

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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## FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

### Recent Ordinations

Regional Director Dibar Apartian ordained two men as local elders during his recent trip to French Canada. Mr. Cyrille Richard, who serves the Montreal Church, and Mr. Yvon Brochu, who serves the Sherbrooke congregation, were ordained June 5. Then on Sabbath, June 2, Mr. Ross Flynn was raised to preaching elder. Hands were laid on Mr. Flynn by Mr. Vincent Panella, pastor of the Trenton and Vineland, New Jersey Churches.

### International News

Spanish Area Update The first PURA VERDAD Bible lectures of 1984 were conducted April 29 and May 6 by Mr. Pablo Gonzalez in Mayaguez, the main city of the west coast of Puerto Rico. The 54 new people who attended, or 2.6% of those invited, represented the highest level of response for any lectures held in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that the attendees asked questions which indicated that they had thoroughly read much Church literature. One married couple who attended has already shown serious interest in the Church and is counseling with Mr. Gonzalez.

Mr. Mario Seiglie reports that on May 12, 350 new people attended the first of four PV Bible lectures scheduled for Santiago, Chile. Attendance for the second lecture held on Sunday, May 13 totaled 170, with 55 new people. The total of 405 new people represents a 7.5% response with two more lectures to go! Anti-government protests were scheduled for the day of the first lecture, but since very few people turned out, no measures were taken by authorities to ban public meetings. Previous protests had resulted in thousands of people on the streets and clashes between protesters and police.

Mr. Seiglie reported that on the first night he discussed the programs of the Church, Ambassador College, AICF, and Mr. Armstrong over the 50 years of this era of the Church, while in the second lecture he presented the topic "Ten Reasons Why Christ Must Return."

Further lectures are scheduled as follows: San Salvador, May 19-20; Guatemala City, May 26-27; and Bahia Blanca, Argentina, June 23, 24, 30, July 1. Lectures are also planned for two cities in Honduras in July, and other cities in Argentina and Uruguay near the Feast period. Lectures may also be conducted in seven or more cities in Mexico later in the year.

Circulation of the May PV was 210,937, setting a new record, exceeding the previous all-time level of the April PV by over 6,000. PV circulation is up 13% since the beginning of the year due to the implementation of Mr. Armstrong's new renewal policy, which extended the subscription term of over 31,000 subscribers.

Since the beginning of 1984, a total of 35,776 new subscribers have been added to the files, 20.3% more than the year-to-date total of last year. Nine thousand three hundred fifty-six of these new subscribers have originated from Argentina, which now has the second-largest PV circulation.

Regional Director Leon Walker returned to Pasadena May 17 after a 26-day journey to Peru, Chile and Argentina to meet with our ministers in those countries. During this trip, festival sites in Huaraz, Peru and El Tabito, Chile were approved.

### Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you very much for continuing the Refreshing Program. Carol and I have just returned from MRP III and it was excellent! We received many sermon and Bible study ideas while in Pasadena, and are busy conveying what we learned to the brethren. All of the lectures were excellent. For example Mr. Neff's lecture on marriage was a thorough survey on the subject, and will take at least three Bible studies here in the local area to cover.

The brethren are so excited about the Refreshing Program--they could hardly wait for me to return and start giving them what Headquarters gave to us.

I feel the program is very cost-effective in that it enables us in the field to increase our productivity. I feel I have been working harder since receiving certain information from the last two sessions.

Thank you for your instruction and service to us. Carol and I are striving to please God and serve you in this end-time work of God's Church.

Vince and Carol Szymkowiak

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Your insight in initiating the Ministerial Refreshing Program has proven to be very helpful to the whole ministry and Church. The ministry is given the privilege of coming to the center of God's work on earth and seeing the beauty of the physical plant and the harmonious, cooperative attitudes of those serving at Headquarters. The members are motivated as the instructions and exhortations are conveyed to them by the "refreshed" ministry. Certainly, the Refreshing Program is proving beneficial for all.

Personally, we are especially appreciative of the contribution of each one of the instructors as each session proved valuable and useful for us. From the outset each lecture built on the previous ones and further deepened and broadened our understanding and knowledge. Your address and encouragement to each one of the Refresher groups is especially helpful. For us the Refreshing Program was like a refueling, equipping us with many ideas for sermons and giving us a renewed zeal to serve, exhort, and lead God's people in supporting the work of God's Church.

Thanks again for the Ministerial Refreshing Program. It makes us even more thankful to be a part of God's Church and eager to do as much as we can.

Dan and Marilee Fricke

### Comments From Monthly Church Reports

#### From the United States

CLEVELAND (EAST), OH--GUY ENGELBART: God is blessing us with good growth in the form of new people coming into the Church. A number of them have a very good foundation as a direct result of the meaty telecasts, the Bible correspondence course, and the other literature they receive from Headquarters. What a difference in the quality of the prospective members compared to several years ago! These new people are really a joy to work with because they are truly hungering and thirsting for more of God's truth.

TACOMA, WA--MEL DAHLGREN: We have experienced a significant number of visit requests from people who stopped attending God's Church as many as 10-12 years ago. They now see the need to change their lives and obey God. It is inspiring to most to see how God is blessing and increasing His Church.

FORT WORTH, TX--BOB SMITH: The congregations are anxious to hear about--and apply--the teachings from the latest Refreshing Program. Teaching parents HOW to turn their hearts to the children --in order that children may follow suit--is an area in which we all agree we are lacking to one degree or another.

PRESCOTT, AZ--DOUG HORCHAK: I have noticed that many parents of teens in the Church are still somewhat naive to this world's influence on their children. Mr. Armstrong's admonition about coming out of this world is still needed!

KINGSPORT, TN--GEORGE ELKINS: The brethren were all deeply touched by the comments Mr. Armstrong made about his younger brother Dwight. We all signed our favorite hymn in the Hymnal, and sent it to his pastor with a token of our affection for Mr. Armstrong and all the inspiring music with which he has enriched our spiritual lives.

HARRISON, AR--TOM BLACKWELL: Several have expressed appreciation for Gene Hogberg's insight into world news as covered in the PGR. I often read from it during announcements at Church services.

GAINESVILLE, FL--ALLEN BULLOCK: An astounding miracle occurred with one of our long-time members this month. He has been unable to attend services for many years because of an advanced case of Muscular Dystrophy and was hospitalized in the Critical Care Unit and put on a respirator. His life depends, of course, on the functioning of that machine.

One night the respirator malfunctioned and the oxygen supply was cut off. The member could not breathe. He gasped for air to no

avail. He prayed to God in the darkness of his room. No one had responded to his pushing the emergency button. Suddenly, he was aware of a man standing over him. The man did not turn on the light, nor did he speak, but as soon as he was by the bedside of our member the machine went on and began supplying oxygen. Once the machine started working again the man disappeared. Our member related this a few hours later to the hospital staff. They hadn't heard his emergency button call and there hadn't been a man on duty in the C.C.U. that night, therefore the staff told our member he just had a nightmare. The member knew better!

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

### AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena campus)

Since my last "A.C. Update," the faculties of both Big Sandy and Pasadena attended the fifth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. The Imperial Schools faculty and a few field ministers and their wives also attended this session.

We found the Ministerial Refreshing Program truly both inspiring and refreshing! It is always uplifting to be brought up to date on the major aspects of the work of God's worldwide Church, as well as being inspired by various doctrinal presentations.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong spoke to those attending the Refreshing Program on Friday, June 1. Mr. Armstrong recounted how, some years ago, Satan was in the process of trying to destroy God's College. He said that after his recovery from heart failure, God opened his eyes to see what was going on in the Work. He mentioned that before God restored him to put the Church and College back on track, "the Church was going backward. The Work was going down."

"Ambassador College was no longer God's College [in the mid-70s].... The Church was going liberal.... I had to start the College all over again," said Mr. Armstrong.

After admonishing the faculties of the College and Imperial Schools, Mr. Armstrong encouraged all of us to carry on faithfully in serving God. And, finally, after mentioning that the new "G-III" plane will be delivered on July 31, he reminded all of us that "physical things don't last!"

### 1984 ENVOY Available to Ministers

Just before Mr. Armstrong left on his recent trip, he approved of Ambassador College offering the new 1984 ENVOY to all of you ministers. We need to know how many ministers wish to purchase a copy. The ENVOY will contain nearly 300 pages, but will be mostly in black and white. Even so, we think it will be a fantastic buy at only \$25 per copy. Please carefully read the accompanying announcement regarding the 1984 ENVOY, and don't forget to send us a check for \$25 by no later than August 1--if you wish to receive a copy of the new ENVOY. (Remember, Mr. Armstrong has repeatedly stated that second tithe can be used to purchase copies of the ENVOY.)

**NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS****The 1984 ENVOY**

A limited number of the 1984 ENVOY will be made available for purchase by any Worldwide Church of God minister desiring a copy. This year's ENVOY, while not the Work-oriented publication as in years past, is still a very fine representation of life at Ambassador College in Pasadena and Big Sandy. The 1984 ENVOY is jam-packed with hundreds of exciting photographs documenting student life, activities, sports, etc. The book, with the exception of 20 pages, will be in black and white. The 1984 ENVOY is not being offered for sale to Church members, so if you want one for your personal use or for the local Church library, you will have to order one in advance. We must have these advance orders in order to know how many copies to print. Please send \$25 (make your check payable to Ambassador College) with your name and address no later than August 1 to:

1984 ENVOY  
Ambassador College  
P.O. Box 385  
Pasadena, CA 91102

I hope all of you had a joyful and inspiring Pentecost. My wife and I were privileged to visit with the ministers and brethren in the Athens and Gainesville Churches in Georgia during combined services on the Sabbath just before Pentecost. A total of 270 were in attendance. The pastor, Mr. Ron Wallen, arranged to have me briefly address the deacons, elders and their wives in a special Sabbath brunch.

Then, on Pentecost, the two churches in Atlanta (east and west) met together. About 942 attended the Atlanta Pentecost services. Mr. Ken Martin spoke in the morning, and I gave the sermon in the afternoon.

My wife and I met what seemed like several hundred of the brethren during our trip. We were both refreshed and inspired by the services and the fellowship. The pastors and their wives, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Wallen and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Martin, made us welcome, and made our visits to their areas very enjoyable and profitable. Mr. Martin mentioned that he had baptized about 23 prospective members just before Passover. This shows that God is giving good growth in the Atlanta area.

Also, while visiting these church areas, I got to speak to several prospective Ambassador College students. We ministers who are privileged to visit various church areas of the U.S. during the feast periods really appreciate such wonderful opportunities to fellowship with God's ministers and their wives and with the brethren of God's Churches. And we appreciate the hospitality which you ministers and your wives always show toward us!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATENewsstand Program Bears Fruit

The PLAIN TRUTH Newsstand Distribution Program is now in its eighth year in the United States, and we are beginning to see more and more results of its impact and success. As you are already aware, the prime purpose of the program is to promote The PLAIN TRUTH magazine which proclaims the Gospel as a witness to the world (Matt. 24:14); but we also know that "many are called but few are chosen." We are happy to report that the "few" who are being called and chosen by God are on the increase due in part to the newsstand program.

In 1982, 130 prospective members were baptized whose first contact with God's Church came through the newsstand program. In 1983, we saw an increase of 60% as 208 people who listed newsstands as the source of their first contact with God's Church became members. Because of the nature of the newsstand program, we have expected people to become involved more slowly.

The percentage of newsstand readers who become regular subscribers continues to rise. For 1984, response from the February newsstand issue was 2.3%; the response for March's issue so far is 2.5%; and the April issue's response is currently running at 2.8%. Responses from all three issues are still coming in.

This increase in response is extremely exciting and represents a considerable rise from the low of 1.2% last year. This continued rise in response is a direct result of the efforts of the coordinators in the field in obtaining new outlets. We have found the percentage of responses to be higher when new outlets are obtained and new people have exposure to the magazine for the first time.

In May, we received 346,864 requests for books and booklets. PT circulation programs accounted for 60% of these requests. The largest single source for people requesting literature continues to be the PT literature insert envelope, with 54,466 people responding by using this vehicle. The largest sources for book and booklet requests are listed below.

<u>Source</u>	<u># Books and Booklets</u>
PT Lit Envelopes	107,005
Intro Issue	51,317
TV/WATS	45,003
Booklet Inserts	33,597
Unknown	20,226
PT Magazine	17,852
Newsstands	13,840
TV Mail	11,464
Correspondence Course	9,890

A well-deserved note of thanks goes to all pastors, newsstand coordinators and our brethren who give of their time to help the work of God's Church in the Newsstand Distribution Program.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGWATS Operation Maximizes Service to Callers

One of the major goals in Telephone Response is to see that every caller responding to "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast gets through quickly and efficiently. Therefore several improvements were made recently to help us cope with the heavy increases in telecast responses. These innovations allow more people to reach us immediately following the program, thus increasing the number of people we serve.

One improvement involves the greeting we use when people call after a telecast. We now answer, "The WORLD TOMORROW program, would you like the literature offered today?" This new salutation saves about 10-12 seconds per call, which is enough to allow several more calls to be answered in those first few minutes.

Another improvement involves the use of tape machines on "overflow" lines. When all of our operators are busy, the caller receives a taped message which gives him the option of leaving his request or calling back ten minutes later. Within this time frame, call volume has usually dropped substantially so that callers can get right through.

Literature Helps People Cope With Trials

It is heartening to read how The PLAIN TRUTH and our other literature have been of great encouragement and inspiration to people in their time of greatest need. With the help gained from the literature the Church produces, many have been able to weather severe trials--illness, divorce, unemployment or the death of a loved one. Many have written telling how their faith has been strengthened and their outlook on life brightened, as the following letters show.

I just wanted to express my sincere gratitude for all of your concern and generosity for me and all peoples of the world. The PLAIN TRUTH is a success because people with the right attitude are behind it. Your magazine has helped me in many ways with my attitude about physical, financial, mental, emotional and spiritual things and concerns. I truly thank you.

H.D. (Akron, OH)

Thank you for wanting me to have The PLAIN TRUTH. I learned much from it, and I enjoy having it sent to me. I cannot send you anything at this present time...but as soon as I can I will send my gift so that others may enjoy this magazine because it helps me to keep my faith when things around me fall apart.

L.K. (Trenton, MI)

Would you please send a subscription of your wonderful magazine to my daughter--my only child--who has just divorced and has her own daughter to rear. I came upon The PLAIN TRUTH shortly after my own unwanted divorce five years ago and it has helped me a lot. I had gotten away from God for a long time (being married to an atheist). I do believe The PLAIN TRUTH is the only truth. Maybe it will comfort her.

E.B. (Chicago, IL)

Yes, I would like to still get The PLAIN TRUTH. I was getting it when my husband passed away and it helped me to get over the depressed feeling I had. I knew God took him out of his suffering for he had cancer and also had to have surgery on the spleen and gall bladder. Before he went back to the hospital he told me that if God wanted him to live he left it in His hands, but if not he was ready to go for he had made peace with his Maker. He also read The PLAIN TRUTH and loved it. Thank you for publishing this magazine.

Mrs. L.M. (Saluda, SC)

I have M.S. [multiple sclerosis] and The PLAIN TRUTH helps me "survive."

J.H. (Randolph, MA)

Watching you on TV has given me a different outlook on life. I am a recovering alcoholic that had lost his faith in everything. I want to thank you.

J.A. (Michigan City, IN)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

### ON THE WORLD SCENE

#### **LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT: PROBLEMS POSTPONED**

Dateline: Paris, France

The London Economic Summit is past history. The leaders of the Free World's seven democratic industrial powers--the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada--have returned home, some to hot, political challenges. Departed too, are the about 3,500 accredited reporters, including this writer.

What was accomplished at this 10th annual summit? Little of prime importance. But then in some ways, that was to be expected. Shortly before the conference was to begin, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain, host of this year's meeting, cautioned reporters not to expect too much from the three-day affair. That way, she said, they would not be disappointed.

After the conference was over, a senior U.S. diplomatic official commented: "The final result was nonspectacular, which is the way summits are supposed to work. What counted at the London Summit was not the agreements or lack thereof, but the process." The "process," in fact, does have some importance in itself. Mrs. Thatcher also stressed that if these annual meetings had not taken place during the tumultuous years since 1975, the world economy could likely be in much worse shape. Without these summits, she implied, trade wars could have already become a grim reality.

It is pretty hard to start wars, trade or otherwise, when leaders, as long as they are basically reasonable people in the first place (no Khomeinis or Kadafis), have the opportunity on a regular basis to speak to each other behind closed doors and face to face.

### Political Concerns

Nonetheless one had the feeling that nearly all of the leaders were only "half there" in London. Nearly all of them were, in effect looking over



their shoulders at political events in their home countries. What they committed themselves to, or refused to commit themselves to, was basically influenced not by the larger good of the world economy, but what was considered acceptable to their own voting publics.

All of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's counterparts were known to be concerned about the continuation of high deficits and high interest rates in the U.S. economy which, they claimed, puts a drag on the world economy. For his part Mr. Reagan was eager to avoid specific references to these points. It is significant that when the summit's final communique on the world economy was produced, uncomfortable direct references to the U.S. deficit, present in the initial drafts of the paper, were deleted. The widespread feeling is that no other Western leader wanted to harm Mr. Reagan's re-election chances. Despite any criticisms they had of Mr. Reagan, it appears they would rather deal with him than anyone the Democratic Party would select.

### World Indebtedness

The seven leaders (plus the president of the commission of the European Community) tiptoed around two of the world's most serious crises. First of all, the war raging between Iran and Iraq in the Persian Gulf, and second, the burgeoning indebtedness of Third World countries. The leaders were clearly playing for time. Because there are huge oil stocks in the major Western countries, the leaders were able to get away with only a weak call upon Iran and Iraq to "cease the attacks on each other and the shipping of other states." The urgency to do more was clearly missing.

Regarding the multibillion dollar indebtedness of Argentina, Mexico, Brazil and a host of other nations, the summit leaders merely proposed to encourage commercial banks and governments to renegotiate loans, changing them from the present year-by-year review to multiple-year rescheduling. If the summit proposal is adopted by the world's big lending institutions, the net effect will be to once again buy more time before major defaults in the world's interlocking economic structure occur. There are indications that major banks are being arm-twisted to go along with the proposal.

### Reagan-Thatcher Relationship

This summit, as in previous meetings, provided the opportunity for the assembled leaders to engage in what are called "bilateral" meetings--separate meetings between two individuals.

Certainly a very important bilateral meeting was the one between Mr. Reagan and Mrs. Thatcher. They met privately three days before the summit began. Their conference lasted almost an hour longer than scheduled. A Presidential aide who sat in on the meeting said it was the most stimulating high-level private talk he had heard in 15 years. The real reason why this close harmony exists was partially provided by Mr. Reagan the day he left London after the summit was over. In his departing speech the President referred warmly to Americans and Britons as kindred peoples--which the Church of course knows they are.

The June 8 issue of the FINANCIAL TIMES of London contained some interesting thoughts about what it said was the "cozy relationship" between Mr. Reagan and Mrs. Thatcher.

Why is it that President Reagan and Mrs. Thatcher, together again in London for the Economic Summit meeting, seem to have so much in common that neither would be equally at home with, say, President [Francois] Mitterrand of France?...

Mrs. Thatcher must be one of the most remarkable British politicians of the postwar period. She wins elections. She is a woman prime minister of what is still predominantly a male role. Far from her running out of puff, she still stands head and shoulders above her ministerial colleagues, perhaps more so than ever....

It is the same with President Reagan...it must be a fiction that he is totally incompetent. No one can govern California, which has a larger population and a greater domestic product than some European countries put together, without having some interest in power. To go on to become president, and then to seek reelection with every chance of winning, must at least indicate considerable ambition and self-confidence.

#### Most Important Bilateral Meeting

There was one more "bilateral" that took place during the conference--actually two--of even greater significance. In the late afternoon of the second day of the summit, June 8, Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong met the two top Japanese leaders back to back. To me this is astounding, as both Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe (who is a likely future prime minister) were extremely busy with the summit proceedings. Nevertheless they made time available to Mr. Armstrong.

The Japanese leadership is eager to continue and, in fact, expand their relationship with Mr. Armstrong and the Ambassador Foundation in jointly funding worthwhile projects in Third World countries. An example of this is the cooperation between the two with regard to the funding and construction of the Jomo Kenyatta College of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya.

The Japanese leaders trust Mr. Armstrong to take the lead in such efforts by planting the initial seed. Once they are convinced that they want to participate, they then follow up with multiple times over the initial investment. This comes from the treasury of the world's second-largest economic power. Such projects not only give prestige to God's work, they open still more doors for Mr. Armstrong to walk through.

Seeing firsthand the honor and respect that these powerful leaders have for the apostle of God's Church in this end-time age was personally far more thrilling to me than being associated with the activities at the summit itself.

This world's political activities, summits and all, are nearing their ultimate end. But the activities of God's Church in this age will help usher in the wonderful World Tomorrow.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau