

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE (Pasadena Campus)

Ambassador College is now back in full swing after the Feast. This week's classes will end the first quarter of the college year--i.e. will bring us to the mid-semester point.

It was encouraging to many of us faculty members to meet and talk with you ministers during the Feast of Tabernacles period. We are always happy to have your input concerning the college, and are also happy to explain what is happening at Ambassador College.

We were very encouraged to see that the "Festival '81" film shown was well received at all Feast sites. Mr. Armstrong recently told me that he really enjoyed "Festival '81." We are, in fact, now in the planning stages of next year's "Festival '82." Yesterday, Ellis LaRavia, Joe Tkach, Larry Omasta, Ross Jutsum and a few others of us got together to discuss various points relative to the production of next year's festival film. This is quite a production and requires much thoughtful planning, scheduling, etc.

We had a very good response to the 1981 ENVOY. We have already sold approximately 13,000 copies. We still have a number of orders to fill. Plans are now being made to publish a 1982 ENVOY which, with more direct input from Mr. Armstrong, should be even better than this year's ENVOY.

Recently, I received an encouraging letter from Mr. C. S. Kelly (Festival Elder in Malaysia) regarding the input of the Ambassador College students during the Feast. The third group of Ambassador College students are now nearing the completion of their six-month's stint of teaching duty in Thailand. They have been teaching English to the refugees, and also have been imparting knowledge concerning Western culture. This will enable the refugees to adapt more easily when they are relocated in a Western nation--mostly in English-speaking countries.

I thought it might be worthwhile to include in the PGR a portion of Mr. Kelly's post-Feast letter to me--a letter in which he praised the good example of the Ambassador College students who attended the Malaysian Feast of Tabernacles:

The main purpose of this letter is to let you know how much I feel that the students from Thailand contributed to that turnaround.

They were true Ambassadors.

Many commented on their involvement in special music, the assistance they gave with children's games on the Family Evening, and their enthusiastic involvement in all the activities. They also went to

pains to include the local brethren in activities they themselves organised during free afternoons and evenings.

Their example has gone a long way in removing the former false impressions of Pasadena and Ambassador College which were spread by some actively trying to destroy the Church here.

It is likely that the students themselves did not realise the value of their example or just how deeply they affected the brethren here. The Churches here consist of mainly young people. For some, this Feast gave them the inspiration to stay in God's Church. For others, their interest in Ambassador College has been stirred.

This afternoon, Mr. Armstrong called a meeting of the Advisory Council of Elders to consider various matters. He plans to depart for his Mideast trip tomorrow, Wednesday, November 11th. He continues to maintain a very busy schedule of meetings, telecasts, letters and articles, Bible studies, sermons, etc. We all marvel at the way he continues to keep up such a hectic pace, but when we reflect on how he is able to do this, we are always reminded of Isaiah's prophecy:

The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator...giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint (Isa. 40:28-31).

May God continue to bless and strengthen all of you, His faithful ministers, as you diligently serve Him to the utmost of your ability.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

ALL MINISTERS TAKE SPECIAL NOTICE

Mr. Armstrong has instructed us to make a word change in the MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

On page 3 of the Marriage Ceremony the word "reverence" in the last line should be changed to "respects." This is a more accurate translation as rendered in the Revised Standard Version. Please take time now to get your ceremony book and make this correction. This section should therefore read as follows: "Let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife, see that she [respects] her husband." (Eph. 5:21-28,33)

International News

German Area Update The 1981 Feast of Tabernacles was held at the sites of Bonndorf, in West Germany's famed "Black Forest" and Brno, Czechoslovakia.

As at other Feast sites around the world, God truly poured out His Spirit of harmony and love on these locations. Visiting English-speaking Feastgoers were also a wonderful addition to these Feast sites. Everyone attending noticed the festive, joyous and edifying unity of the "greatest Feast ever."

Total attendance was 745 at Bonndorf and 245 at Brno, which represents a 37% increase in attendance over 1980. The total offering from both sites amounted to DM 97,226 (\$44,193), which reflects an increase of 33% over last year. Also, eight people were baptized at this year's Feast.

On October 19, during this year's Feast, Germany's well-known news magazine, DER SPIEGEL, published a full-page ad with a glued-on postcard advertising The PLAIN TRUTH magazine in five languages. Already by November fifth we had received 16,430 requests for The PLAIN TRUTH magazine in one of the five languages. Based on previous ads in DER SPIEGEL, we now estimate a total of 20,000 to 24,000 requests by the end of January 1982.

New Zealand/Pacific News All four Feast sites in this part of the world reported an exceptionally profitable and inspiring Feast of Tabernacles--unquestionably the best Feast ever! The registration figures were as follows:

Rotorua, NZ	768	+ 1.6%
Queenstown, NZ	338	+ 7.3%
Fiji	170	+21.4%
Tonga	45	- 6.2%
	<u>1,321</u>	<u>+ 4.9%</u>

Brethren in Tonga were able to hear Mr. Armstrong's First Holy Day message live by means of an international telephone hookup, and brethren in the other three sites received the message by videotape. Visiting U.S. minister, Mr. Richard Rice, spoke at the Rotorua and Queenstown sites, and his inspiring sermons were greatly appreciated. Regional Director, Mr. Peter Nathan, was able to attend the Rotorua, Queenstown and Fiji sites. The sermons given by God's ministers provided a magnificent spiritual feast, and excellent weather in all sites helped make the Feast physically uplifting as well.

Offerings on the two Holy Days posted increases of 29.9% and 25.7% respectively, bringing the combined total for all the 1981 Holy Day offerings to an increase of 32.6% over the 1980 figure.

Meanwhile, back in Auckland, mail kept coming into the office. During October, 6,000 items were received in response to our newspaper flyers advertising The PLAIN TRUTH. This promotion has now been completed and replaced by a new thrust comprising full-page, full-color PLAIN TRUTH ads in THE NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, THE NEW ZEALAND WOMAN'S WEEKLY and the local edition of TIME magazine. Responses to these ads are just beginning to come in.

Appreciation for the Ministerial Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I have returned from the second to the last session of the Ministerial Refresher Program--the 14th session.

I am not writing just because almost everybody else who has been through the course has written. I know that there is almost nothing else I could add after all those letters of praise, appreciation and gratitude. Nevertheless, my wife and I would simply like to bare some of our feelings and thoughts to you.

We honestly feel that God has directly inspired you to institute the MRP. Unlike the ministerial conferences of the recent past where so many hundreds of ministers gather for a few days, here we have a much smaller group spending more time together helping them get to know each other better in very fruitful, edifying and unifying sessions handled by men loyal to you and faithful to Christ.

It has been my dream in my youth to be able to go through Ambassador College. This opportunity, in a way, was a realization of that dream!

Leaving our three little children, ages six, three and six months, halfway around the world was never easy--especially so since our second child and first son had been very grievously ill for over six months then. But we told God that we are willing to do anything He asks us to do.

However, God decided to take our dear son while we were away. We were just deeply grateful that His hand was with us in all this. We asked Him to stabilize our sick son's condition before we were to leave for the course to give us that much needed peace of mind to concentrate on the course. He mercifully did. He took our son when the course was through and we were about ready to go home. Although we did not see our son alive anymore, we arrived in time to bury him.

The experience we had at Pasadena headquarters, at the college, at the refresher program, and the concern of fellow ministers and their wives; and on top of all those, God's people, did a lot to help us weather this great trauma and crisis in our life and forge ahead with even greater zeal and dedication--helping you get God's people ready for the coming of our King!

Bien and Zeny Macaraeg

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Irene and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the privilege of attending the refresher program. We appreciate the work and dedication of everyone who made it the success that it was.

We returned to French Montreal filled with enthusiasm and zeal, and much better equipped to do our job. To see the respectful attitude of the students and the unity and dedication of everyone was inspiring to say the least.

Please extend our thanks and salutations to Mr. Armstrong and be sure to tell him we are 100% behind him and more appreciative than ever for our calling and our part in God's great Work.

Charles and Irene Mayer

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Greetings from the Philippines! It has been a month since the completion of the 15th session of the Ministerial Refresher Program.

We extend our thanks to you and the team of dedicated and loyal men in the program for having truly "refreshed" us with the "basics." And most of all we like to express our deepest appreciation to Mr. Armstrong who has been inspired by God to institute the program.

The opportunity to attend the last session, and the attendant benefit to travel out of the country for the first time is one of the best third tithe year blessings we received from God this year. (The other was being blessed with a daughter after two sons.) We've gained a lot of spiritual knowledge and understanding, formed warm friendships with fellow ministers from other parts of the world, as well as savored the atmosphere of warmth and unity at the college and the Headquarters Church.

My wife Ligaya and I join the rest of the ministers and their wives in saying again, "Thank you," the program has been most valuable in bringing the ministry and the Church in unity with Mr. Armstrong, Jesus Christ and God.

Victor and Ligaya Lim

Impressed with Importance of S.E.P.

Mr. Tkach:

Thank you for the opportunity of serving at SEP this summer. Gwen and I were both impressed by the quality of the children this year and the strong spirit of cooperation the staff showed throughout the summer. We saw that SEP is really a vital part in the training of the Church's youth and that it does have a positive effect on "our kids." In short, we were happy to be able to have a part!

Dave and Gwen Register

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

As another dynamic and eventful year in God's Work swiftly nears completion, PLAIN TRUTH circulation continues to skyrocket! More new subscribers have been added to the computer files in the first ten months of 1981 than in any other single year in the history of the Work! The PLAIN TRUTH is growing so rapidly in circulation that we now rank among the top circulation magazines in the country. Currently, we are the 18th largest in worldwide circulation, just behind TIME magazine (4.4 million).

Our church members in the United States have done an extremely impressive and admirable job in contributing to this dramatic rise in circulation growth. Already, in 1981, newsstand circulation in the U.S. has risen 44%! Members are distributing 515,000 more magazines per month now than they did at the beginning of the year.

Members have telephoned over 400,000 libraries and waiting rooms (adding 100,000 of these to the subscription file) and have distributed almost 1,000,000 card-holder cards (adding 31,000 new subscriptions).

Mr. Armstrong is pleased with all circulation programs now in progress. Please relay our thanks to all the brethren in your congregations involved in these programs. Many new developments are in store for 1982. Hold on to your hats--it looks like a tremendous new year ahead!

Newsstand Program Inspires Involvement in Work

Mr. Steven Botha, Pastor of the Charleston, Parkersburg and Huntington, West Virginia Church areas recently sent the following memo to Mr. Joseph Tkach of Ministerial Services:

Warmest greetings from West Virginia! Thought you might be interested in something I have noticed in the new Church in Huntington, West Virginia.

Over the years I have had the privilege of starting several new Churches. Most seem to take some time to develop their own "identity" as a Church congregation. The Huntington Church, in contrast, has developed an identity very quickly. There seems to be a tremendous sense of camaraderie and friendship, even though the people came from three previous Church areas.

I began wondering why this is and concluded that one factor was The PLAIN TRUTH newsstand program.

We have had tremendous success! For example, we added six outlets in just one week. Everybody seems to be involved and there really seems to be a feeling of helping to do the Work in supporting Mr. Armstrong.

Letters From Readers Who Saw Newsstand PT

I would be utterly grateful if you would send me all the helpful literature such as the Ambassador College Correspondence Course and Kingdom of God booklet, etc. to my new address which I am enclosing.

I ran across The PLAIN TRUTH sample in an airport and found it so full of the truth I couldn't believe it, and since then became a subscriber. I welcome each issue with open heart and can hardly put it down.

M.G.

I have been receiving The PLAIN TRUTH for over a year now. I also frequently request other literature from you. In all this time you have never once failed to send me what I requested.

When I first requested your magazine, I expected to get a letter every month begging for money, as so many of the evangelists send these days. But I have been pleasantly surprised that you have never once asked for money.

I see your magazine everywhere, on college campuses, etc. I can't tell you how wonderful it is that you provide your literature at no cost. I am totally impressed by this. Your literature has helped my spiritual growth enormously as I'm sure it has millions of others.

S.B.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

MAIL PROCESSING CENTER UPDATE

Weekly Radio Response Increases

Since the latter half of July, the Work's toll-free number has been given on the radio broadcast. As a result, the number of calls received has continued to climb. From July through September, radio response averaged 130 calls per week. However, the response in October nearly tripled! We received 370 calls per week, which is a 185% increase over the previous weeks.

Various factors undoubtedly contributed to this encouraging increase. One was that prophetic booklets were offered, such as THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY and THE BOOK OF REVELATION UNVEILED AT LAST. In addition, listeners may be getting accustomed to hearing the telephone number and therefore are more inclined to call. There is also a normal response increase at this time of the year following the summer. Also, since September twice as many radio stations carry the WATS number.

Weekly Letter Comments

Having returned from the Feast, a number of brethren wanted to share their feelings about the inspiring and enjoyable eight-day period they experienced. Following is a selection of comments from the letters we have received.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

What a Wonderful Feast!

We have just returned from the Feast in Norfolk, Virginia. What a wonderful time! It was so much needed by both of us. We greatly appreciated being able to hear you on both Holy Days. It certainly added much to our Feast. You spoke of more love in the Church--this was our sixth Feast and never have people been so warm and eager to meet and talk with one another....

We are striving to put on that spiritual armour to stand against "that wicked one" who would love to destroy us all....Thanks again for speaking to us of things we need to know and apply. Keep up the good work. We love you.

B. & L.S. (Ohiopyle, PA)

This has truly been the greatest Feast we ever spent, both physically and spiritually! I cannot put into words the great blessing that God poured out on His St. Petersburg Feast site. It went by much too fast. We are very thankful for both of Mr. Armstrong's satellite messages and his personal visit! We only hope and pray that we can put all that

we heard to work in our personal lives and grow as we have been commanded! As was repeatedly emphasized, the Church will be ready. We intend, through the power of God's Holy Spirit, to be a part of it.

B. & J.K. (Dora, AL)

I have just returned from my tenth Feast of Tabernacles. This Feast had more meaning spiritually than any other Feast I have attended. God really blessed those of us in Mt. Pocono with fantastic speakers, good fellowship and beautiful weather. I have a renewed vigor to do God's Work with all my heart. I pray daily that God will open new doors so that I may serve as much as I can.

M.D. (Timonium, MD)

This year the Feast was so good. The feeling of love and being in one accord seemed to be there for the first time since the early 60's. It was great and a foretaste of the way it will be in the World Tomorrow.

M.S. (San Jose, CA)

We want to thank you so much for making our Feast in Mt. Pocono such a wonderful eight-day period. The sermons, the opportunities to serve, the Philadelphian love, and especially the realization that Christ's Kingdom is drawing so near made us enjoy what, without a doubt, was our "best Feast ever"!

Thank you for implementing the satellite transmissions. I don't know if you can grasp the beautiful feeling we had, being a part of so many thousands listening, as one, to God's apostle. The rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus in the Ambassador Auditorium was the most awe-inspiring ever.

Mr. & Mrs. M.W. (Westlake, OH)

We are truly exhilarated after this year's Feast. Our warmest thanks to you and all the team for your efforts. The twelve sermons we heard at St. Petersburg were twelve of the best we have ever heard! My husband and I agree that they will enable us to deepen our spiritual growth this winter. We have never felt so blessed--God is truly using this Church to help us all be ready for His Son's return.

J. & L.B. (McMillan, MI)

This has been my best Feast of Tabernacles! I attended the feast at Squaw Valley. The scenery was breathtaking and the sermons were inspiring. We did have meat in due season. I also experienced the outgoing concern and love of the brethren, just as you have taught us to have for one another....

I know that God is with you and has blessed you and His Church. A man of your age, having experienced heart failure, cannot do what you are doing if God is not blessing him both physically and spiritually. God has answered my prayer; He has strengthened you. Continue to lead us and teach us God's way.

G.P. (San Jose, CA)