

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 4, NOS. 11&12*

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 19, 1982

VICIOUS ATTACK AGAINST GOD'S CHURCH

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Thursday, March 11th, the Los Angeles Times came out with a blast against the Worldwide Church of God from a letter written by former Church member and auditor Jack Kessler December 30, addressed to the Board and Council of Elders of the Church, making accusations against God's Church and its apostle personally. On Friday and Sunday the Pasadena Star News blazed forth the same attack with the same accusations.

God's Church has suffered much and long at the attacks of dissident former members "going to the public media against the Church." I have heretofore remained silent, never dignifying the allegations with a reply.

Some facts, however, have been written by the Church's attorney, Ralph Helge, which I feel you should know. His report follows.

But first let me give you a brief background, that you may see the situation in its true perspective.

Back in 1946 I realized the need of a college for the training of our own ministry and other personnel for the Work of the living God. I consulted with the Chancellor of Higher Education, over the state universities in Oregon. He agreed emphatically that education had become materialistic, having lost the true values. Though he himself was in a position over the presidents of the universities of the state, he said he was powerless to change the existing system. He envied me, because in starting even a small private and independent college, I was free to "recapture the true values."

His expression, "RECAPTURE THE TRUE VALUES" became the Ambassador College slogan.

I consulted a former boyhood Sunday schoolmate, with whom I grew up, who at that time was a Dean at the University of San Francisco. He likewise said modern education was materialistic--off the track.

Jesus Christ, through me, started Ambassador College "ON Track." He had started God's Church of the Philadelphia era, small as a grain of mustard seed at first, but "ON Track!"

The Church, College and Work grew, and GREW and GREW! --at the rate of 30% increase per year for 35 years, up to 1968. In that year King Leopold of Belgium had invited me to see him. Also in the fall of that year Prince Mikasa, brother of the Emperor of Japan, had invited me to a luncheon with him. These meetings led to a continuous series of invitations to meet other heads of state in nations around the world. And these in turn opened

the doors to carrying the true Gospel as Christ's Messenger--one "sent forth" as an apostle--to leaders in those nations.

For the next seven years I was away from Pasadena headquarters on this Great Commission up to 300 out of the 365 days of the year.

Meanwhile, leaving the day-to-day administration of the Church and College to others at Pasadena, both Church and College were getting sadly OFF TRACK. The Church was going "liberal," watering down doctrines and God's TRUTH. The College was becoming just another "rubber stamp" of this world's colleges. The faculty was being loaded with professors from outside the Church, educated in universities of this world. The evil of "tenure" was introduced in an effort to become "accredited" as one of this world's type institutions. The student body was growing beyond the numbers I had set. Illicit sex, drugs and abuses were fast entering the campus.

In August, 1977, my travels came to a sudden end with TOTAL HEART FAILURE! For many months I was bedridden. I had to learn to walk all over again. I was then living in Tucson, recuperating. I was becoming aware of what had been kept from me--the satanic state that was fast infiltrating the Church and College. I began removing some officials who were, perhaps without realizing it, being deceived by Satan, at the helm of the Work at Pasadena.

With my typewriter, from Tucson, I began PUTTING THE CHURCH AND WORK BACK "ON Track!"

I CLOSED DOWN Ambassador College as then organized and operated. I put Mr. Raymond McNair in charge as Deputy Chancellor, and we started the College all over again with a freshman class only. The "outside" faculty members were terminated--a costly procedure, for they were on "tenure."

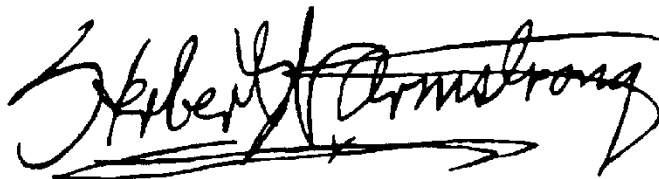
I began vigorously to put the Church back "ON TRACK" spiritually from Tucson.

By January, 1981, I began to find abuses I had surmised in supporting services to be true. I prayed seriously, fervently, earnestly and continuously for days, that God would not let me MISjudge some in leading positions of wrong doing or wrong motives, IF what began to seem apparent was not in fact true. I had placed great confidence in certain high subordinates.

But as the living Christ led me, it became apparent that in putting God's Work back on track, certain personnel changes must be made in the supporting services, as well as spiritual.

I found it necessary to return to the home in Pasadena and take personal charge at headquarters.

I will let Mr. Helge's report relate the facts from there.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert H. Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO JACK KESSLER'S ACCUSATIONSBrief Background of "Leaked" Letter's Author

The "leaked" letter of Jack Kessler now requires we also respond to the media. We had hoped this would not be necessary. We had hoped to restrict our explanation of Kessler's accusations to the Church's ministry and membership. The following will at least furnish some background facts which will aid in putting the "leaked" letter into perspective.

Jack Kessler, while employed by the Church, found time to acquire his Certified Public Accountant credentials. He also achieved the highest exam grade in California on the CPA exam. Later he was added to the accounting firm which became Rader, Cornwall & Kessler. He later became an attorney. Then there was the law firm of Palazzo & Kessler. Then there was the accounting firm of Rader, Cornwall, Kessler & Palazzo. Then there was the law firm of Rader & Kessler. Then there was the accounting firm of Kessler & Kessler. The names of the other parties are only mentioned as a matter of fact in order to identify them.

You must wind your way through this twisted path in order to determine if Mr. Kessler in certain letters is defending himself, other former Church officials, clients or others.

Jack Kessler, under one firm name or another, served as auditor for the Church since 1972. From time to time a wish was expressed by others, most of the time privately, but sometimes publicly, for an "independent" auditor. The expression of such a wish not only provoked a denial of a lack of "independence" but was accompanied by wrathful threats of a lawsuit. Two such examples are the lawsuits filed by Kessler during 1979 demanding in excess of \$563 million in damages.

By mentioning this matter the author does not accuse nor even suggest by doing so that Mr. Kessler was acting as anything less than an "independent" auditor. It is mentioned only to emphasize a point. As one can appreciate, such an attitude would have somewhat of a stifling effect upon any attempt to even suggest that financial conduct of certain ones in the Church, and the manner in which Mr. Kessler was handling the same, should be reviewed by anyone else.

Mr. Armstrong Acts Re: Investigation

During February 1981, after the conclusion of the State vs. Church case, Mr. Armstrong determined definitely to make higher echelon personnel changes. As a consequence, certain persons were discharged and the resignation of others was demanded and received. Other personnel changes were also made.

At this time Mr. Armstrong emphatically and unequivocally stated that he was going to "put the Church back on the track." One of the very first steps Mr. Armstrong took was to appoint a group of men as the Advisory Council of Elders. Responsible men and ministers in the Church who have proven loyal and faithful to the Church over the years. Men whom the ministry and the congregations respected. Men whose word would be above reproach. Men that Mr. Armstrong felt could act independently.

One of their primary responsibilities was to commence an investigation of past conduct in the Church. This commission read:

Take whatever steps are necessary in order to become fully knowledgeable of all the phases and facets of the legal, financial and other secular aspects of the Church, and all its affiliated organizations, so that they may be better able to advise and recommend regarding the same.

It is interesting to note that in other letters sent by Jack Kessler, he is threatening to sue some of the very men that Mr. Armstrong commissioned to conduct the investigation.

First Investigatory Steps

One of the first steps of the investigation was the retention of the outside law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, one of the largest and most respected law firms in the nation. Their reputation is above reproach, therefore, no one would successfully be able to claim that they collaborated in a cover up of any illegal matters that came to their attention.

A commensurate step was to initiate discussions between the new executive and financial personnel of the Church and Arthur Andersen, the outside auditors who had already been retained. They are one of the largest and most respected accounting firms in the nation whose findings would also be above reproach.

First Fruits of Investigation

The very day that another person's resignation was demanded, that other person unilaterally signed a contract with the accounting firm of Kessler & Kessler, one Kessler of which was the author of the "leaked" letter. The other Kessler is his wife. The contract provided that Jack Kessler was to serve as a consultant in the furnishing of advice in the area of accounting with the Church, for a period of five years, at the tune of \$12,500 per month. An additional sum was to be paid should the demands of the Church upon his unique expertise become too taxing.

Apparently it was felt that the auditing and accounting services of Arthur Andersen, one of the world's largest accounting firms, was either not capable of handling the task, or it was necessary to have Mr. Kessler's continued involvement for other reasons.

The contract was immediately delivered to the Accounting Department with instructions to commence issuing checks to the Kessler firm. Two such checks were issued. Once the Church investigation uncovered the Kessler contract, the checks were ordered stopped. Mr. Kessler was advised that the Church did not consider the contract binding upon it and refused to honor the same.

The newspaper reports that Mr. Kessler does not know why he was excommunicated and suggested it might be because of his "friendship with Mr. Rader" or because of his "unwillingness to lie about Stanley Rader." Mr. Kessler omits his accusing the Church of "treachery" because it refused to honor the five-year contract.

It appears now that the decision not to honor his contract was not only legally and financially sound but providential. For now we must ask the question, if the Church had honored it, would some other person be accusing the Church today of "bribery" to prevent the leaking of the accusations in the "leaked" letter?

Further, it seems appropriate to comment here that the Church did not and does not have to request lies from anyone. The Church does not need to deal in lies. The Church is only interested in attempting to document the actual facts so as to defend itself from the false accusations of its accusers.

One of the first areas of inquiry with Arthur Andersen was to seek their advice as to the appropriateness of financial expenditures between the Church and the Ambassador Foundation. The commencement of the inquiry must have touched a nerve because promptly a fiery telex was received from Jack Kessler. As of March 1, 1981, he certainly felt there was no basis for the "leaked" letter accusations because he stated:

The question was asked whether they thought there was any impropriety in the Church's giving funding to the Foundation in order for the Foundation to carry on its activities....To me it's embarrassing for Church officials to wonder aloud whether we're committing some major fraud of this nature. There was no need to ask Arthur Andersen what they thought since they have just given us completely unqualified opinions two years in a row.

It is surprising he now chooses to ignore the exonerating effect of Arthur Andersen's two years of "unqualified opinions."

The Church's investigation also uncovered a matter that caused it grave concern. It uncovered the existence of two corporations in Nevada that had ostensible legal authority to appoint a successor to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong in the event of his inability to govern the Church. Neither Mr. Armstrong, nor the ministers whom he looked to for aid in spiritually guiding the Church, nor I, who served as house counsel for the Church for years, had any knowledge of these two corporations. There has been absolutely no satisfactory documented legal evidence that any of such persons would have had any legal control whatsoever of these corporations.

Jack Kessler was one of the attorneys who created these corporations and who was named as a Director of one of them. The other Directors were people in his office who were not members of the Church. Only after the many demand letters by the Church upon Mr. Kessler or his associates, attempting to effectuate the immediate dissolution of these corporations, and only after many dilatory responses, and only after the preparation of the pleadings by the Church of a lawsuit to force their dissolution, were documents received from Mr. Kessler's office which permitted the dissolution of the two corporations without the need of filing a lawsuit.

Church Attempts at Recovering Its Property

Demands were then made to commence recovering of all corporate monies, records and property from Mr. Kessler and some of the former officials and employees. An accounting was requested from Jack Kessler for Church monies that were in his possession. In due time a statement was received from one of Mr. Kessler's firms, which sought to account for \$150,000 of the funds

that had come into his possession on behalf of the Church. After deducting expenditures on behalf of the Church, including a claim for attorney's fees in the sum of \$28,562.50, he conceded there was \$13.82 due the Church. It was necessary that another demand go out to him asking for a breakdown of the services justifying said fee.

A demand was also made that the thousands of dollars of law books the Church had purchased and that were in the library in the Century City office should be returned to the Church. Mr. Kessler responded, castigating Mr. Armstrong for even suggesting that they should be returned. He contended that a former official of the Church had a right to have the books remain there, under his contract, so he could furnish advice if and when he was called upon to do so. The Church considers this as a totally untenable excuse. As of this date the books have still not been returned.

A demand for an accounting was also made against the assistant of one of the persons whose resignation was demanded. The demand was for an accounting for expense money during a trip overseas. It was in the approximate sum of \$43,000. Response then came from the assistant that if he was not reinstated to the Church, reinstated to the position previously held by him, given full back salary, an apology made by Church officials, etc., etc., that he would disclose a rumor of a confidential nature.

Upon a refusal to be intimidated, a second demand for an accounting was sent. A letter was then received from Jack Kessler saying that he was representing the assistant. He then demanded after serving as auditor of the Church's books for eight years, the right to look at the Church's books. He claimed the assistant could easily account for the money but as of this date no accounting has been seen, much less the return of any of the monies.

Interesting Observations

It is interesting to note that the divine light revealing the alleged facts giving rise to Jack Kessler's accusations in his "leaked" letter came after all the foregoing events.

The newspapers quote Mr. Kessler as remorsefully stating that no Church official has seen fit to contact him regarding his "leaked" letter. Mr. Kessler apparently failed, however, to mention that he was contacted by Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher as attorneys for the Church. He failed to mention their ardent requests for the backup information and documentation supporting his accusation, if there be any. He failed to mention his two short, sarcastic responses. Our attorneys had attempted to work with Mr. Kessler. They extended a willing hand, but unfortunately that hand remains empty of any evidence of the accusations in the "leaked" letter.

For the record it should be noted that immediately upon receiving Jack Kessler's letter which was later leaked, the letter was delivered to the firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. The auditing firm of Arthur Andersen was also given a copy of the "leaked" letter. Investigation and review of the accusations were undertaken by both organizations.

In the more recent news announcements, Mr. Kessler is also quoted as suggesting that some of the Church officials who received the letter "leaked" it. The modus operandi was predictable and I had already admonished the Board of Directors to be certain not to disclose or exhibit the letter to any one.

In Mr. Kessler's accusations an incorrect statement he makes regarded Mr. Armstrong's salary. This will be explained in the next PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT. It is interesting to note that this exact erroneous figure has appeared in another section of the country in which a Church-related problem is occurring.

Another point interesting to note is that in September of 1981, Mr. Kessler expressed a desire to continue service to the Church. His letter at that time made no mention of any of the accusations in the "leaked" letter. It would certainly seem to be improper to assume that Mr. Kessler possessed the facts underlying his horrendous accusations at that time. Therefore, if we conclude he had no such facts we must then assume that he fell heir to all such facts some time between September 1981 and December 1981. Therefore, the question is when, where and how did he receive such a divine light?

Accusations Suspect by Possible Motives

Most all the accusations in the "leaked" letter appear to be of ancient origin. This was even conceded to by a Deputy Attorney General who was quoted in the newspaper as saying that Kessler's charges "are the type of financial transactions that our suit was concerned with." What prompted their resurrection? Could it have been the fact of the Church's own investigation?

Is it possible that some of the motives behind the "leaked" letter are to engender such harassment that former dismissed personnel would be, along with Mr. Kessler, drafted back into the ranks of the Church with its financial blessings?

Could it be possible that a motive would be to create an ostensible furor of problems? A furor so great it would prove beyond a doubt that the Church could only have achieved its present position of power and prestige due to the acumen of some of the formerly discharged persons? Could it be to prove that without the presence of these persons constantly at the ship's helm the ship is bound for inevitable destruction?

At this point of time we do not purport to suggest any answer to these questions or impute any motives. Time and truth will themselves do this.

Time does not permit the type of response the accusations call for. Therefore, such responses shall follow.

--Ralph K. Helge, Legal Office

IS MR. TKACH "BOSS?"

by Herbert W. Armstrong

One local pastor called me at my home to ask whether Mr. Joseph Tkach is really "boss" over the field ministry.

I have placed Mr. Tkach in a sensitive position which could bring embarrassment and even persecution to him. I think it's time I make his position CLEAR so all of you can UNDERSTAND!

Those who could have been conspiring to "take over" the Church have accused Mr. Tkach of that very thing, but you will notice that he is still in his position. Jesus said we shall know them "by their fruits." And as His instrument, thus I evaluate. They accused others in supervision over the ministry used the office to try to take over the whole Work, implying the accusation without basis that Mr. Tkach was trying to do the same thing. He is still IN--they are out.

Mr. Tkach is supervisor or director over MINISTERIAL SERVICES. He is there as a SERVANT! A servant under WHOM? Under you ministers to serve YOU? NO! A servant under me, as I am a servant under Christ. I serve Christ as His instrument whom He uses. Mr. Tkach serves me as my instrument in directing you whom I use.

Mr. Raymond McNair is Deputy Chancellor of Ambassador College, administering the College UNDER and FOR me, as I administer it and the whole Work UNDER and FOR Christ as His instrument. But I do leave most of the administration of the College in Mr. McNair's hands, just as I leave most of the administration of the ministry in Joseph Tkach's hands. But Mr. McNair is NOT free to CHANGE POLICIES, or initiate his own new ideas or policies. He is on the job to administer MY policies and directions, as I am an instrument CHRIST uses in SETTING and DETERMINING the policies of the whole Work and the direction it shall take.

Am I IN AUTHORITY over the Church and the Work? As long as I faithfully and loyally carry out CHRIST'S will--HIS policies and directions--yes. So Mr. Tkach is in authority over you ministers as MY SERVANT, carrying out MY orders and policies, as I carry out CHRIST'S, and as Christ carries out those of GOD the Father who is the HEAD of Christ! So it is a CHAIN of authority, starting with God the Father!

WHY should so many be confused about this? Bob Rice is janitor in the Hall of Administration, and the ONLY one over the executive fourth floor because we have confidence in his INTEGRITY. But he has no authority to set executive policies enacted from the executive office.

His brother Richard Rice is director of the very prestigious and important Mail Processing Department. But he administers it FOR and UNDER me, as I administer the WHOLE Work for and under Christ as HIS INSTRUMENT!

Perhaps much of the MISunderstanding has come from the fact that there have been men in supervision over the ministry who made themselves sole boss. One, in 1974, in collusion with another high officer at headquarters and a number of field ministers, conspired to TAKE OVER the WHOLE CHURCH. Another, as Executive Vice President, shut off everybody over him, virtually making himself head of the whole Work, while JESUS CHRIST was then, and still is, HEAD of the whole Work.

The trouble comes when one in a subordinate office tries to SHUT OFF all authority over him. A local minister can try to do this, and "TAKE OVER" his local church, stealing it for himself, setting up by and through it his own work. Some years ago a managing editor of The PLAIN TRUTH wanted to make it a "spinoff"--a separate "business" of his own. But he was above-board about it in that he proposed it to us, under terms of which the Church would pay all the finances but he would do all the spending.

Mr. Tkach does not "own" the ministry and run it his own way apart from the one Christ put over him. But he does relieve my time by taking a mountain of work and reports and conversation with you ministers off my hands, freeing me to write, broadcast, preach around the world, make all major decisions, and, UNDER Christ, direct the WHOLE WORK as the living Jesus Christ directs and uses me as His INSTRUMENT. And as GOD THE FATHER directs Him!

I have direct access to God the Father. So do YOU! You have direct access to me, at any time--BUT I do thank you fellows and wives that you UNDERSTAND that Mr. Tkach is relieving my time, and that you bring things to me personally when really necessary.

LET ME SAY WITH EMPHASIS THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE ABOUT 1968 WE ARE VIRTUALLY BACK ON TRACK, AND ALL IS PEACE AND HARMONY AND A SPIRIT-LED TEAM WORK AND COOPERATION HERE AT HEADQUARTERS!

* * * * *

WHILE SATAN ACCUSES, GOD SPEEDS
UP BLESSING HIS WORK

FROM: Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center
DATE: March 9, 1982
SUBJECT: Mail Processing Update

FEBRUARY CONTINUES PACE SET IN JANUARY

The Work of God is continuing to increase at an accelerated rate for 1982! Following are some of the latest trends.

1. Record 195,000 New People

A total of 195,000 new people were added to the subscription list in January and February. This is an all-time record for the first two months of any year since we began keeping records.

2. 74% Increase in U.S. PLAIN TRUTH Subscriptions

PLAIN TRUTH subscriptions now number 1.6 million, for the U.S. only, which is 74% over last year's year-to-date count. (In addition, 1.3 million newsstand issues are distributed each month.)

3. Major Increases in Mail and Phone Calls

Mail stands at 46% increase year to date. 641,250 letters had been received by the end of February.

Phone calls for the two months total 98,920--a 261% increase over last year.

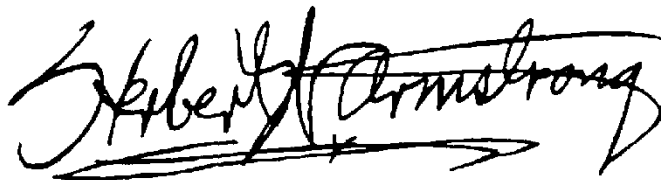
By combining letters and calls the Work has received over 740,000 responses in the first two months of 1982. This compares to a total of 465,000 for the same period in 1981.

4. Final Results for the December Semiannual Letter

In December the semiannual letter was sent to 1.3 million subscribers. This was the second largest mailing in the history of the Work.

Contributions--Money sent in with the responses to this letter reached an all-time high--33% higher than the previous high set back in 1968.

Literature--The new booklet, NEVER BEFORE UNDERSTOOD--WHY HUMANITY CANNOT SOLVE ITS EVILS, brought 153,000 requests; sample copy of YOUTH 82--115,000 requests; UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY--107,000 requests. The response to the U.S. booklet is exceptional considering that it has been extensively advertised in all the Work's media programs.



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Atlanta Brethren Encouraged by Mr. Armstrong's Visit

(The following report comes from Mr. Harold Lester, pastor of the Atlanta Church.)

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's visit to Atlanta on February 27th was extremely well received! Excitement ran very high--it was the highlight of the history of this Church.

Mr. Armstrong's message explaining about the two trees in the Garden of Eden and the importance of our training received through the Church is still being discussed. He stressed the need for God's Church and his delivery was warm and personable.

I sensed none of the hero worship attitude, but rather an attitude of deep love and respect for a loyal, dedicated servant of God. The members came to hear Mr. Armstrong's sermon and to apply it in their lives.

We had anticipated approximately 3,500 to attend--actual attendance was 2,706. The lower attendance was due to bad weather conditions in South Carolina, north Georgia, and Tennessee.

On a personal note, I can't describe how much I enjoyed and profited from the contact I had with Mr. Armstrong. The drive from and return to the airport was a real delight. You can just feel the love, warmth, and concern as it flows from God's servant. Please convey our deepest thanks to Mr. Armstrong for all the love, concern, and extra effort that he puts forth for God's Church and its members.

The ministers meeting with Mr. Armstrong was warm and open. Mr. Armstrong brought us up to date on the Work of God. He appeared as a loving parent encouraging all of us to let God work in and through us. Many local elders had never seen or heard Mr. Armstrong in person and were made to feel even more a part of this Work of God.

The visit of God's apostle provided great incentive for the members of God's Church to press on toward the Kingdom of God. He left all of us enthused and desirous of working with him under Christ's guidance to finish the job God has given us to do.

Y.O.U. Track

The Y.O.U. Calendar mentions "before May 10" as the date for district track, and "before May 24" as the date for regional track. Please be aware of these dates and work with the district and regional coordinators in your area to make the track season a successful one.

Ribbons for district track have already been mailed to the district coordinators. Medals for regional track are currently being made.

The men named below have agreed to coordinate the regional event:

Region 1: Lloyd Briggie	Region 5: Briscoe Ellett
Region 2: Garvin Greene	Region 6: Jim Reyer
Region 3: Marc Masterson	Region 7: Ron Howe
Region 4: Dave Havir	Region 8: Roger Foster

Please contact these men for details on regional track, and your district coordinator for details on district track.

It is not crucial that outlying church areas go to "their" region's track meet when another is substantially closer. However, when an area jumps regions in track, both the regional coordinators involved and the national office should be advised.

Ordering Ministerial Business Cards

The statement in the last PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT concerning the ordering of ministerial business cards needs some clarification. The field ministers should continue to order business cards using the Ministerial Supply Request form as has been done in the past. These requests will be forwarded to Purchasing once they are received in Pasadena.

Concerning the timing of orders for business cards, the Purchasing Department wants to handle all routine requests on a quarterly basis with orders being submitted on January 1st, April 1st, July 1st and October 1st. This will enable Purchasing to get a better price by having larger quantities to order. To make this system work the field ministry will have to anticipate their need for business cards and place their requests prior to these dates so as to avoid running out.

If someone in the field ministry is transferred to a new area or has a sudden need for more business cards, they can be ordered on an urgent basis. In this case the business cards will be printed up as soon as possible without waiting for the routine ordering date.

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

If you are contacted by Darrel Pollard, please contact Mr. Jim Reyer before taking action of any kind.

New "QUESTION AND ANSWER" Section

Another important step has been taken in maintaining harmony and unity in the ministry and Church by "speaking the same thing."

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong recently approved a "QUESTION AND ANSWER" section for the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT in which most-often-asked questions by the ministry can be answered. Every question and answer that appears will have been read and approved personally by Mr. Armstrong. We hope to be able to maintain this new feature in each issue of the PGR. Following are the first two Q & A features.

QUESTION: What should I do if a member cannot physically wash another's feet for Passover?

ANSWER: When you can't, you can't, any more than the thief could have gotten down from the cross, been baptized, and gotten back up. Jesus left us an example. The important thing is the attitude and intent to obey God. If the person were physically able, he surely would do it. God is looking for the understanding and the intent of mind of the individual.

A person in this situation, who can't physically wash another's feet, should, however, allow someone to wash his feet if this is possible, thereby taking part in the service to the extent that he can.

QUESTION: I noticed in the live audio-visuals from Pasadena during the Feast of Tabernacles that three hymns were sung to begin each service. While in Pasadena for the Festival Coordinators' Meetings and MRP-2, I noticed that only two were used. What is the prescribed number to be used?

ANSWER: Normally three hymns should be sung to begin services. However, from time to time, because of time constraints or other considerations, it would be acceptable to sing two.

International News

German Area Update Regional Director Mr. Frank Schnee returned from the first session of the new Refreshing Program at the beginning of February. Big news for ministers assembled for a debriefing in Bonn was his announcement that Mr. Paul Kieffer, his wife Monika and their two children will be returning to serve in the German-speaking area at the beginning of April.

Mr. Kieffer will replace Local Elder Alfred Hellemann, who has been responsible for our four churches in Austria and Bavaria. Mr. Hellemann and his family will transfer to Hannover at the beginning of the summer to begin serving the North German churches of Hannover, Hamburg and Berlin. Preaching Elder Victor Root and his family will transfer at that time to the Mannheim-Ludwigshafen area to pastor the churches in Darmstadt and Stuttgart. (This area has been served since last summer by ministers traveling there from the Bonn office.)

Preparations for the Spring Feast continued during February. Passover will be held at 11 different locations in East and West Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Brethren will then travel on Passover day to five central locations to keep the beginning of the Days of Unleavened Bread together. As in 1981, the sites of Hankensbittel in North Germany, Eltville in the Rhineland, Salzburg (Austria), Zurich (Switzerland) and Muhleiten (East Germany) will be used. All-day services will be held on the first holy day as well as on the weekly Sabbath, April 10; morning services will be held on Friday, April 9, with the afternoon free. Social events, including a dance, will be held during the evenings as well as on Sunday morning before departure.

The second high day will be held at five other locations in order to spread the driving distances members have to travel a bit more evenly.

Keeping the beginning of the Spring Feast together belongs to the pleasant traditions of the German-language area. As most congregations still do not have weekly Sabbath services due to lack of manpower, brethren really look forward to the time they can all be together at the Spring Feast!

MAIL: The month of February showed another substantial increase in mail over last year. Total mail was up 100% over February, 1981--mainly as a result of replies coming in from our flyer advertising in January. In the past two months of 1982 nearly half as much mail has been processed as had been for the entire year of 1981! To date 50,036 cards and letters have been processed as compared to 119,285 pieces of mail in 1981. And 1982 has only just begun!

An unforeseen blessing from the flyer advertising was the request from HORZU magazine to run our ad. This most popular and best known TV magazine has a circulation of over four million and is widely read (more than 12 million) throughout the German-language areas of Europe.

Upon seeing our flyer in a daily newspaper, they requested us to do the same in their magazine. Just as in the case of DER SPIEGEL, the same full-page ad will appear in the March 19th edition, with part of the circulation (1.1 million) having a glued-on postcard. (DER SPIEGEL has a circulation of one million and only 800,000 cards were placed on the ad, resulting in 22,000 responses so far.) God is certainly providing the increase as never before. As a result of our advertising, we expect our subscription list to reach 120,000 in June.

The staff of the International Mail Center in Pasadena has made it possible thus far to enter these many new names and addresses and keep up with this amazing growth. We are very grateful for the fine job they are doing.

French-speaking Areas Mr. Dibar Apartian has completed a very successful trip to the Caribbean. In addition to being able to meet with the brethren

at Sabbath services, he was interviewed twice by Radio Caraibes--on the 6th and 10th of February in Guadeloupe and Martinique, respectively. Mr. Apartian reports that the Churches there are stable and solidly behind headquarters. In Martinique at the Bible lecture given by Mr. Apartian, there were 255 new people in attendance, and in Guadeloupe there were 109.

Mr. Bernard Andrist, manager of the Geneva, Switzerland office, is currently touring French-speaking areas of West and East Africa. He is visiting members and prospectives in Douala, Camaroon; Kinshasa, Zaire; Bujumbura, Burundi; and Kigali, Rwanda. He will return to Geneva on March 12th.

There were 97 new people present at a public Bible study held in Paris during the month of January; 66 new people were present on February 1st and 43 more recently attended the fifth Bible study given in 1982 by Mr. Sam Kneller, pastor of the Paris Church.

Mr. Armstrong's television program on Tele-Luxembourg continues to bring good results. It now averages between 60-70 letters per telecast.

Our special TV program, "L'Antenne Est a Vous," shown over a Geneva Station, has brought 220 responses to date. There were 84 telephone calls, 127 letters and nine visits to our Geneva Office!

The Netherlands Regional Director Bram de Bree reports that Church membership in January was up 11% over January, 1981. The number of CC students was also up 64% over one year ago.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong:

Just a few words of appreciation for the new refreshing program. We want to be on record as fully supporting it. We enjoyed Program #2 even more than #1. An invaluable experience. God's Spirit was clearly in evidence during our stay in Pasadena. It appears the vast majority have proven this is God's Work and want to be yielded instruments in His hands.

Your trips and new TV programs are exciting and indicate God is stepping up the pace. Lead on.

Nelson and Linnea Haas

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you Mr. Armstrong for the Ministerial Refreshing Program. Your foresight in planning and implementing this instruction for the ministry has to have a positive impact on the strength and oneness of the ministry.

We have just returned from the first session of the second refreshing program. It was a very rewarding experience. It is also encouraging and an inspiration to see, once again, the total dedication and yieldedness of the headquarters ministry.

The instruction that we received was very informative. I gave an overview of the refreshing program to the Manhattan and Long

Island Churches. They are very encouraged and excited and are looking forward to the sermons I will be giving on those subjects covered during the two-week session.

The people are also very happy to hear of your travels and how well things are going. The TV programs on your trip to Egypt were fantastic! The brethren were very excited over the powerful way you gave the message at the Hilton Hotel. We are all behind you 100%, and you have our continued prayers.

Frank and Charlene McCrady

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Thank you for the very positive thrust of these "refreshing" programs. "Improving the Performance of the Ministry," the theme of the second program, was just what was needed.

The good "horse-sense" that was given will help all of us avoid ministerial "night-mares"!

William R. Pack

Mr. Tkach and Staff:

We have profited greatly while here for the refresher. Thanks for all the work and effort of everyone who made this refresher pleasant.

We are very grateful to God, Mr. Armstrong, the ministers, staff, and those in the service and dining areas for our pleasant stay at H.Q. We are looking forward to getting home to use the strength gained while here to serve God's people in Houston.

Burk and Susie McNair

Dear Mr. Tkach:

What a pleasure it is to come to Pasadena and attend these refreshing sessions!

Our thanks to the entire staff for the hard work and dedication that made this second program even more helpful and positive. Mr. Armstrong's address, the tours and all the classes fit together to give us the balance and wisdom to serve God's people. It was exciting to be together with the men and wives from all over the world. Their graphic reports made it very evident that God is moving His Work forward in every area of the world.

Thanks for your part in this fine program.

Jim and Barbara Chapman

Dear Joe:

Though last year's program was great--this one is greater. Whereas many smiled with their mouths last year--all were smiling with both mouth AND eyes this year. That is refreshing!! Some of

the atmosphere of last year was charged with apprehension--which was not extant during this session. It was replaced with relaxed camaraderie, unfeigned respect for each other--and the love which we were asked to take back out into our church areas.

The obvious theme of love, tenderness, and caring for one another--as portrayed in your opening day message--was delightfully woven throughout the subsequent messages, and did, I'm sure, send all of us back to respective pastorates filled with excitement and perhaps a revival of that "flush of first love" which so characterized our inception to the Body of Christ.

Please thank all the staff for the effort of love displayed in every facet of the program.

Bob and Shirl Smith

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

The April issue of the U.S. PLAIN TRUTH will be sent to 1,609,000 subscribers. This is a 74% increase over last year and reflects a tremendous growth in response from TV, newsstands and blow-ins.

The blow-in subscription card, which is inserted in those magazines which are mailed, is adding as many new subscribers per month as were added from all sources just a few years ago. Requests for extra newsstand magazines keep pouring in, bringing the total number of magazines requested to over 200,000 so far this year. Circulation of the U.S. newsstand issue is now over 1,300,000 copies per month.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

FROM MAIL PROCESSING CENTER

HOLY DAY OFFERING ENVELOPES

(Please announce March 27 in U.S. Churches)

Holy Day offering envelopes for Unleavened Bread and Pentecost have been mailed. These envelopes are sent by third-class mail. Therefore, if you have recently changed your address, you may not receive them.

If you do not have your envelopes by today (March 27), please call the toll-free number in Pasadena (1-800-423-4444). Another set of envelopes will be sent immediately. (NOTE: Residents of California, Alaska and Hawaii must call 213-577-5555.)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

Australians Appreciate S.E.P.

This week we are featuring comments of enthusiasm and gratitude from Australian teen-agers who had the opportunity to attend their first S.E.P.

in the land "down under." A number of letters from parents are also included.

Comments From Teenagers

What a rewarding experience! Thank you very much Mr. Armstrong for everything you did to make S.E.P. such a tremendous pioneering experience. Throughout the camp it was emphasized what an opportunity we had to pioneers. It was obvious that God very much blessed the camp, and the many who were able to attend.

I admired and thoroughly appreciated all the ministers, their wives and the large staff who had such an overwhelming job. They set a terrific example of service! All the leaders continually demonstrated "giving" in the true sense of the word. They helped to establish a sincere, warm atmosphere of friendship and achievement between all the campers.

R.C. (Armadale, Australia)

I'd like to give my deepest thanks to you, Mr. Armstrong, for making possible the S.E.P. camp at Lake Moogerah, Australia. With all the states being represented and Australia being such a large country, it took some campers many days travel to get there, but the camp made it all worthwhile.

It was tremendous to have so many young people from God's Church in one place. The food was scrumptious and the activities were challenging and very rewarding. For the "pioneer year" it was heaps of fun and excitement. Many new friendships have been made and old ones strengthened.

We received valuable and useful information and instruction from Bible studies and services that we can apply to our lives now that we are back home again. It was a lifetime experience with many fond memories to look back upon.

S.O. (Darwin, Australia)

Thank you very much for allowing Australia to have its own S.E.P. It has been a fantastic, profitable and very rewarding camp.

When I first heard about having an S.E.P. camp, I was thrilled to bits. It was not only an opportunity to receive some of God's knowledge at our level of understanding, but also a chance to learn new skills and take part in new activities.

Thank you also for sending the Ambassador College students. We had a lot of fun doing activities with them.

M.M. (Devonport, Australia)

This letter is a short "thank you" for the wonderful S.E.P. you organized for us at Lake Moogerah. We fully appreciate all the hard work you and many others put into making it possible for us to have such a fantastic time.

Not only did we enjoy all the activities, but we also greatly enjoyed meeting so many people, making many friends and having the

opportunity to learn lots of new things we would never have learned otherwise.

B. & B.V.H. (Sydney, Australia)

Comments From Parents

Our son has just returned from S.E.P. and has not stopped talking about it since he got off the plane--that was at 4:00 p.m.--and it's now 11:30 p.m.! His direct quote: "I would not have missed the camp for anything!" Thank you for taking such good care of our son physically, mentally and spiritually. He has returned to us absolutely inspired.

B.A. (Ringwood, Australia)

We must thank you very much for making S.E.P. a reality and ensuring it was organized and staffed so that it was a great success. What a fantastic opportunity you gave to the teens to receive priceless training and instruction. Our son had nothing but positive comments and praise.

B. & L.W. (Cairns, Australia)

After talking to many of the young people who attended S.E.P., I would like to congratulate and thank you (and all your staff) for having had the idea of the camp in the first place and the courage and determination to carry it through.

It seems the youngsters left home full of fear and trepidation at what they were heading into, but returned full of stories of fun, tiredness, mud, fellowship, the friends made and finally, "Wouldn't it be great if we could go to (Ambassador) College!"

T.M. (Miranda, Australia)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE "LEBANON" ON BRITAIN'S DOORSTEP The United States is not the only English-speaking power experiencing threats in its own "back yard" (or "front door step," depending upon one's choice of analogy). Britain confronts an equally explosive situation even closer to home--in Northern Ireland. Ulster province, of course, is an integral part of the U.K. itself (The United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland).

The coming six-day visit to Britain by Pope John Paul II, highlighted by his historic reception by Queen Elizabeth on May 28, will undoubtedly have a profound impact upon Northern Ireland, especially its roughly one million Protestants.

Events in the strife-torn northern six counties of Ireland are slowly but surely moving toward an inevitable and fateful conclusion, one of enormous consequence for Britain's future: a dramatic, unilateral declaration of independence to be proclaimed by Ulster's Protestant majority. This would mean a forcible rupture of the U.K. itself. Leading politicians in the United States are unwittingly pushing events in this direction. This is particularly true of influential Irish-American politicians such as Governor Hugh Carey of New York, Senators Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), Daniel

Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill (D-Mass).

Even politicians of non-Irish background, but seeking the formidable Irish-American ethnic vote, are making careless and self-serving statements without regard to the facts and history of the deep-seated issues at stake in Ireland. For example, Mayor Edward Koch of New York City (a Jew), who is running for the governorship of New York, recently blurted out: "I've said it before and I'll say it again, England get out of Ireland." The common thread in statements by the American politicians is that if Britain would only pull its troops out of Northern Ireland (where they have been since "the troubles" flared anew in 1969) the Ulster Protestants would somehow be forced to face the fact that their future was to be recast in a united Ireland, and that some sort of "united Ireland" formula could be peacefully devised.

The unrealistic foolishness of this point of view was examined in an article in the December, 1981 issue of HARPER'S magazine, entitled: "The Four Horsemen: Heading for the Apocalypse." This insightful and objective article was written by one who is neither a passionate Ulster Protestant nor a sympathizer of the terrorist Irish Republican Army (IRA). Rather, it was composed by the noted international figure from southern Ireland, Connor Cruise O'Brien, a former member of the Irish government and editor-in-chief of the OBSERVER, a London Sunday newspaper. Mr. O'Brien served the United Nations in several capacities, and was in charge of U.N. forces in the Congo in the early 1960's. He is an expert on Irish history and has authored numerous books about his homeland. Mr. O'Brien wrote his article for HARPER'S in the form of an open letter to Governor Carey, Senators Kennedy and Moynihan and Speaker O'Neill. Here are some key excerpts from Mr. O'Brien's important, but rather lengthy, piece:

I know that you all genuinely want to help Ireland. The trouble is that the Ireland you want to help doesn't exist, and that your efforts have the effect of making things worse, not better, in the Ireland of reality.

The Ireland of your imagination is an island artificially divided by an act of British policy. Since the British divided it, the British can reunite it...a united Ireland would (you assume) be a peaceful Ireland....In bringing pressure to bear on Britain to move in the direction of Irish unity, you are working, as you believe, for peace in Ireland.

Ireland, notes O'Brien, is not divided by an act of British policy (the creation of the Irish Free State in 1921, with the northern, largely Protestant, six counties electing to remain a part of the British realm), but by the "conflicting wills of its inhabitants." Moreover, those who call for Britain to "get out" and for Ireland to somehow be united overlook the views and fears of the Ulster Protestants whose interests are usually casually dismissed by Americans of Irish Catholic background. Continues O'Brien in his open letter:

I ask you to bear with me for a little, however, while I talk to you about these people, superfluous and incongruous though you may feel them to be.

The Ulster Protestants are descended in the main from settlers who came to Ulster from Scotland and England in the first decade of the seventeenth century [about the same time as the early English settlements in America]. Now, in the eyes of many Africans and Asians, and of left-wing Europeans, the mere word "settlers" in itself decides the question. Settlers, by definition, ought either to go back, in the words of the song, "to from whence they came," or to stay on under political and social institutions devised by the natives [meaning to become a four to one minority in a Catholic-dominated united Ireland].

But you, as Americans, can't quite take that view, can you? After all, these people's ancestors were established in Ulster before--and I imagine quite a long time before--most of your own ancestors left Ireland to settle in America. Clearly the fact of being descended from settlers does not automatically put people in the wrong. There has to be something else.

And, of course, there is. These people are descended not from people who left Ireland to settle in America--obviously a right and proper course of action--but from people who left Britain to settle in Ireland--obviously a wrong one. I don't know that I could prove precisely why the first is so clearly right, and the second so clearly wrong, but in these matters proof is not what counts; what counts is what you feel in your bones.

But then, you see, these Ulster Protestants also have bones, in which they feel quite as strongly as--probably more strongly than--you do, and their bones tell them quite different things from what your bones tell you. Their bones tell them, most insistently, two things:

First, that they mean to stay in Ulster.

Second, that they will not be included in any political structure in which Irish Catholics are in a majority [emphasis ours throughout].

The determination of Ulster Protestants to remain in Ulster is comparable to the determination of Israelis to remain in Israel. And the refusal of Ulster Protestants to be incorporated in a Catholic-majority Irish state is as stubborn as the refusal of Israelis to be incorporated in an Arab-majority Palestine.

(Or, one might add, Afrikaners in a black-majority South Africa.)

Mr. O'Brien then explains that the average Ulsterman's loyalty to Britain is

a qualified, complex, conditional loyalty. It is loyalty to the crown rather than to Parliament....In Ulster, the fact that the crown is a Protestant crown, by the laws of the realm, retains an emotional importance that it has lost in the rest of the United Kingdom. That itself implies a condition. For if the crown in Parliament--the contemporary constitutional crown--acts in a manner that suggests to Ulster Protestants that they are about to

be delivered into the hands of their hereditary Catholic enemies, then the crown, in respect of that transaction, is felt not to be the true crown--the Protestant one, to which Protestants owe and freely accord their loyalty. And, since it is not that true crown, but something masquerading in its place, it not merely may but must be defied and set at naught.

The Ulster Protestants did defy Parliament directly (and the crown indirectly) during the Home Rule crisis early this century, refusing to become a part of independent Ireland. Again, in 1974, the Ulster Protestants resisted the implementation of a Protestant-Catholic power-sharing plan for Northern Ireland devised by the British Parliament. Right now, they are dismayed that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (who many thought at first would clean up on the IRA) has been willing to talk to officials of the Irish Republic on future plans for the divided island.

It does not take much imagination to envision Ulster Protestant alarm over the impending visit of the Pope to the Queen, the living head of Protestantism in Britain. One can certainly expect fiery words from Ulster firebrand Ian Paisley, condemning the Pope's reception in England as the beginning of a sellout of Protestant interests.

How Long Will Britain Stay On?

In the meantime, the British public is tiring of the continual bloodshed in Northern Ireland, with young British soldiers caught in the deadly middle. How much longer can British forces continue their thankless task? O'Brien writes:

Public opinion [in Britain] is favorable, not so much to a united Ireland in itself as to anything that will enable Britain to disengage from Northern Ireland. If a united Ireland will do that, then bully for a united Ireland. This is not surprising. Britain derives no benefit from being in Northern Ireland. That province is a considerable drain on the ailing economy of the entire United Kingdom. British people are tired of having their soldiers and ex-soldiers murdered or maimed, tired of being themselves denounced as oppressors, tired of threats, tired of international pressure. They want to get out if they can.

What if a future British Prime Minister should announce the recall of British troops, hoping that the gamble would force the people of both halves of Ireland to create a united Ireland? Answers O'Brien:

If they were faced with such an attempt, Ulster Protestants would not turn toward a united Ireland; they would turn against Britain. Their whole history and traditions and patterns of behavior, including recent patterns (e.g. 1974 and the rise of Paisleyism), imply that. The basic conditions of Protestant loyalty to Britain would have been breached. Protestants would turn en masse toward a policy that a minority among them now advocate: an independent Northern Ireland.

Then the real trouble would begin.

The impending and then actual departure of British administration and British troops would create a major crisis: the greatest

Ulster has known since the seventeenth century. A crisis of that order does not calm passions, it inflames them. In Northern Ireland, they are already inflamed. A condition of incipient civil war between Catholics and Protestants exists: the materials for full-scale war are piled high in Belfast and elsewhere. British withdrawal would ignite them....If Britain withdraws, each community will look to its own defense....

Mr. O'Brien is not without personal experience in matters similar to this. At various times, during actual or incipient civil war situations, he has been in the Congo, in Nigeria, on the Bangladesh-Indian border and in Lebanon. He adds:

I know the smell and the rising dementia of it. And every time I travel in Northern Ireland I get a whiff of that smell, now growing stronger. I have no doubt that British withdrawal would bring on the real thing in full force. You may think that the kind of horrors that happened in those African and Asian countries could not happen in Ireland. If so, you must be forgetting what has already happened in Ireland, inside both communities; the bloodthirsty armed fanatics are already there. If they are let loose on both sides, without any outside restraint, we shall have our Lebanon.

O'Brien then goes on to predict that under "UDI" conditions, Protestant paramilitary forces and militia units would quickly secure the new state and go hunting for IRA gunmen in Catholic areas. Also, he predicts many, perhaps 250,000 of Northern Ireland's approximately half-million Catholics, would flee south as refugees into Eire; perhaps a new border would be drawn up separating a smaller, homogeneous Protestant Northern Ireland from the Republic.

O'Brien insists that the foregoing scenario isn't only his own "private nightmare," but is one shared by others, including one former prime minister of the Irish Republic, himself an ardent exponent of unity.

When British Depart, It Will Be Fast, As In Palestine

Mr. O'Brien then has a few closing words for the Irish-American politicians. They are mistakenly pressuring Britain, he said, to come up with some sort of a miracle "formula" to unite Ireland, after which it could withdraw in an orderly fashion. What they refuse to see, admonishes O'Brien,

is that no agreed political solution is available, since the parties are in radical (and increasing) disagreement. The British can't deliver a united Ireland or "an agreed Ireland" and then get out. It would be nice, I agree, but they can't. What they can do is just plain get out....And make no mistake; if they do decide to go, they will go quickly: "precipitately," if you prefer. They are not about to say they are going, and then hang around to take...the blame for the consequences....The gap between the moment they decide to go and their actual departure will be very narrow. As in the case of Palestine [which precipitated the 1948 Israeli-Arab war, which broke out the day after the British withdrew].

The author's final piece of advice was this:

My message to you is that we in Ireland may well be getting quite near the brink of British withdrawal, followed by civil war. American pressure for unity helps to bring us still nearer that brink. You are the most influential of the politicians who have been applying that pressure. I ask you to reflect, and desist. Negative advice, I agree. But there are times when the only helpful advice is "Stop!" and, if that advice is not heeded, no further advice will be of any use.

Mr. O'Brien has given a very clear and plausible scenario of events likely to occur in Northern Ireland. And when it does, with all the resultant chaos and bloodshed, Britain will be blamed for letting it happen, just as she is now accused of forestalling Irish unity. British standing in largely-Catholic Europe and the world at large will suffer dramatically.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau