

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

The Need to be Insured

All too often we receive requests from Church members, and even ministers, asking for financial help because they had not been carrying insurance when some disaster occurred. Not too long ago, a Church member who was not carrying any liability insurance was involved in a traffic accident. The fact that it was his fault compounded the problem. Sometime later, a fire partially destroyed a minister's home. He was not carrying any insurance on his possessions. In both of these instances the people came to the Church for help. These are only samples of the cases that come up from time to time.

We would like to have an announcement made (or possibly even a sermonette) in each Church congregation regarding the Christian's responsibility to be properly covered by insurance. There are many scriptures that can be cited--here are just a few: Proverbs 22:3; 27:12--"A prudent [wise] man foresees the evil and hides himself...." One way to avoid financial disaster as a result of an accident is to be properly covered by insurance. The judgments in Exodus chapters 21 and 22 have many references to repaying damages one has caused, whether intentionally or by accident or negligence. Also notice Ecclesiastes 9:11: "...time and chance happen to them all."

To our knowledge, every state in the United States has laws requiring minimal insurance or other evidence of financial responsibility in the event you are involved in an automobile accident where property damage, bodily injury and/or death occur. Similar laws exist in many other countries around the world. To a degree this is a case of "rendering unto Caesar," but it goes beyond that. There is enough scriptural admonition to make it a personal, Christian duty! Notice especially Romans 13:1-7. Here we are admonished to be subject to the powers that be because these rulers are "ministers of God." We are to obey the laws of the land lest we bring a penalty ("damnation") upon ourselves (verse 2). In the context of obeying civil governments we notice verse 11: "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

Most important to remember is that the spiritual law of love far supersedes any of man's laws. It is showing love to be able to remunerate someone for a loss you have caused. It is also love to not have to lean on someone to help you when you could have avoided it by setting aside, in advance through proper insurance, what it would take to cover the need should it occur.

We have chosen not to write a specific announcement to be read in services because we want more emphasis placed on this important facet of our Christian lives. Please spend sufficient time expounding this subject to put God's people "on track."

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

EUGENE, OR--LEONARD SCHREIBER: In light of Mr. Armstrong's admonition to dress properly when coming before God, the brethren are responding very well. Some who are unemployed or on low incomes are finding high quality clothing in used clothing stores at very low prices. Even the little children come by to show me how nice they look.

Five new adults and three children began attending services this month. "The World Tomorrow" on a local station has given a big boost to the congregation.

GRAND RAPIDS, MI--BILL MILLER: Brethren remain positive, and are overcoming and involved. Michigan unemployment rate leads the nation at 18%, but only two male members are presently unemployed. Layoffs are occurring all around us, usually creating opportunities for overtime for members. God certainly does bless for tithing.

SPRINGFIELD, MA--LYLE WELTY: Church is doing well. Attitudes are positive and supportive. The recession is having a belt-tightening effect but there is little unemployment within the Church. Many are motivated by world events and prophecy taking shape.

WAUSAU, WI--DAVE FIEDLER: Have had a number of individuals ask for visits and/or ask to attend services who are relatives of members. Also, some who have been on the "fence" seem to be making moves to do what they have known to do!

FT. WALTON BEACH, FL--DON WATERHOUSE: We have experienced an unusual increase in PMS. These have been above average--one family has listened to the broadcast for over 20 years. The increase in church attendance has added new life to the congregation.

PEORIA, IL--JESS ERNEST: The Church in Peoria is rallying behind Mr. Armstrong and Headquarters. There is excellent backing of socials, Bible studies, Y.E.S. evaluation meetings, Y.O.U. Bible studies, Women's Club and Spokesman Club. The parents also strongly back their teens in Y.O.U., coming to many practices and turning out in force for the tournaments. It is very heartening to see the growth of the membership in their personal and spiritual lives.

CHAMPAIGN, IL--RANDY HOLM: Spiritual growth continues and is increasing, seemingly more so as the end of this age nears. The vast majority have their vision focused on God, His Work and His apostle.

KENOSHA, WI--FELIX HEIMBERG: Mr. Armstrong's recent tapes have been especially well received. The brethren reflect a confidence that God communicates to His Church through Mr. Armstrong.

VICTORIA, TX--DENNIS VAN DEVENTER: The Church in Victoria is showing good growth and stability. Mr. Armstrong's tapes have

sparked increased enthusiasm and determination to grow spiritually and finish the Work God has given us to do.

ELKHART, IN--RAND MILLICH: The two tapes by Mr. Armstrong have really stirred the congregation. Members have been discussing the messages and talking about the Bible in a much more enthusiastic way. I think many were shocked out of lethargy by Mr. Armstrong's sermons.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

****TO BE ANNOUNCED****

Applications for Big Sandy S.E.P.

Mr. Armstrong has recently approved a three-week S.E.P. session to be held in Big Sandy this summer. The dates of the session are Wednesday, July 6 through Wednesday, July 27. Any campers who have already had camp experience in Orr should strive to apply for this fantastic program. Activities such as cycling, tennis, racquetball, and television/video instruction will be offered!

If you have already mailed in your camper application for Orr and would like to change your application to Big Sandy, please call (800) 423-4444 if in the continental United States. If calling from California, Alaska, or Hawaii please call collect (213) 304-6111.

If you have applied for a worker position at Orr and would like to change your application to Big Sandy, please call the Y.O.U. Office at (213) 304-6138 and let us know what area you would like to work in.

There will be approximately 200 openings for campers at the Big Sandy camp with the tuition being \$225 per camper. Last year the Big Sandy camp was a tremendous success, so send your application in to the Y.O.U. Office, or make that phone call without delay. Remember, camper applications must be postmarked by March 14.

--Kevin Dean, Y.O.U.

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

Record Growth in WATS TV Response Continues

The strong and growing response to "The World Tomorrow" program has continued into 1983! In January, a total of 44,485 calls were received as a result of the telecast. This is the third highest month on record. The second and third highest weekend responses were also recorded during the month.

The following chart compares January, 1983 with January, 1982:

	<u>Jan. 1983</u>	<u>Jan. 1982</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>
Total WATS TV Calls	44,485	31,502	41
Average Weekend Calls	7,938	5,251	51
No. of TV Stations	175	123	42
No. of Telephone Lines	161	65	147

This encouraging increase in TV calls is primarily due to the addition of new stations and telephone lines. However, these are not the only reasons. Response has gradually increased on older, established stations, as well as on newer ones. The strength and timeliness of the current programs appear to be factors as well.

The number of calls for January, 1983 would have been even higher, but on one weekend a telethon preempted the telecast on 29 stations, including WOR and KTTV, our major stations in New York and Los Angeles respectively. Also, the Super Bowl game reduced the number of calls received January 30.

The month of February may produce similar statistics. The first weekend (February 5-6) was the fourth highest weekend ever for TV response.

Serving the Elderly and Infirm

We frequently receive letters from elderly persons, many of whom suffer from debilitating diseases and are confined either to their own homes or nursing homes. The majority express a deep and humble appreciation for The PLAIN TRUTH, our other literature and "The World Tomorrow" program. God's true message is clearly a source of comfort, enlightenment and hope to them. Following are some of the letters recently received.

I listen to your program on television almost every Sunday and enjoy it very much. To me it is the most enlightening of any of the church services on TV. I don't get out much, as I am quite crippled with arthritis, so it is a real pleasure to hear good, sincere preaching as you do.

Mrs. C.J. (Fairfield, IA)

Your books have given me a sense of direction and understanding that I didn't know existed. Your TV program is dynamic and should be viewed by all concerned Christians. In times like these we need someone to give us direction and you are the answer to a prayer that I have been asking for a long time. I just had a major operation two weeks ago, and your teaching has helped me to know that God is all good!

Mrs. H.R. (Brooklyn, NY)

I look forward to The GOOD NEWS and PLAIN TRUTH. Because of arthritis, I am very much a shut-in. Mr. Armstrong gave me the first sensible and believable understanding of God's written Word. I have learned to read it regularly, instead of in a hit-and-miss fashion.

E.W. (Niles, MI)

My wife and I are patients at a nursing home. I sure get lots of pleasure from The PLAIN TRUTH, as everything is the truth. You do not get it in any of the other magazines.

F.B. (Mer Rouge, LA)

Mr. Armstrong's letters and The GOOD NEWS magazine are an inspiration which I would not like to miss out on since I am getting along in years (77) and am housebound most of the time. I look forward to getting The PLAIN TRUTH and...enjoy seeing Mr. Armstrong on TV each Sunday morning and hearing his message. I am praying for him and for God's Kingdom to come.

Mrs. F.M. (Kansas City, MO)

I had been in the hospital and since coming home have not been making very good progress. I read The PLAIN TRUTH from cover to cover and would be lost without it. To me it is the best magazine available. I'm in bed most of the time and, since the magazine is small, I do not have to sit up as I do when I read my Bible.

H.W. (Morehead City, NC)

I thank you so very much for my PLAIN TRUTH subscription and booklets. They are enlightening and a comfort to me, as I am a shut-in suffering from severe arthritis. I worked twenty-one years on my job, until I developed arthritis in my hip. I have had three major surgeries plus a total hip transplant. So the doctors and hospitals have all my money, and I am still suffering day and night.

Mrs. A.C. (Los Angeles, CA)

Your program is a lifesaver to me. I no longer drive, so can't go to church--and your message is so wonderful.

N.F. (Cheyenne, WY)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

WEST AFRICA: FIRST CASUALTY OF THE OIL BUST According to a top Saudi Arabian official, the collapse of OPEC and its mandated world oil price structure could drive the world into "chaos." If that does happen perhaps a good example of the type of economic-social disruption to be expected, especially in the Third World, is already occurring in West Africa.

January 17, the government of Nigeria abruptly announced it was ordering its approximately two million foreign workers--about half of them from nearby Ghana--out of the country. The alien workers--attracted years ago to Nigeria during that country's now flattened-out oil boom--were given a mere two weeks to leave the country. Trying to meet the January 31 deadline, trucks and buses piled high with people and cargo were backed up for long distances along the old "slave route" road stretching the 300-mile distance from Nigeria across the two sliver countries of Benin and Togo into Ghana. Others fled on dangerously overcrowded ships. Some outcasts died on the way--they either starved, were crushed to death, or drowned.

Repatriated earnings of the Ghanaian workers in Nigeria had been vital to Ghana's economy, one of the poorest in the world. Not only will this money not be coming in, but Ghana will be extremely hard pressed to feed over 900,000 more people. For Nigeria, the oil boom--which had provided up to 90% of its foreign earnings--is over. The country's foreign exchange reserves, with which it pays for imports, are rapidly drying up. Food will be a problem for Nigeria's over 80 million people, since agriculture has

been sorely neglected since independence. Nigeria, once Africa's largest food exporter has become the continent's biggest importer of food. And at the moment there is precious little money to buy imported food, certainly the more luxury-level processed food products to which Nigeria's growing middle class had become accustomed.

For some additional background reports to this remarkable development we have excerpts from a couple of articles from the British press. The first article, entitled "Scapegoats for an Oil Glut," appeared in the February 4, 1983 FINANCIAL TIMES:

For the past three weeks, Nigeria seems to have been suffering from a chronic case of schizophrenia. It has managed to expel hundreds of thousands of migrant workers in conditions of considerable misery without apparently suffering from any great degree of public remorse. The expulsion of the Ghanaians and other West Africans who had flocked to Nigeria for jobs over the past 10 years of oil boom is regarded as the legitimate action of a sovereign state, even though it was done without warning and without consultation....

[Because of the drop-off in oil revenues] both foreign exchange income and government revenues have been slashed, forcing drastic cut-backs in imports and general economic activity and in turn resulting in a sharp increase in urban unemployment. Public attention inevitably focused on the presence of migrant workers, who had taken on thousands of lowly-paid jobs in construction, textile factories, hotels and domestic service--jobs which in normal circumstances most Nigerians would consider beneath their dignity....

The British news magazine THE SPECTATOR, in its February 5 issue expanded on this latest example of heartrending human tragedy to take an overview of the skidding fortunes of West Africa as a whole:

The expulsion by Nigeria of nearly two million Ghanaians is far more brutal and dangerous than the expulsion from Ghana, in 1969, of 250,000 aliens, most of them to Nigeria. This week we have read of Ghanaians given only a few days to be out of the country; of newspapers and radio inciting anti-Ghanaian violence; of statements by Ali Baba, the aptly-named Minister of the Interior, that foreigners are responsible for the Nigerian crime wave....

In today's West Africa...except for Senegal and the Ivory Coast (both strongly under the influence of France) almost every country has suffered from military government.... And yet we in Europe, who hear so much of injustices in South Africa, know little about this dismal side of the continent. Few journalists can get permission to enter West African countries, except for Senegal and the Ivory Coast, which have little to hide....

Those businessmen and those very few journalists who have recently been to Nigeria speak of corruption quite unparalleled on this earth, of having to bribe one's way onto planes with confirmed seats, and into hotels with confirmed reservations. The peasants are deserting the land; tribal and religious massacres

take place in the north; the Biafrans still long for a separate state. A fall in the price of oil...has shown what havoc will come when the oil runs out altogether....

Ghanaian journalists, writing anonymously in the African news magazines published in London, give terrifying accounts of murder, anarchy, looting, breakdown of all public services and tribal hostility between the Ashanti and Ewe people, above all a purge of the professional, educated class.

We may now be witnessing the first stages of post-colonial Africa's descent into a new dark age of economic despair and political upheaval. The U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, in its February 14 issue also took a look at what it headlined "The Desperate Straits of Black Africa":

Nigeria's mass expulsion of more than 2 million alien workers underscores the economic crisis that is ravaging black-ruled nations of Africa and setting the stage for an explosion of unrest.... Many states that won independence in relatively prosperous times after World War II lack the institutions or skills to cope with intractable, seemingly permanent problems. The World Bank recently cataloged some of them--corruption, inefficiency, excessive government spending, overvalued currencies and neglect of agriculture. By far the most pressing concern is the continent's foreign debt, currently topping 60 billion dollars and way out of proportion to what African states take in from abroad....

A dispatch received over our UPI teletype on February 5 examined the curious phenomenon of why the drastic expulsion of foreigners from Nigeria has sparked so little reaction in the rest of the world.

Had the United States or any other western nation expelled illegal aliens as abruptly as Nigeria just kicked out hundreds of thousands of unwanted foreigners, there would have been severe worldwide repercussions....

But the exodus from Africa's biggest and most populous nation has sparked little outrage either at home or abroad. Governments, international organizations and political parties in the West have had little to say about Nigeria's sudden expulsion of the strangers in its midst, many of whom have been resident for years.

"The voice of the liberal conscience is suddenly silent and protest is mute," said one correspondent to THE TIMES of London who asked: "Is it the international left-wing consensus that only white states are racist? Or is there a deep-rooted racism in the more vociferous of the anti-racists that causes them to keep silent because they expect no better of Africans?"

Nor has the expulsion aroused protest in the West African nation itself. In a general atmosphere of xenophobia, newspapers have either ignored or applauded it. The DAILY TIMES of Lagos called on Nigerians to assist the government in identifying aliens.... [An article in that same newspaper, reported elsewhere, justified

the expulsion by saying that in Britain and America, an illegal alien, if found, "is arrested and sent to prison, where he is tortured."

The move was a popular one for the government of President Shehu Shagari, which is courting votes for elections expected in July. Foreigners have been blamed for religious riots in the Moslem north of the country, and for the growing tide of crime, violence and prostitution in Lagos and other cities.... Most of the foreigners were forced to leave behind their possessions and sell their property for a fraction of its value.

Meanwhile, Down South

In the southern part of the continent, the issues are still more political than economic. The war in South West Africa (Namibia) drags on--and for good reason. The South Africans are determined not to let a Communist-backed government come to power in SWA, bringing hostile forces right down to the Orange River. Here is a report from the DAILY TELEGRAPH of London, December 8, 1982 entitled "South Africa's War of Survival." It is written by journalist Stephen Glover who had spent time last year in part of the Namibian war zone.

As you get closer to South Africa's war in northern Namibia so it seems less likely that it will end in the foreseeable future. In London you are told that negotiations are still proceeding apace. In Pretoria it is admitted that there are grave problems.... In the "war zone" some of the more senior soldiers have been told on the highest authority, as they put it, that the war will go on....

American officials [have been attempting] to negotiate the withdrawal of 20,000-odd Cuban troops from Angola, in the event of which the South Africans have said they will leave Namibia and permit internationally-supervised elections. The South Africans fear...that, if still in Angola, the Cubans might be invited into Namibia should Swapo win an election there.

The truth is that the South Africans, perhaps knowing a little more about their continent than do the Americans, have never really believed that the Cubans would leave Angola. They have been unable to see how the Angolan Government could dispense with the Cubans in its civil war with its own [South African-backed] guerrillas, Unita. More important, the South Africans see the Cubans as the long arm of Moscow whose ultimate purpose on the continent they believe to be the annihilation of themselves.

Because we in the West see things differently, or do not care overmuch about the annihilation of South Africa, we underestimated the desperate tenacity of that country. To most South Africans this is a war of survival, not some irrelevant colonial squabble. It is the bottom line....

What a sorry state of affairs. The Nigerians don't care what happens to the Ghanaians and the deluded West does "not care overmuch" if South Africa is annihilated (to its own grave peril if it only knew).

Meanwhile, do not expect the United Nations to take any clear-headed actions with regard to the deteriorating conditions in Africa. The U.N. General Assembly has an extremely lopsided view of the world as a whole and Africa in particular. In an official publication recently sent to us by the U.N., I happened to come across the list of official "Annual Days and Weeks," observed yearly by the world body. Here they are:

21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
Beginning 21 March	Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination
Beginning 25 May	Week of Solidarity with the Colonial Peoples of Southern Africa
5 June	World Environment Day
16 June	International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa
9 August	International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa
26 August	Namibia Day
Third Tuesday of September	International Day of Peace
11 October	Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners
24 October	United Nations Day, and World Development Information Day
24-30 October	Disarmament Week
Week of 27 October	Week of Solidarity with the People of Namibia and Their Liberation Movement
29 November	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
10 December	Human Rights Day

Note that eight of the 14 observances deal in one way or another with southern Africa. If only that part of the world could be "liberated," I suppose there would be happiness and peace all over the earth.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau