

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Incoming WATS Line for Ministers' Use

For many years we have used the 800-423-4464 number for quick turnaround of messages for ministers who wish to be connected to various offices on campus. We have also at various times used this number for special projects; i.e. festival advisors calling in, etc.

Unfortunately, the number is becoming widely known as a result of some giving it out indiscriminately. If this practice continues, the number will need to be changed, which our Communications Department would prefer not doing at this time.

Please refrain from giving out this number unless authorized to do so. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

International News

French Department Report For two years now a large part of our magazines and brochures sent to Africa have not reached the subscribers, or they reached them very irregularly and with great delay. This is due principally to the post office's system of forwarding which is very inefficient. Mr. Apartian has been forced to temporarily stop all mail to the African Continent. Only members and co-workers will receive our publications by special air mail courier.

We had a record attendance of 165 persons in Quebec City for Pentecost 1981. Another record attendance was in Guadeloupe in the Caribbean, with 103 present for Pentecost. Services were held approximately one half mile from the volcano "Soufriere."

In his last correspondence from Guadeloupe, dated June 1st, pastor Erick Dubois writes: "The shipments containing the brochures and Bible Correspondence Course lessons have arrived. However, airport controls are very tight. They opened the four packages and took a sample copy of each brochure. Likewise for La Pure Verite (Plain Truth) this month. If only they could profit from their reading...!"

Dutch-speaking Area The highlight of the month of May was the beginning of a new church in the city of Zwolle, located in the northern part of the country.

God's Work in The Netherlands now has three churches. One church in Tilburg serving the Dutch-speaking Belgian brethren and the brethren from the southern provinces of The Netherlands; a second church in Bilthoven serving the Utrecht area and western provinces; and the third church in Zwolle serving the eastern and northern provinces. Attendance is quite evenly spread out over the three churches, with each having an average attendance of 87.

Anyone visiting The Netherlands and interested in attending a Dutch-language service with simultaneous English translation should contact our office in Utrecht by calling 030-317117 for proper time and location.

Church attendance is up 35% so far this year, and income is up 32% over 1980 year-to-date.

Appreciation for the Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to attend the refresher program. We have come back to our area on a spiritual "high," eager to share the instruction with the brethren. What a thrill it was to see unity and love among the brethren, students, and ministry at Pasadena. And what a greater thrill it was to hear you in person and to see first hand how God is inspiring you in a powerful way.

We want to especially thank all those who made our stay so enjoyable, from Mr. Green and his kitchen staff, to the Blackwells who so graciously opened their home to the ministry for an evening of fellowship. And thanks so much to the instructors who fed us spiritual meat from the trunk of the tree. We are looking forward to the next refresher program with great anticipation.

Gary and Kimberly King

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

The three-week refresher program was a very special time for us. We saw and felt God's Spirit working among the ministry you've selected to instruct us, and in the many who attended the eleventh session. God is strengthening His ministry in a very positive and unified way in those areas which are most important. We are encouraged that the refresher team is teaching us God's truth as He has taught you, devoid of any vain philosophies of this world.

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for setting up the refresher program. It has far excelled any meetings or conferences we've ever had. Our sincere appreciation goes to those God has used to teach us. We felt very privileged to have heard from you on three separate occasions--commencement, your sermon, and the high point of the refresher program when you addressed our group.

It is a great honor to have a part with you in this ministry. We, personally and collectively as a church here in Windsor, Ontario, support you wholeheartedly as you carry out the commission God has given you.

Fran and Elfie Ricchi

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Please let Mr. Armstrong know how much we appreciate the time he took from his busy schedule to lecture to us. And thanks to all of the instructors; they did a first-class job. We in the ministry have a great calling and much work to do before the return of Christ. Hence,

we need this special training to get in shape for the people who will be called as we get closer to the end time.

Edward and Thelma Faulk

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I'd like to thank you, thank your "apt to teach" associates, thank more importantly Mr. Armstrong, and most importantly thank God for the truly enriching refresher program.

I can surely rank my return to Pasadena for the refresher one of nine pinnacles or peaks in my life. I know now first hand, as an eye-and-ear witness, that God's Church and God's College are now truly back on the right track. I can not express in words how encouraging and inspiring the refresher experience has been to me.

The experience was really like being granted the blessing of attending Ambassador College AND the Feast of Tabernacles at the same time. You could almost rename the experience a "Feast of Refreshing." At least it was that to me. Unity and warmth was everywhere evident.

In closing I wish to say, "May God continue to inspire, strengthen and direct all of you at Pasadena in 'holding up Mr. Armstrong's hands.'" THANK YOU ALL!!

David Stone

Dear Mr. Tkach and The Team:

Thank you very much for a very enjoyable and profitable three weeks of classes during the refresher program. The opportunity to be at Pasadena and to receive so much helpful and practical material from all the instructors was a very worthwhile experience. Also, the opportunity to meet with many other ministers and their wives during the three-week period was very enjoyable in itself.

We want you to know that both my wife and I felt very privileged to attend the refresher and we look forward to attending one some time in the future. Thank you very much for the preparation and effort put out by all concerned; it will help us all to be much more effective as a worldwide team. And please thank Carlton Green for his part in making it a physical feast as well.

Bill and Daphne Sidney

Weekly Letter Comments

Comments From Listeners in Canada and Australia

I was a regular listener to Mr. Armstrong for a number of years, until his broadcasts suddenly stopped in this area. I felt that an element of truth and spiritual growth was absent from my life when his radio programs were no longer available. They were badly missed. I was so happy tonight to hear his voice once more and intend not to lose track of his guidance again. Please let me know how to get on the mailing list for The PLAIN TRUTH and also the Bible study course.

J.F. (Hare Bay, Canada)

I must admit I found your program on world peace presented by Mr. Armstrong very educational. I am most interested in obtaining a copy of your publication THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, and any other scriptural literature. Also, I would like to enroll in any Bible correspondence course you may administer.

C.J. (Parap, Australia)

I really enjoy your program on the radio and on television Sunday mornings. I am a young mother with three children and at times it really gets hard for me to cope. Also we just moved to a farm six months ago where we work very hard.

What really helps me, after a long day when the children are asleep, is to hear your voice come through the radio. It has opened my eyes. There were so many things I did not realize. It seems I was just following my parents' and grandparents' beliefs without looking for the real meaning of the Bible.

Thank you for helping me, for it is also the medicine I need to look at myself and realize how fortunate I am. Instead of complaining, I now thank God for all that I have. It really works!

Mrs. D.L. (Humbolt, Canada)

Correspondence Course Unlocks Meaning of Life

I've just finished Lesson 5 of the Bible correspondence course. I have learned more in these five lessons than in two years of listening to "born again" Christians!

The lessons have cleared up a lot of the misinterpretations and the questions left unanswered by these Christians. In fact, a friend who is quite involved in the charismatic movement, borrowed the first three lessons. I didn't hear anything for a while, and then yesterday she came to tell me that the lessons were excellent! They had confirmed some unexplainable ideas and disproved some wrong beliefs.

Thank you so much for these wonderful lessons; and thank you for the booklets I've requested, The PLAIN TRUTH and The GOOD NEWS. The magazines are just as informative as the lessons. I thank the Lord that I "just happened" to tune in to Mr. Armstrong one morning. My life is making a big turnaround.

D.M. (Clay, NY)

I am so pleased with your Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course--I just had to write and let you know. I did not know such a course was available, and could not see how anyone could study the Bible by mail. I am happy you have made it so simple that even I, who have had so much difficulty understanding God's Word, can learn from your excellent teaching.

I am grateful to you for sharing your great knowledge with me--you make it so interesting and challenging that once I start reading, hours have gone by before I realize it. Thank you, with sincere appreciation.

Mrs. P.K. (Morehead City, NC)

How God Blesses His People

God has blessed me so much that words are inadequate to describe. He has various ways in which to bless us. When I give, I don't concern myself with getting anything in return. I don't have to. The blessings have come automatically, and at times I'm stymied at their frequency. I praise His powerful Name forever, and give Him the glory for His ministers and you, His apostle who, at your advanced age, is working ceaselessly to complete the Great Commission given to you. I could go on and on praising our God for the truth, His Church, etc., but He knows how I feel.

With this letter I also want to send my gratitude for all the articles in The GOOD NEWS and PLAIN TRUTH, as well as the booklets. What a glorious opportunity we have!

Mrs. M.O. (Childersburg, AL)

I would like to say that it is a delight to serve God, for His promises of blessings are as sure as the rising of the sun. The events in my life are an example of this. Just over a year ago, I was down and out--no job, one eight-year-old suit of clothes, a one-room basement apartment shared with my nephew, no automobile, a diet consisting mostly of soup and crackers and no one to turn to except God.

With many prayers from the brethren in the Roanoke, Virginia Church and my own, God turned things around. In one year's time I have a job, several suits, a nice apartment, a small car and good food. And there's still more. My mother just sold her house and told me she was going to give each of her children three thousand dollars!

L.W. (Roanoke, VA)

Some time ago there was a WORLDWIDE NEWS article about a Pasadena deacon who was robbed twice and then blessed. I am that man. We have been so thoroughly blessed that, instead of suffering substantial loss, I am able to include an extra \$100.00 offering this month with my normal tithe check! God does give blessings we have not room enough to receive, if we are faithful!

J.R. (Pasadena, CA)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

The summer session of classes is now under way. Also, we have a number of Continuing Education classes which are designed primarily for local church members who wish to take a few noncredit classes at Ambassador.

We are expecting the arrival of about 70 Japanese students (plus chaperons) on July 20th. They will be here on campus taking classes in English, American History, etc., and will do some touring in the area from July 20th through August 11th.

Mr. Richard Paige will once again serve as Director of the A.C. "Big Dig" in Jerusalem this summer. The students will leave for Jerusalem on Wednesday, June 24th. About 40 will participate in the Big Dig adventure this summer,

including Mr. and Mrs. Paige and their daughter. The Israelis have really appreciated the very fine example and the good work done by our students in the past. I am sure we shall, once again, receive very good reports concerning the coming summer's digging in Jerusalem. The diggers are scheduled to arrive back in the U.S. on Wednesday, August 12th--shortly before the 1981-1982 college year begins.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kisse are now here attending the Ministerial Refresher Program and are looking forward to serving at the college in Big Sandy, which is scheduled to open this fall.

The following quote from Mr. Francis Bergin's letter to me shows how ministers visiting Pasadena notice the continuing unity which God is giving us here at Headquarters. Mr. Bergin says: "...thank you for your hospitality while I was on the refresher programme." (The British still have difficulty spelling properly.) "We thoroughly enjoyed the programme and I am now looking forward to the next one! We were particularly impressed with the sense of unity that now exists at Headquarters."

Please continue to pray for the students and faculty of Ambassador College. We are here to serve God's Church.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

The redesign and reprinting of some of the Work's basic books is moving along very well. Two of Mr. Herbert Armstrong's books and the Bible Story series are presently in various stages of completion. The new paperback version of THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX, published by the Church (not for sale), is now available. The book is currently being mailed out in new style protective cartons to the 200,862 people who have requested it both in the U.S. and overseas since it was offered by Mr. Armstrong last year. Church pastors should have received an advance copy in the mail by now.

The new paperback version of THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL, also published by the Church, is now being printed. We expect delivery in early July. Both of these new "paperbacks" are in our 5¼ x 8¼ regular booklet size and are intended to be used to fulfill needs created by our church promotions via Mr. Armstrong's ads, TV or PT/GN ads.

The newly redesigned Volume I of the four or five volume set of the Bible Story is in its final stages of production prior to going to one of the largest book printers in the world, the Arcata plant in Kingsport, Tennessee. Plans call for completed books of Volume I to be distributed at the Feast of Tabernacles. An advance copy of each volume will be sent first-class to all church pastors soon after production is completed on each one.

--Publishing Services

ON THE WORLD SCENE

FRANCE: COMMUNISTS IN; POLAND: RUSSIANS STILL HESITATE Europe, both East and West, is in a state of dynamic tension. In France, Socialist President Francois Mitterrand has brought Communist ministers into the French government for the first time since 1947. Four Communists will hold four relatively minor, non-security related posts out of 43 portfolios. The move was surprising in that Mitterrand's Socialists won a clear majority in the parliamentary elections of June 14 and 21, and thus did not require

Communist help to govern. The Communists lost heavily in the elections, as they did in the earlier presidential vote that swept Mitterrand into office.

Mitterrand's Gallic logic seems to be this: Throw a few crumbs to the Communists now while they are weak and submissive. The Communists were forced to accept Socialist conditions on key issues--even criticism of the Soviet move into Afghanistan--in order to get the government posts. Mitterrand also believes he has bought labor peace since Communists control France's largest labor federation.

Nevertheless, Mitterrand's surprise action has raised eyebrows in Washington, London and elsewhere. It is the first time that Communists have been in a NATO government since the alliance was founded in 1949 (with the exception of brief periods of time in Iceland).

Communist power-sharing in France creates a precedent for Italy and Spain, where Communists are also scrambling for places in government. The move could thus accelerate Western Europe's gradual drift away from U.S. dominance of the Western alliance.

It is virtually certain that France will be dominated by the left for a considerable period of time. Mitterrand is in office for seven years, the new National Assembly for five. During this time, the Socialists are certain to redistrict French representation in their favor, reducing the proportional strength of the rural, more conservative parts of the country. All major trends in French society--urbanization, the rising number of salaried workers, growth of the service sector, the steady flow of women into the work force--favors the Socialist/leftist cause.

Meanwhile, in Eastern Europe, political observers are becoming increasingly jittery over the possibility of a Soviet move into Poland. Moscow fears that reformers within Poland's rulership will win out completely over pro-Soviet hardliners at next month's Communist Party congress.

The Red Army's move into Czechoslovakia in 1968 occurred right before that country's party congress would have formalized the "Prague Spring" as official policy. The Polish Communist bosses, similar to their Czech counterparts 13 years ago, have been attacked very harshly, in biting communiques, by the central committee of the Soviet Communist Party.

Still, the average Pole is worried more about his rapidly declining standard of living than the threat of Soviet intervention. Shortages of nearly everything prevail. Butter, flour, rice, sugar and most meat are rationed. Milk is unavailable after 7:00 a.m. (lines form at food shops from 5:30 on). The list of goods either unavailable or difficult to come by lengthens every day. It includes gasoline, vodka, cheese and cigarettes. Shoe polish, shampoo and chocolate have long been unavailable.

The Soviets, despite their increasingly more strident threats, are still reluctant to intervene directly. Said one observer: "No one lightly begins a war with a nation as large and as tenacious as Poland and that is what the Soviet Union risks."

Meanwhile, what, if anything, has Poland's native son, Pope John Paul II been doing during the mounting Polish crisis? Apparently quite a bit, behind the scenes at least. According to Bernard D. Kaplan of the Hearst

News Service, "Pope John Paul II has been conducting confidential and direct talks with the Kremlin over the future of Poland."

Mr. Kaplan reports that according to "usually reliable sources" in the French Catholic episcopate, John Paul II intervened personally and through his secretary of state Cardinal Casaroli, to seek to dissuade the Soviets from using their armed might to crush the Polish reform movement earlier in the year.

"The Pontiff," reports Mr. Kaplan in the Los Angeles Herald Examiner, Sunday, April 26, 1981, "frequently has made known his deep concern over the crisis in his homeland. However, this is the first indication that he has assumed a personal role in it. It is also the first report that the Vatican and the Soviet government have entered into direct political negotiations with one another. Informants here said there was 'no way of knowing' whether the pope's involvement had influenced the Russians' apparent decision not to use force against the independent trade union movement, Solidarity.... What seems clear, nevertheless, is that Pope John Paul decided to throw the overall psychological and political weight of the Catholic Church into the balance to try to preserve Poland from Soviet invasion."

Kaplan quotes a Catholic source as saying that the Soviets "have made it apparent on many occasions that they want the Vatican's good will and cooperation as far as possible throughout those portions of Eastern Europe where the Church's spiritual and social roles are significant. Brutal action in Poland would destroy the improved relations that have been built up during the past decade or so. That improvement has served both sides well.... Pope John Paul has been convinced for some time that the Soviet leadership has a healthy respect for the church's deep-seated influence."

The belief in church circles, adds Kaplan, is that, although the pontiff's action may not have been decisive in itself, it was among the factors that led the Kremlin to decide against immediate intervention sometime during the last week in March and the first week in April.

Informants believe, concluded Kaplan, that the Kremlin's interest in a long-term understanding with the Vatican stems from Catholic fervor in the Soviet-ruled Baltic states, especially Lithuania, which are adjacent to Poland.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau