

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

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REPORT FROM TREASURER'S OFFICE

Hopefully this will be the first of many regular monthly reports for the Pastor General's Report from this office. You have been reading regularly about the financial affairs of many of our International offices, but almost nothing about financial affairs for the United States.

God has blessed the Work in the U.S. with a substantial dollar increase this year. For many years the income was about the same from year to year, but for the last couple of years or so, God has been sending a healthy increase. So far this year, the percentage of increase over last year has fluctuated up and down from the teens to mid-twenties. At the end of June the increase for the year to date was exactly 19%. It is still a long way from the approximately 30% that God gave us for many years. We are praying and hoping that God will increase the amounts back up to that point again soon.

Mr. Armstrong has been saying that when we please God He will send the increase, but when we do not please God, He will not give the increase. Now that the Church is getting back on the track and beginning to please God, He is again blessing in a financial way.

I believe that the Work is in a more sound financial condition now than it has ever been. I am grateful that it is that way because if it were still like it was most of the last several years, my task would be much more difficult and traumatic.

As a result of the increased income, we have not had to resort to any bank borrowings. Instead, we now have good bank balances, and nearly all of this money is drawing interest at about 15% to 17%.

The increases that we are receiving will not just sit in the bank; they will be used. Already Mr. Armstrong has approved a large increase of budget to the major supermarket newsstand program. Also, he has more recently given a go-ahead for increasing the radio and television budgets in order to pay for anticipated station additions. Before the year is out, I am sure you are going to see a great improvement in media coverage such as we have not had in many years. Mr. Armstrong has also approved general salary increases, which was announced this past week to the ministers and wives attending the refresher program. We expect to implement this just as soon as Mr. Armstrong goes over the proposed salary list.

The 1980 annual audit by the Arthur Andersen Co. is all but finished. We have gone over this audit very carefully in several long meetings with them. It is a little shorter than last year's audit, with fewer and shorter footnotes. The audit shows an improved financial condition over the 1979 audit. It is expected to be a straightforward standard, unqualified audit.

I hope that this report is encouraging to you and to the Church. Please continue your urgent prayers that God will provide the financial needs and quickly complete the Great Commission with a final "loud shout"!

--Leroy Neff, Acting Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESAppreciation for the Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I would like to say THANK YOU VERY MUCH to you and to the refresher program staff for the wonderful program you have thought of and made possible for the entire ministry worldwide. We were truly refreshed spiritually and physically after attending the 10th session of the program. We enjoyed so many lovely and beautiful things and experiences for the first time in our lives.

We do appreciate very much with our whole heart the opportunity of being called into God's Church and being chosen by God to be a part of His ministry. We consider it a privilege also to stay on campus at Ambassador College for the first time, even for a short three weeks only.

Truly you have been instrumental in God's hand in so many ways. You have paved the way to God's Truth, and many thousands are now treading that path towards eternal life all over the earth. God, through Jesus Christ, has inspired you and those directly under you to institute this refresher program so that all in the ministry shall be speaking the same thing in edifying the Church of God until we all come to the unity of the faith.

Lastly, we would like to express our love and thanks to God through Jesus Christ and to you, Mr. Armstrong, for the many blessings of being in God's Church. Please extend our very high regards and thanks to your staff, beginning with Mr. Joe Tkach. We in the Philippines, particularly the Church of God members in Pangasinan, are backing you up 100% in doing God's Work.

Dion and Magdalena Catchillar

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Gail and I have just returned from the 11th refresher program. We thank you for it! It was everything we were promised!

We were also grateful that we were able to hear you speak on three occasions. I was especially glad that you came to close out the last session for us. You looked so well! Your voice is strong, your presentation clear and logical, and your sense of humour in fine form! I had not seen you in a classroom setting, teaching without notes and reacting to the expressions and feedback of your students since the mid-60s when you taught Principles of Living to my freshman class in Bricket Wood. The impact was greater than I expected. I had not reflected for some time on it, but since kindergarten you have been the voice on Radio Luxembourg, the personality in print, or the teacher--especially through the pages of your autobiography. You have been the apostle since my birth, and I expect you will be until "my change" at the return of Christ.

Now that you are back in Pasadena it once again feels like headquarters. And I know from the comments of the students they again have the same joy we experienced in the 60s when it was not uncommon to see you

taking a stroll across the campus in the early morning, or walking through one of the buildings, or taking a Bible study or Sabbath service. We knew it was headquarters!

With the dramatic and encouraging growth worldwide, and the team God has given you at headquarters, it really does feel as though we are on the home stretch of the Work.

Robert J. Millman

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Kay and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to come into Pasadena for the 11th session of the refresher program. We feel we were especially blessed to be able to attend the graduation exercises and hear your address on "Education For Life!" We also enjoyed your talk to our refresher class as a group.

The example you set for the rest of us to follow is outstanding! I know how tired I get traveling between two churches and speaking several times as during this past holy day season. Yet you keep going on and on visiting outlying areas, speaking in Pasadena, attending socials, speaking at special holy day gatherings, writing, writing and writing, as well as dealing with all the major aspects of this worldwide Work! Our prayers are for you as we ask God to continue to strengthen you and guide you in your work leading us! Please know that we do appreciate all of your hard work, energy, and sacrifice over the past 54 years. Without you, we wouldn't be here! Thank you!

Thanks again for the vast amount of information given to us at the refresher. I figure my pages of notes on over 35 subjects are the equivalent of the average church member hearing over two years worth of sermons. It was very stimulating mentally and will really help us to teach, feed and help the brethren in this area!

We'd also like to thank Mr. Tkach, Mr. Blackwell, Dr. Hoeh, Mr. Neff, Mr. McNair and all the others assisting you in this important Work, for their helpful service and dedication!

Norm and Kay Strayer

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife Jan and I thank you very much for establishing the very fine refresher program for God's ministers and their wives. It was a great experience with a "gold mine" of knowledge and information given to us. We truly felt privileged to be there being taught by faithful and loyal servants of God and again enjoying the beautiful college that God has established through you. We were happy to be able to see and hear you on three separate occasions just before your trip to Australia, and to hear you expound the understanding God has given you about the gift of eternal life. We very much appreciated the opportunity of learning this and other truths directly from you.

One of the real highlights of the whole session was the opportunity to spend a lot of time with about 40 other ministers and their wives including, of course, all of the individuals who taught us. We can clearly see how God is strengthening, unifying and preparing His

ministry and His Church for the big job remaining. We are very thankful to be a part of it. Our prayers are with you daily.

Gene and Jan Noel

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

I want to express to both of you, on behalf of my wife and myself, our appreciation for the refresher program. It was both refreshing and sobering.

We preachers need to be preached to, too. The program helped me to refocus my mind on our awesome purpose and calling. It was tremendous to be given the old basic material again, which isn't old, but always new! I especially appreciated Mr. Blackwell, Dr. Hoeh, Mr. Tkach, Mr. LaRavia, Mr. Neff and Mr. McNair "holding up the arms of Mr. Armstrong." They all gave us the "mind" of Mr. Armstrong in their presentations. It was very helpful to me to be able to see and hear how Mr. Armstrong views things, how he has handled things, what his thinking is in relation to doctrine, church policy and administration. What we were given in the program was "back on the track," and in some cases, 180 degrees different from what we were told to administer under a previous, liberal administration.

How great it is to be given definite leadership and guidelines in regard to church doctrine, teaching, and policy!

I am thankful to God for Mr. Armstrong's leadership and his dedication to God and to God's truth and ways. Without that leadership, the Church would not be getting "back on the track." Thank you, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach, for your efforts and leadership in the Church and in the ministry.

Your leadership was and is reflected in the unity and brotherhood we saw among all at headquarters. That unity and togetherness is inspiring to see and to come in contact with. Everyone appeared to be "pulling together" to do the Work and to build the Church. Everyone treated us as a brother or sister, which really is inspiring to experience.

Richard and Betty Duncan

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Warm regards from England. We hope we're not too late to express our grateful thanks for being able to attend the 11th session of the refresher programme. It was all over too soon, but was in every way a marvellous experience. Mr. Armstrong is due over in London in a few weeks, so perhaps we'll get to thank him personally then. With our companions on the Programme, Bob and Margaret Harrison of the Liverpool church, we felt this 11th session was particularly blessed with unexpected bonuses for all the men and wives along the way--the graduation ceremonies presided over by Mr. Armstrong, the graduation ball, the chorale concert, the audience participation in the Young Ambassadors film, a Disneyland visit, the privilege of attending studies and services in the Auditorium; plus of course being joined in the class by many resident faculty members and other ministers and their wives.

It was plain to us that God inspired this programme, and we believe all those yet to come will echo this conviction. We returned home anxious to remember and cement all we received, and to be able to share it with our congregations. Though we didn't manage to thank you and your colleagues personally in every case, we would like to spell out our thanks to you, and to Mr. Blackwell, Dr. Hoeh, Mr. McNair and Mr. Neff for some invaluable teaching. With the ministry worldwide being refreshed in this way over the space of one year, and the resultant unity it has promoted, the entire Church will benefit from the spin-off.

Edward and Irene Smith

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

BALLARAT, VICTORIA AUSTRALIA--JOHN FERRIER: Julie and I would like to thank you (Mr. Bob Morton) so very much for the opportunity to attend the ministerial conference in Sydney. We feel privileged to be part of a team under God's Apostle serving God's Church. It is very apparent that there has been a big turnabout in the Work here, for which we thank Jesus Christ as Head of God's Church. Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Fahey and you delivered timely messages and warnings to us which, prayerfully, we will effect to the benefit of the Church here.

ROCKHAMPTON, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA--BRUCE DEAN: Everyone was thrilled with the opportunity to see Mr. Armstrong in Brisbane. Members didn't mind the all-night trip as it was well worth it.

WODONGA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA--PETER WURSTER: My wife and I would like to thank you very much for allowing us the wonderful privilege and opportunity to attend the conference in Sydney with Mr. Armstrong. It was definitely the most memorable experience of a lifetime for us just being able to not only hear, but see and experience at close proximity the Apostle's wonderful wisdom, instructions, warmth, humour, dedication and zeal for God and His great Work. A truly wise man and an inspiration to us all. We are sure that his visit has given a real lift to the whole of the ministry, as well as the Church of God.

ALBANY, NY--LYLE WELTY: Members seem to be coping well. There is deep interest in Mr. Armstrong's activities. All really appreciate Mr. Armstrong's articles in the PGR. Mr. Fahey's diary articles are helpful and inspiring. Makes you feel as though you were present on the trips.

NORFOLK, VA--DANIEL C. HALL: New visit activity continues at a heavy rate. The brethren are thrilled to have the telecast in their area and are looking forward to Mr. Waterhouse's visit in early July. Feast fever is already up!

CANTON, OH--JOHN W. FOSTER: Mr. Waterhouse's study was inspiring--some went to hear him again in Akron. Please thank Mr. Armstrong for sending him to the church areas--his talks always help us to keep our minds on the right goal.

KINGSPORT, TN--GEORGE ELKINS: The activity in the church seems to be picking up! PM's are responding, the newsstand program is leaping ahead faster than our supply of magazines can handle, and the card and library program is having a tremendous response. God is truly opening doors in this church area as never before!

TOLEDO, OH--GEORGE KACKOS: The telecast and newsstand program are producing good results. PLAIN TRUTH circulation has increased 30% in the first four months of this year. The newsstand coordinator's manual, along with the monthly newsletter and statistical printout, are very helpful in developing our program.

COLUMBUS, OH--OTTO LOCHNER: People are growing due to being back in harmony with God's way, though trials that they have are more severe. We are very pleased with the growth.

FAYETTEVILLE, AR--JOHN R. ELLIOTT: Attendance has turned sharply upward. Baptisms are running six times higher than the previous two years. Thanks to God's reworking the Church here, it is once again a respectable place for new spiritual growth.

Weekly Letter Comments

Comments About The PLAIN TRUTH

The June-July issue of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine is an excellent example of a quality publication. The artists who design the cover of The PLAIN TRUTH should be singled out for special commendation for their talent and imagination.

J.H. (Portsmouth, VA)

Just received the June-July edition of The PLAIN TRUTH. It had so many interesting and informative articles, especially the ones entitled, "An Elusive Dimension of Health" and "Death--Then What?" The magazine gets better with each issue. I read it as soon as I receive it. Being a widow and living alone with no family, The PLAIN TRUTH is a real inspiration to me.

M.K. (Lexington, KY)

Thank you so much for a beautiful magazine. I found especially helpful your article on what a husband and wife can do to enrich their marriage. I wish with all my heart that every man and woman could read that article--then maybe this world would be a better place to live. Again, thank you!

Mrs. L.H. (Rockbridge, OH)

I enjoyed reading the article, "How Wives Can Enrich Their Marriages." Even though I'm not yet a wife and am only seventeen years old, this article really enlightened me. I will remember and follow it, if and when I get married in the future.

J.R. (Elizabethtown, PA)

YOUTH 81 Valued by both Teens and Parents

I have read all the YOUTH 81 magazines and each one seems to get better and better. I think it's really good to have a magazine for the youth. I especially like the articles about what it's like to be a teen in different countries. Thank you again for a wonderful magazine and for thinking of the youth in God's Church.

D.C. (Jefferson, OR)

I've been really impressed with the depth and understanding of the YOUTH 81 contributions. The instruction we receive from this magazine is exactly what we need. I hope that all of the writers and workers on the staff will realize how very important such a magazine is in building a positive attitude toward God's Church. Please keep up the fantastic work!"

D.L. (Big Lake, MH)

I am writing this letter because I feel compelled to tell you that YOUTH 81 is not only a God-inspired magazine for the youth in God's Church, but it also conveys powerful lessons for parents as well.

As I read the article, "Animals, Trees and Bugs: Teens Look at Nature," I was filled with tears of joy. I want to say to the youths who wrote this particular article, thank you for my instruction, reproof, correction, admonishment and inspiration. God has truly spoken to me through your article."

Mrs. R.C. (Greenbelt, MD)

Impact of Ambassador College on Visitors

When I was in California, visiting my daughter, she took me through the College. I have never seen anything so beautiful. The young folks who have the privilege of going there are so fortunate to be living in such beauty. I'm sure they will come out and try to make this a more beautiful world. Ambassador College should be seen by everyone that goes to California.

E.H. (Getzville, NY)

Some time ago, my husband and I took a group of our elderly widows to Pasadena. None of them had ever been there before and it was a lifelong dream of theirs to one day visit the campus and go to services in the beautiful Auditorium.

Mr. Armstrong, we were so impressed by everything that I just had to write and tell you how wonderfully we were treated. The change in the College is truly remarkable--the spirit of love can be felt everywhere, and there is an excitement in the air.

One thing that caught my eye as we strolled through the gardens was the number of students sitting studying their Bibles, enjoying the lovely, warm, spring day. It was such a pleasure to see that. One young lady from Australia even took time to stroll along with us. We really enjoyed her company. The students are different now and really showed interest in all of us.

Mrs. M.P. (Tempe, AZ)

Several weeks ago I was visiting in Pasadena. For some time I had become interested in Ambassador College and the only thing that could be done was to see it for myself. I could write pages on my impressions, but will simply say that I could now speak for an hour about the wonder of your college.

Mrs. T.M. (Waterport, NY)

--JOE TRACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

INCREASE IN TELECAST RESPONSE AND CORRESPONDENCE COURSE ENROLLMENTS

Since 1979--the year of the receivership--telephone response to the telecast has increased very rapidly. Comparing the response over the last three years for the months of June, the 1981 response was almost eight times that of the 1979 response. Listed below is the actual number of calls for the three years.

	<u>% Increases</u>
June, 1979.....1,200 calls	-----
June, 1980.....2,700 calls	125% over 1979
June, 1981.....9,300 calls	244% over 1980

The Correspondence Course also continues to show signs of growth. At the end of June our records showed that 24,000 new students had enrolled this year--an 11% increase over the first half of 1980 when 21,600 new students were added. The main reason for this increase was advertising of the course in the February PLAIN TRUTH.

To date, almost 60% of the new enrollments this year resulted from PLAIN TRUTH advertising, 15% from booklet promotions and 10% from The GOOD NEWS.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

WASHINGTON WORRIES AS WESTERN EUROPE TILTS LEFTWARD The new Reagan Administration, still struggling to put its foreign policy act together, cannot like what it sees in Western Europe. Events in France and West Germany are particularly troublesome.

Despite a nifty bit of public relations between Washington and Paris after the surprising election victory of Socialist Francois Mitterrand, all is not well between the two governments. While Mitterrand may have had his domestic reasons for bringing four communists into his cabinet, his move undermines Franco-American relations more than anybody admits publicly in Washington. How can Atlantic Alliance secrets really be kept away from the prying eyes of Western Europe's most Stalinistic Communist Party?

Equally disturbing to Washington is the appointment of leftist adventurer Regis Debray as a high advisor in the new Mitterrand government. In his younger days, Debray was a sidekick to Cuban commando Che Guevara; was with him, in fact, on his final foray in Bolivia. The Debray appointment, plus the fact that Fidel Castro and Mitterrand exchanged friendly letters after the latter's election, means trouble for the U.S. in keeping left-wing terrorism at bay in the Western Hemisphere. Notes the journalistic team of Evans and Novak:

"Mitterrand, genuinely pro-democratic and anti-Soviet, represents the unwillingness of the democratic left to see Third World revolutionaries as auxiliaries for Soviet expansionism, a failure that has contributed to the decline of the West since World War II."

If France is a dilemma to Washington, West Germany today represents a foreboding of the eventual breakup of the entire Western Alliance structure. Almost like wildfire, a pacifist movement is surging in West Germany led by the Protestant (Lutheran) clergy, and subscribed to by vast numbers of West German youths.

Recently, in Hamburg, a biennial congress of the West German Protestant Church drew 120,000 mostly young participants. The big focus was on disarmament and putting pressure on Bonn's leaders to scrap the 1979 NATO decision to upgrade NATO nuclear forces. The motto was "Be not afraid."

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt took the conference so seriously that he decided to attend, along with Defense Minister Hans Apel, to defend the government's decision to station the new generation weapons on West German soil. He warned the pacifists, to no apparent avail, not to assume that God was on their side. He passionately disputed the pacifists' view, reported the Times of London, "that the government should follow Christ's teaching--such as 'turn the other cheek'--on its defense policy."

The "Peace Movement" in West Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium is, quite naturally, being supported by vast amounts of Soviet propaganda.

Nearly everywhere Mr. Reagan looks in Europe, he sees disturbing signals. Sweden is about to turn Socialist again after a brief, unsuccessful try at relative conservatism. NATO member Norway has a new Labor government flirting with neutralism. Because of these tendencies, the Soviets are once again floating the idea of a "non-nuclear zone" for Northern Europe--complete with a "guarantee" that Soviet nuclear weapons would not be used against the Nordic countries.

Thus, as we reported last time, the Soviets, while struggling with Poland in Eastern Europe, are making great strides toward neutralizing ("Finlandizing") Western Europe. Where will this all lead?

In a remarkable article entitled, "Showdown Time for Schmidt" in the June 10, 1981, issue of The Nation, author Norman Birnbaum writes: "The entire question of Federal Germany's role in the alliance has now been raised in more acute form than at any time since the German debate on rearmament thirty years ago. One German option might be a revival of the old idea of the European defense community. The United States would dislike it, since it would emphasize European autonomy. The Soviet Union would dislike it because of that and the implied inclusion of the Federal Republic in a European nuclear force.... There is, however, another possibility--much more remote.

"In a last-minute attempt to avert German rearmament in 1952, Stalin proposed--in effect--the reunification of Germany in return for its military neutralization. The Soviet leadership is averse to risk-taking. Still, suppose that within the next decade it concludes that it must break out of its trap. A failing economy, staggering burdens of arms procurement, the spread of domestic dissent to the ethnic republics and the working class, Polish conditions everywhere in the empire...may combine to induce a new willingness to incur risks. We usually assume that the Soviet leadership might risk war. What if it risks a political campaign to undo the Atlantic alliance?...A serious Soviet offer to the Federal Republic might have a serious hearing--from right as well as left."

Mr. Birnbaum concludes his essay by saying that "the American assumption that the Federal Republic can be persuaded or pushed into permanent alignment with the United States is not realistic. I have said that a Soviet campaign to end the Atlantic Alliance is possible; to win it, the Soviet Union would have to be ready to undo the Warsaw Pact in its present form. Without a policy for next week, let alone the next decade, our present government prefers not to think about such eventualities. It is time that some of us did; there might well be profound gains for all of us in an alteration of Europe's postwar map."

The author does not realize that instead of "profound gains," such a reshuffling would lead to grave national peril for Britain and America.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau