

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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## FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

The final Feast of Tabernacles attendance figures from all Feast sites worldwide (except Burma) have now been compiled. I thought you would find these interesting and encouraging, so we are including this information beginning on page 2. As you can see, we had an overall increase of nearly 5% compared to last year's attendance. We can certainly be thankful and rejoice in the growth God has given His Church during the past year.

For the first time, we exceeded one million delegate-days at this year's Feast worldwide. ("Delegate-days" is a measurement used by the convention industry to measure total attendance.) By comparison, the average convention uses only one site, and might reach 10,000 delegate-days in a three-day span. The Feast of Tabernacles truly is the largest annual gathering on earth!

I thought you would also be interested in a comment regarding the Feast made by Australian Regional Director Mr. Robert Morton in a recent report: "We are noticing a tendency for problems to crop up around the Feast of Tabernacles--especially personal and family problems. Years ago, we used to expect these around Passover time. This phenomenon seems to have transferred itself to the Tabernacles period. I wonder if it has anything to do with the fact that we are getting closer to what the Feast of Tabernacles represents and Satan is angry because he has only a short time left?"

Several of us here in Pasadena had been discussing the very same phenomenon before the Feast last year, and again this year. It does seem that many more major problems are now occurring around Feast time than around Passover time. Mr. Morton's suggested explanation is certainly an interesting one.

There is one thing we can be sure of, in any case. Satan is real. And he is angry! Satan hates God's Church and God's ministers! He would love to see us get caught up in personal problems, bitter attitudes toward others, vanity or involved in secular worldly pursuits of money, possessions or prestige. We need to be extra cautious and on guard as we draw closer to the end of this age. Don't allow yourself to drift out of the habit of daily heartfelt prayer, daily Bible study and regular fasting. Don't neglect your family. Strive all the harder to strengthen your marriage, now. Develop a closer relationship with your children, now.

Don't allow Satan to get the upper hand in your life. Ask God to help you recognize how you may be letting Satan's influence into your life. God will see us through all of our trials, help us overcome, and help us avoid the pitfalls Satan lays for us. But we must seek God diligently and wholeheartedly. We are in a spiritual life and death struggle! But God is all-powerful, and will never leave us nor forsake us. Your job and calling are of enormous importance to God. He will see to it that you are successful, if you truly seek Him. Let's all remember each other in our prayers, and strive to encourage, support, strengthen and back up each other at every opportunity!

FEAST OF TABERNACLES WORLDWIDE ATTENDANCE  
1984/1983 Comparison

	1984	1983	change
<b>North America:</b>			
United States	84,048	82,799	
Canada	12,443	9,616	
total	<u>96,491</u>	<u>92,415</u>	<u>+4.4%</u>
<b>Latin America:</b>			
Argentina	283	265	
Chile	166	117	
Colombia	394	215	
Costa Rica	88	56	
Guatemala	276	261	
Guyana	161	123	
Mexico	1,029	1,147	
Peru	204	185	
total	<u>2,601</u>	<u>2,369</u>	<u>+9.8%</u>
<b>Caribbean:</b>			
Bahamas	506	487	
Barbados	658	566	
Bermuda	313	350	
Dominica	94	not held	
Guadeloupe	266	162	
Haiti	33	38	
Jamaica	515	431	
Martinique	315	323	
Puerto Rico	not held	181	
St. Lucia	223	407	
Trinidad	436	477	
total	<u>3,359</u>	<u>3,422</u>	<u>-1.8%</u>
<b>Europe:</b>			
Belgium	1,012	not held	
Czechoslovakia	273	275	
Denmark	237	282	
England	4,303	3,858	
France	not held	862	
Ireland	not held	422	
Italy	601	not held	
Malta	not held	383	
Netherlands	389	485	
Spain	96	66	
West Germany	961	786	
total	<u>7,872</u>	<u>7,419</u>	<u>+6.1%</u>

	1984	1983	change
<b>Africa &amp; Middle East:</b>			
Ghana	223	248	
Israel	375	621	
Kenya	160	112	
Malawi	not held	123	
Mauritius	154	139	
Nigeria	387	274	
South Africa	2,241	2,148	
Uganda (4 days)	54	not held	
Zaire (4 days)	119	not held	
Zambia	66	67	
Zimbabwe	453	404	
total	<u>4,232</u>	<u>4,136</u>	<u>+2.3%</u>
<b>Asia &amp; South Pacific:</b>			
Australia	5,221	5,418	
Burma	--	72	
China	527	not held	
Fiji	222	177	
Malaysia	341	306	
New Zealand	1,205	1,158	
Philippines	3,776	3,387	
Solomon Islands	52	54	
Sri Lanka	258	187	
Tonga	56	53	
total	<u>11,658</u>	<u>10,812</u>	<u>+7.8%</u>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>126,213</b>	<b>120,573</b>	<b>+4.7%</b>
<b>Sites</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>83</b>	
<b>Countries</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>47</b>	

Recent Ordination

Mr. Fritz Sonderegger, who serves in the Canberra, Australia congregation, was ordained a local church elder at Sabbath services December 8. Hands were laid on him by Church pastor Mr. Rod King.

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS  
(Not to be Announced)

Due to inquiries received regarding Dr. George Geis, we feel it is necessary to advise the ministry that Dr. Geis has resigned from the ministry and membership in the Church. This notice is not, and should not be considered a marking of Dr. Geis.

### International News

From Mr. Frank Brown November mail income from areas served by the Borehamwood office is up 5.3% over November 1983, bringing the year-to-date increase to 8.8%. PLAIN TRUTH circulation is currently 72% higher than November 1983, although it has dropped slightly since October 1984, due to nonrenewals. U.K./Eire circulation now stands at almost 148,000. GOOD NEWS circulation is 8,200 and growing steadily, and is expected to double during 1985, following the direct mail promotion. Growth in the Church is continuing, with a 6.5% increase in members over this time last year.

The visit of Mr. Leon Walker, Spanish Regional Director, Mr. Keith Speaks, Circulation Manager for La PURA VERDAD, and Mr. Roger Lippross, PLAIN TRUTH Production Director, has marked a milestone in the printing of The PLAIN TRUTH in England. With the commencement of the printing of the Spanish edition in Britain, along with the addition of the Caribbean English and Asian English editions, the total print run for January was just over 1.2 million magazines. This run was comprised of the French, German, Dutch, Spanish, Italian and Norwegian editions plus four different English editions. To mark the occasion, our printer, Alabaster Passmore, hosted a celebratory lunch, and a toast was made to "the first million" followed by a second toast to "the second million!"

Ambassador Press, originally owned by the Church, was designed and built to our requirements for the specific purpose of printing international editions of The PLAIN TRUTH. The printing presses at Ambassador Press are (unusual for such facilities in Europe) designed to print American size quarto magazines, rather than the European size A4 magazines.

Since its purchase of the plant at the end of 1981, the Passmore Print Group has been investing in the facility, installing new plastic wrap equipment, new pre-press equipment, new high-speed binding equipment and a two-colour web press. Additionally, both four-colour presses have been refurbished. This investment has allowed them to match the very large increase in our print run, which has risen more than four-fold during the last three years. In addition, they are producing the much increased quantities within the same time period as they did three years ago, which is quite an achievement! All editions are out of the plant within ten working days of the arrival of film from Pasadena. Future plans call for the installation of a much larger press to cope more efficiently and cost effectively with our job.

The reason so much printing is now centralised in the U.K. is three-fold. Firstly, as mentioned, Ambassador Press is ideally equipped to cost effectively produce multiple language editions of The PLAIN TRUTH. Secondly, the British Post Office offers an extremely large variety of different delivery services at reasonable prices, allowing us the option of sending magazines by surface, by an air speeded publisher's service, or by air mail. In addition, the U.K. has excellent air freight and sea freight services all over the world. Finally, in the U.K. over the last 15 years, a great deal of "know how" in managing and controlling publishing operations has been developed, which benefits the non-English editions serviced from the U.K.

Scandinavia: Response rates to recent advertisements in the Norwegian and Danish editions of READER'S DIGEST are very good. The Norwegian edition has pulled 1.26%, while the Danish achieved a noteworthy .80%.

We now have an inventory of 11 Norwegian booklets, with six more due for delivery very soon. We also have the first six lessons of the Bible correspondence course actually being printed at the time of this writing. In 1985, we plan to finish production of the first 12 CC lessons and four more key booklets in Norwegian and then concentrate resources on building circulation.

While in England Mr. Lippross has been finalising plans for the installation of the Bedford system, one of the most advanced electronic typesetting systems in the world. It will link the offices in the U.K., Germany and Holland with Pasadena, revolutionising PLAIN TRUTH typesetting procedures. Everyone here is very excited about this great step forward.

Continent of Europe and Middle East: The growth of the English-language PLAIN TRUTH circulation on the Continent and in the Middle East has seen a lull due to the effects of the renewal programme, but growth is still evident, particularly in the GOOD NEWS and co-worker lists. On the Continent, GOOD NEWS circulation is 2,063, up 13.6% over October 1984, and the number of co-workers is 109, an increase of 0.9%. In the Middle East, GN circulation is 804, up 10.9% over October 1984, while the co-worker list is 40, an increase of 2.6%.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

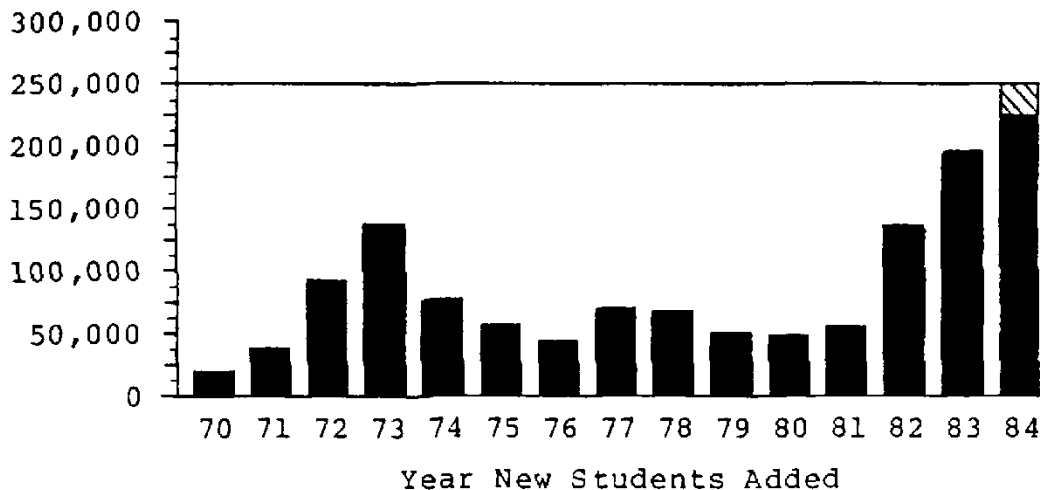
UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Correspondence Course Reaches Over Two Million People

This month marks the 30th anniversary of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. In that time over two million people worldwide have enrolled. In 1984, students have been added in record numbers. Through November of this year 225,000 were enrolled in the United States alone. The following graph shows the number of new student enrollments (U.S. figures) from 1970 to the present:

NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENTS

U.S. Correspondence Course  
January 1970 - November 1984  
(December 1984 Projected)



Thirty years ago the first Bible correspondence course lesson was published. It was the fulfillment of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's desire to provide an in-depth Bible study course for interested listeners to "The WORLD TOMORROW" broadcast and readers of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. Under Mr. Armstrong's direction, the late Dr. C. Paul Meredith became the first editor of the course in 1954. In December of that year, 8,194 people received the very first lesson.

As with The PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS magazines, over the years certain changes in the course have occurred, though the basic Bible study format has remained the same. For example, each lesson originally consisted of eight to twelve pages of unillustrated copy. Today, the lessons consist of 16 pages of beautifully illustrated copy. Various booklets and reprint articles relating to the subject material of the lessons are offered as "supplementary reading," which the student may request by returning a coupon enclosed with each lesson. The course is now available in seven languages: English, German, French, Dutch, Spanish, Italian and Norwegian.

Now that the updating of the first 12 lessons is nearly complete, Mr. Richard Sedliacik reports that production of brand new lessons and tests on a monthly basis has resumed. Lesson 20, entitled "In Training for Rulership," will be mailed this January. He also added that after the current series of lessons (based on Mr. Armstrong's series of PLAIN TRUTH articles "A Voice Cries Out Amid Religious Confusion") is complete, a new series of seven lessons covering God's annual festivals will begin.

Over the years, many thousands of Bible correspondence course students have written to express their appreciation for the course and the marvelous new truths they have learned. Their comments show the depth of new understanding God has granted them as a result of studying their Bibles with the course. Many are also very enthusiastic about the new lessons that have been published since Mr. Armstrong decided to continue the course beyond Lesson 12. Following are some of the comments we have received from those writing in about these new lessons, as well as the first 12 lessons:

Dear Friends: I have just finished Lesson 16 and I want to write and tell you how much I appreciate these wonderful tools for learning more about God's Word. Having been a member for 9 years, I finished the first 12 lessons many years ago when I was first baptized. When I heard a while back that they were going to continue them from Lesson 12, I thought "that's nice," but personally felt that it would be so simple and basic in doctrine that it would be of little value to me.

How wrong I was! I wish I could tell everyone that might be feeling this same way how beautiful these four new lessons have been! When I finally reenrolled I was amazed at how God was giving me an even deeper and clearer understanding of His Word in areas that I thought I had already fully understood! He has also liberally sprinkled beautiful gems of new truth along the way as well! The correspondence course is not just for those newly coming into the understanding of God's truth. My grateful thanks.

J.C.--member (Oxnard, CA)

I am thrilled with the lessons! I have been a member since 1970 and I feel I am still learning the deep, spiritual intent of God's laws. Mr. Armstrong says we must grow; this is one way to do it. Anyone who does not take advantage of the correspondence course is missing a great deal.

D.L.--member (Fresno, CA)

I received my first test card back on my Bible course exam. You can't imagine the joy I experienced when I opened the envelope and saw my grade. I take this study very seriously and am so glad I now can receive more lessons and keep learning. This course is the most fantastic course I have ever taken. I had some Bible courses in college, but none of them in any way compares with this one.

S.C.--co-worker (Nacogdoches, TX)

I have been a student of The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course for more than two years. First, I must thank God for Mr. Armstrong and everyone that put these lessons together. They are most interesting. I am now up to Lesson 17 and I know I am on the right track. My eyes have been opened to the truth. Never before have I understood things as I do now.

G.A.--co-worker (Bronx, NY)

Many thanks for the privilege of taking the Bible correspondence course. Before I heard "The WORLD TOMORROW" broadcast, I had read and studied the Bible for years, and thought I knew it. I now know I knew nothing about the Bible, or how God wants us to make use of our lives. Thanks to your Bible course I have been inspired by God's words and have changed my life and way of living.

D.D.--co-worker & prospective member (Benton, PA)

Having completed the first four lessons and the first test, I decided to go back and read the Bible from the beginning. I have come to the conclusion that your way of studying is definitely the best. Also, The PLAIN TRUTH is the plain truth. After having given money to other organizations in the past, I am now going to tithe to you, as I want to help you get God's truth to more people. Thank you for helping me understand the Bible better, and for the knowledge of the Kingdom to come.

E.B.--donor (Windsor, Ontario)

WOW! I have just completed my first correspondence course lesson. It is packed with information that I have never realized, although I have been going to church for over 12 years. I am now a junior in high school. I received it about a week ago and haven't had the time to work on it until today. It took me a couple of good hours to complete and was worth every minute of it!

L.S.--donor (Williamstown, NJ)

I am enjoying the Bible correspondence course you are sending to me. Every time I finish a lesson I feel so alert and positive with the truth of Christ and of the Kingdom. I am finally getting straight answers to questions I've had, and answers to questions I've never thought of asking.

C.G.--regular (Tyngsboro, MA)

I'm now waiting for Lesson 9, as I just mailed the test that came with Lesson 8. I get so involved that time means nothing--I stop only when my fingers and hand can't hold the pen any longer. There simply aren't enough words of praise for this great Bible study course.

V.E.--regular (Broken Bow, NE)

I have just completed correspondence course Lesson 11, and feeling it of eternal necessity to follow what Christ has told me to do through His Word so clearly explained in all the lessons, I want to seek counsel and water baptism. Please rush me the name, address and telephone number of God's true minister in my area.

G.R.--regular (APO San Francisco, CA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

### ON THE WORLD SCENE

#### AFRICA'S AGONY; SUFFERING PEOPLES CALL FOR A "NEW SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT"

According to a report by the United Nations Children's Fund, published last week, nearly five million African children have died during 1984 and another five million have been disabled or stunted in growth by malnutrition and disease. There was no breakdown given in the number of deaths directly attributable to the prolonged sub-Saharan drought, but it certainly is a major factor. Yet even in "good times" childhood deaths take a tremendous toll on the earth's poorest continent.

In the famine-wracked country of Ethiopia, estimates are still fairly certain that, despite Western food aid, about one million people will die before the current drought/famine cycle runs its course.

Incidentally, Ethiopia's Marxist ruler, President Mengistu Haile Miriam, recently thanked President Chernenko for the Soviet Union's generous "fraternal assistance" in helping Ethiopia during its current national calamity. Mengistu also appealed for more military hardware in prosecuting the multi-front civil war. Other officials in Addis Ababa sharply criticized Western countries for sending too little food aid too late. And in the ultimate twist of irony, Ethiopian officials spurned an offer from South Africa to send 29 doctors plus tons of food and medical supplies. They wouldn't accept any aid from a "racist, imperialist" regime, they said. (Ironically, it was South African military forces who liberated Ethiopia from Italian troops in World War II, the only time Ethiopia had been occupied in its long history. It was never a European colony, so it can't blame its problems on colonialism.)

Africans are now dependent upon foreign sources of food for one out of every five meals; 60 per cent of the sub-Saharan region's 359 million people daily have insufficient food. Nearly all experts believe that Africa will be dependent upon food imports for the interminable future. We are thus very likely into an end-time situation of more or less permanent famines and pestilences (Matt. 24:7). And after the Green Revolution fails in India in a few years (Union Carbide won't be making any more pesticides there), add that overpopulated sub-continent to the food-short list.



Recently the LOS ANGELES TIMES ran an excellent in-depth series of articles for four days (December 16-19, 1984) on "Africa--The Harsh Realities Dim Hope." Here are highlights from that series, written from various parts of Africa by staff writer Charles T. Powers. To begin with are excerpts from the December 16 article datelined Nairobi, Kenya:

The economies of most nations on the continent could serve as case studies of slow collapse. Food production is losing ground to an exploding population.... Poor government is the continent's greatest handicap. Instability is a plague more constant than drought.

In the past five years, there have been violent coup attempts in 12 of Black Africa's 39 countries, eight of them successful. In the quarter-century of the independence era, more than 70 heads of state have been forcibly removed from office. Thirteen have been assassinated. Many of those who remain in power seem intent mainly on enriching themselves....

The population of Black Africa is growing at the rate of 3.1 per cent a year, faster than any region of the world. In some countries, notably Zimbabwe and Kenya, the rate exceeds 4 per cent. Kenya's 19 million people will become 40 million before the year 2000; no one has the slightest idea how Kenya will feed those 40 million on the meager resources now apparent. The present sub-Saharan African population of 359 million will triple before the year 2020, the World Bank says. The pressure on African cities is building remorselessly. In 1960 there were three cities in Black Africa with a population of more than 500,000. Now there are 28....

Per capita food production has been declining for 20 years, to the point that one person in five is now fed by imported food. Some of the largest declines in food production have taken place in countries with the greatest agricultural potential, such as Nigeria and Zambia. These were countries that once raised enough food to export.

And the hunger in Africa spreads. The World Bank estimates that the number of "severely hungry and malnourished people" increased this year to 100 million. In Liberia, one child in five is stunted. In poorer regions of Zambia, the bank says, "height for age ratios have fallen in all age categories."...

Repressive governments dominate a continent where presidents tend to rule for life unless they are shot out of office.... The main concern of too many governments is to stay in power. The focus is on the immediate future. Far-sighted planning in the fields of agriculture, family planning and education is rare. Across Africa, the leading employer remains government--generally wasteful, unproductive, moribund--which puts it at once in the conflicted state of being both the burden and the livelihood of most of the people....

Where African leaders are remembered, they rarely are remembered for their achievements in power, but rather for their struggles

to attain it. [Kwame Nkrumah's most famous dictum incidentally, was "seek ye first the political kingdom."]

In his December 17 dispatch, correspondent Powers wrote, this time, from Dayes, Mali:

Why is Africa going hungry? The reason in almost every case...is government.... A common denominator in African food policy is to go for the political expedient, the quick fix: The first concern of most African governments is to provide cheap food for the growing number of urban dwellers who can topple a government at times of extreme dissatisfaction. Official price ceilings on foodstuffs have worked to drive farmers out of business by failing to provide them with a reasonable return--or any return--on the food they produce. Over time, farmers respond by producing only enough for their families....

In 60 per cent of the nations in sub-Saharan Africa, the government has a monopoly on the distribution of fertilizer and seeds.... These government agencies are...frequently out of tune with the needs of the people they are supposed to serve. One month before planting time, farmers may find that no one in the government has remembered to order fertilizer.

Across the continent, governments have failed to develop or enforce conservation policies. In Rwanda, trees are being cut 10 times faster than they are being replaced; in Kenya, five times faster. The vanishing forest cover exacerbates soil erosion and water supply problems. When rain does come to Africa, it usually comes with force. With nothing to hold it back, it floods into rivers, carrying topsoil with it, leaving the land and the people on it ever more vulnerable to drought and famine.

Author Powers does not deal with two other major impediments to food production--tribal tradition and the approach to life of the various peoples. In BLOOD RIVER, one of the best histories of South Africa ever written (published in 1982), author Barbara Villet recounts the story of an Orange Free State farmer, Jaap de Villiers, who is boss to some 300 Sotho and Zulu farmhands. Said the Afrikaner farmer:

A few years ago, there was a famine in Lesotho. We sent up a tractor and a team to show them how to improve their yields. We planted their mealies [corn] and harvested their crop and then left them the tractor to do the same next year. Well, when we went back the next year, they'd done nothing. They told us they still had enough from the previous year and didn't need to plow and plant.

From Monrovia, Liberia, Powers wrote this in the December 18 issue of the TIMES:

Political stability remains an elusive goal.... Power changes hands only by force. In 25 years, only two African presidents, Leopold Senghor of Senegal and Amadou Ahidjo of Cameroon, have retired peacefully....

Tribalism remains a dominant political force.... Tribal animosities are the source of frequent bloodshed, some of it...almost genocidal in nature.... It is the major cause of strife in Zimbabwe, where the Ndebele people in the southwest of the country say they were under severe pressure at the hands of government troops, majority Shongas, for much of the last year or so. It has been the root of the horrors of Uganda--where the numerically predominant tribe, the Baganda, have been shut out of power by President Milton Obote....

The assumption almost everywhere (a notable exception being President Julius K. Nyerere of Tanzania) is that African presidents are exorbitantly wealthy. And the presidents themselves do nothing to contradict the assumption, but rather act as if great wealth were their right [note Matt. 20:25].... Occasionally, intellectual friends of Africa...suggest that what Africa needs is a new system of government....

The man who must be considered the most distinguished leader in Black Africa remains Nyerere of Tanzania...[who continues to promote] socialist ideals.... It is Nyerere's sincere belief that the world's poor should be subsidized by the world's rich.... After his recent appointment as chairman of the Organization of African Unity, he said that Africa's \$150-billion debt was "a great weapon" over the rest of the world. "We should just not pay it," he said.

Journalist Powers concluded his series with a December 19 dispatch from Lagos, Nigeria:

There is a crisis of spirit in Africa today. Twenty-five years after independence swept the continent, the sense of gloom, of ground giving way, is widespread....

A nurse named Felicia works at the polyclinic that receives patients for the main hospital in...the capital city [of one West African nation]. A strong, sad-faced young woman, she spoke after work one day.... "We have no drugs," she said. "No bed sheets. No paper to write down the histories of the patients. The doctors are disgusted. There is no pain-killer, no aspirin. The lights go off and on all day.... The rats are invading us. We have no stretchers.... We have no needles for giving injections, but we have no drugs so it doesn't matter. If we get disposable syringes, we boil them and use them again. When you go to the hospital, if you have to go, you take along your own sheets and pillows and a bucket--just to bathe. There is no hot water, no dressing for wounds."...

Abena Ohenena is a businesswoman who sells...handicrafts and artwork in a shop kept splendidly attractive at enormous effort amid the general decay of [the same city]. Her great fear, she says, is that "I don't see any future for us here, any future for our grandchildren.... Too many people don't want to take the responsibility for what has gone wrong. When in doubt, they bring out the old colonial masters to whip. Well, I can remember that time--there were buses for the people then, and they ran regular-

ly and they were clean. They lighted the street lights at 6 p.m. every evening. The drains were clean and did not smell."...

"They say we have 52 billionaires in the Ivory Coast, and they are all politicians or former politicians," said Joseph Anoma, a 35-year-old businessman in Abidjan, the capital, himself the descendant of an Ivorian political family. "I could take you around Plateau here (a skyscrapered downtown business district), and I'll show you who owns what. In America, you have to get rich to go into politics. In Africa, you go into politics to get rich. This is why you find people who are worried about violence in Africa's future. The ordinary people see these things."...

An Ivorian economist...added..."At independence, the leaders said the white people are exploiting us, so let's change the system. But what happened was that when our own people took power, they set up their own oligarchies, but went on playing the same game with their own rules.... We have this pyramid in Africa with people at the top just taking the cream out of various African countries. Third World leaders are enriching the banks of Switzerland.

"It is time to change. If we don't, it is going to result in instability. The pressure is building up and, one day, it is going to blow.... Decade No. 3 in Africa, in my opinion, is going to be very violent."

Weade Kobbah-Wureh, 29, a Liberian journalist, says she blames political instability for a general eroding of authority. "All the reasons they give for staging a coup are acted out by the new regime within months after they take power," she said recently. "It erodes respect for authority, and you see the results in the home, the schools, in social organizations. There is a spiritual crisis here."...

"No, Africa is not making it [said a taxi driver in Accra, Ghana].... Look at Ghana, and what do you see? Nothing. This country is rich. It has gold, diamonds, bauxite, but it is still poor. Why? Because we want to go our own way, by ourselves, and it is not possible."

"Politically, we are not making it [said a journalist in Monrovia, Liberia].... A fundamental fault in Africa is greed.... It starts at the top, and everybody follows, and it spreads like an infection. We have been too greedy and too self-centered."

"No, black Africa is not making it [concluded a university professor, also in Monrovia]. I think one can say that without equivocation.... We saw Africa full of hope in the '60s. Independence was perceived to be the framework for political and economic self-actualization.... Africa is going to require, for one thing, a new style of leadership that will instill a new orientation to government and country, a way of thinking that will permeate the way we work, the way we think about public property, the way we establish public accountability."

Given the appalling state of affairs in Black Africa, one would think that the last thing anyone in his right mind would want is to "liberate" the only viable society south of the Sahara, South Africa. Nevertheless, the push is on, especially in the United States, to try to force the Republic of South Africa to restructure itself as a unitary, "majority rule, one man one vote" government. This ignores the fact that South Africa is in Africa and must be viewed in the context of Africa, not of North America.

If there is any slight ray of hope for Africa, say the experts, it is that, as some of the above comments indicate, there are perceptible beginnings of self-examination underway. Not all aspects of the pre-independence era were bad, for example. Also it is dawning on many that there was too much post-colonial reaction. Many countries adopted various forms of state-controlled economies, partly out of reaction to the capitalism of the Western European societies. But everywhere on the continent, state socialism has failed economically. Hence the growing calls for a "new system of government."

Unrecognized by African leaders and populaces today is the fact that the germs of that "new system" have already been planted. And throughout Africa, God has called and is in the process of educating the future "new style leaders" of the continent.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau