

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT



TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. 4, NO. 7

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 12, 1982

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

News From Germany All the Churches here were excited over the 20,000 new PT subscribers resulting from our January flyer campaign in three major daily newspapers. Everyone is praying that our present subscriber list of 90,000 will yield new laborers to send into the harvest.

This month some 840,000 PLAIN TRUTH flyers were distributed by Germany's best known national daily newspapers. On January 19th, 280,000 flyers appeared in the SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, on the 20th 182,000 in DIE WELT, and on the 21st, 380,000 in the FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG (FAZ). Just over two weeks later (5th of February) some 24,571 requests for The PLAIN TRUTH in one of the five languages have been received. In January a record breaking total of 19,692 new subscribers were added to the German-language file as a result of the advertising campaign.

The month of January proved to be an outstanding start for 1982. Although we had a good month for mail in January, 1981, the mail this year showed a 165% increase over last year.

Members closely followed Mr. Armstrong's trip to the Far East. His safety as well as his effectiveness in preaching the Gospel are obviously very high up on people's prayer lists.

Our lone member in Poland, Wiktor Przybylla, and his family are holding their own in the present crisis, according to reports from our brethren in East Germany. To keep the Przybyllas supplied with the many consumer items currently unavailable in Poland (including candles, matches, washing powder, canned meat, items of personal hygiene, etc.), the 12 German-language Churches alternate in sending "CARE Packages" to them every week.

French-language News Mr. Armstrong's television program began in Belgium over Tele-Luxembourg at 11:15 p.m. on January 1st. The amount of mail received following four of the successive programs is as follows:

First program:	96 letters
Second program:	137 letters
Third program:	60 letters
Fourth program:	76 letters (mail still coming in)

Mr. Apartian is currently on a visit to the Caribbean. His itinerary includes public Bible studies in Martinique and Guadeloupe with the possibility of an interview over Radio-Caraibes in Martinique.

We have just learned that our advertisement in the magazine PERSPECTIVES in Quebec has broken all records with a whopping 5,000 responses received. We also placed an advertisement in the magazine L'ACTUALITE from which 1,476 responses have been received so far.

Statistics ending December, 1981 show we had 7,634 new subscribers to La PURE VERITE added to our list in Canada (in addition to those above) and 11,695 for the remainder of the French-speaking world, giving us a grand total of 24,819. In addition, our ministers conducted 138 baptisms world-wide.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Marge and I cannot express in words our gratitude to you and the team you selected to teach us in the first session of the second Ministerial Refreshing Program. The instruction we received brought to mind and strengthened the teaching of the doctrines of the Church you have given us through the years. We appreciated your message to us the first day. Your zeal, courage and dedication to the Work that God has given you is a continual inspiration to us.

The unity and work being accomplished by the team at headquarters is an excellent example for all the field ministers around the world to emulate. Our visit to the Mail Processing Center was an eye-opener to the growth and the potential for rapid expansion without limit in the Work of God because of the technology now in operation.

We were thankful to become acquainted with the international regional directors. To see and hear the growth of the Work of God worldwide was encouraging. We enjoyed the program of Mexican dances performed by the Spanish Church.

We know the whole refreshing program is pleasing to God, and what we learned will be used effectively in our assigned churches.

Jim and Marge Friddle

Mr. Joe Tkach:

I cannot express deeply enough my appreciation for your making it possible for me to stay for the refreshing program. It was even better than last year's. And that is saying a lot! Every session was informative and very helpful and instructive. Besides this the sessions were also personally inspiring. We have already been able to convey some of that inspiration to the brethren.

I also appreciated very much your opening remarks at the Festival Coordinator's Conference. The attitude we all need is to be close to God so God can work through us. We can't rely on ourselves.

I was greatly encouraged by the Spirit of God that was evident in all I spoke with. We give thanks to God who has made this session truly refreshing.

Steve Moody

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Our very sincere thanks to you and those responsible for the refreshing program. The trunk-of-the-tree matters so faithfully expounded in all the presentations certainly help to unify and stabilize us all.

We have benefited greatly from everything we have attended and we are encouraged and equipped now to do a better job.

Having all the regional directors come in for a conference was a very timely and necessary decision. We appreciated being together and receiving instruction, correction and guidance for our respective areas.

Roy and Tine McCarthy

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I wanted to let you know how much I appreciated the privilege of being permitted to attend the first session of the second refreshing program. Your staff at Ministerial Services really went out of their way to help in any area where help was needed.

The classes and the material covered were super. It was a real inspiring experience to sit in on these classes and be instructed by you and the other men chosen to do this. I plan to share the inspiring examples I heard with the brethren here in St. Louis, and I just hope I can convey the enthusiasm that was conveyed to me.

It was a privilege to be able to hear Mr. Armstrong and the inspiring message he had for us. Also to meet many old friends and new ones was a special treat. I enjoyed meeting the regional directors and learning more about their respective areas.

The auditorium was just beautiful, as I remembered it, and there is also a lot to say about the weather since I came back to cold weather here and two feet of snow!

Wil Malone

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

PORTLAND, ME--LEONARD HOLLADAY: Many members have commented on how much they appreciate Mr. Armstrong's tapes--they feel that they have a closer tie with him. They have also stated that the information and correction he is giving the Church is vital and needed. Please encourage Mr. Armstrong to continue these tapes--we all need them.

GRAND RAPIDS, MI--BILL MILLER: Sermons from Mr. Armstrong are very much appreciated. Correction is producing peaceable fruits of righteousness. The brethren are excited about Mr. Armstrong's trips and upcoming meetings.

CHARLOTTE, N.C.--GEORGE PINCKNEY: We are thankful for all the sermons we've been getting from Mr. Armstrong. They are very

effective in establishing us in sound doctrine and a sound approach to life in the end time. It is obvious that some have responded to Mr. Armstrong's warnings and have stirred up God's Spirit in their lives. Others still seem to be drifting, just "getting by." This theme will be the focus of my ministry for the next weeks and months. We're thankful Christ has used Mr. Armstrong to give us these vital messages.

My wife and I are excited about the next session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. We're looking forward to learning how to prepare the Church more effectively for our wedding to Christ.

FLORENCE, S.C.--PAUL KIEFFER: Mr. Waterhouse's Bible study came at an appropriate time in this area because of the recent decision on make-up. He addressed some of the comments that had been made by a few disgruntled individuals in this area. Some in this area with nonmember mates had been reluctant to step out and obey God. They are now beginning to make progress and consistently put God first when there is a conflict.

CLEVELAND (EAST), OH--GUY ENGLEBART: We are receiving more visit requests from prospective members. The people requesting visits are much more grounded in God's truth than was the case in the past. This is the fruit of Mr. Armstrong's increasing meaty and strong telecasts, broadcasts and articles. God is inspiring new people to act on the knowledge they receive.

RICHMOND, VA--KENNETH GIESE: Sorry about this late report, but I am happy to announce the birth of our third son, Michael Richard, on Monday, January 4th--office day! Thank you for the telecast in Charlottesville--the brethren are really excited!

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Newsstand Response

The good news from Publishing is that the newsstand program is still continuing to grow by leaps and bounds!

Through the diligent efforts of the pastors and their delegates in the field, the newsstand response rate is averaging three percent and more. With our present distribution, this is adding over 36,000 new readers to The PLAIN TRUTH every month.

We thought it would be especially inspiring and encouraging for you to read some of the comments from people who have picked up the magazine from the newsstand. Following is a selection of these comments, as well as a few very interesting letters from members assisting in the newsstand program. Keep up the good work!

Comments From Newsstand Readers

First, I would like to tell you what having been introduced to The PLAIN TRUTH has done for my life. I visited my doctor's

office two weeks ago and picked it up there. It has been with me ever since. I'm not much of a reader usually. Every story I read was such a spirit lifter until I found myself reading something every time I picked it up. It's great to get a hold on some plain truth in the age of nonbelievers.

S.C. (Winston-Salem, NC)

I'm so very glad that I ran across your magazine. I was at a mental clinic when my eyes caught the cover of the magazine....

G.W. (Baton Rouge, LA)

I picked up your magazine in a train station today. The PLAIN TRUTH had my fullest attention for the entire four hours which I spent traveling on the train....

D.L. (Dix Hills, NY)

Ever since the summer of 1978 I have been reading The PLAIN TRUTH from the newsstands....

E.K. (Robbinsdale, MN)

I am very glad that I picked up your sample at Hadley's, by Banning, California. The articles proved to be very interesting.

B.P. (Artesia, CA)

I picked up your magazine in the grocery store and found it very interesting....

Mrs. E.H. (Loomis, CA)

I am a retired nationwide truck driver who first read The PLAIN TRUTH magazine that was picked up at a truck stop somewhere. It has lead me to send for more and more of your publications.

L.W. (Farmland, IN)

I have been going to a doctor for the past 15 years and have never seen a PLAIN TRUTH on his table until this past week. I had left a magazine there about a month ago and now I notice he has them coming to him. He leaves them on the table so several people a day can read them. Much continued success.

P.G. (Akron, OH)

I never knew about your magazine, The PLAIN TRUTH, until I picked up a copy in a Greyhound bus station. It's very informative.

J.T. (Rhineland, WI)

It was a real surprise for me to pick up your magazine in the China Town at Philadelphia recently. I read your magazine and was impressed with the article by Mr. Donald D. Schroeder titled "Worldwide--We are Destroying the Land That Feeds Us!"

K.H. (Lancaster, PA)

While in New York last week, I saw in the Penn Station a rack with copies of your magazine. I was so amazed that anything could be free in New York City that I picked up a copy and read it on the way home. I enjoyed the magazine immensely and am interested in learning more of what you have to say. Particularly, I am

interested in THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS and PAGAN HOLIDAYS OR GOD'S HOLY DAYS--WHICH? I feel greedy to also request the book UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, but I would also like to read it. Well, send what you like. I will appreciate anything you do send.

P.F. (Provo, UT)

Letters From Members Assisting in Newsstand Program

I just thought that I would let you know how I am becoming involved with the PT distribution program--although I don't even have a newsstand. I guess you might say that my "newsstand" is my place of employment--which is one of the busiest places in Edmonton.

What I do is pre-board screening at the municipal airport in the city here. Before anyone else has a chance to come into my holding room, I take the liberty to place copies of the newsstand edition of The PLAIN TRUTH on the tables and beside the telephones. I then unlock the door, let the hoards in and observe what they do.

Some people pick up a copy, glance at it for a few seconds, then throw it down. They probably came across a word or two that they could not digest--like God, or Bible. Others seem to be quite interested, and I cannot help but overhear some of the remarks that are made. Some are favorable, while others are not. There is one thing that I've been made aware of though, Mr. Armstrong. People know about this Work! A statement to the effect of, "Let's see what Herbert Armstrong has to say today" is something I usually hear. Some joke and laugh at what they are reading--nevertheless--they ARE reading! I know that is the IMPORTANT thing!!!

P.M. (Edmonton, Alberta)

I'm the person responsible for my side of town (Casper, Wyoming) in distributing the newsstand PLAIN TRUTH and to be honest with you, I can't keep up with the demand! I mean it--I can't believe how fast it leaves the rack! I just put up one in the library and didn't expect it to go so fast, but WOW! After one week I returned to find an empty rack....

R.H. (Casper, WY)

I am a Church member and have been since Trumpets 1979. It's about an hour and a half drive to church in Alexandria. I have several PLAIN TRUTH magazine stands in my area. I thought I would write and tell you of their progress. I work for the health department and pretty well cover all the parish.

Mr. Armstrong, the Work is getting out. It's amazing how people are reading The PLAIN TRUTH. Motel owners and desk clerks tell me how they like the articles they read; also laundromat operators, barbers and grocery store managers tell me the same. They always ask me to bring them again next time. They agree that the facts of world conditions and weather conditions are the plain truth and they want to read more. They tell me of others

that ask when I am going to bring more magazines. The people are getting the message--the Message that Jesus delivered from God to the world....

C.M. (Anacoco, LA)

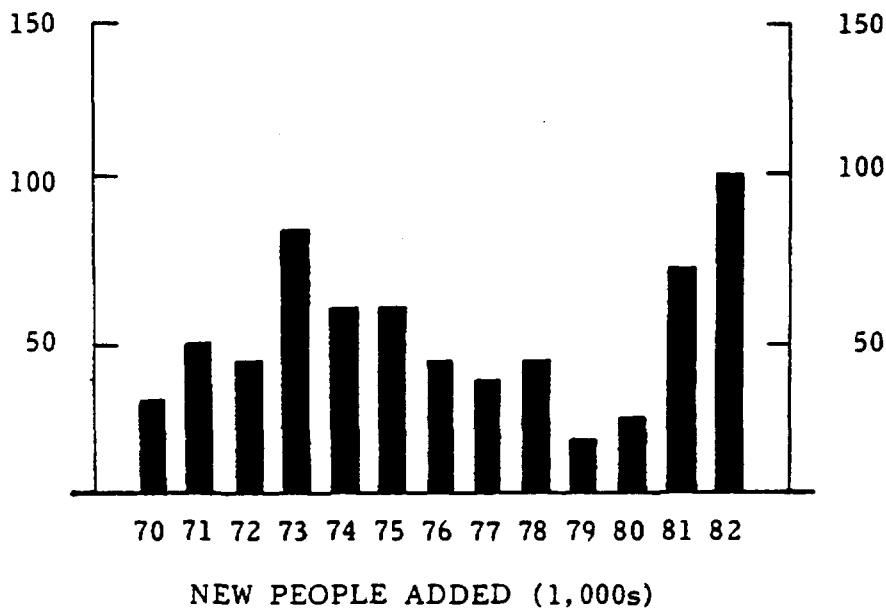
--Raymond L. Wright, Publishing Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

January Sets Brisk Pace for MPC

Last month the Mail Processing Center added 99,960 new people to The PLAIN TRUTH subscription list. This was the highest number of new people added in the first month of any year since the subscription list began in 1934. January is usually one of our lower months for adding new people. However, more people were added to the list this January alone than we had on the entire PLAIN TRUTH list until the late 50's! The number of new people added represented a 41% increase over January 1981.

Here is a graph showing the number of new people added to the subscription list during each month of January since 1970.



The three main sources of new people in January this year were PLAIN TRUTH home subscriptions, PLAIN TRUTH newsstands and television programs. These accounted for over 70% of the total.

Examples of God's Protection

Recently we received the following letter from a member showing God's miraculous protection. We thought you would find the account inspiring and encouraging.

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I sure do believe in guardian angels. I know God intervened and protected me many times while I was driving. I had some very close calls, and the miracles I have seen--there was no other answer....

On the way to the Feast, I stopped at a red light and a big truck hit me full force in the rear. The impact broke the truck's headlight and caused an oil leak. Glass was all over the rear end of my car. I got out and started to clean the glass off the rear lights--none of which were broken!..

The truck driver admitted that it was his fault as he wasn't paying attention. Another man came running over and asked if I needed a witness.... He said, "Lady, you have a mighty tough car!" I have a 1975 Plymouth Valiant. A lady from Church said God must have made the car rubber at the time of the accident--it had no damage at all!

Last winter, when I was coming home from my mother's place in a heavy snowfall, the car started to slide, then went over a bank and almost turned over. Then, all of a sudden, it went back on all four wheels. It was still running, and I continued on my way home with only a little grass on the bumper. Another time while it was raining, the car started to slide, probably because of oil on the road. I hit the guardrail full force--yet there was no damage! But I was very frightened.

I know that God has intervened for me more than once and protected me. I always pray for God's guidance and protection before I drive. There are all kinds of people out there--drunks, people on dope, impatient people, people that do not respect you or even care about themselves. They would just as soon run you down.... I always try to obey the traffic laws and have respect for other drivers. I consider my driver's license is a privilege, not a right.

H.C. (Harrisburg, PA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

RUMBLINGS IN ASIA AS RUSSIA GOES FOR A "CHOKEHOLD" It is no mere happenstance that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has been led by Christ to step up activities of God's Work throughout Asia. Political events are beginning to move swiftly throughout that vast, populated region. Showdowns between major world powers are certain to occur.

Over the entire Western Pacific basin looms a growing, prowling Soviet military presence. The Japanese and others are very concerned over the rapid expansion of the U.S.S.R.'s Far East fleet, one that challenges the once preeminent U.S. Seventh fleet. "The Russian bear," as the saying goes, "now has webbed feet." The ships of Admiral Gorshkov's navy are ranging far and wide from their traditional home waters of the Sea of Japan into the warmer climes of the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.

The fall of Vietnam was a great plus for the Soviets. Russian warships now regularly dock at the former giant U.S. base at Cam Ranh Bay. Soviet coastal patrol aircraft "monitor" heavy seaborne commerce in Southeast Asia from former U.S. air bases such as Da Nang.

The Chinese, for their part, are deeply concerned over Soviet expansionism in Asia. They are attempting to block further land conquests on the Indo-China peninsula made by the Soviet-backed forces of Vietnam. Says China's Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping: "The Soviets have a ready-made naval base at Cam Ranh Bay as well as scores of modern airfields, all provided by you Americans. If the Vietnamese, who we say are the Cubans of the Orient, succeed in Kampuchea [Cambodia], another base will be available to the Soviet Union in Sihanoukville [Kompong Som]. The Soviets actually started using these bases before the Vietnamese launched their aggression against Kampuchea."

But Chinese attempts to thwart Soviet ambitions, in turn, are not entirely welcomed by other nations in the region, such as those belonging to ASEAN--The Association of Southeast Asian Nations. ASEAN members are Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. The mainland Communist Chinese still have links, however subdued, to various Communist guerrilla groups which at times have threatened the stability of some of the smaller free Asian countries.

It's obvious that the only real power which can keep both the Soviets at bay and the Chinese in their place is the United States. But in the aftermath of Vietnam, U.S. power is no longer as credible as it once was.

The complex equation of Southeast Asia was recently discussed in an insightful interview with Singapore's Prime Minister, Lee Kwan Yew, published in the February 8, 1982 issue of U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT. The 58-year-old Lee, Singapore's only Prime Minister to date, is known for his outspoken, clear-headed geopolitical views of world affairs.

When asked what role the U.S. should be playing today in Southeast Asia, Mr. Lee responded: "The U.S. must insure that the Soviet Union--either on her own or through her surrogate, Vietnam--should not be allowed to dominate or intimidate Southeast Asia with her military might. While China can be a counterweight to keep Soviet forces tied down on her eastern borders, the balance in Southeast Asia should not be complicated by bringing Chinese forces into the equation."

The Prime Minister then remarked that, in his view, the U.S. naval presence is too thin in the region; that instead of having one fleet for both the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean, there really should be a separate one for each. "You can't have Japan and your partners in Western Europe dependent for two-thirds of their oil upon the Persian Gulf and have your fleet in such a parlous [risky] state, now that the British have withdrawn from east of the Suez," he said.

The Soviets, noted Mr. Lee, have their eyes clearly set on those areas of the world, which if they could control them, would place the free world at their mercy. We have prophetically referred to these areas as sea gates. The Soviets call them "choke points." Prime Minister Lee, once again: "The Strait of Malacca [between the Malay peninsula and the Indonesian island of Sumatra] lends this area great strategic importance. The strait is one of

the five strategic choke points of the world, besides Gibraltar, Suez, Panama and the Cape of Good Hope. They must never become 'chokable' by the Soviets."

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, in an article datelined from Malacca, Malaysia, on October 9, 1980 reported this concerning the vital Malacca sea gate area: "Over and over again Chinese spokesmen declare the Soviet Union must be blocked from its plans to seize control of the strait. If Vietnam backed by the Soviet Union consolidates control of Cambodia, they charge, the Soviet Union will be encouraged to construct a naval stranglehold on the oil-tanker clogged strait that connects the Indian Ocean with the South China Sea."

No one is more concerned about a Soviet chokehold on the Strait of Malacca than the Japanese. The passageway is the critical bottleneck on the oceanic "pipeline" that transports Middle East oil to their industries.

Japan, of course, is the giant machine that, as long as it keeps humming along, guarantees the prosperity of all of free Asia. Yet, because of the bitter memories of World War II, Japan's trading partners still want Japan to keep its distance too, at least militarily. As Prime Minister Lee puts it: "Economically, Japan is playing an important and constructive role in this region. The buoyant Japanese economy acts as a locomotive, pulling up the economies of the countries of Southeast Asia. Japan buys considerable quantities of raw materials and assembly-manufactured products from our region. We, of course, welcome that.

"A few countries in the region may be apprehensive that Japan may play too active a military role in Southeast Asian waters again. Their memories of World War II are still strong. So long as Japan confines herself to a naval role in the Western Pacific and the northern part of the China Sea and does not include Southeast Asia in her patrols, I see no cause for concern."

The key to Japan "keeping her place" is, once again, regional confidence in U.S. military power. Without it--look out! Concludes Singapore's Lee: "In the longer term, if the U.S. cannot maintain her world position as anchor man of the non-Communist world and cannot sustain Japan's confidence that America is a totally dependable ally when a grave threat appears, I fear Japan will go in for total self-defense, which must logically include nuclear weapons. That would not be in the interest of world peace and stability."

Sooner or later, a nuclear-armed Japan must appear on the scene, as loathsome as that prospect would be to the vast majority of Japanese today.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau