

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 7, NO. 20

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 17, 1985

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Monday, May 13, Mr. Herbert Armstrong and his party left Jordan for Israel, where they will be staying for several days. So far, communications with the group show that all is going extremely well, especially with Mr. Armstrong's meetings. We'll be hearing more details from Mr. Aaron Dean in THE WORLDWIDE NEWS, and from Mr. Armstrong himself upon his return. Please continue to pray for the health and inspiration of God's apostle, and for the continued success of the entire trip.

Over the past several years a number of YOU or YES regional mini-camps have been organized in some of the local areas by the local ministry and membership. Mr. Armstrong recently discussed this subject with Mr. Kevin Dean, Director of YOU, and myself, as well as his personal aide, Mr. Aaron Dean. Mr. Armstrong was concerned about the magnitude of some of these camps, and the burden they are placing upon the local membership in terms of fundraising activities, work projects, camp staffing, ministerial workload and the time it takes to support such an activity. He explained that the purpose of YOU and YES is to draw families together, not to pull them apart. While a mini-camp may on the surface appear to be a beneficial activity, and in many ways certainly is, the expense, time, and effort to make it work can actually cause families to be apart more than together. Mr. Armstrong felt that the local YOU and preteen programs should provide enough opportunities for young people without the added burden of regional mini-camps.

If we are not careful, we can allow more and more activities to become the primary focus of the local congregation. Mr. Armstrong has often expressed that we must avoid letting the local congregation degenerate into a social club. Local activities are important and in moderation are good. But unless we are careful, they can easily mushroom and begin to divert our minds from the true purpose of our calling as part of God's Church. Notice what Mr. Armstrong wrote years ago in the November, 1964 issue of The GOOD NEWS in an article entitled "Local Assemblies Are Not Social Clubs":

Brethren, if we are to continue to grow--and to grow SPIRITUALLY as well as in number--we must remember that the PURPOSE of the Church is, first, to GO INTO ALL THE WORLD and preach Christ's GOSPEL. The FIRST commission to the Church is just that....

Anyone who does not have his whole heart in that Work is NOT A MEMBER OF GOD'S TRUE CHURCH, and has no right whatsoever to attend or fellowship in any of its local congregations. The very FIRST purpose, then, of each local congregation is the FIRST purpose of God's Church as a whole--to encourage, pray for, hear reports about, and help--in whatever manner may be possible--the great Work of God in preaching and publishing the true GOSPEL to all the world.

After that comes the SECOND commission Christ gave His Church-- "FEED THE FLOCK." For this purpose, God has set some in His Church, first, apostles, then preachers, and then teachers, to be HIS instruments in feeding the local flocks each Sabbath.

Activities are good in balance. But the moment they begin to turn our attention away from the purpose Mr. Armstrong described above, they have exceeded their usefulness. Let's realize that too many social activities and fundraisers can pull families apart by limiting the amount of time family members should be spending together. They often place too great a burden, both in time and expense, on those involved in them. Avoid these pitfalls in planning the year's activities.

Some pastors may need to examine the number and kinds of activities in their local congregations, and begin to work toward a more balanced and whole church oriented program. Try to plan activities or socials that include all the Church as much as possible. Such socials can include various activities for everyone, bringing the whole Church together, with opportunities for service and fellowship for all and with all.

Regarding the mini-camps, as most commitments are already made for those being planned for this summer, you may go ahead with them. However, if any camp can still be cancelled without creating problems, it would be best to do so. We should not plan to have these camps next year.

Mr. Armstrong made it clear that local campouts are fine, as long as they do not involve other church areas, and as long as they are under one week in duration. Such activities should be organized and supervised locally, preferably involving the parents and families of the preteens or teens involved.

On another subject, Mr. Dean May of the Fleet Administration Department has informed me that of the used fleet vehicles sold in 1984, 60% were sold in the field by the ministers who drove them, rather than having them brought to Pasadena or Big Sandy for sale. We appreciate the fine job the U.S. ministers are doing in this regard. The money received from these sales is part of the budget for purchase of new ministerial fleet cars. As Mr. May explained, the sooner the used car is sold, the less the car depreciates while the Church owns it. The fleet office will give you the current value of your used car as soon as your new one arrives, and Mr. May will be happy to give you any assistance you may need in arranging the sale. We certainly appreciate your helping us out in this way.

A. I know many of you have been praying for the safety of God's people around the world, as a report on the earthquake in Chile in early March bears out. Once again, God has protected His people from what could have been a devastating tragedy. Mr. Leon Walker, regional director for the Spanish-speaking areas of the Church, reported after visiting Chile in April that although two members' homes were totally destroyed, no one was injured because everyone in the local congregation was attending a Church picnic when the quake occurred!

The employers of the men whose homes were destroyed, as well as Church members, are helping them rebuild. Mr. Walker stated in his report that "there is no question that severe injuries would have occurred had they been at home. They were at a Church picnic when the quake occurred. I joked with them that I was sure we will have 100 percent attendance at all Church activities in the future. The members affected are in excellent spirit and attitude. The spirit of service of the other members in helping these two families is wonderful. No one is depressed or discouraged. Instead, unity and joy seem to prevail." (Details of Mr. Walker's trip appear in the May 13 issue of THE WORLDWIDE NEWS.)

Thank you all for your continued prayers, and for the many comments of support and encouragement for Mr. Armstrong and those of us here in Pasadena. We certainly need and appreciate them. You are constantly in our prayers.

**** TO BE ANNOUNCED MAY 25 IN ALL U.S. CHURCHES ****

Discounted Air Fares for Feast Travel Available

The Festival Office has completed negotiations with American Airlines and several regional carriers to supply discounted air fares for travel to and from the Feast of Tabernacles. This agreement covers all U.S. sites, including Alaska, Hawaii and Niagara Falls.

The special fares available through American's toll-free line are a substantial discount from full coach fares. Some of American's publicly-available fares offer even greater savings than the special fares, but seats at those fares are limited. You will be ticketed at the lowest fare available at the time you call.

For details and restrictions on these fares, and for exact fare quotes, you or your travel agent should call the toll-free number: 1-800-433-1790, and give the special code number: S7802. Information on discount auto rentals will also be available through this number.

More detailed information will be made available later, but the special fares are available now. Even if you have already made a reservation, you should check the fares available through American Airlines.

All arrangements are solely between you and the airlines. Therefore the Church cannot accept responsibility for any loss or inconvenience resulting from a failure in such arrangements.

* * * * TO BE ANNOUNCED IN ALL CHURCHES * * * *

Jerusalem Feast Site Filled

The Festival site in Jerusalem, Israel has been filled to capacity and cannot accept any more applicants. Any who may have applied after the limit was reached will be put on a waiting list, and will be notified to that effect by JMT Travel in the next few days. Thank you for making your applications for this site in such a quick and orderly fashion.

Recent Ordinations

On the Sabbath, May 11, Mr. Richard Weber was ordained a local elder by Messrs. Herbert W. Armstrong and Aaron Dean. Mr. Weber serves as our project leader for the Jordan Program.

A week earlier, on May 4, Mr. Raymond Walker of the Bradford, England congregation, was ordained a local church elder. Hands were laid on him by evangelist and regional director Mr. Frank Brown, together with Messrs. Paul Suckling, Dave Magowan and Robin Jones.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, April 6, Mr. James Taylor was ordained a local church elder by church pastor Mr. L. David Stone. Mr. Taylor serves in the Hattiesburg, Mississippi congregation.

International News

From Mr. Colin Adair March brought a welcome turnaround in the income in Canada. The negative trend of the previous two months was reversed with a positive 9.4% increase. This lifted the year-to-date income to a minus 1.7%. Although still on the red ink side of the ledger, this is a marked improvement over the minus 9.3% year-to-date figure we faced at the end of February. April, we are hoping, will pull us into the black.

We received a total of 46,735 pieces of incoming mail in March. This was 4.4% less than the corresponding month a year ago. Of this figure, 24,806 were people writing in for the first time, up 29.7% over last year. We mailed out 119,954 pieces of mail, a 68.5% increase.

PLAIN TRUTH circulation is running at an all-time high. Combining the French and English subscription PLAIN TRUTHs, we now mail 414,594 copies. We are also distributing 613,250 newsstand copies.

The direct mail campaign is winding down. Although responses will trickle in for a few more weeks, the bulk of replies are in the office. As of this writing we have received 31,834 requests for the English PLAIN TRUTH and 13,295 requests for the French. Respectively, this is a 4.7% and 6.7% response. These are very close to the figures projected before the campaign began.

Feast preparations are well under way. The Festival Coordinators meeting was held on March 12. With the Canadian dollar suffering so much against

the U.S. dollar, it could mean transfers out of Canada will be considerably fewer than previous years. If so, then we could find the more popular sites, Penticton and Victoria, having very little room for visitors.

* * * * TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN * * * *

The Correct Philippine Office Address

Some departments and international offices are still using an outdated mailing address for business mail directed to the Manila, Philippines office. The old address: P.O. Box 7519, MIA, Metro Manila 3120, is no longer valid, and in the future the post office may stop forwarding mail from that address. Please check all mailing lists and files and direct ALL mail to:

P.O. Box 1111,
Makati,
Metro Manila 3117,
PHILIPPINES

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

Elsie and I are again very grateful for the very stimulating and enjoyable experience of attending a Refreshing Program! How valuable to regularly and thoroughly get grounded, updated and inspired at God's worldwide Headquarters! Now that our cups are running over, we feel charged up to pass this knowledge on. Especially we want to thank everyone who participated in giving the lectures. They all were outstanding. We really appreciate their thorough preparation and the time spent in giving these lectures to so many groups. Again it was very inspiring to become more aware of so many dedicated servants in God's Church at Headquarters and around the world!

Don and Elsie Hooser

Dear Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Tkach and Headquarters ministry:

Again we want to express our appreciation for the Refreshing Program. We just returned from the 14th session and feel renewed in a very special way to do our jobs with more enthusiasm, understanding and confidence. It is very encouraging to see the Headquarters team unified and backing Mr. Armstrong in a very positive way.

It is always a joy to be with the others in the ministry, learning with them, making new friendships and strengthening old ones. We were inspired to see and hear about the great progress in all the many phases of the work and all that God is doing at this time. We hope that we in turn can take a good measure of that inspiration and give it out here in the local church area. Thank you very much for the program.

Fran and Elfie Ricchi

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Psalm 133:1 was surely in evidence during the 14th session of the refresher. My wife and I enjoyed this refresher more than the others we have attended, even though they have all been great. The sessions were filled with vital information, the setting was fabulous, the fellowship was uplifting, and to hear from Mr. Armstrong was especially inspiring.

You and your staff really should be commended for the effort and organization put into these refreshers. Thank you so very much for letting us attend, and we are so very thankful for the opportunity of being a part of this great work of God's Church.

Frank and Jane Parsons

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the United States

AUBURN, WA--J. RICHARD PARKER: I baptized five new people the other day. Of the five, four had their interest in the Church prompted by member relatives or friends. The Christian example is a powerful force.

KALAMAZOO, MI--LAMBERT GREER: During the last month I have been contacted by individuals I visited one to two years ago, but at that time they were either very new or were not progressing. I was able to invite three of them to Church. Those visits to the very new or seemingly only casually interested do bear fruit!

DURANGO, CO--GARY PENDERGRAFT: The tapes of sermons given in Pasadena are appreciated very much! They provide the members with a variety of speakers giving insight into the work being done at Headquarters and around the world. Hearing how God works through various ministers also helps us in the field ministry by providing examples to inspire our sermon topic selection, preparation and delivery.

LENOIR, NC--JOHN MOSKEL: I conducted a funeral for a member's father in Statesville. After the committal prayer at the graveside, the crowd dispersed--except for a fellow who came up to me and asked if I was in any way associated with the Worldwide Church of God. He said, "I knew you were different from the moment you opened your mouth. That was the best sermon I have ever heard." He was a police officer who had taken The PLAIN TRUTH magazine for several years. He wanted me to come speak on Sunday morning to his Breakfast Club in a local Protestant church!

FAYETTEVILLE, AR--JOHN ELLIOTT: How many people in the world hear the Gospel through the medium of a funeral conducted by one of God's true ministers? That question came to mind while conducting four funerals here last month. At each, about 50 new people heard a comforting, yet strong and frank explanation of God's plan and our incredible human potential. When you stop to add up the many funerals worldwide, we reach many!

LENOIR, NC--JOHN MOSKEL: Forest fires roared across much of western North Carolina for several days, beginning April 8. Some of the brethren had to evacuate their homes just a few hours before the Passover service. One lady living on Mineral Springs Mountain quickly packed what valuables she had and left her home as the flames raced up the mountain. She arrived at the Passover service just in time! Many roads, including Interstate 40, were closed due to fires and heavy smoke. The fire, which destroyed over 12,000 acres of forest, came within ten feet of her home and went around it. It was left intact. Several of her neighbors' homes were completely gutted by the fire. On the other side of the mountain, two homes next to each other were surrounded by flames. One home was totally destroyed. The other home escaped unscathed--the person living in it just recently started subscribing to The PLAIN TRUTH and paying tithes.

--Joseph Tkach, Ministerial Services

* * * * SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALL U.S. CHURCHES * * * *

The following announcement is for any teenagers in your congregations who play the guitar and have been accepted for SEP in Big Sandy.

Guitar Lessons at Big Sandy SEP

Any guitar players interested in intermediate or advanced lessons may bring their acoustic or electric guitar to camp. (No amplifiers, please.)

--Kermit Nelson, Director of Big Sandy SEP

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

A Look at Our Daily Mailbag

On any given day, the Mail Processing Center at Headquarters receives 100 or more separate categories of mail, numbering into multiple thousands of pieces. Many of these are cards, letters and envelopes we have mailed out to make it more convenient for readers to request our literature.

We thought you would find it interesting to have a brief overview of the mail sent to us each day. The following figures from a recent workday are typical of what we normally receive:

Response to Co-worker Letters	3,316
Bible Lecture Letters	88
Booklet Envelopes	729
Correspondence Course Envelopes	100
GOOD NEWS Envelopes	
March issue	147
April issue	176
May issue	104

PLAIN TRUTH Envelopes	
April issue	101
May issue	372
June issue	1,762
Other PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS Envelopes	135
PLAIN TRUTH Newsstand Edition Cards	
April issue	1,371
May issue	471
PLAIN TRUTH Waiting Room Cards	424
PLAIN TRUTH Gift Subscription Cards	120
PLAIN TRUTH "Cardholder" Cards	94
PLAIN TRUTH Supermarket Brochure Cards	103
PLAIN TRUTH Cards--Miscellaneous	464
PLAIN TRUTH Renewals	
First notice	1,755
Second notice	486
Third notice	795
Fourth notice	697
YOUTH Magazine Renewals	283
GOOD NEWS Renewals	371
Offer of GOOD NEWS to CC Students	1,108
Offer of GOOD NEWS to PT Readers	7,011
Correspondence Course Tests	318
People Using Own Stationery, Addressed to	
Herbert W. Armstrong	441
PLAIN TRUTH	395
Worldwide Church of God	324
Correspondence Course	80
Ambassador Foundation	25
Mail Forwarded to Spanish Dept.	477
Business Mail & Personal	550
Miscellaneous	2,260
 TOTAL MAIL RECEIVED	 27,453

"You Are the Light of the World"

We receive a number of letters from members each week telling us about the blessings they receive for tithing. Although the following letter relates a third tithe blessing, it is unique, as we're sure you'll agree. It is from a couple in God's Church whose example had a profound impact on their real estate agent.

My husband and I decided to put our home on the market last month. We also decided to tell the real estate agent up front that we would not conduct any business on Friday evenings or Saturdays.

The agent asked my husband what his income was so he could calculate what we could afford in house payments. The amount the agent came up with was much more than we knew we could afford. We explained to him that we had committed a portion of our income every month for the next year to help the widows and fatherless children in our church. He said he was impressed that we would do this. He decided that he wanted to give one percent of his commission to the same fund when our home sold.

Our home sold in a record two weeks--normal market time in our area is 99 days. On the day of closing, he asked us who he should make the check out to and if we would get it to the right place. When he handed my husband the check we were surprised because the amount was for a lot more than what he had originally planned.

We are thankful that God has opened our eyes and hearts to the truth of His ways, and that we were able to be a shining light to someone else. We do believe that this was a third tithe blessing for us. Because we were willing to stand up for our beliefs, God opened the heart of another person to help this work.

We pray that God will continue to use us according to His will and bless the Church and His people everywhere.

Mr. & Mrs. B.H. (Plano, TX)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

FROM BITBURG TO STRASBOURG: EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT Once again I had the opportunity of covering the annual Western world economic summit, this time held in Bonn, the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany. This year I had the pleasure of being accompanied by another PLAIN TRUTH staff member, senior writer and evangelist Ron Kelly. Together, Mr. Kelly and I (fellow 1960 AC graduates) followed and photographed the summit proceedings, plus a number of the succeeding events in President Ronald Reagan's follow-on official state visit to West Germany and his address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France.

This was certainly the roughest test of Mr. Reagan's considerable and very persuasive oratory skills. The President's trip--and the summit itself (which turned out to be quite inconclusive)--was overshadowed by the considerable opposition in the United States, especially from Jewish groups, to his planned visit to a German military cemetery on the outskirts of the town of Bitburg. Making matters worse for the President, the travelling U.S. press corps seemed eager to take full advantage of Mr. Reagan's dilemma.

The press definitely does not subscribe to the old fair-play adage of "don't hit a man when he's down." The President's number one nemesis is ABC's White House correspondent Sam Donaldson, who stands far and above his colleagues for being froward and abrasive. He's the one who booms out questions at the President on all public occasions. Mr. Donaldson does his level best to trip up the President, but Mr. Reagan usually knows how to defend himself, and can, in a dignified manner, "dish it out" too. On one occasion, as the summit opened, Donaldson asked Mr. Reagan if he was, despite opposition, still going ahead with the Bitburg cemetery visit. "I never had any intention of not going," replied the President. To Donaldson's follow-up query of whether Mr. Reagan was concerned whether the visit could cost him political favor at home, the President replied, "Not if it's reported properly." End of conversation. Incidentally, it was widely perceived in West Germany that the U.S. press was largely responsible for blowing the Bitburg affair out of proportion.

Mr. Kelly and I, before going to the cemetery itself (which is really very small; hardly, it seems, worth all the fuss), witnessed the anti-visit

demonstrations in the heart of town. Actually, there were two separate demonstrations. The first comprised Jewish, mostly college-aged students, coming from France, Britain and the United States. Their overall theme could best be expressed in the last phrase of a chant we heard: "We will not forgive." The other group was composed of the standard anti-West anti-U.S. radical "herd." While expressing aversion to "fascism," their posters reflected more contemporary concerns--America hands off Nicaragua, liberate South Africa, "No" to cruise and Pershing missiles, stop the arms race in space--the standard things one hears every day on Radio Moscow. The two protest groups didn't mix at all--probably because "the herd" is also pro-Palestinian, anti-Israeli.

In town, I overheard several local people arguing with Jewish protesters (some of whom were wearing symbolic yellow star-of-David markers). The invariable Bitburger position was that the 49 Waffen-SS personnel buried at the cemetery were nearly all end-of-the-war draftees. (Mr. Kelly did notice one SS grave marker which gave the age of the person interred at less than 18 years of age.) Except for the protesters, who were confined by police to one barricaded intersection, Mr. Reagan's motorcade route through the town was lined with Germans and Americans waving small American flags. The U.S. news media seemed to pay more attention to the one troubled intersection.

The general feeling is that, despite the Bitburg affair, President Reagan came through what was called "sober Sunday" pretty well intact. He did this in typical Reagan fashion, delivering what even the media described as two moving speeches, one at the Bitburg flugplatz (air base) and, earlier in the day, at the remains of the notorious Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. His overall theme on both occasions was to stress the positive and the present, all the while learning from the brutal lessons of the past. This was perhaps best expressed in his Bergen-Belsen address when he proclaimed:

We are here to commemorate that life triumphed over the tragedy and the death of the Holocaust.... Out of the ashes--hope, and from all the pain--promise.... Chancellor Kohl, you and your countrymen have made real the renewal that had to happen. Your nation and the German people have been strong and resolute in your willingness to confront and condemn the acts of a hated regime of the past. This reflects the courage of your people and their devotion to freedom and justice since the war.

Even TIME magazine reported that Mr. Reagan's "remarkable speech at Bergen-Belsen would go down in the history books."

Appreciation--and Bewilderment

Among West Germans, President Reagan's personal standing rose considerably for "hanging tough" on Bitburg. Yet, at the same time, there was considerable disappointment and disillusionment that there should have been such an outcry in the United States against the trip in the first place. Mr. Reagan, for one, drew attention to this storm of protest and its unfortunate result when he said, at the Bitburg Air Base, that "some old wounds have been reopened and this I regret very much, because this should be a time of healing." A mood of disillusionment in West Germany, if it grows, could lead to a dangerous teutonic angst that no matter what contemporary Germany does, the past can never be put to rest.

West Germany's transformation into a liberalized democratic state, one anchored in the West, has not been fully appreciated by the general public in the United States. Those in the position to know, however, view it as an extraordinary achievement. Arthur Burns, retiring U.S. ambassador to the Federal Republic, recently said that "the transformation of Germany is one of the miracles of the modern age."

Looking back to the early post-war period, it was by no means certain that Germany's third attempt at democracy (the first in the 1840s, the second after World War I) would indeed "take." But Germany--and Japan as well--have changed their previous courses to an astonishing degree, so much so that their former enemies and now allies tend to take their altered states for granted. In fact, one of the most remarkable, yet unsung products of the eleven annual economic summits is that the seven nations involved--the U.S., U.K., Canada, France, Japan, Italy and West Germany--comprise four allied and three axis powers of World War II.

"Have these past forty different years all been in vain?" is a generalized perception among Germans. Alfred Dregger, one of the most senior members of the Christian Democratic Party, said that "Bitburg raises the question of whether the American people really consider us to be allies, despite forty years." Professor Michael Stuermer, a leading West German historian and a close Kohl advisor, adds: "Americans are always keen on gaining the moral high ground. That leaves us on lesser ground. That cannot continue forever. [It is risky] to brand West Germany with the mark of Cain. In the long run you cannot have both good Germans in the alliance and bad Germans as a standard of depravity."

Of course the previous generation of Germans bequeathed a heavy moral load to their children. While there is, as President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz expressed in Bonn, no such thing as "collective guilt," it is not quite correct to say either, as one U.S. newsman said, that "you can't visit the sins of the fathers on the sons." The Bible (Ex. 20:5) clearly shows that the penalties of sins can be experienced by up to the "third and fourth generations." Nevertheless, in a nation such as Germany--which as the late author Luigi Barzini described as being highly mutable or changeable--a mood of unrelieved guilt and lack of forgiveness can be very dangerous. In the LOS ANGELES TIMES of May 10, 1985, correspondent Tyler Marshall wrote:

Policy-makers and social scientists are increasingly concerned that the combination of foreign bitterness and German sensitivity to it is unhealthy and potentially dangerous. Alois Mertes, state secretary in the West German Foreign Ministry, recalls a 13-year-old boy, who, after watching a documentary film on Eichmann, turned to his mother and asked, "Why did I have to be born German?" Mertes warns: "If this guilt is pressed on a new generation, it will backfire. Guilt feelings will lead to anti-West sentiments and anti-Semitism."...

The wave of protest about Reagan's visit to a German war cemetery was greeted with as much upset as disbelief by the West German man on the street. "Forty years have gone by, and suddenly it is as if nothing that has happened since then counts for anything," said Alfred Dresen, a resident of Bonn. "Is forgiveness beyond you all?"

One is reminded of the account in the book of Jonah. The prophet Jonah, apparently because of national sensitivities against the Ninevite Assyrians (interesting parallel), was unwilling to accept the fact that they could change as a people and that God would therefore "turn and relent" from punishing them. Jonah did his job with extreme reluctance. Nineveh changed; God relented from His punishment. But Jonah didn't want to change, to forgive. Instead he wanted to die.

There is a danger in unforgiveness. The Apostle Paul instructed the Corinthian Church to accept back into the fold the repentant (changed) sinner lest he be overcome with "too much sorrow" (II Cor. 2:7). Then he warned that unless forgiveness takes place, Satan might take advantage of the situation (verse 11). The same lesson, broadly speaking, applies to remarkably changed nations such as Germany and Japan. Their political and social fabric is still fragile; Satan might be able to stir up moods of resentment once again.

Although Germany has been called a "miracle of the modern age," it has weaknesses. It has had to shed patriotic feelings that would be normal in other countries simply because patriotism and nationalism had been so abused under national socialism. As a result, national pride and a sense of belonging to a "real nation" are absent. Here are excerpts from another article from the L.A. TIMES' Tyler Marshall, this time in the May 7 issue:

More than guilt, there is an inner confusion and disorientation born of Germany's past that...in the longer term, poses serious questions about its future.... What happened to Germany 40 years ago continues to be a matter of emotional public controversy. Were the Germans freed from tyranny by the Allies or were they conquered?...

British political commentator Timothy Garton Ash recently likened West Germany to one of its model businessmen: "A hearty, sun-tanned 40-year-old, hair neatly parted, smartly dressed, with nice manners and a stock of sensible conversation--but forever dashing...to check his blood pressure, or glancing at his reflection in the shop windows to see if he hasn't got a nervous tic."...

Stated a 1983 commentary in the Hamburg weekly Die Zeit: "The Federal Republic is, all things considered, not a bad country, perhaps even the best ever to rise from German soil. But who likes to feel themselves as Federal Republican?" Novelist Dieter Wellershoff remarked that describing himself as a citizen of the Federal Republic of Germany made him feel odd. "It contains about the same emotional resonance as a University German Automobile Club," he said. "It indicates the synthetic character of the political concept. It has little meaning and sense of its own."...

Since coming to power in 1982, Chancellor Helmut Kohl has cautiously tried to stimulate feelings of national pride and patriotism. He is the first West German chancellor to have the national flag in his office, [and] has resuscitated previously tainted words such as vaterland.... Response to the chancellor's pride-building efforts has been lukewarm even within West Ger-

many. One of the two national television channels began playing the national anthem for the first time at the close of programming April 15, but the other remains uncertain about the idea....

At present, Germans' feelings for their democracy remain much like their view of Bonn, their quaint, but small, capital, which they regard as boring, colorless, uninspiring.... Johannes Schule, who drives occasionally from his home in the Ruhr to check on property he owns here, summed up the feelings of many of his countrymen: "When I drive into Bonn, I ask myself how other nations can take us seriously."

In the May 10 WALL STREET JOURNAL, H. Joachim Maitre, formerly with West Germany's Springer Press empire, wrote:

Scratch most Germans--and you will find resentment. A resentment not over Germany's defeat in war or over loss of German territory, but over...the subdued role of today's West Germany in the world, in the United Nations, in the European Community and in the Atlantic Alliance. West Germany, Europe's remaining economic giant, is seen--deep down--by its citizens as a political and military dwarf.... Our Bundeswehr has been burdened psychologically: Our soldiers know well that--when measured against the great military tradition of our country--they perform an undignified auxiliary function.... [The Federal Republic is the only NATO member to have its entire military subject to NATO, thus ultimately American, command.]

At a conference hosted by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in 1981, Mr. Kristol [Irving Kristol, the dean of U.S. neoconservatives] proposed that "NATO must be made to be compatible with Germany's national interest and national aspirations. For too long the German people have been asked to repress their national feelings in the cause of the NATO alliance. This is an unhealthy situation which cannot endure. I do believe that Germany shares a mutuality of interests with its NATO partners, but this mutuality must be based on a healthy German patriotism. People do not fight and die for acronyms, whether it be NATO or the UN. They fight and die for their country."

In the May 10 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, journalist William Pfaff called for, as the title read, "A More Realistic and More European Germany." He said, in part:

The geopolitical catastrophe that ensued, like the crime of the death camps, certainly is not the responsibility of Germans of the present generation. Germans, however, like the rest of us, have to live with the consequences, making the best of what was done by another generation....

So must we all. A ceremony in a cemetery is irrelevant to this. Very bad things will come of this affair if the West German sense of estrangement from the allies is fueled. The solid, essential accomplishment of the postwar years has been West Germany's moral as well as economic and political integration into Western Europe. The enlarged European Community, however, no longer

provides its members a responsive or very rewarding political instrument. Because America is the superpower, and the guarantor of West Germany, Germans have given relations with Washington priority over those with Paris, The Hague, Brussels, Rome and London. When Americans disappoint them, as in the Bitburg case, the shock is the greater for the investment that has been made in the American tie.

Something constructive could result if Germans were influenced to take a more detached view of their strategic dependence on Washington, and were more seriously to consider the possibilities for improving security cooperation with the principal West European allies.... Indeed, Americans as well as Germans need better to understand that it is a basic interest of the United States as well as of Western Europe, that Europe steadily improve its ability to assure its own security--that the "European pillar" of the Western alliance be as solid as possible, capable of standing alone if necessary. That way lies a trans-Atlantic relationship of confidence and mutual respect, which would have no need for gratuitous displays of the kind seen, and suffered, at Bitburg.

It's amazing that nearly all analysts have traditionally believed that a "more independent Europe" would continue to be a lock-step ally of the United States. Why should this be? Already, the changed relationship between West Germany and its American "role model" is evident, though not always on the surface. Younger Germans, especially those politically left of center, reflect this change most. To continue with the TIMES' Tyler Marshall (May 9):

Increasingly it is integrated Europe rather than the United States that furnishes the model for West Germans. And most important, Germans want to be seen and respected as equals in a relationship that has been dominated by the United States.

Karsten Voigt, 44, a Social Democratic member of Parliament and his party's spokesman on security matters, said not long ago: "We used to do what the U.S. wanted. There is now a whole list of differences, and the list is going to grow longer, not shorter.... The basic democratic values we borrowed from you are now part of our own identity. We now share common values but have differing interests."...

Another Social Democratic member of Parliament, Guenter Verheugen, commented: "We don't want to break our economic and cultural links, but we believe we need political emancipation from the U.S. The role of the U.S. as our mentor is no longer accepted."

In light of the attraction of the United Europe idea, it is interesting to note that President Reagan made stirring appeals for a United Europe--and a reunited Germany within the context of a United Europe--on two occasions during his trip. The first was when he addressed several thousand enthusiastic young Germans at Hambach Castle, considered to be one of the fountainheads of German democracy in the 1830s. The President's address was interrupted 40 times by applause. He told the cheering students:

In many ways, the challenges of 1832, when thousands of young Germans came here to protest repression, were similar to those you face today. By that year of 1832, Germany was changing rapidly, the Industrial Revolution was sweeping across Europe. But in dealing with these new problems, strong forces inside and outside Germany resisted democracy and national unity. The great hopes that arose in 1832 and again in 1848 were set back. But despite the difficulties of democratic movements, we know for sure that totalitarianism, by whatever name, will never fulfill German aspirations within a united Europe. The cause of German unity is bound up with the cause of democracy.

President Reagan struck a responsive chord with Germany's younger generation since many of them exhibit an emotional sense of common destiny with their "East German cousins." The other occasion on which President Reagan appealed to the goal of a united Europe was during his 44-minute speech to the European Parliament in Strasbourg on May 8. There he said:

It is my hope, our hope, that in the 21st century--which is only 15 years away--all Europeans, from Moscow to Lisbon, will be able to travel without a passport and the free flow of people and ideas will include the other half of Europe. It is my fervent wish that in the next century there will be one, free Europe.

In a sense, the President echoed remarks made earlier that morning by Pierre Pflimlin, president of the European Parliament, who told a special V-E Day sitting of the Parliament:

Let us not indulge in self-satisfaction. We must recognize our limitations. We represent only one part of Europe. There are peoples every bit as European as our own that are unable to take their place in our Community. Dresden and Warsaw, Prague and Budapest are cities as European as our own ten capitals. It might now seem a vain hope to dream of bringing together all the peoples of Europe, but no one can stop us dreaming of a complete Europe united in peace. After all, mankind's greatest steps forward have often only been dreams come true.

Significantly, one of the most energetic members of the European Parliament is Otto von Habsburg, who has been an outspoken proponent of an expanded Europe or Community to include countries in both Eastern and Western Europe. After Mr. Reagan's address, Mr. Kelly and I chanced meeting Dr. Habsburg coming out of the assembly hall (well, I did do my best to make such a chance materialize). Dr. Habsburg praised the President's remarks--the ones at Hambach Castle even more so than those at the EP that afternoon.

Thus, in a roundabout manner, German disillusionment with its American "big brother," plus its inability to recover a sense of purely national pride and patriotism, could rebound into a greater German zeal for a united Europe, which would also lead to the biggest dream of all: a reunited German nation, one Germans could feel proud of again.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau