

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT



TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. 3, NO. 39

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 25, 1981

NEWS FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

The September issue of The PLAIN TRUTH has the highest circulation in the history of God's Work. The previous high circulation of 3,750,653 was the September 1975 (tabloid) issue. Here is an area-by-area breakdown prepared by Ron Urwiller in Pasadena.

LANGUAGE/ FILE	MEMBER	COWORKER	DONOR	REGULAR	TOTAL SUBSCRIBERS	NEWSSTANDS
Australia	2,073	1,161	6,046	86,039	95,319	125,000
British Isles	1,618	1,964	2,266	62,646	68,494	39,150
Canada	3,645	3,815	3,435	175,807	186,702	175,000
Caribbean	573	279	252	16,151	17,255	18,000
Central-South America	88	45	61	5,047	5,241	0
East-West Africa	280	136	213	27,269	27,898	0
Europe	37	46	145	23,227	23,455	100
Indian Subcontinent	115	30	59	18,340	18,544	0
Japan & U.S. Pacific Poss.	3	1	2	416	422	0
Middle East	12	6	33	6,397	6,448	0
New Zealand	455	827	1,063	39,624	41,969	3,500
Philippines	1,329	442	306	36,000	38,077	11,923
Scandinavia	47	33	53	15,498	15,631	0
Southern Africa	980	1,067	2,735	81,247	86,029	40,000
S E Asia	119	110	121	32,119	32,469	0
United States	35,370	33,163	30,391	1,107,957	1,206,881	1,200,000
ENGLISH	46,744	43,125	47,181	1,733,784	1,870,834	1,612,673
DUTCH	124	249	742	24,967	26,082	0
FRENCH	852	2,051	840	79,035	82,778	11,900
GERMAN	315	1,264	1,771	56,050	59,400	200
SPANISH	622	704	1,705	95,273	98,304	30,000
TOTALS	48,657	47,393	52,239	1,989,109	2,137,398	1,654,773

GRAND TOTAL

3,792,171

Television/Radio Update

The station in Tacoma, KCPQ, is now confirmed at 9:30 a.m. Sundays, beginning the 4th of October. This station reaches all the Seattle/Tacoma area and also about one million homes in Washington State and British Columbia by cable.

We have also now confirmed the CBS affiliate in Detroit, WJBK, for 7 a.m. Sunday mornings, beginning the 8th of November. This follows the 6:30 a.m. news and our broadcast will precede the rest of the religious block.

The super TV station WTBS in Atlanta did not become available as "It is Written" decided to keep their slot despite the price hike. We have found that Mr. Armstrong's program has been put on the top of the pile for the next available time on that station.

David Hulme has been in Dallas today and talked with seven stations about getting on TV and radio in that major city. We have some possibilities to present Mr. Armstrong. Hope we can include the news in next week's report.

Satellite Feast Transmissions

Here is some very interesting news about Mr. Armstrong's Feast sermons from Larry Omasta, head of Radio and TV Production:

Just how important are Mr. Armstrong's two Holy Day sermons that we will be transmitting to U.S., Canadian and some overseas Feast sites this year? Sometimes we in Media Services get the feeling that something, or somebody, doesn't want them to be seen.

For instance, do you remember last year how the Ali-Holmes fight was suddenly signed for Thursday, October 2--which normally would have tied up video projectors all over the country. You remember October 2, 1980 don't you? It was the Last Great Day of the Feast. But Christ intervened and we rented the projectors just ahead of the boxing promoters.

I'm certain most of you remember that while you were watching the sermonette on the first Holy Day how all of a sudden Tokyo News came across instead of our services. (This occurred at about 90% of our Feast sites.)

Our microwave and satellite consultant said he had never in all of his years in the business seen such a bizarre incident occur where once the customer's program was on line to the satellite that someone would make a change. He was very disturbed about it and did not take it lightly.

Well, that was last year. What about this year?

Remember the baseball strike? The strike most experts said would not happen--but did. The strike everyone said would not be settled in 1981--and then magically was.

But with its settlement came the bizarre split schedule with an extra set of playoffs, before the regular playoffs. The networks which air

all the post season games, including the prestigious World Series, always buy satellite time in order to show all the games across the nation and to the Armed Forces overseas.

But what does this have to do with the Feast of Tabernacles you may ask? Well, the regular baseball playoffs with four divisional champion teams starts on Tuesday, October 13, 1981--the first day of the Feast.

And when does the World Series start? You have probably guessed, October 20--the Last Great Day!

What usually is an easy assignment to rent satellite time became an arduous task because the networks had not purchased the time they needed until very late. All the brokers who own satellite transponders were not renting out time because each one felt they had an inside shot of having the networks sign with them.

I'm certain most of you remember during April of this year the launch and spectacular landing of NASA's Columbia--the reusable billion-dollar space shuttle. The launch time for the second series of tests was scheduled for the early part of October with the re-entry and landing set for (you guessed it) Tuesday, October 13.

NASA usually requests and receives a block of satellite time on several satellites before, during and after launch and re-entry dates to cover itself.

Christ certainly is looking out for His Church. He has intervened and we have now rented satellite time on Sat Com I. Also, mysteriously a faulty fuel-loading line dumped several gallons of corrosive rocket engine propellant over the nose and down the side of the space shuttle loosening scores of heat-resistant tiles, thus delaying the flight by at least a week.

Remember Paul's warning--that we wrestle not with flesh and blood but against wicked spirits in high places. Just how important are Mr. Armstrong's Holy Day Feast transmissions? Don't underestimate them--Satan hasn't!

Mr. Armstrong Approves Circulation Programs

A long-awaited meeting took place yesterday. When Mr. Armstrong was away from Pasadena, the people under him who oversee our major media departments had no opportunity to sit down with him together to receive his direct supervision and coordination. These major media departments include PLAIN TRUTH Editorial, Mail Processing, Radio and TV Production and "Publishing" (which includes international printing and circulation programs). Because of the diverse, multifaceted and overlapping nature of these operations, coordination and personal direction from Mr. Armstrong is vital if we are to speak with one voice worldwide.

While Mr. Armstrong was in Tucson, Mr. LaRavia faithfully carried over various ideas, programs and specific items for HWA to review. This bridged the gap during that time. But now that he is here in Pasadena, the one whom

God has used to start all these activities is able to chair the meetings himself.

For the first meeting, Boyd Leeson from the Circulation Department presented an overview of all the programs presently in use to add new subscribers to The PLAIN TRUTH in the United States. It was a very comprehensive presentation that included a history of the U.S. circulation from 1968 to the present and each program that has been used over the years such as newsstands, lit cards, gift subscriptions, newspaper inserts, renewals and direct mail. Mr. Armstrong and the rest of us were given the total picture of developments in circulation.

As the details were covered one by one the four department heads, Dexter Faulkner, Richard Rice, Larry Omasta and Ray Wright (who supervises Boyd) would comment from their area of responsibility. It was clear to us all that like four legs on a chair, these four departments each carry part of the load of our media efforts. Mr. Armstrong modified several things, but gave the green light to all the circulation programs presently in use.

This was very encouraging to everyone--in fact applause broke out when he said, "It's fine, go ahead with it all!" That showed that although certain things needed adjustment, the efforts in circulation had basically been "on track!" The gaps of time and distance had been faithfully bridged.

A presentation of the revised programs will be made to the Regional Directors at a conference scheduled just before the first session of the second refresher program.

We hope the next media meeting with Mr. Armstrong, not yet scheduled, will focus on advertising.

--Robert E. Fahey, Pastor General's Office

****PLEASE ANNOUNCE IN ALL U.S. CHURCHES****

Feast Reminders From the Treasurer's Office

The Feast Business Managers have asked me to remind you that when traveling to the Feast you may have more money than you would normally ever carry. Please use wisdom and discretion in how you carry this money. Convert your tithe into traveler's checks to protect yourself in case any of it is lost. Realize that Monday, October 12--the day immediately before the Feast--is Columbus Day, and many (but not all) banks will be closed that day. Also, remember that the Feast Business Office is not able to cash your payroll or personal checks, and out-of-town banks might also refuse to do so.

Plan ahead so that your Feast will be, in this and every way, the best Feast ever!

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESInternational News

Philippine Report Financially, August has been a good month for God's Work here despite the dreary news about a beleaguered Philippine economy. (A front-page special report filed by Antonio Lopez in the August 31, 1981 national daily TIMES JOURNAL says, "The Philippines is in its most serious economic slump since 1949. Businessmen say the economy is actually doing worse than what government technocrats concede.") God is above all these domestic troubles and gave His Work here a solid 69% increase in income this month as compared with August 1980, bringing the year-to-date increase to 25%!

We have also received a good number of requests for visits, baptisms and information on church locations and how to send in donations. We added 850 new Correspondence Course students and 2,900 new PLAIN TRUTH subscribers to our mailing list this month.

Excitement and enthusiasm, especially among long-time members, greeted the news from Pasadena headquarters that former Philippine Regional Director Arthur W. Docken will be sent here as visiting overseas minister this coming Feast. Plans are to have him speak at all five sites.

In early August Mr. Guy Ames visited the Tacloban City Church for the second time since he arrived here last January. From there he flew to Cebu City where he held his first ministerial conference with the church pastors in the Visayan group of islands and Northern Mindanao. Five full-time pastors and two local Church elders attended the two-day conference. The meeting centered around preparations for the second largest feast site in the Philippines this year--Cebu City. Some 700 are expected to attend there.

At the end of the month Mr. Ames made his first visit to the Naga City and Legaspi City Churches in the southern part of Luzon island. He has now visited 20 of the 21 existing Churches in this country.

Spanish-Speaking Area News In recent months there have been several transfers in the ministry employed by the Spanish-speaking area of God's Work. Mr. Mauricio Perez, who attended Ambassador College until May of 1981, has returned to Colombia as a ministerial trainee. He will be assisting Mr. Eduardo Hernandez in Bogota. Mr. Pablo Gonzalez, who was also in Colombia, has now moved to San Juan, Puerto Rico, to serve the Church there. One other change which will take place just before the Feast is with Mr. Alberto Sousa and his wife, Elizabeth. Mr. Sousa, a graduate of Ambassador College, will be going to Argentina to pastor the Church in Ezeiza.

The Spanish area of God's Work is looking forward to an exciting and profitable feast season. There will be eight sites this year. The Feast in Spain will be directed by Mr. Fernando Barriga. He will be assisted by Mr. Reg Killingley, a ministerial trainee from Pasadena. Mr. Leon Walker, director of the Spanish Department, and his wife will also begin the Feast in Spain. From there the Walkers will go to Puerto Rico. Services at this site will be conducted by Mr. Pablo Gonzalez.

Oaxtepec, Mexico, will have an estimated attendance of 600. Mr. Tom Turk, office manager in Mexico City, will be the festival coordinator. He will be

assisted by Mr. John Robinson and Mr. Alfredo Mercado. Mr. Tom Turk will spend the second half of the Feast in Guatemala and will aid Mr. Herbert Cisneros, the minister in Central America.

Colombia, Chile, Peru and Argentina are the four South American countries in which the Feast will be held. The festival coordinators for those areas are: Mr. Eduardo Hernandez, Colombia; Mr. Mario Seiglie, Chile; Mr. Wilfredo Saenz, Peru; and Mr. Alberto Sousa, Argentina. Mr. Pablo Dimakis, the minister of the Guadalajara, Mexico Church will be assisting Mr. Saenz and Mr. Luis Chavez will be helping Mr. Sousa. Pastor of the Temuco, Chile Church, Mr. Filidor Illesca, will assist Mr. Seiglie at the Lake Rapel festival site.

Films of Mr. Armstrong's opening night address beginning the Feast of Tabernacles and the television special featuring Mr. Armstrong and President Sadat will be shown at each Feast location.

In late August, Spanish PT circulation topped the 100,000 mark for the first time since June, 1977! Heavy promotional efforts in Chile, Mexico, Spain, Peru, Argentina and Venezuela have been major factors in PV circulation increasing by 35 percent--from 74,862 in August, 1980 to 100,958 in August, 1981. Brethren in the above-mentioned countries are eagerly backing and participating in the Spanish PT cardholder promotional program. Newspaper ads in several areas have also added many new subscribers.

If current trends continue, the number of new subscribers added in 1981 should set a one-year record. Previous yearly highs are 61,899 in 1969 and 61,617 in 1980. New PV subscribers through August have numbered 51,108. Because of the exceptional response to different promotional efforts, there are some 20,000 names still to be added to the subscription file!

Appreciation for the Ministerial Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Perhaps this letter seems redundant after so many comments have already been made regarding the refresher program, but my wife and I were also thrilled to be included in it. The program was everything that everyone said it would be. It fit all the positive descriptions that others gave who had previously attended. Our deepest appreciation goes to yourself and all the refresher staff whose loyalty and dedication to the Work is obviously firm and unblemished.

Braden and Georgia Veller

Greetings Mr. Armstrong:

Vinita and I extend our thanks to you for making such an inspiring and profitable refresher course available. Hopefully we can come back yearly to have the 'ol batteries recharged. The refresher course we now have is what I had hoped we could have for years. Thanks a million! Our thanks also for providing a loyal, competent, and empathetic group of men to do the teaching. They certainly teach what you have always taught. Our love, support and prayers are daily with you!

Kelly and Vinita Barfield

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We thank you for the wonderful, inspiring work-filled three weeks on the 13th session of the refresher program. It was definitely a "refreshing time" to talk with and see the truly dedicated attitudes of the employees in every facet of the Work and to see their oneness of mind and purpose. It was uplifting to see the positive and respectful attitudes of the students who were there for the summer.

We couldn't help but be encouraged and revived with every course of instruction. Having studied at Ambassador College in the mid-seventies, the contrast now has left us both inspired and more fully aware that God is working through you and that you are backed up by a dedicated, inspired and loyal group of men whom you have guided to teach on the refresher program. Lastly and most enjoyable was your visit and candid talk with us despite your tightly-filled schedule.

Five weeks later we still treasure the meaningful and dedicated instruction we received. All that has helped in serving God's people in this end time.

Trevor and Vickie Cherry

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I wanted to express thanks to you and all the team at headquarters for the Ministerial Refresher Programme. It really was a "refresher" after my sabbatical of 1977-78. We appreciated the unity and teamwork plus the backing of Mr. Armstrong, and especially the "digging out" of conference notes of 15 to 20 years ago. With all the ministers now able to relate the things we received, there certainly are more fruits being produced. We have noticed this with other churches we have visited where the minister was on an earlier refresher programme, and members from other churches have mentioned the same change being evident.

David Bedford

Mr. Joe Tkach:

Penny and I certainly appreciated the blessing of attending the 14th session of the Ministerial Refresher Program. We would like to sincerely thank you and all who so willingly devoted their time and effort in making this program such a success. Every part of the program was well planned, and the end result will bear much fruit in our ability to do our job much more effectively. The brethren here were very anxious to hear all about what we had learned at headquarters. The enthusiasm that was engendered in us was contagious!

We enjoyed renewing old and making new friendships with our fellow ministers and their wives who were with us for this session. It was also great to be able to spend some time with the students, and especially those from our area who are all very excited about being at Ambassador College.

Everyone seemed to go out of his way to be of service to us and make our stay pleasant and enjoyable. Mr. Carlton Green is certainly a

gem and a tremendous asset to Ambassador College, even though he was responsible for putting a few unwanted pounds on me!

Once again, it is heartening to know that we are all speaking with one accord, with the trunk of the tree knowledge that Mr. Armstrong and his staff are teaching us. Certainly, Almighty God will increasingly bless His Church and Work as we continue to grow in unity, oneness, and singularity of purpose. Thanks again to you and to everyone concerned for a most profitable session.

Guy and Penny Engelbart

Miscellany

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong:

Thank you so much for the dinner we had with you at the White Elephant Club in London. It was a real privilege to have the opportunity to talk to you like that and be able to ask you so many questions. We want you to know that we are behind you 100% as you lead us on the final stretch of this Great Work.

Everybody in west Africa is supporting you constantly and hoping that someday they, too, will have the opportunity to see and hear you in person. Until then, all the members have asked me to tell you how grateful they are for what God has given them through you--namely, the knowledge of a better world in the future. In this part of the world, that is an especially great hope. Thank you for all your love and constant endeavours on our behalf.

Melvin and Diane Rhodes

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you very much for the generous raise in salary which you recently gave to the ministry. Your fatherly concern for us in the field ministry as well as for the brethren is greatly appreciated.

My wife and I, along with the brethren here in the Greenville, South Carolina Church, support you wholeheartedly in fulfilling the Great Commission. I know that you realize that you do not need to increase our pay to maintain that support. Since this is the Work of the living God on earth today we must do our best in supporting it and you even if we should have to take a cut in pay. I want to be a good shepherd, not a hireling. I pray for God's love in me for the brethren as I see it in you. Thank you for setting such a fine example. Our prayers are with you daily.

Ronald K. Jameson

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

CORNING, NY--BRITTON M. TAYLOR: We were just placed on a local Elmira, New York TV station. The brethren are so encouraged and inspired to be able to see Mr. Armstrong. We have all been praying diligently for coverage for Corning.

MONTVALE, NJ--LLOYD BRIGGIE: God is clearly cleaning His Church--people who have had longstanding personal problems and weaknesses are now having to face them. Most are making good strides in admitting them and growing and changing. The spirits of members are high as they see all God is doing through Mr. Armstrong and what God's doing in their personal lives to prepare them for Christ's coming.

MICHIGAN CITY, IN--RAND MILLICH: Many have commented how they have appreciated the last few issues of both the PT and the GN. The articles have been especially helpful! Many 7th Day Adventists are receiving the PT in the Berrien County area of Michigan.

HUNTINGTON, WV--STEVE BOTHA: The PLAIN TRUTH Newsstand Program is very successful in this area and has proven to be a tremendous boost for the Church. A very high percentage of the brethren are involved.

DULUTH, MN--BILL GORDON: I've appreciated the letters and comments regarding the refresher program. Hopefully the program will continue. After the instructors have had a break.

JACKSONVILLE, NC--JOHN A. MOSKEL: One lady in the local Church here was recently ticketed for speeding. Fearing her husband's wrath (non-member) for possible higher insurance rates, she appealed her case in court. She stayed up 'till 3 a.m. preparing a statement to the court, praying and fasting. She later appeared in court that day, gave a statement as to her religious beliefs and said that she was a law-abiding citizen (normally).

Upon hearing that she was a member of the Worldwide Church of God, the Judge exclaimed, "Where have you people been--I have been trying to contact your church." She gave the Judge my card and invited him to our local Bible Study in Wilmington. He dismissed her case and showed up at the next Bible Study we had! And brought his wife along, too!

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

A.C. GRADUATES OUTSHINE GRADUATES OF OTHER COLLEGES

Since Ambassador College was founded, Mr. Armstrong has said that Ambassador teaches its students not only "how to live" but also "how to earn a living." This is aptly stated in the 1980-81 AMBASSADOR COLLEGE CATALOG:

At Ambassador College, students find true values. They learn the real purpose of human life. Life takes on true meaning. Emphasis is upon character building. Students learn not merely how to earn a living, but how to live!

Some time ago, I suggested that we make a survey of the graduates of Ambassador to see how they are doing financially. At that time I fully believed, financially speaking, that Ambassador College graduates did as well as, or better than, the graduates of other colleges. We have recently conducted a thorough survey of the graduates of Ambassador College and it is clear that in the area of finances our alumni do somewhat better than the graduates of other colleges. The following quote from Mr. Dave Albert, Director of Career Services, makes this point abundantly clear:

With well over half of the surveys we sent out to our alumni now returned to us and tabulated, we are beginning to see a very positive picture emerging in terms of how well the Ambassador College graduate competes in the marketplace. The answer is very well, indeed!

Income averages have been pulled down a bit of late by the recent influx of international responses to the survey, but when we had received nearly 1,300 responses (including quite a number from abroad), the average full-time male graduate reported an income of \$22,319 which is right at or above the U.S.A. national average for college-educated males. Full-time women graduates averaged \$13,800, slightly above national averages. And lest anyone think that our income averages are skewed upward by employment in the Work, we have learned that the 65% of all graduates not employed by the Church or College are making almost exactly 10% more than their Work-employed counterparts.

Clearly the Ambassador College graduate does know how to make a living as well as know how to live! Income averages for the past two decades year by year show a gradually escalating rise out of the mid to high teens into the low twenty-thousand-dollar mark seven or eight years out of college on to the low thirties for those in their peak years of productivity.

We are continuing to analyze the data as it comes in and will have some more specific details available for you in the near future.

Mr. Richard Sedliacik recently mentioned to me that not long ago he met a graduate of A.C. who is a non-Church member. This man, now in his 40's, was in Los Angeles on business, had a few extra hours, and decided to visit his alma mater which he hadn't seen for nearly fifteen years. Mr. Sedliacik, who happened to see him as he walked into the Hall of Administration, showed him around the College.

During his tour of the campus, this man who is Executive Vice President of his company told Mr. Sedliacik with emphasis, "I received a superior education at Ambassador compared to that of my peers in our firm." He then mentioned that his peers included graduates of some of the most prestigious colleges in the U.S.

Also, only a few weeks ago, a former student of Ambassador College (a Church member) told me that during the last two years since he was at Ambassador he had prospered--has paid for over \$30,000 worth of equipment. He told me that if his business continued prospering as it now is, by the end of the year he expected to gross \$150,000. Another graduate called me less than a year ago and informed me he earned \$50,000 the previous year, and received one \$10,000 bonus. Another company was trying to hire him away from his present employer.

And a local firm has stated that they would only hire graduates from Ambassador College. Many in the world can see that, through Ambassador College, students of God's Church are receiving a superior education. But do we as ministers, parents and prospective students realize how truly blessed is anyone who, out of four and a half billion people, is privileged to attend Ambassador?

I thought you might like to know that the graduates of Ambassador College more than hold their own, financially speaking, in the business world. Christ meant what He said when He gave the formula for a truly successful life: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all of these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

We ministers who serve on the faculty here at Ambassador wish to express our thankfulness for the opportunity to have had a chance to visit with many of you ministers while on the refresher program. It has been the privilege of my wife and myself to try to have a group of 15 to 20 ministers and their wives into our home during each session (except for the earlier ones). We have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity.

When we sent out our invitation to the last group here on the refresher program (the next to the last one), I told them in my invitation: "We will be serving drunks (sic) and finger foods, so we hope all of you will be sure to bring your appetites!" Fortunately I was wrong, as there were no "drunks" who showed up at our home for the occasion! They turned out to be quite a respectable group!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

MAIL PROCESSING CENTER UPDATE

\$1,000 Continues to be Claimed

We continue to receive letters from people accepting Mr. Armstrong's challenge to prove that Christians go to heaven. Since January, over 150 letters have been received in addition to phone calls. (We estimate that over 1,220 people have tried to claim the reward since it was first offered several years ago.) About half of the responses have come from people not on our mailing list. This offer seems to bring in response from new people who have never written before!

Every conceivable scripture is being used to claim the \$1,000. Most refer to the scriptures concerning Enoch and Elijah (II Kings 2:11), the thief on the cross (Luke 23:43) and the transfiguration (Matt. 17:2-3). These responses are answered with appropriate literature. Also quoted are passages from the book of Revelation, such as 4:1, 5:9, 7:9-17, 11:2, 14:1-5, 15:2-3, 19:1 and 21:9-10, as well as II Corinthians 12:2 and I Peter 1:4. These are answered by personal letters.

Those who write generally fall into one of three categories:

1. People lured by the \$1,000, but ignorant of the Bible.
2. "Theological students" who delight in arguing Scripture.
3. Sincere, well-intentioned individuals wishing to show our "error."

Most viewers and listeners do not listen carefully and thereby misunderstand the context of Mr. Armstrong's statements and the intent of his offer.

Weekly Letter Comments

This week we have selected letters on several different subjects.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

Broadcast Leads Prisoner to God

For a year now I've been listening to your daily broadcasts with total enjoyment and have no desire to stop. Finally I've found the program that spreads the Word of God in plain, simple language which can be understood by many. I've sampled dozens of religious broadcasts in the past two and a half years but without much satisfaction. It seems that all these broadcasts "talk good" but rarely explain the "good talk." Many are becoming so political that they sound as if they're running for office instead of spreading the Word of God. Also it seems that each broadcast is ended by asking for a donation.

You, sir, are the only one who goes to the roots of words in the Bible and explain them to us. You offer no miracles, neither give your own predictions of the future or say that God sent you to save mankind. Instead you quote God's miracles, God's predictions and God's coming to save man. This singles you out from the ones I'm suspicious about.

Mr. Armstrong, I'm in prison. I'm guilty of all I've been charged with and for charges I didn't get caught for. But my mind and heart are at peace because I'm finding my way back from a world of hideous sin and abandonment of God.

J.J. (Trenton, NJ)

Answers Found Through Booklet

I have just finished reading your booklet THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY and am fascinated with what I've read. I often wondered why only two countries have become great and hold most of this world's wealth. After reading your booklet many such questions have been answered. The booklet has really helped me to understand parts of the Bible I've never understood before. I feel that going back to the basics in the Bible will help people see just what is in store for us as a nation. God has used this booklet to convict me and show me the errors of my ways. Praise God it came before it was too late.

P.J. (Kismet, KS)

Ambassador College Fulfills Childhood Dreams

I'm attending Ambassador College right now, and working for the Graphics Department in Publishing. It's not enough that God allowed my childhood dream of attending Ambassador to come true, but He's also allowing me to do what I love (art) for Him and His Work.

Mr. Armstrong, no amount of money could equal the value of what I'm learning and the dreams that God is fulfilling for me right now. I know that God has built His Work through you, so you also have a part in the fulfilling of these dreams. I want to thank you for that. I

know that your hard work and dedication to God and His purpose has provided the opportunities I now have.

L.P. (Pasadena, CA)

Impressed by The PLAIN TRUTH

I am renewing my subscription to your wonderful magazine for another year. I have thoroughly enjoyed your most informative and interesting articles in every issue. You certainly must do a tremendous amount of research and study. Also, the quality of paper is the finest and the photographs pertaining to each article are superb. The cover photos, such as the one of Prince Charles (in the June-July issue) are so outstanding that I am at a loss to find words to describe them.

In my opinion, The PLAIN TRUTH is a magazine of the highest caliber. I look forward to each month's issue. Keep up your marvelous work--and thanks so very, very much for giving us such reading material in this troubled world.

M.S. (Elizabethtown, KY)

Child Looks Forward to Millennium

My name is Kristy. I am eight years old. I live in Barrie and go to the Barrie Church. I am really glad my parents are in the Church. They always teach me about God. I am really looking forward to the Feast. My family is going to Niagara Falls this time. We are going to stay at the Old Stone Inn. I am also looking forward to the millennium when there will be no bad people and we will be able to live a free life. I was looking forward to seeing you today because I've never seen you before in real life. I always ask God to bless the Work and to bless you.

K.F. (Barrie, Ontario, Canada)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

WHY ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS DON'T WORK Despite high marks in public opinion polls, President Reagan is under fire in certain quarters for his budget policies. The attacks are mainly coming from intellectuals, journalists and political leaders whose power bases might be cut out from under them. Mr. Reagan is being accused of sacrificing the poor on the altar of his economic reform package. Cutbacks in the size of food portions in government school lunch programs are met with howls of liberal protest. Yet why is the government in the business of feeding schoolchildren instead of children's parents doing so?

Mr. Reagan is also charged with "rolling back" government programs to end discrimination and promote opportunities for America's minorities. The swelling controversy is by no means limited to the battle between civil rights leaders and the government. It has entered the university and the think tank. The standard liberal doctrine that black poverty is fundamentally the result of racism and should be remedied by government programs is being challenged by a small group of black conservatives led by Walter Williams and Thomas Sowell. Mr. Sowell, of Stanford University's Hoover Institution, is the author of a recent top selling book, ETHNIC AMERICA: A HISTORY. He acknowledges that blacks have suffered discrimination, but

denies that it is the basic cause of black poverty. More important, he says, are cultural patterns of illegitimacy, illiteracy and governmental dependency.

The argument of the black conservatives is basically this: Most current governmental programs to uplift those judged to be either poor or victims of discrimination by government mandated standards simply do not work in the long run. Remarks Sowell, bluntly: "In coping with poverty today, the most productive thing the government could do would be to stop making things worse." Governmental policies too often have resulted in perverse side-effects, with especially negative impacts on the black family structure.

The U.S. federal government, for example, has gone beyond the original goal of outlawing discrimination and achieving equal opportunities for all to actually mandate discrimination from the other direction. Only it's called, euphemistically, "affirmative action," which entails pressure to hire because of race (or sex). Affirmative action (preferential hiring quotas) can actually give an employer an incentive NOT to hire a minority worker.

When a minority job applicant is hired under affirmative action quota, the government pays close attention to the "pay, promotion, and discharge patterns" of his or her employment. This means that if such a person doesn't work out on the job and is fired, an employer may be faced with a "discrimination" lawsuit of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Consequently, employers are very choosy about members of minority groups they hire. Thus, while demand for well-qualified, well-credentialed blacks has never been higher (recent black college graduates now average higher incomes than recent white college graduates!), blacks who have no paper credentials, a situation typical among black teen-agers, are worse off than before because employers feel they can't afford the risk of hiring them!

Likewise, minimum wage laws have engendered their own perverse side-effects. Governmental "charity" is anything but that--true to Proverbs 12:10 which says that "the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel." (Another translation reads: "even the kindness of godless men is cruel.") Minimum wage laws make it difficult for inner city youths to get jobs. Black teen-age unemployment is shockingly high and jumped 10% last month alone!

A teen-ager who has already demonstrated his ability to work responsibly at one job (even if it is only at MacDonal'd's) has a proven track record for his next employer. Yet if he can never land that first job because he's not considered to be worth the minimum wage--as many ghetto youths are so viewed--then he can never demonstrate he has the right attitude to be a successful employee.

The problem of black unemployment generally, teen-age as well as adult, is not solvable by government, which does not deal with moral issues and cause-and-effect relationships. The root problem among America's black community today is the sad state of the family structure. Tragically, more than half of all black children are illegitimate. The mothers are invariably young, usually teen-age. In the black community there has been an enormous expansion of female-headed households during the past two decades--from 23% of the total in the early 1960's to 41% today!

Young boys growing up in a fatherless home to very young, financially-stressed mothers often do not acquire the right attitudes necessary to hold a job. Growing up without a father's authority at home, they are unable to adjust to an employer's authority in the workplace. Says Sowell: "There is...a misconception of the whole role of jobs and particularly of early jobs in one's career. What the worker learns on those jobs is how to get along on a job, with employers, with fellow workers. He learns he should not come to work with his portable radio blaring at top volume."

Government work programs such as CETA (being dropped under Mr. Reagan's "cruel plan") do not alleviate this attitudinal problem. They attempt to teach skills, but don't concentrate on the right job attitudes such as getting to work on time or other qualities of character an employer looks for. Since government programs "must work," standards are lowered to make them work. Youths fail to learn what the real marketplace is like.

Other governmental programs further aggravate the crisis within the minority community. The welfare system actually allows a female-headed family to live reasonably comfortably without the husband. And since the man knows he is dispensible, and not needed for the support of the family, he often feels no long-term commitment to his family. So this breadwinner role which would tend to authenticate his leadership to his family is removed.

In another perverse twist, both the women's lib and civil rights movements have further eroded the confidence of the black male breadwinner. The civil rights movement has put a tremendous emphasis on paper credentials, such as college degrees and test scores. More black women than men possess these credentials. College-educated and professional black women are now quite well off--so well, in fact, that they now earn one-quarter more than similarly situated white women, according to economist Sowell. The result is that, in light of the women's lib movement, black women enjoy a superior economic position compared with black men. This further injures the male/female relationship and contributes to a man's feeling that he is "dispensible" when it comes to his family.

Still, the government persists in treating the problem of poverty as merely the consequence of past discrimination. The idea of individual merit is being submerged in favor of group rights, whether by race or sex. In the article "Racial Classification: Politics of the Future" (Summer 1981 issue of POLICY REVIEW) authors L. H. Gann and Alvin Rabushka write: "Affirmative action programs have subtly begun to change the entire tenor of America life....Recent court actions, administrative decisions made by powerful bureaucrats, and the changing climate of academic opinion have helped to create a new concept of group rights of a kind familiar to countries like Northern Ireland, Lebanon, and Cyprus." All three countries are war-torn, incidentally.

The work that God's Church is doing to "turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers" will accomplish more to break the cycle of poverty and heal the rifts among peoples than any man-made governmental program ever devised.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau