN TRUTH. This 3' x 7' display has "pockets" which hold special "take one" brochures offering a free subscription to the P.T.

There is potential with this method to expose The PLAIN TRUTH to multiple millions of people who pass through the many railway stations across the nation each month, and the test results will be taken to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong for his consideration.

--Publishing Services

ON THE WORLD SCENE

ZIMBABWE: THE BITTER SPOILS OF WAR Simon Bolivar, the great "liberator" of South America, said near the bitter end of his sad career: "He who serves a revolution ploughs the sea."

The same might be said today of the frustrations now confronting Robert Mugabe, the Marxist-trained revolutionary who gained power over Rhodesia--now turned Zimbabwe--after a bloody seven-year conflict.

Gracious in victory, Mr. Mugabe proclaimed on the new country's birthday--April 18, 1980--that "It is time to beat our swords into plowshares." The pragmatic Marxist tried to bury the hatchet, promising no recriminations against either the white minority or his defeated electoral foes. He further outlined an economic program he hoped would prevent a wholesale exodus of the white population, without which Zimbabwe's economy would certainly collapse.

It sounded good at the time. But Mr. Mugabe is confronting the ugly realities of today. He is a man caught in the middle. His more radical "comrades" are disappointed that more of the spoils of war have not come their way. Thousands of frustrated whites have left, with many more ready to flee if--or when--conditions worsen. Worst of all, the prospect of a post-independence civil war, predicted by many observers years ago, could be just over the horizon.

Crisis Over a Murder

Mugabe's mounting troubles have come to a head over the arrest of one of his cabinet ministers, Edgar Tekere, on charges of killing a 68-year-old white farmer on the outskirts of Salisbury. Tekere, the Minister of Manpower and Planning, has been a headache for Mugabe all along. The most radical minister in the cabinet, Tekere has called repeatedly for a swifter white-to-black changeover in government offices.

Tekere has been the champion of those Africans who believed that upon independence, everything should come their way instantly, as Britain's NOW newsmagazine put it, "not only...parliamentary power, but also the white man's home, the white man's car and the white man's position as boss."

Tekere has a big political following. Mugabe found himself on a political hot seat. To continue to hold Tekere in prison could have led to massive unrest, but to release him could send thousands of whites packing to South Africa.

Mugabe chose a middle course. He intervened to have Tekere released on bail, giving his own personal assurance of a future trial. But he has only bought time. If Tekere is convicted, riots are certain to occur. If he is acquitted (and there is no doubt whatsoever of his guilt) whites will be assured that the judicial system is no longer independent of political pressure.

Thus Zimbabwe has all the earmarks of the chaos which erupted in the throes of independence of the former Belgian Congo in 1960.

Tribal Conflict Looms

In a surprise development when he took office, Mr. Mugabe had announced that Lieutenant General Peter Walls, chief of the Rhodesian Army, would retain his post and preside over the integration of the regular army with two guerrilla forces, one of them Mugabe's, the other belonging to archrival Joshua Nkomo. It was to be an impossible task. Walls has now resigned.

"So great is the split behind the facade of army unity," reports NOW, "that there is talk in Salisbury that the attempt to form a unified command will be abandoned and two forces will be formed along tribal lines"--again, one loyal to Mugabe and one loyal to Nkomo, who has never given up his quest for political power.

"This is a formula for disaster," continues NOW, "pointing the way toward all-out black-versus-black civil war. Incredibly, the remaining Rhodesia white soldiers are supposedly to be split between the two forces. They would certainly leave before that occurs.

"Mugabe, the revolutionary turned pragmatist," concludes NOW, "is trying to survive in the whirlpool of emotion, fear and frustration, trying to attract aid, trying to appease the revolutionary blacks and to assuage fears of the whites, he has a task no man can envy."

It's tough to plow the sea.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau