

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Church Tape Libraries

Some have misunderstood the recent instructions regarding tape recording at services, and in particular those instructions involving church tape libraries. Please go back and carefully reread both articles regarding tape recordings in the June 11, 1982 issue of the PGR.

It is permissible to have a local church tape library. It should contain only tapes of sermons or Bible studies given or played in the local congregation. Although individual members may not record services, they are free to check out tapes from the church library.

Members who check out tapes should not duplicate them or pass them around, but return them to the library by the due date. Pastors should look at the records periodically to be aware of who has checked out what. Pastors should also see that shut-ins and those who are ill have tapes of sermons or Bible studies that they missed made available to them.

Whether you have a local church tape library or not, an official tape of every service should be made and kept.

International News

German Office Following the Western Leaders' Summit Conference in Paris, France, Mr. Gene Hogberg, News Editor for The PLAIN TRUTH, came to Bonn to cover President Reagan's tour of West Germany. The Bonn office staff especially benefitted from the opportunity to talk with Mr. Hogberg during his five-day visit.

During June the world's largest printing exhibition, called DRUPA, took place in Dusseldorf. Mr. Roger Lippross of Publishing Services arrived on June 10 and remained a week in order to keep abreast of the technical advancements in the printing and publishing fields.

Looking back on the first six months of 1982, we can recognize distinct positive trends in the Church and Work. Our total mail of 103,044 pieces thus far represents a 76% increase over the same period in 1981 (78,313 pieces of mail). So far this year regular mail is up 74%; donation mail is up 15%; media response mail (advertising response) stands at a plus 107%; and solicited mail has increased 52%.

The main contributing factor to our increasing mail is, of course, the rapidly growing circulation of the German-language edition of The PLAIN TRUTH, "KLAR & WAHR." Our June subscription list of 101,872 subscribers shows a 92% increase over 1981. Since January, 1982 we have added some 52,000 new subscribers, 15% of which (7,800) requested a language other than German.

These positive developments have been very encouraging to say the least!

Philippines Half a year has gone by, so it's time to prepare a semiannual report. The first six months of this year have been marked with continued growth in almost all areas of God's Work here. The following figures show the percentages of change over the first six months of 1981:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Latest Church Attendance	2,632	27.5%
Latest Bible Study Attendance	2,422	16.6%
New Prospective Members	137	595.7%
Baptisms	84	204.9%
Total Baptized Members	2,292	4.5%
Local Churches	29	38.0%
Total Ministers	34	6.3%
Total Ministers Employed	19	11.8%

Finances

First Account Income	25.0%
Second Account Income	22.0%
Third Account Income	-30.0%

Media and Mail Processing

Total WT Telecast Response	1,608	--
Total WT Radio Response	87	--
Total Mail Received	82,556	82.0%
Total Outgoing Mail	139,969	217.0%

The large percentages of increase in incoming and outgoing mail were a result of responses to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's Manila campaign last February.

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

Albert E. Remley, who was recently disfellowshipped by Mr. Robert Jones, has indicated that he will try to attend in other congregations in the U.S. He would likely be in the Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana area, but may turn up anywhere. Please contact Mr. Jones if Mr. Remley appears in your area.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I just wanted to drop you a note to thank both you and Mr. Armstrong for the privilege my wife and I had of attending the

Ministerial Refreshing Program in June. We realize the hard work, planning, patience and effort that goes into the whole program, and we appreciate it very much. We needed each lecture, and the notes, handouts and impact of each will come in very useful in the future.

Paul and Ronda Luecke

Dear Mr. Tkach:

WOW! That is the best word to describe the Ministerial Refreshing Program. Jan and I want you to know how much we appreciate the blessing of being able to attend. Not only for us, but what we can bring back and give to the two congregations we serve.

The only thing I brought back with sadness from the program was the nine pound souvenir around my waistline. Again, our thanks; it was fantastic!

Stuart and Jan Segall

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Words cannot express the deep thanks for the privilege of allowing us to attend the Ministerial Refreshing Program. It has given both my wife and me a better perspective of where we fit in, and we now realize even more that we are here to serve and prepare the flock for the Kingdom of God. The program has surely given us more tools to do it in a way that it may be pleasing to God.

The unity of Spirit, the love, friendship and dedication of those who spoke to us is evident and provides us with a high standard as we all strive for the standard Christ set. It was especially pleasing to see Mr. Herbert Armstrong and to hear his message for us.

Walter and Ann Tannert

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We do thank you very much for the opportunity to attend the Ministerial Refreshing Program. It was very encouraging to hear from so many leading ministers in God's Work who all very clearly expressed their loyalty to Mr. Armstrong. We also enjoyed very much being able to mix with students and other ministers from all over the world. May God continue to bless and guide all of you as you continue to present this program in the coming sessions.

Harold and Irma van Lerberghe

Mr. Tkach:

I want to thank you so very much for giving the Imperial Faculty the opportunity to attend the Ministerial Refreshing Program. I am so very thankful for the spiritual food I have been given. It will be used in my teaching, as well as my spiritual growth. Please pass on my thanks to all the ministers involved, and those who organized the program so beautifully.

Mrs. Ray Tucker

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO--CLINT ZIMMERMAN: *World Tomorrow* TV began here again and is much appreciated. The members are enthusiastic about this renewed Gospel effort and are encouraged by the dynamism of Mr. Armstrong.

LOS ANGELES, CA--ABNER D. WASHINGTON: Mr. Armstrong's telecasts and radio broadcasts seem to be stirring members as well as PM's to take stock of their lives and do something about it.

MONTPELIER, VT--DAN ROGERS: The Church is very enthusiastic about new radio and TV coverage in this area, as well as the growth of the PT newsstand distribution program. PT distribution is the largest source of PM contacts in the area.

ROANOKE, VA--ROBERT PERSKY: The brethren are drawing closer together. At our track event everyone worked together in total harmony. The brethren are reading the excellent articles in the GN, watching Mr. Armstrong on TV, listening to the sermons and applying the principles to the best of their ability.

PROVIDENCE, RI--JIM FRANKS: There are many positive comments about Mr. Armstrong's tapes. Everyone marvels at his strength and expresses concern for him regarding some of the trials he is going through. We are all praying for him.

CHATTANOOGA, TN--WILLIAM C. COWAN, JR.: People seem sobered by the nearness of the end of this age. There seems to be an extra awareness and "push" to achieve spiritual goals and growth. It really is encouraging to see the growth.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN--LEONARD SCHREIBER: Members' response to sermons is outstanding, especially to a series of sermons on finances and one on marriage and the family relationship. Nearly every week another member tells me that his family is out of debt. There is also nearly 100% parental participation in YOU activities.

PRESCOTT, AZ--DOUG HORCHAK: Attitudes are positive and up! PM activity is increasing dramatically. Record holy day attendance. Pentecost offering was up 18% over last holy day!

FORT WORTH, TX--BOB SMITH: The trend toward stability, maturity and outgoing concern continues. There is an overall grasp of the "big picture" of our calling, motivated by an increasing recognition of the short time remaining in which to accomplish what we must.

TULSA, OK--D. E. MASON: I deeply appreciated Mr. Neff's article, "Is There A Place of Safety," in a recent GN. It is one of the best approaches I have seen on the subject. I know God desires we would all be protected from what is coming. What was made clear was the Godly attitude that will be required in order to come under that protection.

COLUMBIA, SC--JOHN RITENBAUGH: The PGR article regarding the sick not being brought into the congregation was timely. We had

quite a plague of whooping cough during June. It got started because some parents didn't require their children to stay home at the beginning stages of the sickness.

BIRMINGHAM, AL--KENNETH MARTIN: The strain of economic hard times is showing up more and more in the lives of the brethren. Many can't do like they used to do. Unemployment continues to grow in the area. Nevertheless, the brethren are spared for the most part.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Newsstand Program Surges Ahead

Exciting news from Publishing Services! We have been able to implement Mr. Armstrong's decision to expand the newsstand PLAIN TRUTH copy from 32 pages to 48 pages, beginning with the October/November combined issue.

Mr. Armstrong stated this would give the magazine the proper balance of copy to appeal to a much broader spectrum of the reading populace. He has instructed us that 48 pages should be available to all readers of The PLAIN TRUTH, whether they be subscribers or people who pick it up from the newsstands. Details of this change to 48 pages and the impact upon the local pastor will be forthcoming from our circulation department.

Letters From Newsstand Subscribers

We thought the local managers of our newsstand program would enjoy some letters from readers who have subscribed through the newsstand program. Periodically we will gather certain letters that we feel would be encouraging to your local representatives. Without question, the local newsstand program is making a major contribution toward getting God's Gospel out to the world.

You are so right. It is the most informative magazine I've ever seen and right up to the minute....I read your magazine and then leave it in our library for others to read. I hope you keep telling it like it is. People need to know the truth.

Mrs. R.H. (Rock Island, IL)

Thank the kind people who have so generously provided for a subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH magazine and the Bible Correspondence Course. To spread the good news, I've made sort of a library loan copy of my PLAIN TRUTH magazine. On the front cover I have written five names of my neighbors. Each checks his name as he passes the issue on to the next person and finally it comes back to me. One teaches History, and another English Literature; so the news gets publicity.

Sister M.P. (Cleveland, OH)

We stopped at a little restaurant here in California and I picked up one of your PLAIN TRUTH magazines.

M.S. (Riverside, GA)

I picked up one of your sample copies while doing my laundry one day in Shelby, North Carolina.

W.B. (Jacksonville, FL)

I picked up a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH in a supermarket near home. Of course, I had seen it several years ago.

M.E. (Scranton, PA)

I recently visited my home town of Watertown, Wisconsin and was surprised to find a few copies of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine in the entranceway of one of the large discount supermarkets. I live across the street from an extremely large food store and laundromat. It would be nice to see copies of The PLAIN TRUTH in both places. I don't think they would be wasted.

R.T. (Island Lake, IL)

I was so glad I decided to pick up your magazine off the counter of my neighborhood discount store.

P.G. (Cleveland, OH)

I picked up the free sample copy of your magazine and enjoyed it very much. Enclosed you will find a subscription request card and a \$5.00 donation to help.

L.W. (Topeka, KS)

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

A New Record Weekend in Mail Received

Mail Processing has just experienced the highest weekend for incoming mail in the Work's history! 54,589 letters and cards were received on July 17th and 18th. This outstanding mail volume is the result of Mr. Armstrong's semiannual letter to all subscribers. So far 72,604 people have sent their request for the books Mr. Armstrong advertised.

78% of TV Responses Are New Callers

Multiple thousands of people have called the Work's toll-free number to request literature offered on the telecast. In evaluating our records we find that 78% of these calls are from brand new people who are making their first contact with God's Work. The fact that so many new people are calling in is a very encouraging trend.

Mr. Armstrong's Sermon Tapes Inspire Members

We have received a number of letters from members who have been particularly inspired and motivated by Mr. Armstrong's recent sermon tapes. Hearing new aspects of God's plan expounded and being reminded of the shortness of time have moved them to put forth a renewed effort.

We recently heard two tapes by Mr. Armstrong at Sabbath services. I often wonder how things can get any more exciting, but they still do. The new depths of understanding, the continuing accomplishments in reaching the world with the true Gospel, the

awesome realization in my personal life that the great Creator God of the universe is really working with us--all these show that this is the Work of God! I have always believed this since becoming a member of God's Church. However, I keep believing it with deeper and deeper understanding as God reveals all these wonderful truths through Mr. Armstrong.

L.F. (Tremont, IL)

It was wonderful to hear you on tape. Our future is so fantastic that it is on the verge of being unbelievable! Keep preaching God's Word--expound and correct. We are 100 percent behind you and the Work of God.

Mr. & Mrs. M.J. (Aumsville, OR)

Thank you for your two latest sermon tapes....I guess you could say we are like the frog put in a frying pan with the heat slowly turned up. We don't realize how bad the world is getting because things have been worsening so slowly. We adjust and get hardened to it. We need someone to wake us up to what is really happening.

B.B. (Richfield, MN)

Mr. Armstrong, thank you for the taped sermon on survival and being ready for the time when we have to stand up and be counted. We really needed it to wake up and remind us not to take everything for granted. We have to draw closer to God and obey Him. My prayers are always with you in this great Work of Almighty God.

Mrs. M.W. (Pacifica, CA)

The messages you have been delivering are getting more and more dynamic. On the tape last Sabbath you explained to us the Kingdom of God and our place in God's plan with such zeal that I felt a tingling inside. Thank you for the time, effort and energy you are exerting daily for the Work.

We are behind you and want you to know that we are trying, with God's help, to follow your excellent example. Hopefully, we are growing in grace and knowledge as we are supposed to be.

Mrs. R.W. (Albany, OR)

Thank you very much for the recent tapes sent out to be played in all Churches. They were dynamite--and truly did move many off of their seats of complacency as the near-future was portrayed so vividly. Thanks for continuing to align the track on which we race to eternity!

B.S. (Fort Worth, TX)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE HOLY WAR ON THE EUPHRATES; MRS. THATCHER'S BIGGEST CHALLENGE

The hot wind of war is once again blowing across the desert wastelands at the head of the Persian Gulf. After finally ridding Iranian soil of Iraqi invaders who stormed in nearly two years ago, the legions of the Ayatollah

Khomeini have mounted a long-expected counter-offensive into Iraq. The attack appears to have been blunted for the moment. But observers feel that the Ayatollah will not give up until he succeeds in installing his Islamic-fundamentalist, anti-West "new order" not only in Iraq, but throughout the entire Islamic world. Should that occur the fate of Western industrial civilization, still dependent upon Middle East oil, would be at his mercy!

Just what does the 82-year-old supreme leader of the Iranian revolution have in mind? Abbas Amirie, executive director of Iran's Institute for International Affairs from 1973 to 1979, wrote the following for the LOS ANGELES TIMES, July 18, 1982:

The original border dispute over the Shatt al Arab waterway [has] been overshadowed by a much larger goal now being pursued by the Khomeini regime: expansion of the Islamic revolution throughout the gulf and, perhaps, the entire secular Arab world.... Khomeini's ultimate aim is fraught with such great peril that one cannot calculate its consequences....

Khomeini reiterated his vision on June 22, the eve of the holy month of Ramadan, telling a group of religious leaders: "When Tehran wins the war, the oppressed Iraqi people will join the Iranian people in installing an Islamic state in accordance with their wishes. And when our two nations unite, the smaller nations of the region will join us."

Khomeini and his fundamentalist supporters sincerely believe that most of the present political, education and economic systems of the Islamic countries are Western institutions imposed upon these states in order to exploit them and to destroy Islam, its vitality and value. They are convinced that if pro-Western regimes are replaced by Islamic government (their version) and the West's influence eliminated, Muslim societies, armed with Islamic laws and values, will unite and create a force and a civilization far superior to those of the West and the East. And so the Ayatollah Khomeini--and, for different reasons, his leftist supporters--are determined to eliminate the pro-Western governments of the region one by one...Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates and Oman. The West must not allow this to happen.

TIME magazine featured the Ayatollah (TIME spells it "Ayatullah") on the cover of its July 26, 1982 issue, with the title "Iran on the March" and a subtitle comprising a quote from Khomeini: "This is a war between Islam and blasphemy." Here are the key excerpts of this article:

With the outbreak of fighting on Iraqi territory, one of the most feared of Middle East scenarios was unfolding. The Arab world was already in disarray over Israel's invasion of Lebanon seven weeks ago....With no end to the siege of West Beirut in sight, another non-Arab country, Iran, had invaded Arab territory and seemed, moreover, to have a better-than-even chance of unseating the ruling government. At immediate risk were the moderate, hereditary regimes of Saudi Arabia and the rest of the gulf. But the Ayatullah Khomeini's vow was even more explosive: to press on to Jerusalem, to liberate the Holy City and overwhelm all enemies of Islam.

Iran, notes the TIME report, is four times the size of Iraq and has a population that is three times as large. While active fighting has re-erupted along the Shatt al Arab, Khomeini's forces are believed to be plotting the overthrow of every government in the gulf. TIME learned that a new corps of revolutionaries is being trained under the name of the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Gulf. The group is led by an ayatollah operating out of Tehran. Recruits are said to be undergoing training in South Yemen and Libya and in a new facility recently opened for a class of 600 in northwestern Iran.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is so concerned over Khomeini's radicalism that he is seriously considering a proposal to station several divisions of Egyptian soldiers along the borders of Iraq in Kuwait and in the eastern province of Saudi Arabia. In return, Egypt would insist on the restoration of diplomatic relations that were broken off by most of the gulf states following the conclusion of Egypt's peace treaty with Israel. Mubarak knows that such a scheme involves risks. Continues the TIME story:

Such a move not only might antagonize Egypt's generals, but would also anger the Islamic fundamentalists in the country. It was the fundamentalists who assassinated President Sadat last October, and they remain a threat in spite of Mubarak's crack-downs. Nonetheless, Mubarak is prepared to offer Egyptian troops to defend Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the other gulf states, under the terms of the 30-year-old Joint Arab Defense Pact, if the arrangement is approved by the states involved and supported militarily by the U.S. Considering Mubarak's reluctance to send forces anywhere outside Egypt, the current discussion of such a mission is an indication of how worried he is about the spread of Islamic revolution.

Even some of Khomeini's friends are upset about the Iranian invasion of Iraq. The P.L.O., which has generally supported Khomeini out of deference to Syria, is furious with the Iranians for launching an invasion that can only divert attention from the Palestinians' plight in Lebanon....Not that such an argument would carry much weight with the ruler of Iran, which has once more become the primary power of the gulf. If the Palestinians want Jerusalem as the capital of a state of their own, Khomeini wants it as the goal of a holy crusade.

The same issue of TIME contained an interview with King Hussein of Jordan. In response to questions about the possible outcome of Iran-Iraq fighting, he said:

I really believe Iraq is very, very important to the future of the entire area. It is the route to Saudi Arabia, the gulf, to the heart of the region....This [Islamic fundamentalist] movement takes its direction from Tehran, and it is like a tidal wave. Eventually it will disappear. But what damage it can cause in this area! It could take many governments with it.

Mrs. Thatcher's Greatest Challenge

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's popularity among the British people continues at a high mark, the result of two remarkable victories, one

external, the other internal. The former refers, of course, to the successful conclusion of the Falklands war. The latter victory was achieved this week, when she forced railway unions to abort a nationwide rail strike. Mrs. Thatcher borrowed a page from President Reagan's text on throttling the nationwide air controller's strike in the U.S. by threatening to hire and train new train drivers to replace striking unionmen on the nationalized British Rail network. The strikers had been protesting BR's cost-cutting proposals regarding "flexible time" work schedules.

But now Mrs. Thatcher is facing her toughest challenge--how to crack down on IRA terrorists on the loose in England who were responsible for the incredible carnage produced by two bomb blasts set off in London on July 20, killing eight British soldiers, seven horses of the Queen's Household Cavalry and injuring at least 55 people. The Prime Minister labeled the back-to-back explosions a "callous and cowardly crime committed by evil and brutal men," adding, "We shall not rest until they are brought to justice."

Shortly before the IRA outburst, Mrs. Thatcher received an unusual accolade in the House of Commons from one of parliament's most colorful and certainly most eloquent MP's, Enoch Powell. His comments were reported in the TIMES of London a few days back (exact date not known):

Mr. Enoch Powell, it will be remembered, drew attention in his speech in the Falklands debate on that fateful April Saturday [April 3, the day after the Argentine invasion] to the fact that Mrs. Thatcher had rather rejoiced in the name once given her by the Soviet Union: the Iron Lady. And he added that in the weeks ahead we would see "of what metal she was made"....His words virtually pinned Mrs. Thatcher to the back of her seat, at the time. Defiantly she nodded agreement with him across the chamber, we remember....

Yesterday Mr. Powell rose during Prime Minister's question time. "Is the Right Hon. Lady aware that the report has now been received from the Public Analyst on a certain substance recently subjected to analysis? I have obtained a copy of the report. It shows that the substance under test consisted of ferrous matter of the highest quality...that it is of exceptional tensile strength, is highly resistant to wear and tear and to stress and may be used with advantage for all national purposes."

Mrs. Thatcher replied that she was grateful to Mr. Powell. "I agree with every word," she added.

The Prime Minister, and all others present, knew what Mr. Powell primarily had in mind with his phrase "all national purposes": the so-called "troubles" in Ulster. (Mr. Powell, though he is an Englishman, has been the Unionist MP from Down South in Northern Ireland since October, 1974.)

Unique Statesman

Incidentally, the oft-maligned and generally misunderstood Mr. Powell has just passed his 70th birthday. The TIMES ran nearly a full page in its June 14th edition detailing his rather remarkable career in public service. The TIMES profile put to rest once and for all charges that Mr. Powell is a "racist." (He got into political hot water in April, 1968 for a speech

before an obscure audience in which he warned of future problems over non-white immigration into Britain from the Commonwealth, a warning partly confirmed by eruptions of racial disorders in Britain last summer. He was summarily fired from the Tory "shadow cabinet." Yet, before that speech he had passionately decried ill treatment of Mau Mau prisoners in Kenya.)

Few MP's in Parliament can match Enoch Powell's academic credentials. Before the second world war he was a professor of Greek at Sydney University in Australia, and has authored books on ancient Greek historians. He speaks French, German, Italian, Urdu and knows Sanskrit. His current literary effort is an historical reexamination of the New Testament which, according to the TIMES profile, "will certainly light a fire under biblical and theological scholarship."

A patriot par excellence, Mr. Powell has always been a staunch defender of British royalty. The TIMES article quotes part of a remarkable speech which Powell gave on April 22, 1964 before the Royal Society of St. George. He said at that time: "We on our day ought well to guard, as highly to honour, the parent stem of England, and its royal talisman; for we know not what branches yet that wonderful tree will have the power to put forth." Quite prophetic, though I'm sure Mr. Powell didn't intend it that way. Check Jeremiah 23:5 and 33:15 as well as Isaiah 11:1 about "a righteous Branch" yet to stem from that "wonderful tree" as Mr. Powell calls it.

The TIMES writer, immediately after quoting from the 1964 speech, commented very appropriately:

I ask, simply, on his seventieth birthday, has there been any Western politician since 1945, save Churchill and de Gaulle, who would, or could, dare speak in tones of such grandeur, simplicity, and decency? We are all familiar with Tories who trumpet Churchill, and Labour politicians who intone past injustice. But, who has that capacity, whether you judge him right or wrong?

I thought our readers might enjoy this insight into a rather remarkable public figure, one who unfortunately was forced into political background in 1968.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau