

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

Last month I mentioned that September and October are difficult to compare with the same months for previous years, because the festivals do not fall on the same dates according to the Roman calendar. By the end of October, the combined months can be compared realistically.

When you compare months alone, we had a minus 18.3% for September; but in October, we had a 107.1% increase! This sounds like a tremendous increase for October, but when combined with September, we actually ended with a 17.2% increase for the combined months. When we compare this for the year to date, we ended October with a 13.1% increase over last year.

From this one might jump to the conclusion that we have had a considerable increase, but when we look at it for the whole year, January, February and March were on a decided downward trend, and since then, with the exception of August, there has been a slight upward trend. So far in November, we have seen a decrease from these figures.

In summary, let me say that even though the general trend is up, with a 12% or 13% increase, we still do have periods when the increase is not that great.

The budget team has been busy preparing for the 1984 budget. We finally have a program (or formula) to produce a balanced budget to present to Mr. Armstrong. Major factors this year are the new Social Security tax on employer and employee (not including ministers), a decrease in assistance for the international areas from Canada of about \$800,000, increases in radio and television rates of up to 15%, and increased costs in paper for our publications.

As always, your concern and prayers about the financial needs are much appreciated.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Big Sandy Campus)

The college here in Big Sandy is coming along very well and all of us are enjoying being here. Mr. McNair has written regularly and kept you up to date on the college so I haven't felt it appropriate to repeat what he has already said. I do now want to pass on our greetings to all of you and extend an invitation to stop by the campus if you are ever in our area.

There is a particular point I would like to briefly discuss on behalf of both campuses. We are at the time of year when we need your help to make next year as profitable as possible. I am speaking of help in regard to

selecting the 1984 freshman class. It may seem early to all of you, but it isn't. There is preliminary work which needs to be done by the prospective students before the college administration can select the incoming class. The students would all like to receive word of their selection early. Unfortunately, we often do not accept early. As a result, some scholarships are forfeited or possible students lost for a year before they begin their Ambassador career.

All of you church pastors should know that ideally your young people should have already taken their SAT or other tests. The Sabbath is often a problem and special scheduling must be arranged in order to take it at another time. (See notice of SAT dates on page 16 of the October 24 WORLDWIDE NEWS.) If the young people delay, those test results will be too late to allow consideration for an early acceptance. Please encourage them to take care of this necessary step as quickly as possible. The SAT scores are a required part of the application. They should also write to the campus of their choice immediately for an application for the coming school year. Then, of course, they should return it as quickly as possible. The application can and should be returned even if they haven't as yet taken the SAT. As soon as those scores are received, the consideration of the application can begin.

The more early applications we receive the more the workload can be balanced and early notification sent out. It goes without saying that they should also be planning for and working out the financial arrangements for their tuition. The deadline for the acceptance of applications for both campuses is March 1. I would hope there could be a number of acceptances made prior to that date. It then becomes a matter that the longer a prospective student delays his or her application, the lower the likelihood of acceptance.

Another point I would like to mention is your evaluation as the church pastor. Those evaluations are very important and are carefully considered. I have had a few comments from pastors who have said, "Why bother. I recommended six of what I thought were very fine students and none of them were accepted. Does my evaluation mean anything?" Yes, it does. However, you are often not aware of their real scholastic aptitude or their financial status. They may tell you they do well in school and yet the information we receive indicates something else. Or it may simply be that there were so many who were actually much better and the better were selected. Whatever the case, your evaluation is important, and, of course, we would like to receive it as quickly as possible. Mr. McNair and I both know the demands on your time since we have both been church pastors and had to fill out the same forms. Be assured we really do appreciate your help and carefully look at your evaluations.

An announcement to your young people reminding them of the need to schedule SATs and begin work on their applications for college would be a great help to getting the selection of the 1984 class off to a running start. Thanks for your help.

One final note. I have had a number of questions asked me about international students in the past year. For any who might be interested, the Big Sandy campus will once again be accepting international students this year.

--Leslie L. McCullough, Deputy Chancellor

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESComments From Monthly Church ReportsFrom the United States

BATON ROUGE, LA--ALTON BILLINGSLEY: Just recently there have been a number of very good PMs seeking contact with the Church. Mostly this seems to be connected with the telecast. Hardly any of them even knows about the local radio broadcast. Surprisingly, a number of these people have only been watching the telecast and reading the literature a few months.

COLUMBUS, OH--ROBERT DICK: PM activity rises and falls but never stops. It is good to see a constant flow of new people. The quality varies greatly, but we are steadily gaining new members.

DENVER, CO--JAMES REYER: The Church continues to grow. Forty people are now studying for baptism. We are outgrowing our hall. We had 652 in attendance on October 29.

WHEELING, WV--SHORTY FUESSEL: In addition to the preaching of the Gospel through expanded circulation of The PLAIN TRUTH, we have an unusually large number of new people, plus young adults, actively seeking baptism. There is an increased desire on the part of many younger adults to now make the commitment to God and the Church. Then there seems to be a slow but steady return of some who have previously left the fellowship of the Church.

This year promises to be a good one for Spokesman Club, with more men anxious to be members than we have space for. Enthusiasm is high and personal growth and development are very obvious in many men.

FORT WORTH (A.M.), TX--BOB SMITH: The crunch of the times is wearing heavily on many. However, through the crucible of such, the brethren are becoming more aware of the reality of the times, the inevitability of climactic upheavals and the absolute need to become totally involved in this calling.

CHICO-EUREKA, CA--MARC SEGALL: We have noticed some potentially severe accidents concerning little children where God's protection prevented tragedy. One little 22-month-old boy fell off the top of a six-foot ladder, landing on his head. At first there appeared to be brain damage but, after anointing, he has completely recovered with no damage. In another incident this month, a two-year-old was savagely attacked by a large German Shepherd-mix dog. Thankfully, the father got to the scene on time to pull the dog off the little boy, but he had already been bitten in the face repeatedly. Miraculously, none of the dog's bites punctured the skin and only bruises were left where the dog had bitten--bruises which disappeared by the next day.

YOUNGSTOWN, OH--EUGENE NOEL: We have had two outstanding healings: a woman healed of a breast tumor and a man healed of painful spinal arthritis he had suffered from for 15 years. It had

shortened his height by three inches and he had been taking a strong painkiller six to eight times a day to endure.

MERIDEN, CT--LARRY WOOLDRIDGE: About 120 local Church members are now involved in The PLAIN TRUTH newsstand program. Excitement is high over the lighted display at Bradley International Airport. We've received an increase from 25,000 PTs to 44,000 as a result of this program. The magazine should make a tremendous impact.

From South Africa

MITCHELL'S PLAIN--BILL WHITAKER: After the Feast of Tabernacles everybody is riding the crest of the wave and a commitment to greater effort is very evident.

CAPE TOWN--JOHN WHITE: Members returned from the Feast of Tabernacles on a "high"--it was spiritually even better than last year! Cape Town members felt themselves particularly privileged to hear Mr. Gerald Waterhouse immediately after the Feast. We wish him well on his continuing world tour encouraging the brethren.

PIETERMARITZBURG--ROBERT KLYNSMITH: Several members have emphatically stated that the 1983 Feast of Tabernacles was the most profitable and spiritually rewarding Feast they have ever attended. Comments revolve around the fellowship as well as the inspiring messages given throughout the Feast--especially by Mr. Waterhouse who painted such a vivid picture of God's Government and the World Tomorrow. A number of people have mentioned that the Feast was a "decided" turning point in their lives.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

TV Audience Impressed With Young Ambassadors

Two recent telecasts featuring the Young Ambassadors--"The Endless Search for Pleasure" (shown September 10-11) and "Does Entertainment Today Bring Happiness?" (shown October 22-23)--resulted in hundreds of mail and phone comments.

Viewers were impressed with the high quality of the music, the beauty of the Ambassador College campuses, and even more so by the bright, happy, smiling faces of the Young Ambassadors. One said, "It was a delight to see young people with such good training."

Many commented that the program was not only entertaining, but also set a standard that is sorely lacking in today's world. Some of the more notable comments were: "The youth of today really need this"; "Great family entertainment"; and "Extremely charming and professional...they should go on tour!"

Over 4,000 new people became subscribers to YOUTH 83 as a result of these telecasts.

Many Affected By Severe Personal Trials

Mr. Armstrong continues to receive hundreds of letters each week from people who are having severe personal trials. Many pour their hearts out to him in seeking help and counsel. They seem to recognize that he is God's chosen servant and one who has a true understanding of God's Word as it applies to life's problems.

For example, one woman who recently wrote about her own serious health problems also related the story of her two daughters--one dying of cancer, the other going through a painful divorce. A Vietnam veteran, now serving a prison term, wrote about the heart-rending breakup of his marriage and family.

To these people, God's Church stands out as a beacon of hope. We respond to those seeking help with personal letters of encouragement and counsel and appropriate literature. We also offer the counsel of the local minister if desired.

New Co-Workers Up 28 Percent

In the first nine months of this year, 17,076 new co-workers were added to the files in the United States. This was a 28% increase over the same period last year. Most of this fine increase is due to the expanded circulation of The PLAIN TRUTH.

Gospel Has Worldwide Impact

As The PLAIN TRUTH circulation continues to mount, we are receiving more and more comments from readers all over the world. Through the Church's teachings as expounded in its literature, the lives of many are changing for the better. The following comments show that God's truth is benefiting people in many different nations.

Thank you very much for this wonderful Bible correspondence course which is changing my life for the better. For the first time I can understand the Bible and gain real meaning from it. I also find your other literature fantastic--answering my questions which have never been answered before. Thank you for everything!

M.C. (Auckland, New Zealand)

Thank you for The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. I have enjoyed reading it very much for the past three years. I have also introduced the magazine to many of my friends and they like it very much. It helps me to understand current world affairs and gives me an insight into areas I do not know much about. The quality of the magazine is superb, especially the color.

N.P. (Birmingham, United Kingdom)

Having been delighted with my first copy of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine, I thought I should simply write in to express my appreciation for a fine publication. The fact that The PLAIN TRUTH can continue to be circulated due to donations by readers--and indeed by the grace of God--is a wonder in this day. In this light,

please accept this small contribution which could hardly cover the value of the knowledge which The PLAIN TRUTH imparts.

D.S. (East London, Republic of South Africa)

I am a Vietnamese refugee, having just arrived in Australia two months ago. Prior to that, I've known about The PLAIN TRUTH magazine when I was being reeducated in a concentration camp. Surprising? Of course!

Communist authorities prohibited all Western papers, but we used paper slips (from The PLAIN TRUTH) to cover our food. We transferred them from one to another for reading your valuable articles--priceless during confinement. Twice, Communist guards discovered our reading material. We were imprisoned in fetters for this.

Luckily, after seven years of reeducation, I was released. I tried to flee away at once. I failed and was imprisoned again. However, I escaped to Saigon (now known as Ho Chi Minh City) to live illegally until the end of 1982. Then I escaped successfully to Malaysia. I now ask to be a subscriber to your magazine.

H.C. (Cabramatta, NSW, Australia)

Thank you sincerely for the help you have given me through your valuable magazine. The PLAIN TRUTH has changed my life and my attitude towards life. It has helped me to lead a life of quality. It has benefited not only myself but also my wife and brothers.

K.S. (India)

I am extremely grateful to you for having sent me some of the publications of the Church of God. THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY was for me a decisive revelation because it overturned years of errors and lack of understanding. I believe that biblical prophecies, to the extent that they can be revealed to us, are a fantastic source of faith, because they put us in direct contact with God. From now on I am sensitive to the call of God.

E.S. (Vandoeuvre-les-Nancy, France)

I opened up the FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG and out fell your informative flyer. I was surprised and very happy. Several years ago I discovered your ad in the train and I wrote you for it. I have been receiving your magazine for several years along with millions of other readers. I am 74 years young and can only express my sincere regards and once again, thank you.

K.H. (Bochum, West Germany)

I've read in La PURA VERDAD that you run a university which teaches the preparation of people to reign as priests with Christ for 1,000 years. Besides this, you teach a profession for this transitory life.

I studied here in the National University in Nicaragua for two years. I left because the material is of the party--from Marxism-Leninism. This is why I don't study any more--it's not

pleasant to fill my mind with false doctrines. I have had enough. My questions to you center around costs and other details regarding your university.

We had a great poet who has been called the father of Latin American poetry. He said, "You who have the light, give it to me because I have it not." Please inform me if at all possible and don't turn down my request.

Name withheld (Managua, Nicaragua)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

GRENADA "MOP-UP"; MR. NIXON SPEAKS OUT British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl have ended their public reservations about the U.S. military intervention in Grenada. Worried that further criticisms of President Reagan's action may hurt the far larger (for them) issue of the NATO missile deployment in Europe, the two leaders, at a joint press conference in Bonn, declared that "it is important now to reemphasize our ties with the United States."

Nevertheless, doubts about the way Mr. Reagan carried out the Grenada operation--Bonn and London were not informed ahead of time--has left lingering doubts across the Atlantic.

The single-handed U.S. action has, for instance, increased calls in both Britain and West Germany for a host-country "dual key" to the trigger of the Pershing II and cruise missiles. Such a precaution, it is felt, might prevent any "recklessness" on the part of the United States on the far more dangerous area of a "nuclear exchange" in Europe.

The Soviets hardly welcome such a development. The Americans they trust; even a joint U.S.-Britain "dual-key" operation is not too bad. But for the Germans to nudge closer to the trigger--that's something else again. None other than Franz Josef Strauss made such an appeal for "dual control" some weeks back. (Strauss, it must also be noted, has been thoroughly supportive of the U.S. move into Grenada, lambasting Chancellor Kohl for his lack of immediate and firm approval.)

Soviet/Cuban Designs Thwarted

The United States is putting on display some of the Soviet and East Bloc weaponry that it captured while routing Cuban and Grenadian Marxist forces on the tiny Caribbean island. The Reagan administration now claims that 475 tons of Soviet Bloc weapons were taken, bolstering the U.S. contention that Grenada was being turned into a staging area for further Soviet and Cuban "island hopping" throughout the Caribbean.

An article was sent to the News Bureau which appeared in THE VOICE, a newspaper published in St. Lucia, one of the island nations participating in the Grenada sweep. In its August 24, 1983 issue--well before the intervention--the editors ran an article entitled, "A Well Orchestrated Plan--Caribbean Satellites for Moscow." It was authored by a Trinidadian journalist with the unlikely name of Trevor "Burnt Boots" Smith. Mr. Smith had recently attended an international conference of journalists in North Korea, of all places, and had this to report:

Having spent three weeks visiting some of the leading socialist/communist countries in the world, and mixing freely with advocates of these ideologies, one frightening fact has been brought home to me in no uncertain manner. And that is: "Revolution is an exportable commodity" despite what "Comrade" Maurice Bishop has been saying. [Bishop was the Grenadian Prime Minister who was murdered by forces to the extreme left.]

It is just a matter of time before we see countries in the Caribbean (Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago and Barbados in that order) coming under the pressure being exerted to bring these countries under Cuba's influence and eventually becoming satellites of the U.S.S.R.

Readers may be wondering if I have gone mad or am seeing ghosts where none exist but I can assure them, that nothing could be further from the truth and what I am predicting is just a matter of TIME. I was amazed to learn for instance just how many young men from the countries I have listed above (except for Tobago) have received military training in Libya, courtesy of that country's leader Col. Muammar Gaddafi.

It is a most explosive situation for the Governments, particularly in St. Lucia and Dominica and from what I learned from first hand information, is that the respective Prime Ministers cannot be sleeping very well at nights. [Dominica's lady Prime Minister, Eugenia Charles, it turns out, was instrumental in the Grenada intervention.] "Socialism thrives where there is poverty or ignorance," one well-informed socialist lectured to me with great authority and "in the Caribbean, we have a ready made situation for revolutions and a change in ideologies," he emphasized.

Fidel Castro's Cuba has been playing its part admirably in bringing about a Socialist Caribbean, as far as the U.S.S.R. is concerned, by offering hundreds of educational scholarships to students from the Caribbean. These scholarships accepted by Caribbean students are heavily laden with socialist ideology which the Cubans expect will be spread when the students return to their countries.

Those who spoke openly with me, made it clear that it was a well orchestrated plan worked out in such a way that within the next 10 years there would hardly be a country in the Caribbean which was not a socialist state, linked through Cuba to the U.S.S.R. "Obviously the Americans are fully aware of what is going on but they are helpless to stop the march of socialism in your region," boasted another well-informed source to me during my stay in the socialist/communist countries.

From all appearances Trinidad because of its economic strength appears to be a very hard nut to crack, but that certainly does not mean that we have been given up as a lost cause. I was reminded on several occasions that it does not take mass demonstrations or nationwide strikes to bring about a revolution, but merely a handful of dedicated souls who could oust any

Government overnight with proper planning as has happened in nearby Surinam and Grenada.

Indeed, the Americans did get there, as Mr. Reagan said, "just in time." Coupled with leadership problems in the Soviet Union (Andropov's terminal illness, at least politically speaking), Soviet/Cuban aggressiveness in the region has been dealt a severe blow. And with Nicaragua preoccupied with fending off counter-revolutionaries, energy will have to be expended to "preserve socialism" there. There may not be much left over for the Nicaraguans to give in support of other "liberation" forces in Central America.

Richard Nixon's Hard-nosed Look at Peace

Former President Richard M. Nixon has written a new book entitled, REAL PEACE: A STRATEGY FOR THE WEST. Mr. Nixon sent advance copies of the small (109 page) book to political leaders and other influential persons around the world. The public should have copies soon. It is not known whether President Reagan has read it, but he certainly would agree with its contents. In the September 19 issue of TIME, journalist Hugh Sidey reviewed the book and had these comments:

It was mere coincidence that Nixon's volume appeared just as the superpowers were squaring off over the downed Korean airliner. Yet the timing reinforces his conviction that we are approaching a momentous period in world affairs. "The situation is precarious," he writes, "but the moment is precious."

Just for fun, Nixon gouges old enemies like liberals, journalists, academicians and anybody he believes to be timid and self-righteous. He tears down what he sees to be myths ("The nuclear freeze is a fraud"). "Confusing real peace with perfect peace is a dangerous but common fallacy," Nixon writes. "Perfect peace is achieved in two places only: in the grave and at the typewriter...perfect peace has no historical antecedents and therefore no practical meaning in a world in which conflict among men is persistent and pervasive. If real peace is to exist, it must exist along with men's ambitions, their pride, and their hatreds."...

Arms don't cause wars, he insists, human intentions do; and only when perceptions of the futility of trying to beat us soaks into the Soviet mind will we have true arms reduction. The struggle between the Soviets and the U.S. will go on in "a vast gray area between peace and war." We may not win, Nixon declares, but we must try and we must surely not lose.

Mr. Nixon authored a piece in the October 2, 1983 NEW YORK TIMES, obviously excerpts taken from his book. His analysis shows in stark terms the reality of the world today, and the uncompromising conflicts that characterize it.

There can be no real peace in the world unless a new relationship is established between the United States and Soviet Union.

Confusing real peace with perfect peace is a dangerous but common fallacy. Because of the realities of human nature, perfect peace

is achieved in two places only: in the grave and at the typewriter. Perfect peace is the stuff of poetry and high-minded newspaper editorials. Real peace, on the other hand, will be the down-to-earth product of the real world, manufactured by realistic, calculating leaders whose sense of their nations' self-interest is diamond-hard and unflinching.

We will meet the challenge of real peace only by keeping in mind two fundamental truths. First, conflict is a natural state of affairs in the world. Second, nations only resort to aggression when they believe they will profit from it. Conversely, they will shrink from aggression if it appears in the long run it will cost them more than it benefits them.

The stark truth is that the ideologies and the foreign policies of the superpowers are diametrically opposed. The struggle between the Soviet Union and the United States is between an avowedly and manifestly aggressive power and an avowedly and manifestly defensive one. The United States wants peace; the Soviet Union wants the world. We are interested in peace as an end in itself; they are interested in it only if it serves their ends. The Soviets pursue those ends unscrupulously, by means short of all-out war. They lie, cheat, subvert governments, disrupt elections, subsidize terrorists, and wage wars by proxy. For the Soviets, peace is a continuation of war by other means.

If our differences are so intractable, is peace possible? Our differences make a perfect, ideal peace impossible, but our common interests make a pragmatic, real peace achievable....

No man knows the strengths and weaknesses of the Soviet Union better than Yuri Andropov.... But Andropov is no fool. He is also aware of the profound weaknesses of the Soviet Union. Its economy is in desperate shape. Western economies have been through some rough seas, but the Soviet economy is dead in the water. The growth rate is plummeting. Productivity is dropping. Absenteeism, corruption, malingering, and drunkenness are rife. The standard of living is sinking, so much so that the life expectancy of Russian men is actually going down....

The time is ripe for a deal. To keep the peace and defend our freedom, we need to adopt a policy of hard-headed detente.... Hard-headed detente is a combination of detente with deterrence. It is not an entente, which is an agreement between powers with common interests, nor is it a synonym for appeasement. It does not mean that the United States and the Soviet Union agree. Rather it means that we profoundly disagree. It provides a means of peacefully resolving those disagreements that can be resolved, and of living with those that cannot.

Hard-headed detente must be based on a strength of arms and strength of will sufficient to blunt the threat of Soviet blackmail. This should be combined with a mixture of prospective rewards for good behavior and penalties for bad behavior that gives the Soviet Union a positive incentive to keep the peace rather than break it....

President Carter tried to practice detente without deterrence. The results were a disaster. The Soviets expanded their domination in the Arabian Peninsula, in southern Asia, in Africa, and in Latin America. The lesson is clear. If we block their advances, they will choose restraint and negotiate. If we give an inch, they will take a thousand miles.

President Reagan has won Soviet respect with his actions.... This puts him in an ideal position from which to open a new relationship. Our first goal must be to take the profit out of war. To deter war we must remain powerful enough so that potential aggressors will conclude that they stand to lose far more than they could possibly gain from war....

We can then reinforce the effect by providing them [the Soviets] with the rewards of peace. We should have no illusions about what trade can accomplish. Trade by itself will not produce peace or prevent war. Trade should be expanded only in ways that serve our interests. That means that we must not sell the Soviets goods and technology that directly contribute to their military capability. It also means that our trade must not be at subsidized prices or on easy credit terms. The rule should be "trade, not aid." We should sell them rope, if they want to buy it, but do so in a way that binds their hands and prevents them from reaching out to further their domination....

Our primary goal should be to build a new relationship with the Soviets in which we will be able to prevail upon them to cease their aggression. This can only happen when the bilateral relationship with us becomes more important to them than their adventurism.

Not a very encouraging picture, is it? But it is reality--at least reality as far as the East-West ideological struggle is concerned.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau

Correction: In the "On the World Scene" column in the October 28, 1983 PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT, I misstated something on page 10, fifth paragraph. In discussing the excavation of the "Cardo" in Jerusalem, I mentioned that a "lighted pit along the arcade path revealed a portion of the wall of the first temple!" This is not quite right. I clarified this matter with Mr. Richard Paige, associate professor of history at Ambassador College, and on-site director of our summertime "dig" in Jerusalem. He explained that Professor Avigad (Cardo project director) obviously referred not to the wall of the first temple, but to the city wall during the time of the first temple. The Jews, Mr. Paige explained, often date events according to the time of the first (Solomon to Zedekiah) or second (Zerubbabel to 70 A.D.) temples. I should therefore have written "...a portion of the city wall during first temple times." The next sentence then should read: "Another pit showed where blocks of the wall from the first temple time (c. 700 B.C.) joined those of the second (2nd Century B.C.)." I hope this clears up any misunderstanding I may have conveyed.

--G.H.H.