

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

News From Vancouver, Canada June turned out to be an excellent month for God's Work in Canada. The income continues to show a healthy increase over June of last year with a plus 22.2%. The year-to-date figure now stands at plus 28.1%.

June saw the beginning of the WATS line number being advertised on the television broadcast. It will be interesting to see how "conservative" Canadians respond to this approach. So far the results have been encouraging. Members of the Vancouver congregation volunteered to answer the calls. It requires early hours of work as the broadcast is aired early morning Vancouver time in the eastern provinces. We certainly appreciate their dedication and service in this area.

David Hulme met with representatives from Baker-Lovick, our advertising agency, and representatives from CHAN-TV. He was able to finalize an agreement which will see the broadcast aired throughout all of British Columbia, as well as Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories and Whitehorse in the Yukon. Mr. Hulme also added a T.V. station in Thunder Bay, Ontario. With the acquisition of these stations the most populous areas of Canada are covered from "sea to sea."

One thing that will certainly brighten July for us is Mr. Armstrong's visit to the office and the Church. Everyone is excited and eagerly looking forward to this. It would be nice if the postal strike was over for his scheduled arrival on July 17th and he could see the office operating at full capacity.

Caribbean Report Stan Bass, Regional Director, was in Jamaica and conducted two PLAIN TRUTH lectures on June 20th and 21st at the Pegasus Hotel in Kingston. The attendance on the first night was 130, with 56 of those being new people. The attendance on the second night was 175, with 98 new people. Due to the methods which were used in counting, there is every likelihood that a good portion of the new people on the second night were also counted on the first night. But, at any rate, that was a formidable number of new people.

Mr. Bass's subjects were "Are We Living in the Last Days?" and "How You Can Escape the Coming Catastrophe." In the latter he emphasized that only those persons who possess God's Spirit have any chance of escaping this calamity unscathed.

Charles Fleming, associate pastor of the church in Kingston, said that approximately 1,300 people who had been receiving our literature for at least two years were sent letters of invitation.

In keeping with Mr. Armstrong's wish to have The WORLD TOMORROW aired daily or at least five times weekly wherever possible, we have added station ZDK, Saint John's, Antigua. This is a 10,000-watt station which serves the Northeastern Caribbean, which will broadcast The WORLD TOMORROW Monday through Friday at 10:00 p.m.

The Caribbean PLAIN TRUTH mailing list grew 16.52% from January to June of this year. That is an annual rate of around 33%.

Pacific Islands Regional Director Peter Nathan returned to New Zealand June 19th from a very successful three-week visiting tour of Western Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, New Caledonia and Vanuatu. He was able to meet with all but five of the 56 church members in those islands, along with 26 prospective members. In Fiji, he baptized seven new brethren, bringing our total membership there to 39.

Mr. Nathan also met with the General Manager, Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Fiji Broadcasting Commission to discuss The WORLD TOMORROW radio program. While we haven't received a final answer as yet, the prospects of the broadcast once again being aired on Fiji radio are looking quite promising. Mr. Nathan was also able to meet the manager of the busy duty free store at Nandi International Airport and arrange for a couple of PLAIN TRUTH newsstands to be put in this very strategic location.

For the New Caledonia and Vanuatu leg of the trip, Mr. Nathan was joined by Mr. Rex Morgan, who has been taking care of the French-speaking areas of God's Work here. It was the first time we have visited that area for some 18 months because of the rebellion in Vanuatu following the independence of that nation from Britain and France. Interest there was higher than at any time in the past, and Messrs. Nathan and Morgan had the opportunity of conducting several visits in French. Although no baptisms were performed, we have several fine prospective members there and it is planned that Mr. Morgan will return to the area later in the year.

Over 5,300 new PLAIN TRUTH subscribers have now been added as a result of our on going program of newspaper inserts. The year-to-date income increase for 1981 now stands at 28.2%. And another encouraging statistic is that baptisms for the first half of 1981 were 45% up on the same period last year.

Appreciation for the Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Ministerial Refresher Program. I was employed by the Work nearly nine years until the closing of Ambassador College in 1978. What a marked difference in the general attitude of those in offices of authority now compared to then! Each person we met exemplified the spirit of holding up your hands so that you may complete the mission that Jesus Christ has entrusted to you.

Each instructor was very careful to teach what you desired them to teach. In the question and answer session we felt we knew how the Apostle Paul must have felt when he was taught at the feet of Gamaliel. Although you were not there in person, five ministers--Messrs. Joseph

Tkach, Herman Hoeh, Raymond McNair, Dean Blackwell and Robin Webber--answered for you.

Each of them endeavored to give the answer that came from your teaching. Not one of them tried to spotlight himself; each answered in humility and an attitude that showed complete submission to authority.

Mr. Armstrong, your visit to our class on that last Thursday capped the three weeks of study and work. Your message and charge to preach this new truth to God's people was most inspiring. Mr. Lohr asked me to bring the sermon the first Sabbath we were back in Tampa. The message that Jesus Christ had revealed to you and you had given to us was the message they received. Many of the brethren commented that they were inspired and moved by this new knowledge and thanked me for bringing them what you had given us.

Although my wife and I are not in the employ of the Work, we nonetheless feel inspired to serve, teach, help and preach what you approved to be taught in the refresher program. We feel so much better qualified to serve as local church elder and wife--a team to serve with you in feeding Christ's flock. You are in our prayers as we ask God to continue to strengthen you in the most important office on earth--God's chosen Apostle.

Bill and Marty Royer

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Thank you and all of the staff for the refresher program. I found the entire program stimulating to the mind but devastating to the behind. One of the most refreshing things to me was the lack of a competitive and political spirit between the evangelists at Pasadena. It hasn't always been thus. Please thank all of those who so capably instructed us.

Bob Jones

Mr. Joe Tkach:

Been back home one week from the refresher program. Have looked over the notes I took three times and still haven't absorbed everything.

Thank you and Mr. Armstrong for letting the local elders attend the program. It was a spiritual rejuvenation for me and it will also help me to serve God's people better. Also thank Dean Blackwell, Mr. Hoeh, Raymond McNair and all the others that took part in the refresher program.

The young people were friendly and really set a fine example for God's College.

Gordon Brauchla

Mr. Joseph Tkach:

We want to express our greatfulness to Mr. Armstrong, the entire Ministerial Services staff, all lecturers and Mr. Green's group for the most concentrated training session we have ever experienced. It

was not only potent, but the material was of key importance to all of us. The solidarity and harmony of doctrinal information was just what we needed at this time.

From the minute we left Chicago for L.A. we experienced the "GIVE" on the part of Mr. Armstrong, you and all of the people in your group. The authority and power of Jesus Christ did certainly come through your presentation.

What an opportunity to be there to derive the benefits. We thank God for the tenth session and the unique personality that it had--as did all the others. Also, the beautiful grounds and concert tickets added a very nice touch to everything. Again, thank you.

Harold and Marge Stocker

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

WEEKLY LETTER COMMENTS

First this week is a selection of letters from brethren in the Lake of the Ozarks and Cincinnati areas who express thanks to God's apostle for recently visiting them. They found his example and message a source of great inspiration. The second group of letters shows that the members continue to be grateful for Mr. Armstrong's instruction and teaching via Bible study tapes. Also appreciated is the opportunity to get to know him better through his informal remarks on these tapes. Our final selection of comments is from youth in God's Church who relate the benefit and enjoyment they have received from Y.O.U.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

Brethren Edified by Mr. Armstrong's Visits

I had the privilege of hearing you speak in Cincinnati, Ohio this past Sabbath. I wanted to tell you what a great joy it was to hear and see you in person again. Even though you were tired, your voice sounded strong. I shall be praying every day that our heavenly Father will continue to give you the strength you need to finish His Work.

Thank you for traveling such a long distance to speak to us. Such zeal on your part is an inspiration to all of us in God's Church. Your message stirred me up to act on what I heard.

Mrs. W.F. (Big Laurel, KY)

Thank you very much for coming to the Lake of the Ozarks. It was wonderful seeing you again. Although I know it is impossible, it would have been very nice to have had a potluck dinner with you, your wife and your party.

Thank you for your tremendous message, for each new truth and for the love you have for each of us. Also thank you for all the guidance you have given through the years.

B.H. (Dittmer, MO)

I am seventeen years old and in Y.O.U. I would like to thank you for your visit to the Cincinnati area. I think it is very good that you

can take time to visit the local churches, giving us an extra inspirational boost which helps to keep us going. Thank you and may God's blessing be on you.

F.D. (Columbus, OH)

Bible Study Tapes Help Members Grow Spiritually

Listening to your voice, via tape recording at Bible study, I am moved to write this note giving my impressions. Your warm and intimate manner with off-the-cuff remarks, anecdotes, sharing of your future plans, etc. gives the feeling of a "fireside chat from a father to his children."

Sometimes when you digress for a while, we are treated to a meaningful and often entertaining discourse from which we gain practical wisdom, inspiration and encouragement.

It surely is a great blessing to hear you speak directly to us so often, with follow-up comments and answers to questions by our local pastor. The friendly fellowship with coffee and cakes after these meetings makes this a wonderful social event as well. I feel that anyone who is missing out on this will someday deeply regret it.

W.W. (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)

The Bible studies and other messages you send out by tape are vital in holding us together in one Spirit and one mind. Please keep that good material coming--I want you to know that it is not taken for granted.

T.M. (Orangeville, Canada)

Thank you for the Bible study tapes--we enjoy hearing from you on a regular basis. We also enjoy hearing your comments on the progress of the Work, and how the Work has grown through the years. It is good for us to be reminded that God built this Work, and that it was built on faith. Thanks so much!

G & R.L. (St. Petersburg, FL)

Youth Enjoy Y.O.U.

I'm not only thankful for YOUTH 81, but also for Y.O.U. as a whole. The title Youth Opportunities United certainly does fit! It has given me as a youth so many opportunities to serve and to have some downright clean fun! And Y.O.U. has definitely united me with other teens and the Church!

Thank you so much for all your effort, Mr. Armstrong. Words can never express what Y.O.U. has done for the teens. I have been blessed to have grown up in the Church and consider it an even bigger blessing to be a part of Y.O.U.!

L.K. (Hagerstown, MD)

I just want to say that here in the Jacksonville, North Carolina church, our Y.O.U. is one hundred percent behind you (Mr. Armstrong) and the Work and God! There are only thirteen of us in our Y.O.U. group but, thanks to the church's Y.O.U. program and our minister, we get together often and have Bible studies, weekend activities and a lot of fun!

J.C. (Beaufort, NC)

I'm happy to be a teen in God's Church! There is so much to look forward to in God's soon-coming Kingdom. And the pathway entering into His Kingdom is education and character building.

One fantastic way you've found to reach and educate the youths in God's Church is through Y.O.U. This program started the year I turned twelve, thus I've been a part of it since the very beginning--when it was just a small group of teens meeting every Sabbath for Bible class. Today we have officers, sports, activities, fund-raisers, ways to serve our church, and we have our own personalized magazine--YOUTH 81.

Y.O.U. has grown so much and changed in so many ways since it first began six years ago. More importantly, Y.O.U. has made us realize how lucky we are to be eligible to become future leaders in God's Kingdom. Who could ask for more?

P.B. (Chicago, IL)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

CRISES MOUNT FOR BRITAIN They are calling it Britain's "long, hot summer." A worsening war against the IRA in Northern Ireland has now been joined, rather suddenly, by unprecedented street riots and looting. And above all hangs the threatened dissolution of the Commonwealth.

Night after night of rioting and looting have turned inner-city commercial areas of England's largest cities into charred remains. On July 12, disturbances spread even to Scotland. Britain's reputation as an orderly, law-abiding society has been permanently damaged. Beleaguered police forces have often been caught in the middle between battling groups of young people--West Indian blacks or East Asians on one side and neo-fascist "skinhead" white youths on the other. The gunless bobby may not be for long.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher denounced the rioters for embarking on a "spree of naked greed." She disputed assertions on the part of opposition liberal Labor Party politicians that Britain's current economic plight was largely to blame for the rioting. "There are many poor societies," said the Prime Minister, "which are scrupulously honorable in everything they do and would not sink to some of the things we have seen."

Backing up her claims, Mrs. Thatcher observed that much of the trouble appeared to be spontaneous, opportunistic "copycat" rioting--with youths doing in their localities what they had seen the night before on the "telly."

In a mirror-image of the United States in the 1960s, police in high-crime immigrant areas have been accused of "brutality" or "harrassment." But the fact is, crime rates are extremely high in certain neighborhoods, especially those inhabited by West Indian blacks, which have a high incidence of family breakdown, leaving thousands of directionless youths to roam the streets, some of them joined together in predatory "wolf packs." Clashes with police were inevitable.

Left-wing teachers, clergymen and social workers have been feeding on this fermenting discontent, making the youths feel they are "victims of society." Outright Marxist factions have stepped in to try to mobilize the malcontents.

This problem will not go away. Despite recent actions to limit immigration into Britain from other parts of the Commonwealth, further racial problems are inevitable due to the sizeable numbers of immigrants, and their descendants already present and growing. One out of every three births in the Greater London area is to a mother not herself born in Britain. The problem of the "non-Ephraimitish" element in the British home isles has been heating up for a long while; now it has finally boiled over. Notice Hosea 7:8-9: "Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people...Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not."

As Britain goes, so goes the Commonwealth. The future of the multi-nation, multi-ethnic association, carved out of the old Empire in 1931, is now more clouded than ever before. Sport--the game of rugby, specifically--just might do the Commonwealth in. The burning issue at the moment is whether the South African national rugby team, the Springboks, should be permitted to play a series of games in New Zealand against that nation's all-star team.

While Britain is having her "long, hot summer," New Zealand is having its "winter of discontent." The controversial rugby tour dominates the headlines in New Zealand, overriding all other issues in the public mind, even inflation and unemployment.

The South Africans are due to arrive July 19. The government says it will not interfere with a series of games scheduled between New Zealand's "All Blacks" (named for the color of their uniforms) and the Springboks. The two teams are recognized as being the tops in international rugby play. Hence, an aura of "world cup" or "world series" play prevails. (Rugby is almost a religion in both countries.)

The South African team (selected by merit from the country's top players) contains one "coloured" player. (South African blacks generally prefer soccer football.) However, this team's openness to integrated play has not stilled vehement opponents in New Zealand and elsewhere who demand that the Springbok tour be cancelled so as not to condone South Africa's apartheid system.

The controversy has wide ramifications. In 1976, more than 30 Third World countries withdrew from the Olympic Games in Montreal because New Zealand fielded an Olympic squad after the All Blacks had played the Springboks earlier that year, this time in South Africa.

The return series between the two sides could even be more disruptive this time around. The dispute is souring New Zealand's relations with its nearest neighbor, Australia, and endangering its standing with other, largely non-white Commonwealth nations.

Both sporting and political relations are affected. First of all, black African nations have threatened to boycott future international events in which New Zealand participates. This could sabotage the next Commonwealth Games scheduled for Australia in 1982.

But even before then, political sparks could fly. Here again Australia is caught in the middle. Canberra is scheduled to host, in October, the next Commonwealth heads of government conference. This is believed to be in jeopardy if the Springbok tour goes on as planned.

So far, New Zealand's Prime Minister Robert D. Muldoon has not budged on the issue. He has indicated that he will not be profoundly disturbed if a meeting of Commonwealth finance ministers, scheduled to be held in New Zealand next fall, is called off.

It may seem curious to outsiders, who fail to understand the nearly fanatical attachment to rugby by its devotees, but Mr. Muldoon apparently has little political room to maneuver on the issue. His National Party was elected with a pledge not to deny visas to South African rugby players if they were to be invited. For him to reverse his position could cost him the next election.

Mr. Muldoon said he is more than prepared to defend his nation's human rights record in case such nations as Nigeria and Uganda make an issue over it.

Many older New Zealanders are angry that their country has been singled out for the charge of "abetting racism." A reporter in Wellington says, "We're being blackmailed. Show me one constitutional reason why we shouldn't have the Springboks here and I'll give in."

Thus the stage is set for what could be the death throes of the 50-year-old Commonwealth, successor to the British Empire, not that much remains of the old "company of nations" (Gen. 49:19) anyway.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau