

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL.6, NO.37

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 31, 1984

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Update From London PLAIN TRUTH circulation in the United Kingdom and Eire has already reached the 1984 end-of-year target of 150,000, and will rise further before year's end. Circulation for July is 72% above July last year.

GOOD NEWS circulation is up 15.4% over July 1983, and a promotional program is planned in future issues of The PLAIN TRUTH. It is Mr. Armstrong's wish that The GOOD NEWS be offered to all PLAIN TRUTH subscribers who have renewed their subscriptions at least twice. This will result in a major increase in circulation and, hopefully, in donors and co-workers.

Mail income for July showed a 15% increase over July 1983, bringing our year-to-date increase to 7.3%. July was the second best month ever for mail.

Scandinavia: The Norwegian language PLAIN TRUTH circulation has just topped 16,000. The combined English and Norwegian circulation in Scandinavia currently stands at just over 27,000, 11% above last month's figure, and is continuing to grow towards our end-of-year target of 35,000. Good responses have been received to literature offers, with particular interest being shown for THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY.

From Canada July was an exciting month for God's Church in Canada, although tinged with a little disappointment. The month began with the Vancouver Church and office being host to the fifth annual national track meet. All the participants and coaches toured the office on July 5th. The office staff enjoyed the opportunity to meet and fellowship with young people from all parts of Canada.

During July, Messrs. Colin Adair, David Hulme and Bill Moreland (the latter is Senior Vice-President for BBDO in Los Angeles) met with representatives of Baker Lovick, our media agency, to discuss updates in the media area. Upcoming spot ads on television for The PLAIN TRUTH and our current radio situation were reviewed. A number of radio stations which have not been producing will be canceled soon, saving several thousand dollars this budget year. This money will be used in other ways for spreading the Gospel.

The decision was made to run more direct mail ads in August and September. After the Feast we will have, once again, a newspaper insert campaign. Coupled with the newspaper inserts will be a pilot program to be tested in Winnipeg. A 30-second TV ad will be run for a five-day period directing the viewers to the insert in their local newspaper(s). If this program is successful, we may expand it into other cities.

Mr. David Hulme also brought with him some exciting news. The door has finally opened for us to rent display islands in airports starting in September. We will have display islands in the Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal airports. Careful monitoring of response cards will enable us to measure the effectiveness of these outlets.

The disappointing news this month was the rejection by Canada Post of our application for second class mailing privileges. We are in the process of appealing this decision and are now awaiting an answer to our appeal letter.

Income for July was a plus 9.3%, bringing the year-to-date increase to 13%.

From the Spanish Department Ads are now slated for several issues of READER'S DIGEST in the months ahead. Two-page spreads with a return reply card will appear in the Iberian (Spain) edition (circulation 410,000) in September and December. A two-page ad without a card will be placed in the October Peru edition, which has a circulation of 40,000. Also, a two-page ad featuring the SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS booklet in Portuguese will run in the Portugal edition (circulation 165,000) in October. Between 9,000-14,000 responses from these four ads are expected. To date, 18,900 responses have been received from ads placed last year in editions of READER'S DIGEST appearing in Mexico, Spain, Portugal and Venezuela.

Mr. Herbert Cisneros conducted Bible lectures May 19-20 in the Camino Real Hotel in San Salvador, El Salvador. A total of 397 (13.3% of those invited) attended. Mr. Cisneros said that the audience was well educated, evidenced by the fact that 70% were from the professional class.

The next weekend, May 26-27, Mr. Cisneros gave PV Bible lectures in Guatemala City, where the El Dorado Hotel was host to 503 new people. Mr. Cisneros noted that about half of those in attendance were from Protestant backgrounds, the other half Catholic. Some 270 requested future Bible studies, which begin this month.

Approximately 4,600 miles (7,400 kilometers) southeast of Guatemala, Mr. Alberto Sousa conducted four Bible lectures in Bahia Blanca, Argentina. Forty-eight new people attended, and 34 of those wanted to attend future Bible studies. Turnout was six percent of those invited and was probably adversely affected by wildcat postal strikes, which delayed delivery of the invitation letters, and by the cold, windy weather. Mr. Sousa said that most of those who attended were either current or former students of the Bible correspondence course.

Mr. Mario Seiglie, pastor of the Santiago, Chile Church, recently completed a series of eleven follow-up Bible studies for those attending his May PV Bible lectures. Thirty-five people were still interested after these studies, and 12 of those are attending Sabbath services.

Seven more Bible lectures are scheduled through the end of the year for Argentina, Honduras and Mexico. A total of 1,463 new people have attended a PV Bible lecture this year. We expect this number to double after the above-mentioned lectures are conducted.

****** TO BE READ IN ALL CHURCHES ******1985 Festival Housing Arrangements

Although the Feast of Tabernacles is still weeks away, much planning for next year's festival has already taken place. One critical factor is housing. Because of the following reasons, we are requesting that all members wait until next spring when the Festival Planner is distributed to make housing reservations for 1985.

1. The sites are not yet firm. Almost any site could be changed.
2. We have no way to guarantee that all transfers will be approved.
3. All housing at each site must be negotiated by the Festival Coordinator between now and next year. Negotiating for better prices is impossible if available housing is already partially filled by members.
4. Finally, those who book their housing early, especially if they are transferring to a very popular site, make it much more difficult for those assigned to that site to find housing.

So please wait until the Festival Planner is distributed in the spring to make your 1985 festival housing arrangements. Your cooperation will help make a better Feast for everyone!

Taping of Services at the Feast

As explained in the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT of July 23, 1982, sermons or other parts of services should not be taped by anyone except those appointed by the Church to do so. The same policy applies at the Feast of Tabernacles. Please do not take your tape recorder to the Feast to tape the services, as this will not be permitted. Those who are unable to attend may request to borrow sermon tapes from their pastors after the Feast.

Taking Pets to the Feast

For many years the Church has discouraged members from taking their pets to the Feast. (The obvious exception would be seeing-eye dogs or those trained to aid the deaf.) If you cannot make arrangements to leave your pets with a friend, in a kennel, or at home, then you must arrange in advance with your hotel or motel to have pets in your room. However, any damage or other problems caused by the pets must be your responsibility. In no way can the Church be involved or held responsible.

--Festival Office

NOTICE TO ALL U.S. CHURCH PASTORS

1984 Festival Housing for Wisconsin Dells and Biloxi

Any brethren who need housing in Wisconsin Dells or Biloxi, Miss. should already have requested reservations. Any who have not yet done so should submit their housing applications to you as soon as possible.

Please do not send any more housing applications or requests for changes for these two sites to Pasadena. These should now be sent to the Wisconsin Dells office, and must be received before September 26. After that date we cannot make any more changes.

The address and phone number for the office in Wisconsin Dells is:

Worldwide Church of God
P.O. Box 111
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965
(608) 254-2516

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

(NOT to be Announced)

Due to telephone inquiries received regarding Mr. and Mrs. Charles Crain, we feel it is necessary to advise the ministry that Mr. Crain has been removed from the ministry and that his membership in the Church has been terminated. Mrs. Crain remains a member in good standing. This notice is not, and should not be considered a marking of Mr. Crain.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the United States

ALAMOSA, CO--GARY PENDERGRAFT: I appreciate reading the "Comments From Monthly Church Reports" section in the PGR. It illustrates the single-mindedness among the ministry; generates ideas to use in the area where we are working; and, when certain parts are read to the Church, can be used as a "first warning" if certain problems cited apply to this area.

QUEENS, NY--EARL WILLIAMS: The brethren were stirred and inspired by Mr. Armstrong's powerful message on prophecy. Many were moved to pray more earnestly for Mr. Armstrong's eyesight. All of us are thankful that God's inspiration upon him is getting stronger and stronger as he begins his 93rd year.

TACOMA, WA--MEL DAHLGREN: God's hand was clearly visible at Camp Tanglewood this year--from diverting storms to His general protection. One highlight was the Bible Bowl. The campers' general knowledge of the Bible this year far overshadowed that of only a couple of years ago. The fruits of family Bible study, as well as the YES and YOU programs, are truly visible.

DULUTH, MN--BILL GORDON: In conjunction with Mr. Armstrong's proclaiming world peace in the World Tomorrow, it was interesting to notice at our recent Church campout how the children were building bridges, roads, tunnels, etc. in the sandbox, displaying peace and cooperation, as opposed to playing with tanks, soldiers, and guns, as is so commonly seen in the world.

JONESBORO, AR--CLYDE KILOUGH: We had seven teens go to the first session of the SEP, which represented over one-third of our total youth group. It is amazing what three weeks there can do for a youngster--they are so impressionable at that age and the overall effect of camp is very positive. All parents noted positive changes in their children.

ROANOKE, VA--ROBERT PERSKY: I am having good results with the YOU this summer. Almost all the teens are involved in the scheduled activities. Enthusiasm is high. As participation and involvement increases, the influence of the Church upon the lives of the teens becomes greater and greater.

CONCORD, NH--KEN WILLIAMS: Our children have an uphill battle all the way to qualify as leaders in the World Tomorrow. It's evident that we need to give more of ourselves to them. I'm encouraging the brethren to pray that God will help us turn our hearts more fully to our children.

From the Caribbean

HAMILTON, BERMUDA--CECIL PULLEY: The local TV stations are still not broadcasting the program regularly, so there is still a famine of the word here in Bermuda. Newsstand distribution is picking up, but it still has not translated into many new subscriptions. Bermudians seem content to just pick up a copy each month from the stand. PM activity is increasing with a few good prospects.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

YOU UPDATE

1984-85 Activity Calendar

Following is the 1984-85 activity calendar. These dates represent guidelines established by the YOU National Office for YOU activities and should

be adhered to as much as possible. Extenuating circumstances, within reason, are expected to occur which may necessitate a deviation from the guideline.

1984-85 YOU ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Aug. 1	Volleyball teams may begin practice
Aug. 1 - Sept. 30	District Talent Contests
Sept. 1	Beginning of Activity Year
Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	Girls Volleyball Season
Sept. 27	Feast of Trumpets
Oct. 1 - Nov. 16	Regional Talent Contests
Oct. 6	Day of Atonement
Oct. 11 - Oct. 18	Feast of Tabernacles & Last Great Day
Nov. 1	Basketball teams may begin practice
Nov. 19 - Dec. 31	International Essay Contests
Dec. 1 - Feb. 28	District Basketball, Cheerleading, Bowling Season
Dec. 25 & 26	National Talent Program - Pasadena (TENTATIVE)
March 15 - May 15	National Photo Contest
April 5	Passover (observed evening before)
April 6 - April 12	Days of Unleavened Bread
May 1 - July 31	Golf Season
May 26	Pentecost
Before June 1	District Track Meets
Before July 1	Regional Track Meets
TO BE ANNOUNCED	Summer Educational Programs
Aug. 31	Last day of Activity Year

NOTE: The YOU Office has funds available to help cover some of the expenses of two district family weekends per activity year per district. The dates of these activities are to be decided by the district coordinator.

--Kevin O. Dean, YOU

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

**** TO BE READ IN ALL U.S. CHURCHES ****

ON SEPTEMBER 8 OR SEPTEMBER 15

Holy Day Offering Envelopes

Holy day offering envelopes for the fall festivals have been mailed. Although these envelopes are sent by the more economical slower third-class mail, they should have reached all the members by now. If for some reason you have not received yours by September 15, please phone the Mail Processing Center in Pasadena no later than Tuesday, September 18, using the toll-free number (1-800-423-4444). Those living in Alaska or Hawaii should call 1-818-304-6111 collect. Another set of envelopes will be sent immediately by first-class mail.

Please make every effort to use these labeled holy day offering envelopes for your offerings. Doing so helps keep our processing time and costs to a minimum. We are happy to report that during the spring holy day season, there were very few problems such as unlabeled envelopes, improperly prepared checks, and discrepancies in the amount actually enclosed and the amount written on the envelope. We would like to encourage everyone to keep up the good work. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

WATS Innovations Improve Capacity and Efficiency

As previously reported, the phone response to "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast was unexpectedly high this summer, including several weekends with over 10,000 calls. Once the fall season begins, we expect even higher call totals.

To keep pace with these increases, we have incorporated several innovations, enabling us to take more calls with the same or even fewer number of employees. Following are a few of the changes made:

- Direct Terminal Entry--Many of our operators are now trained to type the caller's name, address and literature request directly into a computer terminal. This eliminates the need for writing information on cards and the many steps required to check, sort and process the cards by hand.
- Message on Booklet Wrappers--The booklets requested by first-time callers will now carry a printed message on the mailing wrapper. The message encourages them to call 10 to 15 minutes after the program has aired--a time when the peak period of calls from new people has usually ended. Plans call for a similar message to be given at the close of future programs by announcer Art Gilmore.
- Operators Handling Two Phone Lines--An operator answers one phone line and asks the caller to hold briefly. He then takes the second caller's

request before returning to the first one. This simple procedure has allowed us to answer many calls we would otherwise lose.

- Tape Recording Machines on Overflow Lines--When all operators are busy, the caller receives a taped message giving him the option of leaving his request on tape or calling back ten minutes later.

All these innovations are now providing faster and better service to more people without increasing our staff.

Teen-agers Strive to Live God's Way

More and more teen-agers who write in are showing a deeper interest in God's truth. Their letters often display a maturity and depth of commitment that is inspiring. These young people are willing to combat peer pressure and society's temptations because they are convinced that God's way is truly best. Following are just a few of the many letters we've received:

I am writing for the first time to thank the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador College for the wonderful knowledge I have acquired through the study of literature I received free of charge. I wish to express my sincere thanks and deep gratitude to all who make this wonderful information available.

I am eighteen years old and I have never been so excited and happy by studying and searching through the Scriptures before. Through my study of the Bible correspondence course, The PLAIN TRUTH magazine and other literature, I feel that I have been brought closer to God.

J.A. (Woonsocket, RI)

I want to thank you so very much for the YOUTH magazine. I read most of the articles and they are very interesting. Ever since last year, God has opened my eyes to see His Word. Now I realize how important it is to be by God's side in His Family. I pray every night and day to be in His Kingdom and I know now that I will be if I study His Word and understand it. I'd also like to thank all the writers of The PLAIN TRUTH and The GOOD NEWS.

Ever since I was eleven and a half, my life has really turned toward God. I wish everyone could understand God's Word so there wouldn't be crime, death, hate, fighting, robberies and many more things Satan has put into people's lives.

I hope someday I can be an Ambassador College student, I really do. I can't believe how my life has changed. My dad and one sister are in the Church. I hope my other sister will find out how important it is to be with God someday soon.

I have been with the Church since I was five and hope to stay there all my life. I would like to tell you that you are always in my prayers.

D.M., age 12 (McDonald, OH)

Your [Mr. Armstrong's] works are so wonderful! You have opened my eyes to so much about God and my life. I am only 15 years old

and I feel blessed that at such a young age I am able to understand and believe what is to come. My life has utterly changed. Thanks to you, I understand like never before what I really am and the real reason I'm here. You shocked me with a blast of the truth and I thank God for the wisdom to believe it. I in no way understand it all, but I have the strongest motivation to try. Thank you! I wish that someday I can meet you.

T.M. (San Francisco, CA)

I am sixteen and have been attending the Worldwide Church of God for about three months. Ever since I started going God's way, my life has changed greatly for the good. I am giving a donation because I feel this is truly the Church of God. I would like to tithe but have no job, although I am looking for one. Would you please send me a subscription for YOUTH 84? I have read a friend's and enjoyed it.

S.A. (Arlington, TX)

I have been a subscriber to The PLAIN TRUTH for almost a year now and I just wanted to point out that I think it is very refreshing to read a magazine that is geared towards the inner side of the reader instead of the physical side. Being sixteen, I get a lot of peer pressure on the way to dress, act, etc. and I am just sick of it. Although your magazine helps with family life, jobs and other worldly situations, I really haven't read anything on what it's like to be a teen-ager growing up in troubled times like these.

How about giving advice and reassurance to teen-age girls, like myself, who don't want to be like every other kid around town who is sexually active at this age? We could use a little parental/adult boost in this area. I feel like others think I am some type of freak just because I've never had a boyfriend before. That will happen when it happens but the society we live in says that if you haven't kissed a boy by the time you're fifteen, there is something wrong with you. I know there is nothing freakish or wrong with me but I could use a little morale boost. I seriously ask the question, what's wrong with wanting to be a good, clean girl?

J.S. (Cincinnati, OH)

I am writing to ask you to renew my subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH. I'm sorry that I didn't write sooner but many things have been happening to me lately. I'm fifteen and it seems like everyone around me is drinking, taking drugs and listening to heavy metal music. They act very strange and they're always angry. At first I thought it was my imagination, but now it seems I'm being pressured into things I know are wrong.

I know the only way for me to get out of this trap is to have the faith of Jesus Christ. Thank you for publishing The PLAIN TRUTH for free. I used to think all of the churches were out to make a fast buck, but now I realize there is some good in the world.

R.F. (Carpentersville, IL)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENEIndex of "On the World Scene"

Rather than a report this week, I thought it would be good to publish an index of this column for the past year--actually, since the 1983 Feast of Tabernacles. Perhaps it could be of some benefit to those of you thinking about including prophetic material in your messages for this year's festival. Whatever your needs in the coming months, an index should prove helpful in locating past material.

This is not a subject index. I've listed the titles of each column in chronological order. Where necessary, I have included additional explanation in parentheses.

At this time I would like to express my appreciation for the nice comments I have received from many of you regarding the "On the World Scene" column. It's my pleasure, and the pleasure of the others on the News Bureau staff, to serve you in this manner. Have a happy Feast!

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau

On the Spot Middle East Report: Violence Wrecks Dim Prospects for Peace (written from Jerusalem)	October 28, 1983
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Jesse Jackson: A "Driven Man" Running Hard for World's Top Elected Post	January 6, 1984

- Vatican, U.S. Establish Ties; Pope Deeply Concerned
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- Troubles in the American Catholic Church (Continued);
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- Europe Caught Between the Superpowers (bitterness
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on the trigger) January 27, 1984
- The United States: Drifting Away from Europe, Shift-
ing into the Pacific Rim World (plus, Europe's
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- America "Drowning in Debt" February 10, 1984
- Chernenko Takes Over; Lebanon Debacle Shows Up
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- The Sluggish Economies of Europe--Both East and West
--And Why They Need Each Other (plus, erosion
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- New Papal Appeal to Orthodox; Vatican and Italy Sign
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Ahead; But How Will Europe Protect Itself? March 9, 1984
- How America Is Creating its Own "Frankenstein Monster"
(a nuclear-armed Europe); The Falklands War--
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- Winds of Peace in Southern Africa--How Strong? March 23, 1984
- Another Common Market Summit Failure: Britain's
Thatcher Cast as Europe's "Odd Woman Out"
(plus, failure of EC agricultural policy) March 30, 1984
- Encouraging a Dangerous Trend (European military unity
as an alternative to NATO); (plus, America as the
"Pacifier of Europe") April 6, 1984
- Casting the Die for the Loss of Central America (splits
in U.S. foreign policy views between Democrats
and Republicans--"light-switch diplomacy") April 13, 1984
- Central America: As Congress Debates and Hesitates, the
Looming Disaster Builds (plus, "Dear Comandante"
letter) April 20, 1984
- Growing Communist Fears of Pope's "Vision"; Uneasy
Rests the German Soul (plus, revival of Prus-
sianism in East Germany) April 27, 1984

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Israelis Confront Rising Religious Fanaticism (Part II) (parallel to the Zealots)	August 10, 1984
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