

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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## FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

### Local Church Elders Not Required to Pay Third Tithe--a Clarification

Several ministers have asked for a clarification on whether local church elders should pay third tithe. Local church elders do, of course, incur expenses in serving the congregation. Because of their responsibilities and the expenses involved in travel, etc., Mr. Armstrong has decided that they are not required to pay third tithe. (This, of course, does not mean they cannot if they wish to.)

## International News

New Zealand Report Mr. Rex Morgan, a local elder who works in the Auckland office, made a week-long visiting tour of Vanuatu (formerly known as the New Hebrides). God's Church has four members in this island nation situated to the west of Fiji. Mr. Morgan was able to visit these brethren and also a number of prospective members. During the trip, he stayed one night with a group of seven French-speaking schoolteachers in a primitive village on the remote island of Malekula. These people have no electricity or running water, and the temperatures were extremely hot. Mr. Morgan played some tapes of the French-language "WORLD TOMORROW" program and answered many Bible questions for the group.

Vanuatu is a bilingual nation where both English and French are spoken. Newsstands are the principal way, besides word of mouth, of bringing The PLAIN TRUTH to the people of Vanuatu. Both the English and French editions of the magazine are distributed each month in the towns of Vanuatu.

Mail and income for the entire area serviced by New Zealand were both down this month. The decrease in mail was because we have been holding off sending renewals for three months in order to institute the new policy of three grace issues for PLAIN TRUTH subscribers. Income was down 10.9% compared with the exceptionally high income received in May 1983.

It appears that the office has been experiencing a "lull before the storm" with Mr. Armstrong's semiannual letter and some large renewal mailings due in the near future, and another READER'S DIGEST advertisement appearing in the June issue. Responses to the March READER'S DIGEST ad have now topped the 1,100 mark, which is a 0.67% response.

Italian Summary The Italian Department, based in Pasadena, reports that PLAIN TRUTH circulation has reached 53,939, which is a 224% increase over May of last year. There are now 15 members and 178 co-workers in Italy.

The March READER'S DIGEST ad brought in another 869 responses in May to bring the total to 9,868. This is close to the 10,485 responses that the previous ad of November 1983 brought. The insert card, placed in La PURA VERITA offering a subscription to those people reading a friend's copy, continues to bring good returns, with 1,689 coming in May.

May showed a 271.6% increase in income over May last year, with members providing 76% of this income. The television program (with Italian subtitles) drew 318 responses this month--an average of 79 responses per program. Part of the mail may not have reached Pasadena yet due to a recent mail strike in Italy.

Mr. Catherwood thought our readers would enjoy the following mixed-up titles of booklets requested in recent letters: Does Life Depend on Death?, Are We Living in the Lost Days?, Haw St. Will Come, Rivelation Univeled at Last!, The True Truth, and What Is the True Spell?

### Comments From Monthly Church Reports

#### From Southern Africa

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA--JOHN WHITE: We experienced a very fine Pentecost, with many good comments from obviously "turned-on" members. New people recently invited to services remarked about the warmth and fellowship of God's people and felt they were at last being fulfilled spiritually.

KLERKSDORP, SOUTH AFRICA--SYDNEY HULL: Working with youngsters in God's Church is producing good fruit thanks to the knowledge and understanding received through God's Apostle and from Headquarters. PM activity in this area is very evident.

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA--JOHN BARTHOLOMEW: The newsstand program received a face-lift this month with new stands. The members involved in the program are very enthusiastic and grateful to be able to have an active part in proclaiming the Gospel.

HARARE, ZIMBABWE--ROBERT KLYNSMITH: My wife and I enjoyed the Southern Africa ministerial conference immensely. It was thrilling to hear of the tremendous growth in God's Church worldwide and in Southern Africa. The lectures proved to be stimulating and profitable. We look forward to applying the principles learned by serving God's people here in Harare more effectively.

The Church held a successful Y.O.U. fund-raising campaign during the annual donkey derby in Harare. Members pitched in and worked industriously from sunrise to sunset selling cool drinks, hamburgers and jumble [a type of cookie] to a crowd of approximately 5,000 people.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

### UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

#### Solid Co-worker and Donor Growth

We continue to observe encouraging increases in the numbers of co-workers and donors contributing to God's Church. (A person becomes a "co-worker" when he donates to the Church twice within a six-month period. A "donor" is a first-time contributor or someone who usually gives once a year.) The following chart shows the total number of individuals in both of these categories over the past four years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Co-workers</u>	<u>Donors</u>
1981	33,941	48,496
1982	36,720	67,610
1983	45,343	84,908
1984	53,055	93,336

### Computer Assists in Training MPC Employees

With thousands responding to the Church's media programs, adding new subscribers and maintaining accurate files has become a big job. To help do this more efficiently, MPC recently began a training program that uses the computer to teach new terminal operators to add names and addresses to Church files.

It works like this: After a brief orientation from the supervisor, trainees work on a series of ten lessons, using sample names and addresses. The lessons become gradually more complex and present all the necessary rules and procedures for correctly entering name and address information. The trainee must successfully master the material in each lesson before going on to the next.

The program has proven to be very effective and has many advantages over previous methods of instruction. It includes:

- Training time and expense are reduced by 90%.
- Error rates are substantially lower.
- All new employees receive the necessary rules and other basic information consistently and systematically.
- The computer gives the trainee immediate feedback for both correct and incorrect entries.

We are very pleased with the results of this computer-based training. It is helping us to keep up with the record-breaking amount of new people requesting The PLAIN TRUTH and our other literature.

### TV Audience Impressed by Lack of Pleas for Money

"WORLD TOMORROW" viewers frequently comment on the sharp contrast between Mr. Armstrong's telecast and other religious programs. They especially notice the absence of soliciting and begging the audience for contributions. This policy creates a favorable impression and enhances their enjoyment of the program. Following are a few of the many letters we've received:

I have seen your television programs regularly and been quite impressed. I feel that your approach is quite different from any other TV evangelist--no flashy jewelry, no pleas for money, no playing on people's conscience about how expensive it is to stay on TV. (One came on last week and asked to help him repay a \$5 million debt!) I have pledged 10% of my profit to the Lord's work. Here is this week's installment.

D.H. (Clearwater, KS)

Mr. Armstrong is really outstanding. I'm the kind of person who thinks there's a "catch" to everything, but I haven't caught his catch yet! I think the thing that impressed me most was that he wasn't asking for money. All of the other religious programs to me are boring. But Mr. Armstrong is really crying out, and if what he is saying is really going to come to pass, which I think it will, then it's going to be great!

A.F. (New Bedford, MA)

I am very happy you don't beg and cry for money all the time, saying "God will provide." If God will provide then there is no need to beg and cry! It appears to me that these other people are of little faith. I also enjoy your programs, which I think get down to the facts.

W.P. (Aurora, IL)

I've looked into a lot of churches and the number one thing they ask for right off the bat is money. I saw one minister last Sunday asking people to send in all the money they could. I heard Mr. Armstrong's program in Oregon--he said he's not asking for money--I didn't understand that. Then it hit me. His is the real Church. These other guys equate religion with money. I guess I won't watch them anymore.

P.N. (Riverside, CA)

I saw your program for the first time this morning and I am impressed. I was awake all night and tried to go to sleep while you were on, but no way! You keep the attention of those who have no "oomph" left. You're terrific!

I am also impressed that you don't ask for a donation of any kind. I have found with my friends that the biggest stumbling block to watching Christian TV is that they are offended when ministers whine and beg for money. Now I can tell them just to relax and watch you! Praise God for a second Paul!

L.A. (Schaumburg, IL)

Mr. Armstrong impresses me because he doesn't beg and whine for money. He's straightforward in his approach. I was so excited that I called my sister in Massachusetts.

L.L. (Pompano Beach, FL)

My husband and I listened to your television broadcast tonight. Let me tell you we were deeply impressed. You are the first minister of God's Word who doesn't expect money for his services in God's work. We were really pleased to hear the sincere truth about God that you told.

Mr. & Mrs. L.S. (Wagoner, OK)

I was so happy to see someone spreading the Word without demanding money. I am out of work right now and have only love, prayers, praise and works to give. Other preachers have made me feel bad because I don't have money to give them, but you made me realize that Jesus would rather have my heart than my cash.

S.B. (Seal Rock, OR)

It was a very startling experience for me to watch your program and not be requested to send money. When I saw you begin your talk about the magazine you offer, I thought, "here comes the pitch." But lo and behold--no pitch! I realize that TV exposure is very expensive, but I just cannot understand why a person who feels directed by God to spread the word should expect his audience to pay for whatever expensive vehicle he decides to use for this purpose.

R.A. (Framingham, MA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

### ON THE WORLD SCENE

#### FIRST WOMAN "VEEP" CANDIDATE; ONLY IN SAN FRANCISCO; MORE ON MOVIES

Walter Mondale has made it official. He has selected New York City congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro to be his vice presidential running mate on the Democratic Party ticket. Both are expected to be nominated officially at the party's convention in San Francisco, July 16-19. The 48-year-old politician had been the favorite all along of the National Organization of Women (NOW), which had exerted enormous pressure on Mr. Mondale to put a woman on the ticket. By selecting her before the convention, Mondale spared himself a bitter floor fight in San Francisco from the militant feminists who had vowed to force him to pick a woman.

Described variously as "pragmatic," "forthright," "tough" and "hardnosed," Ms. Ferraro could actually add a little backbone to a rather soft-spined ticket. She's still quite liberal however--a supporter of ERA (naturally) and government-supported abortions for the poor. She somehow gets away with this in her predominantly Roman Catholic district in the New York City borough of Queens, which actually voted for Ronald Reagan over President Jimmy Carter in 1980.

Many believe that the Democrats have sealed their fate for 1984 by this choice. The South may turn solidly in President Reagan's favor. Southern white males, already angry at the Democrats for caving in so much to Jesse Jackson, will generally be repelled by the selection of Ms. Ferraro. Democrats in the west who favored candidate Senator Gary Hart don't like the choice; they may have been attracted if Senator Hart had been given the vice presidential slot. Jews in the pivotal eastern states are still fuming over the anti-Semitic remarks by both Jesse Jackson and his Black Muslim supporter Louis Farrakhan. Overall, a tough time for the factious Democratic Party.

Perhaps it is fitting that the Democrats, having collapsed under the weight of one radical special interest group after another, will hold their convention in San Francisco. Quite a crowd awaits their arrival, as the July 12 WALL STREET JOURNAL reports:

This Sunday, starting about 2 p.m., more than 100,000 gays and lesbians will march on the Moscone Center, where the Democrats will open their national convention the following day. Leading the march will be a group of gay and lesbian elected officials, maybe 12 in all. Next in line will be some 50 "up-front" gay and lesbian delegates and alternate delegates to the national convention....

Also in the line of march will be Sister Boom Boom, a transvestite "nun," and other members of his/her group, the so-called Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Dykes on Bykes, a lesbian group whose members ride motorcycles, won't be in the march this time. "It will be a long march and we feared their bikes might get overheated," says a spokesman for the gay community.

The National March for Lesbian/Gay Rights may be the most dramatic demonstration here just before and during the national convention but it hardly will be the only one. More than 35 groups have received permits to demonstrate outside the convention center in an 11-acre parking lot reserved just for them.... Coyote, the prostitutes' trade association, is already here. The group held its annual Hookers' Ball here Tuesday night. The Women's Guerrilla Theater, a group that specializes in political satire, will perform irregularly and at random during the convention on buses, subways and trolley cars.

Bi-Pol, a group favoring bisexual activity, will rally in front of the Moscone Center just hours before the gays and lesbians arrive. The bisexual activists argue the gays and lesbians discriminate against them.

Marijuana Bastille Day will be celebrated Saturday. Thousands of pot smokers will arrive at the Moscone parking lot and demand that marijuana be legalized. Some of them will be costumed in marijuana leaves....

Gays already have won significant victories. The proposed Democratic Party platform, for the first time, mentions "gays" and "lesbians" specifically. "The Democrats have met eight of our 12 demands," says Mr. Boneberg. "Our major concern is increased funding for research into the causes of AIDS. That's in the platform."

What the gays seek most now is attention. Allen White, a gay spokesman, says the networks never covered the nomination of a gay man for vice president at the last Democratic convention. "If 10% of the population is gay or lesbian, the idea of a gay person being nominated should be news. Now we're in San Francisco, the gay mecca, the gay capital of the world, and we won't be bypassed again," Mr. White says. It is possible, gay leaders say, that a gay or a lesbian will again be nominated for vice president. The Oregon delegation may take the lead, they hint.

### Two More Demonic Films Are Box Office Smashes

In the PGR of June 29, 1984 we described the summer's first violence-filled box office smash-hit in the United States, INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM. On its heels came two other weird films. One movie is GREMLINS, all about devilish creatures (portrayed by Star Wars-type muppets) set loose to prey upon an unsuspecting community. A reviewer in TIME magazine, June 25, reports:

In GREMLINS, a fantasy co-produced by Spielberg and directed by Joe Dante, a boy's cuddly, otherworldly pet spawns a generation

of vicious creatures that, in one scene, terrorize the boy's mother in the kitchen. She retaliates by churning up one gremlin in a food processor and exploding another in a microwave oven.

In its June 17 issue, NEWSWEEK has this to say, and not disapprovingly:

One person calls it "E.T. with teeth." You could also say it's "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" with Muppets.... Once the gremlins emerge from their gelatinous cocoons, only one question remains...: will they wipe out the town, or will [the hero and heroine] stem the gremlin tide?...

Like Spielberg's other summer shocker, INDIANA JONES, GREMLINS is sure to arouse outrage in some circles over its gleeful carnage.... The movie's demonic toyshop, in which Ken and Barbie grow fangs and turn into juvenile delinquents.... Unlike the relentless INDIANA JONES, which may leave audiences more worn out than refreshed, this Punch and Judy nightmare is exhilarating because the viewers participate in the jest.... If you like your summer popcorn movies laced with a little more poisoned butter, GREMLINS is not to be missed.

Another box office biggie is GHOSTBUSTERS, currently even more financially successful than GREMLINS. It is about three parapsychologists who set up shop as, as one reviewer calls them, "exorcists for hire." The June 18 issue of PEOPLE magazine reviewed GHOSTBUSTERS as follows, in a "just-a-bunch-of-laughs" commentary:

Forget the bad taste, bathroom humor and tacky sight gags: GHOSTBUSTERS is irresistible nonsense [about] university parapsychologists tossed out of academia for their unorthodox ways...going into business to serve the public's "supernatural elimination" needs....

Sigourney Weaver is one of their first customers; the fridge in her apartment is a gateway to hell. Psychic phenomena run amok. The ghosts are an untidy lot--they cram leftovers, belch and spew goo on everything in sight. But it's the Aykroyd-Murray high jinks that provide inspired lunacy. Facing a spirit with a firm "Freeze, potato face," Aykroyd is a hoot. And whether it's a come-on ("I make it a rule never to sleep with possessed people") or a complaint ("It slimed me, it slimed me"), Murray's delivery is a fail-safe mechanism for laughter. Director Ivan (STRIPES) Reitman keeps the Aykroyd-Ramis screenplay zipping right along, creating something like ABBOT & COSTELLO MEET THE EXORCIST. Aykroyd and Murray make the perfect summer tonic for raising spirits.

It looks like the spiritual underworld has Hollywood pretty much doing its bidding these days.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau