

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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JANUARY 30, 1981

LONG OVERDUE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

This is a belated and long overdue acknowledgment of outstanding service to God's Church and His Work by a faithful, competent and honored servant. Virginia Kineston, serving in the Executive Office as secretary to Treasurer Stanley R. Rader, performed a truly heroic, self-sacrificing service on January 3, 1979, the day the court-appointed "receiver" with armed deputies invaded the headquarters complex of the Church in Pasadena.

At even the risk of her own life, before armed men, she held them off until word could be gotten to our attorneys. Since then her secretarial performance has been impeccable, and has exemplified outstanding professional abilities. I know her to be a woman of highest moral and ethical integrity and professional in her abilities.

The whole Church owes her a debt of gratitude.

CHRIST'S APOSTLE IN THE PHILIPPINES

by

Stanley R. Rader

Dateline: Manila, January 29, 1981

Christ's Apostle will be leaving Manila today having delivered to the Filipino people a message of hope--in fact, their heritage.

Just a few short weeks prior to the impending visit of Pope John Paul II, Christ's Apostle has delivered the TRUE GOSPEL to thousands of Filipinos--eager to hear the Truth that has been suppressed for some nineteen hundred years.

Culminating his two-week visit to Manila were Mr. Armstrong's two personal appearances at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). Christ's Apostle delivered two powerful messages before capacity houses on the 24th and 25th of January.

Every day Christ's Apostle was tracked by the local television and press--and not a negative vibration was to be heard or seen.

Mr. Armstrong's first appearance was before an SRO (standing room only) crowd at Adamson University where Mr. Armstrong spoke for approximately one hour on the spiritual values that alone would give to university students everywhere the opportunity to live happy and abundant lives.

Next, Christ's Apostle was the keynote speaker before the Philippine Constitution Association--750 guests and members, including the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and many Cabinet members, heard Mr. Armstrong proclaim the only way to world peace. During the evening, Mr. Armstrong and I were made lifetime members of the Association which was responsible for the 1973 Constitutional changes and, under the strong leadership of President Marcos, the lifting of marshall law on January 17, 1981. The following day Mr. Armstrong spoke for one hour before the combined Rotary Clubs of greater Manila--again, he stressed that only the intervention of Jesus Christ--who will return soon to rule as a King and High Priest--will prevent mankind from destroying itself.

In the evening, Minister of Labor, Blas Ople, hosted Mr. Armstrong at a private dinner party. Also present were the Minister of Agrarian Reform, the Minister of the Budget, and the Minister of Justice as well as various directors of other ministries and selected assemblymen. The Minister of Agrarian Reform was so impressed with Mr. Armstrong's post-dinner comments that he invited him to speak a few days later before 450 of his own employees at a specially convened conclave.

The Minister of Agrarian Reform requested that Christ's Apostle deliver a spiritual message. You can bet he did--with his inimitable power.

On the Friday before the first public appearance, Mr. Armstrong and I were received by President Marcos in a 45-minute televised interview. I will not spoil the surprise in store for you by telling you what was said because you will be able to see all after our television film has been developed and edited. Mr. Armstrong's picture appeared the next day, Saturday, January 24--the first day of his personal appearances--on the first page in all newspapers in Manila above the center fold.

A short meeting was also held at the palace with Mrs. Marcos. She will, of course, be present tonight at the special benefit performance of The Seal Wolf--proceeds of which benefit will go to local charities selected by the First Lady. The British Ambassador will be present and the Columbian Ambassador will be one of the co-hosts.

Hundreds of calls have been received from local people and by Sunday over 1,000 essays had been received from high school and college students who had been invited to enter a contest on the meaning of Mr. Armstrong's message to them. The Minister of Culture will award the prizes next month--three for high school students and three for college students.

We have received new invitations to address other groups as a result of this most recent and successful visit. Hopefully, in March, on our way to Australia, if our schedule permits, we shall return.

A Voice Cries Out: We had a Daily TV Reminder of the Hostage Crisis

**-why is there no daily reminder
of the *Human Survival Crisis?***

Appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 26, 1981

WE FACE a far greater problem than the hostage crisis. For the first time since humanity inhabited the earth, weapons of mass destruction exist that can erase mankind from this planet.

Today the **WHOLE WORLD** is being held for ransom! Would we have forgotten all about our 52 government representatives held hostage, if we were not reminded daily?

Are we forgetting—*putting out of mind*—that *four billion* of us are being held in danger of human extinction? Do we think that just by keeping our minds off of it, the threat to our own survival will somehow just go away?

Are the hard, cold facts we face too awesome—too frightening—to think sensibly about? Are we playing ostrich—until it will be too late?

This voice reminds you—there had to be a **CAUSE** to bring us to our No. 1 problem of human survival! And we are pursuing that same **CAUSE** with increasing momentum!

Are we deceiving ourselves? Do we reason foolishly that nuclear and other mass-destruction weapons are so frightening that no one will *dare* unleash them? No weapon of increased mass destruction ever yet has been produced that was not used! The nuclear family today includes smaller nations beside the Soviet Union



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

and the U.S.A. A madman in a smaller nation could set off the nuclear war that could spread to destroy all mankind!

What a paradox! This 20th century has spawned a man-made civilization of awesome progress—in dealing with the physical and material! But before our problems, troubles and evils, we and our leaders stand utterly **HELPLESS!** Our vaunted achievements are physical and material in nature. There seems no limit to human accomplishment in the physical and material. But our troubles and evils are spiritual in nature.

An invisible spiritual Law governs our lives. That Law is outflowing **LOVE**. I simplify it, and its transgression, by the simple terms of "GIVE" and "GET." This world has traveled the way of the "GET" incentive—self-centeredness, vanity, coveting, competition leading to strife, violence and war!

This spiritual Law is as relentless, as inexorable, as the law of gravity. Break it and it will break you! The whole world has been breaking it—and world peace, happiness, universal abundance and well-being have been taken from us!

It isn't too late, even now, for a deluded and misled world, self-exalted by its achievements in the materialistic sphere, to come awake to its bankruptcy in the moral and spiritual realm.

But if a self-willed and vain humanity will not, that unseen "Strong Hand from Somewhere" will intervene very soon in the world's chaotic affairs, and forestall the climactic death-blow to the human race. A stubborn world, ignorant of the **TRUE VALUES**, is going to be *compelled* to enjoy **PEACE** worldwide, with happiness and universal well-being in abundance! We are going to be compelled to change our motivations from "GET" to "GIVE." In spite of us, the wonderful world **TOMORROW** will dawn in this generation! The spiritual Law of "GIVE" will fill human minds and hearts worldwide, as the ocean beds are filled with water.

Believe it or not, it is as sure as the rising of tomorrow's sun.

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Chairman
Ambassador Foundation

All of us here in Mr. Armstrong's party--Mrs. Armstrong, my wife, Mr. Joseph Kotora, Mr. John Kineston, Mr. Henry Cornwall, Mrs. Mary Ellen Dahlgren, as well as the television crew--feel especially blessed to have been able to participate daily and to witness with our own eyes all of the exciting events which unfolded before us.

Yes, Christ's Apostle has certainly begun 1981 with a running start --1981 should be the biggest year yet in the history of the Work.

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GOD'S APOSTLE SPEAKS BOLDLY AT MANILA CAMPAIGN

Dateline: Manila, January 29, 1981

"Yours will not be a voice crying in the wilderness, Mr. Armstrong, for there are thousands, nay, millions of Filipinos who will listen to your message...." These were the words of Dr. Marcos Eras, Vice President of Adamson University, as he introduced Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Pastor General of the Worldwide Church of God, to a friendly and enthusiastic crowd of over 4,000 Filipinos at the beautiful new Philippine International Convention Center on January 24 and 25, 1981. The auditorium, which seats 5,000, averaged over 4,000 in attendance each night, with a near capacity crowd attending on the second night. The very warm, responsive audience included many students who had come in response to a newspaper advertisement about an essay contest based on Mr. Armstrong's message.

Mr. Armstrong delivered a powerful, hard-hitting message direct from the scriptures. On the first night, Mr. Armstrong spoke of the evils of today's world brought about by the way of get chosen by the first Adam. On the second evening, he expounded the good news of the return of Christ, the second Adam, to establish the way of give in the government of God on earth. He challenged the audience to repent and to change their lives from the way of get to God's way of give. He mentioned that the Filipinos are the warmest and most friendly people he has met. At the end of each evening the audience responded to Mr. Armstrong with a standing ovation.

As Mr. Armstrong ended his message the final evening, the new regional director, Mr. Guy Ames, was introduced. He invited the audience to write for any of our literature they might want, or to visit our office. Mr. Ames repeated Mr. Armstrong's offer to the teenagers in the audience to request our new magazine YOUTH 81. He mentioned that we have an all-Filipino ministry and an all-Filipino office staff to serve them.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Minister's Son Still Needs Our Prayers

As you will recall, Wayne Chapman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Chapman who serve the Reno Church, fell three stories from a scaffold to the pavement in late October last year. In a telephone conversation with Mr. Chapman recently, he said Wayne is still in a coma. However, God has already intervened on his behalf in many miraculous ways since his accident. He is moving around in bed quite a bit now, and looks as if he might wake up and talk to his parents at any moment. Your continued prayers are most certainly appreciated by the Chapman family.

International News

German-speaking Area--Activities and 1980 report: God's Work in the German-speaking area carried on serenely through West Germany's frenzied Christmas preparations in December. Several ministers and their families spent the week of December 21-26 together with Regional Director, Mr. Frank Schnee and Mrs. Schnee in the lakeside village of Pertisau in Austria. They had the chance to fellowship and hold Bible studies with sixty German, Swiss and Austrian youths enjoying a Y.O.U. winter camp in the immediate vicinity. Needless to say, everyone also took ample advantage of the wonderful weather and wintersport facilities to get in some good skiing, sledding or hiking. The ministers, including recently ordained local elder Helmut Kaserer, an Austrian head forester who lives nearby, and his wife Maria, were updated by Mr. Schnee on recent developments as well as on the 1981 budget.

After departing from Pertisau, Bonn Office Manager John Karlson drove with his family through Czechoslovakia into the Katowice region of Poland to visit our lone member there, Victor Przybylla, and his family. News that they were suffering from food shortages caused by the labor unrest, prompted our Swiss brethren to take up a collection for them. Food was purchased and taken over to Poland by the Karlsons. The Karlsons arrived safely back in Bonn on January 2nd and reported that Victor and his family are presently managing to get by, thanks in part, to the help and concern of brethren in the West.

1980 Advertising and Mail: Looking back on 1980, we are very pleased to see that we surpassed our goal of adding 30,000 new subscribers to The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list.

The major portion of our advertising took place in the spring and fall of the year. We started out in February and March with several ads in Berlin newspapers to compliment our lecture series for PT readers, which was taking place in Berlin at that time. Our next major ads were in national magazines "Bunte," "Der Spiegel," and several Swiss magazines around April, May and June. In May we had our biggest success with a newly designed P.T. flyer offering The PLAIN TRUTH and showing comments of several readers. This flyer was placed in the prestigious national daily newspaper "Die Welt."

In the fall we advertised once again in "Der Spiegel," and our flyer appeared in the national weekly newspaper "Die Zeit." Nearly 10,000 responses were received.

The fall ad campaign in Switzerland was conducted for us by Swiss Air's advertising agent Herman and Schneider, with very positive results. Ads were placed in such prestigious Swiss publications as "Weltwoche," Zurich's "Tages-Anzeiger-Magazine" and "Schweizer Familie." At the end of December we placed our flyer in the bi-monthly "Schweizer Beobachter" which again is bringing a good response.

In addition, an unexpected offer from the advertising department of the national railroads gave us the chance to advertise The PLAIN TRUTH in over 1.5 million train schedules laid out on the seats of the standard express trains and the prestigious Trans-European Express trains throughout Germany during the entire month of December--the busiest month of the year! We have more than 3,000 requests for The PLAIN TRUTH thus far.

As a result of this ad in trains, we have been the topic of a slanderous press release by the Lutheran Church here, denouncing us as an "anti-democratic" sect. Even two Catholic newspapers have had front-page derogatory articles about us, due to our ad in the train schedules.

Our incoming mail total for 1980 was 183 percent more than 1979 with some 86,968 pieces of mail coming in last year.

Publishing: In 1980 we also printed some 41,000 booklets to meet the increasing number of requests from the new subscribers. Also 12,000 copies of Mr. Armstrong's book THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL were printed. Thus far more than 3,000 copies have been sent out. In addition, we printed 30,000 revised "US and BC in Prophecy" booklets in December. Our year-to-date mail income for 1980 was +20.1%. December turned out to be an all-time record month for income for the German office. We also had a special offering from a member of DM 90,000 (\$45,000). Overall, our total income is about 25% more than in 1979.

Canadian Report The Work in Canada, income wise, was up against one of the largest months on record in December 1979, but income for December 1980 was a 35.5% increase over last year, pushing the year-to-date and end-of-calendar budget figure to a plus 24 over 1979.

Planned 1981 expenditures will place an even heavier emphasis on the First Commission with 60% of the anticipated income going into media and publishing. God has granted the Work in Canada a very solid base financially, and Canadians will be becoming much more aware of God's Church, Work, and Mr. Armstrong in their midst in 1981.

The membership of the Church continues to carry the heavy load, contributing 81.6% of the income. Co-workers add 14.9% and the remainder from occasional donors and supporters. This continues the trend of several years now as the members shoulder an increasing portion of the Work's income. The number of contributors remain about the same so God must be blessing His people for us to be receiving increases of this type.

Church attendance topped 9,000 for the first time and the ministry continues to be encouraged by the upsurge in new visit requests coming in. People are becoming very aware of God's Church and its effort to warn this sick world.

It's been a busy year for the office staff. 126,662 new PLAIN TRUTH subscriptions and 27,799 new PURE VERITE subscriptions were handled. The enrollment in the Correspondence Course doubled in English and up 45% in French. The file stats show 1,074 new co-workers, 319 baptisms and we've tripled the PLAIN TRUTH file in libraries and doctor/dentist offices.

The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list now stands at 187,651, while the PURE VERITE has grown to 46,970. During the year we mailed out 750,000 pieces of other literature as requested by the many, many people the Work is reaching. Our overall mail count stood at 477,412, up 138.8% over 1979. The office staff would love to see that topped in 1981!

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

Thank you very much for including us in the seventh session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. The concentration of information and standardization of policies and doctrine has been refreshing. Thanks for all the help in unifying the ministry and the Church.

Steve and Terri Buchanan

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We in the Spanish ministry are very grateful to Mr. Armstrong for the opportunity of attending the Ministerial Refreshing Program. My wife and I greatly enjoyed the thorough and balanced programs presented. The thirty-five subjects covered the gamut of a minister's responsibilities so we can "all speak the same things." It is quite evident God is unifying the ministry worldwide through these classes.

All of us are very enthusiastic with the prospects of returning to our respective areas and sharing the esprit de corps generated here and the valuable spiritual principles gleaned from the classes. Also, we return now strengthened and united so all the churches worldwide can hold up firmly Mr. Armstrong's arms as God's great commission is accomplished and we near the whirlpool of world events. Thank you again as your children in the Lord.

Mario and Catalina Seiglie

Weekly Letter Comments

First this week, readers of The PLAIN TRUTH recognize that there is no magazine like it. They find the articles edifying, inspiring and informative. Then, comments about the Correspondence Course from around the world show how some are beginning to understand the Bible for the first time in their lives. Finally, present students of Ambassador College and recent graduates express heartfelt gratitude for their unique Ambassador education and opportunities.

Plain Truth Highly Regarded

The PLAIN TRUTH is an outstanding magazine. I have no complaints about it, only compliments. Your editorials or "Personals" are very interesting to read. By your teachings I am inspired, educated and enlightened. We all need to know more about Jesus Christ, to be guided by his gospel in our everyday lives.

My most grateful thank you for the "paid subscription." I do appreciate this; however, I also want to make a small donation to help a little and to show my support for the great Work you are doing so well.

Edward Bogus (Chicago, IL)

Your magazine is an inspiration to all. It puts hope into a hopeless, troubled world. It sheds light on controversial subjects and quotes from the Bible regarding what God says about these subjects.

So many people don't know where they stand on the moral issues of today. With your magazine as a guide, one can obtain a solid base on which to stand.

The only thing I regret is that I didn't get a subscription to your magazine a long time ago. I hate to think of all the good and enlightening news I've missed since you started your magazine. Thank you for the magazines and I'll be waiting anxiously for the next issue.

David Haderer (West Seneca, NY)

Your magazine is really unique and inspired, and it truly brings out what is kept behind the scenes. I enjoy every page. The photography and the articles combined really show the diverse ways God works in other people's lives. I just wanted to say thank you from both of us.

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry D. Keene (Ephrata, PA)

I want you to know how much I appreciate and enjoy reading The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. It has helped me so very much with my Sunday school class (ages 9 through 11). They really need the lesson broken down so that they can understand it. I always find something in The PLAIN TRUTH to help me. I am a senior citizen and don't have a lot, but just want you to know that I appreciate your work.

Mrs. Sallie Long (Atlanta, GA)

I just want to write to tell you how much I have enjoyed your magazine for about 30 years. I have never missed a single word and consider this magazine my main source of world news. I am a Catholic, but realize the difference and it doesn't bother me. I would surely miss your magazine if I didn't get it.

Mrs. Frank Randolph (Belle Plaine, IA)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for a most wonderful and revealing magazine. I never realized how important this magazine was in my everyday life.

The donation that I am sending is very small in comparison to what I have received in information and enlightenment. I have had many questions throughout my life and the PLAIN TRUTH has answered a lot of them, as well as giving much needed advice on food nutrients, healthy body exercises, facts on family life and much, much more.

I will pray every day for you (Mr. Armstrong) that the PLAIN TRUTH will continue to bring such revelations to each and every one of us.

Mrs. Gloria Brown (Goffstown, NH)

Correspondence Course Appreciated Worldwide

I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to take your Bible Correspondence Course. You have been sending the lessons to me for a while, but somehow I had other books to read and only

started the course this past week. Well, it got me so interested that I've studied one lesson every night! I have gained so much knowledge and so many details have been clarified that it is unbelievable! Thank you again.

Blanca Paoli (Yauco, Puerto Rico)

I thank you very much for making your Correspondence Bible Study Course available free of charge. Otherwise, I might never have sent away for it. Before I started it I only assumed the Bible said what I had been taught--most of it wrong! At last I am finding out the true answers to a lot of questions that have puzzled and worried me for a long time. It has also made me begin to really read my Bible with understanding and interest instead of just delving in on the odd occasion without much interest.

Student (Australia)

My husband and I have taken Bible courses from more than one denomination. We are now studying your Bible course. It is very enlightening and the hours spent are so very happy and truly exciting. It is the only course we have found plain and truthful. We are both in our 60's and would love to be baptized in the Worldwide Church of God. Can you help us?

Mrs. Clarence K. (Fort St. John, B.C., Canada)

Please allow me to congratulate the PLAIN TRUTH organization on an excellent Biblical study course. It is easy to follow, very interesting and quite intriguing. At last I can understand the "source of knowledge," the Bible. In the past, I would read the Bible (mainly the New Testament) and understand very little of it. Now I can understand and appreciate "The Word."

Student (Australia)

All along I thought I knew the Bible. I thought that the Old Testament was a thing of the past, and the New Testament our sole way to salvation. Yet, after reading and proving Lessons 1 to 6 of your Bible Correspondence Course, I found myself treading from the Old Testament to the New.

I hope that I am not too late in my growing old age to live by the words of God, especially at this momentous time. Our troubled world is beset by a multitude of problems, manifested by the many signs of prophecies now occurring around us.

With prayer I hope for the continued success of your Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course to reach every home that is open to the ways and knowledge of God. I thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to take this course and in bringing me nearer to God.

Eduardo P. Reyes (Manila, The Philippines)

Students Express Gratitude for Ambassador College

The last time I wrote I was a part-time secretary going to a community college. Today, thanks to God's great blessing, I am attending Ambassador College and working on campus.

Every day I realize how blessed I am to be trained and taught how to live life successfully through God's way of life. The campus is beautiful and the people are exceptional. The atmosphere reflects peace, harmony and love. I thank God for working through you (Mr. Armstrong) to get this college back on track.

Linda Christian (Pasadena, CA)

I have just completed the first half of my first semester at God's College and am thankful that I have the opportunity to "recapture true values" in such an environment. All the instructors, as well as my fellow students, are warm and friendly. I can feel the presence of God's Spirit everywhere on this beautiful, high quality campus.

Stephen L. Baranaskas (Pasadena, CA)

Thank you so much for allowing God to use you to put the Church and college back on the track. I am a student at Ambassador, just having finished my first semester. I would not want to be anywhere else. There are so many things to learn and do, and so many opportunities. I can't thank God enough for the Church, the ministers, the college, the people and everything that goes with it. Keep up the good work, Mr. Armstrong. We are all praying for you.

Scott Friesen (Pasadena, CA)

Mr. Armstrong, I want to tell you that God's College, which he has built through you, is truly on track and teaching students the way of life that will bring abundant well-being. When I applied for Ambassador College, I had a lot of preconceived ideas of how good it was. I'm happy to say, and give God thanks, that Ambassador College has lived beyond my grand expectations.

It's truly a pleasure to learn about God and principles of living that will benefit us greatly. Also beneficial are our other opportunities, and learning how to apply ourselves diligently. I feel motivated to use my talents as never before, and I know true success is within my grasp.

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for all you have done in getting God's college to be the training ground for eternal happiness and well-being.

Bill Rogers (Pasadena, CA)

Working here at Ambassador College has been one of the greatest blessings imaginable. To work with the students and see them grow is such an inspiration. Thank you so very much for the opportunity to serve you (Mr. Armstrong) and the living Jesus Christ. This is

a dream come true in so many ways, especially now that the college is steaming down the track making the progress it was meant to all along.

Ronald P. Felling Jr.,
faculty assistant
(Pasadena, CA)

Thank you for Ambassador College. I have just completed my Ambassador College education. I thank God for His calling and do appreciate very much the sacrifices you (Mr. Armstrong) have made to make Ambassador College possible.

God has blessed me with a good job in His Work. How wonderful to be used in the Work to serve God's people! I have received the finest education available in this world. Ambassador taught me how to live the abundant life. So thank you very much for making it all possible.

Jim Ledford (Pasadena, CA)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

PREPARATIONS FOR 1981 FEAST OF TABERNACLES

To All U.S. Church Pastors:

Preparations are already underway for the Feast of Tabernacles 1981. Mr. Herbert Armstrong has approved the 1981 sites and will be announcing them in the near future.

As a part of this year's preparation, would you please notify us who your festival adviser will be for 1981. If you will be appointing a different adviser than last year, please notify us of his name, address and phone number by calling 213-577-5870, or writing to Dr. William Kessler, Festival Operations, 300 West Green St., Pasadena, CA, 91123.

If we do not hear from you by February 20, we will assume you have appointed your 1980 adviser again for 1981 and we will not change our records. Thank you for your help.

--The Festival Team