

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 20, 1982

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

****PLEASE ANNOUNCE IN ALL U.S. AND CANADIAN CHURCHES****

1983 Festival Housing Arrangements

Even though the Feast of Tabernacles is still weeks away, much planning for next year's Festival has already taken place. One critical factor is housing. Because of the following reasons, we are requesting that all members wait until next spring when the Feast Edition of the WORLDWIDE NEWS comes out to make housing reservations for 1983.

1. The sites are not yet firm. Almost any site in the U.S. and Canada could be changed.
2. We have no way to guarantee that all transfers will be approved.
3. All housing at each site must be negotiated by the Festival Coordinator between now and next year. Negotiating for better prices is impossible if available housing is already partially filled by members.
4. Finally, those transferring to popular sites such as St. Petersburg and booking their housing early, make it much more difficult for those assigned to the site to find housing.

So again, you should wait until the spring Feast Edition of the WORLDWIDE NEWS comes out to make your 1983 Festival housing arrangements for the U.S. and Canada. Your cooperation in this area will help make a better Feast for everyone!

Second Tithe Assistance (U.S. Pastors)

We have received a record number of requests for 2T assistance so far this year. The amount of assistance being requested is more than 50% greater than what we were able to distribute last year. This has required us to utilize all of the budgeted funds for those in the primary recipient categories; therefore, we will not be able to help those in the secondary recipient categories--the recently baptized and prospective members. Also, we will have to be more conservative with the amounts distributed. Any

requests sent in now should only be for the most deserving recipients. Those who have procrastinated or who haven't done their part to keep their needs as low as possible will have to be turned down. The deadline for receiving any last minute 2T requests is September 6th.

Please make the following announcement in all U.S. churches.

SECOND TITHE ASSISTANCE

All member second tithe assistance requests should be handled through the local pastors before the Feast of Tabernacles. Members should not go to the Feast without sufficient funds, expecting assistance at the festival site. Only limited funds for genuine emergencies will be available at the festival location, and then only with the local pastor's recommendation.

Reminder About Hard-of-hearing Headsets

We would like to remind you of the method of handling hard-of-hearing headsets. Instead of being stored at the church meeting place, or being carried to and fro by a deacon, headsets should be "checked out" to each member needing one.

This works much as a library loans books. The Church still owns the headsets, but the individual members are responsible for keeping track of the equipment. Amplifiers and leads will still be provided, but the members need to bring their headsets to services every week for themselves.

The brethren will also need to bring the headset they have checked out from the Church to whatever Feast site they plan to attend. This will help Feast planning by helping reduce the duplication involved. We must emphasize, however, that only the telex headsets may be plugged into the hard-of-hearing lines at the Feast. Any others will not fit the amplification system.

There will be a few headsets at each site for any unforeseen need. We are also notifying the hard-of-hearing members of their responsibility.

Since the members are responsible for their own headsets, they must also be responsible for breakage and abnormal wear. If the equipment receives proper care, it will last for years. Any abnormal wear or abuse may, at the discretion of the pastor, be the responsibility of the member. Hopefully emphasizing each person's responsibility will lessen this problem.

If anyone has any questions about how to administer this program, call Glenn Nice at Ministerial Services.

Ministerial WATS Line

We are experiencing more and more difficulty with service outages on our telephone lines. As a result of the most recent series of outages, some confusion has resulted in the use of the "Ministerial WATS line." Twenty-

four hour coverage is provided for 1-800-423-4464, so if it is not answered promptly there is a maintenance problem with the line.

Following is the procedure to use if no answer is received when calling 4464: If the matter is urgent, you should dial direct--either 213-577-5000 (which is the switchboard) or the number of the person you desire to speak with.

It would be very helpful if you would call 1-800-423-4444 and let the Telephone Response personnel know that you have been trying the Ministerial WATS number, but that it is not being answered. You should ask Telephone Response to notify the switchboard so that the line can be repaired.

How to Find Missing Members

Ministerial Services receives a sufficient number of questions regarding missing members that we felt it would be beneficial to give a few pointers on finding these people.

Step 1: Check with Mail Processing to see if there has been an address change. Normally, if we've mailed you a recent listing with these people's addresses there would be no change, but where there might be more of a time lapse involved, MPC might be able to help.

Step 2: If there is no change in the address, ask MPC if there is a "postal return" notation on the person's file or whether mail is still being sent. If the post office has sent even one piece of mail back to us, we will have stopped all mail until we receive verification of the accurate address. Please review the article entitled "Missing Members" in the November 20, 1981 PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Step 3: Check with telephone information locally for the telephone number. Be sure to specify that it might be under "new listings."

Step 4: Go to the address you have. If the people you're looking for aren't residing there, check with the landlord or current tenants.

Step 5: Check with family members and friends.

Step 6: Send a certified or registered letter with a return receipt requested and request an address correction. When the receipt is returned it will carry the new address, if there is one available.

Step 7: If the people are residing at the address you have, but are "never home" so you can visit them, send a return receipt requested letter with a "contact me or else" context.

International News

New Zealand/South Pacific News Mr. Armstrong's latest semiannual letter was sent to just under 40,000 PLAIN TRUTH subscribers during July, and by the end of the month over 3,600 responses had been returned to the office. Of those responding, 2,032 (56%) have asked for THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, 2,965 (81%) for THE WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW, and 3,322 (91%) have taken the opportunity to renew their PLAIN TRUTH subscriptions.

The total incoming mail count for the month of July was 6,350 items. Mail income for the month showed an increase of 13.2% over the same month last year, and the year-to-date income now stands at exactly 20%.

Regional Director, Mr. Peter Nathan, spent the latter part of July in the United States visiting the S.E.P. camps at Big Sandy and Orr, as well as the Pasadena offices. The S.E.P. for youngsters from New Zealand and the Pacific Islands will be held on Matutapu Island, near Auckland, in the southern summer (December-January).

Regional Circulation Manager, Mr. Rex Morgan, made a trip to Vanuatu (formerly the New Hebrides) during the month. He was able to spend a good deal of time with each of four members there, as well as with a number of interested PT readers and PM's who had requested visits. He also conducted a series of three PLAIN TRUTH lectures in the capital, Port-Villa.

The PLAIN TRUTH newsstand program is progressing very well, with over 40,000 copies now being distributed on the newsstands in New Zealand every month. When these are added to our current mailing list of 33,000 in New Zealand, it is calculated that one in every 14.4 New Zealand households receives the magazine.

The newsstand program has been particularly successful in Wellington, the nation's capital, where 10,000 monthly newsstand copies are distributed. In Wellington, approximately one household in eight receives The PLAIN TRUTH.

French-language Areas Since the first of the year we have accumulated 11,806 new subscribers (except Canada). Of this total there were 4,582 from France; 1,136 from Belgium; 441 from Switzerland; 1,748 from U.S.A.; 1390 from W. Germany; 193 from Martinique; 221 from Guadeloupe and 2,095 from other parts of the world.

In our Pasadena office we received 1,609 letters for the month of July for a 100% increase over the same month last year. And a total of 867 pieces of literature was sent during this month.

We learned that 108 letters for the month of June were received in our office in Guadeloupe. This is an all-time high since the establishment of a Church there. About half of the letters resulted from our radio program, with the remainder coming from subscribers to La PURE VERITE.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Messrs. Armstrong and Tkach:

I want to let you know that Elaine and I appreciated the seventh Refresher very much. The teaching, guidance and example of those at Headquarters is very encouraging and exciting. It is evident that God's Holy Spirit is prevalent in these classes.

I thank God for the unity that we saw and the way you all are backing His Apostle, Mr. Armstrong.

The instruction has helped me to see how I can better help Mr. Botha and the brethren in our area. Thanks to all of you and especially God who makes it all possible.

Bob and Elaine Griffith

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Time does fly and after two years my wife and I are back at the Ministerial Refreshing Program. And what a refreshing time it is! Several items seem to stand out especially. They are:

1. The blessing of being able to hear from Mr. Armstrong. The opportunity to hear his words was greatly inspiring to us. Also to see how, through God's guidance, Mr. Armstrong is getting the Church back on the track was very encouraging.
2. The various helpful classes. The subjects chosen this time seem to really zero in on the things that can help us out in the field. The speakers all seem to be deeply interested in teaching and instructing us on the ways of life.
3. The fellowship. It is always good to touch bases with those of you at Headquarters and also to meet others that labor in the field ministry. The team spirit is coming through.

Therefore, thanks for this wonderful course of instruction. It is surely very worthwhile.

Richard and Sally Parker

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

DETROIT (WEST), MI--RAY WOOTEN: The brethren here were greatly uplifted and inspired by the visit of Mr. Armstrong on June 26th. Many were seeing him in person for the first time. His message on prophecy and that time is very short in which to overcome and finish the Work was a much-needed awakening to many of those attending.

JONESBORO, AR--CLYDE KILOUGH: There's good involvement in local Church activities reflecting a general positive attitude. Many commented on Mr. Armstrong's last tape--particularly on the light shed about our being trained to be teachers. Several comments were along the lines of "There is a real sense of urgency in Mr. Armstrong's sermons for the Church." I believe the brethren are picking up on this personally. There's been excellent response to the Bible study on the book of Revelation.

GREENSBORO, N.C.--DAN ORBAN: The brethren certainly enjoy the tapes from Mr. Armstrong. They talk about them quite a bit. He gives them a strength that no one else can give.

HARRISON/MT. VIEW, AR--TOM BLACKWELL: PT newsstand program growing. Having good support among members. Brethren are 100% behind Mr. Armstrong and the Work. They enjoy hearing him on the tapes. Keep them coming.

MERIDEN, CT--LARRY WOOLDRIDGE: Receiving quite a few new requests for visits from interested listeners to telecast. Attitudes overall are fine. I think most of the brethren here sense we are near the end of this age.

CAMBRIDGE, OH--R. "SHORTY" FUESSEL: There has been a noticeable increase in good quality PM's. A number are now attending and are proceeding towards baptism. Church seems to be growing together and stabilizing. Some hardship on a few members due to high unemployment in the area.

MICHIGAN CITY, IN--RAND MILLICH: Members are putting their trust in God as their healer. Children (teens) coming back from S.E.P. are enthusiastic about their experiences. They appreciated hearing from Mr. Armstrong and other personnel from Headquarters.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena campus)

A certain excitement fills the air as the 1982-83 college year is about to begin. This semester, we expect to have approximately 500 single students on campus, plus a number of married and special students. ("Special students" are those who will be taking only one or two classes at Ambassador, and this includes some key employees and the wives of married students, ministers or faculty members.)

Mr. Armstrong has okayed our increasing the single, on-campus student body size from 472 (last year's figure) to 500. We have accepted about 512, but expect a number of "no-shows" will bring this figure down to about 500 by the time all of the students have registered.

During 1981-82 we had a very exciting and successful college year, and we expect the coming year to be even better. You will be happy to learn that over 50% of last year's graduates have been employed in the Work! And I am sure that the non-employed-in-the-Work grads will serve as pillars in the local churches where they attend.

Presently, Mr. Armstrong plans to speak to the faculty and administration of the College at the faculty meeting this coming Sunday, August 22nd. Following that meeting, a faculty dinner is planned. Then on Monday, the 23rd, Mr. Armstrong plans to speak at the Orientation Forum, which will be attended by all students and faculty, plus some employees of Ambassador College.

The annual Freshmen Reception (formerly called Faculty Reception) is scheduled to be at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 26th. Mr. Armstrong plans, as in past years, to address all of the freshmen briefly at that occasion. A dance will follow immediately afterward.

This year the 1982 ENVOY will not be ready for delivery at the Feast of Tabernacles as it was last year. We regret that it will not be ready by the Feast, but we hope to have someone at each Feast site to take orders. I have been told that Mr. Armstrong plans to send a letter (regarding the '82

ENVOY) to the brethren at a later date. We anticipate selling about 15,000 copies--the same number sold last fall.

You have already been informed that Mr. Leslie McCullough will again serve as Deputy Chancellor of Big Sandy. Mr. Larry Salyer will serve as Dean of Students. Also, Mr. Dick Ames will spend one year at Big Sandy, teaching and assisting in any way possible. During Mr. Ames' one-year absence from Pasadena, Dr. David Albert will serve as Acting Director of Admissions. Dr. Albert had previously served as Assistant Director of Admissions.

All of us here in Pasadena look forward to the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Kelly and Dr. and Mrs. Don Ward. They will make valuable contributions to the campus during their one-year tenure of service, teaching various classes in theology and speech. Mr. Kelly will also work closely with the Editorial Services Department, which is under Mr. Dexter Faulkner's supervision.

Once again, we of the faculty and College Administration wish to express our thanks to all of you ministers and your wives for your prayers and the other forms of positive support which you have given God's College. This is one of the main reasons why we have recently had so many wanting to enter Ambassador College. As you may know, this year over 1,800 asked for applications. We are only accepting about 139 single freshmen for the coming year, and have also accepted 11 married men and four wives.

The following comment from a recent visitor to Ambassador College is fairly typical of what visitors to this campus see and think when they visit God's College:

Dear Mr. McNair:

I would like to express my appreciation and admiration for the condition of the College, since it has been put back on track. I had the pleasure of visiting the campus and was happy to see, once again, bright, contented and friendly faces of students, instead of turned-off, unfriendly faces of a few years ago. (Of course, as we all know, the main credit on the human level goes to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.)

We ask your continued prayers that God will continue to bless His College--that all of us will do an excellent job, going beyond the call of duty in helping to train these wonderful young people--these "diamonds in the rough"!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

FROM PUBLISHING SERVICES

Surplus Newsstand Magazines

Many of you have already received a letter from us asking if you have surplus newsstand magazines in your Church area and can therefore cut down on your monthly magazine allotment. If you have not already done so, we would be grateful if you could send this information back to us as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

FROM MAIL PROCESSING CENTERYouth Praise S.E.P.

This year's S.E.P.--both in Minnesota and Texas--was another great success. Many youths who attended camp have written expressing their appreciation for the opportunities afforded them. Here is a sampling of the letters received in Mail Processing.

I am writing concerning the Summer Educational Program for teenagers in God's Church.

The three weeks were the greatest I have ever had in my life. S.E.P. gave me a chance to make new friends and try new experiences. It helped me to work on my attitude, and to start planning my life. I have so many precious memories that will last for the rest of my life. I would sincerely like to thank Mr. Armstrong for opportunities like S.E.P., and all the things that Y.O.U. has to offer young people in God's Church. I think if any teens in God's Church have the chance to go to S.E.P., they should take it!

L.A. (Chillicothe, OH)

I'm writing to express my deepest gratitude to you for paying a part of my tuition to attend S.E.P. at Big Sandy, Texas this year. It was an experience that I will never forget....Without your help, and that of a very kind and generous widow in my local church area, it would not have been possible for me to go. This was the first time I had ever been to Texas, and Ambassador College was the best place I could have hoped to go to....I learned many things at camp this year--not just physical skills, but also spiritual lessons....All the instructors and counselors did a wonderful job. Thank you once again for the opportunity to grow and build strong friendships at S.E.P.

E.B. (London, KY)

I just returned from the second session of S.E.P. (Orr, Minnesota) and it was wonderful. I saw you and it was like a dream come true.

D.B. (Jamaica, NY)

I am writing to tell you what a great time I had at S.E.P. (Orr, Minnesota). I never dreamed that I would have such a great time. The love and friendships that grew in three short weeks could never be formed at any other camp outside the Church. Thank you for letting me have the opportunity to experience it--I loved every second. I hope everyone that goes will enjoy and learn as much as I did.

J.Y. (Lexington, NB)

Thanks to you, Mr. Armstrong, I've had a wonderful summer being able to go to S.E.P. I made new friends and learned how to do things I never knew before. But above all, I learned to better get along with people and to consider them before myself. I also learned that getting close to God is the most important thing. I

am studying more and more. I wish to go as a worker next year and hope to see you again soon. I think you're doing a wonderful job.

R.S. (Eagle Point, OR)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

IN BRITAIN, GOD IS IGNORED IN VICTORY Traditionally in Britain, after great wartime victories, majestic services of thanksgiving were given to God in St. Paul's Cathedral in London. On July 26, another memorial service was held in St. Paul's, ostensibly to honor those who gave their lives in the South Atlantic conflict. The Falkland Islands service, as it was called, was conducted by Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie. This service was a rather marked departure from its predecessors. It succeeded primarily in angering top members of the government, the Royal Family and the public at large.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was described as "livid" after the service. One conservative MP, Mr. Julian Amery said: "I would have thought the sermon would have been more appropriate in Buenos Aires than here." Another MP, Mr. Edward Du Cann added: "I was sad and disappointed there was no mention during the service that the Falklands crisis was an example of Britain standing alone for international law, freedom and democracy." Said another: "There was insufficient gratitude shown to Almighty God for the deliverance of our people through the victory of our arms."

DAILY TELEGRAPH writer Godfrey Barker describes the service which turned the stomach of many in attendance:

Never did thanksgiving sound more sombre and grave, less triumphant and joyful...."War is a sign of human failure and everything we say and do in this service must be in that context," declared the Archbishop of Canterbury in stern keynote text....

Right at the start...it was clear that this was not going to be a Thanksgiving for Victory. What it was, rather, was thanksgiving that it was all over. The theme announced in the Bidding Prayer of the Dean...was that "We thank God for the cessation of hostilities, for the courage of those who took part and for the safe return of many...."

It was a service which made emphatically clear the Church's preference for a negotiated settlement. Indeed, it was as appropriate for defeat as to victory. It had, therefore, almost nothing in common with the sort of majestic Thanksgiving which might have honoured British naval victories in another age, or indeed have pleased Mrs. Thatcher. Martial hymns of the "Soldiers of Christ Arise" variety were conspicuous by their absence (not even "O God Our Help in Ages Past" crept in).

As for the illusion, much cherished under Queen Victoria, that God might be on our side in a just war, that he was, indeed, "Lord of our far-flung battle line, Beneath whose awful hand we hold Dominion over palm and pine"--the Archbishop went out of his way to dispel it. "Those who dare to interpret God's will must never

claim him as an asset for one nation or group rather than another," he said....

By this point several members of the Cabinet were looking less inspired. Irritation flickered on certain faces...when he [the Archbishop] equated bereaved in Britain and in Argentina....On the Services' side of the aisle, Rear Admiral Woodward [commander of the Falklands task force] stared impassively forward at the magnificent gold lectern for much of the sermon.

The July 27 TIMES of London report on the same service added some other interesting points:

Both the style of the service and the tone of the sermon preached by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie, discouraged any spirit of rejoicing. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher is known to have objected to some of the ideas for the service first put around by the Dean of St. Paul's,...Alan Webster, such as the Lord's prayer in Spanish.

In the event, her objection was met in the letter but not the spirit, for the final third of the service concentrated on the theme of peace and reconciliation, with prayers written by Dr. Kenneth Greet, secretary of the Methodist Conference. He never made any secret that he was appalled by the sending of the task force to the South Atlantic. He asked the congregation to thank God for the contemporary peace movements, and to supply the will to fight against poverty and disease "instead of against each other."

Another of Dean Webster's original ideas, that the Pope's Coventry sermon on peace and reconciliation should be printed in the order of service, also disappeared in the course of negotiation between church and state. It, too, was not lost entirely; the archbishop quoted the nub of it, calling it "particularly memorable."

The service itself was the most ecumenical national religious event that has been held. In addition to Dr. Greet, [Roman Catholic] Cardinal Hume had been invited to lead the congregation with prayers of his own composition on remembering the dead.

The point about ecumenism is a very important one, since the Church of England has been cozying up to Rome for a number of years, culminating in Pope John Paul II's visit this spring. An ecumenically-oriented church could hardly be expected to offer praise for victory over an overwhelmingly Roman Catholic nation such as Argentina.

The lead article (editorial) in the next day's TIMES generally approved of the service, and its attempt (obviously successful) to separate the Church and its contemporary views on war, the "brotherhood of man," etc. from the goals of the state and of any particular political party in power. Not all "letters to the editor" agreed however. A reader from Edinburgh responded two days later:

Sir, So the nation is ashamed to thank God for victory in the Falklands War, the prayers were written so as to be able to be

mouthered by Argentine lips as well as the British (according to the BBC)....

It is evident that the forces who were held at bay when the Task Force was sent south have triumphed in St. Paul's [meaning those calling for negotiation and not sending the troops off to war]. Those who were unable to prevent the military expedition are turning their hand to the creation of a sense of guilt in its backers.

But we now face an absurdity. Either it was, or it was not, a just war; either we were right, or we were wrong, to engage in it. If it was just, if those who gave their lives to repossess the Islands died in a righteous cause, then let God be thanked. If, however, we conclude that it was unjust, prosecuted to gain a victory that was undeserved, it is not thanksgiving but humiliation and repentance that should sound from the Cathedral. But what real comfort can it be to the bereaved, to tell them that their sons and their husbands have died gaining a victory for which we cannot thank God?

Rewrite the National Anthem Too!

Many political leaders as well as ordinary Britons have also been critical of an unofficial new version of the national anthem, "God Save the Queen," written mainly by Anglican churchmen. The new version, intended as an alternative (but not a replacement) for the traditional anthem, changes the line about the Queen--"send her victorious, happy and glorious" to a vague sentiment reading "guard us in liberty, bless us with unity."

One conservative MP charged that "the Church of England is now peopled by buffoons." Another conservative MP lashed out: "These people are ashamed of being born Englishmen and are full of guilt and want to water everything down they can."

In a piece of biting satire in the August 3 DAILY TELEGRAPH of London, a writer suggests, fancifully, another new anthem in order to eliminate references to "God," "Queen" and "our land." A new anthem could be sung as follows: "Hopefully, the evolutionary principle [instead of "God"] inherent in our biospherical environment [replacing "country"] will ensure a relevant meaningful relationship of the head of state [the Queen] with her responsibilities in a global context." The writer admitted that it might be a bit difficult to mesh those words with the notes of "God Save the Queen" or any other tune for that matter.

"I know Ephraim," God says in Hosea 5:3, but "they do not know the Lord" (verse 4); "They do not direct their deeds toward turning to their God, for the spirit of harlotry is in their midst" (The New King James Version). Chasing once again after Rome, Ephraim no longer knows how to thank God for His blessings and occasional deliverance.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau