

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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NEWS FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

Mr. Armstrong Returns From Successful Trip

Monday, May 31, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong landed safely at Burbank after a successful 11-day trip to England.

The G-II, with Mr. Armstrong and party aboard, departed Burbank Thursday morning, May 20, landing at Luton Airport (north of London) early Friday morning. That afternoon Mr. Armstrong visited with Mr. Frank Brown, Regional Director of the Work's activities in the United Kingdom, Black Africa and Scandinavia.

The next day, May 22, Mr. Armstrong and party attended a concert by Vladimir Horowitz held in the Royal Festival Hall. It was given as a command performance for the Prince of Wales. Prior to this, Maestro Horowitz had not performed in Europe in over 30 years. The performance was exceptional and Horowitz returned amidst bravo's and a standing ovation to play three short pieces as encores.

The concert was followed by a private Royal reception on the top floor of the Festival Hall. Mr. Armstrong was formally introduced to H.R.H. Prince Charles, presenting the Prince with a beautifully-framed picture of Horowitz playing in Ambassador Auditorium.

A few minutes later, as the Prince was about to leave the reception, Jacob Rothschild (the banker) and Sir Claus Moser (Chairman of Royal Opera House) approached the Prince. Both men had attended a dinner party held in Mr. Armstrong's honor and hosted by Mayor Teddy Kollek in Jerusalem last November. The two men had been impressed by Mr. Armstrong's talk and asked the Prince if they could introduce him to Mr. Armstrong. Thus a second introduction and conversation was made.

Sabbath, May 29, Mr. Armstrong flew to Frankfurt, West Germany and spoke to about 800 German-speaking brethren gathered there. He returned to London and spoke Pentecost afternoon to the British brethren. Finally, Mr. Armstrong and party returned to Pasadena May 31.

Mr. Armstrong had hoped to meet with Mrs. Margaret Thatcher during this trip, but due to the Falklands crisis she was unable to see him. He hopes to reschedule the meeting for July when he is tentatively scheduled to be in Europe to meet with the President of Greece. More details of Mr. Armstrong's successful trip will be forthcoming in the WORLDWIDE NEWS.

--Aaron Dean

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

May has been another trying month for the financial area. Here are the statistics week by week:

<u>Week Ending:</u>	<u>Month to Date</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
May 7	+39.8%	+13.2%
May 14	+10.3%	+11.7%
May 21	+ 6.1%	+10.9%
May 28	- .2%	+ 9.3%

We were obviously encouraged at the beginning of the month, but saddened by the final figures. The final figures include the whole month of May as banks were closed for the rest of the month. These percentage figures would be very encouraging for many U.S. companies right now, as some are having very rough times. In our case, about a year ago we started expanding greatly in radio, TV and publishing. We want to continue that expansion, but have had to virtually halt it for now until funds increase substantially.

The 1982 budget was geared to about a 15% increase over last year. With only a 9.3% increase in income we will have to hold down expenditures considerably. We are endeavoring to do this and are now taking further steps to slow down expenditures. Most departments are doing a good job in this regard.

The preliminary Pentecost holy day offering figures are now compiled. The total increase is 11.8% more than last Pentecost. This is a good improvement over the first two holy day offerings which were initially +4.5%, but late offerings have increased it to 6.3% over last year.

The Mail Processing Center has supplied me with some encouraging figures. Our co-workers have increased 12% over the same period last year and donors have increased by 110%. This is a very good indication, but these new contributors have not yet made a significant impact. Hopefully they will soon.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESWORLDWIDE NEWS for Members Only

Because of the nature of the material contained in the WORLDWIDE NEWS, Mr. Armstrong set the policy some time ago stating that it is a publication for members only.

However, from time to time, the Personal Correspondence Department receives requests from prospective members or others asking for the WN. Some of these mention that the minister they talked with recommended that they ask. PCD then must send a letter explaining that the WORLDWIDE NEWS is for members only. Of course this can lead to disappointment or frustration on the part of the person making the request.

Please keep this policy regarding the WORLDWIDE NEWS in mind when counseling prospective members or any non-members, so that any unnecessary misunderstanding can be avoided.

Reminder About Sick Children

It is good to again remind the brethren about not bringing their children to church services or church functions if they are ill. Children with a bad cough or cold, measles, chicken pox, whooping cough, etc., should under no circumstances be brought in contact with other children. Any parent whose child has been in contact with another child who is later found to have measles should place their child in quarantine for at least 14 days to be certain whether or not he or she has contracted the disease.

Any minister who notices a child at services or at other Church-related functions with what appears to be a contagious illness should immediately ask the parents to take the child home. The basic underlying principle involved here is one of showing love to one another--certainly what God would expect of His people.

International News

Update From Spanish-language Areas More servants are being supplied to reap the harvest God is providing in the Spanish-speaking countries. Mr. Salvador Barragan was ordained April 3rd in Mexico City by Mr. Tom Turk; Mr. Mauricio Perez was ordained April 11th in San Juan, Puerto Rico (he serves the Church in Colombia) by Messrs. Leon Walker and Pablo Gonzalez; and Mr. Daniel Vasques was ordained April 24th in Jalpa, Mexico by Mr. Turk. There are now 17 ministers serving in the Spanish-speaking areas.

Income from the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking areas from January through March of 1982 indicates a 37% increase over the same period last year. Through the end of April last year, there had been only 12 baptisms, compared to 39 through the first four months of this year.

Total mail received through the end of April stood at 87,424, or 77% over last year at that time, and the most ever received in the first four months of any year in the past! Also, two records for most mail received were set --on one single day 3,269 pieces came in (February 5th) and during one week 9,453 pieces arrived (February 1st-5th). Response from the semi-annual letter created most of this record-breaking surge. Certain countries responded much higher than the average: Costa Rica, 54%; U.S.A., 30%; Colombia, 35%; Guatemala, 47%; El Salvador, 50%; Ecuador, 35%. Several thousand more responses are still expected.

We have some very good news about new mailing methods that will save money and speed delivery of the Spanish PLAIN TRUTH. Most non-U.S. PURA VERDAD subscribers will now be sent their copy of the magazine by air mail through Costa Rica, at a total cost of only \$.14-.18(U.S.). Magazines will be sent to the capital city, San Jose, by airfreight from the printing plant in Kentucky for a cost of approximately \$.10(U.S.). Then the magazines are sent via air mail to most of Latin America (except Mexico) and Spain, for less than the cost of sending the magazines by U.S. surface mail! This sounds too good to be true, but because of devaluations of the Costa Rican currency, low postage rates and the prestige of handling a large-circulation U.S. publication, the Costa Rican air mail rate ranges from \$.04-.08 (U.S.) to any point in the Americas or Europe. This same service would cost \$.76-1.32(U.S.) for each magazine, using the U.S. Postal Service!

PURA VERDAD delivery time has been reduced drastically using this mailing system. Normal delivery time to remote Bolivia has been four to six months by U.S. surface mail; now it is two to four weeks. Delivery time to Spain has improved from 10-12 weeks to two weeks. So, the magazine is being delivered to non-U.S. subscribers in the same month as the cover date. This has never occurred on a list-wide basis in the history of the Spanish-language edition. It is expected that this faster delivery time should affect the readers very positively and could increase incoming mail.

Although the Spanish-language PT list is dominated by new subscribers, the 37% who are prime subscribers have yielded much fruit, indicating a more serious involvement in God's Work. Nearly six percent of these prime subscribers are donors, while two percent are co-workers. The total number of donors through the end of April--2,582--is an all-time high in the history of the Work in the Spanish-speaking areas. Also, the number of active Bible Correspondence Course students reached a seven-year high of 12,000 in April, or 10% of the entire subscription list. In addition, the Spanish-language CC is sent to students in such diverse non-Spanish-speaking countries as Japan, Cameroon, Denmark, Greece, India and Tanzania.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

TULSA, OK--D. E. MASON: Seem to be contacting a more enthusiastic group of PM's as a result of the radio and TV coverage here. All seem deeply concerned and motivated as a result of listening to Mr. Armstrong's powerful programs.

AUSTIN, TX--HAROLD J. RHODES: Church attendance continues to remain high. People seem to have more of a sense of urgency than ever before. A definite increase in new PM's. Please keep the telecast in Austin!

ATLANTA, GA--HAROLD LESTER: Atlanta Church is becoming more and more spiritually oriented. More discussion of world events, the Bible and Mr. Armstrong's increased emphasis on preaching the Gospel.

ROSEBURG, OR--GREG JOHNSON: Everyone excited about Mr. Gerald Waterhouse's visit and anxious for the Kingdom to come. Overall, an optimistic attitude prevails due to Mr. Armstrong's tireless efforts on radio and TV and trips abroad.

BELLEVILLE, IL--HAROLD SMITH: Everyone is encouraged about Mr. Armstrong's trips and his continuing work pace. Many have been commenting on how super the GN is, and now more and more are impressed by how the PT has gotten meatier by the month.

KANSAS CITY, KS--BRUCE GORE: We have our usual minor problems to deal with, but overall everything in the area is going extremely well. The brethren seemed to be very up for the Spring holy days and the offerings were some of the best ever for this area. We really enjoyed and appreciated Mr. Dean Blackwell's visit to the area.

SOLDOTNA, AK--GLENN DOIG: Really appreciate having the question and answer section in the PGR. Brethren were really helped and

encouraged by Mr. Leroy Neff's visit during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

WASHINGTON, PA--DAVID M. JOHNSON: Church seems to be growing well even though we have virtually no new PM's to contact. The Church seems to get warmer every week and is also becoming more cohesive. PT distribution is doing well. We now put out nearly 1,000 PT's per month in this city which was completely closed to us when the local church started last June.

HAGERSTOWN, MD--WILLIAM R. PACK: Our local PLAIN TRUTH distribution program is in high gear. In the past year we have added 4,192 subscriptions within the three-church area. That is an increase of 83%!

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MAIL PROCESSING CENTER UPDATE

Members' Examples Have Impact

Jesus Christ said we must let our light shine! Many brethren fulfill this command in an exemplary manner which has positive impact on others.

An incident in Oklahoma during the recent Days of Unleavened Bread illustrates this. Three church families were dining in a local restaurant on one of the holy days. Their well-mannered children were seated at a separate table when one of them accidentally spilled a drink. The parents of the child quietly came over, cleaned up the spill and comforted the child. The general behavior of the group so impressed another diner, who is a corporate president, that she went over and began talking with the party. Upon learning that they were members of the Worldwide Church of God she wanted to give a donation to the Church and handed one of the men a \$100 bill!

The following comments from letters to Mr. Armstrong are further examples of how the actions of God's people can impress others in a very positive way.

I have been very disappointed with the church I was in. I never seemed to be satisfied. There was something lacking. I felt I didn't know any more when I came home than before I went. I was always left without understanding of what it all meant. Everything was like a deep dark mystery to me. I have not been attending church for some time.

I have heard so much about your church from a lady friend who is a member. I have asked her questions, talked to her and watched her life. She seems to have something I want for myself. So please send me the Bible course and The PLAIN TRUTH, or whatever will help me most.

M.R. (Toledo, OH)

I have been attending the Church of God for the past two months and would now like to start paying tithes since I am sure that this is the true church. I had been searching so long for a church that revealed the truth. I couldn't find one until I got in touch with one of your representatives in the New Jersey area.

After answering my many questions and inviting me to church, I knew this is where I wanted to be. I have never met such wonderful people, people who were actually living God's Word, not just acting it one hour a week! I can hardly wait for the Sabbaths and Bible studies. The hours go by so fast here, not like the services I use to attend where half an hour seemed like a day. Your church is a refreshing change in today's sick society. Thank you for all you are doing!

D.N. (Perth Amboy, NJ)

I went to church this Sabbath and I must say I enjoyed it very much. The people were so kind to me. Also, I noticed how well behaved ALL the children were. There was so much love present you could feel it coming out of the walls!

What a shame that all churches aren't conducted like God's true Church. For the first time in my life I was actually taught straight from the Bible. It felt good and right and I will continue to go.

J.M. (Troy, OH)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

CHARISMATIC POPE ACCELERATES CHURCH UNITY DRIVE

DATELINE PARIS (June 3, 1982): I have just arrived here after having witnessed, partly in person as an accredited PLAIN TRUTH correspondent, the visit of Pope John Paul II to Britain. This was an event of great significance, certainly far more than the Pope's visit to the United States in 1979.

The Roman Catholic faithful in Britain--a minority of around five million believers--were of course delirious at his coming and greatly relieved that he did not cancel his trip as a result of the war in the South Atlantic. The non-Catholic majority also seemed to be quite supportive of the Pope's trip, or at least were not openly hostile. Those who objected openly, such as Ian Paisley, the member of Parliament from Northern Ireland who is an outspoken Protestant critic, were few and generally dismissed as a bunch of cranks out of step with today's realities, or at least the more liberal news media painted them as such.

I, along with John Schroeder of our PLAIN TRUTH staff in Britain, was on hand at Gatwick Airport south of London when the Pope arrived. The Pope did his traditional greeting, an act that he performs at every country he arrives in (in fact he did it in Scotland as well, signifying the distinct nationhood of the people up to the north). The Pope kissed the ground, or at least at Gatwick this meant not the ground but the tarmac at the airport. Lest he should pick up anything harmful, a truck with a high-pressure water hose washed off the tarmac shortly before his plane landed.

The highlight of the Pope's visit occurred the very next day (Saturday). It surrounded the first-ever visit of the Pope to Canterbury Cathedral, the very headquarters of the Church of England, which broke off from Rome 449 years ago. I watched this very unique service on television in order to get the benefits of the excellent BBC coverage and commentary.

It was a dramatic service and one which could get the "on again, off again" faltering movement for church unity back on course. According to one source, more was probably achieved through this service than years of laborious study and reports by the theological scholars representing the Catholic, the Anglicans and the other Protestant bodies. The London newspaper, THE STANDARD, commented about the Pope's trip and specifically this service at the Canterbury Cathedral this way: "A small step for a Pope, but a giant step for the unity of Christendom."

This service was the main reason, many experts agree, why the Pope was determined to continue with his trip to Britain even though there was a great deal of opposition initially from the leaders of the church in Latin America who felt that by going to Britain he would be showing sides with Britain in the conflict with Argentina. If his trip had been cancelled and this ecumenical service at Canterbury Cathedral not held, most experts believe that the goal of church unity would have been set back very seriously.

Archbishop Doctor Robert Runcie, Primate of All England and leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion, was the Pope's host for this ecumenical function. In his introductory address, Archbishop Runcie said this: "Our unity is not in the past only, but also in the future. We have a common vision which also breaks up the lazy prejudices and easy assumptions of the present."

The Pope took as his text in his homily (he gave the main message of the service) Christ's prayer for His disciples "that they may all be one" which he said resounded "in a special way today in this hallowed cathedral." Canterbury Cathedral goes back many, many years and was the first cathedral of the medieval church in England and has since been the leading cathedral of the breakaway church of England.

The Pope appealed to those present, as well as the millions watching on television, to accept the commitment "of praying and working for reconciliation and ecclesiastical unity." He told the massive congregation present in the cathedral that church unity "transcends all political divisions and frontiers." He further told the Anglicans in the congregation that they were "my dear brothers and sisters of the Anglican Communion of whom I love and long for. How happy I am to be able to speak directly to you today in this great cathedral. The building itself is an eloquent witness, both to our long years of common inheritance and the sad years of division that followed." The Pope said that his visit to the Cathedral was a day "that centuries and generations have awaited."

After the service a Common Declaration was signed by the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury which declared, "We commit ourselves anew to the task of working for unity with firm faith, renewed hope and ever deeper love." This was a clear indication that the dialogue started by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission would continue. This ecumenical service did not contain a common Eucharist (the joint sharing of the bread and wine). That type of service would still have to be further down the road. The only ritual that was performed, if one could call it that, was a repeat on the part of the Archbishop and the Pope of their so-called baptismal vows, implying that they were joint followers of Christ.

The Anglicans hope to act as a "bridge" between the Catholic church and the independent denomination Protestants. The Anglicans are themselves divided

between a "high church," much closer to Rome and liturgy in tradition, and a "low church" which is much closer to various Protestant bodies.

Yet, Some Retain Cautious Skepticism

Not all observers, however, were falling head over heels over the charismatic Pope's pronouncements at Canterbury Cathedral and his profession of working towards church unity. One dissenting view was expressed by an Anglican vicar from Tockwith in York, Peter Mullen. Mr. Mullen pointed up the difficulties ahead with regard to church unity as well as the rather compromising position that church union would have upon the Throne of England.

There are several good reasons why we should be suspicious of the ballyhoo surrounding the papal visit. I do not share the vicious hostility to all things Catholic that we now see from some extreme Protestants with their loud mouths and slogans. But it is not only the bigots who are shouting "No popery." There are genuine political fears. More than 400 years ago, in complicated circumstances that involved a lot more than Henry VIII's marital difficulties, England decided to be free from Rome's jurisdiction. Because the Church of England is the established church, its head is the Queen and its government is closely tied to Parliament. Any attempt to unite the two churches under the Pope would become a civil and legal revolution affecting all Britain. It is significant (some might say ominous) that the joint committee studying paths to unity between the two churches made no mention of the Queen's status....

The Church of England allows room for individual conscience...the Roman Catholic Church does not. I am all for compromise. It is the reasonable way to settle differences, but it is not possible to compromise when one side clearly states that its own view is the absolute truth. Beneath the smiles and the friendly words that issued from the papal platform, it is hard to avoid the suspicion that here lies something of that old technique: "Come into my corner, said the Spider to the fly."

Make no mistake, in any unity scheme, all the compromise would be on one side only--the Church of England's side....

For all of the apparently warm-hearted beckoning on the unity front, the Roman Catholic Church has not yet renounced its own highhanded statement of 1896 about Church of England priests: that their Holy Orders are "absolutely null and utterly void...." The price of agreement with Rome is submission to its dogmas. What would become of our valuable distinctiveness then?....

In this light it was very interesting that Prince Charles, heir to the throne, was present at this ecumenical service at Canterbury Cathedral. Not only did he attend it, he made a special request to be there so that he could meet the Pope as well as the Archbishop of Canterbury, and all three of them were photographed meeting before the service began. The photograph appeared in every major newspaper in Britain. (The previous day the Pope made a courtesy call at Buckingham Palace to visit Queen Elizabeth II. The two talked privately for about 35 minutes.) In light of all this, it should

also be interesting that Mr. Armstrong met Prince Charles a few days earlier after the Horowitz concert during Mr. Armstrong's recent trip to England.

The "Carnival" in Glasgow

I did not travel with the Papal roadshow to Coventry and Liverpool since that was on Pentecost. Instead, I enjoyed a wonderful holy day with the brethren in Belfast, Northern Ireland. I picked up the tour again in Glasgow, Scotland, a city which, along with surrounding regions, contains numerous Catholic believers--many of whom are descendants of immigrants who came over from Ireland. The highlight of the Pope's trip to Scotland which also included a number of events at Edinburgh, the capital, was a tremendous mass held in Bellahouston Park. The attendance for this open air mass was put at roughly 260,000. To me it seemed something akin to a religious Nuremberg rally.

Before the Pope arrived by helicopter from Edinburgh mid-afternoon, the announcers, mainly priests, conducted all sorts of festivities for the people including quite a number of more modern religious songs. One song repeated over and over again was "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands." When the people sang it, however, I could not tell whether they were referring to God or to a man, John Paul II. In their own mind, I am sure that the Pope was uppermost.

Because there were so many people who were so far away from the dais at which the Pope spoke, a huge television screen was installed above the rostrum. It was the size, some guessed, of a double-decker bus--a truly awesome-sized screen. Right next to it was located its control box upon which was painted in bright red "by Mitsubishi Electric."

When the Pope arrived by helicopter, the crowd which had been surprisingly quiet and self-controlled erupted in almost pandemonium. The crowd was actually tipped off about the Pope's imminent arrival by the television screen just before they saw the helicopter. After the Pope arrived, he was immediately ushered into one of the four armor-plated bulletproof glass, safety-tired Popemobiles which escorted him on a winding pathway up and down the section of the park where the people were standing. It took, I believe, almost a half hour for his car to wind its way through.

The Scottish newspaper DAILY RECORD perhaps best expressed the reaction of the assembled in its main article the next day titled "Welcome to the Carnival--Never Before Have So Many Gathered for Just One Man." Some excerpts from the article should prove interesting and will give you an indication of the crowd's reaction.

Never before has a crowd this size assembled in Scotland. And it is doubtful if there will ever be one like it again. Only one man, assuming we are prepared to discount the second coming for the moment, could have brought out such a crowd. But then never has there been a Pope like John Paul II. To this incredible man, the only world leader who kisses babies and doesn't need votes, Rome seems to be little more than the spot to have a decent sleep between jet journeys around his worldwide 800-million-strong flock....

Yesterday the people were walking to Bellahouston [Park] before the milkmen were up. So patiently all these hours in the blazing sun, they waited. How they queued!...They could have been on holiday. Correction. They were on holiday. Assuredly the most memorable holiday of their lives. [Then followed the newspaper's account of the Pope's message and the hour-long mass.]...A truly historic day ended as the sun grew more and more merciful. Perhaps just one of the many banners had said it all, "Happy Just To Be Here." It was a banner which we all knew also spoke for Pope John Paul II, he's some man.

There is no doubt, as I looked out on the crowd, that they were there precisely to see a man. Despite the Pope's message, which in some cases was a strong exhortation to Catholics to be more true to their faith, complete with references to God and Jesus Christ (even a reference to Christians as being "co-heirs with Christ"), the crowd didn't seem to pay too much attention to what he was saying. They were there simply to see him, to be in his presence. That's why the newspaper called it a carnival.

Crowd's Intense Enthusiasm Contagious

On one particular occasion during the Pope's message, he referred to a passage in Psalms 118, verse 24, "This is the day made memorable by the Lord," applying it to that particular day and festivity. The Pope was interrupted after that for at least eight minutes by applause, whistles and cheers. This would die down for awhile and then there would be another round of the same. He responded with his "holy gestures" with his hands, after which chants would arise from all sections of the crowd, "John Paul, John Paul, John Paul." Others then would begin to sing, "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands."

After letting the crowd have its fun, he interjected with his own words outside of the text of his speech, "For a few moments the Pope stops preaching and you became preaching [sic]." After which of course the crowd responded all the more and it started all over again. It truly was a carnival. However, it impressed many, many people, including those who were not of the Catholic faith.

On the flight to Paris from Glasgow, I talked with one NBC radio newsman, Philip Till, who said that he was so impressed by the crowd's reaction during that eight-minute interruption that he had a lump in his throat. He said he was not a religious man, in fact had not been in church since he got married 11 years ago, but he had been truly impressed by the whole display. (Even more of a display of emotion was evident the day before in Edinburgh when the Pope spoke to a group of young people who interrupted him after every sentence chanting and cheering and waving and hollering. It was very difficult for him to continue with his message.)

Overall, it was a very powerful media event. The television reviewer for the DAILY MAIL, Herbert Kretzmer, wrote in his newspaper's edition of May 31, 1982:

The holy man from Rome has been an almost inescapable presence on the [TV] box since last Friday and his performances have proved utterly riveting, even to unbelievers like me.

Personal magnetism of that magnitude is not encountered from the box every day. The Pope has a rare, compelling capacity to attract all eyes to him as he moves, slightly stooped, infinitely generous, occasionally amused through the baby-kissing walkabouts and the dramatic rituals of his exalted office. All those banal, breathless descriptions ("the first popstar Pope," "the superstar Pope," etc.) have suddenly taken on some kind of substance. He is beyond doubt or dispute uniquely charismatic, reducing even the richly-costumed cardinals and high clerics around him to a kind of glum chorus line anonymity. There is only one leading man in this show. And what a show it is. I found myself glued to the great mass at Wembley [Stadium] on Saturday afternoon from beginning to end--an event of astonishing theatricality....[Critic Kretzmer had one major criticism however. He did not like the boxy-looking popemobile, about which he commented:]

Something more inspiring, less clinical, was called for--a golden coach perhaps--to bring that grand affair to a fitting conclusion, though such was the heightened emotion of the Wembley congregation that only a magic carpet would perhaps have filled the bill....I mean no disrespect to the Catholic Church when I say they certainly know how to put on a show. Pity about that car.

Explanation of Holy Spirit Attempted

One thing too, about the Pope's visit to England and Scotland (he also visited Wales) that impressed me were the many and continual references to the Holy Spirit. This was only natural, I suppose, as the trip occurred at the time of Pentecost, or as it is commonly referred to in the Catholic and Protestant worlds, Whitsunday.

In his speech at Canterbury the Pope referred to the Holy Spirit as being the Spirit of truth and the Spirit of unity, and he certainly made a great occasion of the time frame of his visit. Then in his address to the young people of Edinburgh, the Pope said this: "This is the one same Holy Spirit who came to you at baptism and again with increased vigor at confirmation, precisely to prepare and fortify you for the challenge of life. Not one of you is without him. No one must ever feel alone. The spirit of the Lord has been given to you."

Then the Pope attempted to explain what the Holy Spirit is, although he admitted his audience would have difficulty in understanding it. He continued, "Who is this Holy Spirit? He is God himself. The third person of the Blessed Trinity. He is sent to each of us by the Father and the Son. He is their greatest gift and he remains constantly with us. He abides in us. We have difficulty in forming a concept of the Holy Spirit in our mind."

It is obvious that by trying to explain the Holy Spirit in the context of a person as part of the Trinity, that no one (as he said) can really understand the true nature of God's Spirit. So all the many, many references that I heard to God's Spirit and phrases such as "stirring up the Spirit of God," "revealing to all people the love of God" and "the Spirit of God in you" were completely incomprehensible to the audience. But then again the people were there to see a man, not to really receive any knowledge and instruction.

How important it is that Mr. Armstrong is explaining continually to Church members such topics as what is the Church, why are we called into God's Church now and what does the Spirit of God do? These are topics that are continually on Mr. Armstrong's mind and he wants the brethren to understand their vital importance. It is obvious that the world as a whole is totally blinded. "The princes of this world" (I Cor. 2:8), including its religious leaders, know nothing of the plans and purposes of God. "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit...even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God" (verse 10-11). This vital truth about the spirit in man and this second spirit, the Spirit of God we can receive, has been revealed to the true church through God's apostle in this end time. Note also verse 12: "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

Another thing that struck me as I looked out on the massed throngs which appeared to go almost a mile in the distance across from one end of Bella-houston Park, from up front where I was in the press section near the dais to the rear, was that here are over a quarter of a million people, and not one of them in all probability had a Bible with him, much less God's Holy Spirit! They were there to see a man, to bask in his presence.

Well that's all for now. Tomorrow begins the very important free world economic summit conference in nearby Versailles. President Ronald Reagan has been here for the past two days on a visit preceding this conference. And shortly thereafter the heads of government of the 15, or I guess now 16 with Spain's entry, NATO countries will be gathering in Bonn, West Germany for a critical head-of-state NATO summit. These are two very important conferences which could give us some indication of the future course of the free world, and especially the relationship between the United States and the European allies.

That's the "pope pouri" of news for this time.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau