

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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GREATEST FEAST EVER

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

It has come and gone! How time flies! Reports from around the world tell us this was in reality the greatest Feast of Tabernacles in our time. The entire Church had been made ready for it, because the Church is in process of making herself READY for a far GREATER event--the coming of the KING of kings and LORD of lords to usher in the very event of which we were enjoying merely a foretaste!

Definitely God's Church is by her Head Jesus Christ being set back on God's track. Reports from around the world have one tone--a NEW SPIRIT has been injected from God into His people the earth around. There is a spirit of LOVE--of REJOICING--of UNITY--of TOGETHERNESS--of a common LOYALTY to Jesus Christ, His TRUTH with no watering down, of being truly ONE --AT-ONE-MENT with GOD! It is a HAPPY spirit, a joyous spirit!

The attitude of division, suspicion, taking sides, seems to have vanished. Now we are once again truly O N E Body of Christ in harmony and peace and love!

And of course it was another FIRST! Modern technical facilities did not yet enable us to bring together by microwave and satellite every feast site on earth. BUT for the first time, on the first day and the Last Great Day, all festival sites in the United States, Canada and England were joined together by television cameras and motion picture screens at the various sites--all but Hawaii, where they heard the audio portion only.

A few mechanical difficulties caused a delay on the opening day. But from all reports the Last Great Day transmission was technically OK and all of you were as if you were right with us at the moment here in Tucson. When I spoke, they tell me, by TV camera close up, my face appeared live many times larger on your screen than if I had been physically there. I hope it was all satisfactory, and many reports say it was.

THIS DREW US ALL TOGETHER--AS IF WE WERE ALL IN ONE AND THE SAME BIG AUDITORIUM!

But the main thing is that we all had the attitude, feel, and spirit of BEING TOGETHER--one of UNITY in CHRIST!

Reports from all over say the sermons were somehow inspired by the living Christ to be the BEST EVER! I know they surely were here at Tucson, where upwards of 5,000 were assembled together.

Through the years I have heard some very fine sermons at various festivals, even by some of the younger ministers. But this year EVERY sermon here at the Tucson site, as well as every sermonette, was simply super. For one thing, the messages were kept generally on the theme of the occasion--the coming millennial reign of the Kingdom of God, and/or our preparation for it. There were deeply spiritual and moving sermons on our need to prepare spiritually for it. There were messages on the GOVERNMENT of the Kingdom during the millennium. There were explanatory sermons on the type of civilization--the agricultural nature of society and the happiness it will bring, during the coming thousand years.

Both sermons and sermonettes hewed to the line, as God instructs, and gave us "MEAT IN DUE SEASON." These Festivals were given us to remind us every year of God's great Master Plan working out HIS TREMENDOUS PURPOSE here below. This year all ministers "hewed to the line."

I personally congratulate all the ministers, and I know all the brethren join me in this. You ministers did look to the living Christ for guidance and inspiration, and He answered your prayers!

This morning I happened to tune in for about thirty seconds on Pat Robertson and his 700 Club. He was offering a little leaflet or tract of some kind that would show the reader how to live this new wonderful life in Christ. Too bad all those evangelists do not understand fully what the true life in Christ is.

To them, their brand of "Christianity" is one that exalts Jesus Christ, worships Him, but as PART of this world--assuming this is HIS world. They remain PART OF this world, while talking about, accepting, even worshipping Christ. But Jesus said, "In VAIN do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandments of God, ye hold the traditions of men...Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:7-9).

How thankful we should be that God has revealed to us HIS GOVERNMENT, based on His LAW, which is HIS way of life.

The Church of God is the Body of Christ CALLED OUT FROM the world. We must live in it, but we are not OF it! We look forward for God's WORLD TOMORROW!

What a joyous time we just had looking forward to that wonderful time!

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NEW MAGAZINE TO BE BORN

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

During the midst of the Feast of Tabernacles God put in my mind the need of still another magazine.

Already we publish more magazines and regular publications than any church so far as I know. I have even wondered if we are top-heavy--publishing too many. But I really don't think so--people are reached through the eye more effectively than by any other means.

The PRINTED WORD has done more to build and inspire God's Church than any other means. Radio and TV have been effective--the first approach. But the booklets, Correspondence Course, The PLAIN TRUTH and, in the Church itself The GOOD NEWS, the WORLDWIDE NEWS, and for the ministry the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT--not to mention even full books--have done more to follow up a first temporary, casual interest into a completely changed and dedicated life than radio and TV by far!

But God has now shown me that we have been neglecting a MOST IMPORTANT NUMBER OF OUR PEOPLE--the youths from age 18 and under. We have the Y.O.U. and the Y.E.S. and the S.E.P. summer camp at Orr, Minnesota. But our young people coming along are the FUTURE MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERS IN THE CHURCH AND THE LEADERS IN THE WHOLE WORLD GOVERNMENT OF TOMORROW!

In a sense, doesn't that make them almost the MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE ON EARTH?

So it came to my mind that they need a REAL MAGAZINE of their own. Not even a tabloid "newspaper" type paper--a REAL MAGAZINE! Full color. I have thought, turned over in my mind and prayed over the NAME of the new magazine. I had thought of several, such as the JUNIOR PLAIN TRUTH, and then "YOUTH TODAY." Discussing it with Dexter Faulkner, Managing Editor of our publications, he came up with,

"YOUTH/81."

The following year it would be "YOUTH/82" and so on--a takeoff from "QUEST."

The first issue will come out as the January, 1981 number--Volume 1, Number 1. It will be sent without subscription price to all youths, children of Worldwide Church of God members, ages 13 to 18.

We will have a department for "What Our Readers Say," and if some of our youths will write in right away telling us what they think of the idea of a magazine OF THEIR OWN, the editors will select from among them letters to be published in VOL.1, No.1. And that will become a treasure copy to be kept for years.

I want this magazine to be well illustrated. There's a saying that one picture says more than a thousand words. I would like some of the illustrations to be humorous, some to bring a laugh--yet others to illustrate more serious or thought-provoking articles. There will be articles on sports, and the things all youths are interested in, and also articles looking into the future, such as "WHAT DO TEENS AND YOUTHS HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN A MODERN WORLD?"

There will be news of the Y.O.U. and the Y.E.S. I would like someone to write a good article on "LIFE AT S.E.P. CAMP." There will be updated articles on the PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT SEX. There is perhaps no need more urgent for pre-marriage youths than proper, intelligent and frank knowledge about sex after puberty and before marriage--AND W H Y ? You can't get this sorely needed knowledge from other kids--and very few ever get it from parents. Nor any book on sex at bookstores.

There will be articles about youth and parent relationships, about competition in sports, about sports in the World Tomorrow.

Articles on where do youths get their LIFE-STYLE, and where SHOULD THEY? An article on "Did SATAN Get to YOU When You Were Young?"

The above gives you a few ideas of the type of articles and material that will appear in "YOUTH/81."

Another, "Is the BIBLE For Youths--or ONLY For Middle-aged and The Elderly?" I would welcome ideas and suggestions from youths about the kind of articles and subjects they feel should be covered in THEIR new magazine.

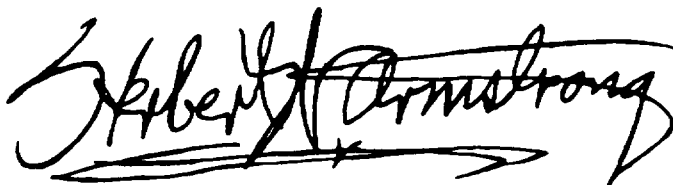
I am personally very enthusiastic about this. I myself will be in my 90th year a year from now--but don't ever get the idea I'm an old man. I still have very YOUNG IDEAS--though both God and the years have added enough wisdom to know which are the BETTER values even for kids and youths. I don't mean better for God or for parents--I mean better for the YOUNG. Yes, and better for us ALL!

Remember, God does not deny us anything that is good for US--He wants our lives to be happier, with more JOY that is good for US! Some people--adults, middle and old-aged as well as the young--are deceived into thinking some things are good that make us painfully sorry afterward.

I will have this story of "YOUTH/81" run in Worldwide News also.

By the way, I would urgently request all youths of Worldwide Church of God parents to send in AT ONCE, their names and addresses, with age (13-18 inclusive). And, if some a year or so younger or older want to subscribe, we will enter the subscription. Be sure to PRINT the name and address in block letters.

Send the subscription to "YOUTH/81," Worldwide Church of God, Box 111, Pasadena, California 91123.



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

News of God's Work in French-speaking Areas

Record-breaking Times God's Work in the French-speaking areas has experienced much growth since Mr. Herbert Armstrong has begun to put the Church back on the right track. We have achieved records in many areas such as the number of renewals received from former PV subscribers (11% response in France, over 15% response in Guadeloupe and Martinique, and about 8% response in Switzerland), in the income (June 1980 income in Geneva up 67.5% over June 1979) and the attendance at services in all French churches including Canada. We are certainly very grateful to God for all these blessings.

The French PT The French PT is now published in the U.S.A. by the R. R. Donnelley & Sons Co. The September issue reached France in less than four days--and its production cost was much lower than when printed in England.

News From Martinique Immigration officers in Martinique have become increasingly suspicious of the cassettes we send to the country. Apparently there is a high black market on U.S. cassettes containing music which is hurting record merchants in Martinique. So in order to receive the sermon cassettes we send to the Church, Mr. Carbonnel must personally prove there is no music on them. He routinely brings his own cassette player with him to the excise office and plays the cassettes in front of an immigration officer before they are finally released.

The Jehovah's Witnesses in Martinique are publishing much libelous and slanderous material in the local newspapers against Mr. Armstrong and the Church, referring to the false accusations made by the Attorney General. Mr. Carbonnel has warned the brethren not to be offended by these assaults of the Adversary. In general, our members are holding on to the truth because they realize that God's Church and true Christians are to receive persecution in the end times.

Hurricane Allen has now caused at least a one-month delay in the daily broadcasting of "Le Monde a Venir" on Radio-Caraibes. The breakdown was due to damage done to a transmitting station. Fortunately there were no deaths due to the hurricane, although Martinique's banana plantations were almost 100% destroyed.

And in the vast unprotected and unpatrolled forests of Martinique, several marijuana plantations have been discovered. Increasingly, the drug culture is invading and becoming a way of life in Martinique.

Cameroon Mr. Ray Clore is busily making plans to have trained personnel and an efficient office going once we are officially and legally recognized in Cameroon. Due to the poor mail system (a problem as well in the Antilles), a French office would greatly enhance the chance of our readers receiving the literature we send them. Presently, international mail coming in from Paris takes from 6 to 60 days to reach its destination. Sometimes it doesn't even get through!

Mr. Clore wrote relating his situation in Cameroon: "As you can tell, I'm again in Douala. Washington wants to have me transferred permanently down here. Yaounde wants to have me back around August 1. It's nice to be wanted but living out of a suitcase and not knowing where we can really settle down here in Cameroon is not too pleasant. I think it is somewhat amusing to see how God manipulates the U.S. government personnel process to keep me going back and forth from Yaounde to Douala to be able to pastor the flock effectively here--at U.S. government expense!"

Miracle in Guadeloupe Mr. Dubois, our minister in Guadeloupe, writes: "God intervened miraculously for the Moradel family in Guadeloupe. Their son, Freddy, 22 years old and not a member, was helping his father construct a small vault at the cemetery in Baie-Mahault. He was putting up metallic braces with iron shafts. It was while adjusting one of these iron shafts that it came in contact with a high voltage electric wire several meters above his head. The current in the wire was 30,000 volts.

A big noise like that of a cannon exploding was heard hundreds of meters around. The young man's clothing disintegrated, and he fell over 19 feet, and landed in some grass. He only received some minor burns on his chest and right leg. We can glorify God for always intervening and protecting us miraculously."

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Sandy and I have just returned from the Ministerial Refreshing Program, and all the enthusiastic comments we had read are true. It truly was refreshing from the moment we stepped on campus. Right away we felt the warmth, closeness and enthusiasm of the students, faculty and everyone there.

We were very inspired by around 100 hours of instruction on all basic doctrines from men who are fully backing you up--they all did a very fine, thorough job and we want to thank each one of them. They also set an excellent example in making themselves available, fellowshiping with us, having us over to their homes. This example meant a lot to us.

We are filled with gratitude for the last three weeks. This is the best program we've ever had to update, instruct, unite and inspire the ministry and the Church.

My wife says to be sure to let you know how much she appreciates the wives being included in the Program. Thanks again--we love you and pray for you every day.

David and Sandy Mills

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

This is the first time I have ever written to you. I've never written to you before because I've never felt that I had anything to say that was worth taking up your time.

Please accept in this short note my sincere thanks and appreciation for all the hard work you do for us. You truly are a profitable servant, doing much more than is required. Thanks also for the newly instituted Ministerial Refreshing Program. It will help me become a better minister and servant of Jesus Christ. It is truly an honor and privilege to be in the ministry and to serve you and the membership.

Thanks again for all you've done over the years--for your dedication, zeal, wisdom and love. Keep up all the good work!

Art Dyer

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Kathy and I wish to express our thanks to you for your Ministerial Refreshing Program. Of all the programs designed for the ministry,

this has to be the most profitable. We are anxious to return to our area and teach the sound doctrine we have learned here. Thank you for your direction and for the men you have assisting you.

It is very evident that the Bride is once again preparing herself for Jesus Christ.

Ray and Kathy Lisman

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

It is with the deepest sense of appreciation that I must write to you on behalf of my wife and myself regarding the #3 Ministerial Refreshing Program. Oh how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in UNITY! (Psalm 133:1.)

What a JOYFUL experience it has been to participate in this wonderful program. The dedication of all the instructors in the classes was very apparent. The benefits my wife and I derived from the Refreshing Program will be long lasting.

We in the Ministry have been HUNGERING and THIRSTING for this type of SOLID, GOD-ORIENTED instruction! How wonderful it was to share experiences and to fellowship with each other in Christ at God's very own College. The Campus has never looked so lovely and the students so wholesome and outgoing.

God is truly restoring His FULL BLESSING as the Work gears up for the BIG PUSH FORWARD!

Our prayers are with you Mr. Armstrong. May these comments be an encouragement to you as the Refreshing Program was to us. From those who LOVE YOU and APPRECIATE your God-given leadership for His Work!

Kenneth and Barbara Martin

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I have just returned to New Hampshire from the third session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program and want immediately to write and let you know how much we have appreciated this program --thank you very much for it!

The classes are excellent and it was wonderful to be taught from the Bible by dedicated, loyal, and humble men who were not speaking their own words but were teaching the truths of God that He has put into the Church through you.

It's so very encouraging to know that the entire ministry will have the opportunity of participating in this program. It will be a great help in building unity and a spirit of rededication in the ministry.

Truly, a time of refreshing and restitution is occurring in the Church, thanks to God working through you.

Our family prays for you daily.

Dan and Barbara Rogers

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We really miss your physical presence here among us, though your direct guidance is felt by all. It is a wonderful thing to be a part of the refined ministry and Church of the living God. We thank God daily for His massive amount of love directed at us through His Apostle. This Refreshing Program is another outstanding example of His hand.

John and Merrie Elliott

Mr. Armstrong:

For each week of the Refreshing Program we have had more practical instruction in how to conduct our pastorates than in one full year of sabbatical 1977-78. Thank you and God bless you as you continue in the Work as His Apostle.

Lyall and Wynnis Johnston

Mr. Armstrong:

We want to thank you for the opportunity to be here in the Refreshing Program. It was a marvelous way to be sure that we all have the basic truths. It has been interesting and exciting to share this time with the others. Thanks again.

Valden and Stella White

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you for the Refreshing Program. It really is a refresher for things we learned years ago, as well as an update on new revelations of God's Word. May God continually keep refreshing your mind and in turn ours.

Hal W. Baird, Jr.

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you seems so inadequate until we put it in the context of our truly respectful appreciation for what we are seeing accomplished in this Refreshing Program. In that context, Mr. Armstrong, we are truly grateful.

Al and Florence Mischnick

Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you so much for allowing the ministry this fine Refreshing Program. We are solidly behind you and desire to hold your hands up as you perform this great Work. It has been great to be here!

Jim and Joan Tuck

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I want to thank you for a most profitable three week Refreshing Program. I came away totally inspired. I was so impressed with not only what was said but how it was said. It was so obvious that you

men are very dedicated and loyal to God's Work and to Mr. Armstrong. That fact alone would have made the program a success and worth the time and expense involved.

On a personal note, I do want you to know that I appreciate the time you spent with me. I found you to be very warm and personable and without question the most humble and balanced individual to ever hold your office.

Thank you for your personal concern.

Britt Taylor

Mr. Tkach:

Just want to say thanks for allowing me and my wife to attend the Refreshing Program. It was truly the opportunity of a lifetime. Keep up the good work. We're all behind you. Thanks again.

Art Dyer

Mr. Tkach:

Just a note to say thank you for inviting my wife and me in to the Refreshing Program. It was tremendous! I'm glad we had a chance to get to know you. We certainly appreciate your tireless efforts and hope to follow your example.

Please come up and visit us sometime. The members here would love to meet you. How about Unleavened Bread or Pentecost?

Again, thanks for the program and all your efforts in Ministerial Services.

Dan and Barbara Rogers

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I'd like to thank you and all the others in Ministerial Services and on the faculty who help to make the Ministerial Refreshing Program what it is. All of you set us a wonderful example of service and loyalty; I learned a lot from this example. And I deeply appreciate the many hours of classes and all the instruction we received.

The brethren here were excited about the report on the Refreshing Program and the sermons they'll be receiving after the Feast.

Sandy and I were happy to be able to meet you for the first time. We also appreciated being able to be with Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Neff, Dr. Hoeh, Mr. LaRavia, and all the others. We really benefitted from these classes and the fellowship.

Thanks again. We'll be praying for all of you there each day, and please remember us here.

David and Sandy Mills

Thanks for Church Visits

Dear Dr. Kessler:

Just a short note to once again say thanks for coming to the Delaware churches on the Feast of Trumpets. For someone to visit two small churches from Pasadena does reflect a serving attitude that must exist in Ministerial Services and that's great!!! Also to hear your comments directly from Mr. Armstrong is indeed refreshing. And you have truly lived up to your words of "keep the faith and spread it." For you have certainly done that in Delaware. Thanks!

Arnold Hampton

Mr. Armstrong/Mr. Tkach:

Just a note of appreciation for this past weekend's G-II visit to Cincinnati by Mr. John Halford and Mr. Gerald Seelig. The Sabbath for all here was a most inspiring and informative day. All the comments after services reflected the same sentiment--an enthusiastic and sincere appreciation that Mr. Armstrong has made these visits possible.

The direct link to Mr. Armstrong and his team in Pasadena that these visits provide is of inestimable value. The chance for the brethren to have someone right from Pasadena show the documentary, update them on the legal situation, put it all in focus with a strong and forward-looking sermon, and then to answer directly and frankly the questions asked is really great.

The people feel closer to Mr. Armstrong by having his loyal and supportive representatives come. They feel more involved in the trials faced by the Church, and much is done to foster the kind of unity and oneness of mind and direction that God wants built in His Church.

Again, thanks very much for the visit--we really do appreciate it.

R. Shorty Fuessel

Funeral Service Bears Fruit

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Greetings from Montgomery, Alabama!

This past week, September 3rd, I had the responsibility of preaching the funeral service of one of our member's grandchildren. (A baby girl one month old.) During the sermon I covered related scriptures on the second resurrection in order to show the future chance that the baby would have in God's Plan.

Well, to make a long story short, this past Sabbath, September 6, I was informed by the grandmother that the family members on BOTH sides of the family who heard the sermon AND the Funeral Director and his

assistant now would like a visit from me to find out more of God's Truth and to possibly begin attending Church!!!

Thanks for your ear. I was inspired by this news and thought you might be also.

Paul Kurts

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

JACKSONVILLE, N.C.--DON ENGLE: The main activity this month was conducting public Bible lectures in two cities (two nights each) in the area. In Wilmington, there were 4-5 new people. In New Bern there were almost 60! Serious interest was expressed by several. One couple is now attending services as a result of the lectures. Several members of a couple of churches in the New Bern area attended the lectures.

BALTIMORE, MD--ROY DEMAREST: Great surge of baptism requests (15-20) --many coming from young people who have been attending church for many years.

KINGSPORT, IN--GEORGE ELKINS: August has been my most active month since I have been in the ministry! The instruction I received during the three-week Refreshing Program has made me a much sounder counsellor, and a more effective pastor. Thank you Mr. Armstrong for that tremendous training program! May God bless you as you complete His Work of getting the gospel to the world!

GENEVA, AL--DON WATERHOUSE: Noticeable increase in PM contacts. These are more interested in the important things (baptism, etc.) than many in past. All are very supportive of Mr. Armstrong and desire to know about his health, plans, etc.

HOUSTON, TX. NORTH--JOHN OGWYN: Things seem to be going well overall. The attitude of the people towards Mr. Armstrong and headquarters is very good. We have been continuing to get growth. Our biggest problem area is marriage and family problems.

RAPID CITY, S.D.--STEVE BUCHANAN: Appreciate the inclusion of the many positive comments in the PGR on the Refreshing Program! We are really looking forward to it! Also encouraging is Mr. Armstrong's advertising copy reprinted in the PGR and WN. Just another indication that God guided Mr. Armstrong's early training. Received Mr. Rader's book; it was entertaining, informative, couldn't put it down!

APPLETON, WI--DAVE FIELDER: We're really excited about taking part in the Refreshing Program. I'm glad we are hitting head-on this assault by the State on God's Church. If the Feast is characteristic of the progress in the last year, it should really be tremendous.

HOUSTON, TX. EAST--HAL W. BAIRD, JR.: Overall attitude of members becoming more friendly and warmer as people keep getting behind Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. They also are more open in expressing their opinion of how the Work is getting "set back on the track." Seven baptisms!

SANTA BARBARA, CA--LES McCOLM: Mr. Armstrong's exposition of the book of Galatians has been the highlight of the month--especially chapters 5 & 6 where he elaborates on the 144,000 and the great multitude in Revelation 7. The trend now is to greater attendance at Bible studies.

We are eagerly looking forward to coming in for the Refreshing Program. Al Kersha, Fred Kellers, Fred Davis and others have visited us during their time and reported to us what a tremendous help and encouragement it has been.

KENT, WA--J. RICHARD PARKER: The Kent Church is responding well to the things I have presented to them from the Refresher Course.

MONROE, LA--BRISCOE ELLETT II: Many positive comments about the great new direction in the Work.

SEATTLE, WA--DENNIS LUKER: Some dropouts returning to Church.

ONTARIO, OR--JEFF MCGOWAN: Even though the Church is small, the people are loyal to the Work, and they are working to help with various PT distribution programs.

OMAHA, NE--A. W. DOCKEN: Trials seem to be piling up, in some cases forcing people to decide between God and the world. Young people--some as young as 14 and 15--are having this battle as well with school activities, outside dating, etc. Most are choosing God's way. Most members are seriously trying to get cleaned up, overcome long-standing problems, preparing for the Feast and Kingdom.

AUSTIN, TX--HAROLD J. RHODES: Thank you for sending us a copy of Mr. Rader's book. Very well written!

WAUSAU, WI--D. FIELDER: I'm very thankful for the much-needed help in an Associate Pastor coming to Wausau. It will be a real blessing for the people too. Last week a woman was totally healed of cancer! Her three sisters and mother had all died of the same disease and she was not supposed to live past July according to doctors.

ALEXANDRIA, LA--BRISCOE ELLETT II: P.M. activity picking up a little. The spirit in the Church continues to run high. More and more I believe we see what a blessing it is to have God's Apostle back in charge of things and the results are inspiring. Many wish we had a radio broadcast to hear in this area. A blast of severe heat and no rain here has practically ruined all agriculture; most feel we must be very close to the end.

BILLINGS, MT--GENE WATKINS: Biggest event was to attend the Ministerial Refreshing Program which was great!

WICHITA, KS--JUDD KIRK: There is a clear wave of response to what Mr. Armstrong is doing in the Church. This is showing itself in various ways--all of which are leading to the type of fruits within the local Church which are very strengthening.

MENA, AR--JOHN R. ELLIOTT: Good interest in services and Bible studies. Phenomenal growth for such a small remote Church area.

MEDFORD, OR--FRED DAVIS: Everyone seems to sense the closeness of the Work's completion. Excitement is high. Area is stable.

SAN JOSE, CA--LEROY COLE: Everyone is very excited and encouraged by the changes the Church is making under the direct leadership of Mr. Armstrong. This area is positive and membership is very involved in Church affairs.

Weekly Letter Comments

This week's comments begin with a selection of letters written to Mr. Armstrong by children expressing their support for God's Work and Apostle. Then, students of the Bible Correspondence Course express excitement about their Bible study as God's Word unfolds before them. Finally, brethren relate how truly thankful they are for the Bible study tapes being sent to all churches. They appreciate hearing Mr. Armstrong and being instructed by him personally.

Letters to Mr. Armstrong From Children

I have always wanted to see you eye to eye (Mr. Armstrong). At the Feast I saw you, but not eye to eye. I will never forget to pay my tithe. And I will never forget you because you are the one God has sent to help us come into God's body. And I am trying to overcome all my sins. We do not have a T.V. but I am glad we don't, because every time I watch it I have nightmares. I like to watch it sometimes but not always. I am going to cheer for a team in Eugene. We are behind you in every step you make.

Andra Salmon--10 yrs. (Lowell, OR)

I was just watching 60 MINUTES and how they were saying that you spent money from our tithes wastefully, but I know that God says to give tithes so that is what you do. It takes money to go to places and preach. There are so many people that you have enough money to do that safely and with pleasure. I am proud to have such a fine church that pleases God. Please keep up the good sermons.

Eva Gartzten--12 yrs. (Barberton, OH)

My name is Wade Edward Brown. I am 10 years old. I live in Eunice, N.M. and I go to Sabbath services in Midland, Texas and Hobbs, N.M. My mother and father have been going to church for ten years. I hope you come to Big Sandy, Texas for the Feast this year because I would like to meet you. I have one brother and one sister. I am glad you are the Apostle of God's Church. I like you very much. I wish I could meet your family.

Wade Brown--10 yrs. (Eunice, N.M.)

Enclosed is my first tithe for God's Work around the world. Our family prays for you every day. Thank you for opening Imperial School. I am nine years old.

Mike Michaud--9 yrs. (Pasadena, CA)

I would like a free book on JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN BORN AGAIN? please. I am 11 years old. And I love your show. God bless you.

Leslie C.--11 yrs. (Edmonton, Canada)

I don't have any suggestions but you all are doing a really good job, so keep up the good work.

Tony Schmidt--12 yrs. (Big Sandy, TX)

Students Excited About Bible Correspondence Course

I would like to thank you for sending me the Correspondence Course which I find is very interesting and fascinating to study. To tell you the truth, I've never really read much of the Bible. But since I received this course I've really learned something of life and how much I've missed out by not reading the Scriptures. It's made me a very happy and different person. I would like to thank you again.

Mrs. P.W. (Wagin, Australia)

How wonderful and exciting God's Word is! Indeed the Bible does interpret itself. I am so very grateful for the Ambassador College Correspondence Course! I must admit, I was skeptical. I wondered how in the world could the Bible be taught by mail. Well, I was wrong. It is hard for me to put aside my studying when my eyes get tired.

Shirley Smith (North Bergen, NJ)

The Bible Correspondence Course is the beginning of knowledge. I learn more each day as I study the course. It sure brings the Bible more to light. And it means so much to me; I am on lesson 12.

Mrs. Clara Young (Mountville, SC)

I have completed lesson one of your Bible Correspondence Course. Yours is the best approach to Bible study I have come across yet. It made me want to search the scriptures rather than have to search them.

Debbie Mason (Chelsea, MS)

Very many thanks for sending me the first four issues of the inspired Bible Correspondence Course. I am enjoying these studies immensely, and never imagined that Bible study could be so interesting and rewarding. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for your great generosity in making me one of your students. And I now look forward eagerly to the arrival of lesson five and subsequent lessons! God bless you all.

I.L.G. (Glasgow, Great Britain)

I have finished lesson six of the Correspondence Course on the subject of hell. This has had a profound impact on my life. It opened my eyes to answers for questions I wondered about for a long time but knew not where to look. It is truly an inspiring lesson and I look forward to lesson seven.

Greg Stewart (Kincheloe, MI)

Brethren Thankful for Mr. Armstrong's Bible Study Tapes

We want to thank you for the tapes of the Bible studies you give. They are very interesting and are such a blessing for us. My husband and I really enjoy hearing them. We feel we can never take the attitude--"Oh we've heard that before," because we want to let God use every opportunity to teach us. There is always something that can be learned.

Thank you for having the Bible studies taped for all the churches--it means a lot to many of us to hear from you. We want to continue to learn from God's Apostle!

Gary & Roberta Lashua (St. Petersburg, FL)

I've just come home from the Bible study of your tape on Galatians three and four. It is wonderful to have you conduct these studies all over the country via these tapes and to experience again for ourselves the loving and patient way you teach your children in God.

Mrs. Katherine Hill (Anchorage, AK)

Last Sabbath we heard a tape you made on Galatians. It was wonderful to hear your voice so loud and strong. I am sure God will give you the strength to carry on until the end. We all love you and are one hundred percent behind you.

Miss Sue Pople (Concord, NH)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

ON THE WORLD SCENE

ON THE SPOT IN BONN: NOT YET TIME FOR STRAUSS--Unwilling to take political risks in an increasingly uncertain world, West German voters, on Sunday, October 5, returned Chancellor Helmut Schmidt to a new four-year term of office. The electoral challenge of Franz Josef Strauss was decisively turned back.

I was at the Christian Democratic Union headquarters in Bonn when the first election results poured out over the television monitors shortly after polls closed at 6:00 p.m. By 6:45, the sophisticated computers employed by the two key television networks had already clearly and accurately projected the outcome--bad news for the CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the CSU (Christian Socialist Union). A few minutes later, as I was standing near the entrance to the CDU building, a caravan of cars sped up. Out from the first one stepped a lively Herr Strauss, smiling graciously, though he already knew his electoral fate.

The "Wahlparty" (Election Party) that evening at CDU headquarters was not to be a particularly happy one. But as Wolfgang Thomsen (from our Bonn office) and I walked into the Social Democratic Party building just down the street, we noticed that the mood there among the party faithful was strangely subdued. Their champion had won, but the German electorate had hardly given the slate of SPD candidates a ringing endorsement. The SPD made only fractional gains over the last election in 1976.

The real winners of the election were the Free Democrats (FDP), the small party which operates in coalition with Schmidt's Socialists. The news magazine der Spiegel made a cover change halfway through their copy run and ran a picture of Free Democratic Party head (and Foreign Minister) Hans-Dietrich Genscher with the title, der Sieger (The Winner). The Free Democrats increased their share of the total vote to 10.6% from 7.9% in 1976. Not bad for a party that some believed only a few months ago might not even clear the 5% hurdle necessary for representation.

Clearly what German voters had done was to try to strengthen the moderate center of German politics. They did not want to give the SPD more power since they feared the party's left-wing would impose more socialistic measures on the German economy and society. (Schmidt himself is on the conservative side of the SPD.) Yet, a sizeable bloc of voters simply could not conscientiously support Herr Strauss, whom they considered to be too far to the right. Thus many Germans, including at least 500,000 regular CDU followers, cast their votes (or more correctly their second votes) for the FDP. In doing so, they believed the moderate Free Democrats would act as enough of a brake on the Socialists, without taking a risk on Mr. Strauss, whom they believed to be unpredictable.

(In West Germany, each voter casts two ballots in the national election, one directly for a representative to Parliament from his local constituency, the second for a list of candidates put up by each party in the land, or state, in which he lives. Half of all Bundestag members are directly elected via the first ballot, the other half are drawn from the party lists proportional to the votes cast for each list. The FDP strength comes entirely from this second ballot; it has no directly elected members. What happened in this election was that many CDU voters, loyal to their party but suspicious of Strauss, split their votes, sending a CDU representative to the Bundestag on the first ballot, while voting for the FDP list on the second. Anticipating this factor, the CDU had printed campaign posters appealing for voters to cast both their ballots for the CDU, but obviously this didn't work.)

The result was the worst showing for the CDU/CSU sister parties since the first West German election in 1949. Nevertheless, the CDU/CSU alliance, with 44.5 per cent of the vote (down from 48.6 in 1976) and 226 seats in the Bundestag remains the single largest party in parliament, retaining their edge over the SPD, which pulled 42.9 of the vote (almost the same as their 42.6 tally in 1976) and 218 seats. Thus Schmidt's Socialists continue to govern only with the help of the Free Democrats, who upped their seats in the Bundestag to 53 from 39.

"Hardest Period" Ahead for Chancellor Schmidt

Herr Strauss found out how hard it is to unseat a successful incumbent riding at the crest of his power and prestige. He found himself in the same shoes as Adlai Stevenson in 1956 running opposite President Eisenhower. Yet Herr Strauss was right when he said after the election that Mr. Schmidt "is now faced with the hardest period of his political lifetime."

Structural problems are beginning to appear in the West German economy. For the first time in 15 years the Federal Republic has chalked up a trade deficit. In foreign relations, Bonn faces severe problems from Eastern

Europe to the Middle East. The eruption of war in the oil-laden Persian Gulf casts a huge pall over the economies of all of Western Europe. Because of his years of experience on the job, West Germans were not about to turn out Herr Schmidt, one of their most successful chancellors ever, at this time. Strauss represented too much of a risk now. As one lady told me, she was voting SPD but would probably have gone with the CDU had it not been for Strauss personally.

The Free Democrats, feeling their oats, are certain to ask for more power within the SPD-FDP coalition. This could make life a little rougher for Herr Schmidt who always has a tussle with his party's troublesome left wing. Also, since the FDP drew so much of a "protest vote" from the CDU, it must be more sensitive to traditional conservative desires. Hence more trouble for Schmidt. This means, editorialized the Times of London, that "a change of coalition partner becomes in principle easier to contemplate. However the intention is clearly to stick with the present coalition for the next four years. A break is likely only if Herr Schmidt steps down for reasons of health or principle and if life with the left then becomes intolerable."

Strauss's Future

And what of the future of Franz Josef Strauss? Right now, it's bleak, a development the Bavarian has faced numerous times in his long up-and-down career. Under normal conditions, Strauss stands little chance of becoming the CDU-CSU standard bearer four years hence.

The only chance Herr Strauss has is to retain his power base in Bavaria, the Republic's biggest state, and to continue to speak out against Schmidt's policies from within the Bundesrat, Bonn's upper chamber. Increased world turmoil is certainly in his favor. Strauss will, as he did continually during the campaign, warn that the left-leaning Socialists are cutting Germany's moorings from the West and from America in particular. At the present time, with relative prosperity still to be enjoyed, West German voters didn't feel Strauss had enough of an argument. This could change, especially if Russia ends up with a strangle hold on Persian Gulf oil and holds Germany and the West at ransom, demanding that NATO be dismembered, forcing the Americans to leave Europe.

Finally feeling the chilling embrace of Moscow, the German people may yet call for the Bavarian strongman--the one they feared in good times--to rescue them from their crisis. Herr Strauss may yet be Germany's--and Europe's--"man for emergencies."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau