

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 6, NO. 41

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 28, 1984

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Reporting Church Attendance Figures for October

Because the Day of Atonement and Feast of Tabernacles fall on the first two weekly Sabbaths in October, these Sabbaths should be eliminated from average attendance calculations for all churches worldwide. Use only the attendance figures from the 20th and 27th to calculate the average. If one of these two Sabbaths has an abnormally high or low attendance, eliminate that figure and base the attendance figure for October on the one remaining Sabbath.

International News

From the Italian Department Though God has not as yet called a large number into His Church in Italy, our members there are faithful and stable. At present we have a total of 14 members: six on the mainland and eight on the island of Sicily.

As a result of present and planned advertising, there is a definite potential for growth. We currently have 25 visit and/or baptism requests and another 15 people showing considerable interest in the Church. Our co-worker list stands at 29, with donors now numbering 192.

Since its debut in July/August 1982 La PURA VERITA' has steadily grown in circulation, with an August 1984 mailing list of 55,690. La PURA VERITA' reaches 82 countries: Italy receives the majority (50,348), followed by Argentina (1,405), West Germany (1,129) and Switzerland (639). In Italy itself the high circulation areas are Rome, Milan and Naples.

To date the READERS' DIGEST ads have been our most effective tool for increasing circulation. The first ad, which had a coupon enclosed, ran in November 1983 and brought in 10,033 responses. The second ad (March 1984) has pulled 10,103 requests for the magazine thus far. We have also advertised in major Italian magazines and newspapers (for example, OGGI, PANORAMA, IL MESSAGGERO) and have received over 11,900 responses from these ads.

In October we will be testing direct mail advertising. Two hundred thousand letters offering a free subscription to the PV will be sent to addresses throughout Italy. In addition to this, 30,000 letters will be sent into the Italian-speaking area of Switzerland. We are eagerly awaiting the results of this test and hope to find in it a new and inexpensive medium for bringing the PV to a greater audience.

"The WORLD TOMORROW" television broadcast (in English with Italian subtitles) is beamed into most portions of Italy from Television Monte Carlo. Italy's two largest cities, Rome and Milan, are well covered by the program. The broadcasts, though sometimes aired at a different time than scheduled without prior notification, are bringing in many enthusiastic comments as well as an average of about 100 literature requests per program. Responses to date total 2,686.

Income for January through July 1984 shows an increase of 113% over the same period in 1983. The number of donors is increasing regularly. In 1983, 25.5% of our income was received from co-workers and donors. So far this year, 30% of our income has been from co-workers and donors. The booklet ENDING YOUR FINANCIAL WORRIES in Italian will be ready to send out by the end of September. We expect this booklet to increase the number of co-workers and donors.

August saw the beginning of a program which will provide our members in Italy with translations of select GN articles and occasionally sermons recorded on cassette tape. We hope to send the tapes on a regular basis at the rate of two per month. We feel that this will be of great benefit to our members as there are as yet no regular church services in Italy.

God has placed his name on the town of Fiuggi, about 90 kilometers (55 miles) east of Rome, as the first Feast site in Italy in this modern age. Services will be conducted in the English language with a simultaneous translation into Italian for those needing it. Approximately 700 people will attend from all over the world.

From Canada August saw a change of printers take place in Canada. The October issue of The PLAIN TRUTH was printed for the first time at Southam Murray's in Toronto. Messrs. Adair, Patrickson, Burrows, Earle, and Wasilkoff were on hand to see the first signature come off the press. Mr. Perc Burrows will act as our agent and be present at Southam Murray's during each print run. As with most new beginnings there were a few minor difficulties, but these were resolved.

We received our first responses in August to the Direct Mail campaign. So far 17,050 have requested a PLAIN TRUTH subscription.

We are looking forward to receiving our first responses to the newspaper campaign. Five cities--Prince George, North Battleford, Moncton, Peterborough, and Red Deer--have been selected as test markets. Two types of inserts are being used. Results from this campaign will determine the type of insert card to be used in the major campaign scheduled for after the Feast.

Mail income for August was up 8.2%, bringing the year-to-date increase to 12.3%. Incoming mail was up 50.6% over August, 1983, for a total of 36,727 pieces of mail. Total outgoing mail for the month was 97,123 pieces--down 18.3% from last year.

As fall sets in the number of WATS responses is beginning to climb. In August our operators handled 1,277 calls--a 32.7% increase over the same month last year. In the first eight months of 1984 we have received 10,833 WATS calls--a 28% increase over 1983.

We are still waiting to hear from Canada Post regarding our appeal of their ruling on second class mailing privileges. Perhaps the recent change of government will have some bearing on our appeal.

Finally, we thought you might enjoy reading this short article about one of our teen-agers in the Salmon Arm Church. It appeared in the local newspaper and was sent to us by Mr. Rainer Salomaa, pastor of the Church there.

A Yugoslavian engineer is very thankful that Suzanne Darnell of Salmon Arm is an honest person. While in Salmon Arm recently the

engineer stopped for some food at McDonald's Restaurant. By mistake he left behind a wallet containing \$7,500 in cash and cheques in the lobby of the restaurant.

The wallet was found by Darnell and turned over to the manager, who then turned it over to RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police). The engineer, who is on loan to Canada for planning the 1988 Olympics in Calgary, discovered the wallet was missing when he reached Revelstoke and called back to Salmon Arm.

Roy McArthur, owner of McDonald's, comments that he is very proud of Darnell. "It was tremendously honest of her to turn that money in."

From the Bonn Office The month of August was especially characterized by much activity in the local Churches of the German-speaking area, which included YOU/YES activities, church outings and a visit from minister and Media Services employee John Halford.

Mr. Halford came to Bonn on Saturday, August 4 to speak to the combined Bonn and Duesseldorf churches. Visitors from other areas such as Darmstadt were also present. The Pasadena camera crew, which had traveled to Frankfurt with Mr. Halford earlier, was taken to the French SEP camp (Morange, France) by Regional Director Frank Schnee to do some filming. Twelve young people from the German-speaking area had the opportunity to attend this camp and overall comments were very positive, with the youngsters looking forward to returning next year.

Two hundred thirty-eight people were present on the last Sabbath of August for the first gathering ever of the Swiss churches from the German and French-speaking areas. Mr. Bernard Andrist, from the Geneva office, and the Neuchatel Church traveled to Basel for services. Mr. Andrist took the morning service and gave a slide presentation on the churches in French-speaking Black Africa. The French language presentation was translated into German using infra-red translation equipment. A pot-luck lunch was then followed by afternoon services in German.

Incoming mail increased remarkably in August, considering that it is vacation time for many Germans. Total incoming mail was up 156% over August of 1983. This sharp increase resulted mainly from a letter sent to co-workers and donors offering Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's new booklet, A WORLD HELD CAPTIVE. Solicited mail was up 389% over last August, again due to the large response to the letter.

The month-to-date mail income was up 16.8% over last year and the year-to-date mail income is up 13.2%.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the Caribbean

HAMILTON, BERMUDA--CECIL PULLEY: Mr. Waterhouse's visit has given the local church a real shot in the arm. Members are still very excited and a lot of renewed interest is being shown in the topics which he covered. Our PLAIN TRUTH newsstand distribution is still going well, and we are now back on local radio, so that should provide us with additional exposure locally.

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS--ARNOLD HAMPTON: The highlight of this month was Mr. Waterhouse's visit. God has truly inspired him with a message that is like a glass of cold water on a hot summer day. Thanks for sending him through the Caribbean and all over this world, because we need to hear this message again and again.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MEDIA PURCHASING UPDATE

Following is a list of new stations and time changes effective since July:

| <u>Market</u> | <u>Station and Time</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Alaska</u> | | |
| Anchorage KTVA | Time change Channel 11, Sunday, 12 midnight | July 22 |
| <u>Arizona</u> | | |
| Yuma KYEL | Time change Channel 13, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. | September 9 |
| <u>California</u> | | |
| Los Angeles KCOP | New station Channel 13, Sunday, 12 midnight | September 23 |
| Los Angeles KTTV | Time change Channel 11, Sunday, 7 a.m. | September 23 |
| San Francisco KBHK | New station Channel 44, Sunday, 11:30 p.m. | August 12 |
| <u>Colorado</u> | | |
| Denver KUSA | New station Channel 9, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. | September 16 |
| <u>Florida</u> | | |
| Miami WCIX | Time change Channel 6, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. | September 15 |
| Miami WTVJ | Time change Channel 4, Sunday, 7 a.m. | September 9 |
| <u>Georgia</u> | | |
| Atlanta WGNX | New station Channel 46, Saturday, 7 a.m. | September 15 |
| <u>Illinois</u> | | |
| Bloomington WBLN | Time change Channel 43, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. | September 30 |

| <u>Market</u> | <u>Station and Time</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Indiana</u> | | |
| Evansville WTVW | Time change Channel 7, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. | September 30 |
| <u>Louisiana</u> | | |
| Shreveport KTBS | New station Channel 3, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. | September 9 |
| <u>Michigan</u> | | |
| Detroit WXON | New station Channel 20, Saturday, 8 a.m. | October 6 |
| <u>Mississippi</u> | | |
| Meridian WTOK | Time change Channel 11, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. | September 2 |
| <u>Missouri</u> | | |
| St. Louis KPLR | Time change Channel 11, Sunday, 11 p.m. | September 16 |
| <u>Nebraska</u> | | |
| Omaha WOWT | New station Channel 6, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. | September 30 |
| <u>North Carolina</u> | | |
| High Point WGHP | New station Channel 8, Sunday, 11 a.m. | September 2 |
| <u>Pennsylvania</u> | | |
| Pittsburgh WPXI | Time change Channel 11, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. | September 9 |
| <u>South Carolina</u> | | |
| Charleston WCBD | Time change Channel 2, Sunday, 9 a.m. | September 23 |
| <u>Tennessee</u> | | |
| Nashville WTVF | New station Channel 5, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. | September 9 |

| <u>Market</u> | <u>Station and Time</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Texas</u> | | |
| San Antonio KENS | Time change Channel 8, Sunday, 7 a.m. | September 2 |
| San Antonio KSAT | New station Channel 12, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. | August 19 |
| <u>Wyoming</u> | | |
| Casper KCWY | Time change Channel 14, Sunday, 10 a.m. | September 23 |

--David Hulme, Media Purchasing

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

We are now well into the first semester of the 1984-85 college year. Thus far, we are having another very successful year. We have a very fine group of freshmen, and I am enjoying teaching the class, Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ, to them. All told, we have 167 freshmen.

Last week, Mr. Shimada, President of Bunkyo College in Tokyo, visited Ambassador College. He spoke briefly to the students and faculty at the Thursday assembly, then had lunch with the faculty. Mr. Shimada invited my wife and me to visit Bunkyo College in the near future. We plan to do that on our return to Pasadena from the Feast of Tabernacles--about October 24-27. We hope to discuss the 1985 Japanese Summer Program with the Bunkyo College officials. (This past summer we had over 90 Bunkyo students studying at Ambassador College.)

My wife and I are scheduled to keep the Day of Atonement with God's people in Fiji; then we will spend the entire Feast of Tabernacles with our brethren in New Zealand. We very much look forward to meeting many of the brethren, and eagerly anticipate visiting with the New Zealand ministers and their wives.

We are planning to have an Ambassador College booth located at each of the Feast sites in the United States and Canada. In addition to the Feast booth, we plan to have an Ambassador College representative at as many of the Feast sites as possible, so they can meet with interested prospective students during the Feast.

I hope all of you have a safe, profitable and happy Feast of Tabernacles. I know that we all will have a very successful Feast if we will be sure to put God first, making certain that we place the real emphasis on the spiritual rather than the physical.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE"Good News" for The GOOD NEWS!

Recently, Mr. Armstrong sent a letter offering The GOOD NEWS to 747,000 PLAIN TRUTH subscribers. So far, over 25% have responded and will be receiving the October/November issue for their first copy. This response has nearly doubled the size of The GOOD NEWS list in the United States and has resulted in over \$41,000 in donations.

Dozens of people also included letters in the return envelopes stating they are anxious to receive The GOOD NEWS and feel they will enjoy it as much as The PLAIN TRUTH. Many said they look forward to the stronger Biblical content in their desire to understand more of God's Word. A few have even requested a ministerial visit, which Mr. Armstrong alluded to in his letter. Following is a sampling of the comments we have received:

I am writing to let you know that I received your most welcome letter today telling me that you also publish a magazine called The GOOD NEWS. I most certainly would love to have you send it, as I am very interested in a magazine that is Biblically oriented, especially in these last days. I know that I would enjoy reading it. I'm going to tell all my loved ones and friends about your two fine magazines and see if they will want to have you send these magazines to them.

J.R. (Detroit, MI)

Please send me The GOOD NEWS--I need it; and keep on sending The PLAIN TRUTH. You have helped me very much in my Bible studies. Of course, I check everything you say by the Bible. I've never found you wrong yet, and I thank God for your wisdom.

B.K. (Knoxville, TN)

Thank you for your offer to give me a one-year subscription to The GOOD NEWS. I heretofore did not know of its existence. The enclosed check will help a little to defray your costs. Also, per Mr. Armstrong's letter which offered The GOOD NEWS, I would like to know the name of a minister representing the Worldwide Church of God in my area.

B.B. (Chatsworth, GA)

I really enjoy reading The PLAIN TRUTH, only I wish there was more of the Bible in the magazine. Maybe The GOOD NEWS is just what I've been looking for. It sounds like it could be very interesting. I sure would like to receive it.

L.D. (Round Lake, IL)

Thank you for offering us The GOOD NEWS magazine. We have learned a great deal through The PLAIN TRUTH and eagerly await the arrival of The GOOD NEWS. We have listened to your broadcasts for the past six years and sincerely wish to obtain more information about the Worldwide Church of God. We would like for one of your ministers to visit us at our home.

D.S. (Sesser, IL)

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGTelephone Response Prepares for the Feast

Once again, the Telephone Response section is preparing to staff our WATS lines in both Pasadena and Big Sandy to handle calls during the Feast of Tabernacles. More than 300 Church members from around the world will be serving as volunteers in Pasadena. Students and some volunteers will man the lines in Big Sandy.

We expect to receive 30,000 or more calls between October 6 and 27. Weekend responses are expected to be quite good since we will be airing prophetic programs about the book of Revelation.

We're happy to announce that tours of the WATS operations will be available at both sites. Those coming to Pasadena or Big Sandy are welcome to see this exciting facet of God's Church firsthand.

Record Number of Literature Requests Continue

As has been true for the past several months, God's Church continues to receive an unprecedented number of literature requests. Several new records were recently set. For example, one million new people have subscribed to The PLAIN TRUTH so far this year and 170,000 new students have enrolled in the Bible correspondence course. Both totals are all-time records for eight months. According to our projections, these trends will probably continue for the rest of the year.

Some Backlog of Mail Anticipated After the Feast

Those of us here in Mail Processing are currently working at fever pitch to get caught up before the Feast break. We hope to leave with mail inventory at zero level. A limited staff will be staying behind to keep up with any urgent mail and phone calls. Those who remain will be able to attend services or have them "piped in" from the Auditorium.

Nevertheless, we still expect a backlog of a few hundred thousand pieces of mail by the time the Feast is over. For this reason, there may be some delays in fulfilling literature requests. We will make every effort to process visit requests immediately upon returning. Thanks for your patience.

Members' Examples a Light to Others

Prospective members and others who have come in contact with God's people often mention how inspiring it is to be with them. In this world, where the "get" way is so prevalent, the example of joy, peace and friendliness set by our members truly stands out as indicated by the following selection of letters we've received:

I am 17 years old and have been subscribing to The PLAIN TRUTH for about a year now. In all of my 17 years I don't believe I have ever met a nicer, more cordial group of people than the members of the Worldwide Church of God. Although I do not attend that church, I know some people who do.

For a long time now I have been thinking about the heartfelt happiness radiated by these people. And now, I just can't contain

my desire to express this feeling to you. After reading the magazine and other literature and watching the TV program, it is easy to see why these people are so happy. Since I have come into contact with the teachings of the Church and talked with so many wonderful people, I have come to have peace with God and am feeling at least a portion of that outflowing happiness I mentioned.

A.C. (Granite Falls, NC)

I look forward to becoming a part of your Church very soon. I have never seen such a loving group of people as those in the Worldwide Church of God. You are sincerely interested in loving, giving to and helping others.

A.A. (Petersburg, VA)

I have been reading The PLAIN TRUTH for 14 years now and always look forward to reading each and every article in it. I have also been going to a local Church congregation for over a month. I noticed that the people there conduct themselves unlike any other church I have been to. There is an atmosphere of peace not only among the adults, but with their children also.

R.H. (Doniphan, MO)

I have watched your program on TV and read The PLAIN TRUTH. I also read some of your booklets which someone left in the laundromat in the apartment building where my husband and I live. I was once a cleaning lady in a resort in the Pocono Mountains and observed how some of your people live and worship. I must say that I approve of your ways and like your views on the Bible.

D.M. (Scranton, PA)

I am a manager at a hotel and some church members work there. I was very impressed with them and want to attend services at the Worldwide Church of God.

R.L. (Anchorage, AK)

I have recently attended Sabbath services in my area. I must say I am certainly glad I did. Never in my entire life have I seen such friendly, outgoing and caring people. It is easy to tell that they have a real goal--an ultimate goal--that they are trying to achieve. I know of nobody else who has this inner joy or glow which is simply irrepressible. I am truly amazed!

Also, I must tell you that I have never discovered so much Biblical truth from any other church as I have from this church. It is made simple, understandable and plain. Incredible! Thank God for all of you. It has been a true pleasure knowing you.

D.J. (Richmond, VA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

"THEY DECLARE THEIR SIN AS SODOM" One of the themes that Mr. Herbert Armstrong has emphasized in the past several years is "come out of this world." And with good reason. The societies of modern-day Israel are on a moral toboggan slide. As a result natural calamities lie just over the horizon.

There is little, in the end, that morally-upright leaders (such as President Reagan) or movements such as the "Moral Majority" can do to halt the downward spiral. The forces of evil are just too strong.

Increasingly the peoples of the United States, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and even a growing segment inside a one-time straight-laced South Africa, "declare their sin as Sodom; they do not hide it" (Isa. 3:9). Yes, they openly declare their sins just as the Sodomites did--professing, in fact, to have "come out of the closet." Such homosexuals call themselves gays or lesbians--more positive and "progressive" terms they have chosen to describe their respective orientations.

Reflecting their growing self-confidence, gays in Los Angeles and elsewhere now call heterosexuals "non-gays"--making the latter seem the oddballs. (That's like using the terms "abnormal" and "non-abnormal.") Tragically, the "age of innocence" is long gone from the peoples in the Sodomitish nations of Joseph today. God says, "The look on their countenance witnesses against them" (Isa. 3:9).

Despite President Reagan's earnest efforts to return the United States to its Judeo-Christian heritage, the homosexual rights movement is gaining strength, using the legislative and judicial processes to combat "discrimination." One wonders how fast the U.S. will slide once Mr. Reagan is not on the scene any longer. Here, first, is an article which appeared in the September 2, 1984 NEW YORK TIMES, entitled: "Intensified Effort Is Seen on Banning Discrimination Against Homosexuals":

...56 cities, counties or states...now have laws or executive orders prohibiting at least some forms of discrimination against homosexuals. Leaders of the rights movement count five legislative victories so far this year, on top of four last year and five in 1982.

Stressing the relative youth of the homosexual rights movement, which is widely considered to have been born in 1969, Thomas B. Stoddard, legislative director of the New York Civil Liberties Union who is co-author of a book on the civil rights of homosexuals, called the progress "nothing short of a miracle."

An important recent success was the United States Conference of Mayors' approval of a resolution recommending that "all levels of government adopt legal protections for the rights of gay and lesbian Americans."

By passing that resolution in June, the mayors enabled homosexual organizations to "raise the issue in city after city," Miss [Virginia] Apuzzo of the National Gay Task Force said. "We have raised the dialogue; now we will have the local organizations bring it to the political representatives and their constituents." Mayor Arthur J. Holland of Trenton, one of the sponsors of the measure, said: "Gays and lesbians are human beings, too. Average gays and lesbians are so inclined by their nature and just want what every other person wants."...

Conservative Christian organizations are often a strong voice against the passage of measures that specifically mention sexual

orientation or homosexuality. "Homosexuals deserve protection under the law just like any other person," said Stephen Heuston, a legislative assistant with Moral Majority in Washington. "Homosexuality is not a special class. Homosexuality, unlike race and unlike gender, is a choice."...

Many homosexual activists, however, with the support of many psychologists, dispute these opponents' assertion: Homosexuality is not a matter of choice, they say, but part of an individual's basic makeup that is determined at an early age.

Activists hope, Miss Apuzzo said, that work on the local level will build a "groundswell" toward getting Congress to add sexual orientation to the protected classes of race, religion and sex in the 1964 Civil Rights Act. An attempt to so amend the act has languished since 1975 in the House of Representatives, with 79 legislators currently signed on as co-sponsors. In the Senate, a similar version has nine co-sponsors.... [Note Isaiah 1:10--"you rulers of Sodom."]

The rights advocates' first statewide victory came in 1982, when Wisconsin approved a comprehensive law forbidding discrimination against homosexuals in employment, public accommodations, housing, education, real estate practices, credit and union practices.

"Only in San Francisco," one is tempted to exclaim upon reading the following article entitled "Lesbians Argument Over Child Custody Presents New Issues," from the September 9 NEW YORK TIMES. It concerns a unique child custody case which presents "novel legal issues in family law."

A judge in Oakland has ruled that a lesbian may seek visiting rights to the child born to her former companion while the two women were living together. Judge Demetrius Agretelis of Alameda County Superior Court ruled this week that Linda Jean Loftin could petition the court for visiting rights to the 6-year-old child, who was conceived through artificial insemination, under a state law that grants certain custody rights to nonbiological fathers....

Miss Loftin and Mary Elizabeth Flournoy exchanged vows in a church ceremony in 1977, but such unions are not legally recognized. When the couple decided to have a child, sperm was obtained from Miss Loftin's brother, and Miss Flournoy was inseminated with Miss Loftin's assistance. A daughter was born the next year and was given the family name of Loftin. Miss Loftin is listed as the father on the child's birth certificate.

The couple separated in 1980, and although Miss Loftin made voluntary child support payments, Miss Flournoy refused to let her visit the child. In March 1983, Miss Loftin, a 35-year-old postal worker, filed suit seeking visiting rights.

"Innumerable numbers of lesbians in the area are having children like this," [Flournoy's lawyer] said, "and the judge took notice of that."

In the Los Angeles area, there are a number of instances of single women, whether lesbian or "straight," who have chosen to become single parents by means of artificial insemination.

Speaking of Los Angeles, it is now believed that it is taking over the "gay capital" role from San Francisco. Better climate and, especially, greater access to the entertainment industry--a growing haven for homosexuals--are given as chief reasons. And, true to form, Hollywood recently hosted a unique awards ceremony, as reported in the article "Portrayals of Gays Honored" in the September 19 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

"We can show parents that their gay children are not destined to lead lonely and dreary lives.... We can provide positive gay and lesbian role models for young people, regardless of sexual orientation."

With that, Chris Uszler, chairperson of the Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Artists, opened the alliance's fourth annual AGLA awards presentation, which recognizes "responsible portrayals of gays and lesbians in the entertainment media." Winners included the TV series "Hill Street Blues," "St. Elsewhere" and "Hotel" and the movie SILKWOOD and one of its stars, Cher. The ceremony, held...at the Huntington Hartford Theatre before a capacity crowd of more than 1000, featured awards presented by Alan Bates, Sammy Davis Jr., Richard Thomas, Ed Marinaro and others. Julie Harris delivered a special award to the late writer Truman Capote.... [Capote, incidentally, reportedly said on one occasion: "I am a drug addict; I am an alcoholic; I am a homosexual; and I am a genius."]

NBC's "St. Elsewhere" was recognized for "Aids and Comfort," an episode that focused on a patient--who is also a city councilman --dying of AIDS.... Cher, who played a lesbian in SILKWOOD, won an award, as did the film.... "Human Sexuality," a Cable Health Network production, received an award for its series on bisexuality, lesbianism and sexual identity. "Livewire," a children's show on Nickelodeon, another cable network, was honored for its presentation of children asking experts questions on sexuality....

Jerry Wheeler, who co-produced this year's ceremony, said that "those people who have created a program with honest depictions of gays in a positive manner deserve to be recognized. We (AGLA) prefer to be seen as a celebrator, not a watchdog." In addition to staging the awards, the alliance is active in offering suggestions to the producers of shows, plays and movies in which gay characters are depicted....

"Our organization is growing in size and influence," Uszler said, "and now people are returning our phone calls. But our biggest progress has been in television. We're now seeing the 'happens to be gay' characters, when before it was the 'I didn't know he was gay' type of character. Gayness is no longer an oddity. They're just another person. And that is a big change in the last four years."

Yes, watch out for those "gays in positive roles" on television. There'll be more of them this year, according to an article entitled "Prime time comes to terms with gay roles in fall series" in the May 30, 1984 USA TODAY:

Gay characters finally may be coming out of the closet in the coming TV season, and coming out in a way that won't send gay activists into the streets in protest. Not only will an old womanizing pal of the Doc on "The Love Boat" admit to his friend that he's homosexual, but there also will be a "reverting" gay character in a hit prime-time soap, continuing gay parts in proposed network series and a key gay role in a Showtime [cable TV] sitcom.

"In 1984," says John Pike, vice president of programming for Paramount Video, producing the Showtime series, "gayness is a fact of life--nothing to be ashamed of.... TV has definitely come a long way."

But for gays, says Newton Deiter, consultant to the networks for the Gay Media Task Force, "it has been a slow progression to this point.... Basically, what you've seen on TV has been reactive characterizations, (where) someone reacts to the fact that a person is gay or lesbian," says Deiter. "This is the first year you will see...where we're not a problem, but are (treated as) whole people."

As mentioned in the introduction, the same rot in varying degrees extends to the other modern-day descendants of Joseph. Here is a report from the August 3, 1984 issue of THE AUSTRALIAN titled "ABC to Give Gays 'Equal Rights'":

The homosexual lovers of people working for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation can claim a series of benefits at the taxpayers' expense under an initiative revealed by the ABC.... Australia's homosexual community yesterday applauded as historic the decision of the ABC board to officially recognise de facto homosexual relationships and to give them all the entitlements of their heterosexual counterparts....

The ABC said it would recognise de facto homosexual relationships for the purposes of staff entitlements to cover items such as bereavement leave, removal costs and accommodation in remote areas.... The head of equal opportunity at the ABC, Ms. Elsa Atkin, said: "It's been a subjective area where we've had no uniform policy.... I don't believe the ABC should set itself up as a moralist. We are an equal opportunity organisation that doesn't discriminate against people because of irrelevant characteristics like their sexual preference."

Back in the United States, it is becoming increasingly difficult to uphold moral standards against the activists pushing an end to so-called anti-gay discrimination. One high class restaurant in Los Angeles, reported the July 24 LOS ANGELES TIMES in the article "Women Win \$250 Each in Restaurant Bias Case," found out how expensive it was just to try to defend itself against "gay rights."

Two women who were denied access to intimate curtained dining booths reserved for "romantic evenings" because they are of the same sex won \$250 each Monday in a court ruling ending their discrimination case against the Papa Choux restaurant.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Charles E. Jones issued the summary judgment (a decision made without trial and based on law rather than disputed facts) on behalf of Zandra Rolon and Deborah Johnson four months after the 2nd District Court of Appeal ruled that barring same-sex couples was illegally discriminatory.

The higher court enjoined the downtown restaurant from excluding such couples from the booths while the suit was pending, and Jones' ruling Monday made the ban permanent. Restaurant owner Seymour Jacoby, unable to persuade the Supreme Court to hear the case, closed the six booths last March after the Court of Appeal issued its decision rather than abandon his policy of seating only heterosexual couples. Judge Jones also indicated Monday that he plans to order Jacoby to pay nearly all the \$27,767 fee billed by the women's attorney, Gloria Allred, plus \$600 for Monday's court hearing.... He refused a request by restaurant attorney Arnold Barry Gold to divide the total into monthly payments so that it would not become a hardship for the restaurant.

"We were never in this for the damages. We wanted to prove a point," Allred said. "We would have settled for no damages and no attorney fees if they had simply changed their policy. But they chose to fight, so now they will pay."... Johnson said she was "just delighted" with the finale of the case Monday and that their efforts, which publicly exposed their "lesbian life-mate" relationship, were "more than worth it."

When they started to "come out," gay/lesbian activists appealed for "understanding" from the community at large. But now, utilizing the muscle of the courts, gay activists--just like the men of Sodom--are displaying an intolerant "get out of my way" attitude.

Meanwhile, the mainline churches, as noted in this column in the September 14, 1984 PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT, are wilting under the pressure of the gay rights onslaught. The reason for this mainly lies in their own approach to the Bible. To them, the Bible is no longer an inerrant guide to life. As a result, the churches have no "Biblical comeback" to the shifty arguments of the moral relativists and gay rights exponents. Here, in the article "Homosexual Weddings Stir Dispute," published in the September 5 NEW YORK TIMES, is a good example of this.

For nearly a year, the two dozen parishioners of the Ray of Hope Metropolitan Community Church worshiped in undisturbed tranquility on Sunday. But that solitude was shattered after the Metropolitan Community Church conducted several marriages for homosexual couples....

Too tiny to have its own building, the nondenominational church, which reaches primarily into Syracuse's homosexual community for parishioners, has held services since last October at the 108-year-old, gray, stone Grace Episcopal Church. The Metropolitan

parishioners, who worship on Sundays after the regular Episcopal services, have the blessing of Grace's rector...Judith Upham. "Metropolitan Community Church is offering an alternative to the bar scene," said Miss Upham. "It is offering an opportunity for fidelity and commitment."...

In July, two parishioners participated in a marriage, which was conducted by a minister "from a mainstream church," said Michael Royce, a member of the Metropolitan congregation, declining to identify the minister or the denomination.... Several days later, ...Robert F. Haskell, the rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church across town, sent a letter to Miss Upham, with copies to the [local] newspaper and to the local Bishop,...[Bishop] O'Kelley Whitaker. It read in part:

"The organization which you permit to use your church advocates homosexual conduct as an alternative life style, and its members admit that they actively engage in homosexual behavior without acknowledgment that such conduct is against the word of Holy Scripture. The Scriptures clearly teach that to practice homosexual relations is a sin. We are especially concerned that you are permitting the sanctuary of an Episcopalian Church to be used to perform 'marriages' of homosexual persons. Marriage is a most holy sacrament of the church involving a man and a woman."

Miss Upham said she was surprised at the tone of the letter. "Clearly, it's an issue of different theologies," she said. "Scripture is certainly the major basis for making decisions. Then comes the question of how you read Scripture, whether you take it as a whole or you pick it apart. I don't know any respectable theologian that does hunt and peck theology, what we call proof-texting. It's also important to look at science. If, in fact, people are born homosexuals, then we should say, if God created people that way, we should let them be homosexuals."...

Then, Bishop Whitaker addressed two specific issues raised by [rector] Haskell's letter.

"From our perspective [notice: not God's perspective!], there is no such thing as a 'homosexual marriage.'" But, he added, "it is my understanding that the Metropolitan Community Church does not actually speak of 'marriages' between homosexual persons of the same gender but rather of 'unions.'" Thus, he wrote, it was "technically incorrect" to characterize the ceremony as a "marriage."

As to the broader issue of scriptural sanctions of homosexuality, Bishop Whitaker cautioned against selective readings of the Bible. "From time to time, isolated verses of the Bible are used by Christians to justify condemnation of homosexual activity and ostracism of homosexual persons," he wrote. "Such use of Scripture is very dangerous."

In the meantime, Miss Upham said she intended to keep Grace Episcopal Church open to the Metropolitan parishioners. "We need a

place where virtues like fidelity and commitment are promoted," she said. "I think what we're doing is Christian. I think what we're doing is providing a place for people who have nowhere else to go."

I'm reminded of an experience I had this past summer when I made a one-day over-and-back journey to Budapest, Hungary from Vienna (the two cities are only 3½ hours apart by car). Hungary is a Communist country, although remarkably free of socialist slogans and banners extolling the virtues of the party. Austria is a free Western society--with all of the ills of the West, including a remarkably free attitude toward pornography.

Going through the border checkpoint, my eyes were drawn to a huge message board straddling the traffic lanes. On the board were square pictographic representations of items not permitted into Communist Hungary. One pictograph displayed a hypodermic needle--meaning no drugs, please. In the next square were the silhouettes of a hand gun and what looked to be a sawed-off shotgun. The message was: no firearms permitted. In the last square were, simply, five letters--"PORNO," with the inside of the last "O" shaped in the outline of a nude woman, in case anyone missed the point.

Hungarian authorities wanted none of these dangerous and corrupting influences brought in from the decadent West. While Austria may not be Israelitish, it nevertheless has been influenced by the pornographic cultures of the U.S., Britain and Denmark.

Our peoples really have no excuse, which is why God prophesies in Lamentations 4:6, "The punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom." Our peoples, in "declaring their sin as Sodom," have ignored the very reason for Sodom's destruction.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau