

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 3, NO. 2

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 9, 1981

CURRENT TRIP SO FAR

by Herbert W. Armstrong

We left Tucson Friday noon, January 2nd, arriving Honolulu Friday evening. I met with and preached to the Church on Sabbath. Left Honolulu Sunday noon. Crossing international date line in afternoon it became Monday; arrived just before dark at Tokyo Monday.

Mr. Rader accompanied me as usual in early afternoon visit with Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki at his official residence. He is the sixth prime minister I have met in private visit in Japan. I congratulated him warmly on his new "Suzuki Doctrine" announced that morning for Japan aid to, and cooperation with, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) announced in the Japanese press that morning.

I congratulated him on a policy of "give" instead of "get." His office was filled with TV and still cameras and bright lights, and reporters for our interview which was reported in Wednesday morning Japanese-language newspapers, but not in English-language papers. We presented him with a gift of steuben crystal as we had to other prime ministers before him.

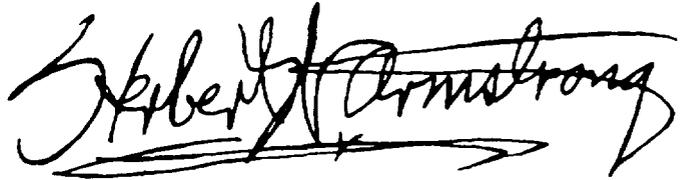
Prime Minister Suzuki left Tokyo for Manila Thursday for conferences with President Ferdinand Marcos. I will have conference with President Marcos week of January 11th.

On Wednesday the 7th, Mr. Rader and I had tea and an hour's visit with Prince Mikasa, the Emperor's brother, and his wife, Princess Mikasa. We have known them for twelve years, and we decided we were all getting old for we talked over old times of 1968, 1970 and later, that we have enjoyed together.

Thursday night was the big banquet in the Imperial Hotel's largest ballroom. Four hundred and eighty-two were present--the very top elite of Tokyo, including 22 Ambassadors representing other nations and some 20 of my "Japanese sons" who are congressmen in the Japanese Diet. I was chief speaker and gave them a strong message on the Kingdom of God.

Sabbath afternoon at 2:30 I spoke to an audience of about 100 Plain Truth subscribers--all Japanese and all either students or faculty from universities who understand English. They seemed very interested and the

sermon was in power on approaching world crisis (great tribulation) and Christ's coming Kingdom of God, way of life, spiritual law, and peaceful world tomorrow. Will speak here again three weeks from today and expect a larger crowd. Leave Sunday for Hong Kong and Manila.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Herbert Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script. The name "Herbert" is written in a smaller, more compact cursive, while "Armstrong" is written in a larger, more flowing cursive. There are some horizontal lines and flourishes under the signature.

(The above article by Mr. Armstrong for the Pastor General's Report was telexed to Pasadena. It will also appear in the Worldwide News.)

MR. ARMSTRONG MEETS JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER

(This report was received prior to Mr. Armstrong's preceding article.)

Dateline Tokyo:

Mr. Herbert Armstrong met today (January 6, 1981) for 30 minutes with Prime Minister Suzuki of Japan.

Prime Minister Suzuki, who will be departing for his first overseas visit as Prime Minister of Japan, discussed with Mr. Armstrong Japan's great interest in promoting cooperation with its neighbors and other peoples around the world. He also expressed deep appreciation for Mr. Armstrong's continued contribution to a better understanding between the peoples of Japan and the peoples of the United States.

Mr. Armstrong, accompanied by Mr. Rader, will be in Japan for another four or five days. Tomorrow he will meet with Prince Mikasa, brother of the emperor, and plan for the Ambassador Foundation's participation in the Middle East Cultural Museum and Library which has now been completed.

On Thursday evening, January 8, Mr. Armstrong will address 450 leaders of the Japanese community at a banquet in his honor. Some 15 Japanese Diet members, Mr. Armstrong's "spiritual" sons, will pay tribute to his efforts over the past 15 years in Japan. Then, on Saturday, January 10, Mr. Armstrong will address a large public meeting in Tokyo to discuss the crisis in world affairs and the way to world peace.

January 8 Update

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was honored last evening at a banquet attended by 480 people in association with the Japan, China and United States Cultural Friendship Association. Mr. Armstrong spoke for some 40 minutes on world affairs. Those attending included 22 Ambassadors from various countries, 20 Diet Members, as well as numerous government officials and heads of industry and education in Japan.

A Voice Cries Out: WHY?

We Can:

- send men to the moon and back,
- produce computers, robots,
- develop science and technology, learn secrets of physics and chemistry, build industries.

But We Can't:

- solve our troubles, eradicate evils:
- within family and home,
- within industries and factions,
- government, domestic or foreign problems.

Appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 5, 1981

WHY?



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

- 1) There has to be a *cause* for every *effect*.
- 2) The effect—the troubles and evils—spring from our *way of life*.
- 3) There are, broadly, *two* ways of life, traveling in opposite directions: "GIVE" (outflowing love and concern for the good of others in serving, cooperating, sharing) and "GET" (self-centeredness, coveting, competition).
- 4) Both ways of life are spiritual in nature.
- 5) Our troubles and evils are caused by the "GET" incentive.
- 6) Our near-miraculous, mind-boggling accomplishments are physical and material in nature. There seems no end to the possibilities of human accomplishment in the realm of the physical and material.
- 7) But conversely, humanity seems utterly helpless before his real troubles and evils. Why?

- 8) The "GIVE" way of life actually is a spiritual law as inexorably relentless as the law of gravity.
- 9) Because the way of "GIVE"—outflowing love to God and to neighbor—is a *spiritual* law, much of mankind has tended to think of things spiritual as maudlin, unrealistic nonsense. Yet the spiritual principle of "GIVE" has been so *REAL* it has imposed on suffering humanity all its evils!
- 10) I look at a misguided humanity—some rich, some not so rich, many poor, some scholarly, some illiterate—but

almost *all* discontented, not knowing the incredible human potential, not living a truly rich and abundant life. Yet if we all lived by the "GIVE" approach to life, each helping his neighbor to live by the same objective, we would enjoy real Utopia!

- 11) It's time you began to *THINK* about this!

This voice cries out 1) a message of the *cause* of all our woes and ills today and how we could—if willing—change the *EFFECT* and 2) with the announcement that the all-powerful unseen "Strong Hand from Someplace" will soon intervene in this world's troubled affairs and *compel* a misguided self-willed humanity to enjoy world peace, happiness, universal abundance.

One's agreement does not matter. It's as certain as the rising and setting of tomorrow's sun!

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

We follow the way of "GIVE." On request, we will send, gratis, the inspiring booklet by Herbert W. Armstrong, *The Seven Laws of Success*. Also a copy of the no-subscription-price magazine of understanding, *The Plain Truth*. Address: Pasadena, Calif., 91123 or phone toll-free (800) 423-4444. In California, call collect (213) 577-5225.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES"Buddy, Can You Spare a Dime?"

(The following article comes from Mr. Ralph Helge of the Legal Office.)

Over my many years with the Church certain problems have been constantly recurring, although fortunately not frequently. One of these problems has to do with the borrowing of money, or perhaps better stated, the failure to repay money borrowed.

It seems that if a church member loans money to some person outside the Church, and the person does not pay, the church member realizes that he has entered into a bad bargain. On some occasions, however, when a church member loans to a minister or another church member and there is a failure to pay, some church members feel that the Church itself is in some way responsible or should feel an obligation to repay. This is not the case at all, so much so that it was felt this brief article was in order.

Ministers are admonished not to borrow money from church members. If a minister has a particular financial problem he should turn and look to the Church for aid in that regard. A minor exception to this is, of course, when a minister might unexpectedly stop out with a church member for a dinner or the like and be "financially embarrassed" at the moment. This exception, however, should not extend beyond that--a rare exception.

If church members are desirous of borrowing from other church members, and the church members are willing to lend to other church members, that is their business. The Church will not become involved to tell them that they shouldn't borrow nor, on the other hand, will the Church under any circumstance feel itself obligated if the church member does not repay his loan. This would strictly be a matter between the church members themselves. This would even be the case if they had gone to the minister and sought advice and counseling regarding the wisdom or advisability of doing so.

In other words, the Church does not vest any authority whatsoever in the minister to obligate the Church as a surety to guarantee payment of debts between church members.

It would well behoove church members, if they themselves have made a decision in their own mind to loan to another church member, that they first consult the minister in order to determine whether or not the minister may have some information that would render the loan to be ill-advised.

It has happened, unfortunately, in some cases that a church member has borrowed money from numerous other church members and has not paid them back. The lending church member may have been able to save himself a financial loss if he had only counseled with the minister. It might well have been that the minister was aware of the proclivity of the particular church member and could have warned the lending member of this fact.

It should be repeated again, however, that the failure of the minister to be aware of his particular church member's proclivity not to pay back should not be looked upon as a guarantee of payment from the Church in the event the church member should fail to repay.

The wisdom of the matter really boils down to the same principle as it does for becoming surety for somebody else's debt. And that wisdom is, simply stated, never do it unless you are in such a solid financial condition that you could actually afford to give the money away. The reason is, this is exactly what you will have done if the person doesn't pay you back.

Spokesman Club Manuals Delayed

Because of an extra heavy workload in the printing area, reprinting of the Spokesman Club manuals will be delayed until mid-March. Orders for manuals will be retained and filled as soon as they come off the press. We are very sorry for the added delay.

International News

News From Dutch-speaking Area On December 26th the Dutch brethren had the opportunity to hear Mr. Gerald Waterhouse in a combined Bible Study. The majority had never heard Mr. Waterhouse speak before. It was for all an unforgettable, inspiring experience to listen for 3 1/2 hours to Mr. Waterhouse and hear him explain the way God is doing this Work and preparing the way for the return of Jesus Christ through His chosen apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. Simultaneous translation was provided from English into the Dutch language.

Mr. Waterhouse changed his itinerary in order to be in Holland while Mr. and Mrs. Bram de Bree are still there. They are leaving for Pasadena on January 6th to attend the Ministerial Refreshing Programme till the end of January.

In the month of December the Dutch language editions of Mr. Herbert Armstrong's book, THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL, was offered to readers of the ECHTE WAARHEID (Dutch edition of The PLAIN TRUTH). Over 2400 requests have come in already.

Income for 1980 shows a 25.9% increase over the previous year. And church attendance increased 7.3% while the membership increased 11.6%.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for the privilege of attending the sixth Refreshing Program. God certainly inspired you to design a course that will be of benefit to the entire ministry and church. It is encouraging to be properly equipped to teach the Word as you have handed it down.

It was inspiring to see the unity of the administration. Also, the faculty and students had a totally different attitude than when we were down for conferences in the past. We felt much like the Queen of Sheba when she went to see Solomon. We had heard and read of the unity of Pasadena but we "had not heard the half of it!"

May God be with you as you continue His great Work. We in the Prince George, British Columbia congregation pray for you daily and are 100% behind you.

Glen and Connie Weber

Dear "Mr. Suspenders" (Joe Tkach):

No disrespect intended!! I call you that (only to you) for two reasons. The first is obvious to anyone who has seen you with your coat off. The other reason is because of what suspenders do. They suspend or hold up.

Never in my 7 1/2 years in the ministry have we as ministers been supported more from Pasadena. It was inspiring to know that as long as we do our job, you will be there supporting us. Also it was refreshing to see the way you and the other instructors supported or held up Mr. Armstrong's hands.

It was a privilege to get to know you, Mr. Blackwell and the others, on a personal level. It really helps to know who we are working for under Jesus Christ. Especially for those of us from international areas, where you were just a name in the Pastor General's Report.

I feel all the ministers on the sixth Refreshing Program should adopt Bob Hope's theme song, "Thanks For The Memories."

Glen and Connie Weber

Weekly Letter Comments

This week's comments feature letters to Mr. Armstrong from children and youth. The young people look back on their feast experiences and share their feelings about God's Church and His Way of life. Also, comments from brethren show they are excited over their third tithe blessings as they see the promise of Malachi 3:10 fulfilled before their eyes. Finally, listeners say they value Mr. Armstrong's radio broadcasts and find the messages both inspiring and helpful.

Letters From Children and Youth

I am attending the Worldwide Church of God in Canton, Ohio. I am 10 1/2 years old. This year I attended the feast site in Tucson, Arizona. We stayed at the Sheraton Hotel. I had fun. It was the first time I saw you in person. Also, it was my first time in Arizona. It was so hot there, but cold here in Ohio. It has snowed three inches already. I wish I was still there in Arizona. The best thing I liked was attending services. The worst thing was my homework that I had to take with me. On the first two days it was raining, but the rest was great.

Mike Ciconte (Canton, OH)

I am nine years old. I would like to start tithing now. I've been working with my dad this summer doing tree work. This is my first tithe of the money I earned. I hope this money will help you complete our Work.

Matthew Eric Oakleaf (Topeka, KS)

I went to the Feast this year in Eugene, Oregon. It was really neat. I saw you live twice and in a movie the first night. We had lots of things to do there. I sang in a choir for which Mom bought me a new dress and a hair comb with a white flower on it. At the Feast we went roller skating, square dancing, shopping and to lots of neat restaurants. It makes you look forward to the new world. The best thing I liked at the Feast were all the sermons. They had lots of neat information about God's world. I hope you enjoyed your Feast in Tucson as much as we did ours in Eugene.

Heather Stevens (Fort Bidwell, CA)

Here is my tithe. I am six. I am happy to send my tithe in. Soon I will have more to send you. I love God.

Jason Martin (Churubusco, IN)

As a teenager in God's Church, I realize fully that this is God's true Church. It is very hard to obey with all the teen pressure from the world, but I am trying and I know that is what God wants.

I just think you [Mr. Armstrong] are doing a great job and I pray for your strength to keep going! I love you because you are devoting your life to God and are helping us a lot. Keep up the good work and may God bless you.

Shaun Dixon (Chestertown, MD)

Hello! Before composing this letter, I talked with our local minister. We discussed repentance. He pointed out some very important things that I should do at my age--sixteen--such as keeping all of God's laws and setting an example. With further maturing, I can be baptized.

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for giving freely the truth in God's Word. It is apparent just whom God is using to lead His Church. I am proud to be a co-worker. God willing, one day He will place me in that Church as a member.

Joel Drouet (Monroe, LA)

Third Tithe Year Full of Blessings

I've just finished a third tithe year and if some don't think that God's law works, they haven't tried it. I'm alone raising four children and many would think you just couldn't afford another tithe at all, but I received more material things in that year than I would have been able to buy with the money I sent in. And, on top of that, for the Feast I received one of the best motels in St. Petersburg for half price. We had a wonderful Feast and beautiful surroundings --all because of God's blessings.

Mrs. Sharon Shaw (Auburndale, FL)

This is our first third tithe year and the blessings have already started pouring in. We were a little worried about making it financially this year, with paying off school bills and such. However, I went elk hunting for the first time, and shot a 400-500

pound four point on opening day in an area where I'd never been before. It took a member and me another day to pack it out. Although I had seen a bear in the area earlier, the meat was untouched as it sat overnight. Then, as if that wasn't enough, I shot a deer the very next day I was hunting.

Jim & Shirley Steers (Kalispell, MT)

This is my third tithe year. After paying third tithe from my small paycheck, God has blessed me with a good job with more than twice the pay of my old job and terrific benefits. God has blessed me in many other ways also.

Mrs. G. Gillis (Hialeah, FL)

God has blessed me very much during my first third tithe year now just past. First of all, I was able to attend Ambassador College for two semesters. Secondly, God blessed me with a wife--a girl I've known and respected for years and who is from my home church area. We will continue to give as we are able and as God gives the increase.

Lloyd W. Koppes (Ashland, OH)

This is my third tithe year and I just got a pay raise this week! I'm continually amazed at how impossible it seems to "make ends meet." Most of our finances just don't work out on paper, but God always comes through for us in reality.

James Yowell (Shenandoah, VA)

We feel we had better hurry and send in our tithe check for another week. We just cannot keep up with God's blessings. They are literally overwhelming us. This is our third tithe year and the excitement of it takes our breath away! We have had things that we've needed for some time, but kept putting them off until we could pay for them outright. We felt especially this year we would have to wait. However, you guessed it, God has made it possible for us to acquire them! Our needs are being taken care of this year more than any previous year. It is truly a Great God that makes and keeps His promises. We are so thankful to be able to obey Him.

Mr. & Mrs. Colin Wunder (Howard, SD)

Radio Broadcast Appreciated

I never miss your nightly programs and very much enjoy your Sunday evening television sermon. The airwaves are crackling with the pronouncements of many evangelical preachers, but I ponder about the many hidden things you extract from the pages of the Bible and wonder at the newness of your message. It is exhilarating, stimulating, and invigorating, and it creates a feeling of growth and expansion--a reaching out into the infinite spaces of the universe. It's a message that shouts--surely, everyone in the world must be listening.

Mrs. Fredericks (Oak Ridge, NJ)

I listen to your program every day on CKO at 8:00 p.m. and I am truly being helped through your messages. I would like to receive more of your literature.

Mr. D. Jefferson (Ontario, Canada)

We catch your Sunday broadcasts on Radio KLAD in Klamath Falls, Oregon. We live out in the wilderness area of southeastern Oregon --a 30-mile round trip to Beatty, Oregon for mail, phone or groceries and a 120-mile round trip to doctors and the month's groceries in Klamath Falls. We hear you on a 12-volt set--that means we have to charge up our batteries to hear you--and are very selective of the programs we listen to.

So you can see that we value your program. Keep up the good work.

Trudy Hogg (Beatty, OR)

I have begun listening to your program on the radio and I am very pleased at what I hear. I truly hope for all mankind's sake that what you say is true. I, myself, believed much of what you tell even before I had started listening to your program. I have been brought to Christ through my crimes against society and have just started four years of imprisonment. It's very difficult being a Christian in a penitentiary and I am totally disheartened at what I see and hear each day. But this only serves to strengthen my faith in God. Oh how glorious it is. I can only pray that I can keep my head high while being persecuted each day that passes. I would appreciate it very much if you could supply me with as much literature as possible. Thank you very much and may God bless you and all the people who work for you.

K.F. (Alberta, Canada)

It is a blessing to me just to be able to hear you over the radio each morning. In only a two-month period since I first heard your morning programs, my life has been changed. My family and I are better able to cope with life's problems, set new goals, have a better understanding with each other, and above all serve our Father in heaven as He wants us to.

Donald Huscher (Belwood, IL)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Y.O.U. UPDATE

The wheels of progress turn slowly at times, but we want to assure you that progress is being made. We apologize for leaving some questions unanswered and would like to address some of them here.

Pastor's Manual

The Pastor's Manual for Y.O.U. is currently being revised. It is shaping up nicely and should be a very big help to you in carrying out Mr. Herbert Armstrong's instructions regarding Y.O.U. A lot of work has gone into this rewrite and of course the whole manual will be submitted

(Continued on Page 11)

The Attorney General Kept His Word.

Now I Will Keep Mine.

Appeared in the Los Angeles Times, Jan. 8, 1981

I AM TREASURER and General Counsel for the Worldwide Church of God. Last September, while my church was locked in battle with the Attorney General of the State of California over the question of whether or not the State had the right to investigate our work and our use of our money, I made a public statement.

Because it had been insinuated that I was leading the battle to protect our Church because, at least in part, I was personally ambitious and might even have visions of succeeding our Church's Founder and Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong, I found it necessary to spell out my thinking and my intentions.

This is what I said then, in a press release and in an advertisement similar to this one:

"Many members of the press have asked me who will lead the Church when Mr. Armstrong is gone. And many times, I know, they ask, believing they know the answer. They think I will succeed Mr. Armstrong or, at least, that I hope to. They are wrong. I also know that there are many members of our Church who think of me as a possible successor to our Pastor General. I am touched by their love and by their faith in me. But they also are wrong. I do not consider it even remotely possible that I will succeed Mr. Armstrong. I am not worthy. I am not qualified to serve Christ in that way. I do not believe it is my calling. It certainly is not my desire. And I do not believe it is God's will.

"However, I know that my leadership role in the struggle against the Attorney General has created a public presence that apparently leads some persons to question my sincerity. As a result, my



STANLEY R. RADER

motives become suspect as I continue to defend our Church's Work. Much of what I try to do is colored by that suspicion. There are those who believe I am self-serving or personally ambitious. But they are wrong. The only thing I want for myself is a return to a more private life. I continue the fight because I believe it is a good fight. With all my heart and soul I believe in the rightness of our cause.

"When the lawsuits against us are won and our Church is free from attack, I will resign my official Church position. I will return to the private practice of law and, preferably, will devote the rest of my working life to public service."

I closed by promising never to surrender in our fight and never to leave our Church.

That is what I said last September and that is what I meant. In October, our fight was won. Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bill No. 1493, providing that the Attorney General shall have no powers that he asserted in the litigation against the Worldwide Church of God.

Attorney General George Deukmejian had said he would ask dismissal of the lawsuits against us if SB 1493 became law. He kept his word. The suits were dismissed, on his request, October 15, 1980.

Therefore, it is time for me to keep my word.

I have resigned my position as Treasurer and a member of the Board of the Worldwide Church of God. My resignation is effective July 1, 1981. I dated my notice of resignation January 3, 1981, as a kind of symbol. It was on January 3, 1979, exactly two years ago, that our Church was first assaulted by the officers of the Attorney General.

I will continue to serve as Executive Vice-President of the Ambassador Foundation, which carries on the non-sectarian work of the Church. I also, as an attorney, will continue to defend the interests of our Church worldwide, and I will continue as a personal assistant to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

I hope this statement will serve two purposes.

First, I hope it will end forever any speculation about the possibility of my succeeding Mr. Armstrong as head of our Church. That will never happen. As I have said before, I do not expect anyone to succeed Mr. Armstrong. The Living God has entrusted Mr. Armstrong with a Great Commission and God has never taken a man before his work was done. I do not look for or expect another Pastor General. Under no circumstances will I ever be Pastor General of our Church. I do not know how to put that more clearly.

Secondly, I hope this statement finally will clear the way for my return to a more private life, a move I have desired for more than two years. Those who know me will remember that I resigned my official positions once before. I stayed on only because of the battle that needed to be fought. Now that the fight is won, I am looking forward to the tranquility of a private life that my family and I have missed so sorely during the past two years.

I have learned much during the last two years. I have learned much about the reality of law as it is practiced in the United States. I know more than I once did about the need to remain vigilant in protection of our basic rights.

Too, I have learned much about the struggle of minority groups to achieve justice.

I will not forget what I have learned. What I ask God for now is the strength and wisdom to use what I have learned in ways that will serve Him well.

Stanley R. Rader
STANLEY R. RADER
The Worldwide Church of God

to Mr. Armstrong for final approval before being printed and mailed. We hope to have this completed in a few weeks.

Age Limit

Many have asked about the current age requirement for Y.O.U. We will be adopting the new 13-18 age limits in September 1981. All 12-year-olds currently in Y.O.U. (as of April 1, 1981) may remain in Y.O.U. To provide a transition period, those who turn 12 after April 1 will have to wait until they are 13 to become a part of the program.

Basketball

We hope you are enjoying an exciting and successful basketball season. Several have asked whether it is now acceptable to use referees who are in the Church. The answer is YES, but only if they are qualified, certified referees. We must not undermine the program by allowing unqualified people to officiate. This creates credibility problems and results in bad attitudes toward authority. Because of the great expense now incurred for officials and the proof that church members can be impartial, we would like to encourage you to use these people where possible. You may want to begin now to seek out a couple of people who could become certified prior to next season.

Cheerleading Competition

Cheerleading competition for this year will be done on the same general format as in past years. While we are contemplating some changes, most of those, due to timing, will wait until next year. Two changes we plan to make immediately involve rating and scoring. This year we will not be awarding 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. All teams will be judged and awarded ribbons based on a rating system ranging from good to superior. We will be changing the point structure on the scoresheet in order to place a little heavier emphasis on the cheers and a little less emphasis on the dance routine.

Each of you Pastors should preview the music and also the dance steps your teams are using to be sure they properly represent the Church. In the past we have had squads dance to such tunes as "Shake Your Groove Thing." This obviously leaves somewhat to be desired. Some routines have involved too much shaking and have been quite suggestive. This should not be allowed to ever get to the district weekend if we are doing our jobs.

District Changes

We will be making district boundary changes, increasing the number of districts, prior to track and field seasons. This is being done to cut down on driving distances and to encourage more participation in the district family weekends. District coordinators for 1981-1982 will be announced shortly.

--Kevin Dean, Y.O.U.

Y.O.U.-NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

We are currently having evaluation forms printed for scholarship recommendations. These will be mailed to you. Would you please wait for these to come before writing in your recommendation to the Financial Aids Office. Thank you.

Arthur O. Suckling, Financial Aids Office

TWO MILLION MARK PASSED

The volume of mail for 1980 passed the two million mark. This was the first time in four years that more than two million pieces of mail were again received in the Mail Processing Center.

The main reason for the increase is the steady growth in The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list. During 1980 PLAIN TRUTH circulation grew 28% in the United States. Along with this growth has been the stepped up usage of response devices, such as literature request cards which are inserted in the magazines. Consequently, there has been a corresponding increase in renewals and requests.

This upward growth in the mail count for 1980 is another encouraging indicator that the Work is now on course.

Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

CRIME AND VIOLENCE WRACK AMERICA The bloodiest year in history has just ended in Los Angeles, the last of a record 1,042 murders recorded at 11:15 p.m., December 31. A 13-year-old boy pumped seven rapid-fire bullets into an elderly man who protested a noisy New Year's Eve party. Four hours later, 1981's first victim lay dead, beaten by a mob in front of a Chinatown restaurant, his wife witness to the brutality.

Los Angeles has now leapt past Chicago to become the second-ranking murder capital in the U.S., behind New York City. At times, the county coroner's office cannot keep ahead of the metropolitan area's six-per-day average.

Around the country, the story is much the same. Violence is so rampant in Miami, Florida that the Police Department has publicly encouraged citizens to buy their own guns to protect themselves. And everywhere, there is an upsurge in unprovoked, random violence--such as murders involving strangers in parking lots over the flimsiest of excuses, or pot-shots at drivers on expressways. Says New York Police Commissioner Robert McGuire: "The random, senseless violence has shocked me more than anything. It's like the torturing of butterflies and pussycats, only it's human beings that are being tortured."

In September, a nationwide survey called the Figgie Report on Fear of Crime concluded that "fear of crime is slowly paralyzing American society." This subject of crime and violence is now such an overwhelming one that only the barest details can possibly be given in the "On The World Scene" column. We are planning a special News Report in the near future to cover it in greater detail. If any of you ministers come across good feature articles (not just news items of individual crimes) on the topic in your areas, please send them on to the News Bureau.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau