

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

From the South African Office Reports from Feast coordinators, ministers and members confirm that the Feast of Tabernacles 1983 was a spiritual Feast first and foremost. God blessed and inspired the speaking and the hearing. Indeed feastgoers came home with minds and hearts filled even though pocketbooks were well nigh empty. Physically, the blessings abounded--there were no serious accidents nor injuries, and anointings were at a minimum. The accommodations, food, activities, and fellowship helped to make this a Feast to remember.

We had six sites. In Durban, the largest, we had 1,560 in attendance; in Port Elizabeth 340; Sonesta 250; Mutare, Zimbabwe 404; Livingstone, Zambia 67 and in Mauritius 139--making a total of 2,760. The average attendance at all Feast sites was exceptionally good.

Our visiting ministers were Mr. Gerald Waterhouse and Mr. David Hulme. This was the 21st anniversary of keeping the Feast in South Africa, the first being 1963. Before returning to the United States, Mr. Waterhouse had a reunion at Dr. McCarthy's house with the feastgoers of 1963. More detailed reports from the various Feast sites will appear in The WORLDWIDE NEWS.

Thousands of pieces of mail accumulated during the festival period and we have been very busy opening, reading, typing and mailing. Two groups, comprised of office staff and members, worked on Sunday and Monday (a public holiday), October 9th and 10th, to clear the backlog.

The financial report still looks very good. The year-to-date increase is 25% in South Africa and 28% in Zimbabwe. The holy day offerings for 1983 showed a 13.6% increase over 1982 in South Africa and 8.2% in Zimbabwe.

While in Southern Africa, Mr. David Hulme, Director of Media Purchasing, looked into possibilities for "The WORLD TOMORROW" programme being televised. An agreement is about to be concluded with Zimbabwean Television to televise the programme once a week on Sundays. Believe it or not, they will do it free! Negotiations continue regarding televising the programme in Mauritius. There is still no open door for television in South Africa, although having the programme on television in certain hotels may be possible.

We are finalizing our direct mail programme and should conduct our tests in early November. These will allow us to assess the response and prepare our budget for 1984. We face the usual range of cost increases such as a 20% increase in the cost of paper.

The advertisement in the July, 1983 edition of READER'S DIGEST has given us 18,943 new PLAIN TRUTH readers. The September advertisement thus far has

brought in a response of 2,000. There was no pre-paid response card with the September advertisement. The next advertisement will appear in the November issue.

Arrangements have been completed to print the February, 1984 anniversary issue of The PLAIN TRUTH in Cape Town. There is great expectancy and excitement for the issue among the members.

The drought conditions are severe. In some areas water supplies have dried up and water is being transported by road. Heavy fines have been imposed on water wasters. In Durban water has been rationed for some time, allowing 400 litres per day per household. Those who exceed the limit are fined, and if the fine is not paid, drip washers are put in or the electricity is cut off.

From Bonn, West Germany On the 8th of September, brethren from all over the German-speaking area gathered in five locations to celebrate the Feast of Trumpets. With a 7.6% increase in attendance this year, we also experienced a tremendous 99.5% increase in the holy day offering. An even greater increase occurred on the Day of Atonement, September 17, when the holy day offering rose 135.3% over last year! Attendance was also very high (41.8% over 1982), partly due to the many foreign guests who arrived early for the Feast of Tabernacles.

The Feast in Brno, Czechoslovakia got off to an early start for those who signed up for the deluxe sightseeing bus tour to Brno. Around 92 feastgoers left on Monday, September 19 for the three-day tour which took them through Munich (West Germany), Salzburg and Vienna (Austria), and then finally on to Brno. The return trip included sightseeing in Prague (Czechoslovakia), Schonsee (West Germany), and then on to Nuremberg for Sabbath services. Highlights which occurred during the Feast were the video of Mr. Armstrong's holy day message; a special dinner in the Hunting Lodge of the Communist Party; and the warm and outgoing atmosphere at this year's Feast in Brno. Said Festival Elder Winfried Fritz, "Despite the language barriers and the fact that people came from seven different nations, we were all one family."

Unity and accord also characterized this year's Feast in Bonndorf, West Germany, where 14 different nations were represented! An Ambassador College sponsored concert on Sunday, September 25 was one of the main highlights this year, featuring the Bodensee Symphony Orchestra with guest soloists Roger Bryant (tenor) and Ruth Walter (piano) from Big Sandy, Texas. The concert took place in the Bonndorf Feast hall and was performed for Church members and the general public, an event Bonndorf had not experienced before. A special activity for our foreign guests was an afternoon bus trip to Zurich, the financial capital of Switzerland. They were given a city tour, plus the opportunity to shop on the renowned Bahnhofstrasse, followed by a typical Swiss meal in a restaurant overlooking Zurich. Mr. Tom Lapacka, the festival elder, commented that the Feast was just the right tonic to boost the members and make us look all the more forward to the coming World Tomorrow. Overall attendance for both Feast sites increased 18%, and the first and last holy day offerings increased 33.8%.

Preparations were also underway this month for the largest advertising campaign in the history of the German office. Two million flyers were shipped to some 15 different newspapers and magazines in Austria, West

Germany and Switzerland. Also, two ads will appear simultaneously with the insert distribution. One ad will appear at the end of October in the news magazine DER SPIEGEL. The second one will appear in READER'S DIGEST in Germany and Switzerland in the month of November. We expect as many as 60,000 new subscribers from this advertising.

The mail for September showed a slight decrease compared to September of last year. This is mainly because our advertising campaign will get underway later this year. However, we are headed for a new record for incoming mail when the advertising begins. The mail income has shown encouraging upward tendencies. The month-to-date increase was 47% over September of 1982. For the year to date the mail income has increased 19%.

From Vancouver, Canada As of this writing almost all of the office employees have returned from the Feast and are back at work processing the backlog of mail that inevitably occurs at this time of year. They should just catch up when the first returns from the Direct Mail Promotion are expected to start arriving at the office. The next few months will be very busy as the office processes these requests.

Preliminary reports from the Feast are as follows:

	Feast of Tabernacles	Last Great Day
Attendance	+7.5%	+4.7%
Offering	+8.3%	+4.1%

The direct satellite reception of Mr. Armstrong's messages, while not flawless, was successful. In addition, most of the sites in Canada were blessed with beautiful weather. Glorious sunshine seemed the order of the day.

The inauguration of Victoria as a feast site seemed to go very well despite those few problems that always seem to go hand in hand with a new site. Being a new site it attracted a fair amount of positive publicity. Newspaper coverage at the different feast sites was, generally speaking, good, with some newspapers printing almost verbatim the press release from Pasadena.

The office staffers who traveled to sites as far apart as Alaska and the Isle of Man all report exciting and positive Feasts. Comments from Church members across the country echo these same feelings.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Messrs. Armstrong and Tkach:

Warmest greetings from my wife and me. We have the pleasure to inform you of our safe arrival here in Nigeria, after the two weeks of spiritual rejuvenation in Pasadena. Please accept our deep appreciation and thanks for the opportunity granted us to attend the last session of the second Ministerial Refreshing Programme.

We had a fourfold privilege: Listening to those well-researched and documented topics from the Bible; meeting and seeing our dear beloved Apostle, Mr. Armstrong, for the first time; spending time at the Headquarters of God's Work on earth; as well as meeting

and fellowshiping with ministers from other parts of the globe. The joy it has generated in us will remain indelible in our hearts.

There is no doubt we were refreshed beyond expectation, both spiritually and physically. By God's help we are going to do our utmost best in utilizing the knowledge gained to serve the brethren here.

May we kindly request that our warm regards be passed to all our able instructors, members of the staff, other workers, and students, for the excellent performance in all their duties, and for making our stay most enjoyable. We thank God for the spirit of oneness which pervaded every event.

Elijah and Florence Chukwudi

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the United States

CONCORD, NH--KEN WILLIAMS: God gave us the best Feast yet! The brethren recognized the need for the Feast and prepared for it. Overall, people were up and hungry for the spiritual Feast God gave us. We were given vision and taught how to overcome to the end. As usual, God gave us just what we needed right on time. Several are going through fiery trials. Mr. Armstrong's statement, "I've read the end of the story--and we win!" was well received. His calm assurance is contagious. The brethren are ready to get to work.

TERRE HAUTE-COLUMBUS, IN--STEVE NUTZMAN: Attitudes are very positive at this time of the year as everyone was encouraged by the Feast, especially Mr. Armstrong's very strong and encouraging sermons on the holy days. It was so good to hear from him again! Please let him know how much the brethren appreciate his efforts and concern for them, and let him know we are continuing to pray for him daily.

TOLEDO, OH--GEORGE KACKOS: Among the many favorable comments I've heard from the brethren about the Feast is one that is repeated over and over: "This was the most spiritual Feast I've ever attended." It reflects a positive attitude toward the messages they heard and the unity they felt. Such feelings have created an uplifting atmosphere among the members.

CASPER, WY--DENNIS WHEATCROFT: I have heard very positive comments from all those returning from the Feast. The people seem to have been truly recharged spiritually.

GREENSBORO, NC--DAN ROGERS: Another "best Feast ever" with Mr. Armstrong's messages the highlight. All the brethren enjoyed and profitted from the Feast. The spiritual growth gained through keeping God's Feast has given them the strength to endure and the vision to look to the World Tomorrow.

ROANOKE, VA--ROBERT PERSKY: All of the brethren who attended the Feast thought it was the best Feast ever. They all wished Mr.

Armstrong had spoken longer on the Last Great Day. They always look forward with great anticipation to hearing him speak. They know he is God's end-time apostle and the "Elijah" of Malachi 4.

CANTON, OH--JOHN FOSTER: The Feast was superb--but it just went by too fast. The film "Behind the Work" was very inspiring. Please convey to Mr. Armstrong our thanks for all his efforts in making this "the best Feast ever."

From Canada

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONT--GARY KING: Mr. Armstrong's tape and my back-up sermons are really making the point to members that we cannot be wishy-washy in our Christian lives--that we must be 100% for God's approach and government. Events on the world scene are getting people's attention. I am working with two former members towards their reinstatement. Many are being tested by "make or break" trials, designed to show whether they really put God first.

PRINCE GEORGE, BC--GLEN A. WEBER: There have been very good comments about Mr. Armstrong's tapes. His latest co-worker letters have really generated a lot of interest. People are starting to feel a little "panicky" about getting a handle on their problems. Several have made noticeable changes in their attitudes.

NORTH BATTLEFORD, SK--OWEN MURPHY: The Church here is vigorous, involved, and very responsive to news of the Work. The members participate fully in all activities and are eager to grow. Doctrinal sermons are getting a good response.

BRANDON, MB--JONATHAN BUCK: We have had a number of healings, including a near instant healing of a years-long back injury. Fellowship goes on long after services. Many are putting their minds to their assignments and really thinking service. Newsstands are off to a good start, with favour being shown in the two biggest possible doors in town. Brethren are very much involved as I hoped they would be.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Heightened Interest in God's Church

Our publications and radio and TV programs are having a greater impact on the public. More and more people are asking for specific information about the Worldwide Church of God. In the past nine months, more than 12,000 copies of Mr. Armstrong's article "Where Is the True Church?" have been mailed in the United States alone. Last year, over 11,500 were sent out.

Clearly, the Gospel message is going out to the world with greater power and influence. It seems that the seeds which have been planted over the past few years have germinated and are beginning to produce fruit. With the potential for growth that looms on the horizon, Matthew 9:37-38 should have greater meaning: "Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

Feast Backlog Diminishes

Just a quick note to let you know that we are making good progress with the backlog of mail received during the Feast. Everyone is pitching in and many sections are working overtime to help catch up. The majority of visit requests should be current by the time you receive this report. Outgoing mailings, including the magazines and literature, are being made on schedule.

The Greatest Feast Yet!

With the "best Feast ever" now behind us, many comments from members are flooding in. They are filled with excitement and enthusiasm, and want to tell us what a tremendous Feast they had.

God's people were very much inspired by the sermons--and especially the satellite transmissions on the holy days. The films, "Behind the Work--1983" and "Festival '83 with the Young Ambassadors," were well received at all age levels. Many commented that a deep love, unity, and attitude of cooperation were strongly in evidence. Here are several excerpts from the letters we've received:

Well, another Feast is over and I just hated to go home, but I know we must. Thank you for showing us what God wants us to know and do. Thank you and all the rest of the ministry for the sermons too.

This was "the best Feast ever." Jekyll Island was beautiful--my villa overlooked the ocean. The sunrise was beautiful and all of God's people were beautiful, too. As we sang the last hymn a tear came to my eye, knowing this would be the last time we would see some of the brethren for another year.

J.F. (Gainesville, FL)

Along with thanking you for your encouraging messages on the first and last days of the Feast, our family also wishes to thank you for the many ways that you think of us.

The 1983 ENVOY is beautiful! And if anyone wants to know something about Mr. Armstrong, the Work, the Church or Ambassador College, the AMBASSADOR FOR WORLD PEACE brochure should answer their questions!

The Young Ambassador cassettes will probably be the most important physical thing you made available to us at this year's Feast. We have two teen-agers and one who soon will be. Of course, they all love listening to the radio and don't always appreciate it when we admonish them to listen to "something else." It's been frustrating to try to find "something else" for them to listen to that they can truly enjoy. I hope that more of these cassettes will be made available to us in the future because I think that the present ones will soon be worn out!

Mr. & Mrs. R.W. (Conrad, IA)

The 1983 Feast of Tabernacles certainly was a memorable occasion. My wife and I transferred to Sacramento. The physical aspect of

the Feast was delightful, the sermons were powerful and inspiring, but what really impressed me this year was the joy, love, and enthusiasm that radiated from the faces of the brethren.

C.W. (Chelmsford, MA)

I would like to share with you how much I am truly enjoying this Feast of Tabernacles! My husband (unconverted, but a very good father and mate!) will be joining us tomorrow and staying for the rest of the Feast. He has really been looking forward to this as a vacation, and I'm sure it will come to mean much more than that to him. The people that he has to work around are really cruel and hostile to him--the atmosphere here is quite different! Joy and happiness abounding! Unity! God's people are bubbling over! God's blessings are all around us.

P.D. (Vicksburg, MS)

I just returned from a glorious, spiritually fulfilling Feast in Dunoon, Scotland. Your live satellite transmission was tremendous, with many applicable points for spiritual and physical Christian living. The building of a spiritual foundation and developing of righteous character for the coming Kingdom had quite an impact on me. All problems and questions that I had meditated about were answered by the greatly-inspired ministers. I have returned home with a greatly-increased drive to constantly improve and grow in God's true Church.

F.S. (Trenton, NJ)

How can we express our thanks and pleasure in having you [Mr. Armstrong] here in Eugene for the Feast? Words are inadequate, but we will still say, "Thank you very much!" It was a special joy to have you stay and watch "Behind the Work" with all of us. Thank you again! Also, it was very encouraging to notice how well you seemed. We once again are very thankful to the Eternal for keeping you in health and vigor.

Mr. & Mrs. W.R. (Silverton, OR)

I just had to write to you in order to express my thanks for helping to make this 1983 Feast a most memorable experience for both my husband and myself. We will thank God every day for the opportunity to partake in something so wonderful. Never have we experienced such friendliness, love, helpfulness and brotherhood as we experienced in Norfolk, Virginia this year! But, the best parts were your beginning and closing messages via satellite and the film "Behind the Work."

C.W. (Baltimore, MD)

My family and I observed the Feast of Tabernacles in Rapid City, South Dakota and we all learned so much this year! I am 15 years old and only this year did I truly come to understand what the Feast of Tabernacles really meant. The sermons had so much of an effect on the way we do things! We are doing most things as a family now and are getting in some study every day.

M.H. (Denver, CO)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center