

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

From the Bonn, Germany Office During the month of October, God's Church in Germany began the largest advertising campaign in its history. Ads and newspaper inserts were placed in ten different magazines and newspapers in West Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Over 28,000 responses have been received to date. The ad in the October 24th edition of the weekly news magazine DER SPIEGEL contained a glue-on card, and from this alone over 4,300 responses were received.

Ads were also placed in two leading national newspapers, FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG (F.A.Z.) on October 4th and DIE WELT on October 5th. Responses from F.A.Z. reached a total of 8,628 by the end of the month and 3,385 from DIE WELT.

By the end of November, two million newspaper inserts, in which The PLAIN TRUTH is advertised in six different languages, will have been distributed in West Germany, Austria and Switzerland. This month we received 4,134 responses for other language editions of the magazine, which is 15% of the total response. The breakdown is as follows: English--2,849, French--621, Spanish--344, Italian--180 and Dutch--140. These requests are forwarded each week to the respective international offices for processing.

As a result of the advertising responses, our total mail for the month of October was up 289% over October, 1982. At present, incoming mail for 1983 is up 15% over last year.

Report From New Zealand Jesus Christ blessed His Work in this part of the world mightily in October with a 66.9% increase in income over October 1982. Year-to-date income now stands at plus 19.6%. During October, 230,000 full-color flyers were placed in six regional daily newspapers, concentrating on areas of New Zealand that are currently low in PLAIN TRUTH penetration. We expect to add about 2,000 new PLAIN TRUTH subscribers as a result of this promotion.

Also during the month we were pleased to have a visit from Mr. Bill Moreland, a Senior Vice-President of BBDO/West, who works closely with Mr. David Hulme on media arrangements for the Church around the world. Mr. Moreland had very useful talks with our local advertising agency. Later in the month, Mr. Hulme arrived in Auckland for talks with the agency, too. Ideas being considered in putting together next year's media plan for promotion of The PLAIN TRUTH in New Zealand include television spot ads, the introduction of WATS-like facilities for telephone responses to the radio broadcast, print advertising in newspapers and magazines, newspaper inserts and a direct mail campaign.

Update From the United Kingdom PLAIN TRUTH subscriber circulation in this area stands at 88,000, but due to an advertising campaign starting in late

November, we expect circulation to rise to over 100,000 by January, 1984. The campaign includes three full page insertions featuring postage paid reply cards, with a total circulation of over three million reaching about 10 million readers.

The newsstand program in the U.K. is currently adding from 1,600 to 2,000 names to The PLAIN TRUTH file each month--a 2-3% response rate. Courtesy of the Canadian office, we plan to build the newsstand program to 100,000 magazines a month in 1984, which will naturally attract even more new subscribers to the file.

Literature mailed out in Britain this year is up 15%. Mr. Armstrong's last semiannual letter drew 9,600 replies from the U.K. and Ireland alone, with an additional 3,400 from the rest of Europe and the Middle East. Mail income for the year is up 18%.

Scandinavia: We are now well on our way in preparation for the launch of the Norwegian PLAIN TRUTH. The new Norwegian editor, Roy Ostensen, will be moving to the Elstree House office very soon. Articles for the launch issue (February, 1984) are currently being translated and edited. This launch issue is, of course, a 52-page issue, so there is much work to be done.

Meanwhile, our inventory of Norwegian booklets is being built up in anticipation of increased demand for additional literature once the magazine is launched. There are now six Norwegian booklets in print, as well as nine booklets and five Bible correspondence course lessons in various stages of production.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the United States

MINNEAPOLIS (NORTH), MN--LARRY WALKER: The Church is noticeably supercharged spiritually from the Feast. Attendance and participation are also running high. New PMs and baptisms are running at a steady pace. The two taped sermons on marriage were well received and have already begun to bear fruit.

LONG BEACH (EAST), CA--LES McCOLM: Ron Kelly's and Dave Albert's taped sermons on family relations were outstanding. I wish to thank Gene Hogberg for his very informative and newsy articles in the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT. They really give us an inside view of the happenings in the world.

HAZARD, KY--WARREN HEATON III: I feel that those sermons sent to us via tape were the most helpful sermons we've heard in a long time. Many problems are being worked out in marriages, and many hidden problems have surfaced. Marriage difficulties have been the #1 problem here. Looking forward to positive changes in this area.

GREEN BAY, WI--DAVE FIEDLER: The two tapes on men's and women's roles were just excellent and increasingly necessary in this decadent society. I'm preparing a sermon for our youths along the same line.

ATLANTA (EAST-WEST), GA--KENNETH MARTIN: PMs continue to pour in as a result of Mr. Armstrong's outstanding telecasts. Attendance at weekly Bible study continues to rise with the brethren showing a hungering desire to understand world events in light of prophecy. A sense of urgency is reflected by the brethren in improved study, prayer, etc.

From Australia and Asia

MELBOURNE (NORTH), VIC--GAVIN CULLEN: I am very impressed with our second-generation Christians who are from Y.O.U. age up into their mid-twenties. They are generally very responsible and are setting a very fine example. The teens are very supportive of the Y.O.U. and are prepared to handle any project I give them. There is great excitement in anticipation of Mr. Armstrong's planned visit to S.E.P. in January. All are "turned on" at the importance he places on Y.O.U. as a part of God's Church.

ADELAIDE, SA--KERRY GUBB: Due to interest in the S.E.P. and Y.O.U.-sponsored Over 50s Dinner which went so well, there's a growing awareness of the youth here at long last. Mr. Armstrong's comments in sermons lately have also helped this. There is a marked closing of what had been a definite generation gap in the Adelaide congregation. This is encouraging the Y.O.U. members, because we told them that it could be accomplished by service, and it has. They are now much freer in coming to the ministry for counseling and help.

BLAXLAND, NSW--JOHN COMINO: Support and interest in the Y.E.S. lessons is strong and genuine. There is more and more evidence of parents properly taking on their childrearing responsibilities. The cohesion among the youth grows and their potential Church solidarity increases.

WOLLONGONG, NSW--RODNEY KING: Prospective member activity is high with a new visit request for each week for the last month. Recently, seven new people began attending. This has had an interesting effect on the members. Some have had the status quo upset while others have taken the positive step of welcoming the new people into their midst and letting them feel part of the Church. Unemployment continues to plague the Church with two more members losing their jobs last month. Now, 50% of the employable males are out of work.

DEVONPORT, TAS--D'ARCY WATSON: Unemployment continues to be a problem, with some considering leaving the state unless a job eventuates soon.

CANBERRA, ACT--RODNEY KING: 1983 has been a hard year for many members financially. Even one member whose job pays very well is finding it hard with the new Labour government's taxes. He is in third tithe year and is just making ends meet.

I have concentrated on bringing out the right and proper Godly emotion in God's people here. In both Spokesman Club and personal counseling I have stressed the importance of expressing

oneself as David did. The Canberra church tends toward being shy and reserved as a whole, though the individual members are generous and kind. After being here three years I have gotten to know the people well and admire their courage and faithfulness.

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA--MOHAN JAYASEKERA: The recent troubles have made all realize that the tribulation is very imminent, and brought on a greater sense of urgency to prepare for Christ's return and to pray more fervently for the kingdom. It has brought everyone closer together with more concern shown for one another. It has brought about a greater zeal for the Church, and members are inspired by the way God protected His people and cared for them in the crisis.

Members fasted and prayed for leaders of the world so that the Festival worldwide would be held in peace, asking God to show us what is wrong with each of us and how we could respond to our calling better, and for God to thereby increase the power of His Church.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Winter Semiannual Letter Being Mailed

Mr. Armstrong's latest semiannual letter is now being mailed to all two million U.S. PLAIN TRUTH subscribers and will later be sent to multiple thousands of others throughout the world.

Over the years, the semiannual letter has borne tremendous fruit for God's Church. More than four million subscribers have requested the literature offered in the letters. Although no money has ever been requested, many thousands have become donors and co-workers by sending donations in response to the letter.

We have noted through the years that as God's Church prays fervently for the success of these letters the impact is always strongly felt. Perhaps you would want to remind your congregation of the great need to back Mr. Armstrong and God's Church in this special way.

New All-time Record Set for Weekend WATS TV Response

"The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast entitled "Revelation: End-Time Prophecies," shown on November 12 and 13, drew an all-time record response for a single weekend of 11,604 calls. The previous weekend record was set in November 1982 when 10,948 calls came in response to "The Plain Truth About Christmas" telecast.

The timeliness of Mr. Armstrong's message in view of recent world events undoubtedly sparked great interest and concern from viewers. Also, 20 additional phones were placed in service just one day before this outstanding response. The total number of phones in the Telephone Response area is now 95. Thus, more people are able to get through during peak periods.

The TV response is expected to remain quite high for at least several more weeks. Two more programs dealing with end-time prophecies are scheduled, to be followed by a reshewing of "The Plain Truth About Christmas."

Following are some comments about "Revelation: End-Time Prophecies" that we received from callers:

I like the way Mr. Armstrong related prophecy to what is happening in the world--that's what struck me about the program. The way he tied it together made me feel like I'd better straighten up and live a better life.

S.T. (Illinois)

He is a very impressive minister. I felt what he said was the truth. Not his own doctrine, but the Bible's. Because of all the turmoil in the United States, I'm interested in learning how it all relates to prophecy. This is the first time that I've heard of Mr. Armstrong.

L.W. (Illinois)

This is the first time that I have heard the program. Mr. Armstrong was saying things I didn't know about Revelation even though I have studied it for years. I had been praying all night for help, then I turned on the TV and saw your telecast.

Baptist minister (Arizona)

I'm a public schoolteacher and I think that Mr. Armstrong is very informative. I do read the Bible and I thought this program was very educational in its use of scriptural passages.

C.S. (New Jersey)

Feast Audiences Enjoy "Behind the Work--1983"

A special highlight of this year's Feast of Tabernacles was the film "Behind the Work--1983." It was deeply appreciated by young and old alike, who were moved and inspired by this account of the true Church's history. Many said it helped them to better understand the origin and commission of the Philadelphia era. The following comments show the enthusiasm this film generated:

The film "Behind the Work" was exceptionally interesting. It was sobering to see how some of our brethren in preceding Church eras had to flee from persecution and how small this present era started out.

D.S. (Big Sandy, TX)

We as a family want to thank you for all the work and effort that was put into the film on the true Church's history. The film brought these 1900-plus years to life in showing this very special history.

Mrs. G.D. (Wyoming, IL)

What a fantastic Feast of Tabernacles we observed at Rapid City. The speakers were all very inspiring but "the icing on the cake" was your presentation of the growth of the Church. We have absolutely no doubt that you are God's Apostle crying out in the wilderness of this age.

Mrs. T.S. (Colorado Springs, CO)

It would be great if each church area could show the film "Behind the Work" this winter or spring. I'm sure our brethren who were unable to attend the Feast and nonmembers who attend services would be inspired. We would like to see it again. I'm sure everyone would too.

Mr. & Mrs. H.H. (Galveston, KY)

I appreciated the program "Behind the Work," not only for the insight it gave us, but also because my husband (who is not a member) was very obviously moved to a deeper and more balanced insight as to why and how Mr. Armstrong came to be where he is today. I think he may have even grasped a little of what the Church is doing and why. This acceptance makes it so much easier for me and for our relationship.

Mrs. L.W. (Bismarck, AR)

We want to thank you very much for a wonderful Feast this year. We especially enjoyed the film about the Work and the history of God's Church. I would like to encourage you to have it put in printed form so we could study it and remember the historical facts better.

Mrs. L.A. (Lincoln, NE)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE "RAINBOW" ISSUE; SOUTH AFRICA'S HISTORIC VOTE The results of last week's spate of municipal and state elections in the United States and the attempt this week to reintroduce the controversial Equal (meaning women's) Rights Amendment signify again the growing challenges to politics-as-usual in America for 1984 and beyond. Reported NEWSWEEK magazine in its November 21 issue:

Off-off-year elections don't necessarily reveal deep truths about the national mood. But last week's state and local elections did seem to carry one plain message--especially for the presidential contenders of 1984. The lesson: don't make too many enemies among black and women voters....

Jesse Jackson's drive to register black voters seemed to make a difference in some campaigns. In Charlotte, N.C., black Democrat Harvey Gantt won the mayoralty with a boost from Jackson as well as solid support from whites. In Flint, Mich., black mayoral candidate James A. Sharp trailed until Jackson flew in for a rally--then Sharp squeaked out a 1,200-vote victory. And even without Jackson's magic, Philadelphia became the fourth of the six biggest cities in the nation with a black running city hall. [The winner was W. Wilson Goode, 45, who was already Philadelphia's city manager.]

Women did equally well. In Kentucky a woman breezed to victory in the state's gubernatorial election.... Martha Layne Collins ...easily won election as the first woman governor in Kentucky's 191-year history.... Collins becomes the most prominent woman in state-level American politics--and thus has already

begun to appear on lists of Democratic vice-presidential candidates.

Republican Party leaders are showing considerable concern about these trends. Regarding the ethnic vote, their big fear is that the extensive southern-state black voter registration drive engineered by Jesse Jackson (himself a declared Democratic candidate) could tip the scales in those states who narrowly went for Ronald Reagan in 1980. The black vote almost entirely swings either to the Democrats or--in municipal elections where party labels are often not used--behind black candidates. In Philadelphia, for example, Mr. Goode (an obviously qualified candidate with an MBA degree from that city's prestigious Wharton business college) garnered 98% of the black vote. Of course, the news media never complains that such attempts to bring out block voting en masse just might possibly smack of racism.

There is now talk of fostering what has been called a "rainbow coalition" of blacks, women, Hispanics, maybe even (covertly at least) homosexuals, to challenge conservative officeholders in next year's general elections. Such a loose coalition might not hold up, but count on the news media to give it as much publicity and tacit support as possible.

The defeat of the hastily reintroduced ERA in the House of Representatives this week also could bode ill for Mr. Reagan's forces. Women's groups angrily denounced those who had voted against the amendment Tuesday.

"For American women, this is a day of truth and consequences. We now know the truth about our representatives' commitment to equality, and those who voted against us will soon learn the consequences of the gender gap," said Kathy Wilson, chairman of the National Women's Political Caucus. "The Republican members of Congress who orchestrated the loss of the equal rights amendment in the House of Representatives today will face the wrath of their constituents at the polls next year," said Judy Goldsmith, president of the National Organization for Women.

The measure was defeated largely because the Democratic-controlled House would not allow any amendments. Opponents were ready to tack on an amendment against abortion, something, of course, the feminist cause would not want added to the bill. (Anti-ERA leader Phyllis Schlafly was delighted at the outcome, stating that the unamended version would have opened the legislative door to "abortion and gay rights.")

Despite the defeat, ERA just won't go away. It will be introduced yet again. Moreover, the political "clout" of women is growing significantly. At the annual American Political Science Association convention in Chicago, which I attended in early September, one entire evening session was devoted to the role of women in politics. Women now, I learned, hold ten percent of elective offices in the U.S. One political activist, Ruth Mandel, reported that there are now twenty women's "PAC" (Political Action Committees) designed to advance the cause of women's candidacies.

Only eleven years ago, women delegates gathered for the first national women's caucus. They got little publicity, even when they emotionally sang "We Shall Overcome" (the civil rights anthem of the 1950s and 60s). This year, at the same convention (in San Antonio) and before scores of reporters, nearly all of the Democratic Party presidential candidates--one of

them even proclaimed "I am a feminist"--dutifully paraded before the ladies, promising to consider having a woman Vice-Presidential running mate on his ticket.

Women need, said Ms. Mandel, to unite across ideological lines to support women candidates. The obvious inference of such block-vote mentality is that gender and women's concerns (equal pay, governmental supported child care, etc.) are more important than broader affairs of state. And with regard to the latter, women, said Ms. Mandel, are "more peace-loving, compassionate." This approach, apparently, is better to have when dealing with issues such as East-West balance of power, arms control and worldwide terrorism.

In sum, Mr. Reagan may have his hands full in 1984, should he run. Definitely his party is in for trouble in 1986 and during the presidential campaign of 1988. The gender and ethnic gaps are widening. Mr. Reagan hoped to partially close the latter by approving legislation calling for a national holiday for slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King. But this action gained him no visible support within the black community, rather only prevented further losses which would have occurred should he have vetoed the bill. We need to keep Isaiah 3:12 and Deuteronomy 28:43 in mind.

As one woman activist reported in a paper she gave in Chicago: "Women must doubly constitute themselves politically...as challengers to the established male-dominated sociopolitical order."

South Africa's Historic Vote: A Background

On November 2, white voters in South Africa approved by a surprisingly wide margin--66% or 2-to-1--a new constitution that extends political rights to two other racial groups, the Coloreds ("Coloureds" in Commonwealth country spelling) and Indians. This was an event not understood or appreciated for its full import around the world. Reported NEWSWEEK in its November 14 issue:

The campaign was bitter and divisive and most South Africans considered the race too close to call. But when the votes were counted last week, the country's white minority had overwhelmingly approved a new Constitution that will give Coloreds and Indians a nominal voice in the government--but continue to exclude the black majority from sharing power. The 2-to-1 yes vote was a decisive victory for Prime Minister Pieter Botha, who is now expected to use the mandate to press cautiously for more liberalizing measures. "South Africa has made an appointment with the future," he said. "We will take further steps for evolutionary reform."

The Constitution had been strongly opposed by members of the Afrikaner far right, who believed it would give nonwhites too much power, and by antiapartheid liberals, who insisted that it did not grant the Coloreds, Indians and blacks nearly enough. The landslide victory is expected to weaken the influence of both groups, especially the far right, whose political clout had previously forced Botha to temper even the most modest gestures of reform....

Under terms of the new Constitution, Coloreds and Indians will gain a measure of representation through their own separate Parliaments. A powerful executive president will have the power to resolve disputes between the three legislatures. The president will be elected by an electoral college of 50 whites, 25 Coloreds and 13 Indians. It is widely expected that Mr. Botha will become president when the new tri-cameral legislative system comes into effect, sometime in mid-to-late 1984.

The world, as expected, was not impressed with South Africa's decisive change of direction. The U.N. General Assembly heaped scorn on Pretoria to the tune of a 141-0 vote of condemnation. The main bone of contention, of course, is that the new constitution does not provide for adding South Africa's native Black African peoples--70% of the population--to the national voting rolls. In this regard, the South African policy of "separate development" remains essentially the same as before. In other words, Africans are to exercise their political rights in their various national homelands, which are in the process of being elevated to the level of independent states. Four of these homelands have already sought, and have been given, independence from South Africa, though the world community disdains recognition of them. (It is possible that, in the future, some sort of political representation will be given to those Africans who have more or less permanently left their homelands and who live and work in "white" areas.)

The new change is far from the "cosmetic sham" that South Africa's critics contend. Both the Colored community (2.7 million people, largely concentrated in Cape Province) and the Indians (850,000, mainly in the Durban, Natal region) are "first world" peoples, closely intermingled with South Africa's whites (who number roughly four million) in culture and language. Yet they have existed in somewhat of an inbetween world which could not go on forever. They both have no homelands to retreat to. The whites' self-interest in this whole issue is the hope that these two groups, in concert with the whites, will make South Africa stand stronger against world pressures. Whether such harmonious cooperation occurs or not, only time will tell. (For the Coloreds, the new arrangement represents a fair turnabout. They were once on the national voting rolls but were removed by the Afrikaner-based National Party when it came to power in 1948. The Indians have never had national-level voting power. But both groups have conducted their own affairs at the local level. I saw some very lively Indian election campaigns in Natal in 1976.)

Comparisons are not exact, but South Africa's Coloreds--a racially-mixed group going back to the country's very origins--are roughly comparable to blacks in the United States. America's blacks, in fact, were known as "colored people," or Negroes, prior to the civil rights era. The leading U.S. civil rights organization is still the NAACP--the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. As with American blacks, South African Coloreds can vary a great deal in skin color, from light to quite black.

The essential factor is that the Coloreds are acculturated Europeans, similar to the manner that U.S. blacks, since the repeal of slavery, have acclimated themselves to the customs of the essentially white-dominated society. The Coloreds have no "tribal homeland"; they speak a European language (most of them speak Afrikaans); they move about in the white world, while retaining their own personal associations and living areas. A

similar case is the Indian community (which is quite prosperous) in Natal. The Indians speak English as their mother tongue.

South Africa's black nations--and they are nations, not tribes (the Zulus are composed of 26 tribes)--are a different matter. Again, comparisons are not exact, but South Africa's black nations--the Zulus, Xhosas, Sotho, etc.--with their different and distinct languages, cultures and traditions, are more nearly akin to Indian tribal nations in North America, such as the Sioux nation or the Cherokee nation (the word "nation" is properly used in these cases). South Africa's homelands are comparable to Indian reservations in the U.S.

Relations between South Africa's native tribal nations have always been marked by friction. The proud, numerous (five million) and militant Zulus are feared by all the others. The Zulus, one would expect, would stand to gain the most by fostering a Pan-African "black consciousness" movement across tribal-nation lines. In fact, Zulu Paramount Chief Gatsha Buthelezi has tried to do just that with his "Inkatha" movement. However, just a few days ago, young Zulus disrupted an Inkatha rally at the University of Zululand. Four people were killed and 100 injured. What were the young Zulus protesting? London's DAILY TELEGRAPH on October 30, reported that "many Zulus see Inkatha, which seeks a black alliance on non-tribal lines, as a threat to Zulu identity."

How to devise a political system (in this age) to take into account these very real inter-communal suspicions, fears, jealousies and animosities, is an arduous task. It is made all the more difficult when part of the country is composed of "first world" European cultured peoples, actually possessing and administering a portion of the Abrahamic birthright, trying to uplift, yet not be swamped by, great masses of "third world" peoples in their midst. True the tourist motto of South Africa--"the world in one country."

Such are the realities of South Africa's extremely complex--indeed explosive, if not carefully handled--ethnic equations. South Africa is by no means perfect, but neither are the 141 nations who "cast the first stone" against her in the U.N. Most of these states are freedom-limiting, if not outright totalitarian, societies. The background of the cautious new constitutional change should therefore be seen in the light of the Afrikaans political slogan, stadig oor die klippe--"slowly over the rocks." Should change come too rapidly and radically, the ship of state, like the old Boer Voortrekker oxwagons being lowered over the rocky crags of the Drakensberg, comes crashing down, to the ruin of everybody.

Thankfully, in the World Tomorrow real progress for all of South Africa's peoples, shorn of worldwide misunderstandings, pressures and barely concealed biases, can be made even more rapidly.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau