

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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JUST WHAT I S THE "WORK"?

And What Was it, and How Organized,
in 1933, and from A.D. 31-70?

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

The Work of God, and the organization and government of the Church of God, underwent radical changes from 31-70 A.D. to 1933, and also from 1933 to the present.

We need now to stop and get our perspective. Was it as it should have been in 1933? Is it TODAY?

Radical and significant changes have occurred in the world during these intervals. Yet the same Church of God has continued--not, in the years 1927-33, as it should have been. Yet it was the only body of believers on earth that had the true name, the "commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

WHY The Church?--Its PURPOSE

The PURPOSE for which Christ built the Church exemplifies its WORK--its activities. And Christ, through the New Testament, gives us the pattern by which it, as a SPIRITUAL ORGANISM (not a human or worldly organization) should be organized to carry on its WORK.

The PURPOSE, like most things in God's PLAN, is dual: 1) to ANNOUNCE for a witness to the world the coming Kingdom of God (the true Gospel). To prepare the way for Christ's coming.

2) To prepare the people whom God adds to the Church to become the Bride of Christ. To "feed the flock" on spiritual food. The Church must overcome Satan, grow in grace and spiritual character and spiritual knowledge to become immortal, divine GOD-PERSONS--ruling under Christ as kings and priests spiritually.

The CHURCH shall be built to be the spiritual TEMPLE to which Christ shall come (Mal. 3:1). Yet this Malachi prophecy is speaking primarily of preparing for Christ's second coming, as verses 2-5 clearly show.

John the Baptist's preparing the way before Jesus' first, human coming was therefore a TYPE foreshadowing one in the same power and spirit preparing the way for His coming as KING of kings and LORD of lords to RULE ALL NATIONS. John the Baptist put emphasis on the LAW (or way) of God, and calling to REPENTANCE. So the Apostle leading today's Church must explain world evils caused by transgressing God's Law of "GIVE" (outflowing LOVE) by living the way of "GET"--calling to repentance and announcing the World Tomorrow under the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, by the KINGDOM OF GOD.

What Was "The WORK" and How
Organized 31-70 A.D.?

In those early apostolic days, beginning 31 A.D., the Gospel was proclaimed to the world solely by the apostles and evangelists--no radio, TV, print or such modern facilities as we have today. Those proclaiming it went forth by foot, donkey or horse, rowboat or sailboat. No means of communication existed except handwritten letters carried afoot or by slow boat.

How organized? How "feed the flock?" The form of organization is outlined in I Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 primarily. GOD, not man or the world, set the pattern of Church organization, government, and operation of its WORK--first apostles, then evangelists, pastors, elders. Some of these were preaching, others non-preaching elders, and there were deacons and deaconesses helping with the more physical matters. Only five prophets are mentioned in the New Testament and none of these contributed to Church doctrine, beliefs or teaching--or administrative or executive functions. But Old Testament prophets' writings were a source of Church doctrines and teachings.

Beginning 31 A.D. Christ was HEAD of the Church, Peter was chief apostle. After some years Peter and most of the original twelve seem to disappear from view. Jesus apparently had sent them to "the lost sheep of the House of Israel," then in Western Europe and Britain (Matt. 10:6; 15:24). They were "lost" in identity and spiritually. They had lost their Hebrew language.

After some years of Church existence, the Apostle Paul seems to be the chief apostle in the Middle East and Rome. He was in authority (II Cor. 11:28; I Cor. 5:3-5; I Cor. 4:20-21).

The WORK was not complex then as today. The Gospel travelled slowly. There were no modern or mechanical facilities. Paul and others often spoke to small groups (Acts 16:12-13).

But about 53 A.D. the Gospel of the Kingdom of God was being SUPPRESSED, supplanted by another which was not the true Gospel (Gal. 1:6-7).

By 70 A.D., when Jerusalem was overrun by the Roman armies, the proclaiming of the true Gospel to the world had virtually or completely ceased. The name of Christ was preached, and even grace--but grace turned to license to disobey (Jude 4). They took the NAME of Christ, calling themselves "Christians"--proclaimed Jesus was CHRIST, yet DECEIVED the world (Matt. 24:5) as Jesus prophesied. But the KINGDOM OF GOD was not proclaimed. The "Law was done away." For 100 time cycles the Gospel Christ proclaimed was SUPPRESSED! The true Church continued, persecuted, often or mostly meeting secretly.

The "Work"--and How Church
Organized--1927-33

I came to know of the true Church of God, fall of 1926, and as it continued to about 1940. Headquarters in 1926 were at Stanberry, Missouri. After my original six months in-depth study and research

into evolution as a basic approach to all knowledge, and of the Bible which to me proved to be that approach and God's revealed knowledge, I wondered, "Where is the true Church?" They were so impotent spiritually (Rev. 3:1), and even in Biblical knowledge, yet what they did have was more Biblical TRUTH than any church my researches revealed. They had "the Commandments of God and the Testimony of Jesus," and the right name--and no other church had. But they were so small--so pitifully weak. They were not proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, but "the third angel's Message."

But of what did their "Work" consist, and how organized? They were organized on congregational (democratic) government as a "Biannual General Conference." To the best of my knowledge they had less than a thousand members and an uneducated ministry--that is, not college-educated. The editor of their church organ, "The Bible Advocate," seemed their leader. Five members could form a local church, and each church had one vote. Their ministers, who knew the Bible well so far as their limited doctrines extended, went out holding meetings in members' homes, in tiny tents and such means. I inquired of older members, but none knew of a single conversion resulting from the preaching of any minister.

In 1931 the Oregon members split. The half my wife and I had fellowshiped with (never joining) formed a new church corporation as "The Oregon Conference of the Church of God." I was ordained by this "Oregon Conference." I preached for them from ordination, June 1931 through November, 1931, then again from February 1933 to August 1933.

The "Philadelphia Era" Born

In July, 1933, I started a six-nights-a-week series of meetings for six weeks in a 36-seat country school house--the Jeans school--eight miles west of Eugene, Oregon. Result: 11 new baptized members plus eight of us already baptized--total: 19. It was just over 100 19-year time cycles after the very first Church was founded by Jesus Christ. I had been ordained precisely, to the month, 100 time cycles after the first apostles were ordained, June, 1931.

On forming of the new little parent Church, I ceased working under jurisdiction of the Oregon Conference, although I continued voluntarily as their pastor. The Worldwide Church of God was a newborn fledgling, which Christ, the HEAD of the Church, was conducting solely by me, known beginning 1934 as the Radio Church of God. It became the Worldwide Church of God in 1968.

What I S the Work, and How Organized TODAY?

As stated above, the WORK of proclaiming the Gospel Jesus brought from GOD was suppressed beginning about A.D. 53, and not proclaimed to the world after 70 A.D., for 100 time cycles.

In our day, 20th century, the churches of "Christianity" proclaim merely their message about Jesus. They proclaim that Jesus was the Christ. But they say "the Law of GOD is done away," and therefore preach no real repentance. The "Kingdom" has become "the Church," or some ethereal nothingness "set up in men's hearts." The Gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD was not preached. It was not proclaimed by

the 7th-Day Adventists, one of whose cardinal doctrines was the "Investigative Judgment" which had the resurrected saints a thousand years with Christ IN HEAVEN. The Church of God, Seventh Day, of Stanberry, MO., proclaimed a "Third Angel's Message." The true GOSPEL had not been proclaimed to the world for 1900 years!--100 time cycles!

Please do not misunderstand. "Time cycles" are definitely NOT a Church doctrine. But the sun, earth, and moon do come into almost exact conjunction once every 19 years. God uses the relation of the sun and moon to the earth as HIS means of marking off points in TIME. We do not make a "doctrine" out of a "day" measured by the sunsets, the month measured by the new moons as seen from earth, or by the lunar year, or the solar year.

But a century of time cycles is a definite measure of TIME. And a century of time cycles after the first birth of the Church was a TIME which God DID USE as a time to start a REBIRTH of His Church, when once again just before the close of the 6,000-year duration of the "Day of Man," and the ushering in of the Day of the LORD, His Gospel of the Kingdom would be proclaimed worldwide (Matt. 24:14).

At this point we need to understand a PRINCIPLE by which God always has worked through humans. He has always worked through O N E M A N at a time. He worked through Abraham. He worked through Moses, through Joshua, through one "judge" at a time, through Samuel, through David, through Solomon. He worked through Peter and when Peter had left the Middle East, through Paul. These men had in greater or lesser number, staff assistants under them, but God's WORK was through the ONE MAN AT A TIME!

THIS IS THE "WORK OF GOD"--and not a humanly-organized institution, operation, or organization on the worldly corporate type of organization, function, and procedure.

Too many have viewed the Worldwide Church of God, and what we call the WORK as a secular, man-devised ORGANIZATION, with its Board of Directors, its Vice Presidents, Department Heads and positions of AUTHORITY, some of whom have tried to pull political or corporate business tactics of rug-jerking to elevate themselves, and grab for POWER. They have forgotten that the divine, supernatural JESUS CHRIST--the LIVING Christ--is the HEAD, running this Work HIS way, not the way of this world's corporate enterprises or institutions. To them GOD is NOT IN THE PICTURE.

We must RESTRUCTURE this entire WORK in our own minds and realize it is THE WORK OF GOD, through Jesus Christ who is ALIVE and active, and, on earth through HIS APOSTLE, whom HE specially trained, prepared, and chose, and now DIRECTS, EMPOWERS, AND USES!

HOW Christ Started Today's WORK

It was the living CHRIST who opened the door to radio in the fall of 1933 before His chosen apostle whom He already had specially trained and prepared. After a preliminary super-intense study and in-depth research into evolution (this world's concept and approach to all knowledge) and

God's Word, His chosen servant was converted--CHANGED--from carnal mindedness to Spirit mindedness.

In that introductory, initial in-depth Biblical study, the living Christ had revealed the BASICS to me which the professing "Christian" churches did not possess. I had gone through seven years of deep spiritual experience. Through me Christ had healed the sick, cast out demons, working supernatural spiritual miracles besides opening my mind to His Spiritual TRUTHS, even such as no church on earth was proclaiming. It was a spiritual and knowledgeable experience such as none has today.

The living Christ started me in the smallest manner. He always starts things the very smallest through humans, like the illustration of the grain of mustard seed. A free 15-minute morning "devotional period" for one week was opened to me on radio KORE, Eugene.

The first Sunday in 1934 the full half-hour "World Tomorrow" program went on the air, then under the name, "Radio Church of God."

February 1, The PLAIN TRUTH, Vol. 1, No. 1, made its humble bow. A mimeographed "Bulletin" was the fledgling pioneer of The GOOD NEWS.

I continued personal campaigns speaking in school houses, a tent seating some 400, and whatever halls or auditoriums I could rent.

My first office was a room in the old Masonic Temple in Eugene. I had engaged the hall for meetings for the public three nights a week at \$10 per month. The room which made an office came with it. Later I rented an inside office, a skylight, no outside windows or ventilation of any kind, at \$5 per month.

I could not afford a stenographer or secretary. My wife was my sole staff. However, this was the 20th century. I was beginning to use the modern facilities of our materially advanced civilization. The PLAIN TRUTH had started on a borrowed mimeograph. The local A.B. Dick Co. mimeograph dealer allowed me to use his mimeograph for that first 250-copy edition of The PLAIN TRUTH. However, he didn't want that to continue every month. He found an old ancestor to the mimeograph--a hand-cranked neostyle, which he sold me for \$10. The first edition stencils were cut on a borrowed typewriter. I also managed to obtain a secondhand typewriter for \$10 for the second month.

So already I was using modern radio--though the smallest in power--a 100-watt station. And now a typewriter and a mimeograph.

But we live in a far, far different world than that of Apostles Peter and Paul.

The word apostle means "one sent forth" with Christ's Gospel Message --the same Message Jesus brought from God.

As stated above, Peter was chief apostle and human leader in the earliest years of the Church. After Peter seems to drop from sight, Paul was in charge, on the earthly, human level of the Church. Following this Biblical pattern and example, Christ's apostle is human leader under Christ, and in His authority, today.

Why only one apostle today?

We live today in a far, far different world. The world's population has multiplied many times over. In the wake of the invention of the printing press and the typewriter, KNOWLEDGE has increased astoundingly not only, but also the diffusion of knowledge. Unfortunately, that knowledge is virtually 100% materialistic. The world is still in the darkness of spiritual ignorance. It has lost--or rather never gained--the TRUE VALUES in understanding.

But escalation of carnal, selfishly-motivated diffusion of knowledge, the advent and swift development of modern science and technology, the effects of the machine age, all have made today's world a fast-moving, complicated and complex world utterly DIFFERENT than the world of the Apostles Peter and Paul.

Instead of requiring more apostles to go forth carrying the Message, and directing the oversight of the earthly Work, it requires but ONE! Today that one can speak a message with a microphone and TV cameras before him, and by electronic magic via satellite be SEEN speaking live by vast audiences in other parts of the world. Or he can record a Message to be heard and/or seen later on television or radio in any--or many--parts of the world by vast audiences. Or he can write Messages on his typewriter, which are reprinted in newspapers, magazines, or other means of mass-duplication, distributed and read by thousands or millions of people.

In Paul's day he could be heard by as many people as could hear a natural, unamplified voice. It would have taken many hundreds of apostles to convey the Message to as many people then as it does today.

Today we have mechanical, organizational facilities so that one man can direct the functions of as many as hundreds of apostles could have done in the days of the Pauline ministry.

But today, these same advanced mechanical facilities necessitate certain differences in organizational functions and procedures--though basically THE PATTERN IS THE SAME!

As the Church grew for 35 years at the unmatched rate of 30% increase annually over each preceding year, the use of modern facilities increased. God continually added those He called. Ambassador College was founded in 1947, and later the colleges in Britain and Texas. Dozens, scores, hundreds of God-educated ministers were ordained. We became, by 1968, the Worldwide Church of God.

All this time, it was the Work of Jesus Christ, through His chosen apostle, carrying on the Church's operations, fulfilling the DUAL spiritual PURPOSES for the Church--1) Proclaiming to the world for a witness, the Good News of the coming Kingdom of God, and 2) Feeding the flock--preparing those God called in righteous spiritual character to become the Bride of Christ, to sit with Him in His throne, and under Him to rule the nations.

The WORK consists of proclaiming the Gospel, by radio, by television, in print (booklets, books, The PLAIN TRUTH, messages in advertising space

in magazines and newspapers, the Bible Correspondence Course). This is a spiritual work. Broadcasting, both radio and TV, is done by the apostle. Most booklets and books are written by the apostle. The "Personal"--most read, usually the lead article and often other articles are by the apostle. Other articles are by staff writers trained in Ambassador College as were all ministers. The Bible Correspondence Course, with thousands studying it, is all the teaching of the apostle. In this Gospel-proclaiming area is the Mail Processing Center, where hundreds of thousands--even millions --of letters are received from listeners, viewers and readers. This center includes ordained ministers trained by the apostle, who answer letters asking Biblical questions, and seeking spiritual counsel.

In the area of "Feeding the Flock," first is Ambassador College, educating and training men for the ministry, and others for various positions in the Work. The teaching is that of Christ's apostle, who is President and Chancellor of the College.

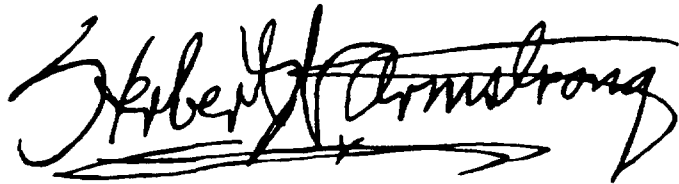
The Ministry, consisting of hundreds of ordained ministers teaching, as the apostle taught them, in local churches worldwide.

Serving them for the apostle is the Ministerial Services Department.

Also under the apostle and cooperating with Ministerial Services is the Festival Office, planning and arranging the annual Feast of Tabernacles attended in many festival sites around the entire world.

Feeding the Flock in print is The GOOD NEWS, monthly, and the World-wide News, a tabloid, semimonthly, besides the Pastor General's Report, weekly to the ministry.

(To be Continued)



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Keeping Track of Automobile Expenses

It has come to our attention that several of the ministers with monthly expense allotments are, on a regular basis, using part of their allotments for automobile expenses. Because we need to keep specific track of fleet expenses, we need you to let us know if this is happening to you so we can allocate the various expenses to the proper budget. If you fall into this category, please send us a memo listing what you spend in an average month on automobile expenses and how much is spent on general expenses. It would be helpful if you can include a short explanation as to the type of auto expense (gas and oil, repairs, etc.).

Cassette Players Available for Sermon/Bible Study Tapes

We have had several requests over the last year for tape players to play sermon and Bible Study tapes sent from Pasadena. We currently have in stock a small cassette player/recorder. It is intended for these to be used in conjunction with your current sound system. Those of you needing cassette players may order them through a Supply Request form.

International News

French Department Activities This past weekend, Mr. Dibar Apartian, director of the French-speaking areas of God's Work flew to Montreal to officially announce some manpower changes for the area. Mr. Colin Wilkins, who has been serving the French Canadian area for the past seven years, is to be transferred to Glasgow, Scotland at the end of March. Mr. Wilkins is originally from Scotland and is looking forward to being assigned there.

While in Montreal Mr. Apartian raised local elder, Donat Picard, to preaching Elder. He will pastor the Montreal AM and PM churches for the time being. Also working in the area are two ministerial trainees and a local church elder. For the combined service there, 541 people attended, reflecting the growth in the area. Seven baptisms were conducted in the Montreal PM church alone in recent weeks.

Coincidentally, on the return Air Canada flight from Montreal, Mr. Apartian was recognized by a stewardess and greeted by name. It turned out that he had met her in Paris about eight years ago when she had attended services there. She is now a member attending the Hamilton, Ontario church.

Cameroon Mr. Clore is continuing his adventurous life in Cameroon! In his letter of December 18, he wrote: "Last Sabbath, Mr. Njamta and myself went to preach to the brethren in Makak/Libamba. About 22 persons (children included) were present. Apparently, several from Minka couldn't come because of no transportation. I made two trips (six km) from Libamba to Makak to pick up several who couldn't find a taxi. I distributed Mr. Armstrong's book on the human potential, and left two Bible dictionaries and concordances with the deacons as well as two WN's from the 10th and 24th of November. The films about China and the one of the Young Ambassadors were shown to the brethren of Edea, one week earlier. The brethren were profoundly touched and very enthusiastic to see Mr. Armstrong in action. They were equally thrilled to see the Young Ambassadors' film during which several were so happy that they sprang up and began to dance. These films certainly had a good impact on the brethren here...."

Philippines: 1980 Summary The year ended with nearly 96,000 pieces of mail having been received--up 17% over 1979.

PLAIN TRUTH magazine subscriptions have risen steadily at a rate of 2000 per month until now 44,500 people receive the magazine. Another 5500 are put on newsstands every month.

Responses to advertisements went up a huge 376% in 1980, largely due to 4,366 requests for the booklet DOES GOD EXIST? as advertised in Panorama magazine in August.

Over the years, nearly 15,000 students have completed twelve lessons of the Correspondence Course. Another 3,180 are currently active students.

Total baptized members reached 2,165 (+2.6% over 1979) and 157 new prospectives were added in 1980 (+54%).

This past year over 2,900 attend the Feast of Tabernacles (+15%) and offerings were up 40%. And the income received in the Manila office during 1980 was also up 28% over 1979.

It was a very good year.

(Continued on Page 10)

A Voice Cries Out: "I have both Good News and Bad News."

A joke that is serious REALITY!

Appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Feb. 2, 1981

YOU'VE HEARD the joke. But when applied to *your* life and mine in today's civilization it's *no* joke! It's something to *think about!*

The joke is about a fictitious rookie airline pilot. Of course there are no inexperienced pilots on commercial airlines—*only* the experienced and capable.

But the fictitious pilot in the joke says over the public address system: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. I have both good news and bad news. I will give you the bad news first. **WE ARE LOST!** Now the good news. *We're making extra fast time!*"

Applied to our civilization, it's *no* joke! This civilization has been piloted by largely inexperienced leaders. We've lost our direction! We're not traveling toward the intended destiny of mankind's incredible potential! We've never seemed to know what that potential is, or how to reach it! We're in imminent danger of plunging into the **CRASH** of human extinction!

And it's definitely *not* good news that we're traveling the disaster course at "extra-fast time." And gaining momentum rapidly!

Human leadership—the pilots of our civilization—has been incompetent. It has faced tough problems it is incapable of solving. It is piloting humanity through troubles and evils beyond human control.

Why?

Our troubles and evils are primarily spiritual in nature, and humanity has



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

capability of dealing only with the physical and material. The way to humanity's intended potential is "give" — a spiritual motive. But a misguided humanity has chosen the incentive of "get" and confined it to materialistic acquisition.

You board a 747 at New York for Paris. Your captain is well trained, experienced, capable. He has checked the weather patterns. He has efficient computerized equipment. He knows the prescribed air lanes. He has professional guidance from ground towers. He flies you safely to your destination, and with a trained crew makes your flight a pleasure. But he is dealing with the material and physical in which he has expertise. On the other hand, the pilots of our civilization are dealing with people and groups of people, and the spiritual equation enters into the picture.

There seems *no* limit to what the human mind can accomplish in the realm of the natural and physical. But problems and troubles are largely spiritual in principle. Before them man seems pitifully **HELPLESS!**

We can't seem to solve problems and eradicate troubles in the home. We are very inexperienced at solving disputes

between factions and groups, or troubles between nations. So we suffer the breakup of homes. We encounter troubles, violence and wars between factions, groups, nations.

A frustrated and suffering humanity sorely needs a pilot of the perfection of expertise in both the physical and spiritual realms.

For 6,000 years a misguided humanity has been gaining momentum in the **WRONG DIRECTION!** We are "lost" — and we are "making extra fast time"—on a collision course toward a final **CRASH** in human extinction. It's like a bad dream, from which we don't want to **WAKE UP!**

But just before the fatal crash, that super Pilot, the unseen "Strong Hand from Somewhere," will intervene in human world affairs and save us from ourselves! Humanity will be *compelled* to enjoy world peace, happiness, both in material and spiritual abundance and universal well-being!

UTOPIA? Yes! Why not? It's all a matter of **CAUSE** and **EFFECT**. This voice is pointing out the **CAUSE** of present world evils—the "get" incentive, calling on those of **UNDERSTANDING** to turn to the direction of "give"—outflowing **LOVE** to God and to neighbor. And announcing the imminency of a new, peaceful, happy and abundant **WORLD TOMORROW**, whether one believes it or not!

And that is **GOOD NEWS!**

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Chairman
Ambassador Foundation

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

The following two letters are from Spanish-speaking pastors who attended the seventh Ministerial Refreshing Program. In each case their original letters in their native tongue appear before the English translation.

Estimado Sr. Armstrong:

Con fecha 29 de enero de 1981, siendo las 17:15 horas, se dio término a la séptima sesión del Curso de Repaso Ministerial aquí en Pasadena.

Ante todo, doy a gracias Dios por haberle inspirado a usted la magnífica idea, como también doy las gracias a todo su equipo ministerial sobre los cuales cayó la gran responsabilidad de ser nuestros profesores durante las tres semanas de clases. También agradecemos muchísimo la valiosa participación de nuestro director, el Sr. Leon Walker, quien nos dio aviso correspondiente muy oportunamente para que mi esposa y yo nos preparáramos para el viaje desde Temuco, Chile.

Lo que más nos ha impresionado es la magnífica organización del Programa y los métodos de enseñanza de los profesores. Todos los conocimientos que recibimos tienen un valor para mí que no puedo explicarlo adecuadamente con palabras, pero sí puedo decirle que todo ello será de mucha ayuda en relación con nuestras responsabilidades en la congregación de Temuco.

Cuente en todo momento con nuestro total e incondicional apoyo, así como con nuestras oraciones que el Eterno nuestro Dios lo fortalezca física y espiritualmente para que pueda cumplir libremente la misión que Dios le ha encomendado de predicar el Evangelio a todo el mundo.

Filidor y Ediht Illesca

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

On the 29th of January of 1981, at 5:15 p.m., the seventh session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program concluded here in Pasadena.

Above all I give thanks to God for having inspired you with such a tremendous idea, as well as giving thanks to your entire Ministerial Services team upon whom fell the great responsibility of being our teachers during the three weeks of classes. We are also very thankful for the valuable notification from our director, Mr. Leon Walker, who gave us appropriate notice well ahead of time so that my wife and I could get ready for the trip from Temuco in Chile.

What most impressed us is the excellent organization of the program and the teaching methods of the lecturers. All the knowledge we received has a value for me which I cannot adequately explain in words. But I can tell you that all of it will be of great help in regard to our responsibilities in the Temuco congregation.

Please count at all times on our total and unconditional support, as well as on our prayers that the Eternal our God might strengthen you

physically and spiritually so that you may boldly fulfill the Commission which God has entrusted to you of preaching the Gospel to the whole world.

Filidor and Ediht Illesca (Temuco, Chile)

¡Nuestro muy querido y estimado Apóstol y Pastor General Señor Herbert W. Armstrong!

La presente es para manifestarle mi sincero y grato agradecimiento por lo multiforme de sus servicios, y particularmente por organizar esta temporada de repaso ministerial.

Hemos pasado los días tan agradables y llenos de actividad, disfrutando los exquisitos y deliciosos manjares, en un lugar con ambiente paradisíaco.

Llenos de fervor y afecto cristiano, los maestros y ministros de Dios ametrallaron en nuestra mente y conciencia sus conocimientos y experiencias; es más, todo el pueblo de Dios en conjunto nos recibieron con su dedicado servicio. Así logramos captar con gran impacto la Palabra de Dios, mediante enseñanzas y ejemplo.

También, los del Departamento Hispano tenemos el gran honor de trabajar bajo la dirección de nuestro querido director Leon Walker, un siervo de Dios muy dedicado.

¡Gracias a Dios y a Jesucristo! por haberle guiado e inspirado a usted para realizar este entrenamiento. A la verdad nos hacía falta y era tiempo.

Ahora trabajaremos mucho mejor, sirviendo a Dios y a Su Iglesia, y apoyándole a usted nuestro Apóstol y siervo de Jesucristo.

Con este refinado entrenamiento, habrá mejor representación y logro a la gran comisión, que en esta hora final se complace Dios en realizar su Obra mediante usted.

Wilfredo Sáenz A.

Our beloved and much esteemed Apostle and Pastor General, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong:

I am writing you to express my sincere and grateful thanks for your manifold service and help, and especially for having organized this Ministerial Refreshing Program.

Our stay was so pleasant and full of activity; we enjoyed the tasty and delicious food, and the environment was like a paradise.

God's teachers and ministers, full of zeal and Christian love, taught us their knowledge and experiences with power, and in addition, all of God's people welcomed us with their dedicated service. In this way we felt the tremendous impact of the Word of God, both by the teaching and by the example.

In addition, those of us who are involved within the Spanish Department have the great honor of working under the direction of our much-loved director, Leon Walker, a very dedicated servant of God.

Thanks be to God and to Jesus Christ for having guided and inspired you to carry out this training! It was most timely and we truly needed it.

We will now work much more effectively, serving God and His Church and backing you up, our apostle and servant of Jesus Christ.

With this well-prepared training, the Great Commission--the Work that God is pleased to carry out through you in this end time--will have better representation and greater success.

Wilfredo Saenz (Lima, Peru)

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

We just want to express our deep appreciation for the most wonderful and uplifting opportunity God blessed us with in allowing us to enjoy and benefit from the Refreshing Program. It has been very inspiring to see firsthand the total loyalty and support of all the Ministerial Services staff and all the Pasadena ministry to you, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, God's apostle for the end time. We have really been "refreshed" as to the proper approach and proper ways to more effectively serve God and His people. Thank you very much, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Tkach and all of you wonderful people for the example and instruction you have given us.

Pablo and Teresa Dimakis (Mexico City)

Note: The following letter is from one of three men employed by the Spanish Department here in Pasadena who had opportunity to share in performing simultaneous translation for the Spanish-speaking ministers attending the seventh Ministerial Refreshing Program. The other two translators were Carlos Gutierrez and Mauricio Perez.

Dear Mr. Tkach:

First of all I wanted to thank you, as well as Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Walker, for the privilege of having been able to participate in the seventh session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. It was moving and inspiring to see the unity that you spoke of evidenced very clearly both by the teaching and among the instructors and ministers in attendance, despite the language barrier.

I have lived in Pasadena since 1974, and during the past two or three years the atmosphere here has radically improved--there is a palpable difference. Changes had to come from the top, and God and Jesus Christ have brought about these changes through the example and direction of Mr. Armstrong, and the faithful support of the men he has delegated and entrusted positions of leadership to. Thank you, Mr. Tkach, for your part in this.

Secondly, I wanted to thank you for your very kind and encouraging words, not only during the session but also on that delightful card (or should I call it effigy?)--and please thank and congratulate your talented artist, Georgia Zick, for me. You, the other instructors, and the whole team have been a true inspiration. Thank you again.

Reg Killingley

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Years ago my Dad used to tell me the story of a tiger bounding ferociously toward his intended human victim, gaining momentum with each long stride, totally confident of his intentions. As he catapulted, wide-jawed, toward his intended prey, that same "victim" extended his arm toward the oncoming tiger, extending it through the open mouth--all the way to the tip of the tail--and, after a sudden pull, watched the hapless beast stride away in the opposite direction--but now turned completely inside out!

That story seems to best describe my relationship with the just-completed Refreshing Program. I bounded in positively, and bounded out even more positive. But, as I bounded out, I felt considerably more like the tiger--now turned inside out--totally bared, exposed, as it were, able to see and recognize self a little clearer.

I have since bounded back into my church area, filled to the brim with exciting news for the brethren. And I am able to present such news with new vigor, increased excitement and deep gratitude. The Refreshing Program corroborated emphatically the fact that God truly "changes not," and that Jesus Christ--and His Word--indeed are, "...the same yesterday, today, and for ever!"

The recognition that your designated "instructors" were teaching and expanding upon those exact teachings and principles which my wife and I were taught, by you, in 1960, was deeply encouraging and reassuring. The warmth and sincerity with which those refreshers were presented was, in itself, greatly refreshing.

All in all, Mr. Armstrong, the program was a delight--albeit an enervating delight. Our deepest thanks and love to you for your continued stewardship over the precious people of the Living God--and for your total commitment to Jesus Christ and this way of life which has been so mercifully revealed to His Church.

Bob and Shirley Smith

Mr. Tkach:

Before leaving the campus today, my wife and I would like to express our gratitude for being able to attend the seventh session of the Ministerial Refreshing Programme.

Please convey to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong our sincere thanks for this inspiring experience. Only through loyalty to Jesus Christ, His leadership, and your dedicated staff has this programme been possible and a great success.

We have been particularly impressed with the harmony, unity, dedication and warm fellowship experienced during the past three weeks. They have been truly a refresher to us and will enable us to convey this feeling and teaching to the local congregations.

Once again thank you and your staff ever so much for all the work and time devoted to us, not only in teaching, but also in the social activities of the programme. It's been a great privilege to get to know all.

Bram and Trudy de Bree

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Greetings from Bonny Scotland! I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your thoughtfulness and for the lapel pin.

I thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the Refreshing Program. My extensive notes are now a gold mine that I am continually digging into for guidance, direction, and answers.

Judging from the many comments printed in the PGR, the Program has proved to be a major tool in revitalising and reawakening the Ministry--"turning them on" to the gigantic task that remains before us.

Thank you again for all your tireless efforts and those of the Pasadena team.

John Meakin

Dear Mr. Tkach,

Shirl and I have returned to The Fort, following our very delightful opportunity to attend the Refreshing Program, and--although extremely happy to be back in the "swing of things"--find ourselves missing the marvelous fellowship and instruction which so consumed the past three weeks.

To be able to meet so many of our Spanish-speaking fellow servants--as well as those from other foreign areas--was one of the most heart-warming experiences of the trip West. As you mentioned on our last day--as Herbert Cisneros opened with prayer--God's Holy Spirit is very obvious in His people, regardless of the language in which it is exercised.

I had desired to generate personal memos of thanks to each of our instructors--but perhaps that sentiment can be best conveyed through the offices of Ministerial Services. So, to you, Mr. Blackwell, Dr. Hoeh, Messrs. LaRavia, Rader, Neff, Matthews, Anderson, Webber, Snook, Albrecht, Salyer, Faulkner, Burky, Nice, Helge, McNair, Hogberg--and all the Ministerial Services staff, as well as the marvelous crew directed by Mr. Carlton Green at the Student Center--we humbly express our deepest "Thank You" for your part in helping to refresh the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Looking forward to next time, we remain.....

Bob and Shirley Smith

Mr. Tkach:

We feel we were very blessed and privileged to attend the Ministerial Refreshing Program. We have observed for ourselves the wonderful warmth and unity of the ministry and members as well. The wonderful knowledge and instruction we received shows how we are once more getting back on the track and are speaking the same things. We are very inspired.

Joseph and Hazel Schlitt

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

CHICO, CA--MARC SEGALL: A few of the people who left the Church over a year ago are beginning to show signs of remorse. One couple has already pleaded to come back to services and be a part of God's Church again. They attended the GTA Church for a while and were so disillusioned by all the cynicism, bitterness, gossip and "strange" doctrinal twistings and perversions, they began to miss the Godly fellowship and government found in the only true Church of God.

The brethren were extremely excited and helped by Mr. Armstrong's January 20th member letter. It seems like the brethren really identify with Mr. Armstrong's analysis of current events in the light of Bible prophecy. I'd also like to suggest that more written information be available to the brethren on improving the family and marriages of God's people. The latest GOOD NEWS magazine with Mr. Tkach's article about being a Christian Father was greatly appreciated and evoked many positive comments. Also, Mr. Armstrong's Bible study tapes are more appreciated than ever. Please keep them coming.

TACOMA, WA--LAMBERT GREER: Church continues to progress. Noticeable rise in attendance, which includes a couple of people returning to the Church after five, and in one case, twelve years.

MINNEAPOLIS NORTH, MN--LEONARD SCHREIBER: Y.O.U. activities and attitudes are the best I have ever seen. Parents are beginning to really take an interest. Everyone appreciated the emphasis on family activities and articles in The GOOD NEWS pointing parents to children. Many thanks from us and the whole congregation for the new YOUTH 81 Magazine. We note that each article seems to point the young people to their parents. This is really an answer to prayer and a fulfilling of prophecy.

KANSAS CITY, KS--BRUCE GORE: Jobs are getting scarcer to find for some of our members; a few economic problems exist in the Church. I spend a lot of time counselling several couples re marriage problems. Intolerance and lack of commitment is very evident.

We all sure appreciated the last letter from Mr. Armstrong. He is sure setting a tremendous example of work and effort in fulfilling his responsibilities. These are exciting times to be living in-- My wife and I are thankful to have a part in God's Work and be serving His people in the ministry.

SACRAMENTO, CA--JOEL LILLEGREEN: Flu continues to hit many in this area. Enthusiasm runs high for Mr. Armstrong's Bible study tapes. Study guides we prepare ahead of time are very profitable learning tools.

DENVER, CO--RONALD KELLY: Most of the Church is in a fine and enthusiastic attitude. Anxious to hear about Mr. Herbert Armstrong's trips, etc. 1981 is off to an excellent start.

COOS BAY, OR--GREG JOHNSON: Marriage and family problems improving; Church involvement improving; some job and financial problems exist due to economy.

ROSEBURG, OR--GREG JOHNSON: Some job problems exist due to depressed lumber industry; some marriage problems improving after lots of counselling. Overall, people are loyal, hard-working and getting more involved all the time.

GLENDALE, CA--RONALD LAUGHLAND: Presently struggling with long-time members who are facing problems that should have been addressed and resolved 15 years ago. Many are coming to realize that they cannot continue to live "underground" with problems and sins that have been hidden for years. Appears God is routing out those sins we need to eliminate as the end approaches.

FORT WORTH, TX--BOB SMITH: Have just returned home from Pasadena where we were able to be instructed and refreshed through the very fine Refreshing Program, and the opportunity to witness firsthand the love, unity and harmony extant at the Pasadena complex.

The opportunity to attend the Refreshing Program with our Spanish-speaking ministers, as well as others of the foreign areas of the Work, was an extremely heart-warming experience. The obvious rapport among those in whom dwells God's Holy Spirit it truly a joy to behold. It was also exciting to come away from three weeks of teaching with the full realization that truly God changes not--and that Jesus Christ, and His teachings, are "...the same yesterday, and today and forever." Thanks for everything!

PLAIN TRUTH Magazine Seen on "Sesame Street"

I have to write to you (Mr. Armstrong) to share an exciting experience I had. The other day I was watching a well-known children's program called "Sesame Street." During the program they showed a film of a mailman delivering mail in the Appalachian Mountains. To my surprise it showed him delivering a PLAIN TRUTH magazine! It was clear enough to see the whole title, PLAIN TRUTH. I was so excited. The next time they showed it I called my husband to make sure I saw what I thought I saw, and as soon as he saw it he exclaimed that it was the PLAIN TRUTH magazine!

Laurie Smith (Chillicothe, OH)

Weekly Letter Comments

Brethren are solidly behind Mr. Armstrong and hold him in highest esteem. They thank him for his tireless efforts and pray for God to grant him strength and direction to successfully complete the Great Commission. Readers also continue to be inspired by Mr. Armstrong's book. TOMORROW... WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE, with some now rereading it and even lending it to others. And faithful tithe payers continue to share accounts of how abundantly God has blessed them for obeying His great financial law of tithing.

Brethren Grateful for Mr. Armstrong's Leadership

Thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for being a faithful servant. Thank you for remaining loyal and true to God's Word even when you had to stand

alone. Thank you for working so long and hard to deliver God's message and to share the wonderful benefits of its truth. Thank you for not giving up. Thank you for going out again to world leaders and for writing and encouraging us so much. Thank you for your recent letter--it is so inspiring to know that we are in the final plunge of getting ready for the Kingdom. Yes, and most of all, we thank God who has made it all possible!

Ken and Donna Robertson (Austin, TX)

Thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for reminding us of what we should be doing and for guiding us in the right direction. We all give our thanks and praise to God who called you and taught you so that we would have a strong shepherd to lead us on our long path to home--the Kingdom.

Thank you for every letter, article, ad, booklet and book that you have written or will write. Continue in good health as God continues to bless you and direct your steps.

The Tom Campbell Family (Salem, OR)

My wife and I want to let you know (Mr. Armstrong) that we are hold-in up your arms in support of this great worldwide Commission of spreading the good news of the World Tomorrow. We pray always that your health will constantly be improved and that your knowledge, wisdom and understanding will be increased as needed. Also, as you fly over this dangerous earth, we pray constantly for God's safety over you and those with you.

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Bailey (West Lafayette, OH)

This is a long overdue letter to thank you deeply for your love and concern for all of us in God's Church; and to let you know we are supporting you in our prayers, thoughts and tithes. We have been in God's Church for some years now, and want to tell you we appreciate your sacrifices over that time. What has been especially amazing and inspiring is your ability to see through the subtleties of Satan.

Richard & Carol Bonsey (New Haven, CT)

Thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for being so zealous in the Work. If you weren't doing your job so wonderfully I would never had heard the truth to begin with. I just wonder what hopeless, pitiful condition I would be in without the Church. Through you, Jesus Christ brought me to repentance, raised me from the grave, gave me ears to hear, eyes to see and strong legs to walk the spiritual line. I owe you my life and my fortune. And we both owe ours to Christ!

Carl Dobbs (Oxon Hill, MD)

My wife and I want to thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for your continued zeal and great dedication to God and the Work He has called you to do. We pray daily that God will continue to strengthen you physically to endure the schedule you have set for yourself, and that He will give you the spiritual gifts you need to proclaim Christ's message and lead the Work and Church.

Warren & Toni Hamblet (Oklahoma City, OK)

As the time of the end of the Work grows closer and closer, I pray more and more for you physically, mentally and spiritually--that God will draw you ever nearer in mind and spirit to Him and that your understanding be ever increased.

Charlotte R. Kays (Toledo, OH)

"Tomorrow...What it Will Be Like" Greatly Appreciated

I received the book TOMORROW...WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE and believe me, it's the very best thing that entered into my apartment since my Bible! I've finished reading it and want so much to share it along with some of the other booklets from The PLAIN TRUTH. Thank you so much for enlightening me spiritually.

Belinda Johnson (Bradenton, FL)

I have to make a few comments on your book, TOMORROW...WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE. As I started reading it I was surprised by the power, clarity and conciseness of your expression. It has also given me many new insights. It seems that God has given you more and more understanding. His basic principles stay the same, but as you have grown, more and more ramifications have been revealed to you. I'm thankful that you are here to reveal them to us.

Paul Kurts (Jacksonville, FL)

May I say how delighted I was to receive Mr. Herbert Armstrong's book TOMORROW... WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE. Not a book to read and put down but one to read and reread again and again, to digest and assimilate. And thank God it will come to pass. I thank you for such a lovely gift.

G.S. (Timaru, New Zealand)

Thank you very much for the book TOMORROW...WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE. I have enjoyed it so much and am going to loan it to my friends. It is a book of facts based on truth and so nicely backed up by the Holy Bible. Again thank you so much and may God continuously bless you for the fine work.

H. Bert Woehl (Lodi, CA)

I have received the book posted to me from Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, TOMORROW...WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE. I'm reading it again, and then I'll lend it to my daughters to read. It is all true--what a wonderful book. Please thank Mr. Armstrong for me. I don't seem to write well enough to write to him.

L.W. (Christchurch, New Zealand)

Thank you most sincerely for the copy of your recent book TOMORROW... WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE. I am very grateful for being remembered! It contains many beautiful thoughts for reflection and meditation, which strengthen my prayer life and the love of my God and neighbor.

Sister M. Ann Cecile (Sylvania, OH)

Tithe Payers Reap Blessings

Enclosed is our tithe. My husband was just awarded a 20% raise-- several months earlier than his annual raise was scheduled! (Rather unusual for a 20% raise these days!) A few weeks later he received a "bonus" check--a nice big one!! We enjoy helping the Work of the Living God.

We have moved a lot so every time we buy a house, we look for the best buy for resale value. Somehow we always find the ones that are below price and up in value!

Just thought I'd write the above to let you know our good fortune and how God helps us help the Work!

Julie Bob & Lee Gilbert (Mt. Airy, MD)

I wish to inform you that my savings bond has just won a prize, so I think it is proper for me to give a tenth of it for the Work of God. Earlier, I had been asking God to help my family go through our financial crisis, and God answered me in a way I least expected. I thank God for His goodness and wonderful way of answering my prayer.

Emilio B. Que (Isabela, Philippines)

God has blessed me by making it possible to buy a brand new house. This is something that a year ago I never dreamed would happen. In fact I never even hoped it would happen. Paying tithes is what did it.

Juanita Catlett (Sultan, WA)

Please accept my small tithe. God has truly rewarded me. Shortly after sending in my last tithe, I was burning some old birthday cards, and while going through them I found the exact same amount (I think) that I had sent in since I began tithing. Truly God is Great.

John P. (Corner Brook, Nfld., Canada)

Please find enclosed our latest tithe check. We would like you to know that since beginning to tithe recently, it has been a real thrill to find God helping us in many little ways financially. Our cash in hand gets stretched effortlessly every week. We have just received a lump sum and have no hesitation in adding a tenth of it to our usual tithe. This was something we would not have felt able to do only a year ago, having a young family and thinking every cent must be carefully guarded. Now we are in a situation where financial worries, from being near the top of the list, are scarcely referred to. Each day can be faced with a sense of gratitude knowing that in this and other more important areas of our lives God is showing His hand.

K.M. (Auckland, New Zealand)

LEGAL BATTLE FAR FROM OVER

by

Stanley R. Rader

Pasadena, February 5, 1981

The legal battle is far from over even though the California attorney general dismissed his lawsuit against the Worldwide Church of God and all other parties on October 15, 1980. We are still deeply involved in litigation in the appellate courts of California in matters directly related to the original lawsuit.

We have just petitioned the California Supreme Court for a hearing after the District Court of Appeals denied a petition in which we asked that it (the District Court of Appeals) clarify the order that it previously entered following the attorney general's request that our appeal be considered moot. [Recall that early in 1979 we appealed certain decisions made in Superior Court installing a receiver. The attorney general later dismissed the lawsuit against the Church. Then the attorney general applied to the appeals court to have the Church's appeal dismissed too.]

It was important for us to have the District Court of Appeals state clearly that the underlying orders imposing a receiver, an injunction, etc., were dissolved by the dismissal of the underlying action and the request for dismissal of our appeal. In the opinion of all of our counsel, this was a prerequisite for us to avoid our adversaries from claiming collateral estoppel in other matters now pending or that might be pending in the future. ["Collateral estoppel" means that certain decisions made in one court are binding on another court on all the same issues.]

Hillel Chodos, the attorney for the relators, in an independent motion has appealed the dismissal by the attorney general. But again the District Court of Appeals has rebuffed us and our request that his appeal be dismissed for lack of standing [lack of legal right to challenge the dismissal of the lawsuit by the attorney general]. We are now preparing a petition on this matter for the California Supreme Court. The matters concerning the receivership costs and the receiver's fees and legal fees claimed by Chodos and others are still pending in the appellate courts of California.

We are still in the process of preparing our civil rights action in federal court which may ultimately be the only way for the Church to be vindicated of the illegal, unlawful and unconstitutional attack by the State of California.

Meanwhile in the state legislature, an effort will be made to tack on amendments to the Petris Bill before it becomes effective in June. A Jewish federation is seeking a sponsor in the assembly for a whole series of amendments which would, for all practical purposes, nullify the Petris Bill. We and all other religious denominations are watching the matter as carefully as we can and your prayers are needed.

AN ANNIVERSARY IN MANILA

Another highlight of the recent successful visit by God's Apostle to Manila was a 30th anniversary dinner that Mr. Armstrong hosted in the Champagne Room of the Manila Hotel for my wife and me in remembrance of our 30th wedding anniversary.

It was an unbelievably beautiful evening and to borrow a phrase, "A night to be long remembered." Mr. Armstrong, and of course his wife Ramona, were host and hostess. A special cake had been ordered by Mr. Armstrong for the occasion. A string orchestra played the entire evening, for all practical purposes, at our table and Mr. Armstrong's sister-in-law, Mary Ellen Dahlgren, was persuaded by me to sing. Many of you are probably unaware that she has an unbelievably beautiful voice. (The next day we were sitting for a few moments at the pool enjoying the early morning sun and a woman, who was apparently sitting with her husband across the crowded room, mentioned what a beautiful party somebody was having that evening in the Champagne Room and what a magnificent voice she had heard across the room.) Also present were others on Mr. Armstrong's staff for the trip: Mr. John Kineston, Mr. Henry Cornwall, Mr. Joseph Kotora, Captain Black, Eilene McManus and Peggy Gigstad.

This is the third memorable anniversary that I have had the good fortune to spend in Mr. Armstrong's company as his guest. My wife and I celebrated both our 20th and our 25th anniversaries with him and other guests in his home in Pasadena.

--Stanley R. Rader

WHY THE PLAIN TRUTH AND CORRESPONDENCE COURSE ARE SOMETIMES LATE

Occasionally we receive letters or calls from people concerned that their PLAIN TRUTH and/or Correspondence Course lesson are late in arriving. There may be several reasons for this.

The PLAIN TRUTH is mailed directly from the printer in Glasgow, Kentucky around the first week of each month. We schedule to send the Correspondence Course on the 15th of the month. To save the Work millions of dollars each year, The PLAIN TRUTH is sent by second-class mail and the Correspondence Course by third-class. This way the postage costs are only approximately 3 1/2¢ per item mailed. If mailed first-class, The PLAIN TRUTH would cost 54¢ a piece and each Correspondence Course lesson would be 41¢. While first-class mail is usually delivered in four to five days, third-class deliveries may require 10 to 18 days or longer.

On occasion, other U.S. postal problems may result in delays; for example, mail being mis-sorted or mis-routed. In such cases, the mail may take another week to arrive. Also, mail is sometimes delayed through seasonal rushes (such as Xmas) or because of bad weather. Scarcely ever is mail simply lost. If a wrapper comes off and is separated from a Correspondence Course lesson, the wrapper is returned to us. We then resend the lesson. Thus, erratic deliveries are outside the Work's control.

Should members experience any difficulty whatsoever in receiving The PLAIN TRUTH, Correspondence Course lessons, or any other literature, we would like to know about the problem as soon as possible. Please write to the Mail Processing Center, or call in on our toll-free number and inform us. We continually monitor our systems to provide the best possible service for all our readers.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

GERMAN "WIRTSCHAFTSWUNDER" GRINDS TO A HALT After decades of remarkable economic growth, West Germany is in trouble. The fabled "Wirtschaftswunder"--Economic Miracle--has played out. The Federal Republic's economy will at best stagnate in 1981. More likely, Bonn's GNP will shrink by one percent.

Unemployment, now standing at 1.3 million, could rise during 1981 to its highest level in 30 years. Inflation, still low by current U.S. and British standards, has crept up to about six per cent.

The huge balance of payments surpluses of the past are but a fading memory, replaced by what looks to be a succession of mammoth deficits. The deficit for 1980 was around \$16 billion, largest ever for any country. For 1981, the picture is expected to be only slightly less dismal.

The West German economy's poor showing is reflected in the slumping value of the deutsche mark, which has lost 20% of its value against the dollar in the last four months alone. (When I was in Germany in October, the dollar was worth between 1.75 and 1.80 marks. It was trading in the first week of February for around 2.15.) The advent of the Reagan administration and continued high interest rates in the U.S., sucking in German investment funds, have also played significant roles in the mark's decline. Now, for the first time in West German history, there is even speculation that the troubled mark could be devalued.

West German officials, including Economics Minister Count Otto Lambsdorff, have been warning the German public lately that the days of ease and plenty are over, at least for now, and that some belt-tightening realism is long overdue. Particular focus has been placed on the average German's "wanderlust"--his desire to travel. No other people in the world spend as much on foreign vacations. The net deficit of tourism to the Federal Republic's balance-of-payments problem is staggering. Jaunts to the Mediterranean beaches, skiing in the Alps and more exotic globe-trotting ventures cost the German economy a staggering DM 37 billion (\$19 billion) in 1980. Since foreign tourists spent only about DM 12 billion (\$7 billion) in West Germany in return, that left a deficit of DM 25 billion--accounting for nearly all of Bonn's balance of payments deficit of DM 28 billion.

Critics of the West German economy also point an accusing finger to the fast-rising curve of welfare spending. West Germany has been closely patterning Sweden's cradle-to-grave welfare system. Welfare now consumes 30% of Bonn's GNP, up from 20% in 1960.

Public (governmental) debt has soared from 20% of GNP in 1970 to about 35%. Recent German governments, especially the welfare-minded Social Democrats, have shown little inclination in striving for balanced budgets, disturbing conservative banking circles.

On the individual level, the average German laborer now works less than anyone else in the Western industrial world. Adjusting for legal holidays, the Japanese work a 38.8 hour week, and Americans are down to 35 hours; the West Germans now work only 31.6 hours. An annual vacation of six weeks is the rule. So many German workers now combine five or six of their vacation days with regular Christmas and New Year holidays that many West German plants now elect to shut down for about a two-week period at year's end. Absenteeism claims 8.4% of scheduled work time, compared to 3.5% in the U.S.

As a result of these factors, it is estimated that labor costs in West Germany, including fringe benefits, now top those in America by about 25 per cent. (Still, despite the decline of the hallowed German work ethic, German worker morale on the job is still high. West German productivity continues to rise, increasing by 4.1% in 1979.)

All in all, the bloom is off Germany's economic rose. Worst of all, the federal government, because of its debt burden and welfare load, is far less able to handle the stress during bad times than it should be, simply because it had gone on a spending binge during the good years.

Franz Josef Strauss, the former finance minister, charged recently in Parliament that the government had run the country so deep into debt that it had lost room to maneuver.

Thus, the woes and worries mount for Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau