

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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"BORN-AGAIN POLITICS"

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

On the front cover of this past week's Newsweek magazine was a picture of the TV evangelist who comes on just ahead of me on our Tucson Channel 11 Sunday mornings. His name is Jerry Falwell, and if I may be forgiven for a harmless pun, he does fall well when it comes to UNDERSTANDING the Word of God!

The big-type red-ink headline atop his pic on Newsweek's front cover is "Born-Again Politics." It reminds me of the poem of sixty years ago: "The barefoot boy with shoes on stood sitting in the grass, and it rained all day that night"--a parody of opposites.

Mr. Falwell is NOT "born again" and has no understanding of what the term MEANS. And if he were, he would never be in politics. When one is born again he would no more be in politics than a barefoot boy would have shoes on his feet--than a boy sitting in the grass would be standing, or than day would be night.

Do I then criticize Mr. Falwell or condemn him? Not at all. Not at all. God is not judging him--yet, and neither do I. But this is an apt illustration, blared before the whole nation on Newsweek's cover, of what did happen to the first man, Adam--and what is consequently the state of ALL in the world today, EXCEPT the very few God has specially called. Humanity has lost sight of all this. The religionists of "traditional Christianity" think they believe the Bible as the Word of God, yet they don't--any more than the barefoot boy has on shoes.

The first man Adam was the father--the progenitor--of the human race. He was required to make a CHOICE between receiving God's Holy Spirit to open his mind to revealed knowledge from God, or taking to himself knowledge of what is good and what is evil. ADAM MADE THE CHOICE FOR MANKIND as a whole--his progeny who would be born from him. He CUT MANKIND OFF FROM GOD, from the Holy Spirit, and thus from revealed KNOWLEDGE from God understandable only through the Spirit of God. All, that is, EXCEPT the minute FEW God would specially call and choose.

God made Adam's decision BINDING on all EXCEPT the very few God would call. That made God RESPONSIBLE, knowing well He was leaving Satan on the throne to DECEIVE mankind. So God BLINDED humanity--left humanity CUT OFF from Him and His KNOWLEDGE U N T I L the second Adam, Jesus Christ, should overcome Satan, qualify to restore God's GOVERNMENT, and Himself be inducted on the throne over the earth.

That means the world is CUT OFF and cannot UNDERSTAND God's knowledge UNTIL the second coming of Christ and the removal of Satan. Meanwhile,

the world is NOT BEING JUDGED. Those in the world uncalled are NOT "lost," neither are they "saved." Just not judged--YET! But this they do not understand.

The leaders of "traditional Christianity" do not seem to know Jesus was born to be a KING. Jesus came to QUALIFY to replace Satan on the THRONE over the earth. If we are called, and chosen by Him, we shall sit with Him in His THRONE over the entire earth. We shall be given divine spiritual POWER to RULE the world with and under Christ, "with a rod of iron."

WHY are we called, now, into God's CHURCH? For a PURPOSE! That purpose is that we, too, through Christ and the Holy Spirit overcome Satan, have our minds opened by God's Spirit to GOD'S KNOWLEDGE (Truth), grow in grace and knowledge, develop spiritual CHARACTER to qualify us to RULE in the Kingdom of God with the restored GOVERNMENT OF GOD over all the earth.

BUT WE ARE NOT called to become part of the GOVERNMENTS of THIS WORLD --manipulated by Satan. This is Satan's world. Those not begotten (not yet BORN) are NOT children of God, THEY ARE CHILDREN OF SATAN (Jesus said so--John 8:44). But when we are called to repentance, faith, and receiving the Holy Spirit, God's Spirit witnesses with our spirit that we are the begotten children of GOD (Rom. 8:16), but until then we are NONE OF CHRIST'S (Rom. 8:9).

IF we are begotten children, not yet BORN, we are like father Abraham, a stranger and pilgrim in this world. Yet not OF this world or its politics. Our real citizenship is reserved in heaven (Phil. 3:20). We are like foreigners and strangers in this world.

ONE BEGOTTEN OF GOD TAKES NO PART IN THIS WORLD'S POLITICS!

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MUST WE DWELL IN BOOTHS?

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

Back in the spring of 1927 God opened my mind to see that not only is the weekly Sabbath binding FOREVER, but the ANNUAL Sabbaths as well. God had not yet revealed to me WHY, I just knew He commanded, and I obeyed. For seven years my wife and I kept these days ALONE. When I made the truth plain to the Sardis brethren in Oregon they laughed me to scorn.

Seven years after my conversion the Philadelphia era of God's Church was raised up, through a six weeks, six-nights-a-week campaign in a one-room country school house near Eugene, Oregon. They were mostly my own new converts. They did listen, and with Mrs. Armstrong and me join in observing them. But it was 12 years later, 1945, when God finally revealed to me the MEANING of His annual Festivals--the real REASON WHY He had commanded them FOR EVER!

God is working out a PURPOSE here on earth! That PURPOSE is dual:
a) God is reproducing Himself--forming future GOD BEINGS from mortal

humans made from material soil, b) restoring the GOVERNMENT of God through these future born children of God.

For this transcendental PURPOSE God has a MASTER PLAN for its accomplishment. There are seven major steps in that Master Plan. The annual Festivals of God PICTURE that Master Plan.

God commanded these Festivals to be kept FOR EVER--WHY? For His CHURCH His purpose and reason is to remind us every year--so we never forget--each of these seven steps in the working out of His Supreme PURPOSE.

Just going through the motions of meeting together on each of the Feasts would not accomplish God's PURPOSE in GIVING us these feasts--IF WE DO NOT PROCLAIM SERMONS TO THE PEOPLE on the MEANING of these Festivals. By two or three years ago many ministers had drifted into preaching on these feasts just whatever subject they themselves liked to speak on--with not a word about the MEANING of the feast God wants the congregations to bear in mind.

In the PAGAN religions, they believe that going through certain motions--doing certain physical things--is the religious duty of people. For example, one branch of "traditional Christianity" is merely a continuation of the ancient BABYLONIAN MYSTERY RELIGION (Rev. 17:5). One motion they go through, for example, is to cross themselves. It is merely a SUPERSTITION. Without actually realizing it, the reason they do this is that they suppose a harsh, stern, angry GOD of some kind is watching. If they don't go through this motion this god will be angry, and they will have bad luck. They think just going through the physical motion will please this false, non-existent god.

But the REAL GOD is a God of LOVE--a God of KNOWLEDGE--of UNDERSTANDING--who wants to develop in us HIS holy, righteous, perfect CHARACTER.

He gave us these annual Feasts to renew yearly in our KNOWLEDGE His Purpose--what He is developing in us!

Now in Old Testament Israel they did not have the Holy Spirit. They could not UNDERSTAND the SPIRITUAL meaning of these Festivals. But the New Testament Church is the FIRST FRUITS--that is, the first GROUP or BODY to receive the Holy Spirit AS A BODY to become the FIRST BORN as finally resurrected and born GOD BEINGS.

Ancient Israel did not understand the MEANING of these Feasts. In them God takes the MATERIAL HARVEST in Judea to picture to His Church annually His SPIRITUAL HARVEST of GOD BEINGS.

True, God ordained the Feasts to be observed FOR EVER. But to ancient Israel--AT THE TIME when they were in the desert BEFORE they entered the Promised Land, God said to them, "Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born" (NOT us that are Christians begotten of GOD) "shall dwell in booths."

WHY? "That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel" (NOT the begotten children of GOD) "to dwell in booths," WHEN?

"When I brought them out of the land of Egypt" (Lev. 23:42-43).

They were in a hot climate where they could find branches of certain trees--palm, myrtle and olive branches. Later in Palestine, a part of Israel only (of Judah) under Ezra and Nehemiah used these booths (Neh. 8:14-18). But, for example, myrtle branches are found only in Palestine, and palm and olive branches are found only in some hot climates.

But now the Church, then to be made into the Kingdom of God, ruling the earth, in the time PICTURED TO US BY THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES, will cause ALL NATIONS to go to Jerusalem for this Festival. WHY? To make booths of tree branches and live inside them?--each alone by himself seven days--in order not to DISplease an angry god? NO! But "to worship the KING, the Lord of hosts" (Zech. 14:16).

Jesus observed the Feast of Tabernacles when He was in human flesh on earth. Did He make a booth of tree and shrub branches to dwell in for seven days? NOTICE!

Jesus was in Galilee (John 7:1). The Feast of Tabernacles was at hand (verse 2). His brethren urged Him to depart at once for Jerusalem for the Feast (v. 3). But Jesus remained behind in Galilee for a while (v. 9). But after their departure, Jesus also went up secretly (v. 10). About the middle of the Feast, Jesus went into the Temple (v. 14). He taught the people there. On the last Great Day, Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit (v. 37-39).

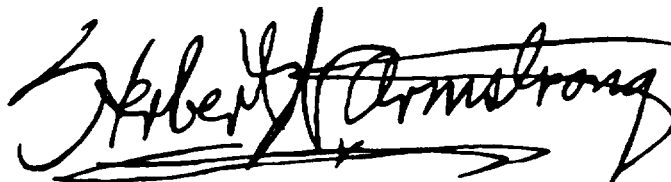
But there is NOT A WORD that Jesus or any of His disciples (future Apostles of the Church made "booths" of tree and shrub branches, or dwelt in them. Jesus met with them IN THE TEMPLE, where He taught and preached. They thus had services--or teaching--in an auditorium--JUST AS WE DO TODAY. We call these meeting halls tabernacles. Jesus and the first Apostles SET US THE EXAMPLE--but there is no evidence or record that they dwelt in booths.

The dwelling in booths was not the PURPOSE or reason for this fall festival.

The Feast of Trumpets is to teach God's people all over again every year about the coming of Christ as KING of kings to RULE THE EARTH! The Day of Atonement was given to keep us in knowledge that Satan shall be taken away so that we may be AT-ONE-MENT with God and with Christ. The Feast of Tabernacles was commanded forever, and is to teach the CHURCH today over and over every year about the MILLENNIAL REIGN OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD OVER THE WHOLE EARTH--with Satan gone--with EVERYONE then living being at last CALLED to judgment and opportunity for eternal salvation.

That is the PURPOSE of the Feast--not gathering branches for a booth to shelter us. Today we have houses and buildings to shelter us.

So we find NO dwelling in booths in the New Testament Church, nor in the millennium AFTER Christ returns!



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESPolicy on Ministers Flying Airplanes

Recently we have had several men request permission to fly airplanes in order to reduce the travel time to outlying areas within their circuits. Some feel they can fly for just about the same cost as, or less than, driving; however, in figuring the costs, they don't consider the liability exposure that the Church is open to when they fly a private plane.

Whenever a minister flies on Church business in a private airplane, whether he pilots the plane or someone else does, the Church would be liable for any damages resulting from an accident. This liability is extremely large due to the possibility of crashing into populated areas, etc.

In order to obtain liability insurance coverage, we would have to file a separate report on each pilot giving his health, his flying experience, how much he would be flying, where he would be flying, and so forth.

Because of the cost of insuring the Church against such a large liability exposure, Mr. Armstrong has set the policy that ministers are not to pilot airplanes as a part of their jobs, nor should they have a member or some other private individual fly them on Church business. Ministers should make business flights only with commercial or chartered airlines and then only when the expense for doing so has been approved.

I have discussed this with Mr. Armstrong personally and he was quite alarmed that some men have taken it upon themselves to do this without checking with him first. Mr. Armstrong's feeling, having discussed this with our pilots, is that a man who only flies occasionally wouldn't be experienced enough to be a safe pilot and those who would fly enough to be proficient would be sacrificing their commitment to the ministry. Therefore, it is Mr. Armstrong's decision that ministers should not pilot planes at any time.

International News

Report From New Zealand Christ is continuing to abundantly bless His Work in New Zealand and the South Pacific. Income for August was 24.3% up on the same month last year, and the year-to-date increase now stands at 30.7%.

A glance at our income graph for the past few years is an inspiring sight. For a number of years the income was reasonably stable. Then, suddenly, in January 1979, the very month the receivership crisis broke and Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong stepped in to put God's Work back on the right track, the income leaped up by 30%. And ever since that time it has continued to run at a level of 30% ahead of the previous year!

Figures have now been finalized for our householder card promotion of The PLAIN TRUTH earlier in the year. A total of 5300 cards were returned. This is a response rate of 1%, at a cost-per-response of \$1.80. Householder cards will be distributed to the remaining half of the country in October.

Final figures are also available for our recent newspaper ads in the Pacific Islands. Three hundred and thirty new subscribers were added to The PLAIN TRUTH and La PURE VERITE mailing lists at a cost-per-response of \$4.50.

In the last week of August we placed a full-page ad in the New Zealand Woman's Weekly for the new UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY book. Responses are just beginning to come in. The ad will also appear in the same magazine in the first week in September.

We're pleased to report Christ has added another minister in New Zealand. Mr. Dennis Gordon was ordained a Local Elder by Mr. Bob Morton on August 23rd. Mr. Gordon will assist Mr. Gary Harvey in the Wellington, Palmerston North and Hastings churches. The month of August concluded with a conference in Auckland attended by all the ministers in New Zealand and the South Pacific Islands. Everyone is now greatly looking forward to the holy day season beginning in September.

News From Germany The month of August was highlighted by a two-day ministerial mini-conference near Bonn on August 25th and 26th. Mr. Frank Schnee, Regional Director, and John Karlson, Bonn Office manager, both addressed the ministers on developments in Pasadena and on the Ministerial Refresher Program. Further conference sessions were devoted to PAD plans and budget for 1981, and to final preparation for the fall feasts this year.

As all the ministers' families were present, the opportunity for fellowship was much appreciated. Nine-pin bowling and refreshing plunges into the hotel swimming pool added to the relaxing atmosphere.

The church members meeting for services on August 30th responded to the ministers' reports on the Bonn mini-conference with a great deal of expectation and interest. Any news regarding Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, his health, and his plans for the future are virtually devoured here, as the German-speaking church members exhibit a deep appreciation for the authority and responsibility of Mr. Armstrong's office.

The mail income for the month to date was up 2.5% over August 1979. Our year-to-date mail income is up 18.6% over last year.

Dutch-speaking Area Reports Mr. Bram de Bree, Regional Director for the Dutch language area sent in this report this week:

August has been a good month weather-wise and as far as growth is concerned in God's Work. The highlight of this month has been a series of three public lectures in The Hague. This series started on August 18th and continues until September 15th.

This year is also the year that The Netherlands commemorated the liberation from the Nazi occupation 35 years ago, May 1945. The first lecture focuses in on that event. It also deals with our mismanagement over these 35 years, and the last 6000, and the work God is doing through the editor of the Dutch PLAIN TRUTH, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. The second lecture deals with Europe in prophecy and then the third and the last lecture will deal with the World Tomorrow, and God's government on earth.

At the first lecture total attendance was 79, of which 60 people were attending for the first time. At the second lecture 99 attended, which included the same 60 attendants of the first night. Eighteen hundred people were invited in the area of The Hague. Each night gave us a 3.3% response. This is the highest response we ever had for a public lecture.

Income for August showed a 11.5% increase for the past twelve months--a 19.79% increase year to date and a 25.35% increase month to month.

Church attendance during August increased 21.8% compared to the same month a year ago. Membership increased 3.4% compared to one year ago.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

As Marcia and I return from the Refreshing Course nearly 30,000 feet over your home state and mine, Iowa, we wish to thank God and thank you for your calling, dedication and inspiration given to us through your unwavering service to God and Jesus Christ.

We had to stop in Des Moines for just a few minutes, and as we take off I can clearly see the gold dome of the Iowa State Capitol and I've spotted East Grand Street, the street on which you were born and on which I lived for a few months.

Marcia and I would like to express our deep appreciation for the Refreshing Program that you instituted a while back. When you made the decision I was quite delighted and anxious to be a part of it. I had not been in for a one-year sabbatical--but I was not very thrilled at picking up roots and plopping down for one year and then up again and out to another area. So when I came in to Pasadena for the Refreshing Course, I was expecting a lot.

I am happy to say that it was more than I expected. It was more thorough and intensive than a conference, yet it was not as "drawn out" nor upheaving as a one-year-long sabbatical. I have never heard as much representation of your mind--as God has inspired you--as I heard during this Refreshing Program. Everyone seemed to state your feelings, your understanding, your purposes and God's truth as He has led you. Believe me we appreciate that because we want to speak the same to God's people and serve you well. Since we are unable to see you personally and spend time with you individually, it was exciting to have men teach us in support of and with the spirit of loyalty to God's chosen Apostle.

We are refreshed, rejuvenated and rededicated to serving God, Christ and you in this, God's great Work and Church. Thank God! And thank you.

Lloyd and Marcia Briggie

Dearest Mr. Armstrong:

We thank and praise God's Holy Name for the Refresher Program. We thank God for using you as the greatest educator in modern times (and maybe, for all times).

Each and every subject we found to be thrilling, exciting, inspiring and very, very educational. God even inspired the Defensive Driving classes. The three weeks that Judy and I spent in the Refreshing Program, we figure, is equal to about sixty Sabbaths!

Thank you, Sir, for your dedication to God and the Church. Thank you for your love and concern for all of us.

We deeply appreciate you and Mrs. Armstrong; we appreciate the sacrifice of Mr. and Mrs. Rader; we appreciate Mr. and Mrs. Tkach and all of the evangelists and pastors, elders, deacons and all of God's people worldwide. We deem it an honor and a privilege to have had an opportunity to attend the Refreshing Program.

May God continue to draw us all closer together through such programs as this.

God bless you, Sir.

Carlton and Judy Green

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife Darlene and I do pray for you daily, as well as multiple thousands of others around the earth.

We thank you for initiating the Ministerial Refreshing Program, which we found to be very informative and stimulating. Having arrived home after attending the second session, I feel more positive about what I preach. We have the assurance that you, Mr. Armstrong, have scrutinized all the material given.

I know that God will stretch forth His hand and bless His Work, you His chosen Apostle, and all of us as individual members of the Body of Christ, if we will be in the business of getting the Work done as He directs you.

We will be looking forward to seeing and hearing you via the video telephone hookup at the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day. It has been a few years since I have heard you open the Feast with the phrase, "Why are we here?"

Thank you very much Mr. Armstrong, for your love and faithfulness towards the Word of God.

Leslie and Darlene Schmedes

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Phoebe and I would like to express our appreciation for the Ministerial Refreshing Program, group #2, which we were privileged to attend. It is to us an evidence of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit when a program so short in length covers and accomplishes so much.

It was encouraging that the Bible was the main textbook from which we are once again reviewing the doctrines which God has placed in His Church through your guidance and direction.

We would also like to express our thanks to the instructors whom you have chosen to accomplish the task of helping those of us in the ministry to be of one mind and speak the same thing.

Now that we have returned to our responsibility in the field ministry, we pray that the fruits that are borne as a result of our attending the Ministerial Refreshing Program will in some way be an encouragement to you that your effort and sacrifices to put God's Church back on the right track have not been in vain.

Maceo and Phoebe Hampton

Special Thanks From Members

Dear Mr. Tkach:

These people wish to thank you for your men who have come to us with good news from Pasadena. I hope that many additional visits like this one may occur in the future.

Daniel D. Gehman, Pine City, NY

To: Mr. Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services--

THANK YOU, Mr. Tkach, for sending Mr. Salyer and Mr. Feazell to Corning and Binghamton, N.Y. to show us by film and the spoken word the heroic success of Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader, and all Pasadena and Ambassador College leadership and congregations in preserving and defending the good name of our Great God and His Church. And thank you for giving us the word that all those at headquarters are now gratefully backing the Apostle. Thank you for inspiring and ornamenting our lives in this end time.

(31 member signatures appeared on this letter)

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

BROOKLYN/QUEENS, NY--LESLIE A. SCHMEDES: Our congregation is growing. Attendance has held up well this summer. Concern about Mr. Armstrong's well being is foremost in the minds of most. The local congregation is very unified behind Mr. Armstrong's leadership.

AUGUSTA, GA--JOHN RITENBAUGH: Mr. Rader's visit to the Augusta area was especially good. Reporters and interviewers were cordial, responsive, and knowledgeable about the case. Supportive articles appeared in the two Augusta newspapers.

COLUMBIA, SC--JOHN RITENBAUGH: Despite not getting any new PMs, attendance is up and better still, attitudes are very up. Mr. Rader's visit did much good regarding the lawsuit and dispelling fears about him. A very unifying effect.

Mr. Armstrong's tapes are very much appreciated by me. Not only do they help me time-wise, but they are unifying us by having a single voice week by week expounding basic principles of this Way.

HAZARD, KY--WARREN J. HEATON III: We have the joy in sharing the excitement of a new congregation here in Hazard. Everyone wants to help and serve. To top it off I had fifteen requests for baptism in one week!

God is already blessing this new area with growth. We've had two families move away for employment, but they were replaced by four new families.

Weekly Letter Comments

Since a number of brethren will be starting their third tithe year after the Feast, the following accounts of abundant third tithe blessings should be inspiring. Also, those who received an early copy of Mr. Rader's book, AGAINST THE GATES OF HELL, found it interesting and gripping. Through the book, they have also been able to get to know and appreciate Mr. Rader and his work much better. Finally, members are enthusiastically receiving the special Feast issue of The GOOD NEWS. It is helping them to become more prepared for this year's Feast.

Third Tithe Blessings Abound!

We have been in our third tithe year since last Feast of Tabernacles and wonderful blessings have been pouring forth on us ever since then. We are now totally out of debt and have found a home that is affordable and close to where my husband works. Also, my husband has been given great favor in the eyes of his boss and they have become friends.

The spiritual blessings have been fantastic. Mr. Armstrong's live sermon of the Last Great Day moved me to tears several times. The Bible Study series on Romans as well as the many letters and articles have all been great blessings. Now my heart is so filled with joy that I seem unable to contain it.

--Mrs. Janice Young (Salem, OR)

God is the greatest giver and servant in the universe. While in this third tithe year money was tight, two blessings occurred. I needed a very good mattress for my back, so I prayed about it. The next day my brother called up and told me that I could have a new \$559 mattress and box spring set for \$150! His friend bought it and complained to the manufacturer about a tiny spot and the manufacturer sent him another set.

Secondly, my kitchen chairs were badly in need of reupholstering. I didn't have enough money to have them done completely, so we asked the reupholsterer to do just the seat part and not the backs for a total of \$34. Their workers made a mistake and reupholstered the chairs entirely, but we did not have to pay extra. It probably would have cost over \$100 to have them done entirely.

--John Palmeri (Jamaica, NY)

Although I've certainly had my share of trials and tribulations, I've also received many blessings since being in God's Church. Since about the beginning of my last third tithe year, I've received all of the following free: five pairs of shoes my size, two color TV sets, three cars, and more furniture than I could keep. I also received many spiritual blessings, a better job with a substantial raise, and improved health. God has truly opened up the windows of heaven for me even as I prayed, but these are all an expression of God's great love and mercy. We all ought to use these many blessings God gives us as an encouragement to strive that much more to be the kind of people He wants us to be.

--J. David Douthett (San Diego, CA)

Being in our third tithe year, we have really been blessed. God has blessed us with a refrigerator, stove, washer and lawn mower--all for free! Also we have been able to buy a lovely two bedroom house in a perfect location. Praise be to God for His generous blessings.

--Mr. & Mrs. Frank Doherty (Wichita, KS)

How happy it makes me to give to this end-time Work. I just don't want my third tithe year to end--my blessings are so great!

--Mrs. Leslie Finger (Milwaukee, WI)

Mr. Rader's Book Hard to Put Down

It has been such a pleasure reading Mr. Rader's book, AGAINST THE GATES OF HELL. I am about a third of the way through. It really is a super book. Having all the day-by-day facts available about the court crisis has been so enlightening. Though I knew much of what happened, to hear it step by step has been great.

The personal information about Mr. Rader and Mr. Armstrong in earlier years was very interesting. I enjoy knowing more about their backgrounds. Seeing the pictures of Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader visiting various dignitaries is so rewarding. I couldn't help but smile with joy knowing that I and many others in God's Church have had a small part in making those visits possible--helping bring God's Word to others. It is a blessing and privilege.

--Mrs. Delores Schiller (Newbury Park, CA)

Mr. Rader's book, AGAINST THE GATES OF HELL, was truly a wonderful gift! I have two chapters left to finish. It truly explains in detail what happened a year and a half ago! Thank you, Mr. Rader!

--Mr. & Mrs. G. Sherman (Cardiff, CA)

My husband and I are reading with keen interest Mr. Rader's book, AGAINST THE GATES OF HELL. It is the type of book we would like to read in one sitting. I'm sure it will give all of the members worldwide a better understanding of Satan's attempt to destroy God's Church and why we must continue to fight that ongoing battle.

--Mr. & Mrs. Clay Thornton (Pasadena, CA)

Special Feast G.N. Enthusiastically Received

Have just received the special Feast edition of the GOOD NEWS and what a thrill. I have already read most of it and will probably read it all tonight. Am looking forward to this year's Feast of Tabernacles--being my 29th Feast. Every year they are better and more exciting. Thank you Mr. Armstrong for this Feast edition.

--Mrs. Edith L. Read (South Pasadena, CA)

Thank you Mr. Armstrong for such an inspiring GOOD NEWS! With such inspiring articles, this truly should be a very unified and blessed (both physically and spiritually) Feast. Thank you for guiding us all to such terrific spiritual food!

--Mr. & Mrs. Gary V. Lashua (St. Petersburg, FL)

Greetings. Just received the special edition of the GOOD NEWS, with all the articles in preparation for the Feast. Can't wait to start reading them all. What a beautiful cover. In going over the article on "How To Use Your Second Tithe," I now have a better perspective on how to keep the Feast....Thanks for the articles on note-taking and making the Feast more special for children. And--surprise to me--this issue is for taking with us to the Feast!

--Mrs. Diane W. Hauser (Onalaska, WI)

We just received the special August edition of the GOOD NEWS. We're glad that you were able to get it out early this year, so we can study and be better prepared for the Feast of Tabernacles.

--Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Warden (Crete, IL)

Just received my new August issue of the GOOD NEWS--the special edition for the Feast of Tabernacles. Just by scanning it, the issue looks great and will truly be a big help in preparing for an outstanding Feast throughout the world, wherever God's people will be keeping it. Thank you so very much for this special issue."

--Harry T. Witte (New Castle, PA)

We would like to especially thank you Mr. Armstrong and the GOOD NEWS staff for the August special edition. We feel that it will be a helpful tool in our observance of the Feast this year. Thank you once again from the bottom of our hearts. It seems you know, with God's guidance, exactly what we need.

--Mr. & Mrs. Anthony White (Toccoa, GA)

I must compliment the GOOD NEWS staff on the special issue. It is the most wonderful GOOD NEWS ever. Keep up the good work.

--Roy Patrick (Lubbock, TX)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

FLEET INFORMATION

Diesel Vehicles: We are considering a cash allotment system for fuel purchases where diesel fuel cannot be purchased on the regular Gelco credit card system. This would mean that we must be able to see substantial savings, .20-.25¢ per gal., by using local independent dealers for fuel purchases.

If you are up for tradeout, but the diesel fuel stations in your area are not represented by Gelco, you may want to consider this system when discussing your new vehicle with us.

Ministerial Information Packets: There have been some questions regarding the monthly expense reports. This report is intended for NON-Gelco Expenses only because any expenses incurred at a national account store, dealership, or on the Gelco credit cards will automatically be reported to Gelco.

--Ellis LaRavia, Fleet Administration

**** TO ALL FESTIVAL COORDINATORS AND WN PHOTOGRAPHERS ****

Just a reminder to complete your festival WN forms and/or send in your undeveloped black and white film on the due dates prescribed. Photographers need to AIR MAIL or AIR EXPRESS their film back to the WN no later than September 29, and coordinators their completed forms by October 3. Production time for the WN is extremely short after the Feast, therefore, late reports and photos will not be included in the special wrap-up issue. Please plan to forward your reports and photos as scheduled.

If you as a festival coordinator for some reason have not received a copy of the festival form, please forward a summary of your site's activities on the above date.

--Dexter H. Faulkner, The Worldwide News

ON THE WORLD SCENE

GERMAN ELECTION UPDATE Earlier this month campaigning for the October 5 West German national elections officially began. Not that it had not already started unofficially long before then.

Chancellor-challenger Franz Josef Strauss had forecast early on that the campaign would be the "dirtiest ever" in the history of the Federal Republic. It seems his prediction was correct. From all indications (based upon conditions prevailing up to September) Herr Strauss was the recipient of more abuse than his opponent, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. He has been depicted in campaign posters (not approved by his opponents, officially at least) in various dictatorial poses. One showed Strauss, a butcher's son, slicing up a salami labeled "Freedom."

Strauss, reported TIME magazine, was to bring defamation charges against a rock group for a song containing the lyrics, "Franz Josef the pig,

Franz Josef the old pig, Franz Josef the lusting swine." Attempting to slip out of the legal action, the band is said to have retorted that Franz Josef was the name of their mascot, a cardboard pig, and that "any similarity to a living swine is purely coincidental."

Polemics and charged rhetoric aside, the campaign, according to the pollsters is still much in the incumbent's favor. In a survey conducted by der Spiegel, the West German news magazine, 73% of those polled felt Chancellor Schmidt would win. The same percentage of those polled, however, did not feel that Schmidt's party, the Social Democrats (SPD), would get an absolute majority of seats in the Bundestag, according to West Germany's rather complex apportioning formula. Therefore, the SPD needs continued support in the Bundestag from its current coalition partner, the Free Democrats. The FDP was shocked when it failed to get the necessary 5% of the vote in the state election in North Rhine-Westphalia in May. However, experts feel that this may also shock enough voters into voting FDP on October 5 to make sure they clear the 5% barrier.

Strauss' biggest problem seems to be his inability to win the hearts of his own sister-party supporters, the Christian Democrats, many of whom only grudgingly accepted him as their standard bearer. (Strauss' own party, the Christian Socialist Union--CSU--the Bavarian counterpart of the national CDU which operates in the other nine West German states.) If, in the closing weeks, Strauss can somehow win them back, he still stands a chance. It is often overlooked that the CDU-CSU candidate in the 1976 elections--the lack-luster Helmut Kohn--came within 300,000 votes of gaining an absolute majority. So, much can still happen.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau