

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Vancouver Office Report The second half of the year began in a very positive way for God's Work in Canada. Income for the month was up 17.7%, bringing the year-to-date increase to 13.1%.

In July, Messrs. Richard Pinelli and George Patrickson met with Larry Steinman, President of Canadian Teleconference Network, Inc. and signed a contract with CTN for the audio-visual hookup at the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles. Direct satellite reception seems assured and will give us a cost savings of 38% over last year's fees. We are hopeful that costs will continue to drop year by year as technology advances and competition increases.

The current response figures on the READER'S DIGEST ad are French--3,165; and English--1,702. As you can see, the French ad did considerably better than its counterpart in the English edition. Early responses from the remnant ad in TV GUIDE total 80.

We have presently processed over 10,000 responses to Mr. Armstrong's semi-annual letter. This figure should increase over the next few weeks as responses continue to arrive in the office, although it does seem that the bulk of responses may already have been processed.

During July we had the opportunity of hosting Mr. Frank Brown--Regional Director of God's Work in the U.K., Scandinavia, Middle East, East and West Africa and the Mediterranean--at the Vancouver office. He included, in a sermon, an update of the Work in those areas he supervises and thanked the Canadian brethren for their continued generosity. Canada will continue to print the newsstand PLAIN TRUTH for England, with a possible increase from the present 75,000 to 100,000 per month beginning January 1984.

The newsstand program in Canada continues to expand, with 300,000 magazines being printed in Winnipeg for the English-language newsstand program and 50,000 printed by Donnelley in the U.S. for the French-language program. This program continues to produce a large percentage of new subscribers. During the last six months, 28.1% of all new subscriptions resulted from this program.

Unlike the U.S.A., we have great difficulty in securing locations in major supermarkets. We hope to compensate for this by expanding the program with outside boxes, locating them in high density pedestrian areas.

An experiment with YOUTH 83 magazine will begin next month in the city of Vancouver. We will be placing it in newsstand racks alongside The PLAIN TRUTH. If this pilot program proves successful, we will gradually expand to the rest of the country, funds permitting. Everyone connected with the program is very excited about the concept of offering YOUTH 83 on newsstands. They feel it will open new doors for us.

Caribbean Report "The WORLD TOMORROW" program entered new markets this month with doors swinging open on the Islands of Aruba, Barbados and Trinidad. Contracts and schedules for all three stations were finalized in July with airing to begin in September. Two of the three contracts represent "first of a kind" occurrences in these areas.

The September 1st airing of "The WORLD TOMORROW" over Voz de Aruba will mark the first such broadcast from Aruban soil in the history of God's Work. Barbados Broadcasting Service will be the first FM radio station to air the broadcast in Barbados. Considering today's "selective" radio listener, we hope to reach a new audience with BBS. After a seven-year absence, Trinidad and Tobago TV (TTT) accepted Mr. Armstrong's program back on Trinidadian television to "cry aloud" the end-time message God has commissioned His Work to give to the world.

The Caribbean SEP got underway in July on the Islands of Bermuda, Trinidad, and Barbados. From all reports received so far, the youth of God's Church are enjoying themselves immensely, while respective camp staffs are running hard just to keep up with the hectic pace SEP generates.

Incoming mail has increased 85% year to date. We are attributing a significant part of this increase to the healthy response generated by the semi-annual letter. Regular mail represented approximately 70% of the year-to-date record total of 8,802 pieces received. As the third quarter of 1983 gets underway, we find that our downward trend in income is persisting. In the fourth consecutive month of this trend, July shows an 8.6% decrease compared with July 1982.

July found Jamaica's Pastor Charles Fleming off to Pasadena for the Ministerial Refreshing Program. Just before Mr. Fleming's return, Jeremy Rapson, a 1983 Ambassador College graduate, arrived in Jamaica to begin an office training program.

Desmond Curling, another Ambassador College graduate (1979), was hired by the Bahamian Office to assist Mr. Kingsley Mather in his office responsibilities. Mr. Curling came to the Regional Office in San Juan this month for a 17-day training course before starting his new job in August.

Barbados has been playing host to the Caribbean's sole Ambassador College ministerial trainee this summer. Mr. Paul Brown, a citizen of Barbados, will return to Pasadena in August to complete his senior year at Ambassador College.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the Caribbean

GEORGETOWN, GUYANA--PAUL KRAUTMANN: "Feast fever" is increasing, but many members are experiencing difficulties in obtaining basic food items. A general feeling of hopelessness and depression seems to be sweeping the country, and this is affecting the members to some extent. However, except for a tiny minority, all are patiently enduring.

HAMILTON, BERMUDA--CECIL PULLEY: Attitudes are good among the congregation. New PM activity has been very low the last few

months. We continue to get good coverage on both radio and television, with Mr. Armstrong covering some very timely subjects on both stations.

From Southern Africa

PRETORIA-PRETORIA (NORTH), SOUTH AFRICA--DANIEL BOTHA: I would just like to say how much we all enjoy and appreciate being able to view Mr. Armstrong's "WORLD TOMORROW" videos at the Bible studies. Not having the program on local TV, this certainly is a great inspiration to all of us. Six people await baptism in Pretoria North and Northern Transvaal.

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA--JOHN BARTHOLOMEW: Mr. Armstrong's taped sermon on make-up and hungering after righteousness came at the right time and had a sobering, positive effect on the congregation. Most of us don't realize how really subtle Satan is. Y.O.U. members and families had an outstanding six-day outing to a new Natal Parks Board camp at St. Lucia and all learned a lot about sea ecology, crocodiles, hippos, mangrove swamps and conservation.

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA--ANDRE VAN BELKUM: Members were excited to hear a tape from Mr. Armstrong. Brethren commented on how well he sounds and the power with which he speaks. New visit requests and PM activity still positive with three baptisms this month. Members are encouraged by the good response to our READER'S DIGEST ad. Many comment about the fine helpful articles in The GOOD NEWS. Overall attitude of Church is good and members remain supportive of God's Work.

BLOEMFONTEIN-KLERKSDORP, SOUTH AFRICA--SYDNEY HULL: The brethren are standing strong and united in backing up God's Apostle in finishing the Work. PT newsstand distribution in the Bloemfontein-Klerksdorp area has averaged 11,250 copies per month for the past twelve months. We're thankful for Mr. Armstrong's tapes and videos and for the fine response to our advertisement in READER'S DIGEST.

PIETERMARITZBURG, SOUTH AFRICA--ROBERT KLYNSMITH: Brethren were inspired by a reshaw of the film "Behind the Work." Several mentioned that it broadened their perspective of God's Work; especially the organization and vastness of God's Work around the world. Many members are experiencing severe trials which, in most cases, appear to be having positive results (i.e. greater spiritual depth).

MITCHELL'S PLAIN, SOUTH AFRICA--BILL WHITAKER: There is a lot of enthusiasm for the combined Church and a lot more Christian fellowship. The cold, wet, winter has done little to dampen people's spirits. Only two men have lost their jobs due to the economic recession; one has found new employment and the other has good prospects.

HARARE, ZIMBABWE--RONALD STODDART: READER'S DIGEST results are good for morale, but the brethren are experiencing financial

problems now. The government's budget, due next week, is a popular conversation topic. With inflation at 20%, the budget is expected to be harsh. We may have to spend a lot of time counseling individuals on finances.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Work Receives 50 Millionth Letter!

God's Work has just reached another significant milestone--the 50 millionth letter was received last week! This particular event is especially important because it occurred during the jubilee year of God's end-time Work. The woman, writing us for the first time, made this simple request: "Please send me some of your free literature." She was sent THE BOOK OF REVELATION UNVEILED AT LAST! and a year's subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH.

Bible CC Enrollments Reach 1.3 Million in U.S.

This present year all records for CC enrollments are being broken! Including July's total of 11,266 new students, 1.3 million people have enrolled in the course in the United States since it began in 1954. We are continually receiving enthusiastic comments from students who say they are understanding the Bible for the first time in their lives with the help of the lessons.

Members Reap Special Blessings in Third Tithe Year

We continually receive letters from members stating how much they have been blessed for faithfully obeying God regarding third tithe. They are truly amazed at the extent of His outpouring of blessings, which often go far beyond just the material kind. We thought the following comments would especially encourage those who will begin their third tithe year after the Feast.

When one's third tithe year rolls around, the average human tendency is to fret about one's financial status for the year to come. I had determined long ago to leave matters in God's hands. My parents always managed fine in their third tithe years when I was growing up. They trusted God and He blessed us as a family for that trust. Developing the right attitude toward tithing has proven to be a big plus.

This year the blessings of God's hand have been overwhelming. To start with, we were able to move from our apartment to a three-bedroom house. The house was given an interior make over with new paint, kitchen and bathroom facilities, and carpeting. Then, an auto insurance deal went through giving us a \$1,100 cash settlement. The money has come in quite handy for some new furnishings for our home.

After this I had a tremendous blessing concerning my job as a sales representative for an industrial supply company. With industry so slow, nine out of forty employees were let go and pay cuts were enforced for all the rest. But much to my astonishment, I found out that I was the only one whose salary would not

be cut back. God surely had His hand in this matter. Just recently I received a new company car, fully loaded, for my traveling. Having something as nice as this at no cost to me is truly another third tithe blessing.

One surely is well rewarded for giving third tithe to help those who are in need. God truly does take care of His people who keep His laws and do so in a good attitude. Tithing pays!

M.S. (Canton, OH)

My husband and I are always amazed at how God blesses us during a third tithe year--gas tanks stay full, appliances last another year even though they are worn out. We even have a freezer full of prime venison from relatives that like to hunt--but don't like the taste of the meat. I could go on and on with the list.

Mrs. G.S. (Fulton, MO)

It really was quite inspiring and encouraging for my family to go through our first third tithe year together. We thought our budget might be somewhat tight and we were right. However, we had so many blessings during that time that it's hard to put money value on it all. Things were given to us, even before we could think of what we needed. It seemed like we were given much, much more than we were giving to God's Work. We both realize that it has been through God's love and kindness for us that these blessings have come our way. We were so excited to see God's promise working--that He would take care of our needs if we would put Him first in our lives.

Mrs. C.S. (Harristown, IL)

I am now entering the sixth month of my first third tithe year in the Church, and God has more than fulfilled His promise in Malachi 3:10--pouring out many spiritual, material, physical, mental, and emotional blessings. In just material blessings alone (which are the least of my blessings), God has already--in less than six months--increased my income more than the amount of the entire year's third tithe. Now I know God is a miracle worker!

God Almighty makes tithing and giving offerings to His Work a joy beyond words to describe. He sets the greatest of examples of giving by allowing us to take part in preparing the way before His Son's Second Coming and His glorious Kingdom.

D.B. (Shelby, OH)

I am a salesman for Electrolux Vacuum Sweeper Company. My first third tithe year started in October and that October, November and December I sold 30 sweepers. That was the best I had ever done. I didn't figure out why till months later. Those three months started my third tithe year. As the year went on I have seen other blessings. I was in need of clothes--suits mostly. In a garage sale my wife bought three suits that fit without alteration and cost only \$60.

In the Electrolux company, October and April are called drive months. We have big prizes that we can win in these months. A

drive month has five weeks. This past October we were at Big Sandy for the Feast and missed the first two weeks of the drive. My boss was unhappy that I took time off to go to the Feast. But with three weeks to work, I ended up making 30 sales. My boss made this comment, "I don't know if your Church will let them in, but next year I'm sending all the salesmen to that Feast."

L.E. (Bluffton, IN)

I am writing to tell you of the blessings I have received during this my third tithe year. Many blessings have been poured out on me and I think it only fair to share the excitement of this with some of you. Firstly, I was given a car which I did need and have since found many uses for. I have also been amazed at my savings account--I have saved more just in this year than I have ever saved in my life.

There have also been many other blessings--some small and not so obvious but just as significant. And most recently I have been given a job. I had been unemployed for the last month but now I have a very good opportunity to progress and develop a worthwhile career because of this job. Furthermore, my income will increase by 20%! God surely does keep His promises and He is faithful in providing us with all we need, and often more!

L.H. (Lower Hutt, New Zealand)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

CLOUDS FORM OVER U.S.-PHILIPPINES RELATIONS And now, on top of the deepening crisis in Central America and the seering, crop-destroying weather in the Midwestern heartland, the United States has another summer '83 problem to worry about--the future of the Philippines and the fate of strategic U.S. bases there.

The biggest story this week has certainly been the shocking assassination of Benigno Aquino, Jr., a Philippine opposition leader, slain immediately after stepping off his plane upon his arrival in Manila, after spending three years in the United States.

Who was responsible for Aquino's death is still unknown. The extreme left had a motive--the more chaos the better it is for them in the troubled Philippines. But, as has been pointed out by various observers, some of Mr. Marcos' supporters (not the President himself) could also have been responsible. They feared that an umbrella organization of opposition forces, inspired by the charismatic Aquino, might gain power in upcoming scheduled elections. Mr. Aquino's opponents on the right do not believe he was strong enough to stand up to the growing Communist threat in the 7,000-island commonwealth.

The most serious international impact of growing troubles in the Philippine archipelago is the future status of Philippine-United States relations. President Reagan's scheduled November visit to Manila to see Mr. Marcos now has a big black cloud over it.

What will happen to America's two most strategic military bases in Asia, both located in the Philippines--Clark Air Force Base and Subic Bay Naval Base? Communists in the Philippines want to drive the U.S. out. A with-

drawal from the Philippines back to Pearl Harbor would have an enormous impact upon key U.S. allies in Asia, such as Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. Japan, for one, would have an even greater impetus to speed up rearmament.

Here are some pertinent excerpts on the Philippine situation from an editorial in the August 23, 1983 WALL STREET JOURNAL:

Mr. Marcos the politician has shown outstanding skill at some of the tasks necessary to development--negotiating, distributing incentives, concerting wills. No one can say with any certainty that whoever follows him is going to do better.

What is happening in the Philippines calls to mind the case of Iran. In Iran, a shah who was in some ways a reformer and in some ways a strict authoritarian tried to make a modern country without building the modern political institutions that are necessary to support long-term development. The effort collapsed. In retrospect that collapse seems to have been inevitable, but back then no one paid enough attention to spy the signs.

In the Philippines also, a ruler is trying to practice development while fearing the full exercise of democracy. The Philippines is no Iran. Its Western-style institutions are much more firmly in place; when Mr. Marcos goes, the place will not collapse into politically primitive rubble. But what we might see, as one expert has put it, is a slow, downward spiral into more and more political disorder and disappointing economic performance.

After World War II, Filipinos held high hopes for their country's progress. A chief cause of instability there today is that their country's performance, though by no means abysmal, has disappointed those hopes. What we can do for them is a puzzle. But the answer to the puzzle is not for the Reagan administration to turn its back on Mr. Marcos. And in forming our policy, we shouldn't forget that there are other powers out there waiting to take advantage of whatever new instability comes to trouble the Philippines.

President Marcos, age 65, is said to be in not very good health. He has been in office now for 18 years. While controversy surrounds his rulership (much of it stirred up by idealistic university students at home and by opponents living in the U.S.), few leaders in Asia today see the "big picture" as does President Marcos.

"Marcos has a good strategic view of the world and the region," says an American official in the Philippines. "He understands the dynamics of the power politics that are now going on."

Marcos realizes that U.S. power is absolutely essential to the preservation of peace throughout the Western Pacific. Part of the money the U.S. spends on rent for Clark, Subic Bay and the 20 other smaller U.S. military installations in the islands goes to buy weapons to fight off insurgent groups.

Some of Mr. Marcos' democratic foes are highly idealistic Philippine nationalists who feel that the Philippines will never be free until "all forms of foreign domination"--meaning the U.S. bases--are eliminated. Mr. Marcos, a realist, knows this is folly.

Here is a column in the August 23 edition of USA TODAY, written by David Hardin, which shows the reality of the U.S.-Philippines "big brother-little brother" relationship, and what could happen if President Marcos is driven from power. It is entitled "Marcos isn't perfect, but we need bases."

The assassination of Benigno Aquino--Marcos main rival for power --is certain to start the drums banging again for this country to do something about Marcos. It is easy to go along with the noise. Too easy. And dangerous for this country's interests in the Pacific.

Readers having only recently discovered Chad may want to take another trip back to the atlas and look up the Philippines. It is in the Philippines that the United States maintains the largest air base in Asia, at Clark Air Force Base. It is here at Subic Bay, in an area covering 450 square miles of land and water, that the U.S. Seventh Fleet is based.

To the northeast is Japan and Korea. Go west and there's Vietnam. Go north and there's Taiwan, the People's Republic of China. Look all around the Philippines and there is an area of strategic interest to the United States.

And out there, somewhere, is the ever-growing Soviet fleet, causing American military ships to maintain a thin line of defense that would be severed, were this country to yield its Philippine bases.

That could happen. An overreaction to Aquino's murder and a hardening of American opposition to Marcos could also jeopardize a \$900 million aid package for the Philippines. That package, yet to be approved by Congress, is in exchange for another five-year lease of U.S. bases at Clark and Subic Bay.

There is no arguing that Aquino's death also was a tragedy. It leaves a vacuum at the top among those Filipinos who oppose Marcos and who back democratic forms. More than anything, it encourages communists who opposed Aquino as well as Marcos. A get-tough attitude toward the Philippines--its people long the friends of the United States--would ultimately strengthen the hand of the communists.

The United States can urge a complete investigation of Aquino's death. But the Philippines is still a strong and vital ally, and the only way for this country to exert any influence toward greater democracy is to stay in the game. Iran taught us that there are sometimes far worse alternatives to a dictator. And if you can't buy that, just look again at the map.

Few realize that the strategic bases in the Philippines are also essential to the U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean and even the Middle East.

President Reagan has given no indication yet that he will cancel his stop-over in Manila on his swing through Asia in November. But the pressures on him not to go are certain to grow if the investigation into Mr. Aquino's death is left inconclusive. The incident in the Philippines is yet another sign of the weakening U.S. position in the world.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau