

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 3, NO. 33

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 14, 1981

H.W.A. DIARY

by

Robert E. Fahey

On Sunday morning, August 2, we packed up for the trip from Bonn to Paris. It is always a joy to fly to Paris! The G-II touched down in Les Bourget Airport outside Paris at 1:50 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Apartian and Sam Kneller, pastor of the Paris Church, were there to meet us. The Apartians had been in France since the previous Thursday preparing for our arrival.

A special service was arranged for 2:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel in the heart of the city. The FM receivers from Germany used the day before in Bad Godesberg had been transported through the night to be used by the French-speaking brethren.

We arrived at the hall right on time. About 500 people waited in the hotel's major ballroom. I was told they represented 17 countries, including the members from Belgium who had traveled to Paris for the meeting.

Mr. Armstrong started by saying it was the first time he had ever spoken in Paris. After his opening comments he asked, "Why can men accomplish so many wonderful things in the technical areas but are so helpless before our human problems--poverty, illiteracy, strife and war? The new President of France can't tell you what is wrong. The President of the United States can't tell you what is wrong. Teachers in Moscow can't tell you. But I can because God has shown me in His Word what is wrong!"

Just after he got into the message, I noticed that Mr. Armstrong was pushing his voice somewhat. I knew this can happen when he doesn't get any reverberation back from the sound system. After looking into it, I found that the hotel microphone produced a buzz when the volume was increased. So the volume control had been set very low. Larry Omasta's men who were on hand to tape the sermon for use on the telecast, found the problem and were able to shut down the mike from backstage. Their mike already in use was tied into the hotel system and the volume was increased. Mr. Armstrong eased the pressure on his voice. Take note all you hall managers when Mr. Armstrong is coming to town!

The next day, Monday, we toured the facility we have in Paris. The Church there has rented upstairs office space that is large enough to hold Sabbath services in and still have some room left over to have a few offices in which to handle the mail that comes in from France, as well as other administrative work.

While there, Mr. Apartian gave Mr. Armstrong and me a review of the French-speaking facet of God's Work. At present La PURE VERITE is sent to 144 different countries. Our Church services are conducted in French in 23 locations around the world. Membership stands at 1,150. I will share more of the details later.

On Tuesday, August 4, we traveled to Geneva. Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Apartian had established the office there in the summer of 1963. HWA had picked the space before the partitions were up and selected the furnishings just over 18 years ago. After passport and customs formalities at the airport, we drove directly to the office which is on the fifth floor of 91 Rue de la Servette, Geneva.

The office staffers were very excited about Mr. Armstrong's visit. He had not visited the office for six or seven years. Larry Omasta and his crew were there to record the event. When Mr. Armstrong entered the office he commented on how the furniture arrangement had changed since his previous visit. He asked Mr. Apartian what became of a particular chair that he picked out for the office! Mr. Apartian explained that the chair had become worn and had been replaced. But Dibar was amazed at how accurately Mr. Armstrong remembered so many details of purchases 18 years ago.

Almost none of the office personnel speak English so communication was a problem. But HWA greeted everyone as he entered each office. The tour ended in a large work area where we all gathered to hear Mr. Apartian explain how the office serves that part of the world. Mr. Armstrong asked questions about the operation and began to discuss Switzerland and its place in Europe. He said he knew that Geneva was the international capital with many international organizations having their headquarters there. Zurich is the financial capital, Berne is the political capital and Lugano is the tourist capital. He discussed the recent history and the present situation. Mr. Apartian translated Mr. Armstrong's comments for the office staff.

After the office tour, the seven of us (Mr. and Mrs. HWA, the Apartians, Ruth Nestor and Evelyn and I) had lunch at the Beau Rivage Hotel beside Lake Geneva.

We spent the afternoon shopping, mostly window-shopping. I did take a good look at a desk clock that I thought was pretty special. I wanted to think it over for a while, but after leaving the shop never got the chance to get back to make the purchase.

We flew back to Paris that evening. On the flight back, Mr. Armstrong came to where Ev and I were sitting on the plane. Mrs. Armstrong also came over. Mr. Armstrong put a box in front of me and said, "Mrs. Armstrong and I want you to have this to help you remember your trip to Geneva." I was absolutely stunned. I just sat there for a time, looking at Mr. Armstrong in disbelief. Evelyn and I opened the box to find that beautiful desk clock! While the Apartians and we had gone into a department store so I could pick up a gift for one of my kids, the Armstrongs decided to slip around to that shop to buy the clock as a present for us. Had I bought the clock myself, it would have been a pleasant reminder of the trip. But the fact that the Armstrongs bought it for us makes it 100 times more special. I'm sure you all understand.

Mr. Armstrong spent the morning of Wednesday, August 5th, writing an article for The PLAIN TRUTH. In the afternoon, he had an appointment with King Leopold of Belgium who happened to be in Paris that day. They spent one hour and forty-five minutes in private discussion. The King is president of the King Leopold III Foundation and Mr. Armstrong is vice-president. Later I mentioned to Mr. Armstrong that the Leopold Foundation is the only thing of which he is vice-president!

On Thursday we were scheduled to fly to Orr, Minnesota so Mr. Armstrong could speak to the third session of the SEP. But the air traffic controllers strike was at a stage that made it uncertain whether we could clear U.S. Customs, visit Orr and then fly on to Los Angeles. As an international flight we would have top priority. As a private domestic flight we would have bottom priority behind military and commercial--and the commercials were having problems then. Mr. Armstrong decided to fly directly to Los Angeles from our fuel stop in Regina, Saskatchewan. We had departed Paris at 3:00 p.m., refueled in Shannon and Regina and arrived Burbank at 6:00 p.m. the same day. We plan on visiting Orr this Sabbath, August 15.

We gathered some figures on how many people Mr. Armstrong has addressed so far in 1981. It is astounding! The Apostle of the Philadelphia era of the Church is a busy one!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
February 14	Seattle	2,700
February 28	Big Sandy	3,000
March 7	Pasadena	5,530
March 14	Denver	1,570
March 28	Chicago	3,800
April 4	Salem	2,300
April 25	New York	3,970
May 30	Lake of Ozarks	3,380
June 7	Stockton	2,570
June 20	Cincinnati	5,030
June 27	Orr	750
July 11	Charlotte	3,800
July 22	Orr	500
U.S. Total:		38,900
May 9	Australia	4,860
May 17	New Zealand	950
July 18	Vancouver	1,605
July 25	England	1,908
July 26	Scotland	717
August 1	Germany/Holland	886
August 2	France	500

International Total: 11,426

GRAND TOTAL: 50,326

* * * * *

NEWS FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S OFFICEFeast of Tabernacles--1981 International TransfersEurope

Hulme, David; Kellers, Fred: England, four sites, 4,200.
 Matthews, Rod: Czechoslovakia, 300; Germany, 700.

Africa

Halford, John: Nigeria, 250.
 Smith, Norman: South Africa, four sites, 2,000; Zimbabwe, 320.

Asia

Docken, Art: Philippines, five sites, 3,000.
 Green, Carlton: Sri Lanka, 65.
 Sydney, Bill: India, 140.

Australia

Ames, Richard: nine sites, 5,000.

New Zealand

Rice, Richard: two sites, 1,300.

Caribbean

Elliott, John: Bahamas, 400.
 Havir, David: Barbados, 420.
 McNeil, Stan: Jamaica, 200.
 Snook, Jim; Washington, Abner: Trinidad, 450.
 Weston, Gerald: Bermuda, 400.
 Witte, Gerald: St. Lucia, 130.

Television and Radio Station Update

The following is a list of renewals and new radio and television buys made in recent weeks as we begin to implement Mr. Armstrong's desire to push ahead in this very important media area.

TELEVISIONAlabama

WVTM, Birmingham--7:00 a.m., Sun.
 * WAFF, Huntsville--6:30 a.m., Sun.

Connecticut

WATR, Waterbury--10:30 a.m., Sun.

District of Columbia

WTTG, Washington--6:30 a.m., Sun.

Illinois

WCIU, Chicago--7:30 a.m., Sun.

Indiana

WSBT, South Bend--10:00 a.m.,
 Sun. (April 25--September 5);
 11:00 a.m. Sun. (September
 13--April 18)

Louisiana

WAFB, Baton Rouge--8:30 a.m.,
 Sun.
 * KTAL, Shreveport--10:00 a.m.,
 Sun.

Maine

WGAN, Portland--6:30 a.m., Sun.

Massachusetts

WGGB, Springfield--9:00 a.m.,
Sun.

Michigan

WUHQ, Battle Creek--7:30 a.m.,
Sun.

Missouri

KMTC, Springfield--6:30 a.m.,
Sun.

New Mexico

KGGM, Albuquerque--6:30 a.m.,
Sun.

New York

WTEN, Albany--8:30 a.m., Sun.
WUTV, Buffalo--10:00 a.m., Sun.

Ohio

WAKR, Akron--11:15 p.m., Sun.
WDHO, Toledo--9:00 a.m., Sun.

Oklahoma

* KOKI, Tulsa--7:30 a.m., Sun.

Pennsylvania

WSBA, York--12:00 p.m., Sun.

Texas

KTVV, Austin--9:30 a.m., Sun.

*New stations

RADIO

California

* KRAK, Sacramento--8:30 a.m.,
Sun.; 11:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

District of Columbia

WRC, Washington--8:30 a.m., Sun.

Florida

WEXY, Ft. Lauderdale--1:30 p.m.,
Mon.-Fri.
WINZ, Miami--8:30 a.m., Sun.;
12:05 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
WVCF, Ocoee--10:30 a.m., Sun.;
12:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.

Illinois

WMBD, Peoria--10:00 a.m., Sun.

Iowa

KDMI, Des Moines--5:30 p.m.,
Sun.; 8:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
KXEL, Waterloo--7:30 a.m., Sun.;
10:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. (until
August 21, 11:15 p.m., Mon.-
Fri.)

Kansas

KGGF, Coffeyville--6:00 p.m.,
Sun.-Sat.

New York

WABY, Albany--4:30 p.m., Sun.;
6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Mon.-
Fri.
WBEN, Buffalo--8:30 a.m., Sun.;
11:30 p.m., Sun.-Thurs.
WXRL, Lancaster--7:30 p.m., Sun.;
9:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.

Ohio

WCKY, Cincinnati--8:15 p.m.,
Sun.; 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.
WBBG, Cleveland--9:30 a.m., Sun.;
11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Pennsylvania

WMBS, Uniontown--7:25 a.m., Sun.;
6:45 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

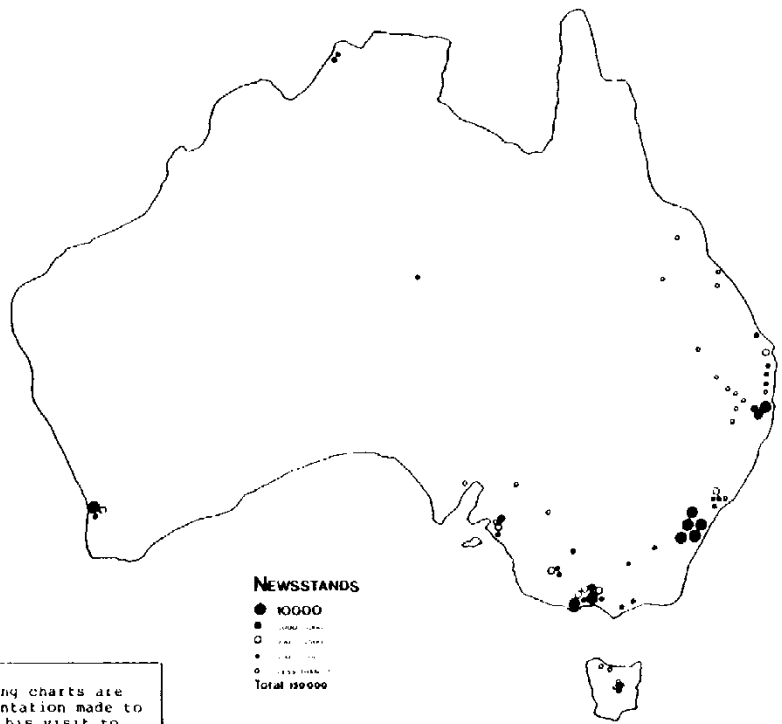
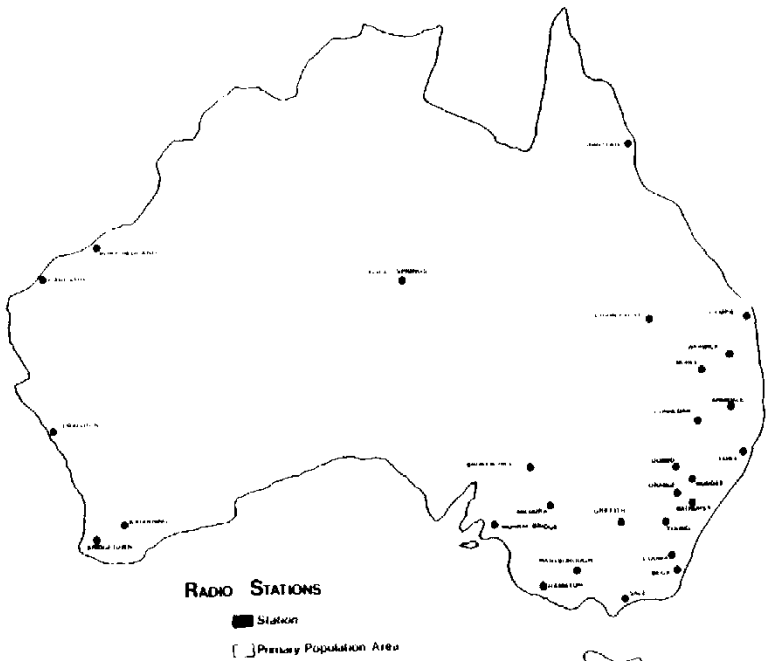
Tennessee

WREC, Memphis--10:30 a.m., Sun.;
5:00 a.m., Mon.-Sat.
WNAH, Nashville--6:15 p.m., Sun.;
3:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

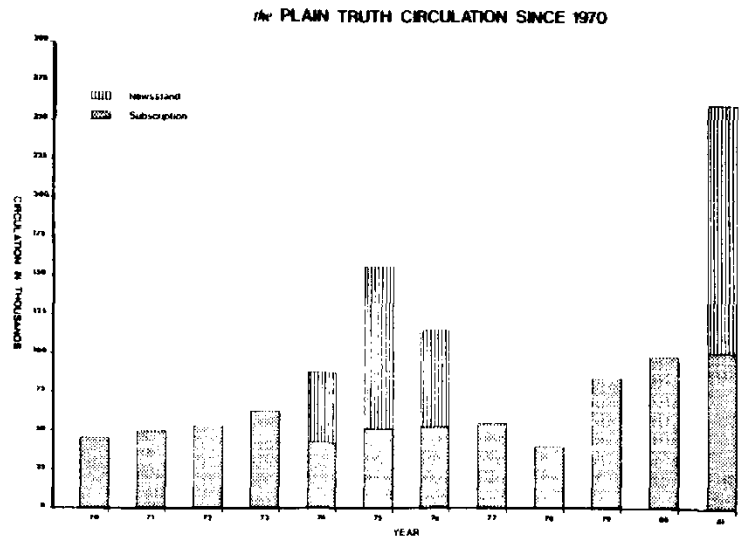
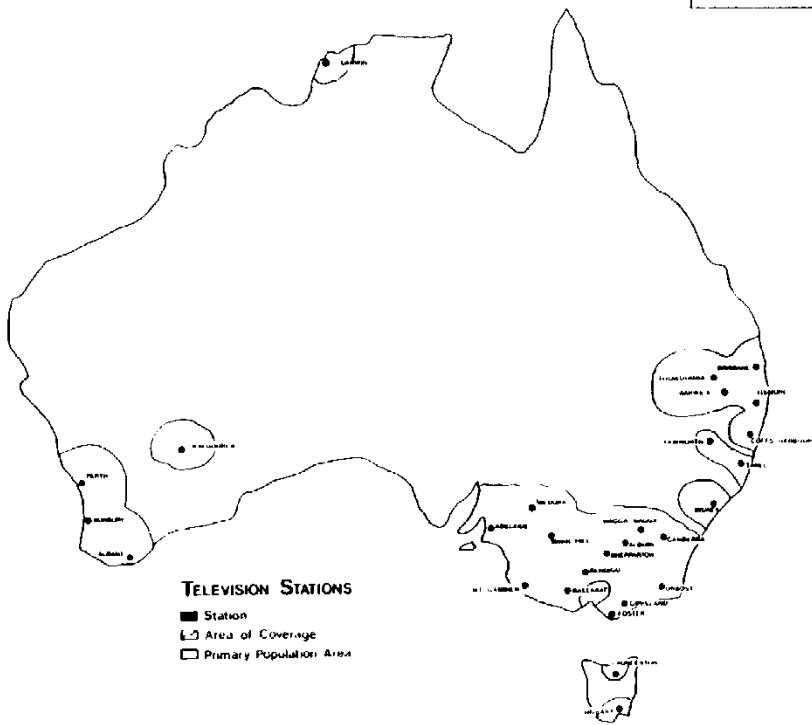
Utah

KSL, Salt Lake City--5:30 a.m.,
Sun.; 12:06 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

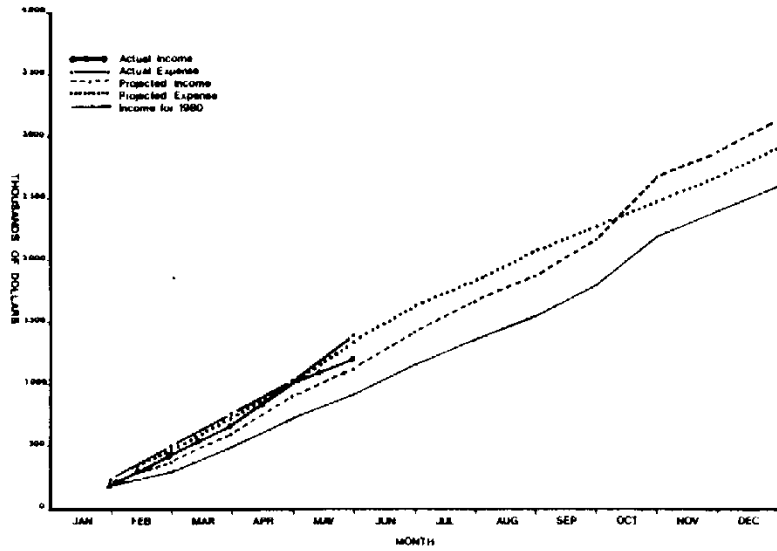
*New station



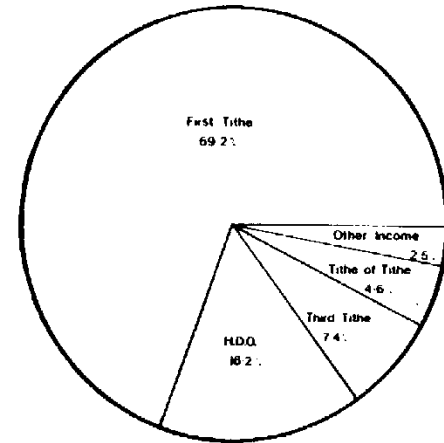
These and the following charts are those used in the presentation made to Mr. Armstrong during his visit to Australia in May, 1981.



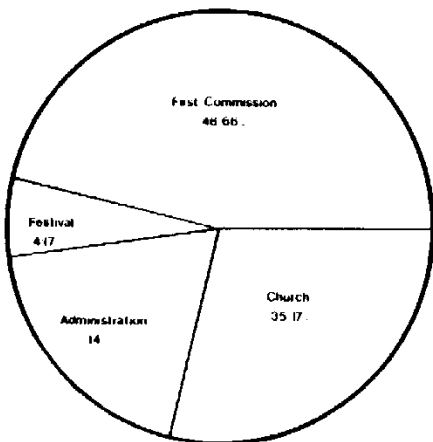
BUDGET 1981



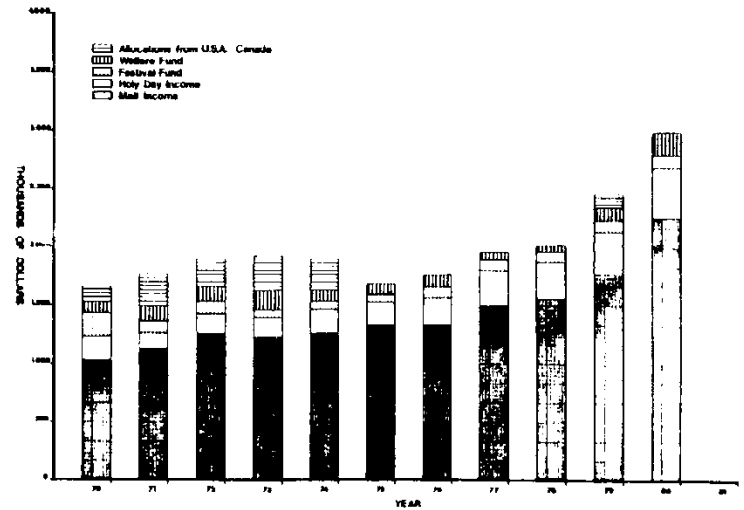
PROJECTED INCOME 1981

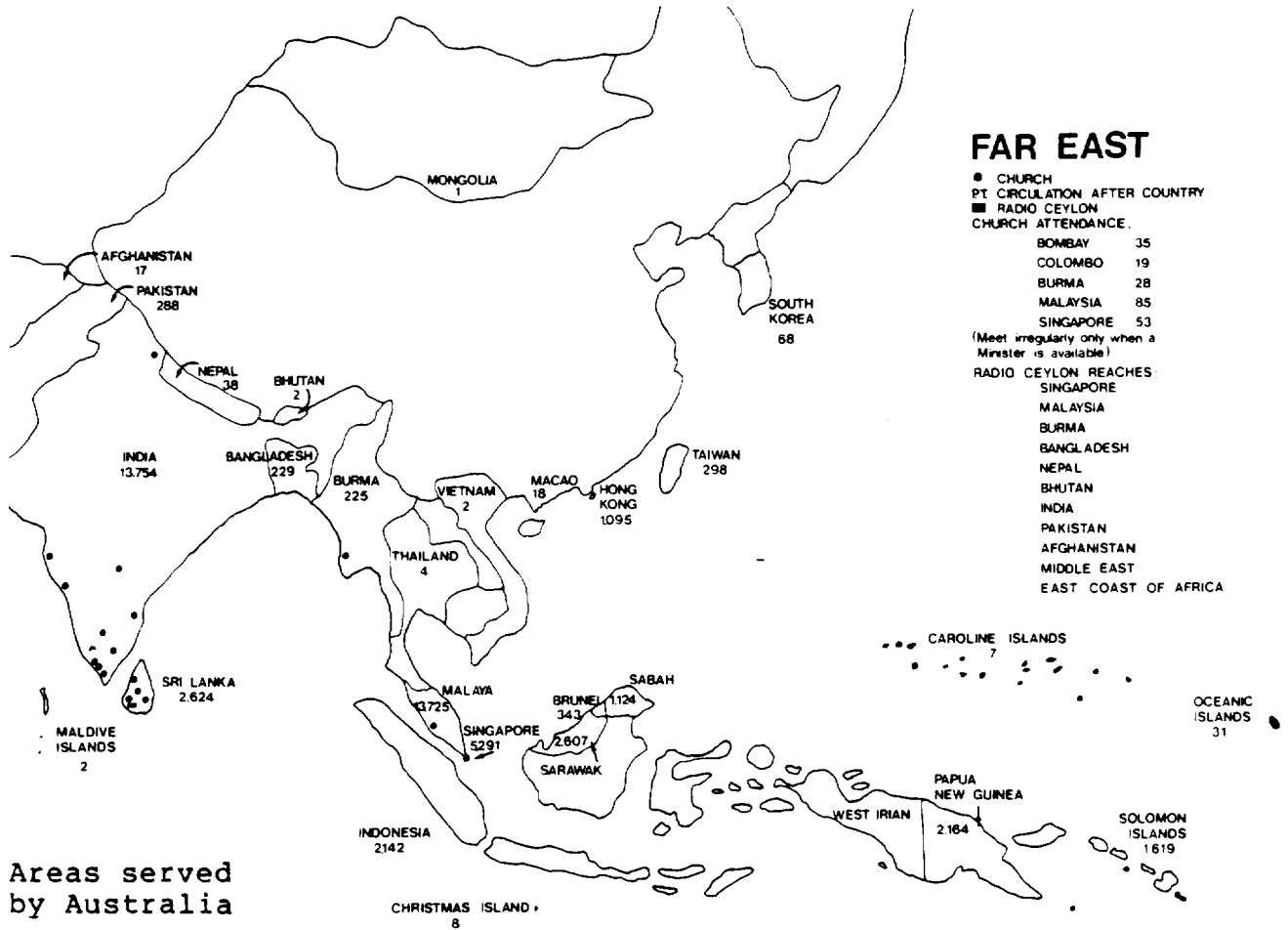


PROJECTED EXPENDITURE 1981



INCOME SINCE 1970





FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

New Zealand Report July was an excellent month for God's Work here, both for mail and income. Over 12,200 items of mail were received, the second highest monthly total in the history of the Work in this part of the world. Income also was the second highest total so far recorded, showing an increase of 28.3% over last July's figure. Income for the year-to-date is now running at an increase of 28.2%, and mail is showing a year-to-date increase of 4.1%.

Over 2,500 responses to our ongoing newspaper flyer promotion of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine were received during the month, bringing to 8,000 the grand total received since the program began in April. Over 4,000 requests for THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY have already come in as a result of Mr. Armstrong's latest semiannual letter. This is on top of the 7,000 responses to the September 1980 semiannual letter which also offered the U.S. and Britain book. Many letters are now coming in from our subscribers saying how much they have been enlightened by the fascinating information contained in that book.

In addition, Mr. Armstrong's November 1980 letter offering THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX prompted over 7,000 replies, and these books have now been mailed out.

The PLAIN TRUTH newsstand program is now beginning to take off in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. In January this year, 700 copies were being displayed on newsstands. In August the number will have risen to 3,000 and for December we have ordered 22,000. Meanwhile, our mailing list is pushing up over the 50,000 mark and looks like it will soon surpass our previous highest-ever figure of 50,117 set in February 1980.

German-speaking Area News Despite cool and often rainy weather, brethren in Germany, Austria and Switzerland enjoyed numerous socials and outings during July. These included mountain hikes in Austria, a farm barbecue for the Hanover church, and a grill-and-games afternoon for our members in Bonn, Germany. Various youth and singles' activities were also held.

Our sole member in Poland, Victor Przybylla, was able to travel to keep Pentecost with our brethren in East Germany. However, due to increasing suspicion of Polish nationals on the part of neighboring Warsaw Pact countries, he foresees possible difficulty in getting a visa to enter Czechoslovakia to keep the Feast of Tabernacles at Brno. Prayers would be appreciated.

In the month of July we received overall 38% more mail than in July 1980. Our solicited mail was up an amazing 109% over last year. This was due to the overwhelming response to Mr. Armstrong's semiannual letter in the July KLAR & WAHR (German PT). Despite the vacation season, a record-breaking number of booklet cards were returned ordering the booklets offered such as THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. Some 3,721 booklet cards were returned (a 6.2% response). In the last two years the highest percentage received was 5.4% of a much smaller subscriber list, or about 2,300 cards. Along with the increased booklet requests was a noticeable increase in the number of visit requests.

Appreciation for the Refresher Program

Our Very Dear Apostle:

My wife and I want to say a great big THANK YOU for allowing us to attend the refresher program! We are praying constantly for your health that you will be our Moses and lead us to the place of safety. It will be so wonderful, if God is willing, for you, our dedicated Apostle of God, to lead us into the Kingdom. We pray for your protection as we can see Satan all around us pulling families apart and causing all the strife, and thank God for you and your messages from God. You have had so many trials and still hang in there. It is encouraging, after seeing all the things Satan has tried to put you through, that you still keep giving us the strong meat.

We thank you, and God bless you always is our prayer.

Irvin and Ette Hardiman

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I wanted to thank you for taking the time to speak to the ministers at the 12th session of the refresher program! It was one of the highlights of our stay! Your personal encouragement and involvement does mean a great deal to us in the field ministry. It reassures us as we continue to support the Work God is doing through you. There is no doubt God is fully in charge! We hope that all of the sessions of

the refresher program will have an opportunity to meet with you in the future.

Rand and Gloria Millich

Dear Mr. Armstrong and the Headquarters Team:

Thank you so much for the refresher classes offered at the 11th session. The spiritual and physical aspects combined made it a truly unique experience. The classes were very interesting and the accommodations so comfortable we felt right at home. The opportunities to attend the various functions such as the concerts, the graduation, and the Young Ambassadors filming the feast film were very much appreciated. The highlight, of course, was your address to us. We appreciated your taking time from your busy schedule to speak to us.

It has been stated that much of the real talent has left. It is certainly obvious from the field that a greater work is being done at headquarters now than ever before. We feel the REAL talent IS left, not "has left."

We feel we had an extension of the refresher program due to Mr. Dean Blackwell's tour of the Alaskan churches during Pentecost. Thank you for sending headquarters ministers out to the churches on these special days. It is very encouraging.

Richard and Dorene Eckman

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I have recently returned home after attending the 12th session of the Ministerial Refresher Programme. After reading all the previous reports in the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT, the programme had something to live up to. Well, it did--and more! It was a great thrill to be around the magnificent campus at Pasadena for three weeks and to attend all the lectures and functions.

Without a doubt, the highlight of the entire programme was your talk to the ministry during the final week of the session. It was a fitting climax to a wonderful three weeks. Your talk was electrifying, inspiring, warm and so much more. Of course, we are all used to hearing you on tape and even on film, but it is hard to describe the impact of seeing and hearing from you in person.

We would like to thank you for instituting such a valuable programme, as well as thanking all those responsible for making our stay in Pasadena so profitable and enjoyable. All their effort and dedication is certainly not in vain as the Church is prepared and unified for the soon-coming return of Jesus Christ to this earth.

Owen and Tina Willis

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I just arrived home from the 12th session of the refresher program. It was fantastic! Thank you so much for allowing local elders

from the congregation to attend. And thank you for being "our Apostle" and putting us all back on the track. We are holding your hands up!!

Harry and Dolly Bente

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Greetings from Pittsburgh! We were able to be a part of the 12th session of the refresher program and what a rewarding experience it was. We had been reading the comments in the PGR of others who had gone before, but being there we got the full impact.

The lectures, given by men who were there to serve, were outstanding. It was like some of the conferences from the 60's when you were conducting most of the meetings. There was an attitude of loyalty and dedication to the Commission you have been given to do. The whole session was outstanding, but the highlight was when you were able to come and speak to us. We realize that right at that time you did have extra meetings, etc. Thank you very much for caring and sharing your time with us.

We know that when all the men and wives have been able to attend, it will help us all to do a better job as we back you in the responsibility God has placed upon you. Thanks again for making the refresher possible. Our prayers are with you every day.

Don and Sue Lawson

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Just a note to thank you and all concerned for the refresher program. It was great and the hospitality shown was deeply appreciated. I very much enjoyed renewing old friendships and building some new ones. I am really pleased with the strength and direction of the Church.

Mr. Armstrong has again proven to us and to whomever will listen, that growth and advancement for the Church and us personally comes not through personal intellect and expertise, but from the blessings of God when He is well pleased with us.

Roland Van Slooten

Grateful for Recent Raise

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Greetings! I just wanted to write on behalf of my wife and myself to say thanks very, very much for the recent raises given to the ministry. We really appreciate your concern and desire in wanting to give us this raise. It just reinforces once again that you are a very concerned shepherd underneath Jesus Christ. As a younger minister with a young family, this extra money will really help us in these inflationary times we live in.

I hope your trip to Germany and overseas went very fine, and was very productive for the Work. Again, we appreciate the driving example you are setting for all of us, and your sense of urgency to finish the Work.

Our prayers are with you as Christ uses you to clean up His Church and proclaim the Gospel. I hope we can see you at the refresher program.

Chris and Dee Beam

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

FROM THE MAIL PROCESSING CENTER

Newspaper Ads: Nearly 10,000 Calls Since May 1980

The total telephone response to the newspaper ads since May 8, 1980 is now close to 10,000 calls. Over 95% have resulted from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. (The remaining calls were responses to the ads in other newspapers dealing with the State versus Church issue.)

We have observed that very few people who responded to these ads were critical or in any way negative. This also confirms that the readers of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL are a higher caliber people.

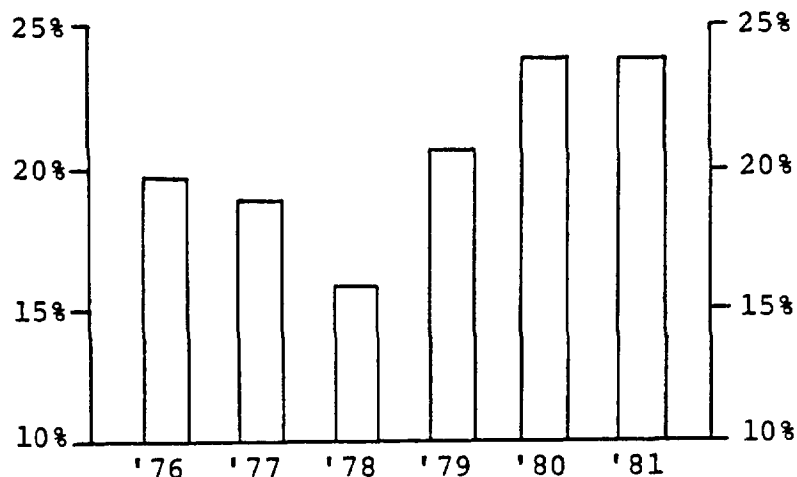
Response to Co-worker/Member Letters Increases

In the last five years (July 1976 to June 1981), nearly five million letters were sent to members and co-workers.

In 1976 the letters averaged a 19% response. However, by 1978 the average response bottomed out at 15.5%. Then, in 1979, the average increased dramatically to 20% and rose further to 23% in 1980 and 1981.

The following bar graph shows the average response percentages for the last five years:

AVERAGE LETTER RESPONSES



We feel that the response to co-worker/member letters is another indication of the Work's spiritual condition. From 1976 to 1978 there was a 20% decline, but after 1978, when the Church was being vigorously put back on the right track, there has been a 50% increase!

Weekly Letter Comments

Mr. Armstrong's 1981 telecasts are having an increasing impact. This week's comments feature some of the responses from the U.S., Canada and Australia.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

Response to 1981 Telecasts

I can't tell you how much I look forward to Sunday evenings to hear you deliver the true meaning and proof of the message given in the Bible. It holds me spellbound and enchanted; it is surprising and startling!

S.W. (Rosedale, NY)

I am 71 years old and I get up every Sunday to hear you on TV. I am Catholic and must say I enjoy your sermons. I've learned more about the Bible in the short time I've listened to you than I ever knew about it before.

H.M. (Dubuque, IA)

Last night I tuned in to Channel 9 and caught your telecast. There is no doubt in my mind that God directed me to do so. You dealt with a subject which always somewhat confused me--the subject of the Kingdom of God. After listening to you not only was the confusion cleared away, but I was fired up to study the subject anew.

I.M. (Queens Village, NY)

In the last TV program we viewed, you explained vividly the parallel between the joining of the egg and sperm in the womb and the joining of God's Holy Spirit with the spirit in man--the beginning of a temporary, chemical existence and the beginning of real, eternal life. I thought this program was unique. It certainly was an attention-getter! Of course, I have heard you explain this before in a taped Bible study and also by our minister, but to view it all on TV in this special way was certainly a pleasure and very inspiring. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

L.W. (St. John's, Canada)

I have watched most of the religious programs offered on TV. Some are outlandishly obvious in the way they falsify Christian teachings. Others are more subtle, but nonetheless fail to ring true.

For the first time, after listening to Herbert W. Armstrong, I feel that the words spoken ring true. I am interested in learning about your church and would appreciate receiving whatever information you can send me.

F.I. (Toronto, Canada)

I must tell you that for the first time in my life, through your TV broadcasts, I'm finding the Bible coming alive!

In reading the Bible I feel I often miss important words and find no connections between the verses. Thank God you are providing that for

me every Sunday. Your ministry excites me and feeds me, and I long for more understanding.

Mrs. C.S. (Don Mills, Canada)

I was watching Mr. Herbert Armstrong's show on Sunday morning when he advertised a new booklet called, THE BOOK OF REVELATION UNVEILED AT LAST. I am extremely interested in the book of Revelation, and so is our youth Bible study group. Would you mind sending twenty copies of the booklet so I can distribute them to the youth group?

G. T. (Flynn, Australia)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

STRIKE! STRIKE! STRIKE! "In the last days," the apostle Paul told Timothy, "men will be lovers of self, lovers of money...arrogant...ungrateful" (II Tim. 3:1-2, RSV).

What better description of our end-time industrial societies? Never before, it seems, has the air been so filled with labor unrest. Today's strikes are not the same as in decades past, with demands revolving around improved work conditions, safety, health care, etc. Today's disruptions smack of pure greed and selfishness!

Professional baseball players in the United States, for example--some earning a million dollars a year--walk off the "job" in protest over the issue of free agency (wanting the freedom to freely jump teams in order to bid salaries up still higher).

It is in the field of governmental employment (so-called "public servants") that the real problem centers today. "Strikes against the people" have become commonplace in the past two decades, especially on the state and local level--from teachers, to nurses to garbagemen, to firemen, police, parole officers and countless other categories. Public transit employees strike, forcing higher fares, cuts in service (yet in Boston, for example, employees of the transit system--drivers and mechanics, etc.--earn \$23,000 a year--up to \$50,000 with overtime!).

On the federal level, the most outstanding example is the current strike by air traffic controllers. These government employees are compensated for their at-times stressful and demanding jobs with average earnings of \$33,000 a year plus overtime, placing them among the highest paid of all U.S. federal workers (the average federal wage is about \$21,500). A beginning controller need only have a high school education, not a college degree, plus three years of general work experience. He or she is trained by the federal government and then starts up a career ladder that provides rapid promotions and raises more generous than those given the typical federal worker.

The contract offer the controllers rejected would have provided each worker with additional pay of about \$4,000 a year. But they wanted a \$10,000 raise for each employee, whether he or she earned \$15,000 or \$49,000 a year--meaning pay raises of from 20 to 67 percent!

President Reagan, for the sake of principle, to say nothing of preserving his economic reform program, had little choice but to refuse to reopen nego-

tiations and to fire the dissenting federal employees. A man of character, the President reminded the strikers of the oath they agreed to when accepting their positions--not to strike against the government. But in our day, a man's word, tragically, means very little. Probably very few controllers paid any attention to this clause in their contracts or to various pieces of legislation, as well as judicial decisions, prohibiting public employee strikes.

So along comes a president who, in his own words, reminds them "to do their duty"--and, suddenly, principle clashed with self-interest. Marvin Stone, editor of the U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, writes in his column in the August 17, 1981 issue:

Back of this latest strike lies a strange and disturbing conviction, growing over the last few years, that it is fair to violate the law if you disagree with it. This is a false idea, dangerous to the perpetrators themselves as members of the whole. A government of the people must protect its authority from destruction, and strikes against it cannot be tolerated.

Lawlessness--"iniquity"--was prophesied to abound in the end-time era (Matt. 24:12).

Labor unrest, notes Jack Beatty in the LOS ANGELES TIMES, August 9, 1981, is bound to increase:

In a broader perspective, last week's strike may be seen as the first of the national white-collar strikes; we are likely to see more of them, in both the public and the private sectors. The disjuncture between our culture of limitless self-satisfaction and our shrinking inflation-ridden economy make a heaping up of labor-management relations almost inevitable.

A culture of "limitless self-satisfaction"? Note again verses two and four of II Timothy 3: "lovers of self...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

Most people don't realize the "strike weapon"--whether against public or private sectors--is a fairly recent phenomenon in human history. It is now taken so much for granted that AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland calls it a "basic human right." Moreover, the concept of government either owing or guaranteeing one's standard of living has become entrenched in workers' minds in a particularly odious manifestation of the "get" approach to life. Joseph C. Harsch, long-time correspondent for the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, writes in his August 11 column:

The controllers wanted a lot more than a six percent raise. What they wanted, along with about everyone else in the United States, and also in most other countries, is to have the government underwrite their standard of living and see to it that they enjoy, every year, an improvement in standard of living, not a decline.

This is the problem of the times for government. It is universal. It does not distinguish between capitalist and communist countries. It does not distinguish between developed and underdeveloped, between North and South, or East and West. Almost everywhere in these times

people look to government to improve their lot, regularly, every year. And they, the people, can become unpleasant if they find their standard of living is actually going down, or is even being threatened with a decline.

Today's younger generation does not realize how remarkable this new condition is, or indeed that it is new. What is the first function of government today? Why, of course, to maintain employment and income.

When I came into the practice of journalism in 1929 such ideas of government responsibility simply did not exist in "respectable" quarters in the U.S. The accepted function of government was to maintain the armed forces, fight wars when necessary, conduct diplomacy, and collect such taxes as people were willing and able to pay.

The idea of the federal government going far outside those activities was novel and highly controversial....It was all right to raise tariffs to protect American industry. But it was not all right for workers to go on strike to try to improve their terms of labor. The idea of a strike was still a radical one.

The great change came during the depression....Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a radical because he conceived of making jobs and supporting them out of the public revenue. Most newspapers, including this one, thundered against the assumption by government of the responsibility of trying to keep people at work. Employment was the function of private enterprise, not of government. What a long way we have come in such a short time....

The air traffic controllers had every reason to think that they could strike and win. That has been the pattern for so long that nothing else seemed credible. Suddenly, it becomes possible, and credible, for a President to say no. It is a turning point. It means that bringing down the inflation is conceivable. It means that there may be a way out of the stagflation bog in which all of the modern industrial democracies have been wallowing for too long.

Labor strife is not limited to the U.S. by any means. Canada, in some respects, has become a "new-world Italy" as far as labor unrest is concerned. When I was in Canada recently, the postal system was shut down (this strike has since been settled on highly inflationary terms), CBC technicians were on strike, as were policemen in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The entire forestry industry in British Columbia--a particularly strike-prone province--was shut down. Governmental authority on all levels seemed too weak to rein in radical labor union leaders. (NATIONAL REVIEW magazine, looking at the country's manifold problems, called Canada "the soft over-belly of North America.")

As a footnote concerning President Reagan and his economic reform program, UPI carried this refreshing story on July 28:

President Reagan, sitting in the Oval Office with visiting Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, said Tuesday "the Lord" had a pretty good tax plan of his own. When a reporter jokingly asked the prelate if "the Lord" had an opinion on the President's tax cut proposal, Krol said, "I'll leave that to the experts." But then Reagan volunteered:

"The Lord, really, we could copy him a little bit. The Lord had a pretty simple tax plan--tithing--that his share is a tenth. When we start computing Caesar's share it gets a little bit out of line," the President continued in a Biblical vein. "The Lord said if I prosper you 10 times as much, you will give 10 times as much. He didn't say you'll give 70 times as much."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau