

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

****URGENT REMINDER****

Festival Housing Announcement

It has come to our attention that the Festival Housing announcement which was run in the September 11th issue of the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT may not have been read everywhere yet.

It is imperative, from the nature of the problem, that the announcement be read before the Feast! Please make sure all the members in your area understand the material printed earlier and comply with the policy. Thanks for your cooperation.

--Festival Office

International News

Report From Radlett, U.K. Office We have reopened the newsstand program in the U.K., beginning in Central London. Since both of the two major national newsstand groups are closed to us, we have concentrated distribution through individually-owned newsagents in the West End and the City--some in, or close to stations of the London Underground (the "Tube"). So far, we have 18 outlets and will increase the number to around 22-25. We are currently putting out 40,000 copies per issue and hope to level out at around 50,000 in due course.

The first issue "went like hotcakes," as the English say, because of the picture of Prince Charles and Lady Diana on the cover. The second issue is going more slowly, as expected, but there is still considerable interest.

It is worth noting that our distribution in London is noticed by the national media. One influential socialist publication has been in touch and told us that we are distributing "pro-facist material"! It is certainly true that people in Britain, who in many ways take a socialist view of life in comparison with people in the U.S.A., are very sensitive to a religious publication commenting on world events.

Mr. Armstrong's semi-annual promotion of the booklet, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, pulled an excellent response across the board. In the U.K. and Eire it was 13%, in Scandinavia 5%, across the rest of English-speaking European areas 6% and in the Middle East 12%.

Income in Britain and Ireland was up 19% for the month and is up 21% for the year to date. This good increase must be seen against the economic recession in Britain with about three million unemployed.

Asian Report Asian Regional Director, Mr. Bob Morton, recently returned from what he described as his most successful visit so far to the Churches in Singapore and Malaysia. Mr. Colin Kelly, our Elder now stationed in that area, met Mr. Morton at the Singapore airport and accompanied him on his brief tour.

Mr. Morton was greatly encouraged by the members' responsiveness to the sermons he preached, and their renewed enthusiasm for God's Work and support of Mr. Armstrong was very evident. He said the Churches in Singapore and Malaysia are in a much more stable condition. Dissident action has caused a great deal of trauma in recent months and, though we must recognize this is still a potential threat to the Church, Jesus Christ has overcome the problems.

At one time the bank accounts in Singapore and Malaysia were in the hands of members now disfellowshipped, but through Christ's obvious intervention the Church has now gained full control over the finances in those countries.

Through a letter of introduction from our legal representatives in Australia, the Church has been able to secure the services of a very well-known and respected legal firm in Singapore to properly represent us. While dissident action has caused some legal difficulties, these problems are now in the main resolved.

Appreciation for the Ministerial Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I thank you very much for instituting the Ministerial Refresher Program, and for extending to us the opportunity to attend session 13. We have vivid memories of this experience. Thank you also for highlighting the second week when you addressed us all, giving us our first ever occasion to see and hear from you in person. Please convey our sincere gratitude to Mr. Tkach and the others who so willingly gave of themselves.

George and Poppy Efthvoulos

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Two short weeks have passed since my wife and I left the campus of Ambassador College and the 14th session of the Ministerial Refresher Program. We are still working to assimilate, absorb and digest all of the rich spiritual food and the wealth of information and instruction presented by the truly dedicated staff of instructors. We were certainly impressed with their patience and continued enthusiasm after already serving thirteen previous sessions.

It was an inspiring and delightful experience to see and hear you during the two hours you devoted to us on the last afternoon. We left with our minds overflowing with joy and gratitude for the opportunity God inspired you to give us.

The atmosphere we entered, from the moment we stepped on campus, was so warm and friendly. It showed a sincere desire, on the part of everyone we met, to make us feel at home and I can assure you we did feel at home. Even though we have been there several times no one can really know what Ambassador College is like until they are privileged

to spend three weeks, as we did, in what must be the most friendly and beautiful oasis on earth. The Ambassador students have something very special going for them which I am sure they understand and appreciate.

Marguerite and I definitely gained an intensified awareness of the worldwide scope of God's end-time Work, not only through facts and figures, not only by the impressive tour of Mail Processing and WATS line centers, but by the warm friendships made with fellow ministers and their wives from the far-flung corners of the world. The degree of unity and of dedication encountered at close range, although expected, was most inspiring and stimulating to see. Our leave-taking was filled with both joy and sadness.

Last but not least, our thanks and appreciation for the world's finest food, served up to us in such abundance by Mr. Carlton Green and his marvelous staff, adding so much to our pleasure and a bit to our weight. The twice daily climb to the Academic Center proved to be a blessing in disguise, burning up a few of the added calories.

Although the extra ounces are gone we do remain filled and enthused with renewed confidence and appreciation of your strong leadership as well as your dynamic dedication to the completion of the Great Commission. We remain one hundred per cent behind you! May God continue to strengthen, sustain and guide you.

Robley and Marguerite Evans

Greetings to Mr. Tkach and all those who participated in the refresher program. We've been back in Paris about six weeks now and with Mr. HWA's visit and three baptising tours, things have been pretty active.

From a practical point of view I found the program very helpful in getting back to basics. Along with the new comprehension of the Holy Spirit and the session on baptismal counseling, I found it all invaluable help on the tours. It certainly has been fortifying to know deeply that what one is doing is what is being done at H.Q. and around the world.

Appreciated the lecturers--each "specialised" in their field by their years of experience and responsibility and their messages were given with dynamism for the 13th time. Thanks for everything.

Sam and Marilyn Kneller

H.W.A. Visit to Montreal

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you very much for coming to Montreal to speak on September 5th! It was a real treat and a very positive spiritual lift for both the brethren and we in the ministry. The overview of God's plan you presented made things clearer to me than ever before. It seems God is inspiring you to understand more and more as time goes on. There were a couple of points that you gave I had never heard quite that way before that clarified things even further. Thanks again for coming. We all benefited a great deal from your visit!

Gary Moore

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MAIL PROCESSING CENTER UPDATEWork of God Takes on New Meaning for Young People

Mr. Armstrong's added emphasis on the family this year and the recent understanding of I Corinthians 7:14 are bearing fruit. Young people, especially children, are responding to God's Church and way of life as never before in this era.

Dozens of letters from children have been received this year, expressing support for and interest in God's Work. Children write that they pray for Mr. Armstrong, enjoy the telecasts, appreciate his church visits and are glad to be a part of the Church. They are looking forward to this year's Feast, as well as to the World Tomorrow. Following are two examples of the many letters sent in:

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I like your sermons very much. I love you. How are you doing? I hope your eye is better. I will pray for you to see better.

My name is Nikki. I am seven years old. I have brown eyes. If you come to Florida come to my house and eat dinner.

You can write me back if you have time.

N.M. (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I am glad you came to Charlotte, North Carolina. This was my first time to see you in person. I have been watching you on TV for about six years. I am eight years old now. This was also my mother's first time to see and hear you in person. We thank you for coming to North Carolina.

We attend Sabbath services at Raleigh. Our minister is Mr. Mike Booze.

I am glad that you were able to finish speaking to us and we enjoyed your sermon very much. Thank God for giving you strength and we pray for Him to bless your eyesight.

I love you very much and pray for you every night. I hope I can go to Ambassador College when I grow up.

C.B. (Princeton, NC)

Weekly Letter Comments

This week's letters come from overseas and comment on various aspects of the Work.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

Mr. Armstrong's Efforts Appreciated

I was surprised to find in The GOOD NEWS magazine that after fifty years, Mr. Armstrong is still continuing the Work of God with many good results. I haven't known any man who could continue such work because most men at his age are already retired. I admire Mr. Armstrong very much for his perseverance as well as endurance in continuing the Work of God. I thank him for helping many of us by opening our minds to see the truth instead of the false teachings of man.

Man--nonmember (Alaminos, The Philippines)

Gratitude for Literature

Thank you so much for the literature I have recently received--The GOOD NEWS magazine and the outstanding publication THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX by Herbert W. Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong's book is the most outspoken publication on the subject I have ever come across. The way things are in this immoral and selfish world, such a publication is certainly needed. I hope it will get through to many and help them to understand such an important subject and to abandon the things which our Creator condemns.

Mrs. M.P. (Oxford, United Kingdom)

Thank you very much for sending me the book, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. It struck me as an extraordinary and valuable presentation of Biblical truth and prophetic fact. I had almost lost interest in the Bible, but with Herbert W. Armstrong as a guide, its pages once again have sprung to life. How we, children in time and space, need a leader!

N.N. (Melbourne, Australia)

Some Disagree With Our Literature

I am becoming increasingly weary and infuriated with the archaic chauvinists who write articles concerning women and marriage in your magazine. It is incredible that in this day and age your writers expect all women to aim for no other career and expect no other fulfillment than that of marriage and motherhood.

We do not all wish to spend the greater and best part of our lives walking six paces behind "our man." Your magazine would do well to remember that when God created man, He was only practising and women are not prepared to be what men expect them to be.

J.R. (Wellington, New Zealand)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

SPECIAL REPORT: EUROPEAN UNITY--AN IDEA GONE FLAT For the second time this year, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has issued an appeal for greater European unity. He proposes that talks among Common Market officials produce a "political statement of principle toward a European union." Only a stronger Europe, Genscher says, could "do justice to its responsibility as a partner of the United States, toward the Third World and in East-West relations."

Such appeals to move the ten-nation Common Market off dead center and down the road toward real unity have an increasingly hollow ring to them. After Genscher made his original appeal in January of this year, an article in the magazine EUROPE, semi-official organ of the European Community (Common Market) said: "Anyone who raises the idea of a European Union these days risks being laughed to scorn." With good reason. Prior appeals have all gone for nought.

This writer was present at a Common Market's summit conference held in Paris in October, 1972. After very much haggling the assembled Community leaders set a target date of 1980 for a "European Union." But they did not define what such a union would entail. The final communique with this imprecise, visionary goal was late in coming out of committee in the final day of the summit. We reporters waited and waited for hours on that final night, finally running out of sandwiches. At last Willy Brandt and other heads-of-state made their appearance with the agreed-upon document. It was already about 2:00 a.m. the next day but the clock had been stopped at 11:59 the day previously, a gimmick used many times by Common Market officials to make sure they always reached agreement "on time."

A few years after the 1972 agreement, Belgium's then Foreign Minister, Leo Tindemans, was urged by his colleagues to produce a set of recommendations on how to achieve a European union. He did so--only to have most of them ignored. Later still three so-called "wise men" were appointed at the suggestion of the President of France to examine the unity question. "Their proposals," notes the article in EUROPE, "have been so little discussed that even European Community experts can hardly recall what they were."

The target year of 1980 came and went, without a "European Union." Meanwhile, crises in Iran and Afghanistan revealed Western Europe's vulnerability in the Middle East and impotence with regard to Soviet expansion. And now relations between the EC and the United States are becoming increasingly strained, especially over Western defense matters.

Mr. Genscher fears that unless a new political impetus can be given to the Community now, the result will be not simply stagnation but erosion of the EC's influence. In Genscher's view, the EC must move beyond economics to the formulation of a joint foreign policy, and even coordination of security policy--meaning joint defense. Genscher would like to enshrine all of these extended activities in a new treaty, supplementing those of Paris, which set up the European Coal and Steel Community and Rome, which established the European Economic Community and Euratom. Neither of these prior treaties covers either political union or security matters, notes the EUROPE report, although the preamble to the Rome EEC pact speaks of a determination to lay the foundations of an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe.

It should be obvious that a United States of Europe is not going to arise out of the Common Market via the slow process of gradual strengthening of the Community's centralized institutions. National sovereignty stands in the way. France's new Socialist president, Francois Mitterrand, put it succinctly when he explained French foreign policy this way: "No one will dictate our conduct to us."

The British represent even more of an obstacle. Former British Prime Minister James Callaghan puts it this way: "We should put firmly and publicly to one side the long-standing idea that the objective of the Community is a federal Europe to which member countries would agree to surrender their powers. That idea has been, and is, an obstacle to progress. I have seen enough of discussions in the [Common Market] Council of Ministers to know that the guiding precept for them all is the national interest."

Further driving this point home is a comment by Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal in the U.K. government. He states: "We have not got a federation, either tight or loose, with Europe and we are not aiming to get a federation. The EEC is a collection of nation states. We have accepted no greater controls than either France or Germany and nobody could say that they behave as if they have lost control of their national destinies. Of course, they have not, neither have we."

The Common Market's political stagnation was graphically revealed in a segment on America's "60 Minutes" news telecast in the U.S. a number of months back. It focused on the European Parliament, the legislative arm of the Community which was expanded--but hardly strengthened--by its first directly-elected representation in the summer of 1979.

The activities of the European Parliament hardly deal with substantive issues. On one occasion the "60-Minutes" camera panned a nearly empty assembly hall where a lone Dutch representative was arguing the "weighty" issue of how much water to permit in canned chicken!

The Common Market has not gotten much beyond wrangling over food prices and product standardization. Yet all this haggling costs an enormous amount of money simply to provide interpretation and translation of all speeches and documents into seven official languages--French, German, Italian, Dutch, English, Danish and now Greek, too.

Viewing this wasteful spectacle, the "60 Minutes" commentator, Morley Safer, asked his audience: "Where are the European greats of the past? Where are the von Bismarks, the Wellingtons, the von Habsburgs? Well, in a way they're still with us." Then the camera focused on three contemporary Euro-parliamentarians--descendants of Otto von Bismark, the Duke of Wellington, and of the Habsburg line, in the person of Dr. Otto von Habsburg. I couldn't help wondering what lessons Dr. von Habsburg is learning as he sits in parliament, day in and day out, witnessing such fruitless debates. Surely he must be thinking that this is not the way to unite Europe!

The sad state of Europe's unity drive is revealed in an excellent article in the August 8, 1981 issue of the NEW YORK TIMES. Entitled "The Impotence of Europe," it was written by Flora Lewis, the TIMES top diplomatic correspondent. Here are key excerpts:

PALAMOS, Spain--Gaston Thorn, the new President of the Common Market's Commission, is from Luxembourg. Like many Europeans, he has a vacation house in Spain, near the Costa Brava, and it is a good place to reflect on the continuing quarrels and frictions which prevent consolidation of the European Community....

Mr. Thorn is certainly well equipped for his new job. But he's in for trouble and he knows it. One of the ironies of Europe is that it keeps

turning up able, dedicated men who understand what needs to be done and can be done, and then strips them of the power to do it. The Community has provided itself with all the requisite institutions--an executive, an administration, a parliament, and a court. But they don't work with each other.

The executive is called the European Council, but in fact it is simply the representatives of member states, sometimes assembled heads of government and more often foreign ministers acting strictly on national instructions....The Council refuses to talk to the Parliament, so as to prevent its developing any pretensions of legislative power or influence. That task is left to the Commission, the administrators....In theory, the Commission is responsible to the Parliament, but the only power the legislative arm holds is to dismiss it en bloc...which they've never dared to do because it would provoke a fundamental crisis and quite possibly shatter the whole European structure.

There's nothing really new about these blockages. The house of Europe is unfinished, with shafts but no elevators, cubbyholes but no corridors, a skeleton without articulation. But like any half-made building, it risks crumbling for lack of completion....

Europe may save itself by sheer fright when it actually looks over the precipice it has been approaching for years. The United States may bring it cowering into an awareness that it must work and spend instead of pray for its security. And maybe not. [Mr. Thorn's] willingness to see the landscape rather than posture against the sky can be an important help in the hard time ahead. But the job requires the muscle of power, and not only will it not be given to him, it isn't even there to seize. That is the drama of Europe, its frustrations, its impotence, and its major problem of survival.

The idea of achieving a United Europe "by degrees" is dead. The "final ten" (Rev. 17:12) will likely arise at a time, as indicated by the above report, when Europe will have to "save itself by sheer fright." Western Europe, propelled by neutralism and pacifism, drifting away from its protector, the United States, is edging ever closer to the den of the bear. At the same time, Russia is confronted with agonizing decisions over what to do with Poland and the rest of its East European empire. Not since the days shortly before World War II has Europe been in such a state of flux. We must continue to watch all the political crosscurrents.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau